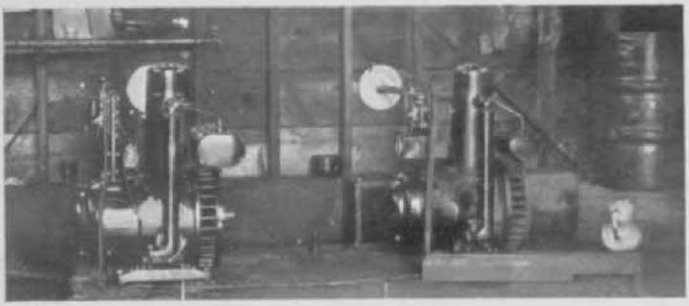

Private electric plant installation at a Michigan country club brought city conveniences and bigger patronage of members.

Private Electric Plants Are Club Boon

OF course the country club house must have electric service. Often electricity can be secured from the high tension line of a central power station. In many instances, however, the isolated location of the club house puts it beyond the power company's sphere of influence, and in such case, the individual electric plant must be used. This is a source of electricity now being employed by more than 300,000 country residences, farm homes, summer camps and club houses, and it is a source which can be depended upon as safe, economical and entirely equal to the job, wherever it may be.

The electric service received from the individual electric plant will be identical with that enjoyed in a city home. Lights will be of equal brightness and ease of control. Electric power is available for the usual requirements for vacuum sweepers, fans, percolators, grills, drink mixers and the other electrical impedimenta in ordinary use today.

One indispensable service which electricity will provide is running water for all purposes—for toilet, bathtub and showers, as well as for kitchen and laundry. Still another important use for running water is for sprinkling the greens. It will be used for sprinkling elsewhere around the club grounds, wherever the art of the gardener is called on to aid in the beautification of the premises. There must be running water, and the electric pressure water system offers the surest and the most satisfactory means of providing it for the club which is located beyond the sphere of the city water mains.

Solves Water Problem

This electric water system is entirely automatic in operation. A pressure tank is provided as a part of the system and in it water is held under a working pressure of perhaps sixty pounds. When the water is turned on for any purpose, the pressure gradually drops. When it reaches a predetermined low limit, an electric switch on the pump automatically closes and pumping begins. Pumping continues until the opened water outlet is closed and the pressure is once more built up to the desired point. Then the pump stops. In addition to the pressure tank, a hot water tank should be made a part of the water system. This will be heated by means of coils in the house-heating furnace or by means of an oil- or gas-burner. Both methods should be arranged for. The heating plant is run only during the cold months, while the demand for hot water knows no seasons. We want it when we want it, every day in the year.

Electric Ice Valuable

One of the newest and at the same time one of the most delightful conveniences which electricity brings to the country club is electric refrigeration.

Refrigeration for the club kitchen is always more or less of a problem and the more remote and inaccessible the club is, the more difficult is the problem of providing it with ice.

Where there is electricity, however, refrigeration is easy. It is only a matter of putting a refrigerating mechanism into the present club refrigerator, or buying one of the complete units, with the refrigerating mechanism already established in its own cabinet. If the club is large, it may be desirable to do both. Maybe there is a special meat room or cold room, on the order of the walk-in meat box common to the butcher shop or meat market. Some of these boxes are of three or four hundred cubic feet capacity, but this is none too big for one of the modern electric refrigerator units. The large box will take care of meats and other perishables in quantity, such as butter, lard, vegetables, fruits, melons and the like. They can all be kept cold, at a temperature ranging around 35 degrees above zero, Fahrenheit, if desired and without any mingling of odors. Each will come out manifesting its own legitimate fragrance and nothing else.

For the serving pantry a smaller refrigerator, electrically refrigerated, will be handy for keeping the prepared foods, pastries and desserts which are to be served quickly. Of course, for the country club, a big advantage in this system is the freedom from depending upon ice. A further advantage lies in the constant cold, the crisp, snappy temperature which is continuously in the electric refrigerator. Food compartment temperatures can be wherever you want them and always below 50 degrees. Equally important, in the freezing compartment you freeze ice cubes, hard, pure as the drinking water which you pour into the freezing trays and in abundance for all regular demands for cooling drinks and the like.

For the club and restaurant there is a special ice maker, designed to freeze ice

cubes as its chief job. There is a deep tray also for freezing ducks and other game. The freezing trays of the electric refrigerator are fine for hardening and holding commercial ice cream. Special desserts and salads can be frozen in them, too. Electric refrigeration is one of the most important services which electricity brings to the country club.

Plants Are Simple

Current from the individual electric plant will invariably be of the variety known as "direct," but it may be either 32 or 110 volt. The most common type of electric plant nowadays is the direct-connected. That is, the generator is built into a compact unit with the gas-engine that drives it. This gas-engine, usually a single-cylinder model, is made to turn on the same main shaft which supports the armature of the generator. Gasoline or kerosene will be used for fuel and the principles of ignition and combustion are the same as we find in automobile practice, except that the matter of carburetion is usually considerably simplified. You rarely find any complicated carburetor on an electric plant.

These generating units are made in various sizes, from three-quarter kilowatt capacity up. Probably the most practical method of using these electric plants for the country club is to install one, or two, or more, according to the load, or the probable electrical demand. Small automatic units can be used and the load divided, each plant handling its own circuit or circuits. Whenever a light is turned on or a switch is closed on a particular circuit, the plant connected with it will automatically start up and the electric service begins. When the demand is ended the plant stops.

The advantage in such a method is that

you will not have a single large plant, big enough to care for the whole club, running every time and all the time a single light is turned on. Of course, from the standpoint of care and service, one large plant will take no more time than one small one and if there were a continual large load demand the single large plant would be entirely practical.

Operating expense of individual electric plants are not high. When operating at full load a good plant will deliver three or four kilowatts of electricity per gallon of fuel. The cost of fuel and oil for operating will run safely under 10 cents per kilowatt-hour.

Nature can't do the job of entertaining the city visitor all by herself, however, and the country club, planned in whatever one of Nature's beauty spots it may be, must offer a lot of extras, in the way of lights and shower baths and properly refrigerated foods. It can all be done, today, thanks to the fact that electricity can be provided, safely, economically and dependably, in any location, no matter how isolated it may be.

Glen Brook's Story Has Good Organizing Tips

At Stroudsburg, Pa., where the population is approximately 6,000, according to the last available figures, they have the Glen Brook Country club, with a course that will compare favorably with many of the more pretentious metropolitan facilities.

Glen Brook had its start when E. P. Arbogast, a contractor of Stroudsburg, was engaged by Robert White, the golf architect, to superintend the construction of the Wolf Hollow course at Delaware Water Gap, a summer resort. After this work was done, Arbogast got the idea of interesting his own fellow citizens in organizing a golf club. He tells about the history of the Stroudsburg enterprise in answer to GOLFDOM'S request so the moving factors in other new clubs will be able to benefit from the Glen Brook experience. He writes:

"My first operation was to find a piece of ground that I thought properly located