

Many of the wiring devices in use in the Netherland East Indies would not be allowed by the American National Electrical Code, the sockets and switches in general use being of very poor quality, selling for about one-third of the cost of similar American products. European and Japanese tinned copper wire is used extensively. Rubber-covered copper wire is rarely used, the reason being that the type of rubber covering put on cheap copper wiring soon corrodes in the Netherland East Indies. The conduit in general use is of thin black lacquered steel of about $\frac{5}{8}$ -inch diameter.

Although there are some snap and tumbler switches in use, the German rotary switch has more or less become the standard. The American push-button switch is rarely seen.

The Edison socket has been standardized by practically all of the public-utility companies. The English bayonet-type socket is seldom used. The fitting of special connections near the floor for the attachment of electric irons, vacuum cleaners, etc., is seldom seen, but those in use are all of European origin.

The most popular fuses in use are the German "Z" type plug fuses. There are no particular objections to American fuse blocks, but American plug fuses are not favored.

WIRING PRACTICE

Bergmann tubing on the surface is generally used in connection with interior wiring, and it is not permitted to carry wire on porcelain knobs or cleats on the surface of walls. Ceiling or lamp-cord wire carried across walls and ceilings on small porcelain knobs or "button insulators" is not permitted. Wire on knobs and through tubes concealed in the walls is permitted provided the wiring is out of reach. Armored cable wiring and wiring in rigid iron conduits is permitted but seldom used because it is considered too expensive. Lead-covered wiring is permitted for surface work only while wooden casing or molding wiring is not permitted.

Metric copper wire gauge is standardized in the Netherland East Indies. The minimum sizes of wire generally used in the wiring of dwellings are as follows: For fixtures, 0.50 square millimeter; for portable lamp cords, 0.75 square millimeter; for wiring in conduits or on knobs, 1.50 square millimeters.

METERING

Meters are not generally used, the greater part of public-utility current being sold on a flat-rate basis. Where no meters are used, the consumption of electricity is limited either by means of a series of special sockets and lamps with special bases which are supplied by the lighting companies or by means of current limiters. In the few cases where meters are used, they are generally of 5 amperes.

WIRING REGULATIONS

The regulations that are now in force are not entirely satisfactory, because the safety rules of the Dutch Royal Institute of Engineers have not been revised for many years, and certain types of equipment which have been improved upon and perfected are not allowed in the Netherland East Indies. Another undesirable condition which exists is that the decision as to whether a certain device shall or shall not be