



Barker on Heating: The Theory and Practice of Heating and Ventilation (Classic Reprint)

A. H. Barker

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Excerpt from Barker on Heating: The Theory and Practice of Heating and Ventilation

The object of the present work is to place English speaking readers a detailed explanation of the application of scientific principles to the chief problems with which the Heating Engineer has to deal, and further, to indicate the limits within which these principles are applicable in practice. Its aim is not to describe practical details of construction nor of the mechanical work involved in the erection of an apparatus. These in the opinion of the Author, can only be learnt properly by handling the things themselves.

Considerable experience of this, as well as of several other important branches of engineering, has convinced the Author that apparent discrepancies between theory and practice are here both more important and more difficult fully to account for than is the case in most other branches. A full comprehension of the limitations within which theory is applicable is therefore almost as necessary to a thorough understanding of the subject as knowledge of the principles themselves.

There is a marked tendency, even in the best modern practice, to accept blindly the dicta of experimental and theoretical science as directly applicable to the solution of problems in heating and ventilation without any inquiry as to how far the conditions of practical work warrant this implicit faith. The fact that the validity of some of these applications has not more often been called in question is probably due to the extraordinary difficulty of making exact practical tests to verify or refute it.

A critical examination of the applicability of scientific principles to each part of this subject, made in the light of practical experience, has therefore been ventured on in this work.

The theoretical part of the book is intended for readers who possess a sound though elementary knowledge of mathematical science. It is hoped that the practical parts will enable those who are not very familiar with the theory readily to apply the results in practice.

The problems of heating and ventilation are amongst the most subtle and difficult of accurate solution of any with which an engineer has commonly to deal. It is not possible to explain intelligently and accurately the application of fundamental principles to their solution, in a manner which is wholly free from the assumption of a certain amount of scientific knowledge of an elementary character. Any attempt to do so must inevitably lead to the making of inaccurate statements and conveyance of false impressions.

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