This ground-breaking study successfully challenges the traditional tendency to regard Charlotte Brontë as having existed in a historical vacuum, by setting her work firmly within the context of Victorian psychological debate. Based on extensive local research, using texts ranging from local newspaper copy to the medical tomes in the Reverend Patrick Brontë's library, Sally Shuttleworth explores the interpenetration of economic, social and psychological discourse in the early and mid nineteenth century, and traces the ways in which Charlotte Brontë's texts operate in relation to this complex, often contradictory, discursive framework. Shuttleworth offers a detailed analysis of Brontë's fiction, informed by a new understanding of Victorian constructions of sexuality and insanity, and the operations of medical and psychological surveillance.
CHARLOTTE BRONTË
AND VICTORIAN
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AND VICTORIAN PSYCHOLOGY

SALLY SHUTTLEWORTH
Professor of Modern Literature,
University of Sheffield
For John,
Becky and Kate
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Acknowledgements

The first draft of this book was completed during the year I spent as a fellow of the Society for the Humanities, Cornell University. I am grateful to Jonathan Culler and his administrative assistants, Mary Ahl and Aggie Sirrine, for all they did to create such an intellectually stimulating and supportive environment in which to work. The book was subsequently completed with the help of research leave from the School of English, University of Leeds; I would like to thank my colleagues there for all their support.

I am grateful to the staff of all the libraries I have worked in whilst pursuing this research; in particular the library staff of the Brontë Parsonage Museum, the Keighley Public Library, and the Leeds Library. Philip Worsley of Leeds University gave me invaluable computer help when it looked as if my computer discs would never make the transition to the modern world. I am also indebted to my editor, Josie Dixon, for her firm guidance, and to Linda Bree and Polly Richards for their editorial advice and aid.

My work on this project has benefited immeasurably from discussions with friends and colleagues, and from the excellent critical guidance I have received on earlier drafts. I would particularly like to mention here: Gillian Beer, Kate Flint, Mary Jacobus, Vivien Jones, Evelyn Fox Keller, George Levine, Roy Porter, Rick Rylance, Shirley Samuels, Mark Seltzer, Helen Small.

This book would not have been possible without all the levels of support offered over the years by my parents. I am also indebted to my daughters, Rebecca and Katherine, whose arrival undoubtedly helped to delay the appearance of the book, but whose gleeful, demanding presences have helped to place the whole process in due proportion. Finally, my deep gratitude is owed to John Christie for his unerring combination of intellectual rigour and emotional support.

Parts of this book, in earlier versions, have appeared in the
Acknowledgements