

only. The ideas pass in rapid and alternate succession, and this gives rise to incessant babbling, unwearied declamation, and continual activity without object or design. Occasionally, they assume a menacing air, without any real anger, and this is soon succeeded by immoderate laughter. The appearance is generally peculiar, the countenance is pale, the eyes are dull and moist; the pupils dilated, and the look is motionless and without expression. There is a variety as to emaciation or fatness.

“*Idiotism*, when congenital, is first indicated by feebleness of body and of mind, and is more common in some countries, as the Cretins—The appearance may be described as follows: the skull is small and inferior in height to the skull of maniacs, and there is a great disproportion between the face and head, the former being much larger than the latter. The countenance is vacant and destitute of meaning, the complexion sickly, the stature usually diminutive, the lips and eyelids coarse and prominent, the skin wrinkled and pendulous, and the muscles loose and flabby. To these are usually added a complication of other diseases, the subjects are rickety, scrupulous, or epileptic. The eyes are squinting or convulsive, and the hearing is imperfect or totally destroyed.

“Insanity is essentially a bodily disease, and the moral causes operate in producing it, as they do in producing other complaints. It should be remembered that the insanity of females is always aggravated at the period of menstruation, particularly when it is in a morbid state.”

In his subsequent remarks, the author makes a general application of the above description of the various species of mental alienation, to the detection of that which is feigned and concealed. Thus, pretenders are unable to prevent sleep, and never desire to conceal their condition, as in the case of real insanity; “they even sometimes outstrip madness itself