

Manuscript of a lecture by Kitching on criminal insanity

Publication/Creation

c 1850s - 1870s

Persistent URL

<https://wellcomecollection.org/works/xmzmmt4v>

License and attribution

You have permission to make copies of this work under a Creative Commons, Attribution, Non-commercial license.

Non-commercial use includes private study, academic research, teaching, and other activities that are not primarily intended for, or directed towards, commercial advantage or private monetary compensation. See the Legal Code for further information.

Image source should be attributed as specified in the full catalogue record. If no source is given the image should be attributed to Wellcome Collection.



Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
<https://wellcomecollection.org>

Criminal Insanity.



f
s
a
H
n
o
is
h
it
an
In
pe
H
fl
po
the
so
H

1

A Lecture on Criminal Insanity,
by John Tiltburg.

Many instances have occurred in the last few years of violent ^{deeds} ~~deaths~~ committed by persons respecting whose sanity question has arisen after the perpetration of the deeds. The ideas of the public at large, are ~~to~~ ^{somewhat} vague as to the true nature of Insanity, ~~that~~ ^{that} the greatest diversity of opinion is expressed, simply because there is no fixed & definite notion entertained as to what Insanity is, & what are the aspects which it most generally exhibits. That much ignorance exists in common as to the nature of Insanity is shown in a striking manner, by persons coming to look round an Asylum. They are either afraid of some injury being inflicted upon them by persons whom they suppose to be continually in a frantic state, or they are surprised to see within the wards persons who can utter a few connected words. These remarks apply perhaps less to a York

2/ audience than to most other places. York is favoured with the near proximity of several large Establishments for the Insane, the inmates of these Establishm^{ts} are much in the habit of appearing in the streets & shops of the City, & the neighbouring lanes & walks, ^{so} that an Insane person has become to a citizen of York, an object neither of terror nor wonder, but of kind interest & sympathy.

However, the ^{association} ~~association~~ of insanity with criminal acts, is a subject of so much difficulty when it occurs, that it can be matter of no surprise that it should be ill understood by the public, & I have therefore thought that it might be an acceptable thing to the Members of the York ~~Mechanics~~ Institute to have some account of the phenomena of Insanity laid before them, with especial reference to its accompaniment by violent acts, & especially if this can be done, as it is my intention to

do it without cumbering the subject with either
the intricacies of legal definitions, or with ab-
struse metaphysical disquisitions. What I intend
to do is to lay before you a plain statement
of facts & principles derived chiefly from
such cases as have come under my own obser-
vation, & a very abundant reward will be
my portion, if I succeed in throwing light
into any mind upon this important subject
or should be the means of rescuing ^{a single person from} ~~one rate of~~
condemnation when some poor lunatic shall
be tried for
committing a murder, or an assault, a theft or an
arson.

Insanity is a disease of the Brain, which
prevents that organ from conducting its mental
functions with health. It is not necessary that
there should be a great alteration of structure
in order to produce this effect. A mere al-
teration in the circulation of the head will in
many cases produce the same thing, & some
of the most striking phenomena of Insanity.

It appear to be produced by mere changes in the circulation of the brain: the mind being restored to health when the circulation regains its proper condition.

The sympathy of the brain with disease of other organs of the body is frequently sufficient to excite an action in ~~itself~~ ^{the mind}, incompatible with sound mind. But whether Insanity be occasioned by ^a primary disturbance of the Brain itself, by sympathetic irritation with other organs, or by a disturbed circulation, it is in all cases the result of disordered cerebral action; & is therefore to be considered in all cases as a strictly physical or bodily disease — an action of the material organ upon the immaterial mind. The function of the brain is the manifestation of mind, & if the function be deranged, the product is deranged. A sound Brain is accompanied by a sound mind, a diseased Brain by a diseased mind. From the fact however that the ^{physical} ~~mental~~ ^{change} derangement from health to disease must precede the mental derangement, by so much at least as may be necessary to causation, it does not by any means

(5)

follow that the first motions towards Insanity, shall not be made by the mind itself. — Perhaps all minds acquire either by original ^{formation} ~~compositions~~ of the Brain, or by indulgence in habits of mind, tendencies to morbid action in some direction or other. The indulgence of feelings of whatever kind in excess whether of exhilaration, or of depression, of hope or despair, or of the passions such as anger, revenge, malice, or any other evil tendency of our corrupt nature, may, if allowed to become habitual, act injuriously upon the Brain, & vitiate its delicate texture, so that it contracts a deranged action, & thus instead of a mental indulgence in a bad habit which resolution & perseverance might have overcome, a real infirmity is created, which may require very different means for its ^{or} removal. Barlow in his beautiful little work on Man's power to controul Insanity, a work which I would ~~rich~~ commend to the attentive perusal of every one present says that "few perhaps are aware of how large a proportion of Maniacal Cases may be referred altogether to ungoverned passions." & in support of ^{opinion} this he quotes the following case from Esquirol. Those pupils who attended my Clinical Lectures on Men-

6) tal alienation, saw at the Salpêtrière, a young woman who was confined September 25. 1818, & who experienced so serious a disappointment at not having given birth to a boy, that she was taken with delirium, on the first day after her confinement, & became a Maniac on the 3rd. The delirium & fury persisted for 6 weeks after which she was alternately calm & excited. ³ She was cured about 4 months after her confinement, but it is clear that a reasonable acquiescence in an event quite beyond her own power would have entirely prevented the attack" p. 88.

If the indulgence of unrestrained passions leads to violent & sudden outbreaks of Insanity, the same result may also be brought about by the thoughtless neglect of self-cultivation, & by unrestrained tendencies to irregular habits of mind, till they grow into eccentric or odd ~~habits~~^{grays} feelings, or notions, which go on gathering strength, becoming more & more imperious & uncontrollable,

Confounding the boundaries between eccentricity & insanity, & finally passing this Rubicon & manifesting themselves in declared open Insanity.

Errors of moral training committed either in very early life by parents or guardians, or by

ourselves in the ages subsequent to childhood & are indeed a fertile source of Insanity.

Errors in physical education also prove the source of Insanity. Everything which interferes with the free developement of the body, & especially of the head should be studiously avoided, such as tight bandages to the tender heads of children. The peculiar deformity described as being produced in the heads of their children by the Caribbeans has long been familiar to us. Perhaps it is not so well known, that a practise almost as barbarous & ~~immoral~~^{irrational} has prevailed to such an extent in France that Dr. Foville wrote a book some years ago for the purpose of putting a stop to it. The practice consisted in folding a handkerchief in the manner of a bandage round the heads of the newly born infants, by which they were compressed in a circular manner, & altered in shape. This ~~practice~~^{practice} was first noticed by him in Normandy when he resided at Rouen, as Superintendent of the Asylum there. He observed that upwards of half the patients there had deformed heads; & the commonest kind of deformity was a circular depression from the occiput round by the ears over the crown of the head, &

8) an elongation of the head in its antero-posterior diameter. The Lunatics in the Salpêtrière betrayed the impress on their skulls of the same practice; & Dr. Delays of the Asylum at Toulouse, also noticed that many persons in the Asylums there, had very pointed heads, which he attributed to the ~~strangest~~ manner in which the heads of children were swathed up in their first months of life. ~~(See plate.)~~ I am not aware that any practice so productive of deformity exists in this country, but the above results shew the importance of avoiding everything in either dress or habits that may interfere with the free & healthy developement of the physical structure.

Insanity is so great an affliction, in whatever form it may come, that it is worthy of especial study to avoid the causes which may lead to it. Seeing the state to which its victims are often reduced, & the ruin & desolation which it brings ~~down~~ upon the family & connexions of the patient, the responsibility is very great of those who in ~~any~~ ^{any} way give encouragement to practices or sanction the habits which may give rise to it either in themselves or others. Dr. Johnson who was of a gloomy & superstitious turn, used sometimes to have such a pre-

9

sentiment of its lowering about his own prospects, that he prayed for the infliction of any bodily disease rather than the loss of his reason. It does not seem true that Insanity causes a greater degree of suffering to the patient in every case than all other diseases. Were this the case, a Lunatic Asylum would be a scene of unparalleled gloom & misery. This is far from being the case. A large share of enjoyment & happiness falls to the lot of a family of insane patients in a kindly conducted Asylum.

Many of the inmates are insensible to the privation of any greater happiness than is left to them. Some of them have an ideal world of their own, which abounds in sources of pleasure & gratification imperceptible to their friends & neighbours, whilst others feel that they are there sheltered from the friction & annoyances which would inevitably befall them in the freer regions of general society.

