

one from the rear, communicate with the upper floors of the building. There are two main parlors on the second floor, with fine, large windows facing the street. A wide hall runs through the center of the building on all the floors. On this floor, on the other side of the hall, are the dining and breakfast saloons, connected with the hall by sliding doors. The sleeping rooms connected with the private parlors are so arranged as to be used either singly or in suites. The third floor contains suites and single rooms furnished in very good taste.

The building is about three hundred feet long, and from seventy to one hundred feet in depth. The rooms are all of good size, and well lighted and ventilated. The sleeping rooms are twelve and a half by fourteen feet; the private parlors are thirteen and a half by eighteen; the dining hall is twenty by one hundred feet, and the breakfast hall twenty-six by forty-eight. The tanks are connected with hydrants, from which hose extends to every part of the building.

The design of the building was planned by one of the owners, Dr. Samuel Merritt. The other proprietor is Captain P. S. Wilcox, of Oakland. The value of the building and the ground on which it stands is estimated at \$200,000.

CONVENT OF THE SACRED HEART.—The new building, although called an addition to the old convent, contains nearly four times the accommodations of the latter. Its dimensions are one hundred and seven feet, by a depth of seventy-two feet. The building is four stories, exclusive of a lofty attic. The basement, which is almost wholly above ground, contains a large gymnasium, measuring sixty by twenty-two feet, refectories, kitchen, and store-rooms. The principal floor is occupied by the parlors, museum, library, and large music hall. The story above is devoted to class-rooms and study-halls, and the upper floor is divided into dormitories and dressing-rooms. The building is heated by steam, and provided liberally with bath-rooms and all modern conveniences. From one hundred and fifty to two hundred pupils can be accommodated with ease, and that number will, in all probability, be made up before the close of the year.

The exterior of the building is somewhat Italian in its architecture. The floor lines are marked by ornamental string courses, and windows of an ornamental character, grouped together at the end and central projections, which relieve the front. The entire is surmounted by a bell-tower, consisting of two stories, and rising to a total height of nearly one hundred and ten feet to the top of the cross. The lower story is square, and decorated with Doric pilasters and a boldly projecting cornice. The upper story consists of an octagonal dome, supported by Corinthian columns, and surmounted by a ball and cross. The view from this observatory is magnificent, commanding the bay, the Golden Gate, Lake Merritt, and a wide stretch of the best cultivated and richest lands of Alameda. Indeed, it would be hard to find a finer site for an academy than that occupied by the Sisters, and

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