Contents

Acknowledgments • ix

INTRODUCTION • I
Sanative Culture

CHAPTER ONE • 23
Brothers and Sisters of Asylumia
Literary Life in the New York State Lunatic Asylum

Saneface Minstrelsy
Blacking Up in the Asylum

CHAPTER THREE • 79
Bardolatry in Bedlam
Shakespeare and Early Psychiatry

CHAPTER FOUR • 103
Emerson's Close Encounters with Madness

CHAPTER FIVE • 143
What's the Point of a Revolution?
Edgar Allan Poe and the Origins of the Asylum

CHAPTER SIX • 169
Out of the Attic
Gender, Captivity, and Asylum Exposés

Echoes • 191

Notes • 199 Index • 231