

## Psychiatry in pictures

EDITED BY ALLAN BEVERIDGE

Do you have an image, preferably accompanied by 100 to 200 words of explanatory text, that you think would be suitable for Psychiatry in Pictures? Submissions are very welcome and should be sent direct to Dr Allan Beveridge, Queen Margaret Hospital, Whitefield Road, Dunfermline, Fife KY12 0SU, UK.



*The Bottle, Plate VIII. The bottle has done its work – it has destroyed the infant and the mother, it has brought the son and the daughter to vice and to the streets, and has left the father a hopeless maniac (1847). George Cruikshank (1792–1878)*

This is the last plate in Cruikshank's series on the dire consequences of intemperance (Plate III of which was featured in the January issue of the *Journal*). In the preceding plates the family was depicted as falling down the social ladder. They had been made homeless, the baby had died from want and the husband was having violent quarrels with his wife. In the penultimate plate he murders his wife 'in a state of furious drunkenness'. The last plate is set in a lunatic asylum where the father sits beside an iron cage, which is used to restrain inmates. He has now been reduced to a state of irreversible insanity. His children are visiting him. They too have been brought low. The rakish demeanour of the son and the sprig of flowers in his mouth are meant to suggest an impending course of dissipation. Outside the room are two other inmates and an attendant. The picture is Cruikshank's modern reworking of the Bedlam plate from Hogarth's *The Rake's Progress* (1735). Thanks to Dr Bruce Ritson.