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Papers, which should be in triplicate and in the Vancouver style (*Br Med J* 1982;284:1766-70), should be sent to the Editor, *Journal of Medical Genetics*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Papers from the USA can be submitted to the North American Editor, Dr P M Conneally, Department of Medical Genetics, James Whitcomb Riley Hospital for Children RR129, Indiana University Medical Center, Indianapolis, Indiana 46223, USA. Submission of a paper will be held to imply that it contains original work which has not been previously published. The signature of each author is required on the covering letter and a FAX number should be given. Permission to republish must be obtained from the Editor. Identifiable photographs of patients must be accompanied by written consent.

Papers should conform to one of the following categories. *Original contributions* on clinical or laboratory aspects of medical genetics in man and on related animal studies.

Case reports or family reports with particularly instructive clinical or genetic features: to be no longer than 1000 words, with no more than three figures, one table, and eight references.

Short reports: to be no longer than 500 words with a clinical photograph and partial karyotype, if appropriate, and no more than three references.

Review articles will generally be by invitation, but suggestions from authors wishing to prepare a review article will be welcomed.

Short communications and *Technical notes* will also be considered.

Letters to the Editor in relation to papers and to other relevant topics will be welcomed.

Publication of papers thought to be of special importance may be expedited.

SI units should be used. All contributions should be accompanied by an abstract or structured abstract giving the main results and conclusions. Typescripts should be double spaced with wide margins. One page proof will be sent to the author submitting the paper and alterations on the proof, apart from printer's errors, are not permitted. Reprints may be ordered when the proof is returned.

Figures should be kept to a minimum and should be numbered consecutively in Arabic numerals. Legends should be typed on a separate sheet. Photographs should be on glossy paper and diagrams should be drawn on stout white paper. Photographs of karyotypes do not reproduce well. Chromosomes should be cut out and stuck onto stout paper. Any

lettering should be indicated on a separate transparent overlay. Colour printing can be undertaken.

Tables should not be included in the body of the text, but should be typed on separate pages and numbered with Arabic numerals. A legend should be provided.

References should conform precisely to the style current in this Journal. Authors are responsible for the *accuracy* and *completeness* of their references as these will not be checked by the Editorial Office.

Some notes on nomenclature can be found in *J Med Genet* 1991; 28:72.

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- 3 Lipson AH, Yuille D, Angel M, Thompson PG, Vandervoord JG, Beckenham EJ. Velocardiofacial (Shprintzen) syndrome: an important syndrome for the dysmorphologist to recognise. *J Med Genet* 1991;28:596-604.

BOOK REVIEW

All titles reviewed here are available from the BMJ Bookshop, PO Box 295, London WC1H 9TE. Prices include postage in the UK and for members of the British Forces Overseas, but overseas customers should add £2 per item for postage and packing. Payment can be made by cheque in sterling drawn on a UK bank, or by credit card (MASTERCARD, VISA or AMERICAN EXPRESS) stating card number, expiry date, and your full name.

IVF and Justice: Moral, Social and Legal Issues Related to In Vitro Fertilisation. Teresa Iglesias. (Pp 175; £9.75.) London: The Linacre Centre for Health Care Ethics. 1991.

Intrinsic to the human condition is our susceptibility to outside influence. Social acceptability of a practice tends to alter our moral outlook to accommodate that practice. These accommodations in social conscience do not, however, question the basic correctness or otherwise of that practice. In vitro fertilisation forms a case in point. It marked a quantum scientific breakthrough in the treatment of infertility. Latterly, the unwanted side products of 'surplus' embryos have become legitimate subjects of scientific research up to the 14th day of their existence. Surrogate motherhood, the 'ownership' of children resulting from surrogate pregnancies

and the 'principle of anonymity' governing artificial insemination by donor are all issues with which society has had to grapple in consequence of the technological breakthrough which IVF represented. That these are now accepted practices may have altered their moral acceptability to many people, including the medical fraternity, but acceptability and the moral correctness of these practices are not necessarily synonymous.

Philosopher and ethicist, Teresa Iglesias, a graduate of universities in Madrid, Dublin, and Oxford, examines these complex issues, and a host of others, in this book. These issues are judged on their morality or lack of same rather than by the social acceptability barometer. The basic standpoint of this examination is Christian rather than denominational.

The book takes the form of seven chapters, each of which has been presented as a paper examining various aspects of IVF elsewhere. Now they are presented together in book form to offer a comprehensive discussion of the subject as a whole. Topics discussed include the nature of the human embryo, death and the beginning of life, and the claims of the embryo to be recognised as an individual. These topics are examined in light of the practice and consequences of IVF. The style of these chapters is somewhat irksome, each comprising a numbered set of arguments, sometimes related, sometimes not. Thus the style is reminiscent of the school-boy debater, complete with striped blazer, college cap, and tie about to enter the representative fray!

Yet, this is a weighty book dealing with weighty matters and subjects all too easily dismissed by those of us blinded by scientific success to the implications in terms of right and wrong. The legislative position of the human embryo historically is examined. The conclusion from this investigation is that the embryo has always occupied a position of 'human entity' in British law. The recent legislation allowing experimentation on human embryos is inconsistent with this historical position and with

the precepts of basic justice, according to the arguments contained herein. The status of IVF generated embryos has been changed from that of 'human entity' to disposable asset. By so doing the implication is that IVF generated embryos are 'lesser forms of humanity'. The social and legal justification for this is the greater good and benefits which accrue to others, that is, 'consequentialism', whereby the essentially immoral act of generating embryos by IVF is justified on the basis of successfully treating infertility, providing scientific research material of enormous interest, etc. Nevertheless, the pursuit of individual freedom and choice for infertile couples may have led, inadvertently, to the denial of basic human rights to the IVF generated embryos.

Fundamentally, this book asks of IVF whether the many ends justify the means. From every one of the 175 pages the answer of 'no' is screamed. Many will dismiss it as 'Catholic clap-trap' but the more reflective will find much food for thought between these covers, even if they disagree with some of the basic precepts and the ultimate conclusions.

WILLIAM REARDON

NOTICE

Journal of Genetic Counseling: call for papers

The first issue of the *Journal of Genetic Counseling*, the journal of the National Society of Genetic Counselors, will be published in early 1992. Manuscripts addressing any aspect of counselling in genetics are invited. Manuscripts and requests for additional information should be addressed to the Editor Deborah L. Eunpu, Developmental Medicine and Genetics, Albert Einstein Medical Center, 5501 Old York Road, Philadelphia, PA 19141-3098, USA. Tel: (215) 456-8706.