

No. 509

A Science Service Feature

Dec. 27

? WHY THE WEATHER ?

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HEATING ALL OUTDOORS

On a windy day in winter as we laboriously shovel in the coal and take out the ashes we are inclined to think we are heating all outdoors. And so we are. But the size of all outdoors and the rapidity with which the heated air disappears is very disheartening. Our houses are constructed only tight enough to be comfortable in ordinary winter weather. In the north the walls are fairly wind-proof, and extra building paper and a set of storm windows form an essential part of a building contract. In our middle latitudes the houses are more breezy - fine for summer. And in the South, the wind just whistles through. A little attention to some simple operations is helpful anywhere in keeping warm without wasting fuel.

If one is without storm windows, it helps somewhat to pull the shades down at night, a practice which may reduce the heat loss through the windows by as much as 20 per cent. Equally important is the habit of putting shades up to the top and pushing curtains aside to allow sunlight to enter freely on bright days. Heavy draperies are often allowed to interfere with this excellent source of free heat. Furthermore, if you would have warmer floors, look to your cellar. A draughty cellar may be improved by banking sod or snow against the outer walls. Finally, do not let your heated air escape too readily, up the chimney or otherwise. Keep doors or other openings to the attic closed, and on windy days lock the windows tight. Even in well constructed houses the inflow of fresh air and outflow of heated air is very large through various crannies when the wind is strong. An open window on the leeward side of the house is as effective in wasting warm air as is an open window on the windward side. It is often desirable to keep different parts of the house at different temperatures - bedrooms coolest, working rooms moderate, and sitting rooms warmest. Closed doors, held shut by springs, can maintain such a distribution of heat.

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