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Book review

DIMENTICARE SE STESSI QUATTROPANI M.C., COPPOLA E. PICCIN. 2013

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Forget themselves, is it possible?

how can proceed existence? This is the fundamental question that is addressed in the book written by Quattropani and Coppola, published in March 2013, ed. Piccin.

The title is suggestive and paradoxical, enigmatic, poetic, is able to hold back in a few words, a large amount of images and meanings.

The book begins with two dreams of a patient suffering from Alzheimer's, which was included in a research project: the two dream as a prologue to the following pages, in which the pain associated with the loss of parts of the self and the attempt to recover his own inner world, through meaningful relationships, become the basting of a mixture of research and clinical practice.

A socio-anthropological issues of aging and dementia, opens the first chapter later in approaching psychological and neuropsychological specificity of Alzheimer's dementia.

2 COPPOLA E.

In the second chapter dementia and subjectivity, dialogue identifying the temporality of existence and autobiographical memory in the main constructs.

In the third chapter, addressing the diagnostic hypothesis of Alzheimer's dementia by neuropsychological screening and qualitative research.

The structure of the interview and the subsequent analysis of the material, for the stories of the patients, not simply to respond to the hypothesis of the research design, but to explore possibilities of intervention.

The results are encouraging: when patients of the clinical group organize freely the narrative, including others in the self-description, implicit memory preserves its function as a unifying identity, especially with the relational and emotional components of the narrative.

It is as the research participants were told that as long as there is a party that reminds me of who I am, I can be myself.

In the last part of the book, refer to clinical interventions, from prevention to diagnosis, to the taking into care of patients and families. In this final chapter, the results achieved are those who favor the use of relational models and group, such as the Touch-Therapy, which helps improve the living conditions of pazient and family, even in the more advanced stages of the disease.

Emanuela Coppola

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