evaporation with the vapors leaving slightly superheated. In flooded evaporators not all of the refrigerant is evaporated, the liquid-vapor mixture leaving the evaporator flows into a surge drum from which the vapors are drawn into the compressor suction line, and the liquid is recirculated through the evaporator.

The types of coolers used in connection with air conditioning work fall into three general groups: (1) direct water coolers, (2) direct air coolers, and (3) brine coolers for circulation of the brine in a closed system, and thus cooling indirectly either water or air.

1. *Water coolers.* One method of the direct cooling of water is to install direct expansion coils in the spray chamber so that the water sprayed into the air comes in direct contact with the cooling coils. Another common and efficient method of cooling spray water is to use a Baudelot type of heat absorber where the water flows over direct expansion coils at a rate sufficiently high to give efficient heat transfer from water to refrigerant.

Another type of spray water cooler is the shell and tube heat exchanger in which the refrigerant is expanded into a shell enclosing the tubes through which the water flows. The velocity of the water in the tubes affects the rate of heat transfer, and as the refrigerant is in the shell completely surrounding the tubes at all times, good contact and a high rate of heat transfer are insured. The disadvantage of such a system is that with the falling off of load on the compressor, the suction temperature or the temperature in the evaporator drops, and there is a possibility of freezing the water in the tubes, which, of course, might split the tubes and allow the refrigerant to escape into the water passage. This danger can be eliminated by automatic safety devices.

Another system of cooling spray water is to submerge coils in the spray collecting tank, or in a separate tank used for storage. The heat transmission through the walls of the coils, however, is low and a great deal more surface is required than for any other type of cooler. However, with large storage tanks this type of cooling can be utilized to advantage.

2. *Air coolers.* When direct cooling of air is employed, the refrigerant is inside the coil and the air passes over it. Cooling depends upon convection and conduction for removing the heat from the air. The type of coil used can be either smooth or finned, the finned coil being more economical in space requirement than the smooth coil. The fins, however, must be far enough apart so as not to retain the moisture which condenses out of the air.

When refrigeration evaporators are used for cooling air or other gases by forced convection, they are usually termed blast coils or unit coolers. A blast coil may be placed in a duct or in an assembled unit, and the air forced across the coil and discharged through distributing ducts or directly into the space to be conditioned. Unit coolers, designed much like unit heaters, consist of a finned coil, propeller fan, and controls suspended directly in the space to be cooled.

3. *Indirect brine coolers.* The indirect cooler, where brine is cooled by the refrigerant and the resulting cold brine is used to cool either air or water, introduces several other considerations. It is not the most economical from a power consumption standpoint, as it is necessary to cool the brine to a temperature sufficiently low so that there is an appreciable difference between the average brine temperature and that of the substance being cooled. This requires that the temperature of the refrigerant must be still lower, and consequently the amount of power required to produce a given amount of refrigeration increases due to the higher compression ratio. There are other considerations which make such a system desirable. In the first place, where a toxic refrigerant is undesirable or cannot be used because of fire or other risks, especially in densely populated areas, the brine can be cooled in an isolated room or building and can then be circulated through the air conditioning equipment. This arrangement eliminates any possibility of direct contact between the air and refrigerant.

REFRIGERATION CONTROL

In addition to the compressor, evaporator, and condenser, several auxiliaries are required for proper operation of a refrigeration system. Some device must be supplied for the controlled expansion of the refrigerant from

the high condenser pressure to the low evaporator pressure; controls are required for the on-off operation of the compressor, the flow of the condensing medium, and for safety devices; proper piping is required for connecting the various portions of the systems. Where refrigerating apparatus is used for the cooling of rooms, additional controls are required.

Expansion Devices

Some form of expansion device must be provided to control the rate of flow of the liquid refrigerant between the high and low side pressures of the system. This device is usually an expansion valve and may be either manual or automatic; however, with few exceptions, manual valves are obsolete and no longer used.

Automatic Expansion Valves. An automatic or pressure controlled expansion valve operates to maintain a constant pressure in the evaporator. The liquid refrigerant passes through an orifice, the opening size of which is controlled by means

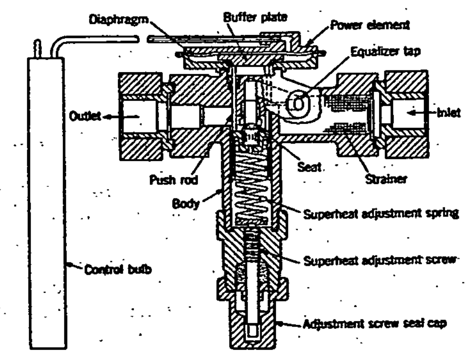

Fig. 12. Typical Thermostatic Expansion Valve

of a needle valve connected to a flexible bellows. This bellows expands or contracts with variations in the evaporator pressure transmitted to the expansion chamber through the refrigerant outlet from the evaporator. The position of this needle valve is controlled by the degree of compression in an adjustable spring, balanced against the bellows, and these two forces operate to maintain a constant pressure in the evaporator by increasing or decreasing the flow of liquid refrigerant. Such an expansion valve is usually applied to evaporators of the direct expansion type, but is not satisfactory for fluctuating loads such as are encountered in air conditioning installations.

Thermostatic Expansion Valves. A thermostatic expansion valve controls the flow of liquid refrigerant to the evaporator so as to maintain the entire coil filled with evaporating refrigerant, and to keep a constant superheat in the refrigerant gas leaving the coil. The construction of such a valve is shown in Fig. 12 and is similar to that for an automatic expansion valve but incorporates, in addition, a power element responsive to changes in the degree of superheat of the refrigerant gas leaving the coil. This power element consists of a bellows connected by means of a capillary tube to a feeler bulb fastened to the suction line from the evaporator. The bulb, bellows, and tube are usually charged with the same liquid refrigerant used in the evaporator itself. A starved condition in the evaporator results in a greater superheat in the gas leaving the evaporator, and this in turn operates through the power element to increase the flow of liquid refrigerant. A flooded evaporator reduces the discharge superheat, and thus tends to reduce the flow of liquid refrigerant. Such an expansion valve is satisfactory for operation with fluctuating loads since this type of control tends to keep the evaporator filled with refrigerant at all times.

Low-Side Float Valves. A liquid refrigerant control of the low-side float valve type consists of a ball float located in either a receiver or the evaporator itself on