

PART VIII

OTHER THOUGHTS

Chapter

- 38 – Doctors and Nurses
- 39 – Words
- 40 – Polls
- 41 – The Media
- 42 – Capital Punishment/War
- 43 – Pro-Abortion Organizations/
Planned Parenthood
- 44 – Tax-Funded Abortions

CHAPTER 38

DOCTORS & NURSES

*The ancient doctor had a dual role
— to heal and to kill —*

Hippocrates introduced a new ethic — to only heal. This passed intact into the Christian area and guided medical practice until the middle 20th century. Then, first with abortion and then with euthanasia, some doctors resumed the old pagan dual role.

The Oath of Hippocrates

“I swear by Apollo, the Physician, and Aesculapins, Hygeia and Panacea and All the Gods and Goddesses that, according to my ability and judgement, I will keep this Oath and Stipulation:

“To reckon him who taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents, to share my substance with him and relieve his necessities if required: to regard his offspring as on the same footing with my own brothers, and to teach them this art, if they should wish to learn it, without fee or stipulation, and that by precept lecture and every other mode

of instruction. I will impart knowledge of the art to my own sons and to those of my teachers, and to disciples bound by a stipulation and oath, according to the law of medicine, but to none others.

“I will follow that method of treatment which, according to my ability and judgement, I consider for the benefit of my patients, and abstain from whatever is deleterious and mischievous. I will give no deadly medicine to anyone, if asked, nor suggest any such counsel; furthermore, I will not give to a woman an instrument to produce abortion.

“With purity and with holiness I will pass my life and practice my art. I will not cut a person who is suffering with a stone, but will leave this to be done by practitioners of this work. Into whatever houses I enter I will go into them for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief and corruption, and, further, from the seduction of females or males, bond or free.

“Whatever in connection with my professional practice, or not in connection with it, I may see or hear in the lives of men which ought not to be spoken abroad, I will not divulge, as reckoning that all such should be kept secret.

“While I continue to keep this oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art, respected by all men at all times, but should I trespass and violate this oath, may the reverse be my lot.”

All doctors used to swear this oath when they were licensed to practice medicine. But then two sentences

were quietly dropped:

“I will give no deadly medicine to anyone if asked, nor suggest such counsel, and, in like manner, I will not give a woman an instrument to produce abortion.”

Some medical colleges substituted:

“I will do nothing illegal,” essentially the new American Medical Association position (see below). Subsequently, most medical colleges have dropped the oath entirely.

Are there any other famous pledges?

Yes, here is another, almost as old:

“I will not give my patients any poisonous drug, if they ask first, nor will I advise them thus, nor aid in a miscarriage.”

Oath of Arabian Physician

Also, right after World War II and the horror of the Nazi doctors and the Holocaust, this was adopted:

“I solemnly pledge myself to consecrate my life to the service of humanity. I will give to my teachers the respect and gratitude which is their due; I will practice my profession with conscience and dignity; the health of my patient will be my first consideration; I will respect the secrets which are confided in me; I will maintain by all means in my power the honour and noble traditions of the medical profession; my colleagues will be my brothers; I will not permit considerations of religion, nationality, race, party politics, or social standing to intervene between my duty and my patient; I will maintain the utmost respect for human life, from the time of conception; even

under threat, I will not use my medical knowledge contrary to the laws of humanity. I make these promises solemnly, freely, and upon my honour.”

Declaration of Geneva,
The World Medical Association, Sept. 1948

Sadly, this one has been largely forgotten, and today few medical graduates take any ethical pledge.

Can anything be done?

Surveying the wreckage of today’s medical ethics, a prestigious group of physicians, led by Dr. Joseph Stanton, decided to put forth a new oath, relevant to today’s technological age. They clothed it in dignified classical language that expresses the timeless ethic of good medicine. It was released in 1995. Hopefully, it will someday be used widely.

A.D. 1995 Restatement of the Oath of Hippocrates (Circa 400 B.C.)

