# THE PHILOSOPHY OF INSANITY, BY A LATE INMATE OF THE GLASGOW ROYAL ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS AT GARTNAVEL

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The Philosophy of Insanity, by a Late Inmate of the Glasgow Royal Asylum for Lunatics at Gartnavel by Anonymous

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# **ANONYMOUS**

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### THE

# PHILOSOPHY OF INSANITY.

BY A LATE INMATE

OF THE

GLASGOW ROYAL ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS

AT GARTNAVEL.

EDINBURGH:—MACLACHLAN & STEWART.

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1860.



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## DR. ALEXANDER MACKINTOSH,

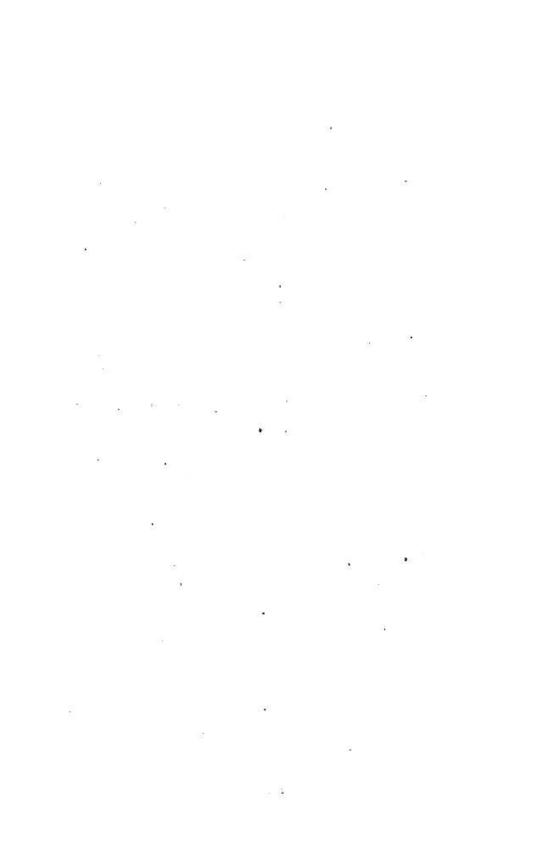
SUPERINTENDENT OF GARTNAVEL ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM.

In Token of Sratitude,

FOR THE EXTREME CARE AND KINDNESS WITH WHICH THE WRITER
WAS INVARIABLY

TREATED BY HIM WHILE A PATIENT UNDER HIS CHARGE, This Little Book

18 MOST RESPECTFULLY AND AFFECTIONATELY INSCRIBED.



### PREFACE.

PERHAPS there may be a tinge of insanity in the thought, but a strong feeling that I ought to do so for the benefit of others, has caused me to write the following pages; and in them to record remembrances which, so far as I can judge, no less powerful motive could have bribed me to recall. I have sometimes laid down my pen, thinking that the idea of doing good was merely an old delusion revived in another form, but it always returned, and would not be banished.

A popular book this never will be. Indeed, I would be sorry to see it in any young, light-hearted, joyous creature's hand; but I do know that it contains many things necessary for the afflicted and their relatives to learn—things which no mere looker on could ever know—things which none but a sufferer could ever tell.

If it inspires any worse than widowed wife with courage to persevere, even when the star of hope shines distant and dim—influences any brother to visit and sympathize with a sister whom the world has forsaken—sheds even the faintest ray of light into the deep gloom which droops around the wounded spirit like a pall arrests the hand armed with the suicidal knife—or sweeps aside the impious breath which would blow into flame that insane spark which, smouldering, lies in breast and brain of every one endowed with reason and with life, then will the dream of my ambition be realized, and I will neither have suffered nor written in vain.

It may perhaps be proper to add that I am a non-medical man; and that my claim to be heard is founded, not upon education or position, but solely upon what I have seen, and upon what I have suffered.

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