

Oct. 17/32. - One copy
sent Miss Houston
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Our old Gymnasium was burned on May 7th, 1930. The Governors were then faced with choosing between constructing a cheap wooden building, like the old one, or one which would be of the more substantial pattern of the other college buildings. They wisely decided on the latter, first, because they wanted something which would adequately meet the students' needs without delay, and second, because construction was less expensive in 1930 and 1931 than it had been for many years. A contract was awarded and the work completed in March of this year.

It is fireproof, of stone and stucco exterior, and a pleasing addition to the group of other buildings. Its outside dimensions are 140 x 72 with an added L on the north side 40 x 40. The main Gymnasium floor measures 70 x 100, the basement gymnasium for boxing, fencing, rowing machines, etc. is 70 x 35. The main floor is laid out with a view to its being used as a theatre and lecture hall. The stage is 35 x 30, with an additional five foot runway around three sides, and the auditorium can seat comfortably 1500 people. Last spring this hall afforded a handsomer Convocation Hall than Dalhousie University has ever had, and prior to Convocation, it afforded exceptional facilities for examinations. In the basement there are ample locker rooms for both men and women students, and there is adequate provision for shower baths. For the faculty, there is a squash court and shower -room, and also a Common-Room. The L mentioned above, provides a room for alumni and alumnae committee rooms. This room is also to be used by the new Dalhousie Book Club, which is open to the public. Few college buildings have ever been used for so many purposes!

The building in short reminds one of the old saying about the Austrian Empire: "If it did not exist it would be necessary to invent it". Now the building has been "invented", but the money which it cost, \$153,000., has yet to be discovered. It is to be remembered that the construction of this

building has forced upon the University by what is termed, in insurance parlance, "an Act of God". The University had no choice about taking action. That the precise action taken was the right action is amply proven for all those who know the new commodious building, the many ways in which it is used, and the reasonable cost at which it was provided.