

From the History & Archives Collection: Pictorial History of Psychology and Psychiatry

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This month's History and Archives Section includes excerpts taken from A.A. Roback and Thomas Kiernan's [A Pictorial History of Psychology and Psychiatry](#). Originally published in 1969, this book is from the collection of the Delaware State Hospital.

Figure 1 depicts the conditions experienced by psychiatric patients in 18th century. Shunned by society and sent to live in State Institutions, life was bleak for individuals with mental disorders during this time period. This particular image provides a window into life behind the walls of Bicêtre Hospital, in Paris, France. Bicêtre had a dark history riddled with instances of maltreatment inflicted upon its psychiatric patients. Patients were often shackled to walls and pipes, denied access to baths and restrooms, and were subjected to physical abuse and experimentation.

Figure 1. Conditions in Bicêtre Hospital, Paris, France.



Despite this reputation, Bicêtre Hospital also gained infamy for more positive events, particularly the location for the groundbreaking work of Dr. Phillippe Pinel (Figure 2). It was at this hospital in 1793, where Dr. Pinel was credited as being the first physician to deliver humane treatment to the mentally ill. Today, Pinel's humane approach is known as "moral therapy." Additionally, Pinel is regarded by some as the "father of modern psychiatry" for his contributions in the classification of mental disorders.

Figure 2. Dr. Phillippe Pinel



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