

Fires in Sheffield Narrow Escapes

About half-past six on Saturday a fire was discovered at 84, Crookesmoor Road, which but for prompt action might have had disastrous, if not fatal, results.

The house belongs to Mr. Richard Guest, plumber, Devonshire Street, and is' occupied by John Beedham, a labourer, his wife, and four children. On Saturday morning Beedham got up about half-past-five and, having made the fire and had his breakfast, went to work. He had been gone some time when Mrs. Beedham and her eldest son, a youth 19 years of age, were somewhat alarmed by a smell of fire, and also by the fact that the bedrooms were partially filled with smoke. The son went downstairs to ascertain if anything was really wrong, but in consequence of the whole of the downstairs rooms being filled with smoke, he was unable to, proceed any further than the bottom of the stairs; he, however, went sufficiently far to see that there was something on fire in the kitchen. He returned to the bedrooms, and at once raised an alarm. The stifling sensation was by this time almost unbearable, and Mrs. Beedham was becoming anxious about the safety of her other children, the youngest of them whom is about six years of age. Assistance was soon at hand, and a ladder being' placed against the bedroom window. Mrs. Beedham and her children got safely into' the street. The back door of the house was then burst open, and it' was found that the kitchen dresser was on fire.

The flames were soon extinguished with a few buckets of water, but not before the dresser had been almost consumed, and several pictures and other small articles destroyed. Information of the fire' had been sent to the Walkley Police Station, and Inspector Twibell and Police-constable-Summerfield were soon on the scene, with the hose cart but fortunately their services was not required. It is supposed that a spark from the fireplace had ignited some clothing that was near, and that this had eventually set 'fire to the dresser. The damage to the furniture is not covered by insurance.

Another fire,' which but for the timely arrival of Police-constable; Noughton might have had a fatal ending, occurred on Saturday. A few minutes before nine o'clock on Saturday evening the officer named was on duty near .the Wicker arches when he saw that a fire was raging in one of the arches which is occupied as a hay au straw store by Mr. E. Hill. The arch is fitted with three stores, and the upper two are generally pretty well stocked with large trusses .of hay and straw. The officer burst the door open, and just inside the place found Mr. Hill's daughter laid on the floor in a partially suffocated condition. She was at one removed, and after a time sufficiently recovered consciousness to be able to state that she had gone to the premises for the purpose of getting some wearing apparel, and that while she was lighting the gas spark fell and set fire to the loose hay and straw that was lying about on the floor., Naughton seeing that the fire had got very fair hold, at once sent for the Fire Brigade, and Superintendent Pound and his men were soon on the spot. Many of the large trusses of hay were in flames, but with a liberal supply of water the fire was soon got under control in about an hour. It was, however, then necessary to remove the greater portion of the hay and straw in order to prevent a fresh outbreak, and in consequence the brigade was busy for over four hours. The amount of the damage has not

yet been ascertained, but the first floor has been considerably damaged, whilst much of the stock has also been destroyed. Mr. Hill's loss is, however, covered by insurance in the Queen Office. There is a peculiar fact stated with respect to this fire. It is alleged that the premises were in the hands of County Court bailiffs at the time. They had left the premises secure some time previously, and how Mr. Hill's daughter got inside is at present a mystery. It was, however, very fortunate that the fire was discovered when it was, or she would undoubtedly have been suffocated.