

Mr. J. C. Garden,—

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen:—It is with a great deal of hesitation that I rise to make any remarks on gas or gas producers as it is only within the past eighteen months that I have become at all familiar with the subject and consequently approach it very wearily. The first literature that came into my hands on this subject read to me like a chapter from the Arabian Nights or Guillver's Travels. The enormous economy of the gas producer and gas engine over the steam engine, as guaranteed by the leading manufacturers, seemed almost incredible.

I was very much pleased to hear Mr. Duguid speak as he did to-night, as it is as well that the opposite side should be well represented, although I think Mr. Duguid is laboring under a delusion. He states, however, he is open to conviction, and if I had time I think I could convince him that gas-producers are as far ahead of steam plants as electric light is ahead of a tallow candle. He states that he is open to conviction, like the Scotchman he is "Ay, open to conviction but would like to see the live man or dead ghost that would convince him." Mr. Duguid states that in the gas plant the power cannot be conveyed from one point in the plant to another, as is done with electricity. In all the gas plants I have visited, the gas producers were run with direct connected dynamos and electrical power used for all purposes, this, I believe, is one of the strong features of these plants.

With a steam plant up-to-date and of first-class efficiency, two pounds of coal per horse power is about the best results yet obtained, while with the gas we can deliver power to the switch-board with seven-eighths pound of coal per kilo watt which is considerably in excess of horse power. Mr. Duguid states that about 60% of the power is lost in the shafting. If that is the case in any plant in which any of those present are connected, I would strongly advise them to get the kinks out of the shaft.

In his paper Mr. Armer showed a comparison of 55% in favor of the gas plant; this, it seems to me, is a very small saving in comparison to what these plants are capable of making, and I would like to ask Mr. Armer how he arrived at these figures as all the tests I have heard of show a very much greater saving in favor of the gas plant.

Mr. R. Ivers,—

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen:—Why is it that the makers of gas producers do not use gas producer for the manufacture of same? The Fairbanks people do not use them although they make them. If it is such an economical user of fuel you would think the manufacturers would be the first to use them. It seems as though they are trying to give us a gold brick.