

A Paraffin Lamp the Cause Exciting Rescue of Children

The danger of using the commoner sorts of paraffin lamps has once more been demonstrated. At No. 14, Granville lane, Park, lives a file worker named George White. He is married, and has a family of young children. Just after midnight; he was sitting in the house with his arm resting on the table, a few inches away from an ordinary brand paraffin lamp. Owing to the pressure of his arm, the table made a move to one side, with the result that the lamp was upset. The hearthrug and furniture were instantly ignited by the oil, and in a few seconds the living room was full of smoke and flame. Mrs. White was in the house and her first thought was for her children, who were all asleep upstairs. Hurriedly making her way through the smoke on the staircase, she got into the bedroom and aroused them. The taking the eldest in her arms she descended to the room below, which by this time was surrounded by people willing to assist in quenching the flames and concerned for the well-being of the poor little things above. Handing the child over to one of the bystanders, Mrs. White turned and made a second journey upstairs, and succeeded in bringing down another of her family. The brave woman would have risked herself in another attempt to rescue the remainder of her children had she not been dissuaded by those who stood around and a promise made to her that someone else should continue the work. A man named Sam Crookes, living in Bengay Street, and Police-constable (175) Matthews saw that the remaining children were brought out of the house, and taken to a place of safety. Whilst one of them stood outside, one clambered through the chamber window and passed out the youngsters to the other. By these means they were all got away without hurt. During all this time the people downstairs had been pouring buckets of water on the burning furniture, with the result that by the time the fire brigade arrived in charge of Sergeant Crawford all danger was at an end. The full extent of the damage was then seen. All the furniture was completely destroyed and the woodwork of the room considerably damaged. White's property was not insured, but the owner of the house has it in the Alliance. The only person who received any injury was the occupier of the house, who had his face burnt.