

- 19 Blazer DG, Kessler RC, McGonagle KA, Swartz MS. The prevalence and distribution of major depression in a national community sample: the National Comorbidity Survey. *Am J Psychiatry* 1994; **151**: 979–86.
- 20 Gusmao RM, Xavier M, Heitor MJ, Bento A, Almeida JM. [Depressive disorder burden: global epidemiological issues and information needs in Portugal]. *Acta Med Port* 2005; **18**: 129–46.
- 21 Aragonés E, Gutiérrez MA, Pino M, Lucena C, Cervera J, Garreta I. Prevalencia y características de la depresión mayor y la distimia en atención primaria [Prevalence and characteristics of major depression and dysthymia in primary care]. *Atencion Primaria* 2001; **27**: 623–8.
- 22 Copeland JR, Beekman AT, Dewey ME, Hooijer C, Jordan A, Lawlor BA, Lobo A, Magnusson H, Mann AH, Meller I, Prince MJ, Reischies F, Turrina C, deVries MW, Wilson KC. Depression in Europe. Geographical distribution among older people. *Br J Psychiatry* 1999; **174**: 312–21.
- 23 Lépine JP, Gastpar M, Mendlewicz J, Tylee A. Depression in the community: the first pan-European study DEPRES (Depression Research in European Society). *Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 1997; **12**: 19–29.
- 24 Simon GE. Evidence review: efficacy and effectiveness of antidepressant treatment in primary care. *Gen Hosp Psychiatry* 2002; **24**: 213–24.
- 25 Wittchen HU, Hofer M, Meister W. Prevalence and recognition of depressive syndromes in German primary care settings: poorly recognized and treated? *Int Clin Psychopharmacol* 2001; **16**: 121–35.
- 26 Fernández A, Haro JM, Martínez-Alonso M, Demyttenaere K, Brugha TS, Autonell J, De Girolamo G, Bernert S, Lépine JP, Alonso J. Treatment adequacy for anxiety and depressive disorders in six European countries. *Br J Psychiatry* 2007; **190**: 172–3.
- 27 Bellon JA, Lardelli P, Luna JD, Delgado A. Validity of self reported utilisation of primary health care services in an urban population in Spain. *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2000; **54**: 544–51.



Poems by doctors

When I heard them

Merrill Moore

When I heard them telling the pitiful facts of their lives
I realized that my life might be pitiful too
For the first time. They were talking about unappreciative wives
And husbands and children whose affections withdrew
(if they ever existed).

One woman said to me:
"One October day, my father died.
Then we took him to the family cemetery to be buried.
The funeral had to go on a ferry boat
From the mainland to the island where we had lived
And it rained –"

And a man told me: "When I got to town
I called her up for I finally knew I wanted
To marry her but a servant answered the telephone
And told me she would be away all day
At a funeral, taking her father to bury him,
So I never called back: somehow I changed my mind
And I think to this day she never knew I called."

Merrill Moore (1903–1957) was born in Columbia, Tennessee. He graduated in medicine from Vanderbilt Medical School in 1928. He practised as a psychiatrist at Boston City Hospital and taught at Harvard Medical School. He is reputed to have written between 50 000 and 100 000 sonnets. This poem is from *Clinical Sonnets* (1949), Twayne Publishers, reprinted by kind permission of Adam Moore.

Poem selected by Professor Femi Oyeboode.