2. Air may be used but its specific heat is low and its temperature uncertain. When the most heat is needed, the temperature of the air is lowest, thus resulting in the least favorable temperature combination.

3. It has been proposed to obtain heat by freezing water but this is still in the experimental stage.

Some of the other factors which act as limitations are: the large temperature spread when using air as a source of heat and when attempting to cool with even moderately low outside temperatures, the frequent disparity between the size of the cooling load and heating load requiring extra equipment for a complete heating load, and the relatively high initial cost of equipment as compared to that at present available for heating by conventional means.

Because of these limitations, the present application of the system is largely limited to temperate climates, such as Florida and Southern

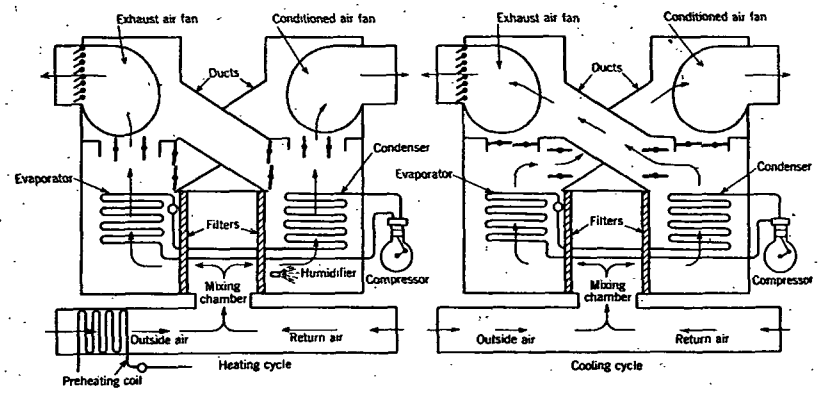


FIG. 11. SCHEMATIC OPERATION OF REVERSED CYCLE CONDITIONING SYSTEM

California, or to heating only for intermediate seasons, or to other localities which have peculiar advantages as, for instance, the ready availability of well water. In these locations it is frequently possible to do all of the heating necessary with the refrigeration equipment so that the extra cost is only that of reversing the functions of the condenser and evaporator.

There are a number of reversed systems now in operation, particularly among utility companies, using well water as the source of heat. These systems range in size up to 320 hp. In the case of the largest system in operation at present, the cost of the electrical energy would have to be approximately 0.7 cents per kilowatthour in order to compete with oil at 6 cents per gallon.

A typical arrangement of a reversed cycle conditioning system where air is used as a source of heat is shown in Fig. 11. If the air seldom drops below freezing, heat is often required in the morning and cooling during the afternoon in order to maintain comfortable conditions in such a system. The arrangement as shown lends itself to automatically changing over as required.

CHAPTER 25

Heat Transfer Surface Coils

Coil Applications, Construction and Arrangement, Steam Coils, Water Coils, Direct-Expansion Coils, Flow Arrangements, Applications, Calculation of Heat Transfer, Air Flow Resistance, Coil Performance, Selection

THE coils described in this chapter are used in air conditioning systems for heating or cooling an air stream under forced convection. The surface coil equipment may be made up of a number of banks assembled in the field, or the entire assembly may be factory constructed. The applications of each type of coil are limited to the field within which it is rated. Other limitations are imposed by code regulations, by proper choice of materials for the refrigerants used and the condition of the air handled, or by an economic analysis of the possible alternates on each installation.

For heating service, these coils are used as preheaters, reheaters or booster heaters, (see Chapters 20 and 21). The function of the coils is air heating only, but the apparatus assembly may include means for humidification and air cleaning. Steam or hot water are the usual heating media, although others are used in special cases, such as reheating by means of discharge gas from a refrigerating system.

Coils are used for air cooling with or without accompanying dehumidification. Examples of cooling applications without dehumidification are precooling coils using well water or other relatively high temperature water to reduce the load on the refrigerating machinery, or water cooled coils to remove sensible heat in connection with chemical moisture-absorption apparatus. By proper coil selection it is possible to handle both sensible cooling and dehumidification together as further explained later. The apparatus assembly usually includes an air cleaning means to protect the coil from accumulation of dirt and to keep dust and foreign matter out of the conditioned space. Although cooling and dehumidification are the usual functions, there are cases of cooling coils purposely wetted as an aid to air cleaning and odor absorption.

The usual cooling media used in surface coils are cold water or Group I (*ASA* Classification) refrigerants, but others are used in special cases. Brines are seldom required for the range of applications covered by this chapter, although there are cases where low entering air temperatures with large latent heat loads require a refrigerant temperature so low that water becomes impractical. Sometimes, also, brine from an industrial system already installed is the only convenient source of refrigeration.

For combined cooling and dehumidifying, surface coils present an alternate to spray dehumidifiers. For many applications it is possible, by proper selection of apparatus, choice of air velocities, refrigerant temperatures, etc., to perform the same duty with either. In a few cases both sprays and coils are used. The coils may then be installed within the spray chamber, either in series with the sprays or below them. In making the selection between spray and surface dehumidifiers, certain advantages of each should be considered. The fact that a spray dehumidifier is usually designed to deliver nearly saturated air tends to simplify the control problem. In this case the dry-bulb temperature is also the dew-point, and hence a dew-point control can be arranged by using a simple duct thermostat. Spray dehumidifiers have the advantage over