

HEATING A HOME

For some months to come, during the winter season, all of us will be interested in the matter of heat and its conservation. In many parts of the country fuel is a matter of vital importance. In answer to the question of fuel conservation—best course to follow—an exchange gives a number of hints which may be of value to some of our readers and we reprint the following:

It goes without saying that it is important to have good furnace of proper size and have it in good repair. Before starting up fire for winter be sure to give apparatus thorough cleaning. Take down flue-pipe and clean out soot; stop up any chinks in pipe with asbestos or clay. Keep interior heating surface of furnace scraped clean of soot, so as to allow ready absorption of heat. See that proper size coal is used and do not waste it by shaking through grate. Keep bed of ashes on grate to prevent cinders falling through if small size coal is used.

Pipes running from furnace to registers should be covered with asbestos to save heat. Inlet pipe which supplies fresh air to furnace should have damper so as to regulate flow and not allow too much to enter. Fire should be banked at night and when full heat is not required. If house is poorly built, windows and doors loose, etc., it is impossible to heat economically. There is just so much heat in coal and no magic can make it more.

Most people keep houses too hot; women are foolish in going half dressed in winter, same as in summer, and then expecting to be as warm as in a hothouse. Fuel administration says 68 degrees is proper heat, but 65 is better and many people do very well on less. Europeans never knew what warm houses were; its largely matter of habit.

It takes higher heat to make dry air feel warm than moist air. Consequently see that ample dishes of water are kept in rooms, to supply humidity. This will make difference of 10 degrees in feeling of heat, and that's what we go by. Most hot-air furnaces have water-pots to supply moisture but they are often allowed to remain empty and even when filled they do not furnish enough moisture. If large amount of unburned coal goes through grate, it will pay to sift ashes, but better way is to fire furnace carefully so that practically all of coal will be burned.

OUR CRIPPLED SOLDIERS

When the war is over we shall find that every community in the United States will have its quota of crippled soldiers. These men, who risked life and limb for the sake of the nation, must be looked after by the government. Some means fair and just to all must be found to fit them to take care of themselves

wherever their disability will permit. With this thought in mind many of our foremost thinkers are already advocating this or that plan for meeting the exigencies of the future.

Trade schools appear to be most favored as a means to help our crippled soldiers. Already industrial schools have been established in France, England, Canada and Italy, and Germany, the common enemy, also has schools for training her cripples. The pension system of the United States, as in force in the past, has never been the most successful imaginable. Some it made to feel like dependents, in others it encouraged idleness, in most cases it was not sufficient for entire support, and it was ever a heavy burden for the public to carry.

By means of industrial schools it is hoped that our soldier and sailor lads who are crippled in the fray may be educated along some line which will fit them to maintain an independence and self-respect which so many hold dear. Douglas C. McMurtrie in an article on this subject offers many splendid suggestions and we are pleased to publish the following paragraphs:

The disability of some crippled soldiers is no bar to returning to their former trade, but the injuries of many disqualify them from pursuing again their past occupation. The schools of training prepare these men for some work in which their physical handicap will not materially interfere with their production.

The education of the adult is made up largely of his working experience. The groundwork of training in his past occupation must under no circumstances be abandoned. The new trade must be related to the former one or be, perhaps, an extension or specialization of it. For example, a man who had done manual work in the building trades may by instruction in architectural drafting and the interpretation of plans be fitted for a foreman's job, in which the lack of an arm would not prove a serious handicap. A trainman who had lost a leg might wisely be prepared as a telegrapher, so that he could go back to railroad work, with the practice of which he is already familiar.

FILLING THE SILO

Last week the farm and dairy squads began to do their fall canning. The big silo beside the dairy barn was fairly yawning for food. So the loaded wagons began to come in from the cornfields, the busy little engine began to buzz and puff and the sharp blades of the ensilage cutter chopped the long stalks into nice short lengths. These were driven whirling up the chute and into the silo. When this juicy green mass has been sufficiently tamped to drive out the air it will be held for the winter relish of the members of the dairy herd.

As the silo is a large one it will give the farmer and his crew several days of extra strenuous work. But the pay will come in the steady milk-flow for the winter months.