



"La opinión vulgar sobre la locura" (1879): un texto del Doctor Simarro [

2018

text (article)

Analítica

Dr. Simarro published in 1879 an article in the magazine El Liceo. Semanario Hispano-Americano entitled "The vulgar opinion on madness". In it he analyzes the origins of popular conceptions about madness, identifying their mythical and literary roots. Simarro warns against the possibility that these popular conceptions contaminate opinions in the courts of justice and proposes that physicians and jurists collaborate with a double focus: physicians in courts should focus on the evaluation of the diseases that are producing the symptoms of mental alienation, while it is up to judges to assess whether such processes of mental alienation affect the legal responsibility of the accused. Simarro admits, however, that the psychological experience of madness escapes both the field of law and medicine and expresses his hope that the progress of psychology may someday shed light on this complex problem

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