to retain dust and soot. There was thus room for improvement. Further, asbestos-cement products have not been popular for siding, and if a satisfactory product for this purpose were developed, the market for asbestos would be increased considerably.

Several manufacturers complained that Canadian fibre was too dark for the lighter colored asbestos-cement products, and inquired about the possibility of overcoming this difficulty.

Asbestos Cements

It was very interesting to learn, while visiting a laboratory which tested practically all the various types of insulating materials on the market, that of the numerous samples of asbestos cements which have been submitted for test, only an occasional one contained asbestos fibre as produced by the mills. This matter was followed up, and it has been found that the addition of other materials such as clay, ground limestone and slate and factory waste, was a common practice. These materials lowered the covering capacity and the insulating value of the asbestos cement. This practice, in the opinion of some, was really an abuse as far as the asbestos industry is concerned, for it had a very repressing effect on the sale of asbestos cements. It was also stated that the Producers could put an end to this undesirable situation if they took concerted action, and the results would be very beneficial to the industry.

Asbestos Fillers

Short asbestos fibre and floats are being used in steadily increasing amounts as fillers for synthetic resins and other molding compounds. The chief property of asbestos which limits its wider use in this application is its high specific gravity as compared to organic fillers such as wood flour. Aside from this, the more common complaints against asbestos as a filler for molded articles are:

1. Gritty, causing trouble in machining and drilling.
2. Contains sticks or bundles of undivided fibre which show up on the surface of moldings.
3. Excessive magnetic material, causing defective electrical insulation.

It was stated that it was not certain that the lower electrical properties are caused by the presence of the magnetic particles, but improvement in the electrical properties is desired.

Regarding the use of asbestos as a filler in lubricating greases, the only information which seems to be available is that the fibre must be free from grit.