

times presents a banded structure and is occasionally quite slaty, being frequently marked with spots, veinings and stripes of various colors. The coarser fibrous varieties are known as picrolite and baltinorite; the fibres themselves being devoid of the soft silky character and lustre which is a peculiarity of the better kinds of the variety known as chrysotile or the asbestos of commerce.

Asbestos is therefore seen to present a great variety of forms, and in some one or more of these it is found at various places over the greater part of the surface of the globe. Among these may be mentioned in Europe, small deposits in England, Scotland and Ireland; in France to a limited extent, except in the extreme southeast in Savoy, more abundantly in Italy and Portugal, and on the island of Corsica, where the beautifully silky variety, amianthus, is quite abundant. In Germany, Bavaria, the Pyrenees, Russia, Norway and Sweden deposits of greater or less extent have been found.

In South Africa the peculiar bluish variety, crocidolite, has already been referred to, and recent reports state that extensive deposits of asbestos occur in the serpentine belts of Kimberley, in which the diamond diggings also are situated. Asbestos has also been found in South America, in Brazil, in Australia, and in Asia Minor. In several parts of Newfoundland, excellent fibre, more particularly of the variety known as chrysotile, is known to occur, and in the United States it is also found in connection with the serpentinous rock of the eastern mountain range in nearly every State from Maine to Georgia. On the west coast also it is reported in considerable quantity from California and British Columbia, and as far north as Alaska, while its presence in the rocks of Ontario and Quebec has been recognized for many years. With such a widely extended distribution, therefore, it would seem natural that the supply of the material should be practically unlimited. Such, however, does not appear to be the case; since in many of these places the quantity is so small as not to be available for general use, and in others the quality is such as to be economically valuable only for the inferior purposes of manufacture; while in others again the difficulties of access preclude all possibility of successful mining, for years to come at least. Prior to 1880, the greater part of the fine fibre adapted for spinning came from the mines of Italy and