The unhappy & consciously suffering forms of the malady compose happily not a large proportion of the inhabitants; & in the majority of ~~the~~ cases, some means are still left by which either a useful or agreeable occupation of the remaining mental powers may be pursued, & in a minor degree, the duties of social life, may be discharged, its privileges enjoyed, & the consolations of religion ap-

10) appropriated. But we must take a wider range of view than the ~~conventional~~ ^{individual} subject of insanity to obtain an accurate estimate of its total devastation & misery. If the blow of insanity falls upon the father of a family who depend upon him for their support, their social position, & their promotion in life, how are the hopes & the prospects of that family blighted! Whilst he pursues the phantoms of his diseased imagination, perhaps revelling in the splendours of imag^{inary} wealth, unconscious of all the poverty & desolation of his ~~own~~ ^{once} happy fireside, his wife & children feel that a blight has descended upon them, which cannot end even with the restoration to health of the afflicted parent. The lives of the children are embittered by the gloomy shadows which the possible transmission of hereditary disease throws around their future. The conscientious care which a right-minded person in a position like this would exercise must lead to a course of self-denial by which the natural instincts & tendencies of a kindly & affectionate nature are rigidly restrained.

~~The fundamental principle of the treatment of domestic~~

M. F. B.

The free development of the social and domestic yearnings, must be embarrassed with better suggestions and anxieties, regarding the moral lawfulness of prolonging a race to inherit so dire a calamity.

The attack of Insanity may be sudden, or it may be preceded by a long series of foreboding symptoms. My own belief is, that except from the occurrence of well-marked, rapidly acting causes the sudden attack is comparatively rare, and that a period of considerable duration generally elapses in which a gradual change is going forward, until some particular event or emotion occurs which produces a crisis, breaks down the slightly remaining barrier, and the flood of the disorder bursts into full daylight. Too often these foreboding stages, these warnings of the coming disaster, are misunderstood or neglected; the load of care is carried, the whole tale of heavy duty is exacted, till nature overburdened, throws off the unbearable restraint, and in too many cases, the friends and the public

#12

first made acquainted with the existence of the mental malady by the commission of some deed which in a rational man would be decidedly criminal. This is one of the modes by which Insanity inflicts suffering & misfortune upon society.

It is with insanity in this aspect that I propose to deal, & I must therefore proceed to make you acquainted in as brief a manner as I can with those phases or species of Insanity which may come before the notice of a charitable & instructed, or a prejudiced & ignorant public, to claim its sympathy & protection, or to receive its unmerited condemnation & punishment. The short description which I must give will have reference only to those forms of Insanity which are apt to be expressed in actions affecting the moral sense of society & demanding its judgment as to the criminality or irresponsibility of its commission. The forms with which I shall principally deal

13-
may be expressed in the terms Imbecility & Idiocy
of Idiocy I scarcely need speak. This last is a form
of mental unsoundness so easily recognised, and placed
beyond the pale of responsibility by a consent so un-
iversal that if an Idiot commit an act bringing in-
jury or loss upon society or any member of it, so little
is the idea of considering the Idiot amenable for his
actions entertained, that the culpability is recognised
immediately as attaching to the Community, which re-
spect to shield the Idiot from ~~exercising~~ increasing
his misfortunes by the commission of acts which convert
the sympathy due to himself into a different channel,
& to protect itself from the effects of irresponsible
violence. Considering that Idiots are often violently im-
pulsive, & in proportion to the deficiency in their
intellectual powers, that their ~~impulsive~~ ^{instinctive} propensities are
in many cases developed in corresponding force,
it behoves society to take especial care that means

~~The~~ ^{14.} provided for their safe-keeping.

We will pass on therefore to another form of mental imperfection allied in many respects to Idiotcy, but differing from it so essentially that some of the most difficult legal questions are apt to arise regarding it, that can only be settled satisfactorily after a full acquaintance has been gained with the relations of certain faculties of the mind towards each other, and with the history of the individual who may be the subject of investigation.

Imbecility, or as the term implies, weakness of mind, is a very indefinite expression, & ranges thro' a wide extent of mental incapacity, as it may be compared with one degree of mental power ^{or} another. The popular understanding of the phrase may however be taken as sufficiently indicating the limits within which an individual may be said to be imbecile. If destitute of scientific accuracy, the popular understanding may very generally be taken as

15. ~~17~~
embodying the common sense of a question. Though
by no means disposed to flatter the people's discern-
ment - at the expense of rigid truth, I still think
there is mostly in the measure of importance which
the general intelligence of the people assigns to a
particular phenomenon, a safety & amount of good
sense by which scientific rigour might frequently
profit, & I shall therefore be quite content to abide
by the judgment of the public in any case where the
unbecomingly of an individual may be the question
at issue.

In this form of mental unsoundness
there is most commonly a deficient development
of the brain, as indicated by the irregular form
or unusual smallness of the ~~head~~ head.
The average size of the human head as expressed
in measurements round different parts of it, as
given by Professor Solly is as follows:

All attempts at fixing by precise definitions the limits within which a person shall be considered imbecile & therefore not fully responsible for his actions, have failed. When reduced to practice, the evident incongruity & inapplicability of the definition to the cases in question have generally nullified it, and this arises from the great diversity in the mutual relations of the faculties to each other & the various degrees of power & integrity with which ~~special~~ mental functions may be performed whilst others remain either undeveloped or defective. The various degrees of success, dependent to a great extent upon the sagacity & perseverance employed, with which educational efforts have been attended, also additionally complicate the conditions. In most cases of imbecility, the ~~powers of~~ perceptive faculties, & the powers of comparison & of drawing inferences are the most strikingly defective. The more voluminous powers of the mind, such as memory & association,

17/7/9
The frequently attain considerable development, & these when
established under certain external conditions, & connected
with certain persons & places, are apt to remain connected
with certain the same outward relations, & are with dif-
ficulty transferred to a new series of objects or combinations.
This is owing to an arrestation in the development of the
mental powers, by which the mind having seized & ap-
propriated certain ideas & associations, refuses to haevel on
& adapt itself to new objects, as the scenes of persons change
in the shifting currents of life. From this cause it happens
that persons having this defect of mind are frequently found
mistaking the individuality of persons, & calling them by
names which never belonged to them. These names are the
names of persons formerly familiar to them, & some sim-
ilarity of form or voice suggesting them to the memory.
The name is transferred, whilst the perception & the
comparison are inadequate to feel the difficulty which
change of place, time & circumstance would suggest.
This feature, in the practical treatment of Imbecility,

18.
It is sometimes highly advantageous, transferring as it does the influence formerly gained by one person to another who might ^{never} have been ~~more~~ able to acquire it. The difference in the relative power of some mental functions over others & exhibited by Imbeciles, lead to very various acquirements in these persons. There is a female imbecile under care in the neighbourhood of this City, whose general powers of mind, are of the slightest & feeblest grade, but who by an ingenious lady-tutor was taught in her youth the art of reading simple & easy compositions. This power she still possesses, & in a straightforward ^{pleasing} manner will sit & read off easy stories as well as a person who could appreciate the sense. The general powers of this individual's mind are scarcely equal to those possessed ~~by the~~ another lady, deceased who was a person of peculiar acquirements & refinement in all that pertains to the outward decorum & propriety of conduct in a lady, possessing also a certain degree of simple dignity that claimed

the
who
ship-
unctions
barons
to hu-
ty, whose
feebler
as taught
corrupt-
straight-
ies as well
The general
qual
could
& refuse
the common
thing else
Chamell

the aspect of his associates. Her powers however ~~never~~ ^{never} reached ~~never~~ ^{never} reached the point of capacity to read, or even to know a single letter of the alphabet. With this deficiency of intellect there was a sufficient degree of perceptive & reflective power to suggest the propriety of a lady's being able to read, & she was often seen with an open book & a grave face pouring over its pages; but the book was more often found to be upside down than ~~the~~ right way up. From the deficiency in the power of comparison & of estimating consequences universally characterizing to a greater or less degree persons labouring under this form of mental imperfection, it would be unreasonable to expect either a moral estimation of their actions, or an accurate sense of responsibility attached to them. Their impulses of these persons are generally strong, the ~~animal~~ ^{instinctual} tendencies are energetic & neither reason nor judgment

suggesting any check, they are carried forward by blind impetuosity, to the commission of acts the most disastrous.

