

with huge whirlwinds of the blackest smoke. This terrible spectacle was of a nature to alarm the strongest minded, and a large number of the patients suffered severe nervous shocks, owing to their contemplating so sinister a catastrophe. Terrified and half-fainting, some were reduced to a fearful state of excitement and mental exaltation, and others committed the most insane and dangerous acts.

Their appearance at this time was most heart-rending, these unfortunate women, with haggard eyes, livid cheeks, their hands clasped, and quivering lips, struggled and fought with maniacal fury with all those who wished to save them, and to indicate the road by which they might be conducted out of danger. Neither kindness nor persuasion could induce them to submit. Some obstinately refused to stir from their rooms, others hid themselves in obscure corners; many of the poor wretches ran and hid themselves in the cellars, believing that they there had found a secure refuge; others again got on to the roofs and were found crouched there behind chimneys, and even on the top of the cupola. In many cases it was necessary to employ force and even violence to remove them from their hiding places and save their lives.

Unhappily some of the number remained and died there. A most sad result! but, among so large a number, often an inevitable one!

So fearful a disaster as ours is by no means an unprecedented one. More than one institution, similar to our own, has been destroyed by fire, and some of their inmates suffocated and burnt.

Many Asylums, both in America and Europe, have been destroyed with loss of lives during the last ten years. Only very lately two other institutions of a like nature shared

the same fate, months after t

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