

FIRE DESTROYS FOURTEEN CHRISTMAS SUITS.

Fourteen young gentlemen have been left to mourn the loss of their Christmas suits as the result of a fire which took place inside the shop of Vincent St. Clair Wagglan, tailor and bookseller, Hampshire road, late on Wednesday night. Mr. Wagglan estimates his loss, which is covered by insurance, at £160. The alarm was given by Ray Roberts at 11.47 o'clock, and the local brigade under Leading Fireman Percy Paine, arrived shortly afterwards. When the front door was broken the dense smoke from the fire, which apparently had been smouldering for hours, extinguished their lights and made their work exceedingly difficult, but they speedily had the outbreak under control. In addition to the clothing destroyed, some books and other articles were damaged. The origin of the fire cannot be stated. Mr. Wagglan, who lives in Footscray, says that when he locked up at 6.10 p.m. everything was all right, and the electricity meter was turned off.

The building is owned by Mr. H. C. Taylor, who is now supposed to be touring the United States. Damage done amounts to about £10, which, Messrs. Greenlade and Booter, real estate agents, say is covered by insurance.