

Slaying the Dragon

The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America

William L. White

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Those among us having a fondness for history are accustomed to being transported to the past, and Mr. White does this deliciously in the second edition of *Slaying the Dragon: The History of Addiction Treatment and Recovery in America*, beginning with a sojourn to Colonial America to meet Dr. Benjamin Rush, "unquestionably the first American authority on alcohol and alcoholism" "These institutions marked the first broad-scale professional movement to medicalize excessive drinking and drug use in America." (Dragon, p. 43). The "Keeley Cure" led to an age in which "physician-entrepreneurs" made incredible claims regarding the success of their addiction cures