filter method utilizing a light microscope not an electron microscope.

There is no presently known correlation of EM-sized fibers with biologic information. We know of no scientific evidence to support the unqualified statement "prolonged exposure to concentrations of over 100 n.g. per cubic meter is a significant risk."

The comment "most environmentalists agree that all U.S. city dwellers run a real risk of asbestos contamination" is in contradiction to world-wide scientific opinion. The International Agency for Research on Cancer in its report "Biologic Effects of Asbestos," Lyon, France, Conference, October 1972, clearly indicated that nonoccupational exposure to asbestos has not been shown to be associated with any health risk. We are unfamiliar with the work of Drs. Churg and Martha L. Warnock "suggesting that nearly all city dwellers have at least a slight theoretical risk of asbestos-related neoplastic disease."

Though the article states " But little scientific evidence is available to show whether ingested fibers can penetrate the stomach or intestines, be picked up by the blood stream or lodge in other tissues to cause cancer," the comments concerning Reserve Mining Co. in Silver Bay, Minn. and health risks from ingestion of associated particles from Lake Superior water are misleading to the reader. If one is to accept the "particles" to be asbestos it is relevant to note asbestos ingestion either in the animal model or in humans has not been shown to be associated with an excess risk of gastrointestinal or other neoplasms.

Dr. Selikoff, Director of Mount Sinai School of Medicine's Environmental Sciences Laboratory in New York City -- from whose staff apparently the writer of the article singularly obtained his information -- is quoted as saying "Medical knowledge about the health hazards of asbestos began to be collected in the 1930s and 1940s. But we physicians didn't warn society to take it seriously..." With knowledge of adverse health effects that can result from excessive exposure to asbestos dust, industry over the past several years has spent millions of dollars to overcome the problems of dust emission. Efforts have been successful in most situtations to reduce dust to lowest technically feasible levels. Where effective technology is still lacking, respirators are employed to safeguard the worker. Engineering studies continue at a highly accelerated pace to eliminate dust in the workplace. Conformance with regulatory standards is being met.

The article could have obtained the balance in presenation and discussion of facts related to the asbestos-health issues appropriate to the high quality of your publication if comment had been sought from a broader range of sources within the