

[PDF] P.C., M.D.

Sally Satel - pdf download free book



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Description:

The shenanigans of political correctness have been well documented. But most people, even those who keep up with these debates, probably assume they're confined to the liberal arts, rather than the hard sciences. Think again. As Sally Satel shows in *PC, M.D.*, political correctness has also infected the world of medicine and public health--with results that may actually threaten everybody's well-being. Satel begins her well-told exposé by describing the presumption of some health professionals that because the sickest people in society are also disproportionately the poorest, the practice of medicine must address matters of social justice. "Many public health experts see their mission literally as attacking the conditions that lead to poverty and alienation in the first place," writes Satel, a practicing psychiatrist who also lectures at the Yale University School of Medicine.

Unfortunately, this has led to the diversion of resources away from what the medical profession does best--the treatment and prevention of injury and disease. "Worse, putting social justice at the core of the public health enterprise undermines individual accountability. People who practice unsafe sex, stick dirty needles in their vein or fail to take their TB medications daily are too often seen as passive victims of malign social forces," writes Satel.

She argues that radical feminism and race-obsessed multiculturalism have no place in the world of medicine. When they have actually secured a place, Satel shows the harm they've done. She describes, for instance, how the Harvard School of Public Health teaches that racial discrimination causes hypertension among African Americans--in short, racism makes you sick. Yet there's no credible evidence to back this startling claim, which may in fact divert attention away from behavioral steps that really can lower blood pressure. Satel has a wonderfully clever term for the people advancing this type of lab-jacket hokum: "indoctrinologist." Theirs is a political vocation, not a medical one. Satel is adept at countering their offensive, but her voice is a lonely one: Indoctrinologists are making steady inroads in medicine. They now sit at the helm of professional associations and hold impressive posts in schools of public health. They have changed medical school admissions criteria and have infiltrated respected academic journals. They are outspoken, if not shrill, participants in many legislative and political debates.... Their numbers and influence are growing. That's the bad news. The good news is that Satel has written an outstanding book that exposes their agenda. --*John J. Miller* --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

From Publishers Weekly Yale psychiatrist Satel takes a hard, clinical look at how political correctness has infiltrated the world of medicine and finds that instead of providing the best care available, "injecting social justice into the mission of medicine diverts attention and resources from the effort to find ways of making everyone, regardless of race or sex, better off." By no means does she "defend the status quo," claims Satel. She recognizes that the history of American medicine is not untarnished (e.g., the shameful 1932-1972 Tuskegee syphilis study). But she believes that though there may be problems, "one of the most pressing [being] how to deliver health care to everyone affordably." Sexism and racism are not the ugly, systemic issues that the "indoctrinologists" claim them to be. (These indoctrinologists, she says, are found in the academy, whose researchers may produce "second-rate clinical studies"; at the medical journals that publish those studies; in the media, which blows the studies out of proportion; and among politicians who use them as campaign material.) Writing confidently, incisively and even-handedly, Satel aims to debunk many prominent medical studies that have been used to demonstrate that people who suffer from psychoses have been abused by the psychiatric establishment, that American women's health has long been ignored and that promoting the idea of individual responsibility among the disadvantaged (encouraging the poor to take advantage of free health care or people at risk for AIDS to practice safe sex and use clean needles) is prejudicial. General readers will be surprised to find many of their long-held beliefs about American health care turned inside out, but Satel provides cogent arguments that deserve the careful consideration of anyone who believes that better, more affordable health care is obtainable and that politically correct reform is not the way to achieve it. Copyright 2000 Reed Business Information, Inc. --This text refers to an out of print or unavailable edition of this title.

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