

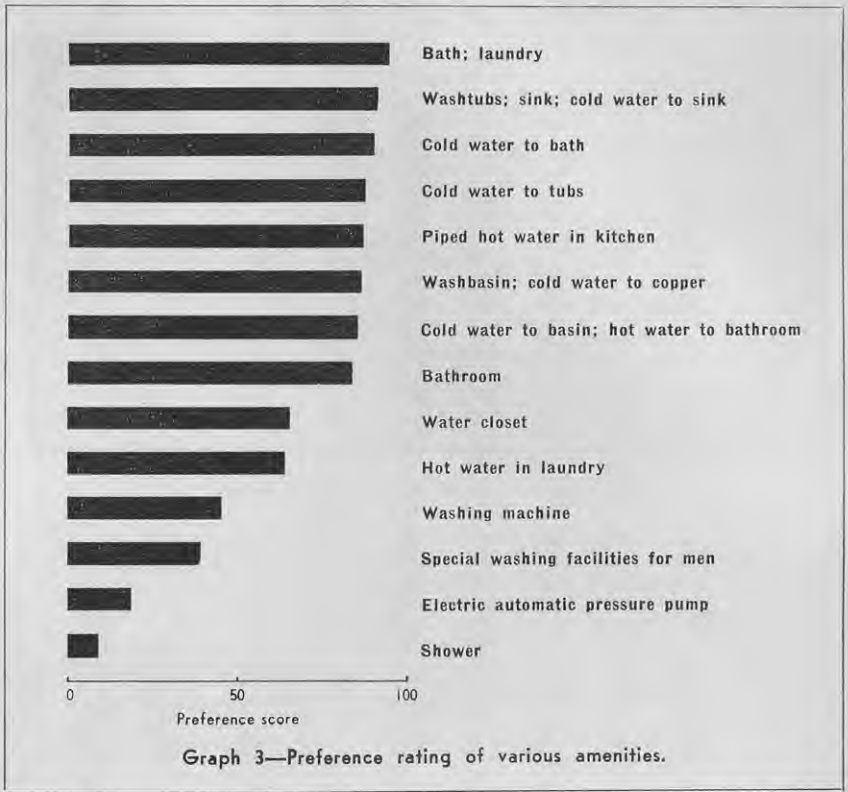
by a marked rise in the proportion of houses with high-pressure water and adequate plumbing.

The present acute power shortage is not considered by the South Canterbury Power Board to be an adequate reason for delaying the further reticulation of its district.

The board considers that everyone is entitled to a share of the available current, which must be rationed, if necessary, but must not be deliberately denied to new consumers to avoid reducing the ration to existing ones.

The true reasons for the slowness of increasing reticulation in South Canterbury are nothing to do with the power shortage. First, there is an urgent need to use all available resources not to extend the reticulation system but to reconstruct much of the present one, which, especially in the boroughs and built-up areas, has been neglected and not brought up to capacity; now it is essential that it be reconstructed and made adequate for present and future loading, which is and will be far heavier than in the past. Second, there has been an acute shortage of men and materials—transformers, good timber poles, steel for concrete poles, and copper wire. Today, however, this shortage is easing, and though deliveries of materials may still be long in coming, they do come, whereas formerly they frequently did not come at all.

Because of the high cost of labour and materials the power board will have to charge high guarantees to recover the loan and other costs of



It is possible even with a rain-water tank, if it can be placed high enough, to obtain adequate pressure for a piped interior water supply. However, this small storage tank would not supply the house for more than a few days without rain.

installing the new lines shortly to be erected. Costly though they will be, it is doubtful whether the expense to the consumer of these high guarantees will act as a further deterrent to rapidly increasing reticulation.

Housewives' Preferences

If someone is asked what amenity she would most like, or which she rates the highest, she will often unconsciously exclude from her field of choice those which she already has. For example, a housewife with electricity but no hot water system would say, "Oh, I'd like hot water best", and one with hot and cold water may say, "I would like a water closet", when they probably both value what amenities they have more highly than those they lack.

Therefore, to arrive at a preference rating scale in this survey each housewife was given a standard list of amenities from which were crossed out those she already had, and was asked to pick from the remaining ones her first, second, and third choice, regardless of cost. If she had few, she would frequently group a number together, such as fixed equipment with drains, or hot water piped to bath, basin, and sink, and rate the whole group as one choice. She was also asked whether there was any other water-using amenity not listed which she would prefer to those that were.

Each amenity was then scored as follows: Every time it was installed in a house, 5; when a first choice, 4; second choice, 3; third choice, 2; and any further choice, 1. These scores were then added for a final preference rating. Had any amenity been

installed in every one of the 200 houses, its total rating would have been 1000, or, divided by 10, 100. The nearer the rating of any amenity approaches this maximum the more highly is it valued, according to the double criterion of being actually installed or of being listed as a choice for a "next installation". The common amenities are listed in descending order of preference in the graph above. It is noteworthy that no item scored 100 per cent. Even a copper, which was not included in the list, would not have received this maximum rating, for there were a few houses that did not have one. It would, however, have received more than the 93 per cent. gained by a bath and a laundry.

The amenity most frequently chosen but not listed was electricity, with 13 firsts. This was not strictly a water-using amenity, but it is probable that all those desiring it would have made use of it to improve their water supply. Eight listed a more adequate water supply and sufficient storage facilities to tide them over temporary shortages as first choice. Five listed better pressure as first or second choice, but only one listed pressure and amount adequate for fire fighting, in spite of the fact that at over 100 houses there was neither an adequate amount of water nor was it under sufficient pressure to be of any use in fighting a fire. Two housewives listed purer water, one as a first choice and one as a fourth. Three listed a dishwasher.

Evaluation of Preference Rating

It was to be expected that the first six items (bath, sink, and tubs, cold water to the first two, and a laundry)