Three frescoes were nearly burned in a fire last evening in the building occupied by the W. H. Thomas Co., 725-727 Boylston St., opposite Hotel Lenox. Defensive wiring is said to have been the cause of the fire. Damage is estimated at $800,000, most of which is sustained by the Thomas Co.

Suzonick, N. H., Feb. 8.—The Hayes opera house building was destroyed by fire early today, entailing a loss of between $30,000 and $15,000. The fire was first discovered in the piano warehouse of E. H. George and spread swiftly and with fury until the entire block was destroyed.

Assistant Surgeon Ruhle, U. S. N., under court martial at the Charlestown Navy Yard, was found guilty yesterday of four counts, and will be reduced to the rank of second lieutenant.

Now is the time for the sophomore class to get busy on Technique 1912. This annual event is something that usually makes or breaks the reputation of the class, and much time, thought, and energy is necessary at the start. The Electoral Committee consists of twenty-five men chosen by ballot from the list of class members. The Electoral Committee faces many propitiation. Upon their shoulders rests the responsibility of framing the board of Technique 1912 and the election of the executive committee. It cannot be impressed too strongly that popularity and politicking shall not be tolerated in this undertaking. The men elected to the board must be men of ability, who have had some experience in work pertaining to their department. Any board is made up largely from the Electoral Committee, in order that the right men should be placed on the committee. There is a long, tedious process ahead and the elections of the committee should be started at once. Get busy, 1912.

There are many so-called clubs and societies here at Technology whose raison d'etre apparently seems to be solely to get an insert in the annual Technique which will contain the names of the various members. Now that is all very fine for Tech, but after all, is it any good thing for the Institute? Should a man who so desires be permitted to get together and, using the name Technology as a handle, form a society that does absolutely no good and benefits the members neither from a social nor from an educational standpoint? There are several societies here that answer this description—to men attempt to satisfy their ambition to belong to a club.

The press received word yesterday from Yerkes Observatory that the spectrum of Halley's comet contained lines of cyanogen. Cyanogen is perhaps the deadliest poison known, a grain of it poisoning salt touched to the tongue being sufficient to cause instant death. Can it be thought that the comet is nearer to the earth, is going to be the end of all life? The pledge for Technique 1911 have just appeared and are being circulated by the members of the Technique Board. Let every fellow who intends to buy a copy of this annual student publication sign up right now, so that the Board will know just where they stand and how they are coming out. Order that impure.

WASHINGTON, D. C.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The National Republican Club of New York City is planning national reception for Roosevelt upon his arrival in the latter part of June.

Washington, Feb. 9.—The necessity for the passage the present session of good laws for the protection of national resources of the United States, in the keynote of a report made to the National conservation association by Griscom Pitts, its recently chosen chairman.

Mr. Pinchot takes up in what he calls the "spirit of constructive criticism" the bills relating to conservation.

Washington, Feb. 9.—After several conferences at the White House, Wade U. Bliss of Ohio resigned as assistant to the attorney-general. It will become chairman of the Republican executive committee of Ohio and assume charge of the Ohio campaign this fall.

London, Feb. 8.—A dispatch from Constantinople to a London news agency says that the powers will propose that Turkey cede Crete to Greece as the solution of the present difficulty.