

The Social Medicine Reader



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Ranging from a historical look at eugenics to an ethnographic description of parents receiving the news that their child has Downs syndrome, from analyses of inequalities in the delivery of health services to an examination of the meaning of race in genomics research, and from a meditation on the loneliness of the long-term caregiver to a reflection on what children owe their elderly parents, this volume explores health and illness. "Social and Cultural Contributions to Health, Difference, and Inequality" brings seventeen pieces new to this edition of "The Social Medicine Reader" together with five classic pieces that appeared in the first edition. It focuses on how difference and disability are defined and experienced in contemporary America, how the social categories commonly used to predict disease outcomes - such as gender, race and ethnicity, and social class - have become contested terrain, and why some groups have more limited access to healthcare services than others. Juxtaposing first-person narratives with empirical and conceptual studies, this compelling collection draws on several disciplines, including cultural and medical anthropology, sociology, and the history of medicine. Duke University Press is pleased to announce the second edition of the bestselling "Social Medicine Reader". "The Reader" provides a survey of the challenging issues facing today's health care providers, patients, and caregivers by

bringing together moving narratives of illness, commentaries by physicians, debates about complex medical cases, and conceptually and empirically based writings by scholars in medicine, the social sciences, and the humanities. The first edition of "The Social Medicine Reader" was a single volume. This significantly revised and expanded second edition is divided into three volumes to facilitate use by different audiences with varying interests.

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