

a very serious one, and which everywhere means more or less economy or comfort according as arrangements and working are good or otherwise.

*Ventilation.*—Another essential of a house is ventilation, which has already been dealt with incidentally under the head of windows and doors. The comfort and health of a house depends more than most persons think on the internal air being and remaining fresh and pure. This subject is too complicated and wide for detailed treatment here, but we can always look for windows, doors, and chimneys to let in air from outside, while halls, stairs, and corridors should provide an internal reservoir of fresh air within, where in cold weather the atmosphere may have the chill taken off it before it reaches the rooms. To secure ventilation without draughts nothing is so effective as windows that open close to the ceiling of the room, and a high sash window opening at the top has in this respect advantages over any other; low casement windows, in recent years so often preferred for their picturesque features, are in this respect inferior.

*Heating.*—Closely connected with ventilation is the last essential of a house to be treated under this section, viz. means of heating in cold weather, which in our English climate must be taken as seven months out of the twelve. Many a house seen and taken in summer when it looks, and perhaps is, charming becomes intolerable in winter cold. Of course bright open fires are more cheerful and give fresher currents of air through the room than any other form of heating; but fires are more costly, much more wasteful of fuel and cost more in servants' labour than any other sort of warming system; moreover, they are never able to warm a large room equally, and they are more dangerous in causing conflagrations than either closed stoves or hot-water or hot-air systems. Closed stoves of various makes, burning coal, coke, or anthracite are now obtained in very tasteful forms, and of all sizes, and some of the slow-combustion stoves are