

WHY AUTHORS USE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS IN NOVELS, PLAYS AND SHORT STORIES?

M. Elia

Neurology, Private practice, UK

Neuro13@post.tau.ac.il

MS is a relatively new disease. It's appearance in fiction seems to increase in frequency. Does it replace previously untreatable chronic diseases such as tuberculosis or gout - since these diseases are kept under control?

First - in 1996 - I have used literary works familiar to me in order to identify fictional characters suffering from MS.

After identifying the fictional people with MS I addressed the authors questioning the reason they have chosen characters suffering from MS?

it was encouraging that several authors responded promptly.

PD James for example explained: having been a hospital administrator for decades - when in need of a chronic non-fatal disease, MS was the obvious choice.

Tom Kempinski took the initiative to telephone me personally - a wonderful opportunity for meaningful discussion...

Several authors found it convenient to use first-hand information having personally known a friend or family member suffering from MS.

After searching the internet other literary works and if available the authors' answers will be analyses.

Started at the end of the last millennium this work is still in progress.