

THE BRITISH COAL UTILISATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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Preliminary report of visit to the U.S.A. and  
Canada to study Domestic Combustion Equipment  
and Research Techniques, 16th May - 14th June, 1948

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(1) Foreword

At the suggestion of the Programmes Advisory Committee and with the approval of the Council, a short visit was made to various research and development organisations in the United States, which had programmes bearing on combustion for domestic heating and, in particular, the smokeless combustion of bituminous coal. The visit was confined to the east side of the U.S.A. and the observations made refer, therefore, only to this area. On the return journey, via Ottawa and Montreal, the opportunity was taken of visiting one or two similar organisations in Canada.

Although the visit to the research organisations was the primary object of the trip, the opportunity was taken to obtain information from other sources about the methods of use of the equipment and the reasons for adopting them. Such items as current house construction and the advantages of choosing fuels to suit the needs of particular areas were considered of importance in forming a balanced picture of domestic heating practice and of the development of new methods. These factors help to provide a background for the technical details given in this report whereby their application to British practice may be better judged.

Other matters which were frequent topics of conversation centred around the organisation of research and development, and the literature exchange agreements between U.S.research bodies and ourselves; here again some observations have been made which may help in explaining the difference of approach between the British and U.S.methods.

(2) The Choice of the Method of Heating in U.S.A.

(2.1) Convenience of Operation

The demand for, and supply of, automatic labour-saving devices in the United States is the greatest in the world. This demand plays an important role in the choice of the method of heating. For this reason the fuels which