Psychological Disorders

Chapter 2
Historical Perspectives

Outline/Overview

Early approaches to abnormality
– Animism/Demonology
– Physical Causes
– Emergence of Reason
– Hospitals/Asylums Emerge

Modern approaches
– Organic Approach
– Psychological Approach

Early approaches to abnormality

Animism/Demonology
– everyone and everything has a soul
– evil spirits possessed an individual
– responsible for their behavior
– get rid of spirits (trephining)

Paradigms – framework for understanding
Physical causes

Hippocrates (400 BC) imbalances in four vital humors (fluids that flow throughout the body)

Hystera
- disorder found predominantly in women
- felt to result from a wandering uterus
- Greek for uterus (hystera)

Galen (200 AD)
- first to consider physiological and psychological causes

Demonology Returns (500-1350 AD)

Church very powerful
- Abnormal behavior struggle between God & Satan
- Medical views largely ignored

Animalism
- similarities between animals and mad people
- unable to control themselves
- violence without provocation
- live under terrible conditions

Physicians and Clergy charged with driving out invaders

Reason emerges

1500’s – Johann Weyer – first physician to specialize in mental illnesses
- believed that the mind could be “sick” like the body

Weyer used kindness as treatment
- many physicians considered madness treatable
- used the standard treatments of the day
- bloodletting, purging, and forced vomiting
Hospitals/Asylums

housed all of societies outcasts
insane received the worst treatment
origins as debtors prisons
St. Mary’s of Bethlehem (Bedlam) one
of the worst
late 1700’s chains generally removed
more humane conditions began to arise
became common

Hospital/Asylum Reformers

Philippe Pinel (1793) Paris
William Tuke (1796) Founded York Retreat
Early 1800’s
– Benjamin Rush – Pennsylvania Hospital
– Dorothea Dix – helped establish 32 state hospitals
By late 1800’s moral treatment
approach had started to decline – Why?

Late 19th & Early 20th Century Perspectives

The Organic View
– Abnormal functioning has physical causes
The Psychogenic Perspective
– Abnormal functioning has psychological causes
**Organic Approach**

Two factors responsible for re-emergence:

– Emil Kraepelin’s textbook argued that physical factors (like fatigue) lead to mental dysfunction

– Biological discoveries (like untreated syphilis, Richard von Krafft-Ebing)

– Many useless treatments emerged

**Germs**

schizophrenia – long thought a possibility
general paresis and syphilis
after symptoms were thoroughly described search for a cause began
connection w/syphilis difficult to make

• syphilis often preceded paresis by as much as 30 years

• serious stigma, powerful motivation to deny

• overt symptoms quickly disappear

**Richard von Krafft-Ebbing**

1897 injected nine paresis patients who denied ever having the disease
none developed sores
soon a drug was developed
penicillin made “nuisance disease”
encouraged medical world to view mental illnesses as diseases of the body, like any other
Unfortunately, no others thus far
Psychogenic Approach

Franz Anton Mesmer
- obstructed flow of "animal magnetism"
- he fixated his gaze and touched with iron rod
- elaborate placebo effect
- exposed as a fraud

Jean Martin Charcot

Neurologist
mid-late 1800's
used hypnosis to distinguish genuine physical symptoms from those with a hysterical basis

Josef Breuer

late 1800's
talk about problems and fantasies under hypnosis become very emotional on emerging from hypnosis, felt much better, catharsis
Sigmund Freud

studied under Charcot
worked with Breuer
therapeutic effects could be obtained without hypnosis
emotional catharsis
psychoanalysis – ch 3

Scientific Study of Learning and Behavior

Behavioral models
– Classical conditioning
– Operant conditioning

Behavioral Models

Behaviorism-dominant model 1920 until mid 60's
Pavlov-US(food) -> UR (salivation)
CS(bell) + US (food) -> UR (salivation)
CS(bell) -> CR (salivation)
acquisition-when the CR is acquired
CS presented without the US for enough trials extinction occurs
Classical conditioning

explanation for initiation/maintenance of phobias
what prevents extinction?
disorder is the symptoms
correct the symptoms and disorder is “cured”
flooding (or exposure)
effective, primarily with anxiety disorders.
systematic desensitization-anxiety hierarchy
situations confronted

Operant conditioning

Thorndike’s original work
– Law of Effect – Cats in puzzle boxes
Formalized by Skinner
– More details in Ch. 3