

On the night of the fire—29th January last—I was in my office when, 35 minutes after six, Johanna Carl, head nurse in Ward 9, informed me that fire had broken out in her ward.

I immediately ran in that direction, and was there in a few seconds. Passing by Ward No. 7, I entered the cell, occupied I believe by Ellen Hurly. I immediately saw fire in one corner of the ceiling of that cell; the fire seemed to make its way from the cell adjoining, and was between the deafening floor and the ceiling. This deafening floor was made of boards covered with mortar. Such deafening floors are always to be found in private and public buildings, and have the effect of preserving heat, and of lessening the sounds.

I remember that, upon my arrival here, in several interviews between the Inspectors, Messrs. Ferris and O'Reall and Doctor Douglas, then proprietor of the Asylum, mention of those deafening floors was made. The joists in the ceilings of the cells could then be seen, and it was after those interviews that the cells were ceiled (*plafonnées*) but a small space for the purpose of ventilation was left, and it was through that small space that I saw the fire issuing from the cell occupied, as I was informed, by Julie Breton. There was smoke in the cell I first entered. Upon seeing the fire, I ran as fast as possible to my office, on the same flat, viz: on the second floor, called Alphonse Ouellet, door-keeper, and told him to take up immediately one of the two Fire Extinguishers. These extinguishers are always ready and placed in a cupboard in close proximity to the door.

I only took the time necessary to send for the men who were then at prayers in the Chapel, and to have the axes, placed on the same flat, taken out, and I immediately re-

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