

**INSANITY: MODERN
VIEWS AS TO ITS NATURE
AND TREATMENT**

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Insanity: modern views as to its nature and treatment by W. T. Gairdner

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GLASGOW :

JAMES MACLEHOSE AND SONS,
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INSANITY:
MODERN VIEWS AS TO ITS NATURE
AND TREATMENT.

*A PORTION OF THE MORISON LECTURES ON INSANITY,
DELIVERED IN 1879.*

BY

W. T. GAIRDNER, M.D., LL.D.,

PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE IN THE UNIVERSITY OF GLASGOW, AND PHYSICIAN
IN ORDINARY TO HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN IN SCOTLAND.

*AN ADDRESS DELIVERED AT THE CLOSE OF THE WINTER SESSION 1884-85,
BEFORE THE GLASGOW UNIVERSITY MEDICO-CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY,
BY THE HONORARY PRESIDENT.*

GLASGOW:
JAMES MACLEHOSE & SONS, ST. VINCENT STREET,
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1885.

1535.e. 2a.



"Orandum est, ut sit mens sana in corpore sano."—*Juvenal X*, 356.

"There is no health in us."—*Book of Common Prayer*.

"The lunatic, the lover, and the poet
Are of imagination all compact.
One sees more devils than vast hell can hold,
That is the madman: the lover, all as frantic,
Sees Helen's beauty in a brow of Egypt:
The poet's eye, in a fine frenzy rolling,
Doth glance from heaven to earth, from earth to heaven:
And, as imagination bodies forth
The forms of things unknown, the poet's pen
Turns them to shapes, and gives to airy nothing
A local habitation and a name."

Midsummer Night's Dream. Act V, Scene I.

"Where definitions are attempted [of insanity], especially in courts of law, they fitly become a matter of ridicule, or causes of contradiction and perplexity. Mental derangement, however the name may be used, is not one thing, nor can it be treated as such. It differs in kind not less than in degree; and in each of its varieties we may often trace through different cases all the gradations between a sound and unsound understanding, on the very points where reason is thus disordered."—Sir Henry Holland, *Chapters on Mental Physiology*, 1852, page 110.

THE lecturer commenced by intimating that his Address, though unpublished in its present form, was not new, having already formed a part of the Morison Lectures on Insanity, delivered at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, in June, 1879. He expressed his strong sense of the necessity for more attention being paid to this subject in the medical curriculum of study, and pointed out that recent instances had tended to show that public opinion would not much longer tolerate a state of the law and practice in dealing with the insane, in which the most delicate and important questions arising as to the insane mind might be submitted to persons medically educated, but in reality wholly devoid of experience, or even of systematic instruction, in this department of the healing art. The object of the address, however, and of the whole series of the Morison Lectures of which it forms a part, was to show that the principles underlying the modern treatment of the insane are precisely the same as those which have been emerging into more and more prominence in connection with what are admittedly bodily diseases. In assenting to the representations made to him as to the publication of the address in the *Glasgow Medical Journal*, Dr. Gairdner thought it desirable, for the sake of completeness, to include a considerable amount of introductory matter which, originally presented in the Morison Lectures, could not be so compressed as to admit of delivery in the time allotted to the academic address, and which, moreover, preserves, as now issued, the form of the Morison Lecture, rather than of its second destination. The notes added in the Appendix have an interest, in some respects, even apart from the argument of the lecture itself; and it is hoped that their publication may not only add to the force of the argument, but attract the attention of some who are not habitual readers of medical literature.

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