

This event is of such particular moment, that we think it our duty, to the exclusion of all other matters, to dedicate this report to making you acquainted with the principal details which have taken place in connection with this calamitous event.

On the 29th of January last (1875), towards seven o'clock in the evening, at a time when the greater number of our patients were assembled in the Chapel, and assisting at the evening prayers, an alarm of fire was given, and it was discovered that flames were existing in a cell of Division No. 9, situate in the eastern wing of the edifice occupied by the female patients. This cell was then tenanted by a patient named Marie Breton.

Marie Breton was one of those lunatics who was in the habit of suffering from attacks of mental excitement, and when her furious passion became uncontrolled, it was necessary to place her in a cell by herself, so as to protect the patients who were her companions in the ward. During such times she would vow vengeance upon all around her; (this is a trait discoverable in a great many inmates similarly afflicted,) but once the attack over, hardly any traces remain of this hostile disposition. It very often happens that those who are the most menacing do the least harm; they are, however, until their calmness returns, the objects of much sympathy and solicitude. In her happy moments and quiet intervals, Marie Breton testified a thorough appreciation for the kindness displayed towards her and the attention paid her by the guardians.

The cell which had been destined for her was situated at the extremity of the eastern wing of the building. It was, like some others, separated from the large ward by an iron grating, and was only reserved for furious cases. Hardly

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