

OBSERVATIONS
ON
MENTAL DERANGEMENT.

OBSERVATIONS

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ON

MENTAL DERANGEMENT:

BEING AN APPLICATION OF THE PRINCIPLES OF
PHRENOLOGY TO THE ELUCIDATION OF THE
CAUSES, SYMPTOMS, NATURE, AND TREATMENT
OF INSANITY.

BY ANDREW COMBE, M. D.

EDINBURGH,

JOHN ANDERSON JUN. 55. NORTH BRIDGE STREET; AND
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INTRODUCTION.

WHEN yet a student, I joined in the general burst of ridicule with which the phrenological doctrines were received at the time of Dr SPURZHEIM's visit to Great Britain in 1816–17, a piece of conduct which is explained, though far from justified, by the circumstance, that I was then totally unacquainted with their nature and import. My attention was first seriously turned to the examination of these doctrines during my residence at Paris, in the autumn of 1818, when Dr SPURZHEIM's *Observations sur la Phrenologie*, then just published, were happily put into my hands, at a time when, from there being no lectures in any of the Parisian schools, I had ample leisure to peruse that work deliberately. I had not proceeded far before I became impressed with the acuteness and profundity of many of the author's remarks on the varied phenomena of human nature, and with the simpli-