Abstract

In psychiatry there is still an important ambiguity concerning the causes of mental disorders in terms of their putative origin in purely neurobiological or on the contrary purely mental phenomena. The coexistence of antagonistic causal hypothesis can be considered as a product of a series of ideas and events that have been determinant in the evolution of psychiatry as a medical discipline. The present paper presents a summarized version of some relevant historical and conceptual issues related to this situation. In addition some ideas that can be useful for diminishing the existing tension between these notions about causality are enounced.

Keywords

History of psychiatry, psychiatry; neuroscience, neurobiology.