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## Cover picture

*Unidentified female or A. K.*  
(1837) by A. Johnston (1815–1891).  
Melancholy/Propensity to Suicide.  
Bethlem. Religious.

This is the original drawing by the Scottish painter Alexander Johnston for Plate XXXIX of Sir Alexander Morison's *The Physiognomy of Mental Diseases* (1840) which featured portraits of patients with a wide variety of psychiatric symptoms and conditions. Several patients had disorders of movement. Some were immobile and said to exhibit 'catalepsy'. Catalepsy was defined by British alienists as a condition in which the patient was unable to change the position of a limb, while another person could place the muscles in a state of flexion or contraction. The text accompanying this portrait of 'A.K., aged 20yrs, unmarried', reads:

. . . her disorder . . . is attributed to overstudy of religious subjects, respecting which she has imbibed erroneous ideas – she never speaks, and would, if allowed, remain always in one position; her eyes are continually fixed on the ground, her eyelids being half-closed (p. 109).

The original drawings are kept at the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, whom we thank for permission to feature this portrait.

We are always looking for interesting and visually appealing images for the cover of the *Journal* and would welcome suggestions or pictures, which should be sent to Dr Allan Beveridge, British Journal of Psychiatry, 21 Prescot Street, London E1 8BB, UK or [bjp@rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:bjp@rcpsych.ac.uk).

