

By ELMO SCOTT WATSON

NE of the famous remarks attributed to that great American humorist, Mark Twain, which is familiar to most of his fellow-countrymen was to the effect that "Everybody talks about the weather but nobody ever does anything about it." However true that statement may have been once, it's passe now. For modern science and modern engineering have "done something about it," and now mankind can literally "make his own weather"-that is, the kind of weather he wants to have in his own home or place of

Of course, away back in the early history of mankind he learned how to make his habitation warm when it was too cold outside for comfort. In recent years our movie palaces have pointed the way to making their interiors comfortably cool when it's too hot outside for comfort. But up to now the average householder couldn't afford to follow the lead of the movie houses and install a "cooling system" as well as a "heating system" in his home.

So it is one of the triumphs of modern science and modern engineering that now anyone

who has electricity at his command also has at his command perfect indoor weather for all climes and localities. And this is something more than regulation of heat and cold, for the new activity of science, described in the two words "air conditioning," means the correction of air to a point most desirable for personal comfort, with just the right amount of warmth or coolness, correct moisture content or relative humidity, removal of dust particles and forced circulation without draft,

Since it does include all those things, another favorite expression "It's not the heat; it's the humidity" is due to go by the boards. For it was that very thing, humidity, which started research engineers on the track that has brought about the development of air conditioning equipment which embodies the functions of heating, cooling, drying, moistening, cleansing and circulating of air. And the beauty of it is that the air conditioner, smaller than the average heat radiator, is so compactly built that it may be installed in any room, apartment, office, hospital, or place of business.

More than that the conditioners are so simple in operation and require so little supervision that two small switches on the end of the cabinet may be compared to the mythical lever which the cartoonists show the weather man operating when he wants to supply cold, heat, sultriness, dryness, rain, wind or calm. As a matter of fact the conditioner goes the weather

man one better. The conditioner can't guess wrong. It pulls in the air of a room, corrects it as it should be to provide personal comfort regardless of outdoor weather conditions, then sends it into the room so quietly occupants are unaware of the conditioner's operation. To give to indoor air that delicate touch of perfection, air conditioners should operate in rooms where the windows are kept closed so the correction of the room atmosphere isn't dissipated into the

This factor brings up an interesting revelation of the general public's regard for fresh air. Fresh air isn't what it's cracked up to be, according to our foremost scientists. In many cases it may be more harmful than the average indoor air.

Air conditioners provide an answer to one

sun raising havoc outdoors, the Indoor weather in this room is cozy, comfortable and healthful. The air conditioner provides perfect air the year round, regardless of outdoor weather's ec-

2.—No longer will the tired business man be tempted to run out on his office force and flee from the hot and sultry summer days. This air conditioner, installed in his office in place of the familiar radiator is the answer.

3.-Physicians, always alert to welcome any scientific or engineering achievement that will aid them in their work of relieving human suffering, hail air conditioning as a decidedly progressive step. No longer will patients be forced to undergo the added suffering brought on by hot and sultry weather, or by the injurious dry indoor air of the colder seasons. A air conditioner is shown here installed in a hospital room, so unobtrusive and compact it takes up little space even in the cramped quarters of the

4.-Turn on the heat, or turn on the cold! This air conditioning unit does both, and to complete its responsibility of supplying perfect Indoor weather the year round, it keeps Old Man Humidity on the run in the hot and sultry

of the major demands and quests of mankindcomfort. In giving perfect indoor weather the year round, despite changing seasons and erratic activities of temperature and humanity they open the way for industrial and financial development of the tropics and the Orient, where white men swelter in misery under the depressing humity, and laborers collapse from the effect of hard, manual activity coupled with heat and sultriness.

The farmer who spends every daylight hour in the summer in the sun-baked fields will have respite, and his wife, accustomed to a hard working existence among the pots, pans and cooking range in the kitchen, will blossom out a changed ,

Business men who should wear their coats and keep their ties tied will be able to work as energetically and as smartly appearing in the summer as in winter, and their clerks and stenographers will have the alertness and desire to please that helps so much in retaining the patronage of old customers, and building up good will with new.

