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## Confessions of a medical heretic pdf

Original photo by Bob Miller, Seattle Post Intelligencer Oct. 28, 1980 Robert S. Mendelsohn (July 13, 1926 – April 5, 1988) was an American pediatrician, anti-vaccinationist and critic of medical paternalism. He denounced unnecessary and radical surgical procedures and dangerous medications, reminding his readers of public health failures such as the 1976 swine flu outbreak and the damage caused to daughters of women who took the drug Diethylstilbestrol during pregnancy.[1] He portrayed doctors as powerful priests of a primitive religion, with dishonesty as its central ethic. His mild manner appealed to the public, while his message infuriated his medical colleagues.[2] Mendelsohn wrote a syndicated newspaper column called The People's Doctor, and also produced a newsletter with the same name (the newsletter continued after his death until 1992, under the name The Doctor's People.[3]) He published five books, including Confessions of a Medical Heretic,[4] Mal(e) Practice: How Doctors Manipulate Women,[5] and How to Raise a Healthy Child...In Spite of Your Doctor. He appeared on over 500 television and radio talk shows. Education and career Mendelsohn was born in Chicago, Illinois. He received his medical degree from the University of Chicago in 1951. He was certified by the American Board of Pediatrics.[6] Dr. Mendelsohn had a full-time private pediatric practice from 1956 to 1967, and continued to see patients of all ages on a consultancy basis until his death in 1988. For 12 years, Mendelsohn was an instructor at Northwestern University Medical College, and was associate professor of pediatrics and community health and preventive medicine at the [University of Illinois] College of Medicine for another 12 years. Mendelsohn served as National Director of Project Head Start's Medical Consultation Service, a position he was later forced to resign after criticizing the “deadening atmosphere” of regular public schools.[7] He served as Chairman of the Medical Licensing Committee of Illinois.[3] He was president of the alternative medicine National Health Federation (NHF) between 1981 and 1982. Criticism of medicine Mendelsohn said that the greatest danger to American women's health was often their own doctors, and contended that chauvinistic physicians subjected female patients to degrading, unnecessary and often dangerous medical procedures. Cancer treatments like hysterectomy and radical mastectomy, according to Mendelsohn, were among the most indiscriminately recommended surgical procedures.[5] In an era in which the side effects of medications and the risks of medical treatments were hardly known except to doctors, Dr. Mendelsohn insisted that patients, too, had the right to such information. In the first of his books to attract widespread publicity, Confessions of a Medical Heretic (Contemporary Books 1979), he describes his efforts to make the Physician's Desk Reference, the authoritative guide to medications and medical treatments, available to the public. In Confessions, Mendelsohn argued that the methods of modern medicine were often more dangerous than the diseases they were designed to diagnose and treat. He advised consumers to be suspicious of their doctors. “One of the unwritten rules in Modern Medicine is always to write a prescription for a new drug quickly, before all its side effects have come to the surface.” (Confessions of a Medical Heretic, p. 32) Mendelsohn opposed vaccinations for children, claiming the shots are dangerous and worthless.[8] Reception Mendelsohn was an anti-vaccination activist, an opinion widely rejected by the medical community.[9] His book Confessions of a Medical Heretic was negatively reviewed in the Journal of the American Medical Association, the reviewer noted that “the technique of describing one specific situation or case history and then generalizing to all situations or all case histories is a dangerous one, and such extrapolations are carefully avoided by all responsible scientists. However, this approach of Mendelsohn's supplies the grist for his mill— and its faulty.”[10] Quackwatch has noted that Mendelsohn “engaged in irresponsible criticism of the medical profession and science-based health care during most of his medical career.”[11] Nutritionist Kurt Butler described Mendelsohn as a “Whiney-voiced crackpot who made himself rich and famous by leading the bash-doctors movements now in vogue. Mendelsohn, now deceased, made a career of telling Americans that their doctors are out to rob and kill them. He urged everyone to avoid doctors and go instead to chiropractors, naturopaths and health fraud store clerks for their health care.”[12] Death He died April 5, 1988 at his home in Evanston, Illinois.[13][14] Publications 1982, Male Practice: How Doctors Manipulate Women, ISBN 0-8092-5721-1 1987, How To Raise a Healthy Child In Spite of Your Doctor, NTC/Contemporary Publishing Company, ISBN 0-8092-4995-2 1991, Confessions of a Medical Heretic, ISBN 0-8092-7726-3 (This book was first published in 1979) 1985, Dissent in Medicine...Nine Doctors Speak Out, Contemporary Books, Inc. 1988, But Doctor, About That Shot: The Risks of Immunizations and How to Avoid Them, by Robert S. Mendelsohn, M.D., edited by Vera Chatz and published by The People's Doctor, Inc. The People's Doctor Newsletter - published monthly from 1980 to 1988. References ^ Martin, Frances (January 30, 1980). "People in Print: Robert S. Mendelsohn, M.D., F.A.A.P. - Confessions of a Medical Heretic - The People's Doctor". 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Mendelsohn Robert Mendelsohn – The First Anti-Vaccine Pediatrician - Vaxopedia Retrieved from " Page 2 of 2Becoming a Medical Heretic During the '60s and '70s, Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn began to refer to himself as a "medical heretic." He later recalled how he got to be that way: In the late 1960s, my patients returned to me with diseases that I had previously created. The first group had cancer of the thyroid gland, because, when I was trained as a pediatric resident, we all used X-ray therapy to treat tonsillitis. This led to tens of thousands of cases of thyroid cancer. "Another group of patients had permanently yellow-green stained teeth from tetracycline given for the treatment of acne. Appearing in Issue #52. Order A Copy Today "And when I was a medical student at the University of Chicago, I participated in experiments where we gave women the female sex hormone diethylstilbestrol (DES) to prevent miscarriages. DES didn't prevent miscarriages, but it created a generation of sons and daughters with tumors and malformations of the reproductive organs..." "When I first noticed these connections, I thought perhaps that was all past history. Doctors must have learned from their mistakes..." "But, when