

The bulk of the asbestos of commerce is chrysotile, $3\text{MgO} \cdot 2\text{SiO}_2 \cdot 2\text{H}_2\text{O}$, which is mined in the Thetford region of the Province of Quebec. Crocidolite and amosite are also used commercially but in much smaller amounts. Chrysotile occurs as veins in serpentine, a mineral similar in chemical composition to chrysotile but which exists in massive form and is made up of microscopic fibers without the parallel orientation characteristic of chrysotile. The massive blue 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, $\text{MgO} \cdot \text{H}_2\text{O}$, which is often found in the same formations with serpentine and chrysotile and may be fibrous in structure. It 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.

IV. EXPERIMENTAL ASBESTOSIS

For many years studies have been carried on by the Saranac Laboratory in an investigation of the causes, nature and development of asbestosis. The present report is devoted to Experimental Asbestosis. In it are described the animal experiments with various kinds of asbestos dust. Another report, to be prepared and issued later, will be concerned with human asbestosis and will cover the health aspects of workers who have been exposed to asbestos dust in an industrial environment.