

THE CODIFICATION OF MEDICAL MORALITY

Philosophy and Medicine

VOLUME 45

Editors

H. Tristram Engelhardt, Jr., *Center for Ethics, Medicine, and Public Issues, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas and Philosophy Department, Rice University, Houston, Texas*

Stuart F. Spicker, *School of Medicine, University of Connecticut Health Center, Farmington, Connecticut*

Editorial Board

George J. Agich, *School of Medicine, Southern Illinois University, Springfield, Illinois*

Edmund Erde, *University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, Camden, New Jersey*

Patricia A. King, J.D., *Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C.*

E. Haavi Morreim, *Department of Human Values and Ethics, College of Medicine, University of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee*

Kevin W. Wildes, S.J., *Center for Ethics, Medicine, and Public Issues, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas*

The titles published in this series are listed at the end of this volume.

THE CODIFICATION OF MEDICAL MORALITY

Historical and Philosophical Studies of
the Formalization of Western Medical Morality
in the Eighteenth and Nineteenth Centuries

*Volume One: Medical Ethics and Etiquette
in the Eighteenth Century*

Edited by

ROBERT BAKER

Department of Philosophy, Union College, Shenectady, New York

DOROTHY PORTER

Birkbeck College, University of London

and

ROY PORTER

Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London



Springer-Science+Business Media, B.V.

Library of Congress Cataloging-in-Publication Data

The Codification of medical morality : historical and philosophical studies of the formalization of Western medical morality in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries / edited by Robert Baker, Dorothy Porter, and Roy Porter.

p. cm.

Includes bibliographical references and index.

Contents: v. 1. Medical ethics and etiquette in the eighteenth century.

1. Medical ethics--History--18th century. 2. Medical ethics--History--19th century. I. Baker, Robert, 1937- . II. Porter, Dorothy, 1953- . III. Porter, Roy, 1946- . [DNLM: 1. Gregory, John, 1724-1773. 2. Percival, Thomas, 1740-1804. 3. Ethics, Medical--history--congresses. 4. History of Medicine, 18th Cent.--congresses. 5. History of Medicine, 19th Cent.--congresses. 6. Philosophy, Medical--history--congresses. W3 PH609 v.45 / WZ 56 C669]

R724.C545 1993

174'.2'09409033--dc20

DNLM/DLC

for Library of Congress

92-49845

ISBN 978-90-481-4193-7 ISBN 978-94-015-8228-5 (eBook)

DOI 10.1007/978-94-015-8228-5

Printed on acid-free paper

All Rights Reserved

© Springer Science+Business Media Dordrecht 1993

Originally published by Kluwer Academic Publishers in 1993.

Softcover reprint of the hardcover 1st edition 1993

No part of the material protected by this copyright notice may be reproduced or utilized in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying, recording or by any information storage and retrieval system, without written permission from the copyright owner.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	vii
<i>Robert Baker, Dorothy Porter, Roy Porter</i> / Introduction	1
PART ONE / MEDICAL PROPRIETY AND IMPROPRIETY IN THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING WORLD PRIOR TO THE FORMALIZATION OF MEDICAL ETHICS	
<i>Robert Baker</i> / Introduction	15
CHAPTER ONE – <i>Mary E. Fissell</i> / Innocent and Honorable Bribes: Medical Manners in Eighteenth-Century Britain	19
CHAPTER TWO – <i>David Harley</i> / Ethics and Dispute Behavior in the Career of Henry Bracken of Lancaster: Surgeon, Physician and Manmidwife	47
CHAPTER THREE – <i>Roy Porter</i> / Plutus or Hygeia? Thomas Beddoes and the Crisis of Medical Ethics in Britain at the Turn of the Nineteenth Century	73
PART TWO / THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY PHILOSOPHICAL BACKGROUND	
<i>Robert Baker</i> / Introduction	93
CHAPTER FOUR – <i>Tom Beauchamp</i> / Common Sense and Virtue in the Scottish Moralists	99
CHAPTER FIVE – <i>Johanna Geyer-Kordesch</i> / Natural Law and Medical Ethics in the Eighteenth Century	123

PART THREE / THE FORMALIZATION OF MEDICAL ETHICS	
<i>Robert Baker</i> / Introduction	141
CHAPTER SIX – <i>Laurence B. McCullough</i> / John Gregory’s Medical Ethics and Humean Sympathy	145
CHAPTER SEVEN – <i>John Pickstone</i> / Thomas Percival and the Production of <i>Medical Ethics</i>	161
CHAPTER EIGHT – <i>Robert Baker</i> / Deciphering Percival’s Code	179
NOTES ON CONTRIBUTORS	213
INDEX	215

PREFACE

The editors have incurred many debts in preparing this book, and both etiquette and ethics would be contravened if they were not discharged here. Above all, we wish to thank the contributors for so cheerfully complying with our suggestions for preparing their papers for publication and efficiently meeting our schedules. It is thanks to their cooperation that this volume has appeared speedily and painlessly; their revisions have helped to give it internal coherence.

This volume has emerged from papers delivered at a conference on the History of Medical Ethics, held at the Wellcome Institute for the History of Medicine, London, 1 December, 1989. We are most grateful to the Wellcome Trust for having underwritten the costs of the conference, and to Frieda Houser and Stephen Emberton whose organizational skills contributed so much to making it a smoothly-run and enjoyable day.

In addition to the papers delivered at the conference, we are delighted to have secured further contributions from David Harley and Johanna Geyer-Kordesch. Our thanks to them for their eager help.

From start to finish, we have received splendid encouragement from all those connected with the Philosophy and Medicine series, especially Professor Stuart Spicker, and Martin Scrivener at Kluwer Academic Publishers. Their enthusiasm has lightened our load, and expedited the editorial process.

In this age of electronic texts, we owe a special debt of gratitude to Marianne Snowden, and the computing staff at Union College for the months they spent unscrambling and debugging diskettes to form a single, harmonious electronic text. We would also like to thank two Union College students, Elizabeth Lambert and Gregory Palmer, for their assistance in preparing the index.

The present volume is organized into three sections. The first explores the standards and breaches of medical propriety prior to the formalization of medical ethics that can be found in Gregory's lectures and Percival's

Code. The second section acquaints the reader with the philosophical frameworks with which Gregory and Percival would have been familiar, given their training in Leiden and Edinburgh. The final section focuses on the lives and writings of Gregory and Percival.

A second volume will take up the development of these and other themes in the nineteenth century, and appropriate both Gregory's idealized sympathetic physician and Percival's conception of a medical code and harness them to the ideal of a self-governing medical profession.

ROBERT BAKER
DOROTHY PORTER
ROY PORTER