

The two most important points to consider in warming rooms are, the ventilation and the temperature—the frequent changing of the air in the rooms and the keeping of it at a suitable degree of heat. Into the reasons for attending first of all to these two particulars we need not enter here; indeed our readers are already sufficiently familiar with them. It is easy to warm an apartment, but to warm it uniformly by an inexpensive contrivance that at the same time insures an abundant supply of fresh air, is a desideratum that has not until recently been attained. The ordinary grate fire provides very good means of ventilation, but it is a most wasteful method of warming, as about nine-tenths of the heat, it is estimated, passes up and out through the chimney and is wholly wasted. In a climate like this of Canada, too, it is almost impossible to warm a room with a grate alone—without the use of a furnace or hall stove. The open or Franklin stove provides a more economical method of heating, yet on the whole it is but a poor substitute for the grate. Until within the last few years the whole civilised world seems to have been in a very backward state as regards the art of warming and ventilating dwellings. Russia it would seem has until recently excelled all other countries in this art; but the inventive genius of this continent has at length it appears surpassed all.

The most complete contrivance we believe that has yet been made for both warming and changing the air in apartments is the ventilating stove or fireplace known as the “fire on the hearth.” We had heard these stoves very highly spoken of, and recently when in New York, where they are manufactured, we had the privilege of examining them. They combine the advantages of a stove to warm by radiation, a grate giving an open fire, and a chamber open below and above through which air ascends and is

warmed. This stove is so constructed that an opening may be made in the floor under it, in connection with a duct leading to the outside of the house, for bringing in a constant supply of fresh air, which passes through the heater, is warmed and streams into the apartment. It has a drum above the fire, surrounded by a jacket, so arranged that the fresh air is brought into contact with greatly expanded surfaces, which absorb the maximum quantity of heat, and impart it rapidly to the inflowing currents, thus preventing over heating, and supplying the room with an invigorating atmosphere. Two distinct currents pass through the stove. One enters beneath the grate, ascends to the chamber above, and thence goes to the chimney, furnishing the draft. The other enters under the stove, becomes heated by contact with the hot surfaces, and rises through the jacket, thus compelling a constant circulation through the latter and throughout the room.

The stove is economical of fuel and easily managed. It is so constructed as to promote an active circulation of air in the apartment, and thus secure equalization of temperature. It may be set against a brick chimney, and the pipe carried within the chimney to the room above without showing in the room below. The stoves are also adapted for use in fireplaces under mantels, in the form of air warming grates and double heaters for warming rooms. They are made in a number of sizes, suitable for living rooms, halls, school-rooms, &c. At the Paris exhibition they attracted much attention, and a silver medal was awarded to the manufacturers.

Sir James Paget describes the pattern healthy man as “one who lives long and vigorously, who in every part of his life, wherever and whatever it may be, does the largest amount of the best work that he can, and when he dies leaves healthy offspring.”