

## Ancient History Of New Conveniences

### Bathroom Idea 5,000 Years Old, They Say.

The present-day idea of a bathroom that affords real comfort, or even a touch of luxury, is not new; it is at least 5,000 years old, says the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating. Yet even though Canada and the United States boast many more bathrooms per unit of population than other parts of the world, there are still many homes in cities as well as in the country without other bathing facilities than a wash tub in shed or basement.

Archaeologists have discovered the existence of tiled bathrooms in palaces of the ancient Mesopotamian civilizations and even the idea of a bath to every bedroom has been revealed in certain Egyptian excavations. The elaborate and luxurious bathing facilities developed by the Romans, centuries later, are well remembered as one of the marks of the heights attained by the civilization which was swallowed in the "Dark Ages" of medieval history. The very word plumbing derives from the Latin word for lead, the principal piping material used in the installations of the times.

Along with arts and other sciences, the science of sanitation was lost in the Dark Ages and was left considerably behind when the Renaissance brought some light back to a semi-barbarous Europe. The lack of even simple habits of private and public cleanliness are significant in the plagues and diseases which ravaged the old world with toll of countless millions of people. In spite of religious fervour the salutary laws of cleanliness contained in the Old Testament were so long overlooked that it was only comparatively recently that John Wesley felt constrained to proclaim that "cleanliness is next to godliness."

It is really only in the past century—and principally the latter half of it—that sanitary engineering has been recognized as one of the vital pillars of civilization, says the Institute, adding that no matter where or at what period one studies the development of public health, one finds the sanitary engineer and his team mate, the plumber, in the forefront of progress. Through the installation of modern municipal as well as domestic water and sewage systems, communities have been able greatly to reduce sickness and mortality rates. The gradual general decrease in the infant mortality rate and the reduction of tuberculosis cases and death rates are due, in a certain degree at least, to better housing conditions in which modern plumbing plays a large part.

Just as every community that desires good health and comfort for its people must spend a great deal of money for equipment and its maintenance so also must every home owner and operator of public buildings be prepared to provide adequate plumbing equipment for individual needs and to keep it in proper condition. Modern plumbing, concludes the Institute, has made it possible for every place of human habitation in civilized communities to have adequate facilities for the maintenance of cleanliness and health. Present-day requirements have also made the master plumber, in his role of guardian of public health, a highly specialized artisan and, in the interests of hygiene, the Institute advises that only properly qualified artisans should be entrusted with installation and maintenance work.

### Dominion Said To Be In Need of 200,000 New Homes

Recent investigations carried on by government departments and by industries and private individuals seem to agree on the idea that at the present time Canada is in need of 200,000 new houses. If Canadians are to be as well sheltered as they should be, it is held that at least 40,000 new dwellings are required annually for the next few years.