“I swear in the presence of the Almighty and before my family, my teachers and my peers that according to my ability and judgment I will keep this Oath and Stipulation:

“To reckon all who have taught me this art equally dear to me as my parents and in the same spirit and dedication to impart a knowledge of the art of medicine to others. I will continue with diligence to keep abreast of advances in medicine. I will treat, without exception, all who seek my ministrations, so long as the treatment of others is not compromised thereby, and I will seek the counsel of particularly skilled physicians where indicated for the benefit of my patient.

“I will follow that method of treatment which, according to my ability and judgment, I consider for the benefit of my patient and abstain from whatever is harmful or mischievous. I will neither prescribe nor administer a lethal dose of medicine to any patient, even if asked, nor counsel any such thing nor perform acts of omission with direct intent deliberately to end a human life. I will maintain the utmost respect for every human life from fertilization to natural death and reject abortion that deliberately takes a unique human life.

“With purity, holiness and beneficence I will pass my life and practice my art. Except for the prudent correction of an imminent danger, I will neither treat any patient nor carry out any research on any human being without the valid informed consent of the subject or the appropriate legal protector thereof, understanding that research must have as its purpose the furtherance of the health of that individual. Into whatever patient setting I enter, I will go for the benefit of the sick and will abstain from every voluntary act of mischief or corruption and further from the seduction of any patient.

“Whatever, in connection with my professional practice or not in connection with it, I may see or hear in the lives of my patients which ought not be spoken abroad I will not divulge, reckoning that all such should be kept secret.

“While I continue to keep this Oath unviolated, may it be granted to me to enjoy life and the practice of the art and science of medicine with the blessing of the Almighty and respected by my peers and society, but should I trespass and violate this Oath, may the reverse be my lot.”

What is the policy of the American Medical Association?

Stripped to its bare bones, regarding abortion, it is — what is legal is now ethical. But the AMA has consistently condemned euthanasia.

Does making something legal also make it right?

“In 1944, a physician in Germany could participate in genocide with legal sanction. In America he would have been a murderer. In 1977, in America, a physician could perform an abortion with legal sanction. In Germany, he would have been a murderer. We have come 360 degrees on the moral compass.”

M. Baten & W. Enos, “Questions of Authenticity and Situational Ethics,”
Cancer Bulletin, vol. 29, no. 4, 1978

How did the AMA deal with physician abortionists back in the 19th century when it was first formed?

In 1871, the AMA recommended dealing with medical abortionists in the following manner:

“These men should be marked as Cain was marked; they should be made the outcasts of society . . . respectable men should cease to consult with them, should cease to speak to them, should cease to notice them except with contempt . . . Resolved, That we repudiate and denounce the conduct of abortionists, and that we will hold no intercourse with them professionally or otherwise, and that we will, whenever an opportunity presents, guard and protect the public against the machinations of these characters by pointing out the physical and moral ruin which follows in their wake.”

W. Brennan, “The Abortion Holocaust,”
Landmark Press, p. 189

This is quite a contrast with today.

Yes, and its comparison is chilling.

The American Medical Association on Abortion: An Anatomy of Contrasting Policy Statements

When Does Human Life Begin?

1871 - "No other doctrine appears to be consonant with reason or physiology but that which admits the embryo to possess vitality from the very moment of conception."

"The AMA abortion policy statements fo 1967 and 1970 include no references to the scientific fact that human life begins at conception."

What is Abortion?

1859 - "The slaughter of countless children; such unwarrantable destruction of human life."

1871 - "The work of destruction; the wholesale destruction of un-born infants."

1967 - "The interruption of pregnancy; the induced termination of pregnancy."

1970 - "A medical procedure."

What Should the Ethics of Abortion Be?

1871 - "Thou shalt not kill. This commandment is given to all without exception . . . it matters not at what stage of development his victim may have arrived."

1967 - "This is a personal and moral consideration which in all cases must be faced according to the dictates of the conscience of the patient and her physician."

Who Should Perform Abortions?

1871 - "It will be unlawful and unprofessional for any physician to induce abortion."

