

Several patients of this class have in the course of the year made attempts to put an end to their existence ; but, thanks to the precautions with which they are surrounded, they have been unable to carry out their sinister designs ; and we have not had a single case of suicide nor of homicide.

The immunity enjoyed by the establishment in this respect is a striking proof of its excellent organization and of the attention and vigilance, in the discharge of their duties, displayed by the parties in charge of the patients.

ORGANIZATION OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.—When the work of rebuilding that portion of the women's building destroyed by fire in 1875 was completed, we took steps to protect our establishment in a more effective manner against the destroying element, and to guard against a catastrophe so terrible as that which befell us on that disastrous occasion. For that purpose we first deemed it advisable to secure the services of an experienced person to whom we entrusted the organization of the Fire Department.

In April last, Mr. E. N. Chaumet entered the service of the asylum as engineer and chief of this department. He had, for many years, belonged to the Quebec Fire Brigade, of which he was one of the most active and most intelligent members ; and hitherto we have had reason to congratulate ourselves on the choice we have made. At the same time, we purchased a powerful steam fire engine manufactured by Clapp and Jones. We have also two stationary steam engines, one in the women's building and the other in the men's building, connected by an iron pipe two and a half inches in diameter. In case of fire we could therefore, at will, direct their united efforts on either building.

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