The Air Loom (1810) was a mind control device capable of remotely manipulating the thoughts of its victims. James Tilly Matthews, a Bedlam inmate, believed that a gang of criminals and spies skilled in pneumatic chemistry had taken up residence at London Wall and were tormenting him by means of rays emitted by a machine, via “Lobster-cracking”, preventing the circulation of the blood by a magnetic field, “Stomach-skinning”, and “Apoplexy-working with the nutmeg grater”, involving the introduction of fluids into the skull. Matthews’ delusions had a definite political slant: this gang’s chief targets were leading government figures, by means of their rays they could influence ministers’ thoughts and read their minds.