Fighting for Mental Health

Norman Sartorius is one of the most prominent and influential psychiatrists of his generation. As Director of the Division of Mental Health at the World Health Organization, and subsequently President of the World Psychiatric Association, he has, over many years, been in a position to survey the state of psychiatry worldwide, to campaign for greater equity and honesty in the clinical and research agenda, and to point out some deficiencies and anomalies.

The essays collected in this stimulating book represent the author’s latest thinking as well as a few chapters he selected from among his innumerable speeches and previously published articles. They range from trenchant critiques of mental health service delivery and prevention to more light-hearted, anecdotal pieces on the use of language and how to get things done. All point to the core concerns for mental health programmes today: definition of needs; the role of psychiatry, both in general health care and in the developing countries; and the challenges that our times present for mental health. In every essay the author’s well-known wit, candour and scientific authority are well illustrated.

This is a book that every psychiatrist will wish to own, both as a survey of current debates in their discipline, and a reflection of one of the sharpest minds brought to bear upon them.

Norman Sartorius has held professorial appointments at the Universities of Geneva, Prague, New York and Zagreb. He is a member of the Council of the World Psychiatric Association and of the Expert Advisory Panel of the World Health Organization. He has honorary doctorates in science and in medicine at the Universities of Umea, Prague and Bath and is an Honorary Fellow of numerous professional organizations, including the World Psychiatric Association, the Royal Colleges of Psychiatry (in the UK and in Australia and New Zealand) and the American Psychiatric Association. He has written over 300 scientific papers and co-authored or edited over 40 books. Among his many positions he has been Director of the Mental Health Division at the World Health Organization, President of the World Psychiatric Association and President of the Association of European Psychiatrists.
Fighting for Mental Health
A personal view

Norman Sartorius

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To Vera, my spouse and beloved companion in dreams and realities, with thanks for being a source of inspiration, strength and sunshine, at all times.
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