

## **Busy Fire Brigade** *624 Sheffield Outbreaks This Year*

Since January 1st, Sheffield Fire Brigade has attended 624 outbreaks in the city, a record for any one year. Records which date back to 1850 show that this has been the busiest of all years for the Sheffield Brigade. Despite this fact, however, there have not been more serious fires than in previous years.

Supt. T. Breaks, of the Sheffield Fire Brigade, told a "Star" representative to-day that some years ago people did not call upon the Brigade for every fire that occurred, but attempted to put them out themselves, with the result that there were more serious fires than there were to-day.

"The general public are now being educated to take cognisance of the fact that there is a Fire Brigade at their disposal free of charge, and are availing themselves of the service," he said.

Supt. Breaks said that, in addition, there were more ready means of communicating with the Brigade than there used to be. Public telephones were to be found at almost every street corner; the public could use the police box telephones and there were also telephones in business premises. He remembered the time, when calls had been received to fires in outlying districts by telegram, and also from messengers who arrived at the station on horseback.

The new fire station was of great assistance in enabling the engines to be quickly in the main road and to get away without having to make repeated turns.

While the "Star" representative was discussing the matter with the Superintendent in his office the 625<sup>th</sup> fire call came through. Out of curiosity the engine was timed and although special extinguishers had to be brought out and put on the machine, it was in Division Street on its way to the fire in 32 seconds. This was the time taken from the alarm being sounded to the engine being on its way.

Last year the Brigade attended 549 fires.