
Psychiatry in Pictures feature in the *British Journal of Psychiatry*

![Mania of Vanity](image)

**Front cover image for July 2015**

**Artist:** William Bartholomew (1819-1881)

**Image:** *Mania of Vanity*

**Date and size:** 1854-5, 76 x 56 cm

**Medium and support:** pen and ink, with pencil underdrawing, on paper

**Credit line:** Courtesy of The University of Edinburgh Art Collection
Mania of Vanity

This striking portrait represents Mary Lawrie, a patient at the Southern Counties’ Asylum, the pauper section of Crichton Royal Hospital in Dumfries. The wife of a shepherd, she was admitted in February 1840; the cause of her ‘mania of vanity’ was given as the birth of a child. Often violent, but by nature good-humoured and ‘correct’, she died in February 1873.

It is one of eleven surviving patient drawings commissioned by Crichton’s Medical Superintendent, Dr W. A. F. Browne (1805-1885), to illustrate his 1854-5 series of lectures on ‘the physiognomy of different forms of insanity’. The artist was his patient William Bartholomew (1819-1881), an Edinburgh hatter and engraver who came to Crichton in September 1853 suffering from ‘acute mania’. This drawing is included in the new exhibition ‘A Hidden Gem: Dr W. A. F. Browne’s Collection of Patient Art at Crichton Royal Hospital, Dumfries’ at Gracefield Arts Centre, Dumfries, 18 July-22 August 2015.

(153 words)

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