

Rude Awakening Sheffield Family in Peril Exiting Fire Scenes

Exciting scenes were witnessed at a fire which occurred early this morning in the Thomas Street district of Sheffield. No. 26 in the street mentioned is occupied by a general trader named George Freeman, who, amongst other things, deals in paraffin. Mr. Freeman and his wife and four young children sleep in three bedrooms above the shop, and had retired for the night, when two tramway employees named Appleby and Ingamells, who were coming up the street, noticed that the lower portion of the premises were on fire. They promptly kicked the door in, but the draught which was thus caused only served to fan the flames.

Meanwhile the noise created by the bursting in of the door had aroused the sleepers in the rooms above, who on proceeding to ascertain the cause, found their escape by means of the staircase completely cut off. The only thing left for them to do was to jump from the upper windows. This they did, being caught by the tramway employees mentioned and a number of neighbours, who had by this time appeared on the scene. In his leap to safety the father sustained a nasty cut on his head, while Mrs. Freeman was very severely burnt, and so, in a lesser degree, was Fred, her ten-year-old son, Eliza, aged 16, also suffered from severe shock and concussion, but the remaining two, a boy of 14, and a little girl of four, do not seem to have been seriously injured.

The Fire Brigade meanwhile had been summoned and Superintendent Frost was promptly on the scene with the motor tender, and the four badly injured members of the family were conveyed to the Royal Hospital.

It was found impossible to save the shop, which was burnt out, the damage amounting to £100.

An inquiry at the Royal Hospital later elicited the information that the injuries to Mr. and Mrs. Freeman were of such a serious nature as to necessitate their detention. The burns received by Mrs. Freeman are rather extensive, but she and her husband, who is suffering from a nasty cut on the head and other bruises, are progressing as well as can be expected.

The two children Fred and Eliza Freeman, after have their hurts attended to, were able to return home.