

PREFACE

"ALL the world's a stage, and all the men and women merely players," says Shakespeare. "Each man in his time plays many parts."

For nearly half a century I have played my part upon that stage, and during the last twenty-five years I have looked into the eyes of all sorts and conditions of fellow-players, from the super to the star.

Simple and learned, priest and peasant, rich and poor have passed through the doors of my office, and I have looked upon such a stream of human misery as would stir the heart of a Nero to pity.

Very early in my professional career I was impressed by the evident relationship between mental incapacity and physical disease. Not that I mean to suggest that invalids are invariably, or even usually, weak-minded; but I have found that in the majority of cases the cause of disease is to be found in the brain, the seat of the intellect, and that where this is the case the work of the mind can be accomplished