of being spun, and has also several objectionable features besides which interfere somewhat seriously with its universal application.

Steatite or soapstone is an excellent resistant of heat, and as an ingredient in fire-proof paint is probably quite as valuable as asbestus, while as linings for stoves, furnaces, etc., it has long enjoyed a well deserved reputation. It also enters into competition with asbestus as a loader or filler of paper stock, and for several other purposes to which the lowest grades of the asbestus waste were formerly applied, but its special use at the present day would appear to be the manufacture of a non-corrosive and fire-proof paint.

As non-conductors of heat and sound several other preparations have been invented, among which may be mentioned *wood-pulp* and *terra-cotta lumber*, the latter being principally a mixture of clay and sawdust, made into bricks like ordinary clay. This mixture possesses great lightness, especially fitting it for interior work, such as dividing walls in buildings, being both fire and sound proof, but can scarcely be said to be a rival or competitor of asbestus in many respects.

Having thus briefly reviewed the several asbestiform and other non-conducting substances, we can now proceed to the consideration of the asbestus or chrysotile deposits as they occur in Canada, and more particularly in the province of Quebec, since it is in this province that the most important developments in this mineral have taken place.

The workable asbestus of Quebec is, in so far as at present known, confined to the serpentine areas of the mountainous belt which extends through the Eastern Townships from the boundary of Vermont to the extremity of Gaspé peninsula, with the exception of certain peculiar deposits which are found in connection with the serpentinous limestones of Templeton and the Gatineau valley in the Laurentian rocks north of the Ottawa. Concerning these latter deposits sufficient development work has not yet been done to determine definitely their economic value, but the quality of fibre obtained from some of the asbestus veins of this district is remarkable for its purity or freedom from foreign substances. The serpentines of the Townships form a series of disconnected masses, generally of small extent, surrounded by igneous rock, principally dioritic, but occasionally rising through great outcrops of slates or schists. At times these serpentinous masses assume such pro-