Under the excitement of revenge or anger, the most disproportionate chastisement is inflicted upon any one who offends them. The weapon first at hand, is made the instrument of its infliction, and none is too ready for the satisfaction of the present and absorbing vengeance. The lives of many of these persons would be marked by numerous bloody tragedies, the result of momentary impulse, if it were not for the protecting care they generally enjoy in the precincts of our asylums. The impulsive nature of imbecile minds, even in persons of otherwise gentle and amiable dispositions, renders this class of the insane very dangerous possessors of unrestricted liberty.

In the more ignorant classes of people, these are apt to become the sport of cruel, ignorant boys, who have, in former times, when the bye-streets of our towns, and the lanes of our country villages were frequently marked by scenes of such outrages, had much vicious excitement in escaping the perilous chase their mischievous provocations have occasioned. It will be, I hope, sufficiently

21) ^{of imbecility,} clear from the short description given, that it may be quite possible for a general, rough knowledge to be impressed upon the minds of imbeciles, of the difference between allowable and forbidden actions, - to some extent, of the difference between right and wrong. Of any abstract appreciation of what is wrong or right, from moral relations alone, the great bulk of imbeciles must be, by the nature of the case, excluded. The inability to reach this point, and the consequent absence of any adequate check to the gratification of impulsive desires, remove by universal assent, the subjects of this malady, from the condemnations and punishments which the commission of crimes would entail upon persons of sound mind. Some glimmerings of remorse are occasionally visible for actions of violence or cruelty, but to commit them is as natural, and as little accompanied with reflection upon the consequences, in truly imbecile persons, as to eat when they are hungry, or to sleep when they are fatigued. Perhaps the acknowledged imbecility of an individual, would be sufficient in any case of the commission of a criminal act under an impulse of passion, to protect him from the punishment that would legally overtake an ordinary

22
person, and I need, therefore, dwell no longer, nor illustrate
this form of insanity by the relation of cases, but pass
on at once, to a form of mental imbecility, much less
commonly recognised, and more calculated to embarrass
the judgement of persons, not acquainted with all the
modes in which mental incapacity may simulate
criminality. There is a phase of imbecility, in which
one of the chief symptoms consists, in the constant
commission of petty acts of mischief, cruelty, or vice.
This tendency begins in childhood, embarrasses the
education, mars the youth, blights the patient's pro-
spects in life, and finally leads him to a jail or an
asylum; to which of the two, depends somewhat upon
the enlightenment of the friends and officials concerned.
Many a severe flogging has been inflicted by a pedagogue,
for the correction of a vicious habit, or malignant disposition,
when the regimen of a physician was more needed to cure
a disease, than the discipline of a schoolmaster to reform
a wicked morale. Boys labouring under this form of
insanity are considered incorrigibly perverse, and after
undergoing all the corrections which ingenious, but ignorant
relatives may employ, are sometimes sent, as a final cure
to the army or to sea, where the cat-o'-nine-tails or the
rope-end equally fails to produce the hoped for, but improbable
reform.

23) The following case which I abridge from Dr. Marc. offers a fine illustration of this form of insanity, and I prefer adducing it, to mentioning any case in my own experience, because it has received the verdict of public decision. See paper A

There is an evident clue to the state of this individual's mind in the early ascertained and indisputable stupidity, and inability to receive the ordinary school instruction. In several of its features, it much resembles a class of cases which I must introduce to your notice presently, not offering so marked a criterion. In all cases where the imbecility is well marked, it is evident that there may be so disproportionate a force between the temptation and the resistance, and the faculty of drawing a correct conclusion, may be so obscured by the obtuseness of all mental impressions in general, that it would be taking on a great degree of responsibility in any one, who should be bold enough to say, that a person of this class was fully accountable for his actions. 9. The next species of insanity we have to notice is Mania; this term is used to express a very wide range of mental affections.

When a person is suffering an attack of acute mania, no one could for a moment, consider him in a condition of accountability for any act of violence which he should commit.

2 The disease could not be for a moment concealed. If the mental symptoms were in a state of repose or intermission, the physical signs would sufficiently indicate the presence of the malady. The heated countenance - blood-shot eye - rapid pulse - restless, quick movements - irregular speech - altered expression of countenance - all would indicate the presence of some powerful lesion of the nervous system, subversive of the self-command essentially necessary to accountability. Besides this, it would not be in this phase of the disease, that the action would be committed. It would be in the active paroxysmal stage, that the disease would express itself in violence or assault, - and then, the excited aspect, glaring eye, incoherent conversation, rapid violent actions, and tumultuous manifestations could neither leave any doubt of the subverted understanding, nor of the total loss of accountability. That stage of mania is the most perilous to the safety of the patient's reputation, which intervenes between the formation of the disease, and its full declaration by the developed symptoms. It may be called the period of incubation, and may pass unobserved to all but the nearest connections of the patient, and these may probably be unaware of the serious danger which is forming in the horizon. Some alteration may have been observed in the manner of the person - a lessened courtesyness and amenity

of manner - an increased activity - a loss of rest - greater impetuosity of conduct - irascibility - suspicion - a prejudice against some individual - a tendency to exaggerate the meaning of little incidents or previously existing causes of uneasiness - a greater susceptibility to the influence of emotions - exhilaration or depression from slight causes - an increased disability to throw off the cares of business or an unusual indifference to them - a degree of change in the perceptions regarding right and wrong - a loss of nice distinction as to moral propriety - an altered degree of delicacy of manner towards others, and a vast variety of other indications, differing in different cases, all going on with various degrees of steady or retarded progress, causing anxiety to friends or acquaintances, but perhaps assigned to intelligible causes, and attributed to temporary conditions of the patient's affairs, or his health - ~~the~~ ^{the} true meaning misunderstood, till the occurrence of some occasion of excitement snaps the last thread of self-control, the disorder gains full sway, and breaks out in the commission of some deed of violence; and perhaps the want of a correct diagnosis, is avenged by the sacrifice of a victim to suicidal or homicidal mania. The following narrative extracted from Kay's beautiful treatise on the jurisprudence of Insanity, affords a fine example of a case of this description. See Case. paper B.

So unfortunate a commencement of an attack of insanity leads to important considerations on the individual's responsibility. If it be the last act of the sufferer's life, society will be the more inclined to a lenient interpretation of it, but if the act be homicidal, and the maniacal condition be continued, room is left for the suspicion of simulation or voluntary exaggeration of the symptoms, in order to increase the prospect of escape; or the revulsion of feeling occasioned by awakened consciousness at the enormity of the crime, may effect an immediate cure, as we know is sometimes occasioned by sudden and unexpected occurrences, ^{during} the insane fit, and in that case, the miserable perpetrator stands before the world, in a most equivocal and painful position. In such a case the period of incubation, however short that period may have been, should be patiently and fully investigated; The patient's previous history and general tenor of ^{his} life and conversation thoroughly examined, the degree or probability of any powerful motive ascertained, and due weight given to the kind of explanation and defence offered by the accused, and if this be done, a candid and unbiassed judgment will scarcely fail to be on the right side. Cases in which *acute* mania either precedes or follows the commission of a crime, are not, however, those which most frequently exercise the judicial

27 authorities, or give rise to the greatest difficulty in forming a satisfactory conclusion as to the perpetrator's state of mind.

There are many conditions of mania, which are not attended with that excited and tumultuous condition of the understanding, presented by the species of mania we have just been considering. In these there is not the wild delirium, and rapid succession of ideas and impressions, always characterising acute mania. On the contrary, there is frequently a calmness, confidence and self-possession, pushed to the length of deliberate foresight and contrivance, simulating motive and judgment.

The many forms which this kind of mania assumes, have become much better understood of late years, than it formerly was, when it is highly probable that the gallows, as well as the stake and the faggot, formed in many instances, the method of treatment, which ignorance employed to arrest a malady, under the idea of punishing a crime.

There is a form of mania, which sometimes comes before the public for investigation, in which an over-ruling impulsiveness constitutes the chief symptom. This is not the place to go into nice distinctions or metaphysical refinements, and I will therefore, only notice the commoner forms of this kind of mania. It is very often accompanied by Epilepsy, or a condition nearly allied to Epilepsy, and

3 appears in other instances, to be the result of a debilitated nervous system. Persons affected ^{with} this form of insanity, often possess considerable intellectual ability, betray no delusion on any subject, and are capable of reasoning with acuteness and precision. How can they be mad-men then? How can they be to any extent, unaccountable for their actions? There is an irritability in their brains, which under provocation however slight, is apt to obtain uncontrollable mastery over them. When the trembling footsteps of passion invade them, these become more and more rapid, and authoritative, all feeling of responsibility is thrown aside, all attempt at self-control abandoned, the whole being is resigned to the ~~unrestrained~~ ^{unrestrained} tide of passionate fury, & the storm, in too many instances, only passes by, ^{after dragging} ~~along~~ ^{with} the life of a victim to its violence.

