

sanity in which there is a general derangement of the mental faculties, accompanied by greater or less excitement, sometimes amounting to violent fury. It arises from a morbid affection of the brain, and is distinguished from ordinary delirium in this, that delirium is usually the result of bodily disease. In common parlance, a person laboring under mania is said to be mad; he loses all control over himself and requires close confinement to keep him from inflicting injury upon himself or others; in a word, he is entirely bereft of reason, and therefore irresponsible for any of his acts.

Monomania he defines to be that form of insanity, in which the mental alienation is partial. The patient is subject to delusions and is perfectly rational upon every subject not connected with his delusion—it may be accompanied with a propensity to homicide, larceny, arson or any other offense, and is often connected with the subject of religion. A man imagines that he is clothed with spiritual power and is commissioned by the Almighty to go into the world and proclaim certain doctrines, and upon the fulfillment of his mission depends the safety of all mankind; he is said to be laboring under a delusion; and when the subject of religion is mentioned in his presence becomes wild and destitute of reason; yet upon all other subjects is perfectly sane; capable of attending to business, and moves in society without exciting any suspicion of his mental disorder. If he commits a crime, he is responsible for it unless it is connected with the particular delusion. It may be accompanied with a propensity to murder, as when a man imagines that the world has conspired to take his life, and every man he meets is seeking an opportunity to accomplish it, and that his only safety is to kill all who approach him; he is said to be laboring under a delusion and therefore not criminally responsible for a homicide committed while under the delusion. But if he had committed larceny there could be no question as to his responsibility; as no connection could exist between the crime and the delusion. A leading case in point is reported as having occurred in England (5 Carrington & Payne, 168), in which a man by the name Oxford was indicted for the mur-