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After a couple of chapters detailing his early expeditions, Oates presents a very interesting historical account of the changes in conservation philosophy from protectionism to integrated conservation and development. This is followed by four detailed case studies covering examples in Sierra Leone, Nigeria and Ghana. Chapter 8 is a rather incongruous exposé of the illusion that zoos contribute to conservation through captive breeding and re-introductions. This is neither novel nor particularly relevant to the rest of the book, except as an additional example of a conservation policy with which Oates appears to disagree. The final chapter wraps things up by widening the debate to briefly examine some well-known community conservation initiatives elsewhere in Africa, and contains the most convincing evidence in the book that integrated conservation and development may have its flaws. This is followed by the earlier mentioned example of India where protectionist policies appear to prevail. Whether the example is truly applicable to Africa, with its vastly different political situation, is debatable.

Overall this is a very absorbing read which should give all those interested and involved in conservation pause for thought, but those expecting a dispassionate and objective analysis of the issues surrounding integrated conservation and development may be left wanting more.

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Great Issues for Medicine in the Twenty-First Century. Ethical and Social Issues Arising out of Advances in the Biomedical Sciences. Edited by D. C. Grossman & H. Valtin. Pp 277. (Annals of the New York Academy of Sciences, Vol. 882, 1999.) US\$ 60.00, ISBN 1-57331-143-X.

DOI: 10.1017/S0021932003230121

This volume presents the proceedings of the Dartmouth Medical School's Bicentennial Symposium held in 1997. Though a few years have already passed since the date of the Symposium, its contents are still current for our understanding of the future. The school is the fourth oldest medical school in the United States (preceded by Pennsylvania, Columbia and Harvard). The Bicentennial celebration brought together a number of distinguished physicians, scientists and politicians. Among them were C. Everett Koop, a former Surgeon General of the US, Lonnie R. Bristow, a president of the American Medical Association (1995–1996), Francis S. Collins, the Director of the National Human Genome Research Institute, Al Gore, then the Vice-President of the US, and a number of Nobel Prize winners. This ensured a broad and representative coverage of the topic.

It is difficult to describe in this short review contents of all 30 presentations and published records of discussions, thus mention of the session titles must suffice. These were: 'The Human Genome', 'Intelligence – The Origin and Substrate of Thinking', 'Health Care: For Whom and By Whom?', 'World Population: The Crisis of Human Crowding' and 'The Future'. The Vice-Presidential address – 'Population Growth and Environmental Impact' – very aptly reminded the participants that the human population, with its technological potential, has already reached the stage at which it influences the entire Earth, and thus that any decisions about the future must take

into account the global situation. Everett C. Koop discussed the development of market-driven health care systems, thus bringing into focus the other powerful delimiter of medical practice – economy. Both physical constraints of the Planet Earth and rules of economy put limits on future developments in medicine and health care. Traditionally, the major restraint on medical practice was limited medical knowledge. Although far from knowing everything, the progress in genetics, in neurosciences, in social sciences and many other areas of knowledge in the last century has been such that major issues now relate to how this knowledge can be best used and expanded rather than how to obtain answers to fundamental questions. This new situation brings to the fore ethical issues in research and in patient care, as choices have to be made taking into account factors other than the best physical cure or benefits to an individual patient. Once again medicine, though firmly based in science, must turn to a larger extent to social sciences and the liberal arts to be able to serve the complex world of the next century.

In closing Heinz Valtin, an organizer of the symposium, expressed his optimism saying that ‘ . . . as new facts and capabilities raise novel ethical and social issues, means will be found to deal with these problems’ (p. 258).

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Beginning Statistics: An Introduction for Social Scientists. By Ian Diamond & Julie Jefferies. Pp. 254. (Sage Publications, Thousand Oaks, London, New Delhi, 2001.) £50.00, ISBN 0-7619-6061-9, hardback; £16.99, ISBN 0-7619-6062-7, paperback.
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Data presentation is an essential part of descriptive statistics, and plays a crucial role in the proper understanding of the concept. This book by Diamond and Jefferies is devoted to the practicalities of presenting and arranging data and its interpretation, rather than multivariable statistical methods or heavy statistics.

The book consists of fourteen chapters plus four appendices. After a very short introduction to the importance of statistics in real life, the next two chapters review basic methods of presenting data using tables and graphs. The subsequent two chapters introduce the basic parameters of central tendency, distribution and variation. Afterwards the authors introduce the basic concepts of normal distribution and its application to real data. The last three chapters describe the primary method of comparisons of means for continuous variables between different samples. The book ends with two chapters depicting measure of association between two variables and elementary methods for analysing categorical data.

In sum, the clarity, simplicity and use of many practical examples makes this book very useful, primarily for under- and postgraduate students, as a supplementation to statistical courses.

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