

Observations on mental derangement : being an application of the principles of phrenology to the elucidation of the causes, symptoms, nature, and treatment of insanity / by Andrew Combe.

Contributors

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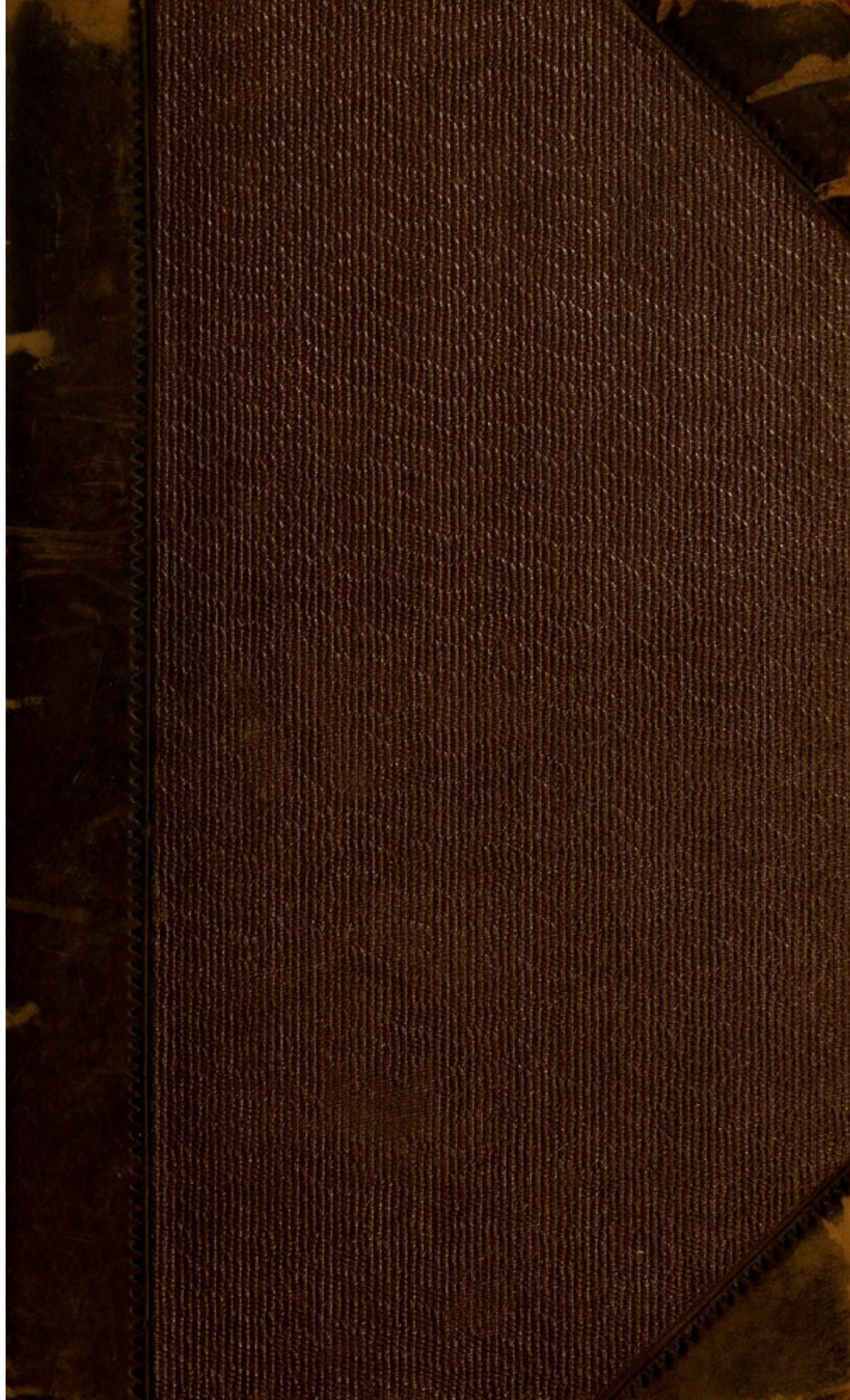
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THE COLOUR CURE.—The *Scientific American* reports from Italy most curious experiments on the influence of colours on the nerves of the sick and insane, which will be of incalculable benefit to humanity if found to be permanent and available everywhere. In the hospital for insane at Alessandria special rooms are arranged with red or blue glass in the windows and also red or blue paint on the walls. A violent patient is brought suddenly into a blue room and left to the effects of that colour on his nerves. One maniac was cured in an hour; another was at peace in his mind after passing a day in a room all violet. The red room is used for the commonest form of dementia—melancholy, usually accompanied by a refusal to take food. After three hours in the red room a patient afflicted in this way began to be cheerful and asked for food. The importance of a few general facts like these in the treatment of the insane is obvious, for there can be no question that many cases of lunacy are curable if a diversion can be made before the malady becomes inveterate. Thus a large proportion of cases that begin gently, and even many that have a violent start, may be cured quickly through the eyes. For incurable cases the coloured rooms ought to be of constant benefit by making attacks milder.

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