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- A paper read at recent meeting of American Society of Heating and Ventilating Engineers reported findings on baseboard radiation systems, said that air temperature, with little variation from floor to ceiling, can be obtained with satisfactory relative humidities and no excessive drafts.
- Another report at same meeting, by Pierce Foundation engineers, recommended ceiling panels for radiant heating over floor panels, because a floor temperature of more than 75° induces "low vascular tone" in foot and leg. Experiments showed that floor panel heat caused warmer temperature in lower extremities, which could result in improper over-all circulation and prevent alertness.
- Perhaps the most revolutionary paper read at A.S.H.V.E. meeting was one by Dr. F. E. Giesecke, Texas air-conditioning authority, who reported that by leaving the windows open at night and closing them during the day the cost of mechanical cooling might be cut in half.
- A report on The Architect and Long Range Planning for Schools has been issued by the A.I.A. Committee on School Buildings (Kump, chairman). It is an excellent statement of the architect's role in long-range planning studies, his relation to "educational consultants," and the need for a "co-ordinator of all information, who is capable of evaluating, organizing and documenting" all data.
- The report points out that more than educational requirements enter comprehensive planning considerations--population trends, finance, public health, community activities, building economics, fire safety, codes, materials, environmental controls, site planning, and many others are factors. For this co-ordinating task the committee says that compensation "over and above fee for building plans" is needed.
- Konrad Wachsmann is joining the architectural staff at Illinois Institute of Technology. Hopes are to develop advanced study in industrialized building.
- First of the greenbelt towns--Greenhills, near Cincinnati, Ohio, has been sold by Public Housing Administration for 3½ million dollars. Unlike Norris, Tenn., another government-owned town, which was sold to a private individual, Greenhills was bought by a non-profit corporation composed primarily of veterans and tenants.
- Drive-in theaters, of which there were only 52 at start of last war, have reached over 1500 in number with more than 2000 under construction. Planning officials are concerned with traffic hazards involved; American Society of Planning Officials points out that such structures may not be covered by definitions of a "building" in many local codes.