

**THE PATHOLOGY AND
THERAPEUTICS OF MENTAL
DISEASES. TRANSLATED FROM
GERMAN BY JAMES T. RUDALL**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649518692

The Pathology and Therapeutics of Mental Diseases. Translated from German by James T. Rudall by J. L. C. Schroeder van der Kolk

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J. L. C. SCHROEDER VAN DER KOLK

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THE
PATHOLOGY AND THERAPEUTICS
OF
MENTAL DISEASES.

1872
BY

J. L. C. SCHROEDER VAN DER KOLK,

PROFESSOR OF PHYSIOLOGY IN THE UNIVERSITY OF UTRECHT.

*Monteff
Utrecht 11.*

TRANSLATED FROM THE GERMAN BY

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LONDON:
JOHN CHURCHILL & SONS, NEW BURLINGTON STREET.

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TRANSLATOR'S PREFACE.

Circumstances, several years ago, led the translator to a study of the morbid anatomy of mental insanity; and, in the course of his reading, he was much impressed by the originality and clearness of this treatise of the late PROFESSOR SCHROEDER VAN DER KOLK, especially in regard to cerebral physiology and pathology. It is fortunate that the laudable desire for knowledge of two medical students (one of whom, Dr. F. A. Hartsen, has since so well fulfilled the duty of editing the memoir of his honoured teacher) should have induced Schroeder van der Kolk to take in hand the work which he had in view, but which, nevertheless, might else not have been accomplished. Through the kind intervention of Professor Miquel, the English translation appears, with the sanction of Dr. H. W. Schroeder van der Kolk, son of the lamented author, and also with the permission of Messrs. Vieweg, the well-known medical publishers of Brunswick. The translator desires to express his thanks to Dr. H. W. Schroeder van der Kolk, and to the Messrs. Vieweg; and he also very gratefully acknowledges the revision of the manuscript by his distinguished friend, Dr. F. von Mueller, C.M.G., F.R.S. The translator regrets the delay which has occurred in publication, but trusts that those who are, like himself, engaged in the duties of surgical practice, will make allowance for the numerous interruptions to which, with such avocations, a task of this kind must of necessity be subjected.

MELBOURNE, June, 1869.

PREFACE.

THE Utrecht Professor, J. L. C. Schroeder van der Kolk (the renovator of the Dutch Institution for the Insane), whose death took place early in May, 1862, was long occupied with the plan of comparing together his physiological studies and his practical experience of mental diseases in order to lay them before the public. But as so often happens in life, he yet needed some special inducement to enter upon the work, and the occasion presented itself in the autumn of 1861, when two students of medicine in Utrecht, Herr P. Templeman van der Hoeven, and the undersigned, from the want of a psychiatric clinic at our University, betook themselves to Schroeder van der Kolk, with a request to be introduced under his guidance into the domain of Mental Diseases.

He readily acceded to our request, and immediately arranged that we should come to his study twice a week, when he would read to us what he had elaborated for his book, and converse with us thereupon.

We have thus seen the book arise, have recognised its object, and we are aware of the value the author set on it, and of how much time and trouble it had cost him.

He accomplished the undertaking with assiduous zeal, as if he felt that his career was hastening to its end, and that he must bestir himself to complete the crowning work of his literary activity. Death, indeed, overtook him while engaged in this labour, but he previously expressed his wish that the work should be published.

My friend, Dr. H. W. Schroeder van der Kolk, then paid me the compliment of entrusting to me the fulfilment of his father's wish.

On account of the haste with which the material had been put together, alterations were repeatedly necessary, not only of single expressions but sometimes of whole sentences, whereby however, as little damage as possible has been done to Schroeder van der Kolk's style. The work, indeed, was not yet entirely finished (for example, in the paragraph on the cerebellum, I found two empty pages, and the author manifestly intended to add something here), indeed its therapeutical part was not even commenced. It was possible to supply this last want by two treatises of Schroeder van der Kolk's, of which one was published in the *Tydschr. der Nederl. Maatschappij van Geneeskunde* (1852) and the other was found among the papers of the deceased.

