Isaac Ray Encyclopedia Article

Isaac Ray

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Isaac Ray

1807-1881

American physician and pioneer of psychiatry, among the leading authorities of his day on the relation between mental illness and the law. Ray was co-founder (1844) of the Association of Medical Superintendents of American Institutions for the Insane, later the American Psychiatric Association; superintendent (1845-1866) of Butler Hospital in Providence, Rhode Island; and author of *A Treatise on the Medical Jurisprudence of Insanity* (1838), *Mental Hygiene* (1863), and *Contributions to Mental Pathology* (1873).