EDITORIAL -- Helene Mankoff

A STITCH IN TIME . . .

It is evident that safety-mindedness throughout the Institute has been neglected in the past year. The city of Buffalo, in its efforts to enforce rigid safety rules should be commended on its campaign. In correlation with the Buffalo campaign, we must set up a similar program for the school to insure future safety for the students.

We are all aware of the necessity for pedestrian-traffic signal in front of the school. Twice the student council has petitioned the Buffalo Safety Council but, as yet, no action has been taken. Recognition of this problem is imperative and in due time remedial measures should be taken to provide for a red light similar to the ones provided for State Teachers College and McKinley Vocational High School.

It is obvious, through past experiences, that provisions for an infirmary are a necessity. The machinery, chemicals, and instruments used in the laboratories require adept skill in handling, and are potential dangers to the student who is comparatively inexperienced with laboratory situations. An infirmary, well-equipped will not only take care of the emergencies that arise but would be a place to rest without inconveniencing others, and would also avoid embarrassment to the individual when taken ill.

Our instructors, some of whom are equipped with a knowledge of first-aid, cannot always be on hand to administer first-aid, therefore provisions for a nurse should be made to insure the students’ safety and peace of mind.

There are too many obstacles confronting the students with regard to safety to be indifferent about them. Until these prevailing conditions exist in our school can be remedied, each student has a responsibility to himself and to others for promoting safety and avoiding accidents.

One suggestion, to reduce the potential dangers that confront us, is a course in first aid for every department. A student aware of the hazards surrounding him, and with an adequate knowledge of first aid, could be mentally and physically equipped to meet an emergency when it arises.

Another suggestion could be the presentation of a Safety First Award to the section with the highest standards of safety-control. The Safety Engineer Council might participate in this award, and elaborate on this idea to secure the best means for promoting our Safety Campaign. Each Safety Engineer representative would submit to the Safety Council his section’s record of safety after each quarter. The section with the highest record of achievement would be awarded a Safety Banner or some such recognition.

These suggestions, if properly carried out, may help to curb the inevitable mishaps due to carelessness and ignorance of first-aid. Too much emphasis cannot be placed on the need for safety-consciousness. Action now may prevent accidents later.