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from our own wilful blindness and stub-
born perversity. To the absence of an
enlightened public intelligence alone can
we attribute the little progress made in
providing for public use such sanitary in-
stitutions as baths and wash-houses, though
it is now more than a quarter of a century
since the Act 9 and 10 Vic., cap. 74, was
passed. In the preamble of that Act the
establishment of baths and wash-houses is
stated to be "*desirable for the health, com-
fort, and welfare of the inhabitants of popu-
lous towns and districts.*" The baths referred
to are, of course, water baths; and, though
several have been established in towns and
cities, still, considering the national wants,
comparatively little has been done towards
providing a supply. The Act has not been
fairly carried out, simply because it was
permissive, not compulsory—the adoption
of its provisions was left to the voluntary
action of the local authorities, instead of
having been made compulsory, as all pub-
lic sanitary measures ought to be.

It is, however, so far satisfactory that the
Legislature has declared the establishment
of public baths to be a desirable sanitary
measure. This granted, the question then
arises—what kind of bath is best calculat-
ed to realize the intentions of Parliament
by promoting "the health, comfort, and
welfare of the inhabitants of populous
towns and districts?" This is a question
not to be lightly decided in accordance with
old formulas of prejudiced opinion: it must
be considered in the light of physiology.