with the tools to either remit or mitigate the suffering of most patients at the same level as many medical specialties. Psychiatry and allied mental health disciplines have much to offer in the form of relatively safe, inexpensive, empirically based and clinically reasoned treatments for very common and debilitating health problems. Psychiatry has long been the object of scepticism from the public, potential patients and our colleagues. Clarity on all we have to offer is in order.

Kevin Healy

Maslow’s hierarchy of human motivation is an often-cited reference in articles on the practice of psychotherapy. When approached to contribute these reflections I realised that I had never actually read Maslow’s original work. On then reading this very short booklet, I was surprised to see that it was written in 1942, in the middle of World War II, and yet still seemed up to date and prescient in its content, if not in its wording and style.

‘When we ask what a man wants from life we deal with his very essence’, according to Maslow. While Maslow recognises that an act typically has more than one motivation, he goes on to build a hierarchy of human motivation whereby the appearance of one need usually rests on the prior satisfaction of another need. He states that behaviour is almost always biologically, culturally and situationally determined as well.

I have had clinical experiences of working as a consultant psychiatrist in medical psychotherapy over the past 30 years with a variety of patients, in a variety of settings, and using a variety of constantly evolving therapeutic skills. According to Maslow, the underlying motivation in all humans is the satisfaction of the physiological needs that support homeostasis. He next describes the need for safety, which is especially evident in children as they enjoy and seek a predictable, orderly world in which to thrive. Next comes the need for love, which involves both giving and receiving love, and is not synonymous with sex. When the above needs are satisfied I have had clinical experiences of working as a consultant psychiatrist in medical psychotherapy over the past 30 years with a variety of patients, in a variety of settings, and using a variety of constantly evolving therapeutic skills. According to Maslow, the underlying motivation in all humans is the satisfaction of the physiological needs that support homeostasis. He next describes the need for safety, which is especially evident in children as they enjoy and seek a predictable, orderly world in which to thrive. Next comes the need for love, which involves both giving and receiving love, and is not synonymous with sex. When the above needs are satisfied

This truly is a remarkable work that highlights the development and evolution of a range of important child developmental ideas. I am glad to have finally read it!

A Theory of Human Motivation by Abraham H. Maslow (1942)

Kevin Healy

Maslow’s hierarchy of human motivation is an often-cited reference in articles on the practice of psychotherapy. When approached to contribute these reflections I realised that I had never actually read Maslow’s original work. On then reading this very short booklet, I was surprised to see that it was written in 1942, in the middle of World War II, and yet still seemed up to date and prescient in its content, if not in its wording and style.

‘When we ask what a man wants from life we deal with his very essence’, according to Maslow. While Maslow recognises that an act typically has more than one motivation, he goes on to build a hierarchy of human motivation whereby the appearance of one need usually rests on the prior satisfaction of another need. He states that behaviour is almost always biologically, culturally and situationally determined as well.

I have had clinical experiences of working as a consultant psychiatrist in medical psychotherapy over the past 30 years with a variety of patients, in a variety of settings, and using a variety of constantly evolving therapeutic skills. According to Maslow, the underlying motivation in all humans is the satisfaction of the physiological needs that support homeostasis. He next describes the need for safety, which is especially evident in children as they enjoy and seek a predictable, orderly world in which to thrive. Next comes the need for love, which involves both giving and receiving love, and is not synonymous with sex. When the above needs are satisfied

This truly is a remarkable work that highlights the development and evolution of a range of important child developmental ideas. I am glad to have finally read it!

A Theory of Human Motivation by Abraham H. Maslow (1942)

Kevin Healy

Maslow’s hierarchy of human motivation is an often-cited reference in articles on the practice of psychotherapy. When approached to contribute these reflections I realised that I had never actually read Maslow’s original work. On then reading this very short booklet, I was surprised to see that it was written in 1942, in the middle of World War II, and yet still seemed up to date and prescient in its content, if not in its wording and style.

‘When we ask what a man wants from life we deal with his very essence’, according to Maslow. While Maslow recognises that an act typically has more than one motivation, he goes on to build a hierarchy of human motivation whereby the appearance of one need usually rests on the prior satisfaction of another need. He states that behaviour is almost always biologically, culturally and situationally determined as well.

