

ENGLISH SEWER FLUSHING PRACTICE.

An exhaustive inquiry regarding the sewer flushing arrangements of towns in the United Kingdom was made a few months ago by Mr. Thos. H. Nesbitt, Clerk to the Douglas Town Commissioners. The information obtained was compiled by Mr. Nesbitt mostly in tabulated form, and has been reprinted as a 20-page supplement to the London "Contract Journal." The information relates to 224 towns, ranging in size from 2,000 to about 500,000 inhabitants. Some of the points likely to be of interest to American engineers have been abstracted as follows:

Nearly all the towns in the list employ flushing of some kind, whether it be by turning in water from a stream, connecting with water mains, backing up sewage in the conduit and releasing it, or by means of vans or flush tanks, automatic

tanks, although in a large number of instances only from one to three such devices are in use. The use of sewage for flushing purposes is rare, even where the manholes are used for flushing, the custom seeming to be to impound fresh water rather than sewage upon plugging sewers at the manholes.

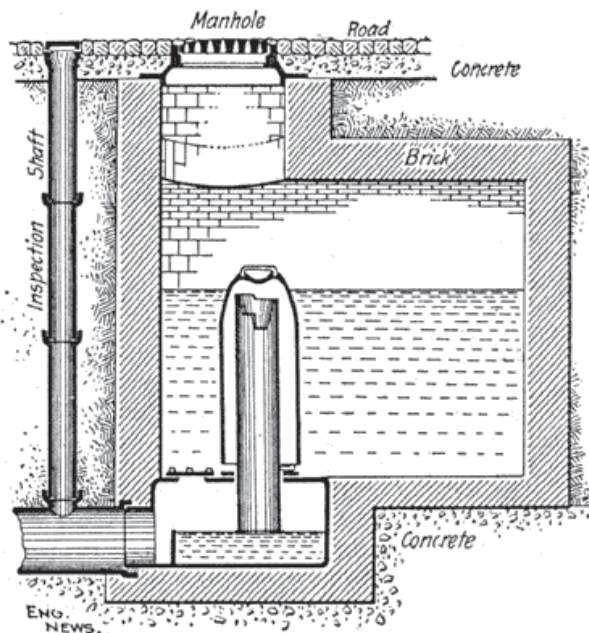
Where fresh water for flushing is taken from the water supply mains the practice as to charges for the same vary largely. If the water-works are owned by the municipality no charges are made in many instances, or a lump sum may be paid per year for the service. In many towns the water used in this way is measured by a meter, and whether so measured or not it is quite a general practice to charge by the thousand gallons for the water used or estimated as used, the price ranging from about 5 to 50 cts., but generally being below 25 cts. per 1,000 gallons.

The amount of water discharged at each flushing and the frequency of discharge of course vary greatly with local conditions, and under this head no distinction was made in the compilation between automatic and manual flushing.

Where an opinion on the subject was expressed flushing was held to be satisfactory, as might be expected.

Four forms of flushing tanks are described and illustrated in the report, their names and the addresses of their manufacturers being as follows: The Adams Patent Automatic Flushing Siphon, Adams & Co., 10 Little Queen St., Westminster, London; Bodin's Patent Hydrostatic Flushing Siphon, W. H. Bodin & Co., Wednesbury; Doulton's Automatic Flushing Siphon, Doulton & Co., Lambeth, London; Field's Patent Automatic Siphon, Bowes, Scott & Western, Broadway Chambers, Westminster, S. W., London.

The Rogers Fields' flushing chamber in its latest improved form is clearly shown by the accompanying illustration. The siphon proper is of cast iron, and the trapping box is of wrought iron.



Rogers Field's Self-Acting Sewer Flushing Chamber.

or otherwise. About a third of the municipalities in question report some form of patent automatic siphon in use in connection with flushing

