

# IN SEARCH OF HEALTH

ESSAYS IN MEDICAL ANTHROPOLOGY

edited by

Sjaak van der Geest and Klaas W. van der Veen



---

Uitgave 17

Vakgroep Culturele Antropologie en Niet-westerse Sociologie Algemeen (CANSa)  
Antropologisch-Sociologische Centrum  
Universiteit van Amsterdam  
1979

CONTENTS

PREFACE	iii
CONTENTS	iv
INTRODUCTION	1
Sjaak van der Geest	
1. The field of medical anthropology	1
2. Medical anthropology versus medical sociology	4
3. Anthropologists and medical aid	5
4. The essays	9
Notes	15
References	16
THE INFANCY OF EDWARD SHELONGA	19
AN EXTENDED CASE FROM THE ZAMBIAN SKOYA	
Wim M.J. van Binsbergen	
1. Introduction	19
2. The problem and the method	20
3. Background	26
4. The extended case	33
5. Edward's case: an artefact?	55
6. Interpretation of the extended case	59
7. Conclusion	69
Notes	71
References	78
POSTSCRIPT: THE ROLE OF COGNITION	87
Wim M.J. van Binsbergen	
Notes	90
References	90
THE DOCTOR AND THE HERBALIST: VIEWS BY GHANAIA SCHOOL PUPILS	91
Wolf Bleek	
1. Introduction	91
2. The research	92
3. The Akan	94
4. Various types of healers	95
5. The doctor viewed by school pupils	98
6. The herbalist viewed by school pupils	100
7. The concept of "medicine"	103
8. The doctor and the herbalist: a comparison	104
9. Conclusion	106
Notes	108
References	109

TRADITIONAL BONE SETTING IN KWAHU, GHANA	111
Ingrid Tijssen	
1. Introduction	111
2. Material and discussion	112
3. Summary and conclusion	117
Notes	120
References	121
A MEDICAL FOLLOW-UP STUDY	123
Adam van Enk	
Introduction	123
Material	123
Methods and results	124
Discussion and conclusion	125
Summary	127
Appendix 1	128
Appendix 2	129
References	130
CASTE, POVERTY AND DISEASE: SOME OBSERVATIONS IN AN INDIAN TOWN	131
Loes Schenk	
1. Introduction	131
2. The setting	132
3. Some observations at Dhobi Talav	133
4. The case of a sick boy	137
5. Concluding remarks	141
Notes	143
References	143
WESTERN MEDICAL CARE IN AN INDIAN SETTING:	145
THE VALSAD-DISTRICT IN GUJARAT	
Klaas W. van der Veen	
1. Introduction	145
2. General characteristics of the medical facilities in the South Gujarat-region	146
3. Causes for under-utilization of state health services	148
4. The western view of the doctor-patient relationship	150
5. Many-stranded and single-stranded relationships	152
6. The Indian view of the doctor-patient relationship	153
7. Conclusion	157
Note	158
References	158

NOTE ABOUT THE CONTRIBUTORS	159
AUTHORS INDEX	161
OTHER PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT CANSA	165
OTHER PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT EUROMED	167
OTHER PUBLICATIONS DEPARTMENT ZZOZ	168