Public Latrines in London.

A public latrine has lately been built near Charing Cross, in London, which has some features worth following in our own large cities. In the first place, it is underground and consequently non-offensive as a feature in the landscape, and it provides the maximum of accommodation and privacy.

This Charing Cross latrine is divided into two compartments, one for each sex. That for the men contains 28 urinals, 12 water-closets and two sets of washstands. The urinals are free, but a small fee of one penny (2 cts.) is charged for the use of the closets and the washstand. The closets are opened by dropping the requisite coin into a slot outside of each door, and a single attendant in charge is all that is necessary.

The interior walls are lined with glazed bricks of an ivory color, with all the woodwork in oak. Light is admitted from above through Hayward prismatic lenses, and connection with the sewer is made in such a manner that absolute ventilation is secured. The highly ornamental lamp post above is hollow and acts as a ventilating chimney, and circulation of air inside is provided for further by cast iron gratings in the top of the partition dividing the two compartments. We are indebted to "Le Genie Civil" for the cut here used. Similar latrines are in use in other parts of London.

There are many places in our larger American cities where similar latrines could be located with great convenience to the public; and there is an urgent demand for them, far in excess of the very limited accommodation now provided. They need not be expensive, for all exterior ornamentation is avoided, and the sunken type is much to be preferred even were the expense of construction greater. The lamp post which indicates the location and serves as a ventilator is practically the only portion appearing above the surface except the railing surrounding the entrances.

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