



The Towncliffe Attitude

She's a fashion adventuress—

She wears suits almost everywhere, making all the ladies in dresses feel miserably timid. Terribly conventional.

It has to do with the suits she picks, of course. They're so smashingly distinctive.

Her suits are works of art, with all the detail and flair that makes for greatness. It's the heart of

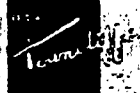
The Towncliffe Attitude—the right suit is worlds apart from everything else.

Townspun in Red, Royal, Jade, Coffee.
8 to 18. About \$90.

Slightly higher west.

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GOOCHAUX'S, NEW ORLEANS
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and fine stores everywhere.



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bestos industry. The other development took place back in South Africa, where Dr. J. G. Thomson, professor of pathology at the Medical School of the University of Cape Town, was examining lung-fluid smears from five hundred consecutive autopsies to determine the extent to which the ordinary urban dweller was exposed to the inhalation of asbestos; he found asbestos bodies in twenty-five per cent of the total. Thomson's discovery astonished the medical world, for up until that time no one suspected that asbestos bodies might be present in the lungs of people who did not work in asbestos mines or factories. He pointed out, however, that there had been a tremendous increase in the use of asbestos throughout the world over the previous twenty years—three million tons were marketed in 1960—and that asbestos was being incorporated into an increasing number and variety of industrial products with which the ordinary urban dweller came into intimate daily contact. He also suggested that the air of city streets was a likely source of asbestos exposure, and that the average motor vehicle, which wears out three or four sets of asbestos brake linings and one or two asbestos clutch facings in its lifetime, might well be a major cause of the liberation of asbestos dust. Thomson reminded his colleagues that, compared to a half-life of twenty-eight years for strontium 90, the half-life of asbestos fibre was an infinity of years, and he concluded that, because of the continuous disintegration of asbestos products such as brake linings, floor tiles, and roofing materials, as well as the demolition of buildings containing numerous other asbestos products, asbestos was constantly finding its way into the atmosphere as an everlasting contaminant. He even went so far as to predict that in future decades, as the accumulation of asbestos in urban areas led inexorably to higher concentrations of asbestos fibres in the lungs of urban dwellers, asbestos-induced neoplasms would rival cigarette-induced lung cancer as a cause of death.

As might be expected, the disclosures made by Wagner, Kiviluoto, and Thomson provided a powerful stimulus for further investigation of the problem of asbestos exposure. During the next few years, a hunt for mesotheliomas and asbestos bodies was undertaken by pathologists all over the world.

Thomson's observations were confirmed by studies made in Miami, London, and in Belfast, while in Edinburgh asbestos bodies were found in lungs of forty-six of a hundred consecutive autopsies at Presbyterian University Hospital. And Wagner's findings were corroborated by investigations that associated mesothelioma exposure to asbestos in half a dozen cities in Europe and the United States. Perhaps the most striking confirmation of Wagner's data came from London, where Dr. Muriel L. Newhouse, Dr. Hilda Thompson, of the Department of Occupational Health at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, investigated the life histories of seventy-six cases of mesothelioma that had been confirmed by autopsy or biopsy in London Hospital. To no one's surprise, thirty-one of the seventy-six patients had worked with asbestos, but eleven of those who had died had simply lived within half a mile of an asbestos factory, and nine others—seven women and two men—were relatives of asbestos workers. Most of these women had washed their husbands' work clothes regularly. The investigators learned that one of the husbands, a docker, had come home "white with asbestos" every evening for three or four years, and that his wife had brushed him down. Both of the men in this group, when boys of eight or nine years, had had sisters who worked in asbestos-textile factories. One of the sisters had been employed as a spinner from 1925 to 1936, and had died of asbestosis in 1947, at which time it was determined at an inquest that "she used to return home from work with dust on her clothes." Her brother, who had apparently sustained no other exposure to asbestos in his lifetime, died in 1956 of a pleural mesothelioma.

Further corroboration of Wagner's findings came from southeastern Pennsylvania, where Dr. Jan Lieben, then head of the Division of Occupational Health at the State Department of Health, in Harrisburg, investigated the backgrounds of forty-two people who had died of mesothelioma between 1958 and 1963. Of the forty-two patients, ten proved to have had definite occupational exposure to asbestos, three were relatives of asbestos workers, eight either lived or were employed in the vicinity of an asbestos factory, and ten

