

**INSTITUTIONS FOR THE
INSANE, IN PRUSSIA,
AUSTRIA, AND GERMANY**

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Institutions for the Insane, in Prussia, Austria, and Germany by Pliny Earle

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PLINY EARLE

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INSANE, IN PRUSSIA,
AUSTRIA, AND GERMANY**

INSTITUTIONS
FOR THE INSANE,

IN

PRUSSIA, AUSTRIA, AND GERMANY.

BY PLINY EARLE, M. D.

ONE OF THE VISITING PHYSICIANS TO THE LUNATIC ASYLUM OF THE CITY OF
NEW-YORK; LATE PHYSICIAN TO THE BLOOMINGDALE ASYLUM; FELLOW
OF THE COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS AND SURGEONS OF NEW-YORK,
AND OF THE NEW-YORK ACADEMY OF MEDICINE.

" Poi sem venuti al luogo ov'io t'ho detto
Che vederai le gente dolorose,
Ch' hanno perduto il ben del intelletto.
Quivi sospiri, pianti, ed alti guai
Risonevan."—*Dante*.

But " they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall
flee away."—*Isaiah*.

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INTRODUCTION.

State of our knowledge of *Psychiatrie*, and Institutions for the Insane, in Germany.—Early attention to mental disorders by the Germans.—Periodical literature upon the subject.—Doctrine of Reil.—The Somatic, Psycho-Somatic and Psychic schools.—Doctrine of Heinroth. Condition of Asylums at the commencement of the present century.—Proceedings in Saxony.—Progress of Asylums.—Comparative advantages of large and of small establishments.—Separate Asylums for the curable and the incurable insane.—The relative connection of such institutions.—Arguments of Zeller and other physicians.—The true principle to be followed in the establishment of Asylums suggested.—Psychical instruction of medical students.—Clinics in Asylums for the Insane.—Superintendents of German Asylums.—The organization of those Institutions.—Object of their special description.—Comparison of German with American Asylums.—Moral treatment of patients.—The use of instruments for bodily restraint.—Dr. Tschallener's restraining chair.—The jacket.—Conveyance of patients, by deceptive means, to Asylums.—The insane blind.—Use of Tobacco.—Architectural defects.—Order in which the Asylums were visited.—The notes, forming the basis of the descriptions, taken in the summer of 1849.

INSTITUTIONS FOR THE INSANE IN GERMANY.

That broad field of the medical profession in Prussia, Austria and Germany, in which the laborers are endeavoring to restore the alienated mind, and to render the condition of those persons for whom such restoration is impossible as comfortable as circumstances will permit, has hitherto been almost *terra incognita* to the physicians of the United States. With a knowledge of the labors of those distinguished modern pioneers, Pinel and Tuke, and of their compeers and successors in their native countries, we have pursued our way, taking advantage of their experience and improving thereupon, but without the endeavor to push our researches beyond the limits of Great Britain and France. Indeed, a general impression appeared to prevail, indicated, it is true, more by negative than positive signs, that, aside from the countries mentioned, the nations of Europe had made but little progress in this department of the profession, and hence could furnish us nothing commensurate with the labor and expense necessary to its acquisition.

We had the excellent work of Dr. Jacobi, but he is upon the very borders of France, at a distance from Paris less than that of Marseilles. Some volumes of the writings of Heinroth, translated into French, have