

mostly effected this result being the utilisation of suitable fuel, perfection of carburation, and flue outlets.

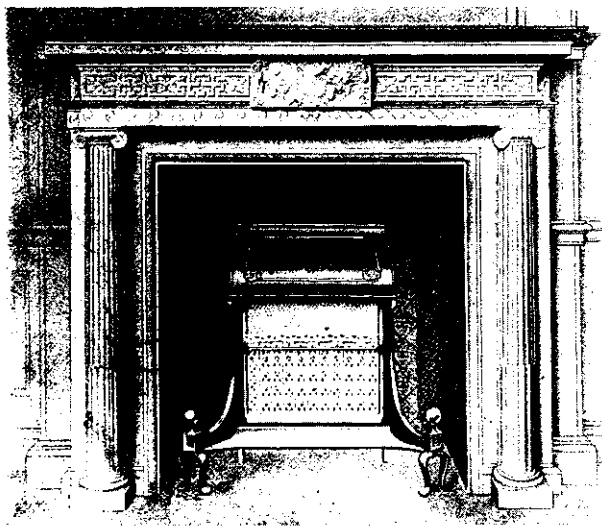
The very important matter of adaptability for use as a fitment has received careful consideration at the hands of some of the makers, and to this end fires have been designed and proportioned so that they may appear as part and parcel of the general scheme, whether the gas fire is placed in front of or actually in the coal grate; and this may be done without in any way interfering with the symmetry of the surroundings.

In some cases the attempt has been made to produce gas fires which in all respects compete, or, where necessary, blend with types of coal fires.

It would, of course, often be desirable from many points of view if we could have our gas fires planned and fitted in the fire openings as coal grates are, thus obviating any necessity for duplication. This is a matter that should receive the attention of the architects. Manufacturers would welcome the

It is a common practice to have a tile or marble surround to the gas fire, enclosed by the frame of the mantel, and certainly this is very pleasing in appearance; but there is perhaps no more effective background than a metal one, especially when the surface is broken up into delicate vertical ribs, after the manner of eighteenth-century French work.

Apart from the matter of improvement in efficiency as a heating agent, there is nothing so striking about the modern gas fire as its suitability for inclusion in what are known as "period" schemes—that is to say, one can now obtain gas fires that conform to the general character of the interior decoration, whether this be Gothic, Tudor, Jacobean, or Adam, the designers, after carefully studying old types of wood and coal fire-grates, having embodied the prevailing character in their designs for gas fires, so that instead of being obliged to have one more or less stock pattern of gas fire, and that a clumsy and inelegant type out of keeping with every architectural scheme, the makers now offer an astonishing variety of excellent designs. A few of these are shown by the accompanying illustrations.



A Gas Fire.

practice, and would speedily offer productions that met the new requirements.

There are at present on the market a few gas fires suitable for fixing permanently, and as the demand increases other examples will, no doubt, be forthcoming. Bearing on this point it would be well for architects to consider the planning of flues. For a gas fire, permanently fitted, it is only necessary to have narrow flues, such as can often be built in the thickness of a wall. With the variety of types now available every requirement can be met. The fitment of gas fires under existing canopies, or the insertion in coal grates of a well fitting basket or vertical fire, offers an economical means of utilising hearth space. The most satisfactory results, however, are obtained when the fireplace is designed especially to receive a gas fire. No questions of smoke combustion and updraught have to be considered as with coal fires, and for this reason a very neat and effective arrangement is possible.

The Federal Capital

Canberra Again

A Sydney correspondent to the Christchurch "Press" sends the following interesting news re the Federal Capital:—

So far as Mr. Griffin is concerned, the Commission's finding is startling. It has decided that necessary information and assistance were withheld from him, and his powers were usurped by certain officers. Mr. Griffin and his office were ignored, his rights and duties under his contract were denied, and false charges of default were made against him. The Commission finds that the Hon. W. C. Archibald, and others of the Departmental Board dealing with Canberra affairs, endeavoured to set aside Mr. Griffin's design, and to substitute the Board's own plan. Finally, the Commission says that there was in the Department a combination, including Mr. Archibald and certain officers, hostile to Mr. Griffin and his design for the capital city.

Officers whose actions are reviewed by the Commission include Colonel Miller, Administrator of the Federal Territory, who "objected to anyone intervening between himself and the Minister," Colonel Owen, who, as Director-General of Works, was jealous of any encroachment upon the domain of his authority, Mr. Murdoch, architect, "who seems to have given some evil counsel to Colonel Owen as to the conflict that might arise between the Colonel and Mr. Griffin"; Mr. Scrivener, Director of Lands and Survey, who objected to his surveyors taking orders from Mr. Griffin; Mr. Bingle, the acting-secretary of the Department, who was charged with delaying and withholding information. The foregoing gives some idea of the difficulties, quite apart from the pronounced hostility of the Minister, which Mr. Griffin had to face.