

used commercially but in much smaller amounts. Chrysotile occurs as veins in serpentine, a mineral of similar chemical composition, which exists in massive form and is made up of microscopic fibers without the parallel orientation characteristic of chrysotile. The massive bluish-black serpentine, which is smooth and soapy to the touch, is traversed by veins of fibrous chrysotile varying in width from a barely perceptible line to six or more inches. The fibers run across the vein and not lengthwise with the formation.

Attention is directed to the mineral brucite, $MgO \cdot H_2O$, which is often found in the same formations with serpentine and chrysotile and may be fibrous in structure. Except for the manufacture of magnesium, brucite has no commercial value at present because its fibers are not sufficiently flexible to be used in textiles, but they are capable of repeated longitudinal subdivision. Unlike other asbestiform minerals, brucite is not a silicate and for this reason it has been a valuable tool in an experimental evaluation of the action of fibrous minerals upon lung tissue.

EXPERIMENTAL ASBESTOSIS

For many years studies^(1,2) have been carried on at the Saranac Laboratory in an investigation of the cause, nature and development of asbestosis. The present paper is devoted to experimental asbestosis and in it

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1. Gardner, L.W. and Cummings, D.E.: Studies on Experimental Pneumoconiosis. VI. Inhalation of Asbestos Dust. J. Indust. Hyg. 13: 65, 97, 1931.
 2. Gardner, L.W.: Chrysotile Asbestos as an Indicator of Subtle Differences in Animal Tissues. Am. Rev. Tuberc. 45: 762, 1942.