

FIRE DAMAGES SIGMA NU CHAPTER HOUSE

ALARM SOUNDED AT 2 A. M.

Damage \$3,000—Origin Unknown—
Overheated Furnace a Possible
Cause—Blaze Works Up Through
Partition.

The entire destruction of the Sigma Nu Chapter House by fire, was narrowly averted by the timely discovery of a blaze in the furnace room about 2 o'clock this morning by Witmer Russell, '11, and B. J. Reynolds, '14, members of the fraternity.

Water, actual blaze, and the fireman's axe wrecked the basement and first floor, and the upper floors were more or less damaged by smoke and water. The amount of the damage is roughly estimated at \$3,000. The origin is unknown.

The members of the fraternity who were asleep on the upper floors were soon aroused by Russell and Reynolds and rushed to the street in scanty raiment. Thinking that A. H. Challis, '13, had not been awakened, many of them hurried back into the burning building to look for him. In fact, Challis was one of the first ones out, but had gone to a neighboring house for more clothes.

The alarm was sounded at 1:50 a. m. and the department responded promptly. Their quick work with two streams and a chemical saved the building from final destruction.

The window at the north-west corner of the building leading into the cellar directly beside the furnace was broken in and the chemical turned in there. This smothered the flames and it looked as though no further trouble would be experienced until light began to show from a window on the first floor. The wall was broken in with an axe and a tongue of flame burst forth. Soon the two streams were turned into the cellar, and later as the blaze crept to the second floor one stream was used there.

The Sigma Nu house is situated at No. 111 Osmun Place, and is the property of the Ithaca Realty Company. The loss was covered by insurance. The fraternity some months ago commenced the erection of a new chapter house near Fall Creek Gorge which will be ready for occupancy in September.