

had she been confined there ten minutes, when the fire suddenly declared itself in the cell, and an alarm was at once given.

The whole of the disposable "personnel" of the establishment at once rushed towards the spot, and were united in their efforts to master the fire; it gained ground however, because of the surrounding wood-work, and in spite of every exertion being made to extinguish, the partitions were soon in flames, and nothing could prevent the conflagration from spreading in all directions both in the lower and upper stories of the building. Despite the most courageous and determined fight, the flames redoubled their fierceness and extent, rendering all resistance useless. The large quantity of timber necessarily employed in the construction of an establishment such as ours offered too much material to the devouring element; a thick smoke soon filled the hall and the apartments on the upper floor. It was then necessary to think of removing to a safe distance, the inmates who lived in this quarter of the Asylum. The saving of life was then commenced, by directing and transporting the patients of the east, north-east and eastern pavillions towards the centre and western pavillions. A special messenger was immediately despatched to the City for further assistance.

As the wind was blowing from the westward, it became at once evident that the largest portion of the edifice would be destroyed; we then ordered the transfer of all the females, to the number of 420, to the villas and the buildings occupied by the males.

While this was being done, the conflagration made rapid progress. The light produced by this ardent brazier brilliantly illuminated ours and the surrounding buildings. The flames rushed out of the doors and windows mingled