

**CLINICAL FACTS AND  
REFLECTIONS; ALSO, REMARKS  
ON THE  
IMPUNITY OF MURDER IN SOME  
CASES OF PRESUMED INSANITY**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649120147

Clinical facts and reflections; also, remarks on the impunity of murder in some cases of presumed insanity by Thomas Mayo

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**THOMAS MAYO**

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*Not for Hinds  
with the author's request*

CLINICAL FACTS

*MacKenzie*

REFLECTIONS;

ALSO,

REMARKS ON THE IMPUNITY OF MURDER

IN SOME CASES OF

PRESUMED INSANITY.

BY

THOMAS MAYO, M.D. F.R.S.

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS;

LATE FELLOW OF ORIEL COLLEGE, OXFORD;

PHYSICIAN TO THE INFIRMARY OF ST. MARYLEBONE.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR

LONGMAN, BROWN, GREEN, AND LONGMANS,

FATERNOSTER ROW.

1847.

*69876  
30/5/86*

## PREFATORY REMARKS.

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THE detached and unconnected nature of this work is attributable to a large portion of it having been published at different times, and in separate contributions, through the London Medical Gazette. Of the concluding remarks, on a medico-legal subject, I could have wished that the occasion had been so ephemeral as to make a return to the subject obviously unnecessary. Subsequent events have, however, proved that a remedy has not yet been found to the evil for which I endeavour to provide one.

But in republishing detached cases, I confess that I may appear to give them a value, in which the taste of the present time may not concur. The generalisations of statistical inquiry are at present absorbing attention, and medical works partake largely of this spirit. The quantity of new truth which may be contained in a fact honestly reported, and the quantity of error which may be disseminated through a very honest statistical

inquiry, when its subject matter is not susceptible of definition, is inadequately appreciated. Supposing a parity of good intentions on the part of reporters, while single facts possess truth as far as they go, a statistical arrangement, with all its appearance of precision, will often give us an extensive prospect through the medium of a fog.

56, WIMPOLE STREET,

Dec. 11, 1846.

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# CLINICAL FACTS,

§c.

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## CHAPTER I.

### GENERAL REMARKS—CASES OF PERITONITIS— POST-MORTEM APPEARANCES.

THE march of science in medical philosophy must follow the laws of the inductive process, and ascend from individual instances to general propositions. In the application of the proposition to general practice, the direction of thought is reversed. But we should err if we limited the science of medicine by this description of it: for *pari passu* with the proceeding there noticed, and subsidiary to the application of the principles so acquired, another highly scientific operation is required. Indeed, the march of science towards the formation and application of general principles will be practically fruitless, if the above mentioned procedure be deemed all sufficient; if an inquiry be not at the same time vigorously conducted as to the shades of difference which separate from each other cases of the