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Bodies in Protest: Environmental Illness and the Struggle Over Medical Knowledge

By Steve Kroll-Smith, H. High Floyd

New York University Press, United States, 2000. Paperback. Book Condition: New. Revised ed.. 216 x 173 mm. Language: English . Brand New Book. Gulf War Syndrome: Is It a Real Disease? asks a recent headline in the New York Times. This question--are certain diseases real?--lies at the heart of a simmering controversy in the United States, a debate that has raged, in different contexts, for centuries. In the early nineteenth century, the air of European cities, polluted by open sewers and industrial waste, was generally thought to be the source of infection and disease. Thus the term miasma--literally deathlike air--came into popular use, only to be later dismissed as medically unsound by Louis Pasteur. While controversy has long swirled in the United States around such illnesses as chronic fatigue syndrome and Epstein-Barr virus, no disorder has been more aggressively contested than environmental illness, a disease whose symptoms are distinguished by an extreme, debilitating reaction to a seemingly ordinary environment. The environmentally ill range from those who have adverse reactions to strong perfumes or colognes to others who are so sensitive to chemicals of any kind that they must retreat entirely from the modern world. Bodies in Protest does not seek...



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