

tant down to the laborer in the rural parts, who earns the equivalent of \$0.60 per day. It is estimated that between 15,000 and 20,000 pounds of Epsom salts are imported annually into Jamaica for commercial distribution in addition to 9000 pounds imported in 1929 by the Hookworm Commission. Some 10,000 hookworm cases are handled quarterly by the Commission, a feature of the treatment of this malady being two doses of Epsom salts aggregating three ounces. Therefore, it may be estimated that the annual consumption of Epsom salts in Jamaica for all purposes attains at least 25,000 pounds. (*Council Paul C. Squire, Kingston, Jamaica.*)

ASBESTOS

Asbestos is a fibrous mineral with fire-proof properties which make it quite valuable as an ingredient of insulation plasters for covering pipes and boiler, of fire resistant wall board and roofing material, and for other similar uses. Asbestos is obtained from several minerals, all of them consisting chiefly of a *silicate of magnesium and calcium*.

MOTION PICTURE FILM DEPICTS MINING, PREPARATION, AND USES OF ASBESTOS

The mining, preparation, and uses of asbestos are visualized in a one-reel educational motion picture film entitled "Asbestos, the Magic Fibre," prepared by the United States Bureau of Mines, Department of Commerce, in cooperation with a commercial concern.

Asbestos is a silky, fibrous mineral found in seams or veins in metamorphic rocks. A close-up shows how the fibres of a piece of asbestos may be readily separated by hand. Asbestos fibre does not rot, resists corrosion, and will not burn.

The principal sources of asbestos on this continent are the mountains of Arizona and the area surrounding Asbestos, Canada. A succession of scenes show the

process of open-pit mining at Asbestos, Canada. The rock is blasted and carefully combed by hand for the longest and finest fibres. The remaining rock is loaded by steam shovels into dump cars. The following scenes depict the breaking of the large boulders for the crusher by air drills, the drying of the crushed rock in rotary kiln dryers, and the screening of the sand and rock from the fibre. Rollers weighing 6000 pounds crush the larger pieces to silken fibre.

The scene shifts to the factory, where 20,000,000 pounds of bagged fibre are shown in storage. The crushing of this fibre preparatory to the making of asbestos textiles is next depicted.

Textiles are made by first carding and spinning asbestos fibre into thread ready for the looms. The process of running the fibre through the carding machines is next pictured. The operation of the roving machines in which asbestos yarn is made is depicted and then the making of thread for weaving from the yarn. Next is shown the looms weaving asbestos cloth for many uses.

The making of various useful products from asbestos cloth is next depicted. These scenes show the making of automobile brake linings; asbestos tubing for making packings; fire-proof roofing; packing and gaskets for steam engines, air brakes, and automobiles.

Next is given a series of views showing the pulping of fibre for the manufacture of asbestos paper and the pressing of the condensed pulp into the form of paper. The making of pipe covering from the asbestos paper is visualized.

Other scenes show the combining of asbestos with magnesia for the making of insulating materials, and also the combining of asbestos and cement for the forming of a permanent fire-proof material of many uses. The final scenes show the making of asbestos shingles.

Copies of this film are available for exhibition by schools, churches, clubs, civic and business organizations, miners' unions, and others. Applications should be ad-