

Scene opens with Professor Gregory at his desk, fountain pen in hand, pondering over what to write on a stack of papers. His assistant Smithers walks in looking downward with a concerned look on his face.

Professor Gregory: Ah yes, there you are Smithers...we need a way to raise the attendance of our lunatic asylum, lets create a list of new reasons for admission. [Professor Gregory picks up stack of paper and continues pondering]

Smithers: Great idea sir, where should we start.

Professor Gregory: I should say with self-restraint, a civilized person has it, a lunatic would not, especially in business matters. [scribbles down on paper] Next, I say we go onto injury.

Smithers: The only injury I can think of is being kicked in the head by a horse sir.

Professor Gregory: Fine idea my boy, marvelous. [scribbles] The next topic should be women's issues, because we all know in this highly advanced age of 1864 that the vast majority of lunatics are women.

Smithers: Yes sir.

Professor Gregory: Females in general have a predisposition to have lunacy, everyone knows that, [waves hand around head indicating everyone] especially [points at Smithers] when being ill-treated by a husband. [scribbles] Next, we're moving on to the issues of...for lack of a better word...the lady of the night.

Smithers: are you sure sir?

Professor Gregory: [turns around and back-hands Smithers with the stack of papers] Of course! "THOSE" type of women are always going crazy. So, I'm putting down imaginary female trouble, hysteria, nymphomania, and immoral life...I'm covering all the bases. [scribbles]

Smithers: But sir, what about women who go to church?

Professor Gregory: great question Smithers, those women often get jealous of other women in the church, because...they're women. [scribbles] Also, if the few women that don't get jealous are still ok, they get lazy around the home and stop doing the jobs their supposed to, like cooking, and cleaning. [scribbles]

Smithers: Great job sir, however, my wife is not lazy in the slightest, and she's a good God fearing woman.

Professor Gregory: yes Smithers, she is, as well are many other women, however, those other women over excite themselves with things like novel reading, their sons getting married, and over study of the Good Book. Which overtaxes their mental powers and causes periodical fits. [scribbles frantically]

Smithers: Sir, some women I've noticed in my wife's social circles do not overly study the Bible, and yet get very excited during Reverend Porter's church sermons, almost fainting right there in church.

Professor Gregory: Perfect! [raising pen like a sword] [scribbles]

Smithers: What about women who have their husbands desert them...for one reason or another?

Professor Gregory: Good idea, they can succumb to fits, or get involved with “*bad company*” [“bad company” said in undertone], which can lead to dissolute habits [scribbles]

Smithers: Ok, what about women who don’t have their husbands desert them, but are still having issues with him.

Professor Gregory: [slaps him in the back of the head with papers] Smithers...its clearly the woman’s fault. Their just having domestic troubles because she’s being egotistical and only thinking about herself. Which would obviously make the man angry and cause him to have his way with her. That’s his right, he’s the man of the house...and if such treatment causes his wife to run out bare bottomed into the street speaking nonsense , even if it was hereditary, we’ll get her on that too! [scribbles frantically as saying...No civilized woman would run out in nothing but her birthday suit talking of flying machines and magic picture boxes.] [when finished saying that, dots *i* on paper for emphasis] Which brings me to pregnancy.

Smithers: Yes sir.

Professor Gregory: A woman should be honored to carry a man’s seed. She should in no way try to expel that seed from her body. Anyone who tries to, is clearly insane. [scribbles]

Smithers: Sir, didn’t we already do imaginary female trouble?

Professor Gregory: Hmm...[looks over papers, points at spot near top of paper] ah yes, we have, good memory Smithers, however, this is no longer imaginary, this is real. [scribbles]

Smithers: Yes...But sir, what about the old, who can no longer have children, or the barren?

Professor Gregory: Good idea Smithers, the old would be a bit batty, prone to epileptic fits, dropsy, brain fever and superstition, which could lead them to hurt themselves or others, I once saw a grandma try and take a pistol from an officer and attempt to shoot her own daughter!

