

**M0012039: Reproduction of the key label for a gallery display titled
"Concepts of Disease" in the Hall of Primitive Medicine at the Wellcome
Historical Medical Museum, Euston Road, in 1946**

Publication/Creation

1951

Persistent URL

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CONCEPTS OF DISEASE

PRIMITIVE CONCEPTS OF DISEASE DEPEND ON THE BELIEF IN GODS, SPIRITS OF THE DEAD, SUPERNATURAL FORCE OR INDWELLING SPIRITS IN THE PHYSICAL WORLD, WHICH AFFECT, CONTROL OR INTERFERE WITH THE LIFE AND ACTIVITIES OF MAN.

THE PRACTICES OF PRIMITIVE MEDICINE DEPEND ON THE BELIEF THAT THERE ARE PROCESSES BY WHICH MAN CAN COMPEL, PLACATE, CAJOLE OR EXPEL THESE BEINGS OR POWERS, OR TRANSFER THEM INTO HIMSELF, OTHER PERSONS OR CERTAIN MANUFACTURED OBJECTS.

AETIOLOGY, WHICH ARISES OUT OF THE BELIEFS, IS THE MAIN OBJECT OF *DIAGNOSIS* AND DICTATES METHODS OF *TREATMENT* AS WELL AS *PREVENTION*.

WHERE DISEASE IS NOT AN ISOLATED PHENOMENON BUT RANKS WITH ALL THE RISKS AND ACCIDENTS OF DAILY LIFE, MEDICINE IS NOT AN ISOLATED PRACTICE. TREATMENTS MAY BE CARRIED OUT BY PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS. THE MEDICINE-MAN MAY HAVE OTHER FUNCTIONS SUCH AS RAIN-MAKING OR THE PROMOTION OF VEGETATION. HE MAY BE AS WELL QUALIFIED AND PRACTISED IN THE PRODUCTION OF DISEASE AS IN ITS CURE.