Abstract

The Biblical Book of Job is a wisdom book. Wisdom, in this context, refers to the intellectual discipline taught by the sages of ancient Israel to provide professionals with a realistic approach to the problems of life. Chapter 30 of the Book of Job is a key-index of ideas that, if followed through the book, discloses a modern scientifically accurate description of a depression that, at times, was life-threatening. There are practical clinical clues to distinguish between normal mourning and depression, as well as aids to the differential diagnosis of somatic symptoms that may arise from depression. A timeless model of the scope and limitations of the professional relation between patient and comforter is also presented. Part of the wisdom of the Book of Job is to use depression as an example of a life-threatening illness to provide an unexcelled standard of clinical observation and medical intervention.
The Biblical Book of Job is a wisdom book. Wisdom, in this context, refers to the intellectual discipline taught by the sages of ancient Israel to provide professionals with a realistic approach to the problems of life. Chapter 30 of the Book of Job is a key-index of ideas that, if followed through the book, discloses a modern scientifically accurate description of a depression that, at times, was life-threatening. There are practical clinical clues to distinguish between normal mourning and depression, as well as aids to the differential diagnosis of somatic symptoms that may arise from depression. Charlie Chaplin's Modern Times (United Artists), released in the United States in 1936, was the only film dealing in a direct way with the impact of the Great Depression to have emerged from within the Hollywood system and to have been widely viewed by popular audiences during the mid-1930s. It made plain that many people in America were poor, unemployed and hungry, and that there were major inequalities in society in general. It confronted the effects of the Depression in a way unique at the time for its realism. As social critic Kyle Crichton, the pseudonym of left-wing writer Robert Foster, wrote in the mid-1930s, "Modern Times" confronted the effects of the Depression in a way unique at the time for its realism. As social critic Kyle Crichton, the pseudonym of left-wing writer Robert Foster, wrote in the mid-1930s, "Modern Times" ...