



Frank Ashwell 1855-1896



[232] Frank ASHWELL

1855-1896

Upon completing an engineering apprenticeship, opened a small mill-wrighting workshop in Leicester (1879). Set up a heating department (1884) run by Nesbit [268]. Took up agencies for various heating and ventilating products, including the "Lancaster" steam trap and the "Korting" stove. Specialized in the heating and ventilating of local schools. Purchased the local "Victoria Foundry" (1887), turning out wrought and cast-iron goods, including gas and coal fire ranges. Continued to develop the school heating business with the introduction of his "Propulsion, Impulsion or Plenum System," which typically used a 5 ft diameter Blackman fan, driven by a 5 hp gas engine, and using heater batteries supplied with steam from Cornish boilers. The plenum system was often supplemented by his "Patent Ventilating Solar Radiator." The success of the business led Ashwell to take Nesbit into partnership (1892) to form Ashwell & Nesbit. The same year he took over the consultancy practice of Phipson [203]. The business continued to expand and carried out considerable institutional work including "no fewer than 15 lunatic asylums" (1893-1896), but in the middle of this success, Ashwell died unexpectedly from a brain tumor.

83. Ashwell and Nesbit. Portrait facing p. 60.

The HEATING and VENTILATING CONTRACTORS' ASSOCIATION

Founded in London in 1904.



[268] David Mein NESBIT

1855-1929

First President of HVCA (1904-1909). Ashwell & Nesbit, Leicester and London. Third President of IHVE (1900). Nesbit addressed the Master Steam and Hot Water Fitters' National Association in New York (1894), but the discourtesy shown at his reading of his technical paper so incensed Hugh Barron [248] that, with others, he founded ASHVE. Nesbit was one of ASHVE's first international members and can thus claim the unique distinction of having been involved in the founding of three great "comfort" organizations.

Photo portrait from 83, following p. 60.

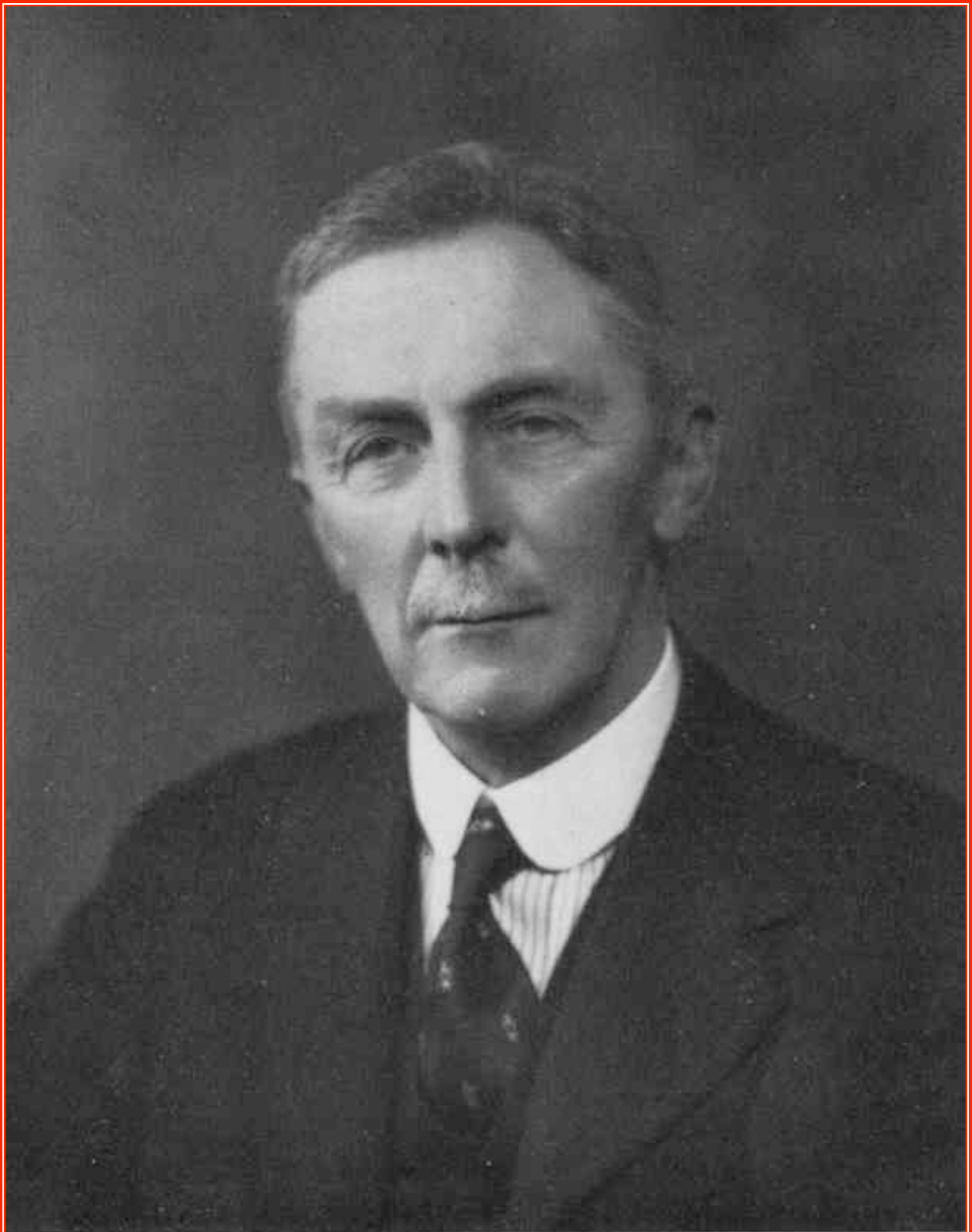
(The Comfort Makers, Brian Roberts, ASHRAE, 2000)



David Mein Nesbit 1855-1929



F. W. Jennings 1872–1934
Director 1908–1934



*Thomas G. Mellors Director 1920
Chairman 1930–1939*



Sir Harold Gibson Howitt 1886–1969
Chairman 1941–1965



Frank Austin Ashwell 1883–1966
Managing Director 1932–1961