

"DRAIN" GETS NEW LOOK

From the Bank Station, in the heart of the City of London, it's always been a rush-hour nightmare getting to Waterloo at night, and worse still, the other way in the morning. So a big welcome to the Travolator. At long last it's the end of the Drain. The old tunnel has met its Waterloo! Pity somebody didn't tell this old boy.

Sir Philip Warter, Chairman, Southern Region British Railways, welcomed the Lord Mayor, Sir Edmund Stockdale, to the official opening of the Travolator. For British Railways it was the fulfilment of a long standing ambition, the moving platform, replacing that dreadful old tunnel. London's first citizen and Sir Philip led the first passengers on the Travolator.

It is a platform, not, like the escalator, a moving stairway. Up or down the almost 100-yard-long Travolator (driven by two 85 horse power motors) more than 13,000 passengers will be conveyed in the peak hour; the speed, 60-yards a minute. 488 segments, of special aluminium, make up the moving platform. It has taken three years to construct. A few hours after the opening, in its first rush hour, the Travolator was a big success.