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CHAPTER 9

Chimneys and Draft Calculations

Natural Draft, Mechanical Draft, Draft Control, Characteristics of Natural Draft Chimneys, Determining Chimney Sizes, General Equation, Domestic Chimneys, Construction Details, Chimneys for Gas Heating

A DRAFT, in the older sense, is a current of air and the draft of a furnace or boiler is that air current which flows through the fire-box and furnishes the oxygen for combustion. In engineering, however, the word *draft* has come to mean that pressure difference which causes this air current to flow and the word will be used in this sense in this chapter.

Draft is usually measured in inches of water and it is proper to speak of the draft in the fire-box or in the smoke breeching, etc., meaning the difference in pressure between the gases within and the air without those parts of a system. Draft is called positive when the pressure within such a part is less than that outside.

Draft is classified as natural and mechanical, depending on whether it is produced by a chimney or by a blower, and mechanical draft is further classified as induced or forced, depending on whether the air is drawn through or forced through the combustion chamber.

Chimneys can serve both to create a draft and to dispose of combustion products at a desirable height. For the latter purpose, chimneys, stacks, or, in the case of ships, funnels, are used in conjunction with mechanical-draft systems.

THEORETICAL DRAFT

If the air in one of two equal chimneys is heated while that in the other is not, the air in the heated chimney will be less heavy than that in the other chimney and a manometer or other pressure gage connecting the two at the bottom will indicate a pressure difference, called natural draft. The pressure of the air at the tops of the two chimneys will be equal, so that the pressure difference between them at the bottom will depend only on their height and the difference in density of the air they contain. The density of the air in either chimney is inversely proportional to its absolute temperature, so that the difference in pressure between them at the bottom will be proportional to their height and to the difference between the reciprocals of the absolute temperatures within them.

The pressure at the bottom of an unheated (and uncooled) chimney will be the same as that of the air outside, so that the unheated chimney