

**MASTERS OF THE MIND: EXPLORING
THE STORY OF MENTAL ILLNESS
FROM ANCIENT TIMES TO THE NEW
MILLENNIUM**

By Theodore Millon. 641 pp., illustrated. Hoboken, N.J.,
John Wiley & Sons, 2004. \$34.95. ISBN 0-471-46985-8.

THIS BOOK IS A COMPREHENSIVE SURVEY of theories about the workings of our minds. Theodore Millon, a well-respected psychologist and prolific writer, has divided his enterprise into seven kinds of “stories”: philosophical, humanitarian, neuroscientific, psychoanalytic, psychoscientific, sociocultural, and “personologic.” He covers the history of each subject area, often beginning with ancient Greece or Egypt, and writes with an encyclopedic knowledge of all subsequent time periods. These histories are followed by his commentary and reflections.

A striking feature of the book, as suggested by the title, is the inclusion of capsule biographies of the many people who have contributed to this field. Nearly 90 portraits, drawn by Millon or his daughter, accompany the biographies. Millon knows many contemporary experts in psychology, and his descriptions of most of them are often personal and highly complimentary. These descriptions, along with the portraits, make the book pleasant and accessible. Millon’s steadily cheerful tone is tempered by his gloom in the last few pages, which concern the post-9/11 world.

Millon’s professional interests lie in the area of the taxonomy of personality disorders, and studies of personality take up a fair amount of this book. He also describes multiple schools of psychotherapy. Readers with a medical background may be disappointed that there is relatively little information about the disorders of the mind that occupy so much clinical time, such as substance abuse and dementia. Perhaps this lack reflects the relative youth of these fields.

Readers familiar with the fields covered in this survey will not find anything particularly controversial or provocative. The breadth of the book does not allow Millon to go into detail on any topic, and he is too generous and appreciative a scholar to stir up controversy by deriding anyone’s theories. His division of the subject into seven rather arbitrarily defined areas and his historical coverage of each topic mean that there is a certain amount of repetition.

Who are the “masters of the mind”? At the risk of being invidious, but to help clarify the scope of this book and Millon’s interests, here is a rough

count of who merits the most pages or references in the index: Sigmund Freud is far ahead of the pack; following him, in chronological order, are Hippocrates, Philippe Pinel, Charles Darwin, Ivan Pavlov, Emil Kraepelin, Alfred Adler, Carl Jung, and Carl Rogers.

Are we making much progress in understanding ourselves? What determines our behavior — genetics, learning, or experience? How do these various factors interact? People interested in a warm and remarkably well informed historical discussion of these questions will enjoy this book.

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CORRECTIONS

The Effect of Air Pollution on Lung Development from 10 to 18 Years of Age (September 9, 2004;351:1057-67). On page 1059, under the heading Statistical Analysis, in the list of model adjustments, lines 18 through 20 of the left-hand column should have read “the square of log values for height,” rather than “body-mass index (the weight in kilograms divided by the square of the height in meters); the square of the body-mass index,” as printed. Also, in the right-hand column, lines 3 and 4 should have read “ordinal variables for the field technician and the spirometer,” rather than “indicator variables,” as printed. These errors had no bearing on the analysis of persons with clinically low lung function. Adjustment for body-mass index and indicator variables as intended changes the results slightly but does not affect the reported associations between growth and pollution during an eight-year period. The corrected values for Table 2 (page 1062), Table 3 (1063), and Table 4 (1064) and for Figure 2 (page 1062) are available at the *Journal’s* Web site at www.nejm.org.

Combination of Isosorbide Dinitrate and Hydralazine in Blacks with Heart Failure (November 11, 2004;351:2049-57). On page 2053, in Table 2, under the Minnesota Living with Heart Failure Questionnaire score (range, 0 to 105), there should not be a footnote indicating significant difference at baseline between trial subjects treated with placebo and those treated with isosorbide dinitrate plus hydralazine.

Anti-Interleukin-12 Antibody for Active Crohn’s Disease (November 11, 2004;351:2069-79). On page 2069, the list of authors omitted the name of Zhiqiong Yang, B.S., of the Mucosal Immunity Section, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease, National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, Md.

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