The building itself is not even supposed to be fire-proof. The stairs are of wood, the treads being only covered with iron. In case of fire, many lives might depend on our one fire escape, and that does not reach to the upper story.

In view of these facts, it seems proper and even necessary that some of the students should understand the arrangement and use of our fire apparatus, and should take an interest in keeping it in order and ready for use. Apart from the additional safety it would afford us all, it would make us familiar with the manner in which large buildings should be protected from fire. We sincerely hope that the arrangements for giving instruction in this department will soon be completed.

COMPLAINTS regarding the state of the gymnasium have come to be so numerous and outspoken that we felt it our duty to look into the matter; and accordingly, the other day, we visited that building for the purpose of seeing for ourselves. We feel compelled to acknowledge that all we have heard said was perfectly justifiable, and that the gymnasium is in a deplorable state of neglect. Whose fault this is, whether the Faculty's or the gymnasium committee's, we are not prepared to say; but that something should be done, and that something should take the shape of a radical change in the management of affairs, is undeniable. There is hardly a piece of apparatus in sufficient repair to be fit for use; dirt reigns supreme, and the whole place has a general air of dilapidation, even down to the stoves, which do not stand up straight. The gymnasium is always filled with a raft of howling young school-boys, who come in there to play and not to exercise, and who spend their time in climbing all over the apparatus, injuring it, and making themselves a nuisance to those who go there for good solid work. This state of affairs seems well-nigh hopeless, but the remedy is really very simple. All the trouble lies in the attempt at dual management by the Faculty and the gymnasium committee. The committee are supposed to administer the affairs of the building, while the Faculty furnishes the funds. The consequence is that if any complaint is made to the Faculty, it is referred to the committee, and if any complaint is made to the committee, they refer it to the Faculty; and it leads to nothing being done about the matter. The gymnasium is a building of the students, for the students, and should be managed by the students.* The question might then arise, Whence would the committee derive their funds? Why, from the rental of the boxes, from the fees which Chauncy Hall pays for the privilege of drilling there, and from the restaurant. These moneys are derived from the gymnasium, and should, in common justice, be devoted to its support; these would be ample, and the atrocious practice of letting the building for innumerable newsboys' dinners, etc., would be done away with once for all. The holders of boxes object to paying their rent, for they say, "It is turned in to the Faculty, and we get no good from it"; while if they felt that it was paid to a committee, who devoted it to the interests of the gymnasium, they would be willing to pay a larger rent, and pay it cheerfully too. Of course, any such scheme as this could not be carried into effect until extensive repairs were made; but why could not the money for these be raised by an entertainment of some sort? This method is resorted to by all the colleges, and is a perfectly legitimate one. If some of the men most interested in the welfare of the gymnasium were to take hold of a thing like this with some energy, we would have really a well-equipped gymnasium.

We desire to notice, from time to time, the graduates and former members of the Institute. Permanent class secretaries, and all others, are invited to send information.

The Tech can pay no attention to anonymous contributions. Correspondents will please not forget to sign their names.

* The gymnasium was built entirely from students' subscriptions.