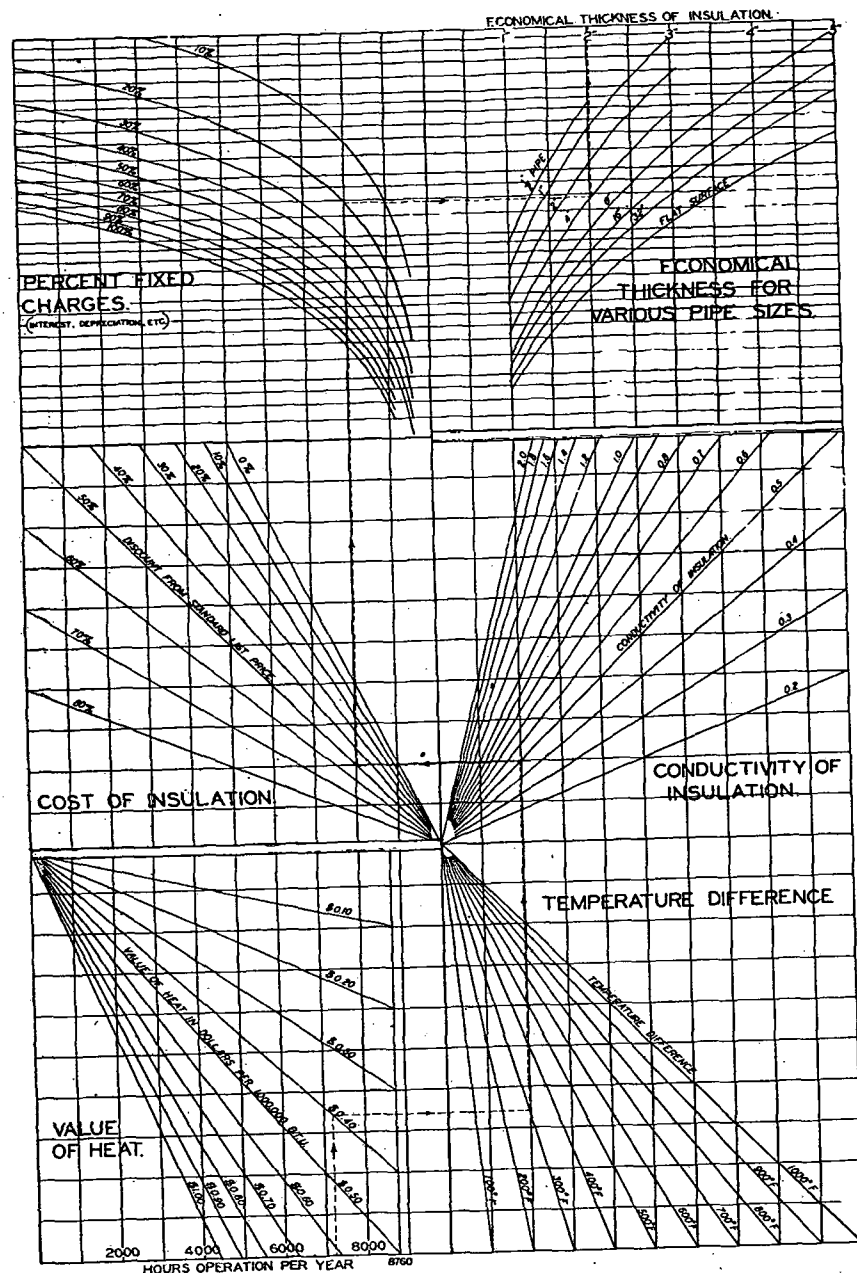




(L. B. McMillan, Proc. National Dist. Heating Ass'n., Vol. 18, p. 131.)

FIG. 3. CHART FOR DETERMINING ECONOMICAL THICKNESS OF INSULATION

The rate of heat loss from a surface maintained at constant temperature is greatly increased by air circulation over the surface. In the case of well-insulated surfaces the increases in losses due to air velocity are very small as compared with increases shown for bare surfaces, because of the fact that air flowing over the surface of the insulation can increase only the rate of heat transfer from surface to air, and cannot change the internal resistance to heat flow inherent in the insulation itself. The maximum increase in loss due to air velocity ranges from about 30 per cent in the case of 1 in. thick insulation, to about 10 per cent in the case of 3 in. thick insulation, provided that the insulation is thoroughly sealed so that air can flow only over the surface.

If the conditions are such that the air may circulate through cracks and crevices in the insulation, the increases may be far greater than those given. Therefore, it is essential that insulation be sealed as tightly as possible. Pipe insulation out-of-doors should be provided with a waterproof jacket, and other outdoor insulation should be thoroughly weather-proofed.

THICKNESS OF PIPE INSULATION

Table 12 shows the thicknesses of insulation which ordinarily are used for various temperature conditions. Where a thorough analysis of economic thickness is desired, this may be accomplished through the use of the chart, Fig. 3.

The dotted line on the chart illustrates its use in solving a typical example. In using the chart, start with the scale at the left bottom margin representing the given number of hours of operation per year; then proceed vertically to the line representing the given value of heat; thence horizontally, to the right, to the line representing the given temperature difference; thence vertically to the line representing the conductivity of the given material; thence horizontally, to the left, to the line representing the given discount on that material; thence vertically to the curve representing the required per cent return on the investment; thence horizontally, to the right, to the curve representing the given pipe size; thence vertically to the scale at the top right margin where the economical thickness may be read off directly. The dotted line on the chart illustrates its use in solving a typical example.

Underground Insulation

Underground steam distribution lines are carried in protective structures of various types, sizes and shapes. (See Chapter 36). Detailed data on commonly used forms of tunnels and conduit systems have been published by the *National District Heating Association*².

Pipes in tunnels are covered with sectional insulation to provide maximum thermal efficiency and are also finished with good mechanical protection in the form of metal or waterproofing membrane outer jackets. Conduit systems are in more general use than tunnels. Pipes carried in conduits may be insulated with sectional insulation; however, the more usual practice is to fill the entire section of the conduit around

²Handbook of the National District Heating Association, Second Edition, 1932.