

## Man Plays With Fire in Sheffield

The idea of applying a lighted match to a can of petrol or to the aperture of a motor-car tank in itself conjures up visions of hospitals and mortuaries.

A "Star" reporter this afternoon watched an Australian, Mr. Charles Peterson literally playing with fire and petrol, but nothing happened to him.

in the presence of Superintendent T. Breaks (chief of the Sheffield Fire Brigade) and others, Mr. Peterson did his best to explode a can of petrol but he failed.

He first applied a match to the uncapped nozzle of a can of petrol, and then he poured burning petrol from one can to another. There was no explosion.

There was nothing to be seen around the nozzle but a small bluish flame which, he said would burn until the can was empty but which could be easily snuffed out by hand, as, indeed, was done.



What, prevented an explosion was a small perforated copper cone inserted in the nozzle of each can.

The cone, perforated with numerous little holes, is a simple little thing, but it has taken Mr. Peterson ten years to bring it to perfection.

He had a can with two nozzles. In one a single cone was inserted; the second had three. When the match was applied to the single-coned nozzle there was just a small blue flame, from the petrol vapour, but, nothing induced the triple-coned aperture to light, until the inventor applied his mouth to the other nozzle and blew the vapour out under pressure.

The inventor even set fire to the aperture of the petrol tank of his own motor-car. Convinced of the safety of the experiment after seeing the performance with the petrol tins, the spectators were not afraid to have a close-up view. A flame shot up from the tank, and when the onlookers were tired of watching it, Mr. Peterson calmly placed his hand over the aperture and killed the flame.

It is claimed that not only is the device 100 per cent safe so far as explosions in petrol storage tanks are concerned, but also prevents the evaporation of petrol vapour.