

BOOK NOTES

***A Few Months to Live: Different Paths to Life's End.* By Jana Staton et al. Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2001. Pp. 358.**

Documenting the end-of-life experiences of nine terminally ill individuals, this book focuses on how they and their caregivers understood the illnesses, coped with symptoms, and searched for meaning and spiritual growth. The accounts, presented largely in the subjects' own words, reveal the nine individuals as more than just patients by placing them in the contexts of their daily lives and relationships. Addressing such issues as palliative care, quality of life, financial hardship, grief and loss, and communications with medical personnel, the authors identify how families, professionals, and communities can respond to the challenges of terminal illness and the need to confront life's end.

***Body Bazaar: The Market for Human Tissue in the Biotechnology Age.* By Lori Andrews and Dorothy Nelkin. New York: Crown Publishers, 2001. Pp. 245.**

Valued as both a source of information and the raw material for commercial products, the tissues in a single human being can now attract millions of dollars, and with them new commercial uses for human blood and body tissue. Andrews and Nelkin illuminate this business of bodies, telling individual stories to show the profound psychological, social, and financial impacts of the commercialization of human tissue. They explore the problems of privacy and social control that arise with the extraction of information from the body, and the provocative questions of profit and property that follow the creation of marketable products from human bodies.

***Drug Addiction and Drug Policy: The Struggle to Control Dependence.* Edited by Philip B. Heymann and William N. Brownsberger. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 2001. Pp. 288.**

This book is the culmination of five years of conversations among distinguished scholars in law, public policy, medicine, and biopsychology about the most difficult questions in drug policy and the study of addictions. The authors challenge the standard dichotomies that ask whether drug addicts have an illness or control their addiction; whether they should be treated as patients or as criminals. Instead, the authors argue, the real question is how coercion and support can be used together to steer addicts toward productive life.

***Ethics and Economics of Assisted Reproduction: The Cost of Longing.* By Maura A. Ryan. Washington: Georgetown University Press, 2001. Pp. 192.**

Drawing on concepts from medical ethics, feminist theory, and Roman Catholic social teaching, Ryan analyzes the economic, ethical, theological, and political dimensions of assisted reproduction. Ryan contends that only by ceasing to treat assisted reproduction as a consumer product can meaningful questions about medical appropriateness and social responsibility be raised. Arguing for some limits on access to reproductive technology, Ryan considers ways to assess the importance of assisted reproduction against other social and medical prerogatives, and where to draw the line in promoting fertility.

***Holding Health Care Accountable: Law and the New Medical Marketplace.* By E. Haavi Morreim. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. Pp. 336.**

Health care in the United States and elsewhere has been rocked by economic upheaval, but tort and contract law have not kept pace. Physicians are still expected to deliver the same standard of care, regardless of whether it is paid for, while health plans face litigation for virtually any unfortunate outcome. This book offers a clear resolution. Part I explains why new economic realities have rendered prevailing malpractice and contract law largely anachronistic. Part II argues that we should focus first on "who should be doing what, for the best delivery of health care," and suggests new standards of liability. Part III shows that this approach, though novel, fits remarkably well with basic common law doctrines.

***The Human Embryo Research Debates: Bioethics in the Vortex of Controversy.* By Ronald M. Green. New York: Oxford University Press, 2001. Pp. 250.**

Embryo research holds out the promise of cures for many serious diseases such as diabetes and Alzheimer's, but it has met with powerful opposition. Drawing on his experience as a member of the National Institutes of Health's Human Embryo Research Panel, Green offers a first-hand account of the embryo research debates, reflecting on some of the philosophical challenges posed by embryo research. Among the questions he examines are: What is the impact of new biological information on our thinking about life's beginning? May parents risk injuring a child in order to have it? And what role should religion play in shaping biomedical policy?