

# POPULAR FICTION AND BRAIN SCIENCE IN THE LATE NINETEENTH CENTURY pdf

## 1: Popular 19th Century Fiction Books

*"Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century establishes the genre of the gothic romance as a vital component of Victorian scientific culture, indisputably demonstrates the importance of literary products as primary sources for interpreting the history of neurology, and sets an impeccably high standard for scholarship in.*

Subject to statutory exception and to the provisions of relevant collective licensing agreements, no reproduction of any part may take place without the written permission of Cambridge University Press. Literature and science in Great Britain History 19th century. Literature and medicine in Great Britain History 19th century. Mind and body in literature. Gothic revival Literature in Great Britain History 19th century. Jekyll reads dangerously like an experiment out of the Lancet. Hyde resemble Victorian case studies in its form and structure, but its core idea may also have originated from medical literature. Whether or not he knew of these developments, his novella certainly engages with the same issues, taking up for instance the question of moral responsibility raised by Proctor. Instead, Jekyll and Hyde creatively intervenes in late-Victorian debates about dual personality and its alleged cause, bilateral brain hemisphere asymmetry. Moreover, one personality was right-handed while the other was left-handed, suggesting that each was dominated by a separate brain hemisphere. Victorian dual-brain theory suggested that one could possess a maximum of two distinct personalities, one stemming from each brain hemisphere. Burot began treating the aforementioned Louis V. Vivet and conducting a remarkable series of experiments. By exposing Vivet to various narcotic substances, magnets, and metals, the doctors elicited eight distinct personalities, each of which had a separate memory. A History of the Pioneers and their Discoveries, where he suggests that Dr. For instance, Myers relates that Louis V. In the following paragraphs, I will do just that. Taken together, these writings suggest why dual-brain theory provoked a certain theological unease even as it purported to explain hitherto misunderstood medical phenomena. One might even suggest that Stevenson here anticipates the phenomenon of multiplex or multiple personality. While Gall said that he never intended to challenge the teachings of the Catholic Church, his works were nonetheless placed on the Catholic Index of forbidden books, and he was refused a Christian burial. Scientists like Paul Broca, John Hughlings Jackson, and David Ferrier used evidence from autopsies and experiments on live animal brains to bolster their claims about hemispheric functioning. Since these traits were traditionally associated with upper-class European males, it was supposed that the left hemisphere predominated within this demographic group. Predictably, the right brain became associated with supposedly inferior groups such as women, non-whites, maniacs, and criminals, in whom it was supposed to predominate. Yet the right brain was also thought to have an important role in vital functions such as sleep, emotion, unconscious thought processes, and instinctual drives. In other words, from a late-nineteenth-century perspective, Jekyll represents the pinnacle of evolution, while Hyde approaches its nadir. In a strikingly predictable way, Jekyll exhibits left-hemisphere attributes masculinity, whiteness, logic, intelligence, humanness, while Hyde embodies right-hemisphere traits femininity, racial indeterminacy, madness, emotion, and animality. Jekyll explains that both he and Hyde existed before the discovery of the salt that enabled them to lead separate lives: Moreover, the passage implies that duality is potentially consistent with mental health, and not necessarily a symptom of insanity. As Harrington has described, the s and s witnessed a revival of the idea that balanced hemispheres were necessary for mental health. Hemispheric imbalance was thought to be particularly dangerous when the development of the right hemisphere outpaced that of the left. While Henry Maudsley and other biological determinists denied this possibility, moral managers such as Wigan asserted that the mentally ill could realign their imbalanced hemispheres. Various exercises were recommended for the purpose of strengthening one or both hemispheres. Notice that the left side of the brain has atrophied considerably. Initially, the left-brained Jekyll overmasters his animalistic right-brain urges, necessitating the creation of the hedonistic secondary persona. And hence, as I think, it came about that Edward Hyde was so much smaller, slighter and younger than Henry Jekyll.

