

halls. They are manufactured by J. E. Prunty, 28 Light Street, Baltimore, and cost \$50 each.

For extinguishing small fires, Johnson's hand-pumps are used in preference to Babcock or Holloway chemical extinguishers. Two of these hand-pumps are carried on each hose-reel. They are very small, light and handy contrivances, by which one man with a bucket of water can throw a jet for a distance of 30 to 40 feet. They cost only about \$8.00 complete each. **Hand pumps**

Ordinary ladders from 30 to 45 feet in length, with scaling ladders, are used by the department, which also has two extension ladders from 70 to 90 feet long. The latter are substantially the same as the Bangor ladder, altered so as to work upon platform, which can be readily detached from the wheels of the truck. The alteration is the invention of the chief engineer, Mr. Cronin, and costs about \$300. **Ladders.**

There are not many fire escapes attached to buildings in use in Washington, as the laws relating to their application are new. A few buildings have outside iron step ladders from the top to the first floor with landings on each story. The Ebbitt House has an outside ornamental spiral staircase running the whole height of the building, and also outside vertical iron ladders at the ends of the principal halls. Riggs' Hotel is provided with the "Burrows Escape" on all four sides. This invention is also termed the "National Permanent Fire Escape." After the necessary appliances were attached to the hotel a public exhibition of its usefulness was given, the following description of which is taken from a local newspaper: "The escape is very simple in construction, being composed of tackling blocks and wire rope, so arranged that it does not disfigure the appearance of the building. Upon this tackle a large basket of wire can be run from window to window on any floor of the building and to the ground in a very short time. The perfection attained by this invention in delivering a person from any window of a building to the ground in a few seconds, makes it the most efficient fire escape yet produced. The basket will hold four or five people, and in case of emergency persons can be also let down to the ground by being fastened to the ropes with belts. The apparatus works very rapidly. The experiments yesterday were very interesting and satisfactory. A little child was taken from the upper story and brought to the ground in the basket very quickly, and other persons were taken from the different windows of the building. The apparatus in case of fire would serve a double purpose, as men could be sent in the basket from the ground to any part of the **Fire escapes.**