Contents

Acknowledgments

Introduction: Convalescent Time – Caregiving and the Strain of Modern Life 1

1 Convalescence and the Working Class: Convalescent Homes, Illness Outcomes, and Charles Dickens’s Bleak House 23

2 Spiritual Convalescence: Reading against the Deathbed in Convalescent Devotionals and Elizabeth Gaskell’s Ruth 48

3 Novel Reading as Convalescence: Gender and Leisure in Wilkie Collins’s The Moonstone 74

4 Convalescence and Mental Illness: Recuperability in Insane Asylums, the After-Care Association, and Samuel Butler’s Erewhon 97

5 Imperial Convalescence: Frances Hodgson Burnett’s The Secret Garden, Convalescent Depots, and the Birth of Rehabilitation Medicine 122

Conclusion: Convalescent Futures – Recovery in the Age of the Remission Society 149

Notes 157

Bibliography 205

Index 221