



STAIRWAY, TODMORDEN SCHOOL.

shafts are graduated to give equal velocity throughout; the extract shafts from the coal rooms exhausting to the roof space, which is relieved by star ventilators of large capacity.

The roof is felt and gravel on its highest elevation, and flat slate on felt where seen from the windows, with the exception of the porch roofs and wall head copes, which are of Spanish red tile, as above mentioned.

The interior doors throughout the building with the exception of the basement, are of steel. The external doors and frames are kalamined in brush brass and are of local manufacture, the basement door being also kalamined steel. The windows are of the steel casement type, glazed with plate glass and are arranged to ventilate the rooms without direct cold currents blowing on the pupils. The basement windows are factory sash glazed with wire plate glass. All doors and window frames except the doors of the brass kalamined type previously referred to, are finished with flat enamel in pleasing green tones.

The corridors are closed when the scholars are not in the rooms by expansion gates. This prevents running through the school and excessive tracking of the floors in consequence.

**T**HE following recommendations issued by the National Fire Brigades' Union of England in reference to fire protection in schools, may prove of interest by comparison and for such suggestions as they may contain.

*Emergency Exits.*—These should be arranged as far as possible at opposite ends of the building, so that in the event of one being rendered

impassable by smoke or fumes, the other will probably be available.

It is of first importance that those occupying the building should be regularly drilled so as to become familiar with the use of these exits. It should be borne in mind that possibly, owing to the fusing of an electric wire or destruction of a gas pipe, the exit may have to be carried out in the dark.

Where the door of an emergency exit has to be kept fastened ordinarily, it is better to secure it by a simple bolt enclosed in a glass case, rather than by a lock with the key suspended in a glass case; inserting a key in a lock is apt to prove troublesome when done in a hurry, and locks are apt to rust up.

The glass covers for enclosing bolts should be supported on two opposite sides only at ends of longest axis, so that they will break in the middle without splintering, and fall out clear so as not to cut the operator.

*Fixed Appliances for Escaping From Upper Windows, Etc.*—The windows of dormitories, etc., should not be barred. In the absence of proper fire staircases, for first floor windows a simple rope of good thickness suspended from a hook attached to an iron bracket, fixed to the outside of the building either just above or on one side of the window will probably afford sufficient means of escape in the event of need. The ropes should be kept inside near the windows. To guard against improper use they should be tied up with a thin tape and sealed.

Give careful instructions that the end of the rope is never to be dropped out of a window



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