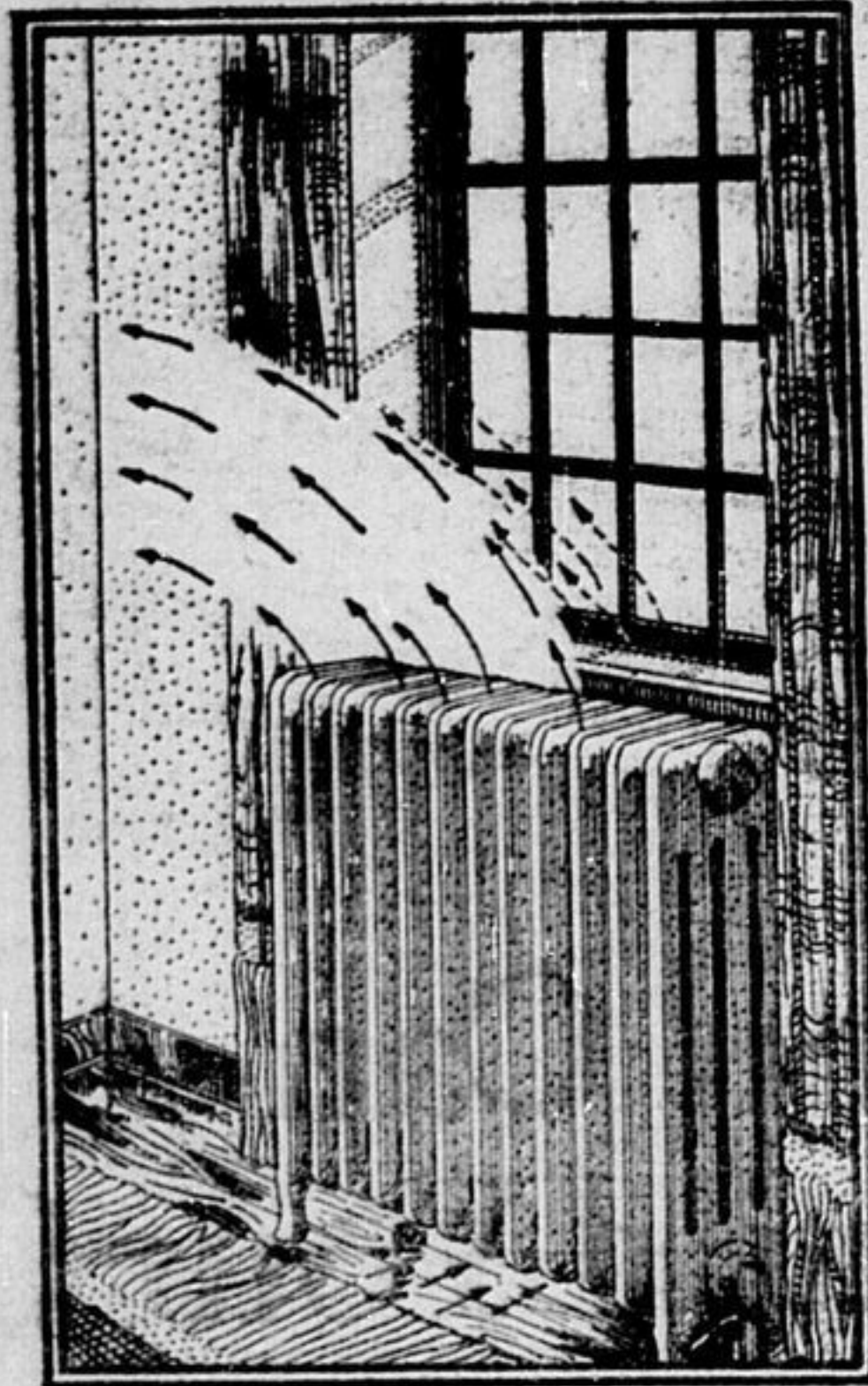
#### SCRUBBING THE BASEMENT

For the basement concrete scrub with water to which a pound of lime and a handful of salt to the gallon has been added.

## Radiators Belong Beneath Windows

### New Design of Radiators Properly Located, Baffle Cold Air Drafts.

Apart from the strides which have been made in the improvement of design and efficiency of heating equipment, one of the greatest ad-



Placed under the window, the modern radiator not only provides radiant heat around it but also creates a current of warm air which baffles and warms cold drafts created by the window space and circulates throughout the room. The sketch shows how the cold air currents (broken arrows) are cut off and warmed by the convected warm air (solid arrows).

## Two Bathrooms Or More, Modern Style

### Comfort and Convenience Given Emphasis in New Plans

An indication of the public demand for better bathroom conveniences, is to be seen in the increasing frequency, in advertisements of houses for rent or sale, of mention of two or more bathrooms and often additional lavatories in the bedrooms, says the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating.

Ample conveniences for bathing, washing and shaving are especially needed in homes which house growing families. In any house equipped with only a single bathroom, the problem of crowded bathroom traffic can be simplified easily and cheaply by the installation of a lavatory in each bedroom. With this additional equipment,

vances made in the better heating of Canadian homes is the relatively simple practice of placing radiators under the windows, says the Canadian Institute of Plumbing and Heating. In this position, the hot air currents generated by the radiator serve to baffle the cold air currents created by the window aperture.

