



History of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology

Edwin R. Wallace, John Gach

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The Romans knew that Nero was insane. Shakespeare's Macbeth asked his doctor to treat 'a mind diseased.' The physicians of the Enlightenment era pondered whether the inmates in the asylums were mad or simply bad.

As a discipline, psychiatry has always walked a fine if not easily defined line between social and biological science. History of Psychiatry and Medical Psychology traces this evolution in its social, political, and philosophical contexts, charting the rise of psychology as a legitimate field of scientific pursuit, and of psychiatry as a medical specialty. An interdisciplinary team of noted historians (including Sander Gilman, Dora Weiner, Hannah Decker, and the recently deceased dean of American psychiatric history, George Mora, M.D.) has distilled centuries of history—protracted debates, false starts, and missteps included—resulting in an engaging and inspiring narrative of history and methodology in the making. The birth of brain science in antiquity, the Middle Ages, and the Renaissance -The roots of modern psychiatry in the French Revolution-Changing concepts of schizophrenia and depression-The influence of neurology on psychiatry-Evolutions in treatment: mental institutions, hypnotherapy, pharmacotherapy-The emergence of psychoanalysis and 'national psychologies' in Europe and America-Modern critiques, including the chapter 'Psychiatry's Sickness and Its Biological Cure'.

Its wide scope, divergent viewpoints, and insistence on viewing historical periods through their own lenses and not our own makes this History a must-have reference for scholars of psychiatry, psychology, and medicine.



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