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Psychiatry in Pictures

The persecuted

Stephen Wilson 

Albert Londres was a pioneer of investigative journalism. Travelling across France in 1925, he managed to gain access to a variety of institutions housing people who were mentally ill, sometimes using subterfuge and often met with official resistance. His findings, illustrated by Rouquayrol were reported in *Le Petit Parisien*, and later published in book form by Albin Michel (1925) under the title *Chez Les Fous*.¹ His descriptions are compassionate and ring true.



Fig. 1 By artist George Rouquayrol, image in public domain.

- Come on, Madame Garin, walk a little, go for a stroll, chase away your nasty thoughts.
- How can I, sir, when it's I who declared war! I've caused the death of millions of men. There isn't a more hideous criminal than me, I shouldn't be here, no, not here.
- And where should you be, Madame Garin?
- Doing hard labour.

Reference

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