

THE FIRE PERIL Precaution Householders Should Take

The terrible loss of life which was involved in the cottage fire in Sheffield yesterday morning naturally prompts the inquiry as to what are the best means for averting such a calamitous result.

"In all cases," said Superintendent Frost, "the best counsel is one of perfection - prevent the fire.

If there is one lesson to be taken to heart from this disaster it is that people should be very careful when they are retiring to see there is not too much live fire left in the grate and at there is a proper fender in front or even better than that, that there is a fire-guard, adjusted. In the instance there is no doubt the fire originated from the fireplace.

"There is no getting away from the fact that the back-to-back house is a frightful danger in case of fire. With only one means of escape the inmates have nothing like the chance of people who live in an ordinary house."

"Can you suggest any rough and ready means of escape that people might adopt?"

"One might suggest, he replied, "but you have to take into account the, appalling, benumbing effect fire, in the night especially, has upon the minds of most people. Probably the best thing to keep in the house would be a rope ladder, but you cannot expect people to take such excessive precautions against what is after all a very slight risk.

Failing a rope ladder, twisted sheets make a very serviceable rope and have been the means of saving countless lives. But, above all, the best thing to do - and that again is a counsel of perfection - is to keep one's presence of mind.