

THE BRITISH COAL UTILISATION RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

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The House Engine - A Year's Experience
on the Use of the All Purpose Service
Unit Developed by B.C.U.R.A.

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Introduction

A description of the All Purpose Service Unit (A.S.U.) developed by B.C.U.R.A. appeared in "Coal Research", March, 1945, and further publications on this unit have since appeared in the technical Press.*

The object of the present report is to give information on the behaviour of one of these units[†] which was installed in the writer's house in September, 1946.

The original intention was to install two A.S.U.'s in a pair of houses in the Leatherhead area, but as licencing and financial arrangements could not be arranged at the time, the writer decided to build a house and install one of the units as a matter of "private enterprise". The problems involved in carrying out what would normally have been a comparatively simple building operation are best omitted from this report, as they entailed an endless series of delays in the supply of many of the building materials, quite apart from the delays caused by obtaining all the licences and permits and general form filling.

The All Purpose Service Unit

It may be as well, before giving details of the installation and performance of the unit, to recapitulate its salient features and the reasons for its particular design.

When considering the construction of new houses, it is obvious that the provision of the heating and hot water supply system should be at least of equal importance as other parts of the construction.

* "Coke", November, 1945, pp.220-223.

† Designed and constructed by the Building Component Producers' Association.