

# Reparanoitee

*Seymour Spencer*

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Worry not! Yet another diagnostic category is not *en route* for ICD-11; just a reminder that the ostensibly withdrawn paranoid schizophrenic may yet outwit his psychiatrist in repartee.

Bert was the typical harmless long-stay patient who wandered at will in and around the hospital bemoaning his detention in the private psychiatric institution which had filched all his money. Once asked in the grounds by a visitor where was the exit, he replied that, after 20 years' incarceration, he had yet to find that out. If excessive pressure for review of his predicament seemed afoot from a diligent new

member of the management committee before whom he had remonstrated, he would politely remind him or her on departure that he was a voluntary patient.

He was jabbering to himself as I passed him in the main corridor. "You *are* woolgathering, Bert, this morning," I ventured. "Well," came the lightning riposte, "I'm certainly being fleeced!".

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