

Psychological Medicine

MONOGRAPH SUPPLEMENT 11

Arthur Wigan and
The Duality of the Mind
by Basil Clarke

Cambridge University Press

Arthur Wigan and *The Duality of the Mind*

Arthur Wigan published *The Duality of the Mind* in 1844 to argue that the human mind is conditioned by our having, in the cerebral hemispheres, two independent brains. It was a wide-ranging, though inconsistent book, which roused interest at the time and has become relevant again since the effects of split-brain operations raised issues Wigan had discussed.

The first part of the monograph is a biographical account of Wigan's origins and his previously unknown life, his career as a general practitioner in London and Brighton (where he set up a free dispensary for the poor) and the books and articles he undertook after retirement. The writing of his work on duality is traced in some detail.

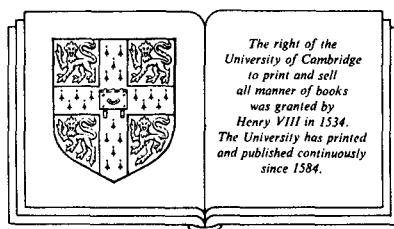
The second part deals with the reception of the book, and then considers the fate of Wigan's ideas concerning brain function against the scientific interests and published case studies of his period, and in relation to developments in knowledge of brain function during the nineteenth century – including the early fashion for phrenology, mid-century French work on the location of functions and the subsequent work of others, including, Brown-Séquard, Maudsley and J. Hughlings Jackson. Later theories and general ideas of relevance are then discussed.

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