I have had clinical experiences of working as a consultant psychiatrist in medical psychotherapy over the past 30 years with a variety of patients, in a variety of settings, and using a variety of constantly evolving therapeutic skills. According to Maslow, the underlying motivation in all humans is the satisfaction of the physiological needs that support homeostasis. He next describes the need for safety, which is especially evident in children as they enjoy and seek a predictable, orderly world in which to thrive. Next comes the need for love, which involves both giving and receiving love, and is not synonymous with sex. When the above needs are satisfied

This truly is a remarkable work that highlights the development and evolution of a range of important child developmental ideas. I am glad to have finally read it!

A Theory of Human Motivation by Abraham H. Maslow (1942)

Kevin Healy

Maslow’s hierarchy of human motivation is an often-cited reference in articles on the practice of psychotherapy. When approached to contribute these reflections I realised that I had never actually read Maslow’s original work. On then reading this very short booklet, I was surprised to see that it was written in 1942, in the middle of World War II, and yet still seemed up to date and prescient in its content, if not in its wording and style.

‘When we ask what a man wants from life we deal with his very essence’, according to Maslow. While Maslow recognises that an act typically has more than one motivation, he goes on to build a hierarchy of human motivation whereby the appearance of one need usually rests on the prior satisfaction of another need. He states that behaviour is almost always biologically, culturally and situationally determined as well.

I have had clinical experiences of working as a consultant psychiatrist in medical psychotherapy over the past 30 years with a variety of patients, in a variety of settings, and using a variety of constantly evolving therapeutic skills. According to Maslow, the underlying motivation in all humans is the satisfaction of the physiological needs that support homeostasis. He next describes the need for safety, which is especially evident in children as they enjoy and seek a predictable, orderly world in which to thrive. Next comes the need for love, which involves both giving and receiving love, and is not synonymous with sex. When the above needs are satisfied

This truly is a remarkable work that highlights the development and evolution of a range of important child developmental ideas. I am glad to have finally read it!

A Theory of Human Motivation by Abraham H. Maslow (1942)

Kevin Healy

Maslow’s hierarchy of human motivation is an often-cited reference in articles on the practice of psychotherapy. When approached to contribute these reflections I realised that I had never actually read Maslow’s original work. On then reading this very short booklet, I was surprised to see that it was written in 1942, in the middle of World War II, and yet still seemed up to date and prescient in its content, if not in its wording and style.

‘When we ask what a man wants from life we deal with his very essence’, according to Maslow. While Maslow recognises that an act typically has more than one motivation, he goes on to build a hierarchy of human motivation whereby the appearance of one need usually rests on the prior satisfaction of another need. He states that behaviour is almost always biologically, culturally and situationally determined as well.

I have had clinical experiences of working as a consultant psychiatrist in medical psychotherapy over the past 30 years with a variety of patients, in a variety of settings, and using a variety of constantly evolving therapeutic skills. According to Maslow, the underlying motivation in all humans is the satisfaction of the physiological needs that support homeostasis. He next describes the need for safety, which is especially evident in children as they enjoy and seek a predictable, orderly world in which to thrive. Next comes the need for love, which involves both giving and receiving love, and is not synonymous with sex. When the above needs are satisfied

This truly is a remarkable work that highlights the development and evolution of a range of important child developmental ideas. I am glad to have finally read it!
A Theory of Human Motivation by Abraham H. Maslow – reflection

Kevin Healy

BJP 2016, 208:313.
Access the most recent version at DOI: 10.1192/bjp.bp.115.179622

References
This article cites 0 articles, 0 of which you can access for free at:
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/content/208/4/313#BIBL

Reprints/permissions
To obtain reprints or permission to reproduce material from this paper, please write to permissions@rcpsych.ac.uk

You can respond to this article at
/letters/submit/bjprcpsych;208/4/313

Downloaded from
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/ on October 21, 2017
Published by The Royal College of Psychiatrists

To subscribe to The British Journal of Psychiatry go to:
http://bjp.rcpsych.org/site/subscriptions/