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Books Received

Catholic Physicians' Guild

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ethics. For him ethical statements are neither true nor false, and can thus be neither verified nor falsified. Rather they are prescriptions that can be validated by values. But the values validating them are ultimately matters of human choice, for we can never know that what we value is truly, really, valuable. *His* values, fortunately, are different from those of Attila the Hun and Hitler; but they are surely not those of a Christian. Human life, for him, is valuable, and individual human beings are valuable, but only so long as they serve the highest value: the survival of human culture.

It has not been possible, in this short review, to do full justice to Brody's book. He poses serious and difficult questions that need to be given intelligent and carefully thought out answers by all who accept the sanctity of human life and believe that what our actions have to tell us about ourselves is more important than what they succeed in accomplishing (although we can by no means ignore their consequences). His book may infuriate at times, and the medical decisions (e.g. abortion of "defective" fetuses, killing dying patients with kindness, sperm shopping in A.I.D., etc.) his theory validates are surely wrong, but the arguments he develops need to be taken seriously and the challenge he presents met forthrightly.

—William E. May, Associate Professor of Moral Theology
The Catholic University of America

Books Received

- Body Hot Spots: The Anatomy of Human Social Organs and Behavior.** R. Dale Guthrie, Van Nostrand Reinhold Co., 1976. \$8.95, 240 p.
- Contraceptive Technology.** Robert A. Hatcher, et al. Halsted Press, 1976. \$2.95, 144 p.
- Death: Current Perspectives.** Edwin S. Shneidman, ed. Mayfield Pub. Co., 1976. \$7.95, XXIII + 547 p.
- Death Without Dignity: Killing for Mercy.** Rev. Paul Marx, O.S.B. The Liturgical Press, 1975. 47 p., no price given.
- The Demographic Explosion: The Latin American Experience.** Benjamin Viel, M.D. Halsted Press, 1976. \$14.95, XIII + 249 p.
- Ethical and Scientific Issues Posed by Human Uses of Molecular Genetics.** Marc Lappe and Robert Morison, editors. N. Y. Academy of Sciences, 1976. 208 p., no price given.
- Ethics and Population.** Michael D. Bayles, ed. Schenkman Pub. Co., 1976. XXVIII + 190 p., no price given.
- Eugenics Then and Now.** Carl J. Bajema, ed. Halsted Press, 1976. \$25.00, XV + 382 p.
- Genetic Research in Psychiatry.** R. Fieve, D. Rosenthal, and H. Brill, editors. Johns Hopkins Univ. Press, 1975. \$16.50, XV + 301 p.
- Human Territories: How We Behave in Space-Time.** Albert E. Schefflen and Norman Ashcraft. Prentice-Hall, 1976. \$3.95, XVI + 210 p.
- Human Values in Medical Education.** John R. Ellis, M.D. Society for Health and Human Values, 1976. 28 p., no price given.
- Moral Problems in Medicine.** Samuel Gorovitz, et al, editors. Prentice-Hall, 1976. XXIV + 552 p., \$11.50.
- Natural Family Planning: The Ovulation Method.** Dr. John Billings. The Liturgical Press, 1975. VI + 38 p., no price given.
- The 9 Most Common Marriage Problems and How to Overcome Them.** James J. Rue, Ph.D. Liguori Publications, 1976. \$1.00, 64 p.

- One Day at a Time: Meditations and Prayers on the Eleventh Step.** Msgr. Joseph E. Farrell. Liguori Publications, 1976. \$1.00, 61 p.
- The Prevention of Genetic Disease and Mental Retardation.** Aubrey Milunsky. W. B. Saunders, 1975. \$24.00, XV + 506 p.
- Research on the Fetus: Report and Recommendations.** The National Commission for the Protection of Human Subjects of Biomedical and Behavioral Research. D. H. E. W. Pub. No. (OS) 76-127. 1975, 88 p. (Plus Appendix, D. H. E. W. Pub. No. (OS) 76-128, 639 p.)
- Sex Education in Medicine.** H. I. Lief and A. Karlen, editors. Halsted Press, 1976. \$12.95, 155 p.
- Should Doctors Play God?** Claude A. Frazier, M.D., ed. Broadman Press, 1971. \$1.95, 176 p.
- Sociology in Medicine.** R. K. Jones and P. A. Jones. John Wiley & Sons, 1976. \$9.95, 222 p.
- Teaching in the Health Professions.** C. W. Ford and Margaret Morgan, editors. C. V. Mosby Co., 1976. \$11.95, XIV + 289 p.
- Your Marriage: A Practical Guide for the Engaged and Married.** John F. DeYonker, D.O. and Thomas E. Tobin, C.S.S.R. Liguori Publications, 1976. \$1.50, 144 p.

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.)

Witkin HA, Mednick SA, Schulsinger F, et al: Criminality in XYY and XXY men. *Science* 193:547-555 13 Aug 1976.

Although society has had a legitimate concern about aggression among XYY and XXY men, there is no evidence that such individuals are especially aggressive. The elevated crime rate may be related to low intelligence. Since this group does not contribute particularly to the problem of aggressive crime, identification would not ameliorate the situation.

McCormick RA: The Karen Ann Quinlan case. *JAMA* 234:1057 8 Dec 1975.

The traditional role of family and physician in reaching a decision on the prolongation of life is threatened by the court decision in the Karen Ann Quinlan case. Law must remain open to the service of persons but overemphasis on its role in human affairs will produce grave imbalances. "The Quinlan case never should have gotten to the courts. Obsolete homicide laws and corrosive malpractice atmosphere got it