William Battie Encyclopedia Article

William Battie

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William Battie

1704-1776

English physician who published one of the first textbooks on psychiatry, the *Treatise on Madness*, in 1738. This marked the inauguration of psychiatry as a formal medical discipline. Psychiatry, which is now a recognized medical practice, has a number of tools to use in the fight against mental illness, considerably more than existed in the eighteenth century. Much of this progress began with the work of Battie.