

I am so nervously irritable, under certain disagreeable sights and disagreeable noises. It is not of my will, but of an aggressive influence which I cannot withstand, that, when placed on an airy summit, I forthwith swim into giddiness, and am seized with the imagination, that if I turn not my feet and my eyes from the frightful precipice's margin, I shall topple to its base. Neither is it of my will that I am visited with such ineffable disgust at the sight of some loathsome animal. But these are strong instances, and perhaps evince a state bordering upon disease. Yet we may gather from them some general conception of what is meant by mental pathology, whose design it is to set forth all those states of feeling into which the mind is thrown, by the influence of those various objects that are fitted to excite either the emotions or the sensitive affections of our nature. And, to keep the subject of mental pathology pure, we shall suppose these states of feeling to be altogether unmodified by the will and to be the very states which result from the law of the external senses, or the laws of emotion, operating upon us at the time, when the mind is either wholly powerless or wholly inactive. To be furnished with one comprehensive term, by which to impress a mark on so large an order of phenomena, must be found very commodious; and though we have adverted to the etymology of the term, yet, in truth, it is of no consequence whether