

THE NATURE OF
SUFFERING
and the GOALS of MEDICINE
SECOND EDITION

ERIC J. CASSELL

Nature Of Suffering And The Goals Of Medicine

**Harvey Max Chochinov, William
Breitbart**



Nature Of Suffering And The Goals Of Medicine:

The Nature of Suffering Eric J. Cassell, 1991 The Nature of Suffering underscores the change that is taking place in medicine from a basic concern with disease to a greater focus on the sick person Cassell centers his discussion on the problem of suffering because he says its recognition and relief are a test of the adequacy of any system of medicine He describes what suffering is and its relationship to the sick person bodies do not suffer people do An exclusive concern with scientific knowledge of the body and disease therefore impedes an understanding of suffering and diminishes the care of the suffering patient The growing criticism that medicine is not sufficiently humanistic does not go deep enough to provide a basis for a new understanding of medicine New concepts in medicine must have their basis in its history and in the development of ideas about disease and treatment Cassell uses many stories about patients to demonstrate that despite the current dominance of science and technology there can be no diagnosis search for the cause of the patient's disease prognostication or treatment without consideration of the individual sick person Recent trends in medicine and society Cassell believes show that it is time for the sick person to be not merely an important concern for physicians but the central focus of medicine He addresses the exciting problems involved in such a shift In this new medicine doctors would have to know the person as well as they know the disease What are persons however and how are doctors to comprehend them The kinds of knowledge involved are varied including values and aesthetics as well as science In the process of knowing the experience of patient and doctor move to center stage He believes that the exploration of the person will engage medicine in the 21st century just as understanding the body has occupied the last hundred years

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The Nature of Suffering and the Goals of Medicine Eric J. Cassell, 2004-03-25 This is a revised and expanded edition of a classic in palliative medicine originally published in 1991 With three added chapters and a new preface summarizing our progress in the area of pain management this is a must have for those in palliative medicine and hospice care The obligation of physicians to relieve human suffering stretches back into antiquity But what exactly is suffering One patient with metastatic cancer of the stomach from which he knew he would shortly die said he was not suffering Another someone who had been operated on for a minor problem in little pain and not seemingly distressed said that even coming into the hospital had been a source of pain and not suffering With such varied responses to the problem of suffering inevitable questions arise Is it the doctor's responsibility to treat the disease or the patient And what is the relationship between suffering and the goals of medicine According to Dr Eric Cassell these are crucial questions but unfortunately have remained only queries void of adequate solutions It is time for the sick person Cassell believes to be not merely an important concern for physicians but the central focus of medicine With this in mind Cassell argues for an understanding of what changes should be made in order to successfully treat the sick while alleviating suffering and how to actually go about making these changes with the methods and training techniques firmly rooted in the doctor's relationship with the patient Dr Cassell offers an incisive critique of the approach of modern medicine Drawing on a number of evocative patient narratives he writes that the goal of medicine must be to treat an individual's suffering and not just the disease In addition Cassell's thoughtful and incisive argument will appeal to psychologists and psychiatrists interested in the nature of pain and suffering

Introduction to Clinical Ethics: Perspectives from a Physician Bioethicist Saleem Toro, 2023-05-19 This textbook offers an introduction to the field of bioethics specifically from a practicing physician standpoint It engages a wide range of recent scholarship and emerging research covering many crucial topics in clinical ethics While there has been increasing attention to the role of bioethics in medicine the gap between theory and practice still exists and it continues to impede the dialogue between health care professionals from one side and bioethicists and philosophers of medicine from the other side This book builds bridges and open channels of connection between different parties in these conversations It does so from a physician's practical perspective engaging recent scholarship and emerging research to shed light on pivotal ethical dilemmas in contemporary clinical practice

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Handbook of the Philosophy of Medicine Thomas

Schramme, Mary Jean Walker, 2025-09-30 This is the second edition of Springer's first wide ranging multi authored handbook on philosophy of medicine It covers the underlying conceptual issues of many important social political and ethical issues in health care and as such provides a single source of information for this far ranging and still developing field This new edition of this authoritative handbook includes topics that have gained momentum in the last couple of years This second edition introduces and develops nearly one hundred topics concepts and issues in the field It is written by distinguished specialists from multiple disciplines including philosophy health sciences nursing sociology political theory and medicine Many complicated social and ethical issues in health care are based on conceptual problems most prominently on the definitions of health and disease or on epistemological issues regarding causality or diagnosis Philosophy is the discipline that deals with such conceptual metaphysical epistemological methodological and axiological matters This handbook covers all the central concepts in medicine such as ageing death disease mental disorder and well being It is an invaluable resource for health care specialists who want to be informed and stay up to date with the relevant discussions as well as philosophers and ethicists with an interest in medicine and members of the general public with an interest in health care and related issues The text also advances these debates and sets the agenda for years to come *Palliative Medicine* Doreen Oneschuk, Neil

MacDonald, Neil Hagen, 2012-03-15 The third edition of this successful book continues to offer a panoramic view of palliative care It introduces a number of new topics including Neurological Disorders The Last Days and Palliative Sedation The contributors illustrate through the case studies the desired skills attitudes and knowledge required in palliative medicine

Handbook of Psychiatry in Palliative Medicine Harvey Max Chochinov, William Breitbart, 2009 Eight years has passed since the first edition of The Handbook of Psychiatry in Palliative Medicine was published In that time psychiatric or psychosocial palliative care has evolved the net effect on palliative medicine has been transformative Palliation that neglects psychosocial dimensions of patient and family experience de facto fails to meet contemporary standards of comprehensive palliative care While a focus on somatic issues has sometimes overshadowed attention to psychological existential and spiritual end of life challenges the past decade has seen an all encompassing multi disciplinary approach to care for the dying beginning to take hold The first comprehensive textbook of psychiatric palliative care this new edition has been fully updated reorganized and expanded to include eleven new chapters Written by 67 internationally known psychiatry and palliative care experts the book is truly an essential reference for all providers of palliative care including psychiatrists psychologists mental health counselors oncologists hospice workers and social workers Each chapter has been updated to address new therapeutic modalities and approaches as well as new research trends and opportunities for each topic **A Life in Medicine** Robert Coles, Randy-Michael Testa, Joseph D'Donnell, Penny Armstrong, 2003-09-01 A Life in Medicine collects stories poems and essays by and for those in the healing profession who are struggling to keep up with the science while staying true to the humanitarian goals at the heart of their work BOOK JACKET

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