

THE SCHOOL OF FINE ARTS

The School of Fine Arts since 1922 has occupied practically the complete south side of the center section of Frank Strong Hall--on four floors, plus all the space on both east and west wings on the fourth floor, with four rooms on the north side of the central section (fourth floor) as well. A new Fine Arts Building, placed probably on the western side of the campus, would release all this space for administrative offices and classwork in other schools.

With the steady growth in the school, every inch of available space has been utilized to carry on overflow classes in art and music. Studios have been divided to allow for needed office space and conference rooms. In the Department of Design, not only has all room been utilized but the corridors have been partitioned off for the placing of looms, student lockers, and exhibition space, and certain corners in the corridors this year are being built into rooms for storage of materials. Much the same situation exists in the Department of Drawing and Painting, located in the east wing of the building. Two rooms in Hoch Auditorium are being utilized now for music practice rooms. One member of the music faculty has no studio for private lessons.

The assignment of the School to these quarters from the very first was understood to be a temporary one. The partitions in practically all the studios leading out into the main corridors on first and second floors were made of the lightest kind of paper board, allowing almost all the sounds to permeate the whole corridor. No soundproof construction whatever was placed in the walls of the twenty practice rooms on the third floor. The result is that work of the other departments and classrooms is necessarily disturbed and hindered.

About ten years ago when a regular building program was under consideration, the School of Fine Arts building stood near the top of the list. At the suggestion of the Board of Regents, the Fine Arts building took a lower position on the program in order to allow the medical building first place. The depression has necessarily caused postponement of the program up to this time.

Type of Building Needed. The School of Fine Arts needs a building capable of taking care of the outstanding work being done in music and art. The building should be one calculated not only to house adequately the university program in the fine arts, but also the building in itself should be a shrine or state center for the best expression of the fine arts.

Such a building should be of the latest soundproof construction. The music department should have at least 20 private studios, 30 practice rooms (at least six of which should be equipped with grand pianos to permit the right kind of practice in the last two years of the many talented graduates in this field), 6 large classrooms for music classes, a listening room for radio and phonographic reproductions in music, large and adequate rehearsal rooms for the glee clubs and other choral and instrumental groups, a sizeable department library room for study and the housing of hundreds of music scores and musical literature, and adequate and roomy administrative offices. The whole building should be planned around a ground-floor auditorium to seat about 1500 people, a size hall now greatly needed