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AIDS: Crisis in Professional Ethics

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Comments

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Cohen, Elliot D., and Davis, Michael, eds. *AIDS: Crisis in Professional Ethics*. Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 1994. Pp. 276. \$49.95 (cloth); \$22.95 (paper).

This valuable collection of eleven new essays explores a variety of issues in the professions—including medicine but also nursing, dentistry, teaching, business, university administration, counseling, law, clergy, and journalism. Many essays focus on (1) the professional responsibilities to provide services to HIV-positive individuals, (2) the rights of HIV-positive professionals and

other workers to pursue their careers, (3) the privacy of professionals and clients, and (4) the virtues of professionals in overcoming bigotry as they serve the public. Perhaps more attention might have been given to the fourth issue, given its centrality to all the other issues. Yet throughout, the essays are insightful and thought provoking. In addition to being a pioneering study of moral issues concerning AIDS, the volume illustrates a wide range of approaches, thereby providing a touchstone for thinking about applied philosophy. The contributors, all of whom are well informed and sensitive to specific contexts, include some the best philosophers working in applied ethics today, together with representatives from several other professions. This is a significant philosophical contribution and an ideal text.

M. W. M.