Such is the origin of this work, in which the material basis of our spiritual activity is authenticated by facts; but, also, at the

a

same time, the belief in a continuation of man's existence after dissolution of the body is guarded as his undoubted right. It furnishes what is for many, a not at all superfluous demonstration, that no anatomico-physiological researches whatever, can in any way overthrow the data derived from the moral ordering of the world, and that no danger is connected therewith, if, to the usually calumniated materialism, its claim is accorded.

DR. F. A. HARTSEN.

UTRECHT, April, 1863.

In the translation of this posthumous work, I have permitted myself, quite without detriment to the subject matter, to make several slight and also some more considerable formal alterations and abbreviations which German language and science appeared to require, although the editor, probably from reverence, had allowed the original to stand unaltered. To make up for these abbreviations, I will, in this place at least, add a completion which I extract from a letter of 21st November, 1861, the last which I ever received from the excellent Schroeder van der Kolk. He communicated to me that he was writing on the physiology and pathology of the brain, and that in my treatise on microcephalon he had found a further confirmation of his opinion on the relation between the anterior and posterior lobes of the brain, which are separated from one another by the gyrus centralis. That view was based partly on measurements which he had prosecuted on the illustrations furnished by Rud. Wagner (*Treatise on the Typical Varieties of the Convolutions of the Hemispheres*):—"I took," says he, "fine letter-paper on which squares were inscribed, drew the representations through them, then counted how many squares the lobus anterior before the gyrus centralis A A, and how many squares the lobus posterior behind the gyrus had, and obtained the following results:—

	Lob.	Lob.	
	ant.	post.	
Gauss, Taf. v., fig. 1	154	174	= 88.5 : 100
Dirichlet, Taf. v., fig. 2	203	203	= 100 : 100
Philologist Hermann, Taf. v., fig. 3	152	202	= 75 : 100
Artisan Krebs, Taf. v., fig. 4	142	206	= 69 : 100
Young Ourang-Utang, Taf. v., fig. 5	138	224	= 57 : 100
Idiot, Taf. vi., fig. 2	260	504	= 53 : 100
Microcephalus	92	191	= 48 : 100

"It is understood that this gives only a relative value, and a relative accuracy, for I measure the plane and not the arched surface, but after all, that occurs in a tolerably equal degree in all the measured brains. I am convinced it would lead to good results, if comparisons were made in this way, between the brains of persons of talent and those of less mental capacity."

DR. THEILE.

WEIMAR, 18th May, 1863.

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ERRATUM.

Page 31, lines 16 and 17, *for*—"on account of their course through *long* canals,"
read—"on account of their course through *bony* canals."

INTRODUCTION.

THE doctrine of insanity is indeed that part of medical science on which may yet be heard the most varying judgments, and which still rests on the most insecure foundation. This is not surprising. This section of pathology has to deal with mental disturbances where the most important pathological phenomena display themselves almost only by the altered mode of action of the mental faculties, whilst the state of the body is often apparently not at all impaired. If asked for the connecting link between body and mind, we might reply that we must almost give up the hope of ever here discovering a satisfactory solution of so deeply hidden a mystery. The difficulties which oppose themselves to the clearing up of the concealed indications of the *Ego*, are yet increased by the imperfection of our knowledge as to the functions of different parts of the brain. For although the brain has been most accurately investigated by anatomists, and has been described in its minutest details, yet for a long time Richerand's assertion held good, that the anatomist finds himself here in the same case as the Parisian porter, who knows, indeed, all the streets and alleys, even to the smallest, but does not know what happens in the houses.

When so little was known of the functions of different parts of the brain, it was a matter of great difficulty to arrive at an understanding of the pathological phenomena through *post-mortem* examinations of those who had suffered from mental diseases. But only rarely have we been fortunate enough to bring the phenomena observed during lifetime, into relation with the often insignificant changes which the section displayed, and to interpret the one by the other. A clearer view into this obscure territory seemed to be excluded by the observations repeatedly made, that very important lesions of the brain, such as collections of matter, more or less extensive loss of substance, and so forth, might occur, without the intellectual powers of the affected individual sustaining damage thereby.

Just as uncertain as on the connection between mind and brain, were we also on the relation between the rest of the body and the mind. The most superficial observation of temperament, period of life, and many psychical affections, speak, indeed, plainly enough in favour of such a relation, yet, did it always appear problematical in what way the body is enabled to exert an influence on our mind. Although in mentally affected patients there were found many deviations from a healthy state,