

mentioned in this report. This work will require a considerable amount of additional time, as it is necessary in most cases to make tests on the water-supply under both winter and summer conditions.

The usual reports were made during the year on inspections of public buildings and institutions, and advice has been given to Fire Boards and other local bodies with regard to equipment and fire-station sites and buildings. A number of reports were also made to the Local Government Loans Board on loans proposed for fire-prevention, water supply, and reticulation purposes.

I have, &c.,
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Inspector of Fire Brigades.

TABLE I.—SHOWING CAUSES OF FIRE IN CITY AREAS.

Cause.	Dwellings (including Hotels and Boardinghouses)		Business Premises.		Total.	
	Number of Fires.	Fire Loss.	Number of Fires.	Fire Loss.	Number of Fires.	Fire Loss.
		£		£		£
Defective electrical installation	1	1	5	119	6	120
Electric irons and radiators left on .. .	13	2,083	4	218	17	2,301
Short circuits and overheating	5	132	18	1,607	23	1,739
Other electrical faults	1	21	2	16	3	37
Gas-explosions	1	11	..	..	1	11
Gas rings, &c., left on or in contact with curtains, &c. ..	6	143	2	114	8	257
Defective gas-installations	1	5	3	645	4	650
Candles in contact with curtains, &c. .. .	3	1,646	..	..	3	1,646
Lamps, stoves, overturned or exploded ..	2	407	4	54	6	461
Miscellaneous, due to naked lights	4	626	1	7	5	633
Defective chimneys and flues	22	2,534	6	44	28	2,578
Defective hearths, fireplaces, and furnaces ..	17	1,179	3	146	20	1,325
Defective hot-water systems	3	991	..	..	3	991
Lighted match dropped	11	755	9	86	20	841
Children playing with matches	9	38	..	..	9	38
Smoking in bed	5	31	..	..	5	31
Cigarette or cigar butts dropped	8	490	17	9,161	25	9,651
Ashes from pipes, sparks from cigarettes ..	4	102	..	..	4	102
Rats chewing matches	1	7	1	1,024	2	1,031
Miscellaneous causes—smoking and matches ..	2	76	1	25	3	101
Sparks from fireplaces, furnaces, &c. .. .	36	2,572	12	1,408	48	3,980
Airing clothes before a fire	3	514	..	..	3	514
Ashes placed in wooden boxes, &c.	11	1,026	4	32	15	1,058
Heating tar, polishes, &c.	3	124	11	1,943	14	2,067
Spontaneous combustion	3	364	7	128	10	492
Allowing benzine, &c., near naked lights ..	11	630	5	835	16	1,465
Arson	2	32	2	2,090	4	2,122
Suspicious origin	11	2,939	8	2,184	19	5,123
Overheating of and sparks from machinery ..	..	..	5	4,920	5	4,920
Sparks from bush and gorse fires	7	107	4	104	11	211
Sparks from rubbish fires	8	38	..	..	8	38
Sparks from chimneys, locomotives, &c. ..	10	60	30	5,391	40	5,451
Blow-lamps used for burning off paint .. .	14	297	2	8	16	305
Fires spread from other buildings	11	147	4	699	15	846
Miscellaneous known causes	..	..	19	384	19	384
Total, known causes	249	20,128	189	33,392	438	53,520
Unknown causes	68	18,689	59	56,851	127	75,540
Grand total	317	38,817	248	90,243	565	129,060
Known causes—Loss per fire	..	81	..	177	..	122
Unknown causes—Loss per fire	..	275	..	964	..	594
All causes—Loss per fire	..	122	..	364	..	228
Unoccupied dwellings—Loss per fire	..	292	..	..	..	..