To one who has seen these gusts of Epileptic fury, it is of no use to reply that the phenomena described, are the ordinary results of a badly-regulated mind, given up to the sway of evil passions that ought to be suppressed. A reasonable person witnessing these out-breaks, noticing the sad contrast they present to the correct tone of mind, characterising, in the intervals, the individual subject to them, and the disproportionate rage, violence and noise, excited

21²⁹ by a slight offence, could hardly mistake the paroxysm for a gust of ordinary passion. It is very probable that persons of this description, are scarcely conscious during the ebullition, of the terrible extremity to which they are ~~driven~~^{driven}; for compunction is rarely either expressed, or felt (apparently,) for any injustice or wrong inflicted during the paroxysm.

In this direction there is a want of harmony in the manifestations of the mind; there is not that general wickedness which would produce insensibility to crime in a healthy depraved mind, nor is there that compunction which would attend the commission of a guilty act, in a healthy religious mind. In 1840 a case of this kind was tried at ^{the} York ^{fig} See paper C.

The legal dictums on Insanity pronounced from the Bench, have not always possessed the clearness, humanity, and reasonableness, contained in these few sensible words.

Perhaps the knowledge of criminal insanity, has been impeded by the conflicting charges given by the judges, on the subject of the accountability of the Insane, as much as by any thing obscure in the nature of the subject. The charge recently delivered by Justice

Wightman, exhibits little, if any advance, in the knowledge of insanity, by the Bench, since Sir Matthew Hale set

all his successors in the wrong track.

This impulsive insanity seems nearly allied to some other forms, in which the commission of crime may originate, either in defective power to resist a temptation, or in a want of discernment of the true nature of the act. The possession of a decided, persistent delusion, may so completely obscure the reasoning powers of the mind, on the subjects concerned, that the commission of a murder shall seem the most justifiable and reasonable mode of arriving at some desired end, or accomplishing some cherished project.

In other directions, the same mind may probably seem to be as clear and collected, as if no delusion existed. The abstract difference between right and wrong, is perceived with as much force and perspicuity, as by others, on all other subjects, and the contradiction is not felt, in assigning a particular code of principles to some actions, and abandoning it with regard to one. Here the test that has been laid down, as a guide to the moral responsibility of the Insane, (that a person is accountable for his actions, if he can distinguish right from wrong, completely fails. The subjects of this form of the disease, which has been called Mania without delirium, are perfectly capable of distinguishing right from wrong, and

2, 31) on all subjects but those under the shadow of their delusions, act upon their knowledge of their difference. They only become inconsistent within the precincts of their delusion, with

Here their judgment fails to exhibit to them, the inconsistency of allowing that to be right in themselves, which they would condemn in every one else, and condemn in themselves, in every other relation but this. "They are unable to discern the essential identity of nature, between a particular crime, and all other crimes, whereby they are led to ~~sap~~approve what in general terms, they have already condemned." * This seems strange and contradictory, but the phenomena of disordered mind, are full of curious difficulties and perplexing anomalies.

It will be found on more closely examining the minds of these invalids, that they are under the influence of more than one delusion; that in fact, the nucleus of the strongest error, spreads a halo of disorder over the whole ~~extent~~ of mental expanse, and though the film of the disease, be transparent, it is sufficiently dense to obscure all the region of the mind, more or less, and tends in most cases, to grow more and more opaque with the progress of time.

Neither maniacal excitement, nor the prominence of some delusion, is however, necessarily an accompaniment.

* Ray's Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity.

of insanity. There is a very extensive range of disorder, which presents a series of phenomena, having little in common with the characters of the disorder we have hitherto considered.

Of late years the name of Moral Insanity has been applied to the species of unsoundness of mind, to which we will now devote a few sentences. This name is very convenient, because it indicates that the disorder does not hold its principal seat in the intellectual faculties, but that those powers of the mind which are especially concerned in the affections, instincts and sentiments, are the chief seat of the unhealthy action. It is in these cases that the subtlest forms of insanity are presented, and it is in judging of them, that the opinions of the public and of Psychologists, are the most apt to be at variance; and it is in these cases, that the shield of science is the most urgently needed. when a judgment has become necessary, to protect them from the consequences of their moral infirmity ^{along} with ^{their} intellectual integrity. If we allow that the brain is the organ through which all the powers of the mind are manifested; and if we allow, and I imagine, there are few who would entirely dispute it, that psychical functions so different from the intellectual faculties as are the affections, instincts and sentiments, should be manifested through the

3, 33) medium of a different portion of the brain to that which is the instrument of the intellect, it ~~so~~ requires no stretch of credulity to believe, that one set of faculties may be disordered, whilst the other remains comparatively free from the diseased action. The very various degrees of relative power exhibited in different persons, between the intellect and the moral faculties, can, it is reasonable to suppose, be the result only of a difference in the physical organization of the brain, and if we grant this, it is almost a self-evident fact, that one portion of the brain may be the seat of a disease, from which the other parts are nearly or quite free. The diseased portion will, of course, exert a deranging influence over those faculties or propensities, which reside in the diseased part, and though the ~~asserted~~ anatomist has not established in detail, this connection between brain and faculty, some facts and observations exist shewing the correctness of the general view. It may therefore as easily happen in the nature of the bodily constitution, that the seat of the moral faculties may be disordered, as the seat of imagination, causality, ideality or any other especially intellectual faculty. By this view a wide field is laid open for the contemplations of the

psychologist, when he comes to investigate the range which it is possible for unsoundness of mind to occupy. The invasion of insanity may extend over the intellect ~~and~~ and the moral faculties conjointly; or it may exist chiefly in the intellect; or the intellect may be comparatively free, and the moral sentiments and powers ~~to~~ be the chief seat of the disorder. We are all familiar with states of the mind, in which the intellectual functions are feeble and imperfect from birth, constituting various degrees of imbecility. We are not so familiar with that condition of the mental constitution, in which the moral powers are deficient from the first, so as to have been ^{with the same precision} recognized as a condition of disordered mind; and yet is it not as probable that one should exist as the others? And if we shrink from attributing the original mental deficiency, under which an individual may labour, to any preventible cause of his own, how shall we with any degree of consistency, attribute a moral responsibility to a person, originally deficient in the faculties by which that responsibility is conferred upon him? With that change in the condition of the moral powers and sentiments, which arises in the course of life, and constitutes what is now called Moral Insanity, the researches of Esquirol, Prichard

Genet, Marc and many others, have made us considerably acquainted, and every day's experience of the insane is accumulating proofs of the

correctness of their ^{views} ~~deductions~~. I will cite two ~~##~~ ³⁶ cases, affording ~~ing~~ clear evidence of the respective classes of the moral disorder now alluded to.

See paper D.

I think this may be considered a marked case - for although it is stated that the grand-parents had committed the imprudence of using harsh language about the marriage of their Son, no child, unless its moral faculties were in a state of great susceptibility to a depraved bias, would have caught the dire infection so easily, & exhibited such striking inactivity.

The other case is one in which the disorder appeared at a much later period of life, & is far less revolting in its details. It is extracted from Dr. Pritchard.

See paper E, Pritchard page 50.

Now perhaps there are few persons who would not acknowledge if they had witnessed the changes in the character of this gentleman as they successively arose, that there was at least in popular phrase a "screw loose". But the intensity of this kind of disorder goes through all shades, & it is when the shade is the lightest, & the erratic conduct most resembles the ordinary impulses of crime that a decision

34/11 becomes difficult, & ~~oft~~ open to controversy.

