



THE SAVOY HOTEL, LONDON.

An Outline Sketch of Its Recent Extension.

Outside the United States there is probably no hotel better known and more approved by Americans than the London Savoy.

Over the building may be seen floating two flags: one the Union Jack of England, the other the Stars and Stripes of America. This in itself is a signal and token that, however cosmopolitan it may be, the Savoy is pleased specially to honor and identify itself with the country from which it has borrowed so many of the attributes which have conduced to its success.

Thus, since Americans know the English Savoy and restaurant as well as they know their own Waldorf-Astoria, Delmonico's or Sherry's, they need not to be reminded of its many enticements, such as, for instance, its exceptional position on Thames-side, commanding a view of garden and river which has inspired the pen of poet and pencil of artist; the excellence of its cuisine, comparable with the best to be found in Paris or New-York; the lustre and the luxury of its restaurant, the favorite rendezvous where fashion meets the cultured of Bohemia and the favorites of the stage, the life and laughter of the scene contrasting with the undisturbed peace and quiet of the hotel proper; all these things are chronicled in the mind of every traveller from the New World to the Old who has visited the Savoy—no need, therefore, of further testimony here.

But since it must have been learned in America that the Savoy Hotel has during the last

twelve months been vastly enlarged, and that an American firm of builders effected a wondrous transformation scene in the historic precincts of the Savoy, it may be interesting to furnish some details of the scheme which has been carried out at an outlay of no less than a million of English pounds.

The following is necessarily but an outline of the works that have just been completed:

The prime purpose of the extension has been to secure a frontage to and direct entrances from the main thoroughfare, the Strand. This has been achieved by the demolition of the dingy Beaufort buildings which stood on the steep declivity east of the Savoy Theatre and the construction of a wide roadway, level with the Strand, which affords approach to a glass covered courtyard without, and within a palm court or winter garden, which forms the north side entrance hall. On the left of this is a new Parisian café and American bar, and on the right the Savoy Theatre, which, through the alterations, gains more convenient and comfortable entrances and exits for its patrons.

Columns and walls of variegated marble that adorn the portico bespeak the character of the whole building. From the entrance hall the approach to the restaurant is direct; a few wide steps, with easy treads, bring one into a spacious vestibule, adjoining which are ladies' and gentlemen's toilet rooms, where everything is upon a scale of comfort hitherto unapproached in London. The walls and floors are panelled with

mosaic, the basins are of statuary marble; Louis Seize mirrors adorn the rooms, and the decorations give an air of great refinement and beauty. From this vestibule the grand foyer is reached by another slight descent by means of a broad staircase containing about eight steps.

The foyer itself is a fine apartment, decorated in the Georgian style, with a coved ceiling; marble columns surround the room, and upon the panels will be paintings after Romney and Gainsborough. The ormolu and crystal electrolers have been specially manufactured in Paris, and are probably unique in the elegance of their design, while the wall brackets are copied from Louis Seize models in the Louvre, which have been the delight of connoisseurs. The whole length of one side of the foyer leads into the restaurant, where a coup d'œil of great brilliancy presents itself. The mahogany paneling of the Savoy restaurant, which has become mellowed and rich in tone, contrasts harmoniously with the white and gold of the foyer which adjoins it, and beyond all comes the restaurant terrace, one of the most favored spots in Europe whereon to enjoy dejeuner.

As regards the main building on the Strand frontage, the rooms have been prepared on a scale of luxury hitherto unattempted in any similar hotel in London. Every room is decorated and panelled throughout in either Adams or the Georgian style; mouldings enrich both the ceilings and the walls, while the panels are designed to show the Louis Seize electric brackets

to the greatest advantage. The floor of every room consists of oak, presenting a surface similar to a highly finished parquet, and forms a suitable ground for Oriental rugs and carpets. All the doors of the suites are made in mahogany, and the fittings are designed with taste. To all the rooms is attached a bathroom, the whole of the walls and floor of which are panelled with mosaic, white in the upper part and sea blue in the dado. The porcelain and enamelled baths will be of an altogether novel design, enabling bathers, by the adjustment of a glass screen, to take advantage of a shower bath without any of the usual partitions or curtains. Each of the one hundred and fifty bathrooms also contains a lavatory basin of statuary marble, with electroplated fittings for sponge, glasses, etc., and there will be an electroplated steam heated towel rack.

A system of ventilation throughout the whole building has been devised, and the air will be changed every ten minutes without the least draught being felt. A system of heating will be installed, and the American system of regulating the temperature automatically by means of thermostats has been introduced for the first time in London in a building of this description. This system insures that a temperature varying only two degrees above or below a fixed point shall be constantly maintained.

A post box is provided on each floor, with an American mail chute (the first installed in England) and cleared by the postal authorities.