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Book Reviews

Physicians’ Crusade Against Abortion by Frederick N. Dyer, Ph.D., Science History Publication, USA, 2205

The modern posture of the medical profession on the issue of abortion and related life issues is to stand shoulder to shoulder in support of a woman’s right to kill her baby. The American Medical Association is in concert with other professional organizations. American College of OB-Gyn, American College of Surgeons, American Academy of Pediatrics, etc., value the privacy of the doctor-patient relationship more than the survival of the unborn child. As difficult as it is to comprehend, the AMA actually had a glorious tradition of opposition to abortion for over a century from 1860 until 1970. Contrary to pro-abortion allegations, this opposition was centered on the sanctity of life of the preborn child rather than the risks of the abortion procedure. The largely unsung hero of this AMA tradition was Dr. Horatio Robinson Storer, who conducted research into abortion in 1859 and 1860 and made it the theme of his eloquent presidential address to the AMA in 1871 for which he received a gold medal award. Storer’s book, Why Not? A Book for Every Woman, provided the leadership for the passage of stringent laws against abortion in many states as well as declarations of opposition by church authorities in the Presbyterian, Baptist, Methodist, Episcopalian and Unitarian churches. Pope Pius XI had issued a Papal Bulletin in 1869. Frederick Dyer, Ph.D. is the world’s leading authority on this amazing and heroic doctor, Horatio Storer, whose Physicians’ Crusade Against Abortion is the topic and title of this comprehensive and well-documented book. All physicians and right-to-life activities would benefit from this superb biography of a man steeped in and inspired by the best Hippocratic tradition.

— Eugene FDiamond, M.D.
Director, Linacre Institute


George Orwell’s book 1984 has all the people doing a daily five minute hate program to exercise their hatefulness. Such would be welcome compared to what we have now from Hollywood, the major networks and books like this. Perhaps I protest too much, but The God Gene is dishonest in that the book describes the instinctual genetic basis for meditation and