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### [Book Review of] *Making Medical Choices: Who Is Responsible?* by Jane J. Stein

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tion found many technologically oriented physicians practicing poor family medicine at exorbitant cost. In the case of a young woman going to a gynecologist, the report stated, "most attention was paid to the pelvis, some to the breasts and little to the rest." Put these and other facts together with the confession of a nationally renowned gastroenterologist that he spent only 15% of his time treating patients concerning his subspecialty, and one must admit Fuller is on target.

It is my hope that *Physician or Magician* gets a wide hearing, not only within the lay audience but, more importantly, among medical educators and the profession.

— Walter W. Benjamin, Ph.D.  
Chairman, Department of Religion  
Hamline University

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## ***Making Medical Choices: Who Is Responsible***

Jane J. Stein

*Houghton Mifflin Co., Boston, 1968. xix + 270 pp., \$10.95.*

This clearly written book is a journalistic presentation of many of the problems and issues that are involved in the field of bioethics. There are four parts to this book: birth, life, death, and ethics-keeping. The format of each section is to present the basic issues involved by using cases and stories which have been called to public attention either through newspapers or medical literature. The use of these cases helps to concretize and clarify the many problems, issues, and dilemmas inherent in both discussions and resolutions of bioethical questions.

Those who have been involved in bioethical discussions for any length of time will not find this a useful book. The purpose of the book is neither to provide a framework for analysis nor to give specific ethical analysis of the various cases which are discussed. In fact, the back sheet of the cover emphasizes that Ms. Stein does not answer the question she raises; rather she sketches the context in which these questions must be answered.

On the other hand, for those who are interested in questions of bioethics or who want to receive a good introduction to the questions of the field, this will be an excellent volume. The style is informal, but a great deal of information is presented in a very clear and compelling fashion. The use of cases helps to intensify the life and death issues which are often faced, and Ms. Stein also includes a great deal of background material on various problems. As such, the book presents an excellent overview of basic problems, questions, and discussions which are involved in bioethics. The book includes a set of notes which refers the interested reader to a variety of excellent sources giving further clarification and development to the issues raised in the book.

Ms. Stein presents much complicated material in a very clear and realistic fashion and has done an excellent service for those individuals interested in learning about the different debates being carried on in bioethics. It is an excellent contribution to the field.

— Thomas A. Shannon  
Department of Psychiatry  
University of Massachusetts Medical School