

**The Human Body and the Law: A Medico-Legal Study.** By DAVID W. MEYERS, Aldine, 529 South Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60605, 1970. xii + 204 pp. Price \$7.95.

Legal principles and rules in most of the Western Nations are in a state of constant and perplexing flux because of the great scientific progress and changing social and religious practices. Not since the promulgation of the series of international legal codes following the Nazi atrocities during World War II has there been such a challenge to human values in the areas of sterilization and castration, transsexualism, medical experimentation, organ transplantation, and euthanasia.

In this monograph, Meyers presents an excellent comparative review of the current law in the U. S. and Britain, with comments on the law in other parts of the world.

The chapters on sterilization and castration receive the most attention in the book and are excellent in their comparative legal analysis.

The chapter on transsexualism is not as satisfactory as those in the remainder of the book, but this is probably because there are few cases dealing with the subject.

The author's treatment of organ transplantation and euthanasia provides fascinating reading for those interested in the subject. The legal aspects of both the subjects are of current social concern and Meyers' treatment of them is exceptionally well done.

The subject of most interest to the pharmaceutical scientist is, of course, the chapter on human experimentation. It is less satisfactory than other monographs on the subject; however, the comparative analysis of the U. S. and British positions on the subject is well done.

Meyers points out that medical experimentation has been practiced through the centuries since the early days of Galen, yet it has yet to be clearly recognized legally as a legitimate part of medical practice. The law on human experimentation, or lack of it, stems from the fact that there is no set of specific guidelines available to ensure that human research may go forward on the highest scientific and ethical planes with legal protection for both the subject and the investigator.

There is almost no statutory law in the area of medical experimentation. None exists in England or Scotland, and the only U. S. statute which appears to recognize experimentation is the "New Drug" section of the FDC Act.

Unfortunately, all the case law both in the U. S. and England that discuss the question of experimentation or are cited in favor of, or in opposition to, medical experimentation are cases involving medical malpractice. Two Scottish decisions are the only cases cited by Meyers that strike a balance between the advance of medical science and the law of malpractice.

In his conclusion, Meyers deplors the fact that, while so many private codes governing medical experimentation have been promulgated in recent years, few of these pronouncements have found their way into recognized legal expressions of the courts or legislatures.

Taken as a whole, the Meyers monograph is a worthwhile contribution to the medico-legal literature.

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## NOTICES

*Dependence Liability of "Non-Narcotic" Drugs.* By H. ISBELL and T. L. CHRUSCIEL. World Health Organization, 1211 Geneva 27, Switzerland, 1970. 111 pp. 18 × 23.5 cm. Price \$2.00.

*Clinical Guide to Undesirable Drug Interactions and Interferences.* By S. GARB. Springer, 200 Park Ave. S., New York, NY 10003, 1970. xi + 491 pp. 14 × 21 cm. Price \$12.50.

*1971 Drug Abuse Reference.* By C. L. WINEK. Bek Technical Publications, Bridgeville, PA 15017, 1971. 100 pp. 13 × 19.5 cm. Price \$2.00.

*Synthetic Polymeric Membranes.* By R. E. KESTING. McGraw-Hill, 330 West 42nd St., New York, NY 10036, 1971. xi + 307 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm. Price \$18.75.

*Bacteriophage Biochemistry.* By C. K. MATHEWS. Van Nostrand Reinhold, 450 West 33rd St., New York, NY 10001, 1971. viii + 373 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. Price \$19.95.

*Taste and Smell in Vertebrates.* Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and J. KNIGHT. J. & A. Churchill, 104 Gloucester Place, London, England, 1970. x + 402 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm.

*Alzheimer's Disease.* Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and M. O'CONNOR. J. & A. Churchill, 104 Gloucester Place, London, England, 1970. xi + 316 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm.

*Sensorineural Hearing Loss.* Edited by G. E. W. WOLSTENHOLME and J. KNIGHT. J. & A. Churchill, 104 Gloucester Place, London, England, 1970. x + 358 pp. 15.5 × 23.5 cm.

*Symposium Sur Les Progres Des Techniques Nucleaires En Pharmacodynamie.* Edited by G. VALETTE and Y. COHEN. Masson Et C<sup>o</sup>, 120 Boulevard Saint-Germain, Paris (6<sup>e</sup>), France, 1971. xvii + 301 pp. 16 × 23.5 cm. Price 100 fr. (French)

*Mechanisms of Molecular Migrations (Vol. 3).* Edited by B. S. THYAGARAJAN. Wiley, New York, NY 10016, 1971. xii + 464 pp. 15.5 × 23 cm. Price \$24.95.