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Books Received

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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the physician who prescribes and the patient who ingests, and a crystal example of how to make technology readable.

George Vlasak deals handily with the complexity of suicidal behavior and dares the taboo truth of the 'social worthiness scale,' indicated by the loudness and length of the ambulance siren and attitudes of Emergency Room staff. Bodies of suicides (unless famous), sharing the bottom of the scale with skid-row alcoholics, are subject to experimental indignities by doctors, and refusal of handling by nurses.

Seymour Perlin's contribution on Psychiatry explains reasons for suicide (the helpless rage) engendered by inability to change the world, or adapt oneself, the

revenge motif, the despair of guilt and failure), and shows how the isolation common to all these makes help-seeking less likely.

Dr. Sainsbury describes varying modes of such help, and how all suicide prevention agencies, lay and professional, could be integrated to save lives.

Mary Monk, on statistics, points out the difficulties of evaluating such suicide prevention services, since one cannot justify withholding the services from a selected or random group.

All in all, this handbook, from a group of concerned and informed people, is a welcome addition to the literature of suicide.

Monica Dickens
Director, The Samaritans

REVIEWERS

Recent additions to LQ's staff of book reviewers include the following:

Dickens, Monica, British novelist and journalist; Director, The Samaritans, International Suicide Prevention Organization.

Doherty, Dennis J., Ph.D., Assoc. Prof. of Theology, Marquette University.

Jefferson, Mildred F., M.D., President, National Right-to-Life Committee.

McGregor, James E., Asst. Prof. of Philosophy, Boston State College.

Southgate, M. Therese, M.D., Deputy Editor, *The Journal of the American Medical Assoc.*

Books Received

Abortion in Perspective: The Rose Place or the Fiery Dragon? (with 18 slides and audiocassette). Dr. Donald DeMarch. Hiltz & Hayes Pub., Cincinnati. 1974, XIV + 194 p., \$3.95

America's Worst Drug Problem: Alcohol. Richard L. Reilly, D.O. Liguori Pub., Liguori, Mo. 1974, 128 p., \$1.75

Bibliography of Bioethics, Vol. I. LeRoy Walters, Ph.D., editor. Gale Research Co., Detroit. 1975, XXIII + 225 p., \$24.00

Biomedical Ethics: Morality for the New Medicine. Kenneth Vaux. Harper & Row, Pub., New York. 1974, XVIII + 134 p., \$5.95

Biomedical Experimentation on Prisoners: Review of Practices and Problems and Proposal of a New Regulatory Approach. Albert R. Jonsen, et al. School of Medicine, Univ. of Calif. 1975, 43 p., no price given.

Complaints and Disorders: The Sexual Politics of Sickness. Barbara Ehrenreich & Deirdre English. The

