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? WHY THE WEATHER ? Mailed May 14, 1930.

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PANEL HEATING

The fact that indoor weather plays a vastly important part in the lives of civilized human beings explains why, in this series of desultory jottings, we have sometimes adverted to such topics as the heating, ventilating and air-conditioning of buildings.

A novel feature of the new British Embassy building now nearing completion in Washington is its system of "panel heating." There is a central boiler plant, which supplies hot water to coils of pipe embedded just above the surface of the plaster ceilings. These ceilings will be kept at moderate temperatures during the heating season--sometimes as low as 75 and never higher than 120. Heat radiated from them will pass through the air without heating it to any great extent and without setting up air currents, such as are produced by hot-air vents, hot-water pipes and steam pipes placed near the floor. The radiant heat will be absorbed by objects on which it falls, including human beings, in proportions varying with the nature and color of the surface exposed to it, just as in the case of objects exposed to sunshine out of doors. Thus people will be comfortably warm when the indoor air itself is decidedly colder than it would need to be kept to insure comfort with any other system of heating.

Panel heating has hitherto been unknown in America but there are many installations in England, where it is said to ^{be} more economical of fuel, easier to control, more uniform in operation and more conducive to comfort than the older methods of indoor heating.

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