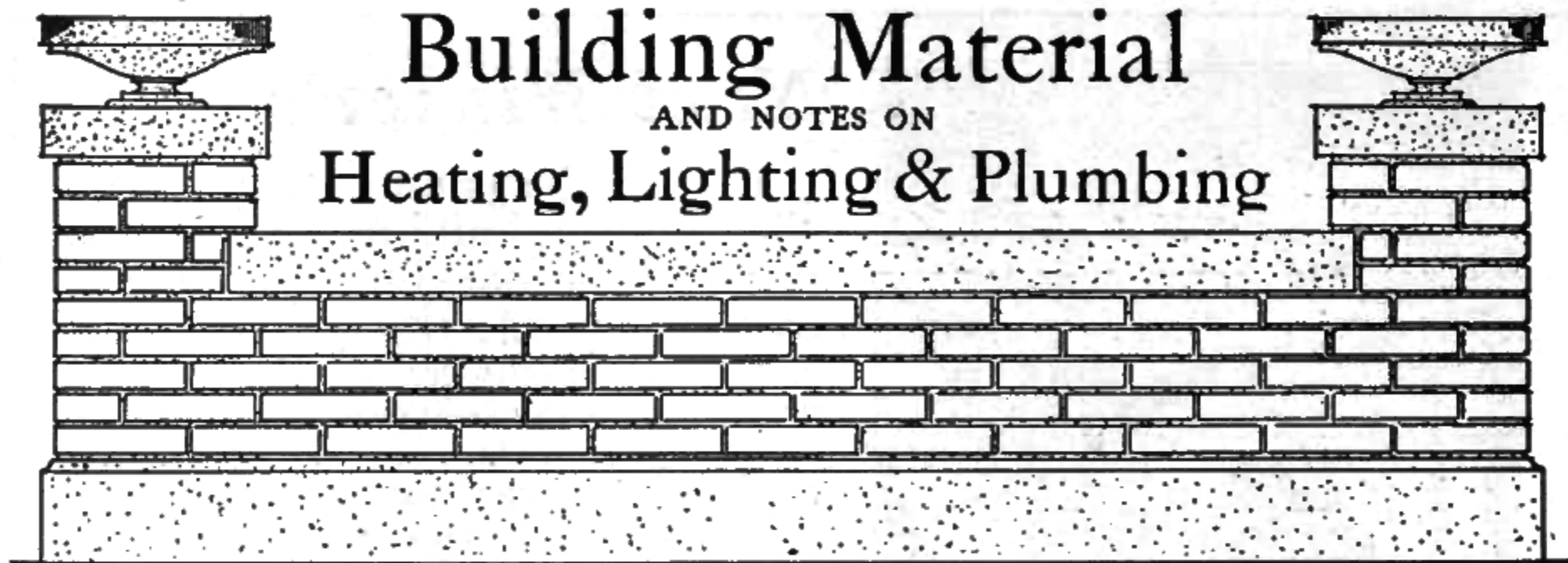


Building Material

AND NOTES ON

Heating, Lighting & Plumbing



How to Keep Cool

A YOUNG woman just arrived from India created a sensation on a hot day in a New York hotel by asking the bell boy to put a "thermantidote" in her window. She expressed her surprise that New York, the city which stands for American progressiveness, should not make itself comfortable in the summer time. The thermantidote, she explained, is an apparatus for cooling the air which is fitted in the windows. "In India we have the trough set in the window and filled with water; a simple wheel revolves in the water with bunches of sweet grass attached to every spoke. As the air passes through the dripping grass, the whole house is filled with cool fragrant air. It would be so easy to fit them in the windows here where you have only to attach an electric cord to make them go. We darken the house from ten to four and we have thermantidotes in the windows and frames of wet grass in the doors. The door frames will cool a room while the window apparatus will cool an entire house. I cannot imagine why New York does not make itself comfortable in hot weather as we do in India."

A Practicable Way.

India prepares for the hot season as America does for the cold season. Nevertheless there are many simple ways in which the air of the house or the office may be tempered on a hot day. The use of the electric fan in the down town office has been taken as a matter of course,

and sometimes one is placed in the living room or the sleeping room of the house. A fan in the kitchen gives an even greater percentage of comfort. Scientists tell us that it is motionless air, stagnant air that gives discomfort, rather than its temperature. That the same air in motion allows one to work in comparative comfort. There seems to be a relation, if not a cohesion between the particles of air and the surface of the skin which becomes unbearable.

With electricity in practically every building the electric fan certainly adds to the comfort of living during the hot season, by keeping the air in motion, and it is quite possible to lower the temperature by blowing the air through a wet screen or over a basket or bag of cracked ice. It would be necessary to keep the screen saturated. A frame fitted to the window openings in the sleeping room, and covered with cheese cloth, if saturated with water when the heat begins to become oppressive in the morning or on retiring at night would materially lower the temperature of the room if any air is stirring.

It is up to the ingenious housewife to work out for herself that which will add to her convenience and comfort. Let her help solve the problem of keeping her home, and her kitchen, so comfortable that the highest efficiency will be maintained.