

“Crisis, what crisis?”

I received a letter..

The brain is poorly understood and the way psychiatrists pretend to understand it is ridiculous. Where is the science? Psychiatry is too woolly. I also dislike how difficult it is to be wrong in psychiatry because it's all based on people's opinions. In psychiatry there can be justifications for pretty much any diagnosis and no one ever gets better.

I also dislike the creation of conditions to excuse unpleasant behaviour. Some people are just plain unpleasant but are labelled as having all sorts of disorders therefore removing the pressure on them to change. Their bad behaviour just becomes "medicalised" but of course these isn't anything "medical" about psychiatry

How can it be taken seriously when we don't even get taught? We just roam around the hospital taking histories and the consultant or his registrar meet us once a week. I suppose the only thing I like about psychiatry at medical school is the way it's quite chilled out. There isn't much work to do and no one really keeps an eye on us




Drug Culture

Doctors are too quick to give names to conditions and prescribe medication

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Professor Sir Simon Wessely, the president-elect of the Royal College of Psychiatrists, yesterday made a timely and measured contribution to the debate over two trends that have come together. The first is the growing tendency to attach medical labels to human behaviour previously regarded as outside the medical remit. The second issue is that, as a consequence of such-and-such a condition or syndrome or disorder being identified, doctors then prescribe drugs in an effort to treat it.


The rich western world has, Sir Simon argues, become too keen — even dependent on or addicted to — the business of categorising every last foible, every crease and crinkle of an individual personality. Once a thesis, diagnosis and prognosis are advanced, the pharmaceutical industry is only too willing to conjure up the plausible chemical corrective, a product that health professionals are then only too willing to supply. Such a “medicalisation of normality”, as Sir Simon terms it and rightly says, is not a healthy development.

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Schoolgirl, 16, hanged herself weeks after her GCSEs because she was still struggling to cope with Asperger's diagnosis

- Elspeth McKendrick was left shattered by Asperger's syndrome diagnosis
- Her parents said she was 'very much in denial' about her condition
- She had a small circle of friends at school but wanted a 'close best friend'
- Gifted teen had scored a string of GCSE A*s and won a place at Art college

By DANIEL MILLER FOR MAILONLINE

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School prefect Elspeth McKendrick, 16, was left shattered in 2012 when doctors diagnosed her with Asperger's syndrome.

The Doctor Who and Sherlock fan, who was described by her mother as 'geeky', had desperately wanted to fit in at school and had built up a small circle of friends.

Her parents said she was 'happy to be odd and eccentric' but was 'very much in denial' about her condition and felt unable to discuss it with anybody.

What such individuals should not be subject to, however, is a pseudo-diagnosis that does little more than stigmatise the particular personality trait they happen to possess and which a prevailing majority view happens to deem unacceptable. Many conditions are created in the naming and the diagnosis often does no good at all.

Anthony Clare

Psychiatry
in
Dissent

Controversial Issues in
Thought and Practice

Foreword by Michael Shepherd
