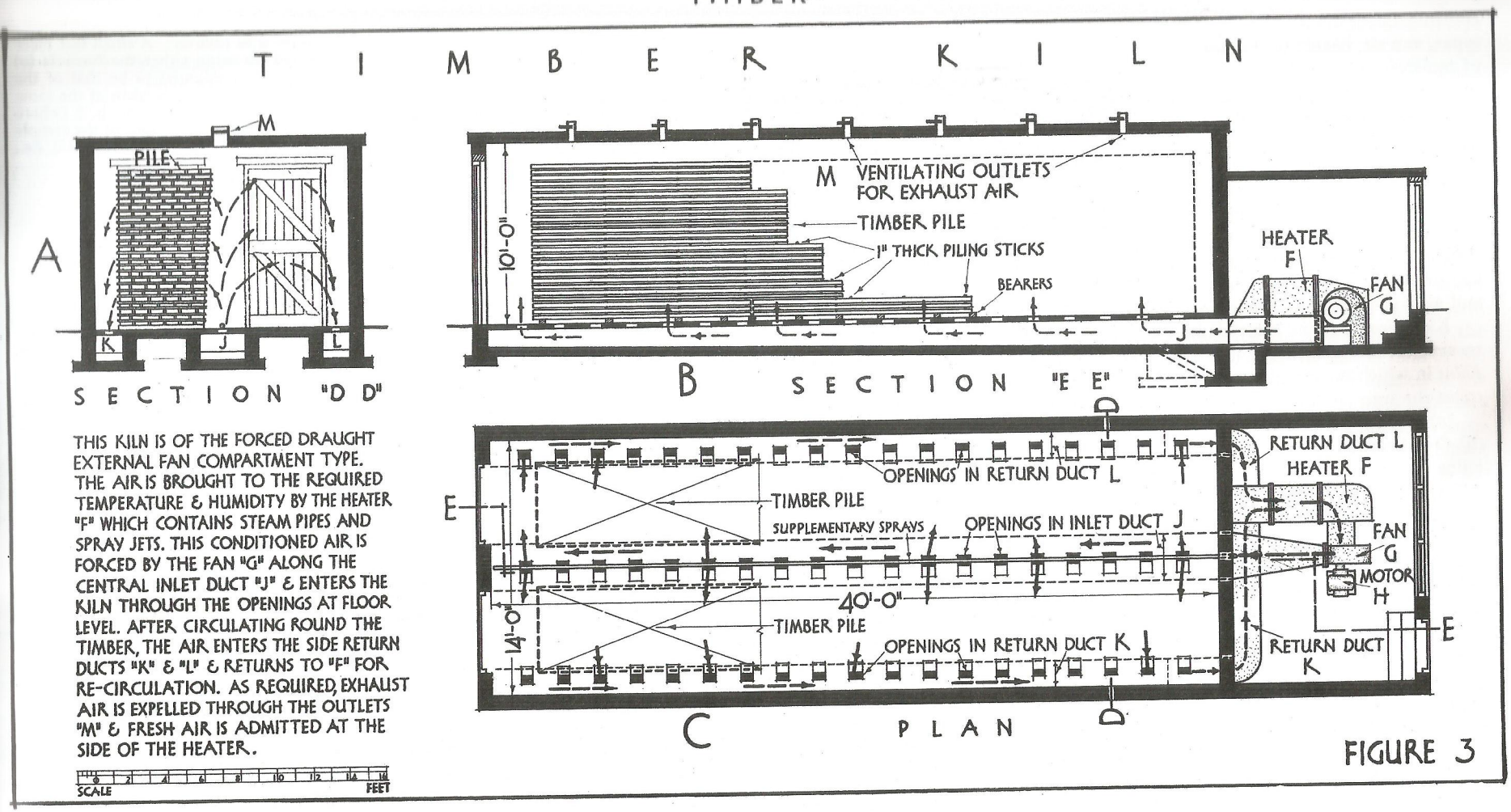

FIGURE 3

that the m.c. in 1-in. thick softwood boards will be reduced to 20 per cent. within two to three months, provided they are stacked in the spring, and 2-in. thick pieces will dry to a similar amount within three or four months. Hardwoods take longer to season, thus 1-in. pieces, if piled in the autumn, will take about nine months to dry to 20 per cent. m.c. and 2-in. thick hardwoods will take about a year to dry to the same amount. Any further reduction in m.c. will, of course, take longer and depends upon the store or kiln to which the timber is transferred.

The advantages of the process of air seasoning are: (1) It is relatively cheap for small supplies; (2) it requires little attention; and (3) defects due to the process are comparatively small. The disadvantages are: (1) The rate of drying is very slow; (2) it cannot be rigidly controlled; (3) even under favourable conditions the m.c. cannot be reduced to that required for certain internal joinery; (4) large stacks of timber require considerable space; (5) much capital is unproductive for a lengthy period; and (6) damage to the timber may be caused by fungi and insects.

2. *Kiln Seasoning or Artificial Seasoning*.—This method is employed on a vast scale, as it ensures rapid drying of the timber to any required m.c. under