

Download Hysterical Men The Hidden History Of Male Nervous Illness

Over the course of several centuries, Western masculinity has successfully established itself as the voice of reason, knowledge, and sanity - the basis for patriarchal rule - in the face of massive testimony to the contrary. For this reason, *Hysterical Men* is best read as a well-informed and distinguished, if problematic, reflection on the historical gendering of mental disorders. As Micale observes in his conclusion, it is a telling irony that, despite the Western philosophical emphasis on self-knowledge, the medical profession has spent much of its history avoiding "personal and collective self-knowledge of the male self" (p. 278). *Hysterical Men* boldly challenges this triumphant vision of the stable and secure male by examining the central role played by modern science and medicine in constructing and sustaining it. Mark Micale reveals the hidden side of this vision, that is, the innumerable cases of disturbed and deranged men who passed under the eyes of male medical and scientific elites from the seventeenth century onward. Mark S. Micale's lucid history of male nervous illness begins with ancient theories of the wandering womb and ends with Sigmund Freud's invention of psychoanalysis.