Verhältnisse und widernatürlichen Befriedigung.” (Georgens and Deinhardt, 1979, p. 201)

Ein ander Gesindt hernahet bey

dorczu sich auch vber eyre gesaczt wie eine ganß dorob geczosschet...” (Schnorr von Carolsfeld, 1877, p. 280).

Bürgerlichen vnd Christlichen Lere etc.” (Büttner, 1572) [Six hundred, seven and twenty stories about

schimpffliche wort vnd Reden/ die Erbare Ehrenleut Clausen abgemerckt/ vnd nachgesagt haben/ Zur

Manuscript. Further, if one accepts the date Ackermann provides for the birthday of Claus Narr, then

study the natural fool, the natural fool may be seen as the ‘mentally ill’ person-


didactic example. The foolish behavior is neither judged nor condemned. From my point of view the

moral closes the gap between the foolish performance and the fool’s wisdom: “This seems to be a

paradox example. In contrast, the fool is seen as a congruent figure in Büttner’s book. Therefore, the

natural fool was regarded as a representation of a marvel, despite his or her

terror events. They were, therefore, used as divine messengers in order to warn mankind. From the

as an isolated and uncontrollable event. Following the Greco-Roman and biblical tradition, in late

Curiosities because of their rareness. Equally individual anomalies such as monstrous births, double

monstrous individuals, as did monstrous births. Whereas wonderful species were often located on the

as a didactic example. However, in the context of Büttner’s story, the fool is seen as a

funny joke. The moral of the story is that the fool’s actions are not to be imitated, for they are

natural fools are especially considered as loci where endogenous and exogenous illness is

presented in court fools, as well as in the so-called ‘natural fools’ of the Middle Ages (Claus Narr).

The concept of psychiatric disease is understood as a temporary status of mental disorder.

The empirical examination of ‘natural fools’ is based on the examination of their

disability in the context of the Enlightenment. However, it is important to note that the

psychiatric disease can still be detected in their word choice. Sporadic idiotism is divided into four

natural fools are associated with the concept of ‘genitor, or unnatural conditions, or unnatural sexual satisfaction.


Kultur in der deutschen Literatur des Mittelalters

modern society.

medicalized and “educationalized” discourse of mental difference. Nevertheless it seems very likely

explain this phenomenon by attributing the notion of half-civilization to the endemic idiotism of the

The book of the artificial fools at the Court of Maximilian I contains references to

fool, although it is not clear how they were used. According to Büttner, the fools were treated as

Tübingen: Niemeyer, pp. 3-17.


Buchwald, G. (1928). Lutherana: Notizen aus Rechnungsbüchern des Thüringischen Staatsarchivs zu


The conception of psychiatric disease as a temporary status of mental disorder is discussed


Riding, they’re the next ones to appear. These are the fools of the natural sort, Very well known in the

The foolishness of the natural fools is often associated with the idea of the ‘natural fool’ as an isolated and uncontrollable event. Following the Greco-Roman and biblical tradition, in late

Curiosities because of their rareness. Equally individual anomalies such as monstrous births, double

monstrous individuals, as did monstrous births. Whereas wonderful species were often located on the

The conception of psychiatric disease as a temporary status of mental disorder is discussed


Riding, they’re the next ones to appear. These are the fools of the natural sort, Very well known in the

The foolishness of the natural fools is often associated with the idea of the ‘natural fool’ as an isolated and uncontrollable event. Following the Greco-Roman and biblical tradition, in late

Curiosities because of their rareness. Equally individual anomalies such as monstrous births, double

monstrous individuals, as did monstrous births. Whereas wonderful species were often located on the

The conception of psychiatric disease as a temporary status of mental disorder is discussed
