



# COUNTRY *and* SUBURBAN HOMES

*by*

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## The Home Fireplace

**E**VER since Prometheus, the rogue, stole the first spark of fire from Heaven, man has been considerably perplexed as to the most efficient economical way of disposing of it to secure for himself the maximum amount of heat, comfort, and enjoyment.

It is only within the last half century, or so, that the problem has been brought within a measurable distance of solution. Our great-grandfathers, yes, and our grand-parents, too, were glad to seek the shelter of a feather bed, and the mild heat afforded by a warming pan, on cold winter nights. Roaring hail stoves could not do more than take the chill from the air, and Boreas, entering unhidden through the cracks around the windows and the doors sent many a shiver down the spines of the inmates, and caused many an exclamation of discomfort.

The advent of the hot air and hot water furnace changed all this. It is now a simple matter to keep every room in the house at an equable temperature all winter long. All you have to do is to watch the thermometer, and throw in a few shovels of coal every little while.

Many people are not content with a furnace as the sole means of heating, and rightly so. I contend that every home should have one or more fireplaces.

First, think how much an attractive mantle and fireplace adds to the appearance of any room; what an air of comfort and good cheer it imparts, even if empty and cold; second: how convenient it is, say on a chilly, raw, damp evening in early spring or late fall, when it seems premature to start the furnace going, to cluster around the glowing fuel in the grate; then, again, at Christmas time, when the children are enjoying the pleasures of the season, think of the pleasure you will get watching them popping corn or roasting chestnuts in the ruddy glow.

But these reasons are largely sentimental. From the standpoint of health, however, the open fireplace is equally worthy of consideration. It is a valuable adjunct to ventilation, and ensures a generous supply of fresh air at all times.

The small amount of heat units obtained from a given weight of coal, and the gross production of soot, must always condemn the open fire; but the average user invariably signifies a strong liking for the cheering effect that it produces.

Not a few people argue that radiant heat is superior to all else because it resembles the sun's heat. If this be so, why is the most agreeable and healthful