condition, is manipulated, unmixed with other materials, in large quantities in the factories included in groups (*a*), (*b*), and (*c*), and to a much smaller extent in some of the other factories and workshops.

(*a*) Asbestos yarn is woven into cloth for insulation mattress coverings, insulating wrappings, filtering material, fire curtains, fire-smothering blankets and fire-resisting clothing. Narrower woven material is produced for belting for conveyors, brake linings and insulating tape. Some asbestos cloth is rubber-proofed for use in the manufacture of steam packings and jointings.

Besides its main use for weaving, asbestos yarn is braided and plaited for use as packing, and also for insulating material. Spools of yarn are supplied to factories in which electric cable or electrodes are made, and polished thread for the completion of incandescent mantles.

(*b*) Asbestos millboard and paper are manufactured from pulp containing short fibre asbestos, by a wet method, like ordinary millboard and paper. Asbestos-cement sheets, tiles, gutters, pipes, etc., for building and similar purposes are made from wet mixtures of Portland cement and short fibre asbestos. A synthetic composition sheet is made from a rubber mixing, for use as jointing. Bituminous mixings containing asbestos are made for switchboard panelling, and other mixings for floorings.

(*c*) Insulation materials include fiberized asbestos; "magnesia," so-called containing about 15 per cent. of fiberized asbestos and 85 per cent. of magnesia, and other finely divided mixtures composed partly of fiberized asbestos, used as insulating cements or plasters; fiberized asbestos stiffened into thick sheets, like mats, for lining bulkheads of ships; shaped sections and slabs, moulded from fiberized asbestos or mixtures containing it, or built up of corrugated asbestos paper so as to enclose air cells; mattresses, made of asbestos cloth and filled with fiberized asbestos, magnesia, or other filling.

(*d*) Brake and clutch linings are chiefly prepared from impregnated and heat-treated asbestos cloth, but also from moulded asbestos material.

(*e*) Plaited and braided asbestos yarn, proofed asbestos cloth and composition sheet are used in making packings and jointings.

(*f*) Electrodes for welding work are plaited with asbestos yarn or covered with a paste containing asbestos. Some electric cable and wiring required to withstand heat are plaited with asbestos yarn; field coils for electric machinery may be wrapped with asbestos tape.

(*g*) Miscellaneous manufactured articles or products, composed wholly or partially of asbestos, include, in addition to moulded electrical and other goods, asbestos putty and powder, rubber hose plaited with asbestos yarn, and many others.

Apart from manufacture, certain work is carried on in premises subject to the Factory and Workshops Acts, as well as in other premises, which involves use or manipulation of asbestos or products containing it. The insulating of boilers, pipes, engines, and parts of ships is the most important. Much of this work is done on board ship by contractors who employ a considerable outdoor staff.

2.—Premises.

The factories and workshops included in (*a*) to (*g*) number at least 160, of which 18 are textile factories. This total is based on lists supplied by the District Inspectors. It does not include the large number of works where there is incidental use of asbestos packing and jointing, asbestos-covered electric cable, or other finished goods, required for completing other manufactures.

There is only one works in which the employees concerned with asbestos exceed 500. There are many small premises in which but a few employees, in some cases only one or two, are employed. A small "asbestos" department is found in a number of important factories.

Textile departments are usually well housed in modern buildings. A few of the older textile factories have been improved recently by the addition of modern buildings. In one case a badly housed small concern is in process of removal to newly constructed premises.

The asbestos-cement sheet factories are modern premises of large floor area, lofty and spacious, in the main, single storey buildings. The cable and electrode factories are also modern and generally suitable.