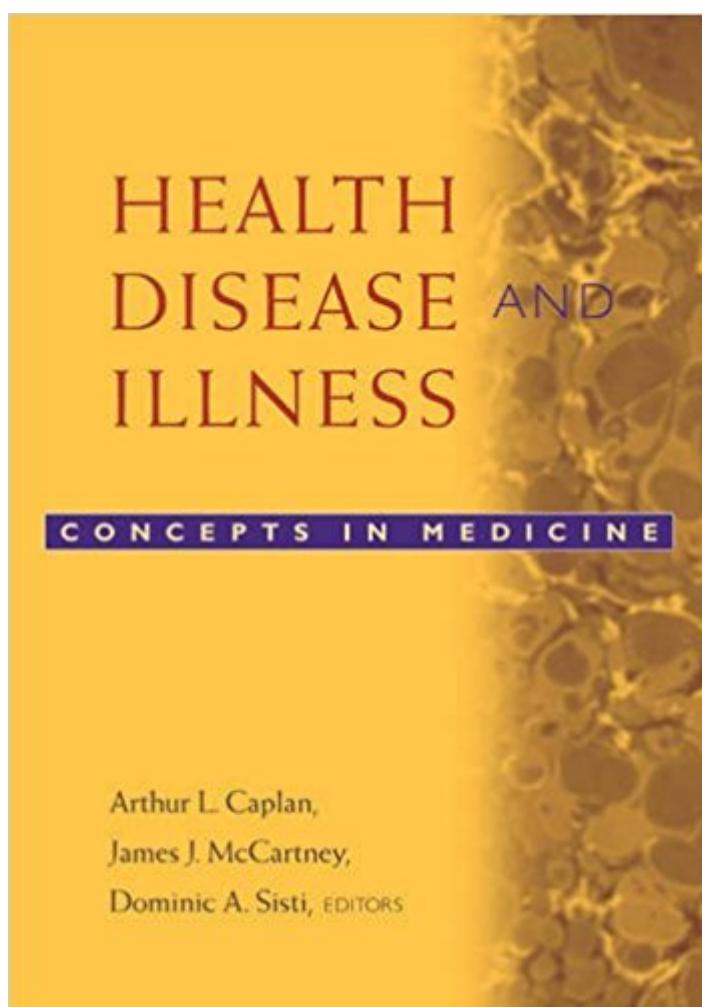


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# Health, Disease, And Illness: Concepts In Medicine



## Synopsis

In the 1850s, "Drapetomania" was the medical term for a disease found among black slaves in the United States. The main symptom was a strange desire to run away from their masters. In earlier centuries gout was understood as a metabolic disease of the affluent, so much so that it became a badge of uppercrust honor and a medical excuse to avoid hard work. Today, is there such a thing as mental illness, or is mental illness just a myth? Is Alzheimer's really a disease? What is menopause—a biological or a social construction? Historically one can see that health, disease, and illness are concepts that have been ever fluid. Modern science, sociology, philosophy, even society—among other factors—constantly have these issues under microscopes, learning more, defining and redefining ever more exactly. Yet often that scrutiny, instead of leading toward hard answers, only leads to more questions. *Health, Disease, and Illness* brings together a sterling list of classic and contemporary thinkers to examine the history, state, and future of ever-changing "concepts" in medicine. Divided into four parts—Historical Discussions; Characterizing Health, Disease, and Illness; Clinical Applications of Health and Disease; and Normalcy, Genetic Disease, and Enhancement: The Future of the Concepts of Health and Disease—the reader can see the evolutionary arc of medical concepts from the Greek physician Galen of Pergamum (ca. 150 ce) who proposed that "the best doctor is also a philosopher," to contemporary discussions of the genome and morality. The editors have recognized a crucial need for a deeper integration of medicine and philosophy with each other, particularly in an age of dynamically changing medical science—and what it means, medically, philosophically, to be human.

## Book Information

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"This welcome anthology, encompassing an admirably broad variety of perspectives, ancient and modern, on the fundamental categorical and moral questions embedded in definitions of human health and disorder, is sure to become an essential resource for all who think seriously about the theory and practice of medicine." - Margaret E. Mohrmann, University of Virginia"

"This welcome anthology, encompassing an admirably broad variety of perspectives, ancient and modern, on the fundamental categorical and moral questions embedded in definitions of human health and disorder, is sure to become an essential resource for all who think seriously about the theory and practice of medicine." Margaret E. Mohrmann, MD, PhD, Harrison Professor of Pediatrics, University of Virginia "The articles in this collection present remarkably lucid, well-reasoned discussions of the issues at the junction of philosophy and medicine. An excellent overview of the history of medicine's central concepts (including health and disease) is put into fascinating perspective through significant discussions of how current developments in genetics and theories in biomedicine are changing both the face of medicine and its interface with philosophy. A very valuable collection that should be read by everyone involved in bioethics, the medical humanities and philosophy of medicine." Richard M. Zaner, Ann Geddes Stahlman Professor Emeritus of Medical Ethics & Philosophy of Medicine, Vanderbilt University Medical Center "This is an important collection of provocative essays about health and disease. It is the most comprehensive collection of its kind, bringing together in one volume historical works by figures such as Maimonides, late 20th century philosophical works by figures such as Boorse, sociological essays about contemporary diagnoses such as the chronic fatigue syndrome, and recent essays exploring the impact of the new genetics on our conceptions of health and disease. It will make an excellent resource for classes in the philosophy of medicine and wonderful reading for anyone interested in the relationship between the philosophy of medicine and medical ethics. I hope that its publication will spark a renewed interest in the philosophy of medicine among those scholars who can see that this is the direction bioethics must take to meet the challenges of the 21st century." Daniel P. Sulmasy, OFM, MD, PhD, professor of medicine and director of the

Thanks!

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Terrific for those who believe in the absoluteness of science

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