Although this location of radiators is logical, it was not until improved radiators were designed that it was entirely practical. The very first hot water systems distributed heat by means of large coils of ordinary cast-iron pipe hung on the walls and a large length of pipe was needed for sufficient radiation for the average cubic space. The earlier models of free-standing radiators were generally too large to permit convenient placement below the levels of window sills.

By scientific design, the modern radiator, though much smaller, gives very much better performance than the older types. It is easier to place under the window, where it belongs, and provides a larger square footage of radiant heat, that is to say, heat transmitted by direct rays, as the heat of the sun. Moreover, by flue design, currents of heated air are set up which circulate and tend to provide more uniform temperature in all parts of a room.

Ordinarily the window is the coldest part of any room. Even when its joints and openings are perfectly insulated, the window area is inevitably colder than the other outside walls and therefore, the source of cold air currents. With the radiator located under the window, hot air arises by ordinary thermal principles as well as by the convection principles upon which the modern radiator is designed.

Thus a certain of warm air rises in front of the window, baffling intruding cold air currents or drafts and warming them to circulate throughout the room, eliminating cold corners and providing complete comfort for the occupants.

saving time and steps, family routine is enabled to move much more smoothly and morning toilet wrangles eliminated in homes where there are several members going to business and school at about the same time each day.

In the past, the more strictly utilitarian designs of lavatories did not encourage their installation in a tastefully decorated bedroom. The designs of today overcome this objection. The smart styling and beautiful colouring of the modern china lavatory, with its handsome chromium plated fixtures, legs and towel bars, makes it decoratively acceptable in the most tasteful bedroom. In fact, the lovely pastel shades in blues, yellows, greens, orchid or cream, can emphasize and enhance decorative colour schemes.

There is no need to disguise the purpose of the modern lavatory. In fact, its generous shelf space and flat surface has given it additional value as a make-up table and one of the most useful furnishings of the bedroom. The many attractive styles are available in both large and small sizes, with chrom-

## Canada Spending More On Liquor Than On Housing

In the course of a recent address, Mr. Earle C. Brockett, vice-president of the Canadian Johns-Manville Co. Ltd., made the following striking statements:

"We are constantly—daily sometimes many times a day—given instances of desire on the part of the consuming public for new homes and more modern old ones. But as an industry it has become increasingly apparent that we lack the aggressiveness to go out and take advantage of that desire. The market is there. There is a need for new homes. A need for the modernization of old ones. And, what is more: A definite desire for both.

"Yet the building industry in Canada gets but five cents of the Canadian consumers' dollar, while the liquor business—to make an unusually striking comparison—gets six cents of that dollar!

The moral of Mr. Brockett's presentation of the case would seem to be: "Don't buy a drink! Build a home!" Or, "Not a drink on the house, but a house on the drinks."

## Ottawa Dept. Has Series of Plans for Low Cost Houses

More recently the Housing Administration has prepared a new series of plans for small houses which we are confident can be built in many parts of this Dominion for \$2,500 or less. Where this can be done, and taking into account the 90 per cent. loans now available on these low-cost homes, this would mean that creditworthy persons who can invest at least the minimum equity might be enabled to own one of these houses. Working drawings for these small houses have also been prepared and are now available from the Housing Administration at the nominal price of \$10 a set.

ium plated legs or pedestal base. Also in favour for bedroom installation is the cabinet type of lavatory which consists of a basin of vitreous china or enameled iron set on a cabinet made of high grade furniture steel. With its roomy shelves, the cabinet supplies convenient space for the storage of toilet articles and cosmetics.

Accentuating the decorative features of the lavatory is the handsome mirror, with or without medicine cabinet. These are obtainable in many attractive styles and with tasteful lighting arrangements of which tubular lights at each side are very popular.

In modernizing older homes it is advisable to consider the installation of lavatories in the bedrooms, suggests the Institute, adding that plumbing contractors will be glad to suggest the best location for such fixtures from the point of view of piping economy. Installation of extra bathrooms and lavatories may, of course, be financed by Home Improvement Plan loans.

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