

'Fire Tanks'

An interesting experiment was conducted in Arundel Street yesterday, by the Sheffield Fire Brigade. With a view to preventing the waste of water which occur at large fires under the present conditions of working, the corporation have recently placed an underground tank in Arundel Street, which is filled with water from the mains. Should a fire of any proportions occur in the vicinity the steam fire engines will be served from this tank. The portable canvas reservoir will thus be superseded. The supply of water to the tank can be regulated by the turncock throughout the operations – an advantage which under present conditions is not possible – and it is claimed that this will considerably reduce the amount of water drawn from the mains when a big fire is in progress. It is intended to place tanks of a similar kind in other districts, where big blazes may be look for. There was a large gathering to witness the experiment. Two engines were requisitioned. The combined efforts of both were devoted to throwing a single jet of water which rose to a height of some 50ft in splendid fashion. The inflow of water to the tank was under control throughout, and the advantages of the innovation were amply demonstrated. The ordinary canvas reservoir was then brought into use, thus showing the comparison between the new method and the old. On the face of it, these tanks seem to be an ingenious device for the saving of water, but it is obvious that a very large number of them will have to be laid down if any material results are to be obtained, simply on account of the fact that one never knows where a big fire is going to occur.