

**LECTURES ON MADNESS
IN ITS MEDICAL, LEGAL,
AND SOCIAL ASPECTS**

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Lectures on Madness in Its Medical, Legal, and Social Aspects by Edgar Sheppard

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EDGAR SHEPPARD

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AND SOCIAL ASPECTS**

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STOCKTON, CALIFORNIA

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IN 128

MEDICAL, LEGAL, AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

G. A. Muntz
April 25th 1873

LECTURES ON MADNESS

IN ITS

MEDICAL, LEGAL, AND SOCIAL ASPECTS

BY

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MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, PROFESSOR OF PSYCHOLOGICAL MEDICINE
IN KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON, AND ONE OF THE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENTS OF
THE MIDDLESEX COUNTY LUNATIC ASYLUM AT COLNEY HATCH.



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LINDSAY AND BLAKISTON

1873

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TO
GEORGE JOHNSON, M.D., F.R.S.,
PROFESSOR OF MEDICINE IN KING'S COLLEGE, LONDON,
THE FRIEND AND FELLOW-STUDENT OF EARLIER,
THE TRIED FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE
OF LATER, YEARS,
I AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATE
THESE LECTURES.

57283

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LECTURES ON MADNESS.

LECTURE I.

GENTLEMEN,

This is a new Chair, and I am a new Professor. The Council of King's College, following the example of other metropolitan schools, have in their wisdom thought fit to institute psychological teaching; and, honouring me as an old student of this place, and one largely familiar with insane life, they have charged me with the responsibility of leading you within the precincts of that domain, which is peopled alike by the wildest and the happiest, the tamest and most mournful, of mankind.

Now, you will naturally expect me to magnify the importance of that which I am about to bring under your notice, and which is the subject of my specialty. But really I have no desire to do anything of the kind. You will hardly expect me, at all events, to underrate it. For who can lightly estimate that which is of such stupendous interest, as embracing the higher part of man's nature? Whether we are descended (as some suppose) from

simian conformations, or (as the majority of men think) there is an impassable gulf, which time and development can never bridge over, between those odoriferous travesties of humanity and ourselves, it is equally certain that the breath of life has been breathed into us by Omnipotence, and we are supposed, in contradistinction from all other living creatures, to be bound for a larger and more enduring destiny beyond the confines of this world.

To have this higher part, then, deranged, "out of gear," and not perfectly *d'accord* with its surroundings, must of necessity be a very serious matter. It is my province to speak to you of these things; and the problem which I have to solve is—How shall I best fulfil the mission which is involved in my acceptance of this Psychological Chair? Not, as it seems to me, by giving you a long and elaborate course of lectures upon mental science—upon what the metaphysicians term "inner consciousness" and "spiritual essences." The tendency of the age is, unquestionably, to undue amplification. My error, at least, shall not be in this direction. For I have before me the large number of lectures which you have been called upon to attend and digest; the immense demands which have been made upon your time and your energies; the varied character of your pursuits and studies. And I do not think I shall be doing justice to you if I extend this course beyond seven or eight lectures. Therein I shall give you a general out-