INSANITY IN ANCIENT AND MODERN LIFE, WITH CHAPTERS ON ITS PREVENTION

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649021178

Insanity in ancient and modern life, with chapters on its prevention by Daniel Hack Tuke

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DANIEL HACK TUKE

INSANITY IN ANCIENT AND MODERN LIFE, WITH CHAPTERS ON ITS PREVENTION

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INSANITY

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ANCIENT AND MODERN LIFE,

WITH CHAPTERS

ON ITS PREVENTION.

BY

DANIEL HACK TUKE, M.D.,

FELLOW OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, LONDON

" The dispute, then, is not about any common matter, but about heing mad or not mad."-EPICTETUS.

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Yondon: MACMILLAN AND CO. 1878.

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TO THE

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HON. SIR EDWARD FRY,

ONE OF THE JUDGES OF THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE.

THIS VOLUME IS INSCRIBED

BY HIS FRIEND,

THE AUTHOR.



..... (a)

PREFACE.

A REMARKABLE feature of the present day is the interest felt by the public at large in questions relative to insanity. So far from its being confined to the Medical Profession, legislators, lawyers, clergymen, sociologists, metaphysicians, have their attention forcibly drawn to the subject, and are keenly interested in it. The same may be said of many of those whose friends suffer from mental derangement.

To those also who may reasonably suspect that they have the seeds of madness sown in their own constitution, or are conscious of a tendency to irregular mental action, the matter treated of in the following pages possesses, if a painful, surely a practical importance. I hope that the action of individuals on themselves, with a view of preventing attacks of mental disorder, will be rendered more definite, and therefore more successful, by following the indications pointed out in the chapters on the Prevention of Insanity. To this subject I briefly adverted in a recent number of *Macmillan* (of which Chapters V. and VI. are an expansion), but in the succeeding portion of the work I have entered at some length into the individual management called for, when the first symptoms display themselves, desiring to offer in these chapters, hints calculated, if adopted, to ward off attacks of threatened insanity.

Of the various social evils which present themselves in our age, those connected with the genesis of insanity are, it must be admitted, deserving of the consideration of all who care for their race, and wish to lessen the sum of human misery. I trust that the facts contained in this volume will tend to stimulate all social reformers in their great, and often discouraging, labours, whether carried on among the working or the higher classes, so it be not done in a narrow fanatical spirit, in other words, not judgingly, but with judgment.

D. HACK TUKE.

5, CHARLOTTE ST, BEDFORD SQ., W.C.

March, 1878.

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