

One big change that may be expected in New Zealand after the war—especially in the colder regions—is an increased use of air conditioning and central heating. It seems a rational outlook that houses should be so heated in winter that movement throughout the home is not like a venture into the Arctic regions. As it is now, in most houses the family huddles round the fire in the living-room, and there is a reluctance to move from the room even to get things that are wanted. The getting of supper is a chilly task, and at bed-times there is a reluctance to go to the cold bedroom.

It seems desirable that a house should be evenly heated throughout at a comfortable, but not enervating temperature. Hot water radiators may be used, but an air conditioning plant is at present the more healthy method.

By means of this plant, air is drawn in, washed, warmed, humidified to the correct degree, and pumped to all parts of the house. Probably such a plant will be completely electric. There is another method by which all the walls of the house contain hot-water pipes. In certain districts of Russia and the United States, hot water is laid on to the house like gas, the water coming from central boilers. This system seems ideal in certain urban areas, but the expense involved in piping spread-out residential areas in New Zealand would be too great to warrant its adoption.

Every day new plans for housing after the war are being put forward, and new methods of construction and fitting are being introduced. It behoves the soldier who intends building a house on his return to civilian life to keep abreast of modern trends in housing.

