

FEMALE FIRE SQUADS IN ACTION

How An Uxbridge Outbreak Was Tackled

WOMEN fire-fighters rendered splendid service on Saturday evening, when fire broke out in the ventilating apparatus on the roof of Messrs. Woolworth's shop, High-street, Uxbridge. The outbreak was first seen by a girl employee of Messrs. Suter, who noticed the reflection in the premises opposite.

Flames were leaping high into the air, when Mr. J. D. Suter ran to the roof of his building and, carrying a hose to a spot overlooking Woolworth's, started to play on the fire.

Meanwhile, Mr. W. C. Suter and members of the staff climbed from the first floor front of the building on to Woolworth's roof and fought the flames with a stirrup-pump, girl assistants, under the direction of Miss Murray, forming a bucket chain to supply the water.

They went about their job so quietly and efficiently that customers on the ground floor were not aware that anything unusual was happening.

Woolworth's were preparing to close when the staff were startled by seeing burning debris falling through the ventilating grid into the main store. Their girl fire squads, under the direction of the manager, at once came into action and smothered the material as it fell.

The brigade arrived quickly, but so effective had been the work of the "amateurs" that little else remained for them to do except to cut away the charred casing of the apparatus and make certain that all danger had been averted.