The disorder appears to consist in some instances, of a simple exaggeration of the traits of the natural character. "Thus the conscientious person becomes painfully scrupulous, doubts & hesitates about the correctness of performing the simplest actions, weighs with elaborate care, the propriety of every word spoken, & converts his life into an almost unbroken scene of self-examination & reproach. A person naturally irritable, captious, or uncharitable, becomes quarrelsome & slanderous. In other cases the reverse obtains the economical man becomes ~~irresistibly~~ ^{unreasonably} liberal, the prudent man throws off restraint & exhibits himself publicly in company which in his right mind he would scrupulously avoid. A want of perception & a misapprehension of the acts & expressions of others which clothes everything with a false colouring will often be detected. Instead of misapprehension, there is not infrequently a tendency to misrepresentation, ascending through all degrees till it reaches an utter disregard of the truth, ^{on the loss of} ~~from a total~~ power to distinguish truth from falsehood. The ~~is~~ investing of ordinary occurrences with exaggerated & mysterious significations, an assumption of superior penetration, & in many instances a slavish subjection

to suspicion, an inordinate credulity in certain directions, accompanied by a want of trust in that which is plain & straight forward; an acute ingenuity in minute distinctions, with no power of comprehending broad principles of conduct, are also common symptoms. Besides these, some cases of this kind exhibit more common marks of Insanity in a perversion of the affections, as loss of attachment for their nearest relations. Indifference to habits of personal propriety, slovenliness of attire, & neglect of little duties, are also frequently present, but they are either not acknowledged, or ingeniously explained away as arising from some higher motives.

From the symptoms just enumerated, the transition is easily intelligible to those more recognised forms of moral insanity in which a strong propensity to commit some particular act of disorder or violence such as to slay, to steal, or to burn, is the leading symptom." +

We are thus led to that singular form of Insanity which has been denominated Instinctive ^{madness} ~~insanity~~ & which betrays itself in a tendency to commit unlawful ~~acts~~ or destructive acts. — such as to burn, to steal, & possibly it may be added, to poison.

Under the influence of these tendencies a person is often impelled to commit actions which bring him
+ Report of the Retreat near York by the Author.

~~44~~ 39. into contact with judicial & legal proceedings,
& if the apparent culprit be a person in the middle
or upper ranks of life, & betray no transparent mad-
ness or incoherence, great sensitiveness arises in juries
and judges, & jealousy on the part of the public, lest
a favour should seem to be conferred in the rich by
covering crime with the cloak of Insanity, when the
poor would be punished as ~~ident~~ criminals, as if
insanity were too delicate a disease, for the poor to en-
joy the luxury of. It may often be difficult to distinguish
satisfactorily between crime & insanity. There is in
many respects a close relationship between them. When,
however, a person is found committing an action at
total variance with all the other manifestations
of his character, when the profit from the action
is indefinitely small, & the disgrace to follow its de-
tection ruinously great, when the motives for its com-
mission must be immeasurably ^{below} ~~great~~ those for
self-restraint, & especially also, as ~~if~~ often the
case in this singular kind of disorder, the attempts
to conceal the action are either very clumsy, or very
imperfect, then a very reasonable suspicion exists that
the mind is affected with instinctive insanity.

If the power of self-control is so weak, if all the
aids & correctives of education, morality & religion,
are insufficient to check the temptation to become

paltry theft, in a person to whom the gain is contemptible, surely the mind of such an individual must be in a very incomplete & unsound condition. I would not acquit Mrs Ramsbottom of stealing pocket handkerchiefs simply because she is a lady of wealth & connexions, nor would I by any means deny the existence of just the same perversion of the instincts in the poor as well as the rich - but I do say that when a lady of education, refinement & position, with much to lose, & nothing to be gained in comparison to gain, exposes herself for the paltriest premium, to so tremendous a risk, it does very much indeed increase the probability of the act's being the result of disease.

Although it is impossible in the compass of a single lecture to go through all the multitudinous forms of disordered manifestations embraced in the term Insanity, we have seen in the hasty survey we have taken, beginning with the most clear & self-betraying forms of madness, through epileptic & impulsive conditions, intellectual delusions, diseased moral states & instinctive derangements, in fact from those forms in which every function of the mind displays a morbid action, & declares itself intelligibly to the perceptions of any witness, down to the more obscure forms of the malady, only familiar to the physician & the psychologist, that

44/46 there is a tendency to abnormal action - in other words to the commission of crimes against the personal safety of others, or the good order of society. These actions are the outward expression of the disorder, & are as naturally the results of the perverted mental functions, as a halting gait is the expression of a diseased knee or hip. They are insanity shown in action - the expression in actions of a diseased function. In the insane, they are no more crimes than the disease is a crime. If the manifestation be a crime, the disease is a crime. The most virtuous & well-meaning persons are subject to the disease, & of how many violent & injurious actions, would persons of this description be guilty, if they did not enjoy the protecting & preventive care of an Asylum, it is impossible to predicate or even to imagine. When once the mind is brought under the influence of some morbid action, whether that morbid action be chiefly confined in its manifestation in one direction or not, it must be concluded that the integrity of the whole mind is essentially impaired. The judgment in that particular direction is destroyed, the power of estimating the relations of all that may proceed from that impaired function to the results of other functions not impaired, is lost. - Thus actions which the individual would fully recognise as wrong in others, ~~are~~^{are} ~~devoid~~^{devoid} of that character in himself. In him the resulting action is as natural & regular,

442
as it is to avoid it when the mind is sound. It
is perhaps impossible to estimate the effect upon the
mind of a single impaired function, or of a single
delusion. Altho' it is convenient to speak of a single
faculty being disordered, or of a single delusion being
present, the existence of that delusion, or of that
disordered faculty, implies a condition of the whole mind,
compatible with the existence of that delusion, & there-
fore reduced in power to a level adequate to its
tolerance of that delusion, & an action which may
seem to have no reference to the area of that delusion may
be as much the offspring of the disease implied
by that delusion.

as if
Subject
ecture
upon
distinct
response
not a
I mean
with
lesion
counted
to the
easily
in no
The
the
the
of the
differ

(423)

as if it bore a more direct & palpable relation to the subject of the delusion. I do not ~~even~~ ^{mean to} assert the entire absence of responsibility in the Insane. I look upon the question of responsibility as a thing entirely distinct from legal accountability & that their ^{real} responsibility depends upon the principles & conditions not at all involved in the present question. What I mean to assert - is, that when the mind is affected with any degree of impairment, or labours under any delusion, it ought not to be considered as legally accountable for any act, whether the relation of that act to the apparently deranged function or faculty be easily traceable or not. The enormity of the act, will in no degree affect the correctness of this conclusion. The amount of enormity has simply a reference to the judgments & or feelings of others. In the mind of the Insane all actions are weighed in the balance of their disturbed faculties are equal. There is no difference in criminality between shooting a Prince

Minister, & killing an animal, between sitting the Queen on the dead, & chastising a refractory dog. Both actions are equally the natural expression of a per-
 dominating delusion, or impairment of the rational faculty. This view of the subject brings into strong relief the incompatibility of the terms Criminal Insanity. If the actions, criminal in persons of sound mind, &c. are often but - the natural & logical expression & consequence of the mental disorder, then the actions are no more criminal than the disorder, & it is in vain to argue with this conclusion that persons of virtuous & benevolent minds when well, commit acts under the malignant influence of Insanity, of an atrocious & cruel kind. Those who would expect to find in a company of even Insane persons who had committed deeds of bloodshed or violence, the ferocious aspect, degraded organization, or savage manners of wreckers, Burglars or Murderers, as would labour under an egregious mistake. There is at

(45)

Dundrum in the County of Down, Ireland, an Asylum especially devoted to the reception of Insane persons who have been convicted of crime against the laws of the land. In this Asylum ~~the~~ last-year there were 126 patients of whom 38 had committed Homicide, 11 Infanticide, 32 violent assault & 4 & 2 Burglary, arson & other kinds of violence. Now, here is a capital field for comparing the features of Insanity associated with criminal acts, & crime itself. Here, if our Theory be incorrect—we ought to have the countenances & heads of our Pikes & our other notorious malefactors. We ought to have the ferocious manners & intemperate natures of our worst criminals. This however is not the case. Dr Corbett who is the Medical Superintendent of this Asylum, states that the appearance & manners of his patients are not such as would distinguish them from any other company of lunatics. This is quite in accordance with

46
what we should otherwise expect - making due allowance for the consideration that persons of criminal tendencies may become insane quite as frequently, perhaps more frequently, as other people, & therefore the due proportion of real criminals will be withdrawn from other Asylums & congregated at Duncrum - a fact which will always give to such an Establishment at Duncrum a preponderance of ill-looking vicious & depraved lunatics.

The criminal act when committed by a Lunatic is divested of its purely culpable character. In as much it is a virtuous act & may be the result of a direction from Heaven (as in the case of Jonathan Martin) or the suggestion of a tender compassion for coming sufferings. It is the fulfilment of the dictates of a deranged intellect, & not the product of a vicious heart or a rebellious mind. The motive which induced Jonathan Martin to do so serious a thing as burn our beautiful Minister

47

was for "the Glory of God & the good of the people of
England generally, & for the good of the inhabitants
of York in particular, as when the Cathedral was
destroyed, they would be compelled to disperse them-
selves to the other places of worship, where they would
learn the Gospel preached."