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Predictably, Hyde increasingly predominates once he is unleashed with greater frequency. In each instance, he inadvertently creates the brain asymmetry that leads to his mental illness and criminality. Physicians diagnosed hemisphere imbalance by looking for tell-tale bodily symptoms like left-handedness, signs which also surface in *Jekyll and Hyde*. Proctor was a close friend of Grant Allen, whose writings form the subject of Chapter 3. He was also the founder and editor of *Knowledge*: She busied herself about the house, paid calls, and behaved like a healthy young girl of her age. In this respect, both of them conform to the prevailing clinical model of dual personality during the nineteenth century. During her second condition, she abandoned herself to him and became pregnant. During her period of normal life, she ignored him. In the unfortunate subjects of such abnormal conditions of the brain, the disturbance of the sensory and intellectual faculties is not unfrequently accompanied by a perturbation of the moral nature which may manifest itself in a most astonishing love of lying for its own sake. Neither life knows anything of the other. In fact, dual personality was considered to be an unusual form of hysteria throughout the nineteenth century. Instead, he fused dual-brain theory and literary form, creating a Gothic story that parodies the supposedly objective format of the medical case study. Despite its conformity to certain Gothic conventions, the novella succeeds in mimicking and critiquing the rational form of the case study through its seemingly dispassionate narrative voice. A *Journal of Neurology* "present", the typical case study commences with an ostensibly objective third-person narrative, written by one or more scientists, with anecdotal and numerical evidence and illustrations appended toward the end of the piece. In this instance, the fragmentary, epistolary structure of the Gothic novella neatly coheres with the traditional components of the case study. By making his diseased protagonist a physician, Stevenson ironized the traditional relationship between objective scientist and abject patient. As Hacking points out, psychological case studies after Freud began to challenge the idea of an objective medical collectivity: But despite its inventive, forward-thinking aspects, *Jekyll and Hyde* takes a conservative stance with regard to cerebral localization theory. Stevenson transformed the polarities of the double brain into a tale of

Downloaded from Cambridge Books Online by IP In this context, it is important to keep in mind that *Jekyll and Hyde* was written at exactly the same time that dual personality fractured into multiple personality disorder with the case of Louis Vivet.

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## 2: Anne Stiles (Author of Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century)

*Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century* is, after all, most likely to be read by those familiar with the period. Chapter 4, 'H. G. Wells and the evolution of the mad scientist,' makes an excellent case in light of contemporary science.

Cambridge University Press, , pp. There is something in this exploration to which every reader is bound to relate. The latter two are particularly interesting - though their novels are less well-known, the themes within them are still deeply familiar. This vampire is mechanistic rather than naturalistic. Similarly, she questions previous critical examination of Stevenson: She cites a similar lapse in scholarship on Corelli: Brain Science sparks these connections so readers need not fear becoming automata themselves. It seems unnecessary for Stiles to apologise for facts of history. The latter simply made its way into pop culture more permanently than the former. Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century is, after all, most likely to be read by those familiar with the period. Wells was thoroughly informed about developments in brain science, particularly the cutting-edge neurological work of Bouillard and Broca; he was critical of much of it. The Anti-Vivisection Act is given the necessary attention throughout the book, including this chapter: Stiles is usually careful to consider Victorian practises, such as vivisection, in their time, but there is the tricky question of how necessary it is to address the modern applications of these arguments when Brain Science devotes most of its pages, as it should, to making an excellent case for these novels in late-Victorian scientific culture. Perhaps unsurprisingly, Stiles is most at risk of becoming distracted by present-day application of these ideas when examining Wells, the most futuristic author of the lot. Towards the end of the chapter, Stiles adds a brief section: It should be an entire book in itself. It is a difficult line to walk: Despite the temptation for this reviewer to become distracted by the present-day relevance of nineteenth-century knowledge of the brain, Brain Science does an excellent job of locating late-Victorian scientific developments within its selection of Gothic romances. Her current project is a poetry play about and eighteenth-century anatomical wax models. Search this site The British Society for Literature and Science is a scholarly society which promotes interdisciplinary research into the relationships of science and literature in all periods. Membership is open to anyone interested in the field, regardless of geographical location.

## 3: Anne Stiles, Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century

*In short, Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century will charm audiences while invigorating scholarly discussions about the common context of Victorian science and literature.*

## 4: Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century, PDF document - DocSlides

*spring determinism in popular fiction. But the book has one further quiet, but persistent, ambi - tion. stiles draws analogies between the brain science of the late nineteenth century and.*

## 5: Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century - Anne Stiles - Google Books

*Title: Popular Fiction and Brain Science in the Late Nineteenth Century Volume 78 of Cambridge Studies in Nineteenth-Century Literature and Culture.*

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