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A Review of David H. Smith, "Entrusted: The Moral Responsibilities of Trusteeship"

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Comments
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of bioethics. The book provides a broad and balanced survey of many issues that are important in current health care practice and in the recent bioethical literature. Most of the articles are quite good; some are excellent; all are worth reading. Moderate positions are represented at least as well as the extremes, and helpful discussion questions follow each article. Three topics arguably receive too little coverage: the allocation of health care resources, the role of nurses and other nonphysicians within the health care system, and the (admittedly often sensationalized) problems arising from the AIDS crisis.

This collection does not include important court rulings or "classic" articles in bioethics that did not appear in the Hastings Center Report, and many of the articles assume a basic understanding of central concepts in medical ethics—like patient autonomy. Still, instructors who can provide their students with the appropriate contextual and conceptual background should find Life Choices to be an excellent introductory text, and specialists may simply enjoy having some of the best articles from the Hastings Center Report assembled under one cover.

T. M.


Josiah Royce once said that the world is a progressively realized community of interpretation. Certainly that is true of the world of trustees in nonprofit organizations, according to David H. Smith. Trustees have a responsibility to interpret the mission of their institution in light of its history and changing circumstances. They must do so within the bounds imposed by two further responsibilities: fidelity to the purposes of donors and respect for the common good, or at least for common decency. Smith insightfully explores the difficulties in applying and in resolving conflicts among these responsibilities. Of special interest are his detailed accounts of case studies such as the controversial exhibit of Robert Mapplethorpe's homoerotic art at the Corcoran Art Gallery, the Catholic Church's conflict with theologian Charles Curran, the football scandal at Southern Methodist University, and an abortion controversy involving Planned Parenthood and the United Way. The book examines, albeit briefly, issues concerning paternalism, representation, deception, and loyalty in an area of inquiry largely ignored by philosophers. It deserves attention from applied ethicists, in addition to being essential reading for trustees.

M. W. M.


Rather than broadening a traditional conception of ethics, Weston tries to restore "some . . . sense of . . . 'vibrancy' and . . . 'richness'" (p. 8) to the world in order to reawaken practices which integrate humans with the rest of the