

SMOKE HELMETS FOR FIREMEN.

Smoke, while being the best indicator of fire, is at the same time the greatest obstacle in the way of the fire being subdued. The first anxiety of the brigade is to locate the seat of a fire, as that is, of course, the point for attack. But with volumes of smoke rolling up from it great difficulty is experienced in correctly gauging the position. Various appliances, says The Review of London, Eng., have been in use in the leading brigades to enable the men to penetrate the smoke, one of the earliest of which was a respirator. This was fitted over the mouth and was connected by a rubber tube with the air outside.

A new appliance has been adopted by the Melbourne Metropolitan Brigade, which is a great improvement on the previous appliances. It, too, is a helmet, and consists of a light leather head-piece with a veil of moleskin, which is buttoned inside the wearer's tunic, thus shutting the air off from his head. Into the helmet passes a rubber tube. This is used as a speaking tube as well as an air tube. There are about 250 feet of rubber piping attached; this is coiled in a drum and kept outside the fire. An ordinary bellows is connected with this drum, and air is pumped in. A branch from the air pipe has a mouthpiece attached, which the man at the bellows can speak into or listen at and the helmet itself on the man in the smoke acts as a mouthpiece, so that the men can easily converse with each other.

THE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI has granted reinstatement in that state to the Mutual Reserve Life Insurance Company.

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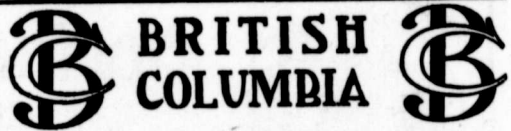
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