PEAT, LIGNITE, AND COAL:

Their Value as Fuels for the Production of Gas and Power in the By-Product Recovery Producer.

INTRODUCTORY.

The trend of present day civilization is in the direction of increasing industrial activity; it is natural, therefore, to look for rapid increase in the production of manufactured commodities of all kinds. In order to maintain this marked increase in the rate of production, fuel in some form is required in ever increasing quantity; and on account of the feverish industrial pace that has been set, the principal sources of the more commonly used fuels are rapidly approaching depletion. Conservative estimates have placed the life of the coal deposits—which at the present time constitute the most valuable fuel—at between one and two hundred years. Hence, it is evident that our present civilization is almost directly dependent on fuel. Consequently, with fuel, more than with any other of the natural resources, is man concerned; for, when the deposits of this natural resource become exhausted, commerce and industry will cease to exist. But while all the natural fuels with which we are acquainted, and which we have learned to use, will, in any case, become extinct in time, there are ways and means of prolonging their life. Reduction of waste, and the employment of more efficient methods for the conversion of the heat energy of the fuel into useful work, will effectively contribute to the desired end. But to these must be added other economies, such as the reservation of the respective fuels for the purpose or purposes to which they may be most economically applied.

It must be apparent to all who have studied the question, that all fuels are not of equal value: for instance, in the production of power, one coal may prove as economical as another; whereas, for metallurgical purposes, where coke is required,