Now as we have shewn & acknowledged that many
persons may be arraigned at the bar for the com-
mission of crimes, whose Insanity is of an obscure
& disputable kind, it becomes extremely important
to make the distinction between Criminality & Insanity
as clear as possible. I am not one of those who would
attribute all crime to an insane condition of the mind
& thus bring into the moral world an element of
confusion, most-pernicious in its tendency - nor am
I on the other hand, one who would repudiate
responsibility in various measure even to a lunatic
but it is no less true that there is a large num-
ber of states which seem to occupy the border-

148
line between Sanity & Insanity, & thus even Sci-
entific persons may be very innocently misled by
prejudice or mercy, where the scale is nearly
balanced, to give the weight of their opinion on
opposite sides. The case of Bussanelli, who was
executed for the murder of Jos^h Latham in
the Spring of last year, is a memorable instance
of this, ^{unfortunately} when you had Drs Mayo & Sutherland
giving an opinion in favour of the prosecution &
Dr Conolly in favour of the prisoner's insanity.

At the other end of the scale the distinctive fea-
tures are so broad & clear that no confusion can
take place. The whole history of the Criminal is
different from that of the Lunatic. "Nemo repente
fit ~~furissimus~~ furissimus." A great Criminal is not made
in a moment. His life is either a long course of
hypocrisy, to avoid the exposure of which he finally
bursts out into some open crime against others
or his own life, or he deliberately plans with

(49)

all the caution & cunning & skill he possesses, for the purpose of evading discovery after the crime he is meditating, & he generally has a clear & intelligible motive for it, & this motive is a bad motive. When the meditated crime is incapable of execution by a single hand, the criminal cautiously & discriminatively selects his accomplices, the respective part in the transaction is assigned to each, & the undertaking is carried out with as much ingenuity & skill as the combined talents of the conspirators can suggest. This is a feature of criminality which has been considered very important as a distinctive criterion. Most writers on Medical Jurisprudence assign much weight to it. Its importance is however chiefly one sided. It may exist in establishing criminality where a conspiracy has been shown, but it is not ^{often} used as establishing insanity where the absence of combined action is as evident. It tells therefore almost exclusively in favour of

50
the severe. The subject of motive has also had great importance attached to it, & possibly not greater than it merits. In one direction, I think it has had too little, that is, in regard to the power of motive, & except in the case of blind impulsive madness, the madman has a motive too, but in the former, the motive is almost-invariably a bad one. The notion of doing evil that-good may come, is not generally adopted by criminals, except the evil-gout of sensual gratification. The motives of Lunatics are generally of a higher description than the possession of another man's property, the gratification of an animal passion, or a thirst for revenge. A virtuous man is incapable of being drawn by any motive to the commission of a serious crime, but we shall always find ourselves, when judging a case where the question of motive is an element in the discrimination between Criminality & Insanity, measuring the degree

in which we ourselves can sympathise with the motive, & the degree ^{with} ~~into~~ which we can enter into the motive will form a valuable auxiliary.

We can experience no difficulty in coming to a right conclusion where the accused exhibits the symptoms of acute mania. Some difficulty may exist in the case of Imbecility owing to its being so much a thing of degree. Whatever the degree, however, the true criterion lies in the relative proportion & force of the various intellectual & moral powers to each other.

We all know - persons of slender faculties, but whose whole powers are so nicely balanced that the result is a harmonious & virtuous character. But - if the nice adjustment of the moral, instinctive & intellectual powers be disturbed, by a want of balance & a preponderance in the force of certain tendencies over their counteracting agencies, an element of unsoundness exists, overthrowing the ultimate responsibility of the individual.

Again, whenever the mind is the subject of a single delusion, of whatever nature, however remote its connection with the act to be judged of, that delusion ought to form the bridge upon which the accused crosses the river of legal accountability & passes to the region of protection on account of Insanity.

In those cases where the disease is said to reside chiefly in the moral & affective faculties without invading the intellect to an observable degree, it will very much assist the decision, if in tracing the past-history of the ~~particular~~ individual any event or accident be found to have occurred, any illness or misfortune, which has given a moral shock to the mind, or formed a turning point between a former condition & a subsequent one. If such a change of feelings, sentiments, or habits, can be traced to such an event or such a period, then the change must be assigned to insanity, & the ac-

accountability of the individual be removed. These changes are frequently to be observed, & I believe Moral Insanity is a very prevalent complaint, giving the World a vast deal of unpleasant work, which it would escape if people could discriminate a little more acutely between sound & unsound mind.

Thus then, as far as time allows I seem to have accomplished the objects I had in view, viz: to give you some idea of the very great range which the different kinds & degrees of Insanity embrace - & to shew - that in whatever degree & kind it may exist in any mind, its presence effectually destroys the full measure of accountability in that mind. The term Criminal Insanity is therefore a misnomer, it implies what does not exist that a person is at the same time a legally a Criminal & a Madman.

54 I have been unable to compress into a single lecture any observations upon the very interesting aspects of Insanity leading to the commission of suicide & a consideration of the different circumstances which would lead to a verdict of Insanity in one case & Felo de se in another. I would only say that whilst in all cases where room for doubt existed, I would strongly incline to the side of leniency & mercy, I can neither doubt the reality of felonious self-destruction, nor the injurious influence upon weak or cowardly minds of providing an unconditional immunity from the censure of mankind for one of the greatest crimes a mortal in his senses can commit, by hurrying himself uncollect into the presence of that God who had allotted him an existence of trial & probation in the earth, till he should be purified by the ordeal, & collect away when its objects had been accomplished.

Paper A

L. C. W. was the son of a Clergyman. He was placed at school under the care of several successive teachers; the latter of whom observed in him, much feebleness of mind and stupidity. His last schoolmaster remarked that he seemed to derive no benefit from his lessons; and that often when his countenance bore the appearance of great calmness and attention, he all at once relinquished that state, and betrayed by his jesticulations and movements, an entire want of understanding. He observed a revolting turbulence in his play with his comrades. None of his teachers, however, recollect any thing really bad in his character. Having finished his schooling, he was boarded with a Mr. J. manager of a foundry. He there had lessons of a Mr. D. who declares that he was very good natured, but had evinced little understanding during the instructions he sought to impart to him, and even at certain periods, he seemed incapable of comprehending any thing. The manager, an old gentleman of seventy ^{says}, that he evinced diligence, order, and even a desire to improve himself, but that during the time he boarded with him, he often committed childish actions, which bore the stamp of imbecility.

For example, he would let out the hens from the hen-crop during the evening, and then tell of it in the house,

trying to lay the blame upon other people. Frequently, at improper times, he would open the door of the vestibule, where the fowls used to be fed, in order that they might come in ~~and~~ and make dirt. At other times he would place the tumblers so near the edge of the table, that passers-by must needs throw them down. The wind often broke the window-panes in the upper stories, an accident, which had never happened before the arrival of K. in the house, nor after his leaving; for the windows had always been carefully shut; but he had found means to open them secretly, and feigned surprise every time he heard the sound of the crashing panes. At another time, he pretended that two milk-bowls, which stood firmly supported, had been over-thrown by the cat, a thing out of all probability. At another time, he put a small live coal in his pocket, and pretended that a spark from the fire-place had burnt it. He sowed oats over a bed of parsley, in order to occasion surprise, when one should spring up in the ~~stead~~^{place} of the other. Besides these silly tricks, K. says he once shut up a turkey-cock in a granary, that it might surfeit itself. Although these acts do not corroborate Mr. I's assertion, that he had not remarked any thing bad in the character of the young man, one thing may be seen, by the circumstance of K's keeping a diary

of his conduct; he was desirous of seeing his faults, and of guarding against them, also that there existed in him a desire to watch over himself; so that from this, you may attribute the provoking tricks of which Mr. Y. complains, more to childish frivolity, than to malice. However, a circumstance of little importance in itself, gave to this disposition a very dangerous turn. In the month of July, in the same year, K. threw something at ^{the dog of} the bookkeeper, ~~Mr. Y.~~ ^{Mr. Y.}, who reproached him severely for it. K. thought, after this event, M. had shown much coolness and resentment toward him, and had even induced another pupil to entertain the same feeling ~~towards him~~. Dissatisfied at the illwill of the book-keeper, and his efforts to cause others to share in it, the idea occurred to K. to revenge himself for it, by plotting obstacles to the pleasure-parties, which M. was accustomed to ~~take~~ ^{make} in the neighbourhood. K. could not find any other means of carrying out his plan, but throwing a live coal into a shed, where the book-keeper's stock of coals was kept. He supposed that the fire resulting from this, together with the alarm following it, would prevent the book-keeper and the pupil, who sometimes accompanied him, from leaving home. K. effectually gained his end, and the next day, without any reflection, he resorted to the same means, because

