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## Medical Ethics Books

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## Medical Ethics Books

### Some Recommendations for Doctors

Gerald Kelly, S.J.

THE BOOK LISTS given here are an answer to frequent requests. The comments are added because the requests are generally for recommendations, not merely for lists. Since I am including comments, I am limiting the lists to publications with which I am personally familiar.

The comments express my personal opinion. Others might choose different books for a recommended list and might also give different estimates of the works that I include here. It would be very helpful, I think, if they would send their suggestions to the Editor of LINACRE QUARTERLY for publication in some future number.

For the most part, my lists are limited to fairly recent publications, that is, to the last ten or fifteen years. No doubt some earlier works are still of great value. Nevertheless, my purpose is not to give an exhaustive bibliography for research, but a limited bibliography for practical purposes; and I think that everything of practical value in the older works is sufficiently included in these more recent publications.

In recommending these works I am not expressing agreement with everything said in them. Practically every book listed here contains some points with which various theologians might disagree. My own views and criticisms are sufficiently expressed in other places. The main purpose of the present comments is to indicate the positive value of the publications mentioned.

A. Minimum Essentials. The Following Works Should Be Available to Every Catholic Member of the Medical Profession:

1. *Ethical and Religious Directives for Catholic Hospitals*. The Catholic Hospital Association, 1438 South Grand Boulevard, St. Louis 4, Mo.

This is the revised code sponsored by the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada and published in 1949. A French version, entitled *Code de Morale à l'usage des Médecins et des Infirmières*, may be obtained from: Comité des Hôpitaux du Québec, 325 Chemin Sainte-Catherine, Outremont, Montreal 8.

The first section of the code contains a brief statement of ethical principles and applications of these principles to the main problems likely to occur in hospital practice. The second section contains directives concerning the reception and administration of the sacraments and concerning the disposal of a dead fetus and of amputated members.

2. *Medical Ethics*, by Charles J. McFadden, O.S.A. F. A. Davis Co., Philadelphia, Pa., 1949.

This is the most complete, most-up-to-date, and most useful single volume of medical ethics in English. It was first published in 1946, under the title, *Medical Ethics for Nurses*. The first work was good; the second is much better. More lengthy comments on Father McFadden's book may be found in LINACRE QUARTERLY, February, 1950, pp. 7-9.

One feature of *Medical Ethics* is that almost every chapter concludes with a number of problems to be solved. Father McFadden's answers to these problems are given in a companion volume, *Reference Manual to Medical Ethics*, also published by F. A. Davis.

3. *Medico-Moral Problems, I, II, and III*, by Gerald Kelly, S.J. The Catholic Hospital Association, St. Louis 4, Mo., 1949, 1950, 1951.

For those who wish a complete treatise on medical ethics, these booklets are no substitute for Father McFadden's book, but they are a needed supplement to it. They are made up of articles that have appeared in *Hospital Progress* and LINACRE QUARTERLY. They deal with current problems and give adequate, but not too lengthy, answers to these problems. The articles refer frequently to the hospital code, and some of them were explicitly written as commentaries on certain sections of the code.

B. Other Publications Dealing with Ethical and Religious Aspects of Medical Questions:

4. *The Catholic Doctor*, by A. Bonnar, O.F.M. Burns, Oates and Washbourne, Ltd., London, 1948.

This book contains a compendious treatment of such problems as sex, birth prevention, abortion, euthanasia, sterilization, scruples, psychotherapy, the professional secret, and so forth. To his discussion of these topics the author has wisely prefaced chapters of more general and fundamental value on the Church, miracles, law, the principle of the double effect, scandal, and cooperation.

In its general scope Father Bonnar's book compares favorably with Father McFadden's. But it was written primarily for British readers, and some of its most important chapters might lack appeal for American doctors. For this reason I consider Father McFadden's book more valuable for us.

5. *Ethics of Ectopic Operations*, by T. Lincoln Bouscaren, S.J. The Bruce Publishing Co., Milwaukee, Wis., 1944.

With Father Henry Davis, S.J., in England, and Father Arthur Vermeersch, S.J., in Rome, Father Bouscaren believed that the correct moral solution to the problem of ectopic pregnancy could be given only when the medical facts were adequately portrayed and understood. His book represents a very successful effort to find and to appraise the medical facts, and its publication was a major turning point in the controversy over ectopic operations. It was first published by the Loyola Press, Chicago, in 1933. The second edition (to which I refer in this bibliography), though substantially the same as the first, contains some added material that should be of special interest to doctors. Both editions offer not only a thorough study of the ectopic problem, but also much excellent material on the entire question of direct and indirect killing of a fetus.

6. *Handbook of Medical Ethics*, by S. A. La Rochelle, O.M.I., and C. T. Fink, M.D., C.M. The Newman Press, Westminster, Md., 1943.

In format this handbook resembles a small pocket dictionary. It is intended for nurses, physicians, and priests. It covers the general ethical principles pertaining to conscience and human conduct, a very large number of ethico-medical problems, a number of practical directives relative to the reception and administration of the sacraments, and some principles of charity and justice that have special reference to the medical profession. The original, entitled *Précis de Morale Médicale*, is published by Editions Beauchemin, Montreal, P. Q.

7. *The Invert*, by Anomaly. Bailliere, Tindall and Cox, London, 1949.

This book was written by an invert to help other inverts adjust to their problem and to enable their directors to assist them in this adjustment. The first part, which constituted the original work, is the most wholesome and helpful treatment of homosexuality I have seen. (I am somewhat dubious about the value of the supplement that has been added to the present edition.) For more detailed comments see LINACRE QUARTERLY, October, 1949, pp. 21-22.

