

THE PHILOSOPHY OF INSANITY

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649436958

The Philosophy of Insanity by Various

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

VARIOUS

**THE PHILOSOPHY
OF INSANITY**

[Frame]

THE

PHILOSOPHY OF INSANITY.

By A LATE INMATE
OF THE
GLASGOW ROYAL ASYLUM FOR LUNATICS
AT GARTNAVEL.

[195-?]

EDINBURGH:—MACLACHLAN & STEWART.
LONDON:—HOULSTON & WRIGHT.
GLASGOW:—WILLIAM LOVE, 40 ST. ENOCH SQUARE.
1860.

TAUB
RC
460
.F82
195-

GLASGOW:
SPITTAL AND ALISON, PRINTERS,
UNION STREET.

Taylor
Gift
6/16/03

TO

Dr. Alexander Mackintosh

SUPERINTENDENT OF GARTNAVEL ROYAL LUNATIC ASYLUM,

In Token of Gratitude,

FOR THE EXTREME CARE AND KINDNESS WITH WHICH THE WRITER

WAS INVARIABLY

TREATED BY HIM WHILE A PATIENT UNDER HIS CHARGE,

This Little Book

IS 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.

INDEX.

PREFACE,	v
CHAPTER I.	
INTRODUCTORY REMARKS,	9
CHAPTER II.	
WHAT CONSTITUTES INSANITY,	16
CHAPTER III.	
DELUSIONS,	20
CHAPTER IV.	
NARCOTICS AND THEIR EFFECTS,	29
CHAPTER V.	
FANATICISM,	35
CHAPTER VI.	
KNOWLEDGE, NECESSARY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF BODILY AND MENTAL HEALTH,	42
CHAPTER VII.	
LUNATIC ASYLUMS AND ATTENDANTS,	49
CHAPTER VIII.	
LABOUR AND AMUSEMENTS CONSIDERED AS CURATIVE AGENTS,	63
CHAPTER IX.	
A THING OF SHREDS AND PATCHES.—LIFE ASSURANCE—SLEEP— FOOD—A FEW WORDS TO RELATIVES—ANALOGY BETWEEN THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE WORLD—EPILEPSY AND PERIODICAL MADNESS—PRECOCIOUS CHILDREN—CHEERFULNESS—EXCESS —PRIDE—INDECISION—FALSE SHAME,	67
CHAPTER X.	
GARTNAVEL ASYLUM,	80
CHAPTER XI.	
CONCLUSION,	91
APPENDIX,	93