

understand and make use of language; or judge or reason to any tolerable degree; but only a little and imperfectly about things present and very familiar to their senses. The defect in idiots seems to proceed from want of quickness, activity, and motion in the intellectual faculties, whereby they are deprived of reason; whereas madmen seem to suffer by the other extreme: for they do not appear to have lost the faculty of reasoning, but having joined together some ideas very wrongly, they mistake them for truths, and they err as men do who argue right from wrong principles. For, by the violence of their imaginations, having taken their fancies for realities, they make right deductions from them. In short, madmen put wrong ideas together, and so make wrong propositions, but argue and reason right from them; but idiots make very few or no propositions, and reason scarce at all. The erroneous perception of some of the mental faculties, uncontrolled by its comparing faculty, often becomes exceedingly extravagant, and extends to the whole conduct of the individual. In such cases, lunacy is so strongly marked as to be obvious at first sight, or upon a single interview with the unhappy sufferer. The most strange, whimsical, and incongruous associations are made of thoughts and objects; matter and impertinency are mixed; and the mind is involved in the most obstinate and unaccountable mistakes. During these hallucinations, however, the perceptions seem to be, in many respects quickened, and the maniac becomes exceedingly suspicious, watchful, cunning, and adroit.(i)

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(i) 1 Zoonomia, sec. 34, 2, 1; 2 *ibid.* Cla. 3, 1, 2; Rees' Cyclo. *ver.* Mental Derangement; Locke Hum. Und. b. 2, c. 11, s. 12 & 13; Con. Ind. Insanity, 114, 300; 1 Coll. Id. 8, 36; 1 Par. & Fomb. 302, 311, 318; Rush Mind, 72, 133, 14, 257; Shelf. Lun. cha. 3.

"Oh matter and impertinency mixt!  
Reason in madness!"

*Lear*, act 4, s. 6.

"My pulse, as yours, doth temperately keep time,  
And makes as healthful music: It is not madness,  
That I have utter'd: bring me to the test,  
And I the matter will reword; which madness  
Would gambol from."

*Hamlet*, act 3, s. 4.

Sir Henry Hallford, a celebrated English physician, relates an instance in which this *test*, appealed to by Hamlet, was applied to a patient of his, who desired to make his will. The sick man was requested to give directions how his will should be made, and it was accordingly drawn, read to, and signed by him; but being suspected to be of unsound mind, after a short interval, he was requested to repeat the directions he had given, "to reword the matter," but in endeavouring to do so, his mind gambolled from it, and wandered so materially from his first directions, that he was