

Corsica, and owing to the difficulty with which it was obtained and its exceptionally fine quality commanded a very high price in the market, reaching as much as \$250 to \$300 per ton ; but the discovery of the chrysotile deposits in the province of Quebec, of a quality equally well adapted for spinning as that of Italy, taken in connection with the fact that these were situated directly along a line of railway within short haulage of a shipping port, almost immediately revolutionized the industry, and has lately nearly closed the Italian mines.

Much of the so-called asbestos of these mines, however, is not adapted for spinning, and is used for the manufacture of mill-board, cements, paints, etc., as is also the output from such mines in the United States as have been working more or less constantly for the last twenty years. The output of the Quebec mines has even already had such an effect upon these that their present output is probably scarcely a tenth of what it reached ten years ago.

In Ontario, also, a large quantity of the variety known as actinolite is mined and ground at Bridgewater in Hastings county. This is used for cement roofing being mixed for that purpose with tar, the fibrous texture of the material being sufficient to allow of its felting sufficiently, but not for spinning.

The non-conducting substances available in the process of manufacture in addition to asbestos are not numerous. Among the most important probably may be mentioned *infusorial earth*, which is generally found as a white or grayish white earthy material occupying the beds of certain lakes, or under peat bogs and in deposits frequently of very large extent. In composition this earth is almost a pure silica and is composed of the siliceous shells or crusts of diatomaceous plants, spicules of sponges, &c. It is also known as tripolite and under the name of *Tripoli*, or polishing powder, is familiar to most housekeepers. The localities where infusorial earth occurs most abundantly in the States are in Virginia, where an immense bed, many feet thick, underlies the city of Richmond ; and in California, where a deposit of fifty feet in depth occurs near Monterey. In Germany large deposits also are known under the name *Kieselguhr*, and much of this material used in the United States comes from that country. Numerous lake bottoms filled with this substance occur in the provinces of Nova Scotia and New