- Feminist Press, Old Westburg, N. Y. 1973, 94 p., \$1.25
- The Conflict of Interest Between Physician as Therapist and as Experimenter.** Louis Lasagna, M.D. Society for Health and Human Values, Philadelphia. 1975, 26 p., no price given.
- Death and Beyond.** Andrew Greeley. The Thomas More Assoc., Chicago. 1976, 144 p., \$7.95
- Death Inside Out: The Hastings Center Report.** Peter Steinfelds and Robert Veatch, editors. Harper & Row, Pub., New York. 1975, X + 149 p., \$7.95 (paper \$3.50)
- The Dilemmas of Euthanasia.** John A. Behnke and Sissela Bok, editors. Anchor Press/Doubleday, Garden City, N. Y. 1975, VIII + 187 p., \$2.95
- Experimentation with Human Beings: The Authority of the Investigator, Subject, Professions and State in the Human Experimentation Process.** Jay Katz, with the assistance of A. Capron & E. Swift Glass. Russell Sage Foundation, N. Y. 1972, XLIX + 1159 p., \$20.00
- Experiment Perilous: Physicians and Patients Facing the Unknown.** Renee C. Fox. Univ. of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia. 1974, 262 p., \$5.95
- Genetic Screening: Programs, Principles, and Research.** National Academy of Sciences. 1975, XV + 388 p., \$6.00
- Handbook on Euthanasia.** Susan M. and Robert L. Sassone, 900 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, Calif. 1975, 144 p., \$1.50
- The Healing Hand; Man and Wound in the Ancient World.** Guido Majno. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1975, XXIII + 571 p., \$25.00
- Issues in Evaluating Behavior Modification.** Dr. W. Scottwood, editor. Research Press, Champaign, Ill. 1975, XVII + 264 p., \$6.95
- Labeling Madness.** Thomas J. Scheff, editor. Prentice-Hall, Inc., Englewood Cliffs, N. J. 1975, X + 160 p., \$2.95
- Life and Death in Medicine.** A Scientific American Book. W. H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco. 1973, VII + 147 p., \$7.50 (paper \$3.75)
- Life-style and Demography of Catholic Religious Sisterhood and Health of Other Religious Groups.** Con J. Fetcher, Ph.D. Univ. of Dayton Press, 1975, XVIII + 137 p., no price given.
- Medical Engravings of the 19th Century.** Philemon Stein. Universe Books, New York. 1974, 112 p., \$3.95
- Men in Crisis: Human Breakdowns in Prison.** Hans Toch. Aldine Pub. Co., Chicago. 1975, VII + 340 p., \$14.75
- The Mystery of the Mind.** Wilder Penfield. Princeton Univ. Press, 1975, XXIX + 123 p., \$8.95
- The Physician and Sexuality in Victorian America.** John S. Haller, Jr., & Robin M. Haller. Univ. of Illinois Press, Chicago. 1974, XV + 331 p., \$10.00
- A Primer of Psychobiology: Brain and Behavior.** Timothy J. Teyler. W. H. Freeman and Co., San Francisco. 1975, XII + 143 p., no price given.
- The Release of the Destruction of Life Devoid of Value.** Karl Binding and Alfred Hocke. R. L. Sassone, 900 N. Broadway, Santa Ana, Calif. 1975 (Originally published in German, 1920), 112 p., \$1.50
- Responsible Stewardship of Human Life: Inquiries into Medical Ethics II.** Rev. Donald G. McCarthy, Ph.D., editor. The Catholic Hospital Assoc., St. Louis, Mo. 1976, VI + 138 p., no price given.
- Sex Education for the Handicapped.** (Series of pamphlets) Human Sciences Press, N. Y. Various publication dates.
- Sex Sanity in the Modern World: A Guidebook for Everyone.** Russell Abata, C.S.S.R. Liguori Pub., Liguori, Mo. 1975, 64 p., \$1.00

The Speed Culture: Amphetamine Use and Abuse in America. Lester Grinspoon, M.D. & Peter Hedblom. Harvard Univ. Press, Cambridge, Mass. 1975, VIII + 340 p., \$15.00

Why Would a Girl Go into Medicine? Medical Education in the United States: A Guide for Women. Mar-

garet A. Campbell, M.D. The Feminist Press, Old Westburg, N. Y. 1973, V + 1114 p., \$3.50

Witches, Midwives, and Nurses: A History of Women Healers. Barbara Ehrenreich & Deirdre English. The Feminist Press, Old Westburg, N. Y. 1973, 48 p., no price given.

Current Literature

Material appearing below is thought to be of particular interest to Linacre Quarterly readers because of its moral, religious, or philosophic content. The medical literature constitutes the primary but not the sole source of such material. In general, abstracts are intended to reflect the substance of the original article. Contributions and comments from readers are invited. (E. G. Laforet, M.D., 2000 Washington St., Newton Lower Falls, MA. 02162.)

Spiro H: Constraint and consent—on being a patient and a subject. *New Eng J Med* 293:1134-1135 27 Nov 1975.

The informed consent given by patients or research subjects is rarely valid. Freedom to choose may be restricted by many extraneous elements. In the area of clinical research a conflict of interest might be avoided if the physician caring for a patient did not simultaneously wear the hat of clinical investigator. This separation of interests has precedent in the matter of the living kidney donor.

Hausman DB: What is natural? *Perspect Biol & Med* 19:92-100 Autumn 1975.

The notion of what is natural and unnatural is difficult to apply. With the emphasis on application to human beings and in the medical context of the dichotomy between

disease and health, the basic Aristotelian framework is examined. Such a study of the natural and of deviations therefrom may prove useful in the clarification of disease.

Lister J: Private rights and public good. *New Eng J Med* 293:1135-1136 27 Nov 1975.

In Britain there has been much emphasis by health-care planners on the use of computers and data banks, with little concern for the loss of privacy that this might entail. Although "the public in general has been remarkably submissive," occasional voices have been raised about the potential threats of modern technology to the individual. In the past, possibly damaging information concerning patients has been under the control of the individual physician. Control is lost when files are computerized. Although bureaucrats have maintained that the computer will not be misused in a dem-