

**FAMILIAR VIEWS OF LUNACY AND  
LUNATIC LIFE: WITH HINTS ON THE  
PERSONAL CARE AND  
MANAGEMENT OF THOSE WHO ARE  
AFFLICTED WITH TEMPORARY OR  
PERMANENT DERANGEMENT**

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Familiar Views of Lunacy and Lunatic Life: With Hints on the Personal Care and Management of Those Who Are Afflicted with Temporary or Permanent Derangement by Various

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**VARIOUS**

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BY THE LATE MEDICAL SUPERINTENDENT OF AN  
ASYLUM FOR THE INSANE.

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JOHN W. PARKER, WEST STRAND.

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## PREFACE.

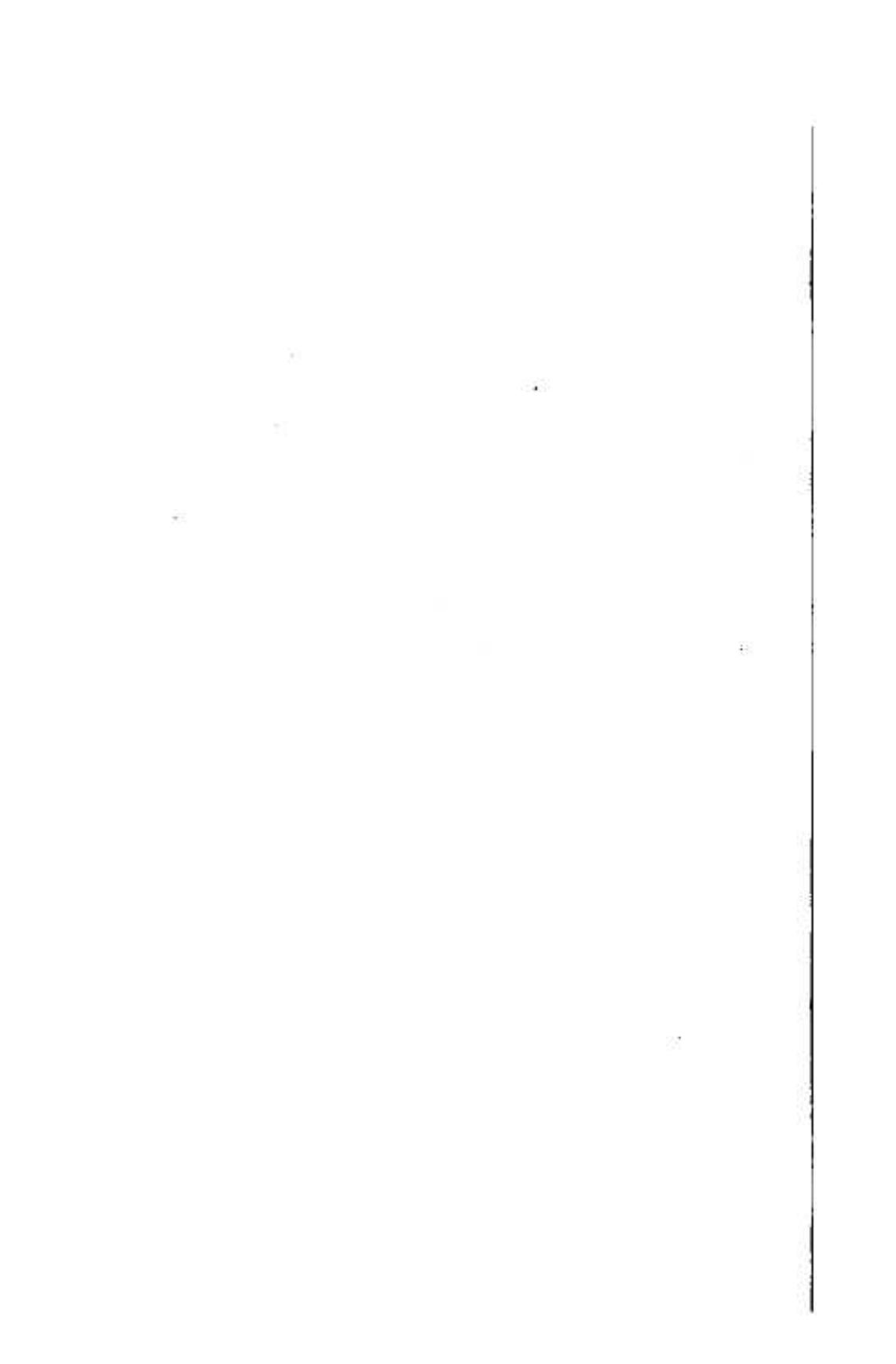
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THE subject of mental disease, in relation to its history, causes, and the line of conduct which it may be expedient to adopt towards those who are unhappily labouring under its influence, is one which is acknowledged to possess an interest both universal and permanent; yet it is a curious fact, that in these days, when information concerning other matters of importance has many easy and familiar modes of recommending itself to popular acceptance, the only way in which any special and continuous notice respecting this particular topic finds entrance into the world is in the pages of a medical treatise, journal, or hospital report, which do not meet the eye of the major part of the community, or else of a Parliamentary blue-book, the distaste to the perusal of which is so well established as to be almost proverbial. It has seemed, therefore, probable to the

author of the following chapters, that a work in which *all medical and other offensive detail should be entirely omitted* might find favour with such readers of either sex as wish to indulge a rational curiosity regarding the past and present state of knowledge on the subject of intellectual disorder, and the institutions and remedial measures which have, from time to time, been adapted to the purpose of its amendment, and yet are unprepared to encounter reports and session-papers, or prohibited the use of such books as are too exclusively of a professional character. Under this impression he has thrown together, in a volume of no very formidable dimensions, those facts and historical gatherings which will most probably interest the general reader, interspersed with such hints and remarks as are likely to be instructive and of practical value to the uninitiated. As his book is principally addressed to those who have no ready access to the works of professional writers, he need make no apology for having put prominently forward the views and opinions of some of the most esteemed modern authors, wherever he has found

them in accordance with, and confirmed by the results of his own observation and experience.

With these explanations, the author commits his production to the public gaze, in the confidence that any endeavour, however humble, to diffuse a taste for useful inquiry, or to promote the interests of society by pointing out what may be instrumental in raising a smile on the languid cheek of the hypochondriac, fixing the attention of the wandering, or smoothing the ruffled temper of the irritable among his fellow-creatures, will find excuses made for its feebleness by the considerate humanity of the critic.



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