

ITALIAN FIREMEN.

Italy's President Gronchi, inspects the brigades taking part in Firemen's Day at the Villa Borghese in Rome. Firemen from all over Italy are taking part, demonstrating their modern equipment and faultless drill before their visiting colleagues from 25 countries, as widely separated as France and New Zealand.

After the firefighting display, the brigades show how they keep fit for any emergency - for a fireman today must be a cross between a scientist and an acrobat, an engineer and a weightlifter; both mentally and physically alert.

The rope exercises are as perfectly timed as the movements of a well-trained ballet.

And here's a variation of an old method of rescue from a burning building, which gives a more gradual landing than the conventional jump into a horizontal sheet. If these boys had been around nineteen centuries ago, Rome wouldn't have burned long enough for Nero even to tune his fiddle!