

business in compliance with the laws of this State, and having an established system of inspection, shall, by presenting annually to the Inspector of the district in which said steam boilers are located, the said Steam Boiler Insurance Company's certificate of inspection, be exempted from the requirements of this Act." If a sound policy to protect the lives and property of citizens, requires that an independent system of inspection of steam boilers in the City of Baltimore should be maintained by law, it would seem that the operation of the law should be general and universal, and that all steam boilers in the city should be inspected by the State officers and the expenses of the system be defrayed by the fees or compensation incident to the inspection. As the matter now stands, the Steam Boiler Insurance Companies have only to make their compensation for inspection smaller and their inspection less rigid than that of the State Inspectors, to obtain the favor and partiality of those owning steam boilers, and hence while the Insurance Companies derive the profit, the State is made to bear the expense of the inspections. I therefore recommend that the 15th Section of the Act of 1872, chapter 153 be repealed, and that the Act of 1874, chapter 96 be repealed also, so that the inspection of steam boilers shall be general and the Inspectors be paid by the parties interested.

#### STATE NORMAL SCHOOL.

The State Normal School Building is approaching completion, and it is believed that the location and edifice will receive the approval of the Legislature. The building is a handsome and substantial one, and although its completion has been delayed beyond the time specified in the contract, will soon be ready for occupancy.

#### STATE HOUSE OF CORRECTION.

The erection of this establishment has been contracted for, and great care has been taken in the preparation of the plans and specifications, and in making the contract and exacting a proper bond for the faithful performance of the work. The site chosen, is believed to be the most eligible offered, and the price paid for the property was considered as reasonable as that of any other within the reach of the Commission. The farm contains  $93\frac{3}{4}$  acres, and was purchased for the sum of \$13,000. The title to the property was certified by the Attorney General, and it has been conveyed to the Trustees named in the law, to be held for the State of Maryland. The bricks have been purchased, and the work is now progressing. The amount already expended in the purchase of the site, improving the same, and in payment for the bricks, was at the close of the fiscal year, \$45,474.81.