

Fire Kept off Big Stores Thrilling Moments in Centre of Sheffield Workshop Damaged But Premises Below Practically Unaffected

THERE were some thrilling moments when an outbreak of fire occurred in a workshop occupied by Messrs: H. H. B. Sugg, Ltd., above the premise of Messrs G. H. Crossley, Ltd., drapers of Angel Street and Castle Street, Sheffield on Saturday night.

Shoppers hurriedly departed, but the fire brigade quickly disposed of the outbreak and only slight damage by water was caused to Crossley's stock, and business at the establishment was carried on as usual to-day.

Messrs. Sugg's, workshop is on the second floor of Crossley's block of buildings. The workshop, which overlooks the Castle Street side of the buildings, contained wireless sets, loud speakers, various radio accessories and a great deal of sports equipment. Many of the articles were of substantial value, and they were all either completely destroyed or damaged to such an extent as to make them quite useless.

Only the skill and alertness of the Sheffield Fire Brigade, commended by Superintendent Breaks, prevented the blaze extending to other parts of the premises. Had the Brigade not succeeded in restricting the fire to its place of origin, a large area might easily have been involved, and the inflammable character of Messrs. Crossley's stock must inevitably have been an easy prey to the flames.

Firemen's Wrist Cut

That portion of Crossley's premises - the mantle department and a part of the ground floor - immediately below the burning workshop was slightly damaged by water.

Two minor casualties occurred. Fireman Weston had a wrist cut by falling glass and had a stitch inserted in it at the Royal Hospital. Frances Lumley (49), of 88, Alliance Street, fell over a fire hose and injured her ribs. She was also able to go home after treatment at the Royal Hospital.

Although, as stated, the fire did not cover a large area, the whole circumstances combined to make it a spectacular affair. The outbreak occurred during the busiest period of Saturday night and when the neighbourhood was thronged with shoppers. A bargain sale was in progress at Crossley's shop, and all departments of the extensive corner site were crowded with customers.

Terrified Girls

One of Messrs. Sugg's men who was working in the room where the fire occurred, at once gave the alarm. The flames quickly gained a hold, and everything in the workshop was soon

blazing furiously. Several girls employed on the kitchen staff of Crossley, Ltd., in a room overhead were greatly alarmed by the smoke and were too terrified for a time to go down the stairs to safety until assured that there was no immediate danger.

There was some consternation on the downstairs sales floor of Crossley's stores when the alarm was raised, no one knowing either the location or extent of the fire. The portion of the stores under the burning workshop was at once closed, but business 'was carried on in other parts of the premises.

Deluge of Water

The Fire Brigade effectively dealt with the outbreak within a few minutes of their arrival. The operations were watched by a crowd of several thousands, and for some time after the flames had been extinguished smoke continued to roll out of the workshop windows.