I look today at diagnostic ultrasound, immunizations, environmental pollution, amniocentesis, hospital deliveries, allergy treatment, and practically everything else in medicine, it is obvious that doctors haven't changed at all. They are simply making a different, new set of mistakes." (From Dissent in Medicine, by Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn) Even before scientists like Bruce Lipton demonstrated the importance of a baby's epigenetic connection with his mother, Dr. Mendelsohn was well aware of the physiological importance of a mother's baby being with her as soon as possible after birth. Here's a story of Dr. Mendelsohn's utter respect for what is physiologically best for the mother and baby: I like mothers and fathers to stay with their children while they're in the hospital. In one of the hospitals I worked in, parents could stay with the child only if he or she was on the critical list. So I would put all of the kids on the critical list! They left me alone on that for a long time—until the showdown. The visiting hours were supposed to end at 7:30 every evening. One mother called me and said her child was crying but that he would stop crying and go to sleep by 8:30 if only she could stay with him until 8:30. I told her to go up to his room and stay. Then the nurse called me and said that this woman has to leave because the child wasn't critical and visiting hours were over. I asked her what she would do if the mother decided to stay. She said she'd call the supervisor. I called the supervisor and asked her the same question. She said she'd call the hospital administrator. The administrator called me and I asked him what he planned to do. He said he'd have a police guard come and escort the woman out of the hospital. I asked him to do me a favor and hold off for fifteen minutes so I could see what I could do. He figured I was a nice guy and would take care of it for him, so he agreed. I called up a local TV newsman—an activist—and told him I had a mother who was about to be thrown out of the hospital because she wanted to stay with her crying child for an extra hour until he went to sleep. He asked me to hold them off for twenty minutes so he could rush cameras to the scene. I said I'd see what I could do, and I'd get back to him. Then I called up the administrator and asked him to hold off for just twenty minutes more because the TV camera crew was on the way to film the policeman escorting the woman out of the hospital. The administrator said, "All right, Bob, you win. You call off your dogs, and I'll call off mine. But tomorrow I want to see you in my office." Next morning I went to his office and he told me he could throw me off the staff for doing what I did. I told him I knew that, but that I also knew that he wasn't going to do it. Because if he did I would go right to the newspaper and make the biggest fuss he'd ever seen. He said that was right. And he made a deal with me: "Your patients' visitors can stay as long as they want, but nobody else's. I don't want you to bring this up with the rest of the staff." (From Confessions of a Medical Heretic, by Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn) Dr. Mendelsohn heralded advice in his books and lectures that would reinstate the confidence lacking in parents of his time. The premises that form the basis of his advice, as detailed in How to Raise A Healthy Child...In Spite of Your Doctor, are as follows: At least 95 percent of the ailments that children are prey to will heal themselves and do not require medical attention. Too often, the risk of careless or needless medical intervention is greater than the dangers of the illness itself. Pediatricians spend most of their time treating parental distress. The child rarely needs treatment but gets it anyway and is subjected to the consequences, and it is the parent who gets the relief. That's because most doctors believe that parents demand, or at least expect, that they will do something for the child. What concerned parents really need is reassurance, and what their kids don't need is treatment when they aren't really sick. Most doctors won't take the time to provide meaningful parental reassurance: it is quicker and easier to write a prescription for the child. Mother Nature, mothers, grandmothers—yes, even fathers and grandfathers—are the best doctors around, because they do not share the typical doctor's compulsion to interfere with the body's efforts and ability to heal itself. At least 90 percent of the drugs prescribed by pediatricians are unnecessary and a costly risk to the child who takes them. All drugs are toxic and thus dangerous, per se. Beyond that, excessive childhood use of prescription drugs may generate the belief that there is "a pill for every ill." This may lead the child to seek chemical solutions to emotional problems later in life. At least 90 percent of children's surgery is unnecessary, needlessly exposing the patient to the risks of death from the surgery itself, from anesthesia, or from infections contracted in the hospital, which is an inescapably germidden environment. Most pediatricians have received little or no education covering the fundamentals of nutrition and pharmacology, and no emphasis is placed on these vital subjects in medical school. Their patients suffer because of the pediatrician's ignorance of the impact of diet on health and of the hazards and side effects of the drugs he prescribes. Parents need to learn when to call a doctor, and what they can do, without a doctor's intervention, to reinforce the body's ability to heal itself. Suggested Reading Confessions of a Medical Heretic, by Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn, published by Contemporary Books, Inc., 1979Male Practice: How Doctors Manipulate Women, by Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn, published by Contemporary Books, Inc., 1981How to Raise a Healthy Child...In Spite of Your Doctor, by Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn, published by Contemporary Books, Inc., 1984Dissent in Medicine...Nine Doctors Speak Out, by Dr. Robert S. Mendelsohn, published by Contemporary Books, Inc., 1985A Good Birth, a Safe Birth: Choosing and Having the Childbirth Experience You Want, by Roberta Scaer and Diana Korte, published by Harvard Common Press, 1992Dr. Mendelsohn has also recommended books by Angela Kilmartin (about some common women's health issues) and books by midwife Ina May Gaskin about birth. This article appeared in Pathways to Family Wellness magazine, Issue #52. View Article Resources. View Author Bio. To purchase this issue, Order Here. confessions of a medical heretic pdf. confessions of a medical heretic amazon. confessions of a medical heretic pdf download. confessions of a medical heretic pdf free. book confessions of a medical heretic

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