

There are also surface drains carried nearly all round this Block : they are connected with the several areas, and discharge into the main drain at two places in rear of the building.

Along the terrace in front of the Parliament Building (which has an inclination outwards), at a distance of about 20 feet from the top of the slope, a water-table of dressed stone has been laid. This is for the purpose of carrying off the surface water to gratings at each end, from which earthenware pipes convey it into the drains on the west and east sides of the grounds.

A similar water-table, but of larger dimensions, has been laid across the quadrangle, in line with the southern fronts of the Departmental Blocks. This takes the surface water from the square, and discharges it into the drain that passes along the southern front of the Eastern Block.

### GAS SUPPLY.

In 1865, a contract was entered into with the "Bytown Consumers' Gas Company," for the supply of the Illuminating Coal Gas required for all the Public Buildings, for a period of ten years; the Company being bound to lay down an 8-inch main from their works to the entrance to the Government grounds, and to furnish the gas in such quantities as might from time to time be required, the same to be measured at the Buildings by meters provided by the Government.

The main enters at the gate, opposite Elgin street, and is carried directly (a distance of 110 feet) into a meter room, fitted up alongside the main tower of the Eastern Block, where all the gas used is measured. For this purpose, a large dry meter has been provided, and placed, capable of registering the full quantity of gas that can pass through an 8-inch pipe.

The exit pipe is also 8 inches diameter, and is continued of this size 67 feet westward, or nearly on a line with the quadrangle front of the Eastern Block, where it is divided into three branches, one 4-inch branch 75 feet long, leading back to the Eastern Block, and another 4-inch pipe is continued across the quadrangle, a distance of 738 feet to the Western Block. The centre pipe is 6 inch diameter, and is laid through the square on a curved line to the Parliament Building, a distance of 716 feet, where it enters the meter room described as being in the basement, west of the main vestibule.

At about 160 feet south of this, a 4-inch branch sweeps round to the meter room on the Senate side, a distance of 240 feet. From this 4-inch branch a 2-inch pipe leads off to the eastern side of the Building, and is continued along the south front, and around the east end to the Speaker's entrance. A 2-inch pipe also leads westward from the 6-inch pipe above mentioned, and runs around the west end to the Speaker's tower on the Commons side.

These 2-inch pipes are used solely for the purpose of lighting the outside entrances, and have no connection whatever with those in the interior.

In each of the meter rooms above mentioned, a 1,000-light dry meter has been fitted for registering the quantity of illuminating gas consumed in the Offices and Chambers, occupied by the respective branches of the Legislature.

On the Commons side, the exit pipe is 6 inches diameter, and within the room is divided into four branches, one of these (2 inches diameter) is for supplying the gas lights around the corridors, and the small lights in the angles of the Chamber. In addition to this, however, on the Senate side it supplies light for the Bar, and standards on each side of the Throne. Another (2 inches diameter) is conducted towards the Library, but at present it is only used to light one half the Picture Gallery and Smoking rooms, together with some rooms in the basement. The third branch (3 inches diameter) is carried to the ceiling of the Chamber, for the purpose of supplying the gaseliers by which it is lighted.