



Our Necessary Shadow: The Nature and Meaning of Psychiatry

By Burns, Tom.

Allen Lane. 1 Cloth(s), 2013. hard. Book Condition: New. For good or ill, psychiatry is a polemical battleground, criticized on the one hand as an instrument of social control or as a barbaric practice, while on the other trumpeted as the latest developments in neuroscience offering lasting solutions to mental illness, notes social psychiatry professor Tom Burns. Which of these strikingly contrasting positions should we believe? In this thoughtful and sympathetic book, Burns reviews the historical development of psychiatry, including the places where there is much agreement on treatment and where there is not, where psychiatry helps and where it is imperfect. What is clear is that mental illnesses are intimately tied to what makes us human in the first place. 333.

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