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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed August 24, 1929.

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MANUFACTURED "WEATHER"

The art of air-conditioning, though still ignored by the encyclopaedias, is about a quarter of a century old. Several engineering firms specialize in it and much ingenious apparatus has been devised for its application. It is said that fully two hundred different industries now use air-conditioning equipment, and in recent years its non-industrial uses have come rapidly to the fore.

Air-conditioning is often defined as the manufacture of "weather" indoors, but its operations are hardly broad enough to justify this definition. An air-conditioning plant controls the humidity, temperature, movement and purity of the air in buildings. In its industrial applications humidity is generally the most important element affected.

First applied in the textile industries, air-conditioning is now regarded as essential or highly desirable in connection with the manufacture of many food-stuffs, candy, cigars and cigarettes, photographic films (including motion-picture films), rayon, etc. It is widely used in the printing trades to prevent breakage of paper, resulting from too much moisture in the pressroom; also to keep the ink of the right consistency, and the rollers pliable. In color printing it is especially valuable as a means of preventing the stretching or shrinking of paper, due to changes in atmospheric moisture, between successive printings with the different colors, which would result in faulty registration.

Air-conditioning has long been employed in factories, theatres, schools, hospitals, hotels and office buildings as a means of promoting the comfort and health of the human occupants, and at the present time one of the leading firms in this field is making a special "drive" to introduce air-conditioning equipment especially designed for private houses.

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