

В. КРИТСКАЯ, Т. МЕЛЕШКО. Патопсихология шизофрении. М.: Институт психологии РАН, 2015, 389 с.

V. KRITSKAYA, T. MELESHKO. *Pathopsychology of Schizophrenia*. Moscow, Institute of Psychology, RAS, 2015, 389 pp.

Clinical psychology has not yet found an answer to one of the most challenging problems: identification of schizophrenic syndrome and its substantiation. Clinical physicians point out that the main factor of this syndrome has not yet been defined and that, therefore, there is no comprehensive understanding of schizophrenia as a mental disorder. This is a multidimensional problem since identification (or, frequently, enumeration) of symptoms such as selectivity of psychic (mental) processes and its being upset, lower motivational activity, reduced emotional response, specifics of self-awareness and self-appraisal creates a patchwork that makes it much harder to perceive the syndrome in its totality. The problem becomes a vicious circle: the clinical physician has to cope with an unclearly identified symptom and its ambiguity as a pathognomic factor.

These problems indicate that we should probably change the way we approach the problem—it should become systematic and spread to all levels: methodological, theoretical and the level of experimental-psychological testing of hypotheses.

This book is an excellent example of going beyond the traditional approach of schizophrenic syndrome's definition; it presents a new paradigm in which the limits of the studies of schizophrenia extend the systemic analysis to embrace not only *nosos* but also *pathos* (Andrey Snezhnevsky), both being a long process unfolded in time rather than a short period in the span of life. This approach, combined with the principles of systemic analysis, mediation of external impacts by the personality's individual-typological specifics and the unity of the biological and the social, allowed the authors to reveal the nature of schizophrenia in a new way.

Vera Kritskaya and Tamara Meleshko, the authors of the reviewed publication, are convinced that it is not quite correct to look at this mental disorder from the point of view of cognitive deficit and push aside personal specifics, that is, motivation: lower social awareness and social regulation that, as the authors

have demonstrated, is the main factor in the structure of the pathopsychological syndrome. Having stated this as a hypothesis the authors go on to prove, in a consistent and methodological manner, that it can be verified in principle. They have gone beyond the method of looking for evidence among the obvious for experimental psychology facts (autism being one of them) to offer a new interpretation of the less obvious material (patients' responsiveness to unusual or latent signs when dealing with cognitive problems) to get out of ambivalence when dealing with the schizophrenic pathopsychological syndrome.

The book's content has been carefully selected and organized so that all tasks—studies of psychological development of autistic children, studies of the cognitive style, the problem of regulating psychic activities as well as their stability in time (obtained through longitudinal studies)—added to the reliability (authenticity) of the results obtained. Chapters 5, 6, 7 and 8 are especially interesting in this respect. Despite their obviously analytical nature they have synthesized the obtained material by integrating the data cited in the first four chapters. The authors do not offer us strings of facts but restructure the material as a whole to differentiate the *pathos* and *nosos* signs, the constitutional factors of predisposition and the indicators of the dynamics of the schizophrenic process. In this way they identify sustainability in time of the cognitive style and changeability of the requirements and motivation characteristics of psychic activities.

The authors have further substantiated their hypotheses with an analysis of different types of the schizophrenic deficiency—the partial and the total—and also groups of asthenic and sthenic patients.

The tasks of differential diagnostics of schizophrenia, mood (affective) disorders and schizoaffective psychosis are also connected with the main task the authors have set themselves, namely, identification of the pathopsychological syndrome of schizophrenic deficiency. The differential diagnostics of schizophrenia and affective disorders were used not only to address the tasks of the book under review. It allowed the authors to contribute to the verification of their hypothesis, on the one hand, and to specify the differential diagnostics of mental illnesses, on the other, to assess the type of treatment, prognosis and formulate the rehabilitation tasks.

An analysis of the sex and gender distinctions as well as the tasks of differential diagnostics of the mental disorders clarified the ideas about the schizophrenic syndrome. The sex distinctions closely connected with the specifics of emotional responses in men and women and, correspondingly, with the motivational and volitional factors, confirmed the very specific nature of this disorder and the hypotheses related to the constitutional characteristics and their contribution to the development, the specifics of the beginning and dynamics of the disease in men and women and to different emotional and personal characteristics of patients.

By way of conclusion the authors offered and substantiated a new approach to the system of rehabilitation of patients.

The results arrived at in the book were obtained in full conformity with the norms and rules of scientific research. The authors formulated general and particular hypotheses and checked them while observing the rules of control of side

variables; they balanced out the idiographic and nomothetic, quantitative and qualitative analyses of the data obtained. The method of analysis of single cases was used for illustration and also as a method of additional verification of the formulated hypotheses. It should be noted that the work was done at the interface between clinical psychology, psychiatry, the general, differential and social psychology brought together by the philosophical-methodological approach to the studies of the problem of health and disorder in the specific perspective of studies of the pathopsychological schizophrenic syndrome.

The hypothesis on lowering of the social orientation and social regulation of the patients was corroborated by a complex study of schizophrenia made by the authors for many years. The hypothesis is further confirmed by a better functioning of the patients after the individual rehabilitation, the new approach to which was formulated by the authors.

It should be said that for a long time Russian psychology had discussed the idea of social determination of the personality and its health mainly at the level of the methodology of psychology before it was emasculated (deprived of content) as a result of the reduced system of proofs and transformed into the idea of social determination (the inner through the external). The book, which returns the reader to the discussion of the social nature of man, has earned our praise. The authors have demonstrated that social nature is man's essence not imposed from outside but unfolded in the course of developed life filled with a rich content due to the integration of the biological and the social because of their indivisibility in principle. A tipped balance alienates a constitutionally predisposed child from the socium; the later, in its turn, confirms alienation by moving away from the child or pushing him by force into interaction. The effects of the two opposite movements are absolutely identical. Deprived of a full-fledged social experience, man turns to his internal experience which without social integration and the experience of social development, cannot arrive at reference points and criteria indispensable for adequate personality development.

The book offers not only explicit but also implicit information that can be assessed as a huge potential for further studies.

As an example of the scientists' loyalty to the problem that they addressed at the very beginning of their careers and have been developing throughout their further life and professional activities and that contributed to their personal and professional development, the book is highly valuable. The monograph presents the data obtained in the 1960s—1980s and the recent results as well as the results obtained by other, including contemporary, authors with no glaring time gap. The systemic nature of studies, a clear structure of proofs and arguments, rich qualitative and quantitative illustrative materials, the maximally clear position of the authors and their boldness allow me to say that the book has enriched the studies of the pathopsychological schizophrenic syndrome and our understanding of the nature of man, his essence and personal development.

N. Kharlamenkova

Translated by Valentina Levina