

me by my relative, Mrs. Balfour, having been found by her amongst the papers of her grandfather, the late Principal Baird, of the University of Edinburgh. It is evidently a reply to queries addressed to the Professor by the Principal, and is interesting as supplying Gregory's definitions of some terms, as to the exact meaning of which we are still disputing.

J. CRICHTON BROWNE, M.D.

Edin., Monday, 2nd Dec., 1816.

DEAR SIR,

I am very sorry that I have kept so long your paper (your Schedule of Queries) and the printed (very shocking) report about mad people.

Your Queries appear to me very judicious and complete. Nothing of any consequence occurs to me that I could wish to add to them.

It is not easy to describe briefly, or define in few words, what is meant either by *ideotism* or by *madness*.

A person whose *memory* and *judgment* are so weak and imperfect as to be unfit for the common business and duties of life is deemed an ideot.

A person who adopts and believes (not from false information, but spontaneously and without any *rational* or *plausible* ground of belief) *erroneous notions*, and gives way to *violent emotion* or *passion*, without any adequate moral cause, and whose looks and demeanour are particular, and wild, different from those of people who are in their senses, and from what his were when he was well, is held to be mad.

But either madness or ideotism may come on very gradually. Madness often does so. I have seen ideotism do so along with or after paralytic or epileptic affections. I have seen very furious madness supervene, sometimes suddenly, sometimes gradually, on such ideotism. Violent madness often passes into perfect hopeless ideotism. In short, sound sense, great talents or genius, downright madness and perfect ideotism may pass into one another, either quickly or by insensible degrees.

When a person has *erroneous notions* on *one subject only* or even on a *very few particular subjects*, but has *just notions* on other subjects (like Don Quixote on "Knight Errantry," or "Simon Brown about his soul being miraculously taken away from him," &c., &c.), it is called in our *slang* language Melancholia; when a person has *erroneous notions*, very generally on many or all subjects; when his thoughts are not connected in the usual manner (by their natural or habitual relations), but are desultory and rapid, so that he has not the natural command of them, we call such a disorder Mania. This much more frequently than Melancholia is connected with violent passion and ferocity.

Yours most truly,
J. GREGORY.