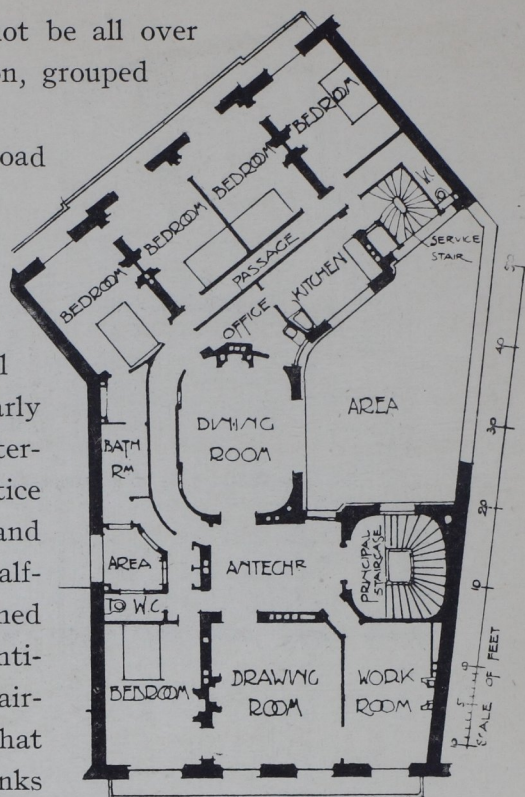


Flats—British and Foreign

water-closets, etc., should not be all over the place, but, within reason, grouped near together.

Our friends abroad are not always so particular as we are in sanitary matters; there are some bathrooms with no light and not against external walls; there are larders similarly situated, even behind water-closets; and one evil practice which obtained in England even within the last half-century, is still maintained abroad, of lighting and ventilating water-closets from staircases and passages. Here that is no longer possible, thanks to our sanitary laws, and in the most modern French and German buildings these points have received attention.



RUE DANTON AND THE BOULEVARD SAINT-GERMAIN. SEE THE CRITICISM ON PAGE 98
M. BLAVETTE, ARCHITECT

Internal staircases, however handsome they may be, with only top light and ventilation, are also to be deprecated in high buildings. These may be seen in many French buildings, but for obvious reasons illustrations are not given. Such staircases, in the event of fire, become furnace shafts, and at least get full of smoke, choking those trying to escape. Provision should also be made for a current of air through small internal areas or courts extending from the ground to the sky. These small courts are frequently and not inaptly called "well holes." Now everyone knows that the air at the bottom of a well is often so bad that a candle will not burn there. A "well hole," an area without *through* ventilation, is in a lesser degree bad in the same way; and when, as is generally the case, there are gullies at the bottom, giving off foul gases from fermenting