8. *Mercy Murder*, by John C. Ford, S.J. The America Press, 70 East 45th St., New York 17, N. Y., 1950.

This is only a pamphlet, but I include it here because it contains a splendid and readable presentation of the arguments against our ever-recurring problem, euthanasia. Doctors who must give a talk on this subject would find the pamphlet very helpful.

9. *Morality in Medicine*, by Timothy P. O'Connell. St. John's Seminary, Brighton 35, Mass., 1949.

This is a sort of catechism, containing brief answers to many of the moral problems that occur in medical practice.

10. *Quizzes on Hospital Ethics*, by L. Rumble, M.S.C., and Charles M. Carty. Radio Replies Press, St. Paul 1, Minn., 1946.

Another question-and-answer booklet. It covers more material than Father O'Connell's. A few of the answers may be misleading, perhaps because of the authors' desire to keep them very brief.

11. *Rhythm-Cal*, by Henry A. Fallon. R-C Publishing Co., Sunny Slope Station, Kansas City 4, Mo.

Under this title are included a calendar that Mr. Fallon has designed for calculating the days of the safe period and a brief explanatory booklet that he has written. They furnish an excellent, moderately-priced explanation of the rhythm and should be a great help to doctors who want to provide their patients with reliable information on this subject. Mr. Fallon also has a booklet entitled *Temp-o-Graf* which explains the basal temperature method of determining the date of ovulation.

C. Books of More General Scope That Contain Some Sections on Medical Ethics and That are Useful for Reference:

12. *Ethics With Special Application To The Nursing Profession*, by Joseph B. McAllister, S.S. W. B. Saunders Co., Philadelphia, Pa., 1947.

Though they do not constitute a comparatively large section of this work, the applications to the medical profession are aptly chosen and clearly expressed.

13. *Moral Guidance*, by Edwin F. Healy, S.J. Loyola University Press, Chicago, Ill., 1942.

This is the first of three volumes that have been styled "a layman's moral theology." The other two volumes are *Marriage Guidance* (1948) and *Christian Guidance* (1949). Each of the volumes, particularly the first, has points of great value to physicians and nurses.

Father Healy's books were written primarily for classroom use, and for this reason they contain many problems for discussion. The author's solutions to the problems are given in paper-bound *Teacher's Manuals*.

14. *Moral and Pastoral Theology*, by Henry Davis, S.J. Sheed and Ward, New York, N. Y.

This four-volume work is the most complete treatment of moral theology in English. It was first published in 1935 and has gone through many editions since then. The second volume has the most

applications to medical problems; but the entire set is handy for reference.

15. *Morals in Politics and Professions*, by Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R. The Newman Press, Westminster, Md., 1946.

The chapters of this volume deal with the duties of professional men and government officials and employees. Chapters of special pertinence to the medical profession are those on the Catholic Doctor, the Catholic Nurse, and the Catholic in Social Service Work.

16. *The Science of Ethics*, by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael Cronin. M. H. Gill and Son, Dublin, Ireland.

This is a two-volume scholarly presentation of ethics. Since the purpose of my book list is practical, I would not recommend the first volume except to libraries that have an abundance of funds. The second volume, however, has an excellent 14-page appendix on medico-moral problems. I have often suggested that this appendix be separately printed in pamphlet form.

17. *What Is Marriage?*, by Arthur Vermeersch, S.J. The America Press, 70 East 45th St., New York 17, N. Y.

This is a question-and-answer commentary on Pius XI's encyclical on Christian Marriage. The translation is by T. Lincoln Bouscaren, S.J. It is particularly valuable to the medical profession because of the section which deals with attacks on the fetus, contraception, sterilization, and rhythm.

D. Some Useful Magazines:

(Doctors often ask us for source material for talks on the religious or moral aspects of medical questions. These magazines generally contain articles that would be helpful for that purpose.)

18. *The Catholic Medical Quarterly*. Published at St. Bonaventure's, Cambridge, England. Successor to *The Catholic Medical Guardian*.

19. *The Catholic Nurse*. A quarterly. Obtainable from: The Secretary, Catholic Nurses' Guild, 1 Edmund St., Birmingham 3, England.

20. *Hospital Progress*. A monthly. Official Journal of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, 1438 South Grand Blvd., St. Louis 4, Mo.

21. *Linacre*. A quarterly. Published at: 14 Ely Place, London, E.C.1, England.

22. THE LINACRE QUARTERLY. Official Journal of the Federation of Catholic Physicians' Guilds, 1438 South Grand Blvd., St. Louis 4, Mo.

E. Valuable French Publications:

23. *Déontologie Médicale*, by P. G. Payen, S.J. La Mission Catholique, Zi-Ka-Wei, China, 1935.

24. *Précis de Médecine Catholique*, by Dr. Henri Bon. Librairie Félix Alcan, 108 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris, France, 1935.

25. *Éthique Professionnelle*, by Abbé J.-Z Dufort. Hopital du Sacré-Coeur, Cartierville, P. Q., Canada, 1944.

Regarding these three publications, let me briefly note these points: Father Payen's book is limited strictly to medical ethics and is probably the most complete of all such treatises. It contains more than 800 well-filled pages. Doctor Bon's is almost as long, but it covers a greater variety of topics: e.g. mystical phenomena, and some of sacraments. Abbé Dufort's is a compact little manual.

26. *Cahiers Laënnec*. A quarterly publication by French Catholic Physicians. It usually devotes a complete issue, sometimes two issues, to one topic. Address: 12, rue d'Assas, Paris VI, France.



Since the last issue of LINACRE QUARTERLY, two more Guilds have become affiliated with The Federation—Minneapolis, Minnesota and Sioux City, Iowa. The Wilmington, Delaware Guild has been reactivated.