

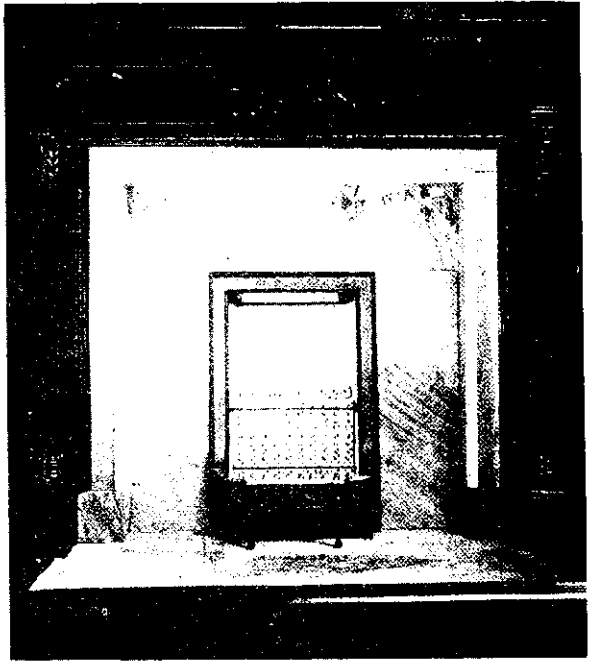
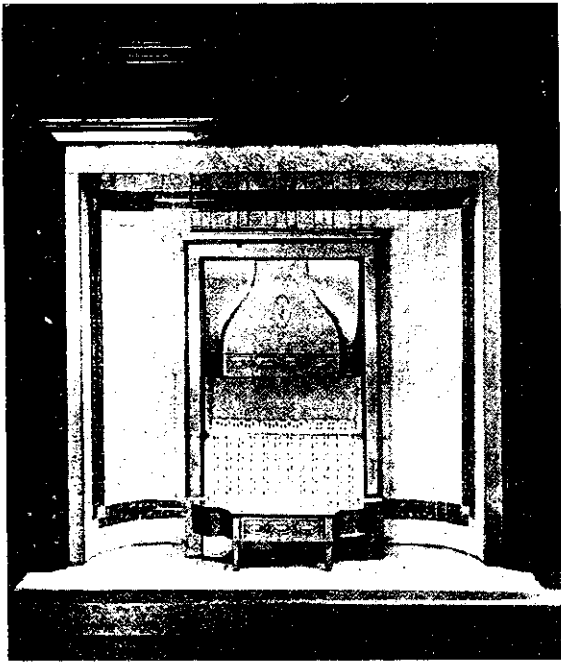
The Modern Gas Fire

We are indebted to the "Architectural Review" for this article and illustrations which give the reader an excellent idea of what modern gas-fire development means.

Considering the importance of the fireplace in the English home, and the fact that it is the focus of interest to which the eye first travels as one enters a room, it is surprising that we should have borne so long with the unsightly and inefficient gas fire that was formerly offered to us. In the past, both as regards artistic quality in its design and effectiveness as a heating appliance, the gas fire received very inadequate attention on the part of manufacturers, and, as a result, could only be regarded as an article of questionable beauty and utility. But the developments of recent years have entirely altered the former estimate, and in its numerous

heating, and noisy combustion are all being rapidly eliminated, and in their place are appearing gas fires of excellent form, pleasingly embellished, efficient, silent, and perfectly hygienic.

The introduction of the gas fire is thus traced by Mr. W. H. Y. Webber in his book: "The general use of town gas as fuel for domestic and industrial purposes is a practice which cannot be dated much further back than the Crystal Palace Electric and Gas Exhibition of 1882. At that period it was still doubtful whether the greater expense of gas in comparison with coal, as applied to the purpose of warming living-rooms, left much opportunity for



Recent examples of Gas Fire Designs.

attractive forms the gas fire now claims its place in the scheme of interior decoration.

An obvious reason for the cumbersome and badly-decorated designs to which we were so long accustomed is found in the fact that the gas fire was first introduced in the Victorian era, and so persistently indifferent have the designs been that, until recently, it has been quite impossible to utilise the gas fire with any degree of artistic satisfaction.

The very welcome change which has made the gas fire both an effective heater and an object of pleasing design has occurred only within the last few years. Superfluous metal, gaudy decoration, weird and wonderful outline, inefficient and inhymenic

developing the former in this direction. The warmth of gas when burnt for the purpose of lighting was also regarded by the general public with mingled feelings. The large consumption of gas necessitated by the imperfect burners of that day, if a brilliant scale of lighting were desired, frequently produced over-heating of small crowded rooms, and in such cases the warmth produced by the gas was found objectionable. On the other hand, the same incidental effect was appreciated in winter by workers in shops, factories, and warehouses not provided with other means of warming. Consequently, whenever the weather turned cold, a great deal of gas was, and still is, burnt for the sake of the