

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MISCONDUCT, VICE, AND CRIME

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649120369

The psychology of misconduct, vice, and crime by Bernard Hollander

Except for use in any review, the reproduction or utilisation of this work in whole or in part in any form by any electronic, mechanical or other means, now known or hereafter invented, including xerography, photocopying and recording, or in any information storage or retrieval system, is forbidden without the permission of the publisher, Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd, PO Box 1576 Collingwood, Victoria 3066 Australia.

All rights reserved.

Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

This book is sold subject to the condition that it shall not, by way of trade or otherwise, be lent, re-sold, hired out, or otherwise circulated without the publisher's prior consent in any form or binding or cover other than that in which it is published and without a similar condition including this condition being imposed on the subsequent purchaser.

www.triestepublishing.com

BERNARD HOLLANDER

**THE PSYCHOLOGY
OF MISCONDUCT,
VICE, AND CRIME**

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MISCONDUCT, VICE, AND CRIME

BY

BERNARD HOLLANDER, M.D.

LATE PHYSICIAN BRITISH HOSPITAL FOR MENTAL DISORDERS
AND NERVOUS DISEASES; HON. MEMBER ROYAL
ACADEMY OF MEDICINE, MADRID



LONDON: GEORGE ALLEN & UNWIN LTD
RUSKIN HOUSE, 40 MUSEUM STREET, W.C.1

First published in 1922

(All rights reserved)

PREFACE

IN the course of twenty-five years' practice as a physician specialising in nervous and mental disorders a large number of people have come under my observation and treatment, suffering from character defects leading to moral failings—some complaining of a tendency to misconduct, which remained a tendency only; others being brought to me for the evil they had already committed, doing harm to themselves or to others. Some of these were addicted to the drink or drug habit, some to sexual perversion, some to ill-temper and violence; while others were youthful liars, thieves, or profligates. Finally, a considerable number consisted of semi-insane and semi-responsible young men and women, morally deficient—sometimes together with mental defect; sometimes mentally so superior, at least in cunning and conversational gifts, as to be admired by everyone with whom they came into contact, until found out. It will be seen, therefore, that the cases of moral derangement which come before the mental specialist are of all kinds; only the professional thief and burglar, and the downright scoundrel, do not consult the physician.

6 THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MISCONDUCT

This book contains the results of my reflections on these experiences. It is written from the standpoint of the "new psychology," dealing successively, in accordance with their evolution, with the primary emotions and instinctive tendencies which are at the basis of all human behaviour, normal and abnormal. Of course, there exists already a vast literature on Crime and Criminals; but I know of no book which presents systematically, in their medical and psychological aspects, the various divergencies from normal conduct with which the mental specialist has to deal, with the possible exception of W. Healy's important work on *The Individual Delinquent*, which treats the subject from a different point of view.

It will be shown that morality is a gradual growth, arising from the conflict between the unconscious instinctive tendencies to self-gratification and self-preservation, and the gregarious instinct which produces in man the various affections, parental, filial, and social, and ultimately tends to altruistic conduct. Some people are naturally moral, some are inherently selfish, and others—perhaps the great majority—are conscious of the two tendencies within them, and remain moral under temptation solely from fear of consequences. The morally deranged can be distinguished from the professional criminal class by the lack of self-control. They are conscious of thoughts and impulses towards evil-doing which they desire to inhibit, but lack the power to do so.

They come to the physician to do for them what they cannot do for themselves. In the actual criminal there is no conflict ; he " wills " to do wrong. It is the business of the doctor to reform the former ; it is the business of the law to punish the latter.

In judging a moral patient we have to take into account his heredity, environment, and early education, as well as any possible disorder or defect of the brain, and the nutrition and circulation, on which its proper functioning depend. It is this, the physical basis of morality, which is so often neglected, chiefly because most men lack a theory of what constitutes a good brain or a bad one. This problem of the relation of the brain to mind and morals has been investigated by me and dealt with in my earlier works, *The Mental Functions of the Brain*, *Mental Symptoms of Brain Disease*, *First Signs of Insanity*, and more fully in my recent publication entitled *In Search of the Soul* (Kegan Paul, 2 vols.). In the present book I shall deal chiefly with abnormalities of moral manifestation from a psychological and common-sense point of view, free from any preconceived theory.

Just as we have to investigate abnormal conduct physically as well as mentally, so must the treatment be by physical measures as well as by mental influences. On the one hand we must raise the tone of the brain and nervous system, and correct any constitutional defect or brain lesion ; on the other we must give relief along sound scientific lines of

8 THE PSYCHOLOGY OF MISCONDUCT

insight into the mental mechanisms which underlie moral troubles and assist the sufferers to a more effective adaptation to the demands of life. Such psychotherapy consists of various methods—persuasion, suggestion and auto-suggestion, hypnotism, psychological analysis, as well as re-education. There are practitioners for each, but I have not found that such specialising produces satisfactory or lasting results, and therefore, as a rule, make use of the method, or combined methods, most applicable to the individual needs of the patient.

BERNARD HOLLANDER, M.D.

57 WIMPOLE STREET, LONDON, W.1.

1st May, 1922.

CONTENTS

	PAGE
PREFACE	5
CHAPTER	
I. THE PSYCHOLOGICAL BASIS OF MISCONDUCT	11
II. THE CAUSES OF MISCONDUCT	32
III. DRINK AND DRUG HABITS	49
IV. AGGRESSIVENESS, ILL-TEMPER, AND VIOLENCE	72
V. MORBID SUSPICION, CUNNING, AND DECEITFUL- NESS	86
VI. THEFT AND OTHER MISCONDUCT FOR GAIN	100
VII. THE FEAR OF CONSEQUENCES	114
VIII. SEXUAL PERVERSENESS.	128
IX. THE EGOTIST, AUTOCRAT, AND THE DOMINEER- ING MAN	147
X. THE MORALLY WEAK-MINDED	160
XI. MORAL RESPONSIBILITY	178
XII. TREATMENT OF MORAL FAILINGS	200
INDEX	217