he said, - the concourse of people, and the declaration of every one, that the incendiary must know how to make himself invisible, had flattered his self-love. Besides he did not look upon the loss occasioned by the fire, the less so as the fuel belonged to the King, and besides he had never intended the fire really to break out. He next threw burning coals into the coal-house of the foundry, afterwards into another coal-house, and as a fifth attempt into the office, where it set fire to a box of wood, which occasioned some trouble before it could be put out. The propensity to scatter fire about, had now become irresistible, and ~~with-
stand every~~ ^{overcame all} reflection on the danger it might occasion, a danger, which must have struck the dumbest apprehension. On the 11th of July, he carried fire into a joiner's shop, which lay isolated, and placed it besides a heap of shavings near the fire-place, where several pieces of wood were lying. The fire was soon discovered, and promptly extinguished. Then he set fire to a wooden hothouse, in Mr. T's yard, and the same day, at nine o'clock in the evening, he laid some under the roofing of a cellar, where wooden rats and various utensils of deal were kept. The following day, he set fire in the same way to a wooden partition separating Mr. house from that of J. At every one of these fires, he was one of the first to bring assistance, and try to find out the author of it.

Paper B.

A man named Wood was tried for the murder of his daughter, the 30th September 1839, at Philadelphia. It appears from the testimony that Wood, who was a Confectioner, & considered an upright & industrious man, had for the last 15 years suffered much from diseases of a nervous character, & exhibited much mental irritability. Just before the event he went to New York where he was disposed to make some strange business arrangements, but suddenly left the City, neglecting to pay his board, & to meet an engagement with a person whom he had engaged to see. On the 27th of September he heard of the marriage of his daughter with a man whom he regarded as a great villain, & was much agitated by the communication. He walked the rooms in great distress, crying & moaning, & exclaiming that he was lost, ruined, man. He then shut up his shop & went running through the streets. When he returned home, he refused for half an hour to sit down, & when ^{he} did, he kept moving his head backwards & forwards. So strangely did he appear that his neighbours requested his wife to remove his razor, & offered to watch him through the night. In the middle of the night he ordered his wife to go to the front window & call his daughter by name.

for he heard her in the street crying to get in.

On the 28th he was very importunate to see his daughter, who had not been at home since her marriage. When she appeared, he raised his hands, uttered a wild scream, & fell down in a sort of fit, gnashing his teeth, & appearing to be in great agony.

He manifested no anger towards her, but treated her with his usual affection, & on parting, they kissed each other. In the afternoon, he went into the streets, looking mild & agitated as on the day before. A coloured man whom he knew he requested to come to his house the next day, though it was Sunday, as he was to entertain a large party. In the night he arose, went to his daughter's ~~house~~ room, laid his head down by the side of her's crying violently & manifesting the most intense fondness for her. On the 29th he was met in the street, walking rapidly along, by his family physician, who noticing his strange conduct beckoned him to come to him, but he merely put up his hand, made a rapid motion with it - turned round & went in the opposite direction. On the morning of the 30th he appeared quite weak, & drunk two or three glasses of Brandy. While his wife & a man servant were talking in the kitchen about confirming him, he proceeded to his daughter's chamber & shot her dead with a pistol. He made no

attempt to escape, & confessed that he was the murderer, sauntering about the room apparently quite unconcerned. Shortly he laid down upon a bed & moaned heavily. When told that his daughter was dead, he expressed himself satisfied, said he should not long survive, & requested to be buried in the same grave. He then described the manner in which he had accomplished the bloody act. It appeared also that he was a kind, amiable man, very fond of his children, not intemperate, nor accustomed to drink spirituous liquors at all, & that on the 27th, 28th & 29th he took no food, except a very little on the evening of the 29th. On his mental ^{condition} testimony subsequently the testimony throws no light. He was acquitted on the ground of Insanity.

in 10

of ap
been

To

the

to as

inter

gain

out-

John

has

year

quar

into

com

of el

he

Paper C

This case was published in the Medical Gazette in 1840. by ~~Cadet~~ Dr. Williams of York.

Alex^r W. Smith a short-athletic man, 37 years of age of the choleric temperament, is stated to have been subject to epileptic fits for upwards of 16 years.

The active career of this individual was closed by a desperate assault upon two policemen, one of whom was killed, & the other severely wounded because they interfered in a quarrel between Smith & a Market-gardener from whom he was taking away a plant without paying for it. For this violence he was tried at York before Baron Rolfe. It was stated in evidence that Smith had been subject to Epilepsy for 16 years, & he was described by persons who had frequent opportunities of witnessing these fits, as being violent & furious in his conduct, both when they were coming on, & when they were going off. In the state of excitement preceding the Epileptic paroxysm he has without any provocation & whilst surrounded

by other persons, attempted to cut the throat of his
master & seized his wife in the most savage
manner, by the throat so that she could hardly
disengage his gripe. One individual who lived near
him said that about 12 years ago he was called
in by the neighbours to assist in keeping him
down in bed where he was lying, furious, kicking
at & trying to bite those about him, & this contin-
ued for a long time. When he first went out after
these attacks into the village his wild appearance
attracted the attention of the children, & his iras-
cibility & tendency to violence at all times being
known he was teased & called by a nickname
Alick Gangerboy which contributed to increase
his irritation & in this excited state he has run after
them with an open knife in his hand when of ten
times it was with great difficulty the children
of the neighbours escaped from him unhurt.

He was acquitted on the ground of Insanity, Palmer
Holfe stating "that if it was proved at the mo-
ment of the homicidal act, the prisoner was
impelled into its commission by a phrensy or
uncontrollable fury, such as had been spoken
of by some of the witnesses, the plea of Insanity
would be equally maintained as if proof had
been given of his labouring under actual delusion.

by
Mrs
the
qu
& h
hang
I we
child
refus
never
the
you
I w
in d
where
7 year
not-c
her
seen
before

Paper D

The following recital was given to Esquird
by the mother of a child 7 years of age & is quoted by Dr
Marc. "I married my second husband. This little girl was
then 2 years of age. We sent her to her grandfather & grand-
mother, who were displeased at my marriage with their son
& had often expressed their displeasure before their grand-
daughter. The child was 5 years old when my husband &
I went to see our parents. They received me very well; but the
child who received great pleasure at seeing her father, almost
refused my caresses, & did not wish to kiss me at all;
nevertheless she returned with us to Paris. Whenever she found
the opportunity she scratched & struck me repeating "I wish
you were dead". When she was ~~at the age of 5 years & three months~~^{old}
I was encephalic, she gave me a blow with her foot on the stomach
in expressing the same wish. We sent her back to her grandfather
where she remained for 2 years. She returned to us at the age of
7 years & 4 months, when she again commenced to ill treat me,
not ceasing to repeat - that she wished very much I was dead; also
her little brother who was put out to nurse & whom she had never
seen. Not a day passed without her striking me, if I stopped
before the fire-place, she gave me blows on my back in order

to cause me to fall into the fire, she struck me blows with her fist; sometimes seized scissors, knives or other tools which fell into her hands, always accompanying her ill treatment with the same speech, "I should like to kill you," Her father often corrected her, I was often opposed to these corrections, she child had never would promise to abandon her intention. Once her father threatened to put her in prison. "That would not hinder me," she replied from wishing my mother's & my little brother's death, & that I should kill them. After this recital which the child heard with coolness, I asked her the following questions, the replies to which were made without sharpness or passion, but with calm indifference. Why do you wish to kill your mamma? Because I do not love her. Why do you not love her? I do not know. Has she ill-treated you? No. Is she kind to you, does she take care of you? Yes. Why do you strike her? To make her die. What! to make her die! Yes I wish she was dead. Your blows cannot kill