Smithers: We need to prevent this sir!

Professor Gregory: Exactly, but why stop at the threat of shooting her daughter, the grandma could have shot her own husband and then started a rumor that it was Reverend Porter! [scribbles]

Smithers: How dare she do that!, Reverend Porter is a good man.

Professor Gregory: That he is Smithers, that he is. This medical diagnosis was most likely caused by a gathering in the head...that, or as a child she had either smallpox, scarlatina, or venereal excesses, which years later led to her obvious sexual derangement. [scribbles] I mean come on, she was wearing trousers.

Smithers: Trousers sir?

Professor Gregory: Yes Smithers, trousers, on a woman. Can you imagine anything so scandalous?

Smithers: I cannot sir.

Professor Gregory: You know Smithers, I don’t think that woman had a very high intellect...it might have contributed to her lunacy. [scribbles]

Smithers: Sir, at the rate we're going, we're going to have no one but women in our asylum.

Professor Gregory: You're right Smithers, we need to come up with reasons for men to be admitted.

Smithers: Yes.

Professor Gregory: Let's start with the lowest of the low...the imprisoned. [scribbles] Now, the imprisoned don't have women to comfort them, so they end up comforting themselves, which in the dirty environment of prison, can lead to syphilis...and even if it doesn't, some prisoners are in there for 30 years or more.

Smithers: That is true sir, plus there are drugs in prison, like the opiums, and the cigars, and the whiskey, and the [snaps fingers couple times trying to remember] stimulants!, that's it, like snuff.

Professor Gregory: It's stimulants [emphasizing the T] Smithers, but I do agree with you. Prisoners could do anything with drugs, they could even eat them...leading to breathing troubles such as asthma, or digestive problems like the bloody flux.

Smithers: What's next sir?

Professor Gregory: Next Smithers, is the regular man, like you and me. Now, politics in general are hard to deal with, and anybody who gets excitement from it is clearly off his rocker. [scribbles]

Smithers: That is true sir, I don't like politics any more than the next guy, and get no enjoyment out of them, in fact, I believe that they are a potential source for bad habits to form.

Professor Gregory: I completely agree Smithers. I feel the same way about business. Business is no good for one's nerves. [scribbles] As are lawsuits, no one likes getting them, let alone losing them. My goodness, losing one would put anyone over the edge, and likely make a fever come on.

Smithers: That is true sir, my brother-in-law once lost a lawsuit, we found him in his bathtub with a needle in his arm a week later...What's next sir?

Professor Gregory: Next Smithers, is the hero, the man's man, the educated man.

Smithers: Yes sir.

Professor Gregory: Now, this type of derangement is not common among men, but it does happen under certain circumstances...war. Some men do not want war, myself among them, but unfortunately are pressganged into her majesty's army nonetheless. And once in the army, his fellow soldiers can spot a deserter from a mile away... and thus [holds his finger up for emphasis], humiliates him by stripping him butt naked in front of his fellow officers and leaving him out in the cold to rot.

Smithers: Good heavens sir, how does one ever survive such torment of the soul?

Professor Gregory: Unfortunately Smithers, most do not, by the time they get to us, they've gone off the deep end. They first try and get injured by falling off their horse, and if that doesn't work, they try and get themselves shot in the line of duty. I've even seen people try and join the salvation army [shutters]...nasty place.

Smithers: I didn't know it was that bad sir. But I did come to you hoping you'd help me with something, all of this is starting to rattle my nerves.

[while Smithers is saying the previous line Professor Gregory says...]

Professor Gregory: oh, there's one more symptom of insanity, the losing of ones nerves. [each finishing (nerves) at the same time]

[then each slowly turn their heads to each other, Professor Gregory has a concerned look, Smithers has a frightened look]

[Professor Gregory throws up the papers and pen, points at Smithers, and yells lunatic!]

Then tackles Smithers onto a couch.