

DANGER IN RUBBISH.—The figures furnished by last year's fire statistics say "CLEAN UP!" in capitals. Half a million dollars would not make good the fire loss in Ohio from neglected rubbish during the last year. True, only sixty fires were caused by sparks from burning up rubbish on the premises, to get rid of it, and only fifty-eight are reported as from rubbish igniting. But more than half of the loss of \$458,000 reported as from flying sparks was from sparks lighting rubbish, and more than half the spontaneous combustion fires started in rubbish. Careless smokers burned up \$83,047 worth, and these fires were mostly from throwing cigar stubs or pipe ashes into rubbish. Children playing with matches or fire cost \$39,000, and in a majority of instances the blaze started in litter, and the fires of the Fourth of July, most of them, started from fire crackers alighting in rubbish and lighting it. Clean up!

THE ATTIC IS AN ASYLUM for all sorts of inflammable stuff, and as it is never properly ventilated it becomes a fire incubator when the summer's sun strikes the roof.

Among the odds and ends, which make up its contents, usually, are varnished furniture, dry as tinder; rags, many of which are greasy, and ripe for spontaneous combustion; painting oils liable to take fire when the sun beats upon the roof, and broken toys of children who have grown and gone or who went to sleep long ago.

Last summer a thrifty mother went to the attic to get papa's old suit to cut down for Willie, and found a hole burnt in the coat from matches which had ignited in one of the pockets, some charred match sticks remaining as circumstantial evidence. Garrets often have a temperature of

110 degrees Fahr., which is the igniting point for matches. In this case the matches had burned without injuring anything but the cloth next them. So, the fire marshal was saved from adding one to the list of "Unknown" fires, which is his horror.

Attics should have ventilators on opposite sides, and the rough surfaces of its dry wood should be whitewashed. Whitewash removes fuzz and cobwebs which may catch sparks, and also gives the wood a non-inflammable coating. There is no safe place but the stove for rags that have on them any vegetable or animal grease. This includes rags which have been used to wipe oil from the sewing machine.

FIRE DANGER IN CLOSETS.—Floor sweepings under furniture or in a closet are liable to take fire spontaneously or from a flying match head. Sawdust used in sweeping floors, if left in a corner where there is no current of air to carry off the heat it generates, is very likely to become hot enough to ignite itself. A secret preparation advertised for use in sweeping carpets is composed of sawdust, sand, and a mineral oil to give it color, and tincture of benzoin to give it an odor. A fire started spontaneously in a barrel of this stuff in a Columbus business block. Greasy overalls in a tight wardrobe have ignited.

The most dangerous closet is that under a stairway, because inflammable materials may hide in its long toe, and if a fire starts in it the best avenue of escape from upper stories is soon cut off.

Furnace ashes in the cellar have in them so much fine coal and litter that they are liable to spontaneous combustion if an open window permits them to be dampened by a rain storm. The fine coal from the winter's supply may ignite if wet.

MR. H. D. DAVIS,
Ohio Fire Marshall.

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