her, you are too little to do that. I know it; it is
necessary to suffer in order to die, I wish to make
her ill so that she may suffer and die, being too
little to kill her with a blow. When she was dead
who would take care of you? I do not know.
You would be badly cared for, badly clothed &
unhappy. That may be, I will kill her, I wish
her to die. If you were big enough, would you
kill your mamma? Yes. Would you kill your
grandmamma (the mother of the young woman
& present at this conversation) No. Why would
you not kill her? I do not know. Do you love
your Papa? Yes. Do you wish to kill him? No.
But he corrects you? It is all the same I will
not kill him. Although your Papa scolds & beats
you, you love him? Yes. You have a little brother?
Yes. He is out to nurse & you have never seen
him? No. Do you love him? No. Would you

wish her to die? Yes Do you wish to kill him?
Yes, I have asked Papa to have him brought-
home in order to kill him. Why do you not-kill
your mamma? I do not-know, I wish her to
die. Where did you get these horrible ideas?
My grandpapa, grandmother, & aunt-Jean said
that it was useful my mother & my little brother
should die. But-that is impossible? So, so I do
not-wish to speak any more of my schemes, I will
keep them until I grow-up? This conversation last-
ed an hour and a half. The coolness, calmness,
& indifference of the child excited in me the
most-painful sensation. The step-mother of this
little girl was young with a pleasing countenance,
her voice & manners were agreeable, she lived in the
quarter of the Jardin des Plantes, & was of good re-
putation as well as her husband. According to my
advice this child was sent into the country with some re-
ligious women where she passed three months.

Paper. E.

A gentleman of good connexions, of good education, & of mental capabilities far above the general average, was brought up under the most advantageous circumstances that wealth can command, to the surgical branch of our profession. He was fond of literary pursuits, and had rendered himself an ornamental member of Society by a careful and critical course of general reading. In his disposition, he was mild, kind-hearted, obliging & generous; & his attachments & affections were strong & ardent. Educated as a gentleman he possessed what is essentially to the character - the highest moral & religious principles, without enthusiasm or fanaticism, & the strictest regard for that ^{correct} conduct which is due to those of his own rank in society. An unfortunate excess, to which he was seduced when his studies in London were completed, laid the foundation for a total subversion of his character. He became irregular in his habits, negligent of his person, careless of the Society he fell into, addicted to drinking, suspicious of his friends, wantonly extravagant, perverse in disposition, irritable & overbearing. Indulging himself in idleness for several years, & in dissipation when he had the means, he reduced

himself to the condition in which he came known to me. My first acquaintance with him was under the effect of a long debauch, & the history of that will continue ^{and} the recent history of the man. Being still fond of reading, he prosecutes his studies quietly, but ardently, for some weeks together, towards the end of which time indications of excitement show themselves. He becomes more inclined to talk, and less disposed to read. In his conversation he assumes a loud dictatorial tone, is impatient of interruption, intolerant of contradiction, & bears with ill grace the modest expression of an opinion different from his own.

He becomes abrupt in his manners, speaks coarsely of mankind generally, & ill of all his friends & relations. Of those most nearly connected with him, he speaks disrespectfully, & holds them up to ridicule, upon all occasions, introducing their names when totally uncalled for, merely to gratify his perverted feeling. A greater degree of impatience is sometimes felt, with some bodily sensation which leads him to the use of ardent spirits for its relief or removal. Excepting at such times, this gentleman's habits are most abstemious; he never drinks

anything stronger than beer, and frequently
tastes water only, for weeks together. When, how-
ever, this thirst for ardent spirits comes on, a fond-
ness for low society accompanies it. On these oc-
casions he repairs to a pot-house, takes his mixture
among the lowest of mankind, & treats all the brick
layers & hod-carriers who will drink with him;
tells them tales, & rears to them for days & days
rights together, if they will listen to him, & ceases
only when the reluctant integrity of mine host will
draw no more for him; or, which is more ^{commonly} often
the case, when his cash is exhausted, & his credit
of no avail. During these lamentable debauches,
he seldom gets drunk, altho' drinking & smoking
incessantly; he falls into a state of abstraction
for a time, and dozes and sleeps until the un-
easy sensations within his stomach rouse him,
& impel him to call for more drink. He is condit-
ed when no more drink is allowed him, is distress-
ing; he intreats and orders, implores & commands,
grows violently enraged, experiences an hysterical
or epileptic convulsion, sinks into a chair, or on
the ground & falls into a sound sleep. This con-
tinues from 20 to 30 hours, when he awakes to the
horrors of his situation, and to the mortification
arising from his folly. No longer is to be found
the high tone, the overbearing demeanour, or the

authoritative language; he is the humblest of the
meek, and continues depressed for several weeks.

et of the
weeks.

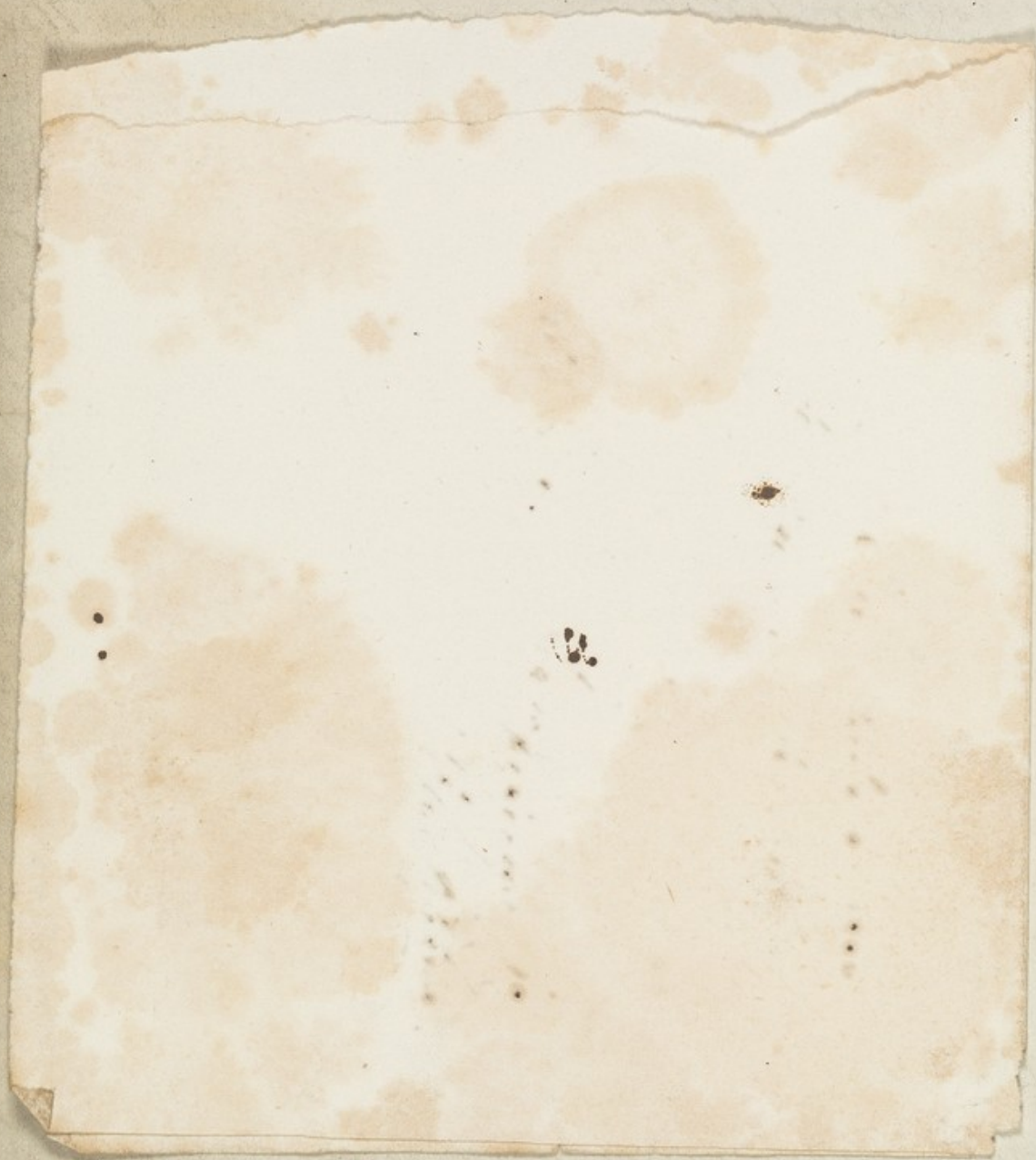


authoritative language; he is the humblest of the
meek, and continues depressed for several weeks.

t of the
weeks



authoritative language; he is the humblest of the
meek, and continues depressed for several weeks.



of the
ceks.

