

## *The Narrow Escape of Two Children*

But for the prompt action of Sgt Roberts and PC Pittaway of the Sheffield Fire Brigade, 2 children may have been suffocated, or burned to death yesterday morning, in Trippet Lane. The officers who do ordinary police duty, were walking along West Street soon after 7 o'clock when they noticed a smell of fire coming from the direction of Trippet Lane.

This was traced to No. 76, which was a fried fish shop kept by Charles Thwarts. Mr and Mrs Thwarts were out and the house was in the charge of a young domestic servant named Daykin. The bedroom in which a little boy was asleep was on fire, and when the officers got upstairs the smoke was so dense and overpowering that they were compelled to crawl in. The boy was found to be tied in his cot owing to some mental affliction and he was only just rescued in the nick of time. An infant was then rescued from another bedroom to which the fire and smoke had spread into.

The cause of the outbreak was that a newspaper which the Girl had used to draw the fire ignited and set the chimney on fire and the sparks falling down the bedroom flue ignited the material with which the fire place was covered. The Brigade was sent for and arrived with much rapidity in the charge of Superintendent Frost.

**Note:** In the mid 1980's a medal was bought from a dealer by a member of the Sheffield Fire Museum which was originally awarded to Sgt Roberts.