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[Book Review of] *Ethical Issues in Family Medicine*, by Ronald J. Christie and C. Barry Hoffmaster

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Christie and Hoffmaster have made an important contribution to the field of ethics by bringing to our attention an area which has been neglected. Our concentration on intensive care problems, abortion and in vitro fertilization have been fields which have primarily involved the medical specialist and subspecialist. There is no question that ethical considerations in family practice have not received the attention they should have. This is an important book because of its provocative approach. It has opened the doors, I trust, to further discussion and will clearly open our eyes in some areas. As viable as it is, it is not the last word.

—Robert J. Barnet, M.D.
Reno, Nevada

Changing Values in Medicine

Eric J. Cassell, M.D. and Mark Siegler, M.D., Editors

University Publications of America: Frederick, Maryland, 1984. 275 pages (paperback) \$24.

This collection is essentially a *Festschrift* honoring Otto Guttentag and developed from papers presented at a conference held at Cornell University Medical College in 1979. As such, it displays a certain unevenness and lack of thematic unity which are almost inevitable in such circumstances. However, the editors have tried to remedy these defects by providing both a useful introduction and a tripartite categorization of the presentations which is only slightly Procrustean. Thus, Part I deals with "The Practice of Medicine", Part II with "Physicians and Patients", and Part III with "Directions for Philosophy in Medicine". In addition, six of the eight seminal essays are followed by an invited "commentary" or critique which often provides further insight or raises unaddressed questions without falling victim to the "master carpenter" syndrome beloved of Italian folklore. The roster of participants is replete with the names of established luminaries in the field of medical ethics, including Alasdair MacIntyre, Edmund Pellegrino, Tristram Engelhardt, Stephen Toulmin and, of course, the editors.

Besides the commentaries, Part I consists of Siegler's "The Nature and Limits of Clinical Medicine", Toulmin's "Causation and the Locus of Medical Intervention", and MacIntyre's "Medicine Aimed at the Care of Persons Rather Than What . . . ?". In Part II, Guttentag discusses "The Attending Physician as a Central Figure", Lain Entralgo asks "What Does the Word *Good* Mean in *Good Patient*?", and Cassell presents "Uses of the Subjective in Medical Practice". The series closes with Part III, in which Black details ways that the humanities might help to improve medical training and practice; this is followed by Ladd's "Philosophy and Medicine".

Despite its unevenness and the long hiatus—five years—between conference and publication, *Changing Values in Medicine* has much to recommend it. Each contribution is scholarly, apposite, and of salutary brevity. The previously mentioned "commentaries"—editorial notes or rejoinders—add significantly to an appreciation of the essayists' expositions. Perhaps the greatest value of the collection is just that: its compression between two soft covers of the fundamental concepts developed by a number of leading medical ethicists.

—Eugene G. Laforet, M.D.
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