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Book Review

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Book Review

Erratum

The citation for this review is 4 *RISK* 357 (1993) in most commercial databases.

MARSHALL A. KAPP, ETHICAL ASPECTS OF HEALTH CARE FOR THE ELDERLY: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY. (Greenwood Press 1992). [200 pp.] Number 17 in series, Bibliographies and Indices in Gerontology. Author index; foreword by Erdman B. Palmore, series editor; preface; subject index. LC: 92-17776; ISBN: 0-313-27490-8. [Cloth \$45.00. P.O. Box 5007, Westport CT 06881.]

It is not easy to review an annotated bibliography. One cannot simply sit down and read the the book cover-to-cover. Therefore, the task is to evaluate how the author selected sources for inclusion, the care with which the work was done, the clarity of annotations and ultimately the utility of the product for various consumers.

Professor Kapp, who has both a J.D. and M.P.H., has carefully defined the subject matter and time frame for his work. As to the first, he limits his work to materials dealing with ethical, as opposed to mixed ethical-legal, questions. This makes his task manageable, and he covers, e.g., end of life decisions, futility, ethics committees and financing. One could quibble about whether additional topics should have been included, but his coverage is sufficiently comprehensive to make the book quite useful. In that context, he annotates a relatively broad selection of articles and books published between 1980–91. As with his choice of scope, his time frame is large enough to capture much important, and still relevant, work and ends recently enough to furnish a good starting point. Users should have little difficulty bringing their research up to date.

To determine the quality of Kapp's annotations, I read several articles he treats. In each case, the annotation succinctly captures the thrust of the article, and the provided information is adequate to enable a reader reasonably to predict whether the article would be useful.

In short, I think that *ETHICAL ASPECTS* will be of great use to a range of individuals, health care and human service professionals, as well as lawyers and students.

Others interested in elder health care issues will also find this book of assistance. Yet, I hesitate to agree with a suggestion in the Foreword¹

¹ At viii.

that **ETHICAL ASPECTS** will be useful to all elders. This could be a wonderful resource, but the small type and density of material would make it less than ideal for many older individuals with whom I have worked. This is not meant as a criticism but rather is intended to assist those who might consider adding this book to their personal or organizational libraries.

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