

JOOST A. M. MEERLOO, M.D.

# ILLNESS



# and CURE

*Studies on the Philosophy  
of Medicine and Mental Health*

GRUNE & STRATTON

## ILLNESS AND CURE

*Studies on the Philosophy of Medicine  
and Mental Health*

By **Joost A. M. Meerloo, M.D.**

In this book, a famed psychiatrist presents his experience with the essential nature of illness, the concept of therapy and the meaning of cure.

Dr. Joost A. M. Meerloo, whose work has gained international renown, offers in this series of studies his forty years of ponderings on the huge medical edifice facing the complexities of the human mind.

This collection is divided into four parts:  
*The Concept of Disease*—A short historical survey.

*The Concept of Concept*—A critical inquiry into medical thinking.

*The Concept of Therapy*—A survey of clinical enigmas.

*The Concept of Cure*—The impact psychotherapy and the science of mental health have on our knowledge of the doctor-patient relationship.

In the course of Dr. Meerloo's book intricate medical problems are taken under scrutiny: The paradoxical illness of not being able to be ill; the Janus concept in medicine; the twofold meaning of human regression in its relationship to regeneration; the problem of cancer; the therapeutic art and action; the concepts of normality and responsibility; and the variation of principles taking part in the process of mental healing.

This is a book for the physician, the psychiatrist, the psychologist and others involved in mental health and mental healing. It will also assist the social scientist and fascinate the layman who is interested in the problems of medicine and psychiatry.

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GIFT

Father Thomas Merton  
with friendly greetings  
Joost Ammeeloo

✓  
JOOST A. M. MEERLOO, M.D., Ph.D.

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(E-B)

To the memory of my teachers  
from Leiden University  
1921-1927

*EINTHOVEN, who taught physiology but also critical  
thinking,*

*TENDELOO, who was not only a pathologist but also  
a philosopher,*

*HUIZINGA, who introduced me to historical thinking,*

*JELGERSMA, who combined the modesty of the  
clinician with the penetration of psychoanalytic  
thinking,*

*De LINT, who taught me history of medicine.*

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## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Joost A. M. Meerloo, M.D., Ph.D., was born in 1903 at the Hague and earned his professional degrees at Leyden University and the University of Utrecht. Following the Nazi occupation he escaped to England in 1942, where he served as Chief of the Psychological Warfare Department of the Netherlands, and subsequently as High Commissioner for Welfare for the Netherlands Government and advisor to SHAEF and UNRRA. Arriving in the United States in 1946, he became a diplomate of the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology, an Associate in Psychiatry at Columbia University, a Fellow of the Academy of Psychoanalysis and an Associate Professor in Psychiatry at the New York School of Psychiatry. He is presently engaged in private practice and teaching in New York City. Dr. Meerloo's writings have dealt with a wide variety of psycho-sociologic subjects.

*Illustration on front cover:*  
Roman coin from the Second Century,  
B.C., with the figure of Janus.  
From the author's collection.