

Synopsis

What is a disease? Are the social services right not to see smoking as a disease, and therefore to refuse to pay for its treatment? Should dissidents be diagnosed as mentally ill? Dr Reznek examines these and related questions.

Book Information

Series: Philosophical Issues in Science

Hardcover: 302 pages

Publisher: Routledge (December 15, 1987)

Language: English

ISBN-10: 0710210825

ISBN-13: 978-0710210821

Product Dimensions: 8 x 2 x 10 inches

Shipping Weight: 10.4 ounces

Average Customer Review: 4.0 out of 5 stars [See all reviews](#) (1 customer review)

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Resnek argues that disease is value laden, and provides plenty of historical examples to motivate this argument. He has two main arguments. One is that disease is not a natural kind, and thus is not purely a matter of scientific investigation. The second is that we designate certain conditions as diseases *before* we know anything about the organic cause, if any, and that we do this on the basis of the *harm* that comes to one who has the disease in question (which is a value judgement). NOTE: Author is also found with additional titles in .com under "Reznek"

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