

Fire Fighter's Fun in Lectures on Bombs

Nearly 2,000 Sheffield householders have been trained in the control of incendiary bombs by the use of sand and the stirrup pump and about 3,000 are awaiting training.

In turning over to lecturing, members of the Fire Brigade have again shown their versatility. Some are as entertaining as they are instructive. Lectures are given in the recreation room of the AFS headquarters at Bowling Green Street, twice every week-day and once on Sundays, and these are followed by a demonstration.

A corrugated iron hut is used to represent the room of a house in which an incendiary bomb is burning.

Punctually, Fireman Atkin sets up his blackboard and proceeds to take the roll-call.

"Those who are late come out for cane," he announced, though so many did not answer that he decides to "turn it up" and try again at the end of the lecture.

By simple diagrams he shows how one bomber may scatter 2,000 incendiary bombs over a distance of three miles, and explains the different functions of the high explosive and incendiary bombs by telling the class that the high explosive is to drive them indoors, and the incendiary is to drive them out,

Clear the Attic

In domestic language he instils a respect for the one-kilo, electron bomb by telling them that whereas the temperature of boiling water 100 degrees Centigrade, the bomb generates within one minute 3,000 degrees Centigrade.

As "soothing syrup" he adds that only one bomb in six is likely to be effective.

On women he urges the importance of clearing attics.

"Get rid of junk; those old bamboo plantpot stands, those curtain poles with thousands of wooden rings, and all the other things a woman discards without being able to bring herself to throw away.

"When I am lecturing men I add; "and the picture of your mother-in-law,' but for you I will change it to your husband's photograph."

He Knows the Answers

Occasionally a buzz of comment breaks out and Fireman Atkin observes "It is possible for only one person to speak at one time, and as my wife is not here I am doing the talking now."

One feels that the lady who asks, "What is a long-handled shovel?" deserves the reply; "Why madam it is a shovel with a long handle."

A more pertinent question is asked by a lady who wants to know whether to windows open or shut.

Homely Talks

"In case of fire," replied Mr Atkin, "they should be closed