The answer to the brighter existence held out by aerologists to followers of almost every activity is based on the fact that despite the hottest temperatures and most depressing humidly of the working hours a man or woman can stand them day after day if they are able to sleep soundly in real comfort and repose, instead of fitfully and uncomfortably.

When air conditioning experts talk about homes and buildings with closed windows, a chorus of public thought sings out with these interjections: "What about carbon dioxide? How about headaches brought on by closed, stuffy rooms? How about that depressing feeling that overcomes us when we don't get enough fresh air? You forget what doctors say about fresh air."

The answer is on file in the public documents of the federal government in Washington, Privately many members of the medical profession have known for some years that factors other than a lack of so-called fresh air causes headaches and nausea in crowded places. But few have had the courage to be outspoken in the face of general belief and upset the belief imbedded in the public consciousness for so many

It is interesting to know how philosophers and scientists of centuries ago regarded air and how their findings stack up with modern scientific developments. Aristotle, founder of a school of thought that swayed the thinking of mankind for more than 1,000 years, regarded air as one of nature's four cardinal elements, the others be ing fire, earth and water.

Up until 1757 little was known about air. Then, Dr. Joseph Black, who was experimenting with chemicals, made the discovery of a gas be called "fixed air," now known as carbon dioxide. In 1775, Joseph Priestly isolated oxygen, calling it "dephlogisticated air," and thus, for the first time mankind began to have some exact knowledge of atmosphere.

Lavoisier, a leading student of his period, a few years later discovered carbon dioxide would extinguish flame. He concluded, therefore, that an excess amount of carbon dioxide formed by breathing would contaminate indoor air. His standing and reputation brought ready acceptance for this theory, and it was but a natural step to the premise that fresh air, without excessive carbon dioxide and with an abundance of oxygen, was necessary for human well be-

A small number of scientists refused to concur in Lavoisier's theory but most scientists, engineers and medical men held their tongues in the belief nothing was to be gained by the voicing of contrary opinions.

Among the first public reports of these early theories is that of Dr. R. R. Sayers, surgeon of the United States public health service, and chief surgeon of the Department of Commerce's bureau of mines, a division that knows as much if not more about pure and impure air than any research organization in the world.

In reprint No. 1150 of the public reports, Doctor Sayers states: "It was observed by many investigators that it was not until the oxygen content of the respiratory air fell below 10 per cent that animals began to breathe with difficulty. Friedlander and Herter concluded from the results of their experiments that inhaling of 20 per cent carbon dioxide for several hours has no poisonous effect. Not until a mixture of gas containing 30 per cent or more of carbon dioxide was introduced did they find an appearance of depression, Leblanc pointed out that under conditions in which the carbon dioxide content of the air increases considerably, in lecture rooms, theaters, etc., the reduction of oxygen content is small and very seldom falls below 20 per cent, while the carbon dioxide content very seldom exceeds 1 per cent."

The same facts have been established by other investigators of standing since that time. W. Mehl, an engineer, in 1903 announced definitely the nonexistence of a "breath poison." He asserted the carbon dioxide content of a room is not a correct measure for the necessity of

The scientific findings definitely established that it is the combination of heat and humidity that is so depressing and injurious to mental and physical alertness, and the consequent damage to business and industrial efficiency brought on by personal discomfort. With these facts, engineers working on conditioning of indoor air found that it is easy to be comfortable in a room in which the customary thermometer shows a temperature of 90 degrees, if the humidity is lowered.

Leading economists, engineers and builders have hailed air conditioning as the next big industry of the nation, an industry supplying a product that will take a place along with the telephone, automatic refrigeration and the automobile in general acceptance and necessity. They point out also that air conditioning is a new achievement that replaces practically nothing now in use, finds for itself a place in popular demand, and opens the way to increased manufacturing, sales and installation activity.

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