1970 - "Abortion should be performed only by a duly licensed physician."

Who are Physician Abortionists?

1871 - "Men who cling to a noble profession only to dishonor it; false brethren; educated assassins; modern Herods; the executioners."

1967 - "Conscientious practitioners; conscientious physicians."

What Should Be Done to Physician Abortionists?

1871 - "These men should be marked as Cain was marked; they should be made the outcasts of society."

1970 - They should be permitted to perform as long as they take place "in an accredited hospital."

W. Brennan, *The Abortion Holocaust*,
Landmark Press, 1983, p.191

You draw a parallel between today's abortionists and the Nazi doctors?

Yes! There is a direct parallel between the two holocausts, neither of which could have happened without doctors.

Excerpted from *The Abortion Holocaust*,
W. Brennan, Landmark Press, 1983.

THEN

"A doctor may interrupt a pregnancy when it 'threatens the life or health of the mother [and] an unborn child that is likely to present hereditary and transmissible defects may be destroyed." (German Penal Code and Hamburg Eugenics Court, 1933)

"Only persons of 'German or related blood' can be citizens; this does not include Jews." (Reich Citizenship Law, 1935)

"The authority of physicians is enlarged to include the responsibility for according a 'mercy death [to] incurables.'" (Hitler's Euthanasia Order, Sept. 1939)

"The accused did not act wrongly because they were covered by law [and] were carrying out the laws of the land." (Hadamar Euthanasia Hospital Trial, 1945)

"The physician is merely an instruments as in the case of an officer who receives an order." (Dr. Karl Brandt, Doctors' Trial, 1947)

TODAY

"A licensed physician is justified in terminating a pregnancy if he believes that pregnancy would gravely impair the physical or mental health of the mother or that the child would be born with grave physical or mental defects." (American Law Institute Model Penal Code, 1962)

"The word 'person,' as used in the fourteenth Amendment, does not include the unborn." (U.S. Supreme Court, *Roe vs. Wade*, 1973)

"The abortion decision in all its aspects is inherently and primarily a medical decision, and basic responsibility for it must rest with the physician." (U.S. Supreme Court, *Roe vs. Wade*, 1973)

"I did nothing which was illegal, immoral or bad medicine. Everything I did was in accordance with law." (Dr. Kenneth C. Edelin, 1975)

"The physician is only the instrument of her decision." (Dr. Bernard N. Nathanson, 1974)

Obedience to Authority

Subhumanity of the Victims

"The Jewish-Bolshevik Commissars personify a repulsive yet characteristic subhumanity." (Dr. August Hirt, 1942)

"It had nothing to do with humanity - it was a mass. I rarely saw them as individuals. It was always a huge mass." (Franz Stangl, former commandant of Treblinka, 1971)

"Whenever Jews are left of themselves they bring brutal misery and depravity. They are pure parasites." (Adolf Hitler, 1943)

"If it is now pointed out that the Jew is human, I then reject that totally." (Antisemitic speech, Reichstag, 1895)

"For the first four and one-half months the fetus is subhuman and relatively close to a piece of tissue." (Amitai Etzioni, Ph.D., 1976)

"What is aborted is a protoplasmic mass and not a real, live grown-up individual." (Drs. Walter Char & John McDermott, 1972)

"A parasite can commit murder. What attention has Catholic thinking or the law given to the fetus's capacity to murder its mother?" (Dr. Natalie Shainess, 1968)

"It is a wild contention that new-born babies are persons." (Dr. Michael Tooley, 1972)

The Language of Killing

"Fifty-nine thousand perons were evacuated by July 31." (Warsaw, Poland, 1942)

"The Baron de Hirsch ghetto would have to be emptied." (Max Merten, 1943)

"The removal of the Jewish element." (Hans Frank, 1943)

"The treatment was administered to the children of the Haar-Eglfing Institution." (Dr. Pfannmuller, 1945)

"The method of injection is a completely painless method." (Dr. Adolf Wahlmann, 1945)

"The Uterus was evacuated." (Dr. David Edelman & Colleagues, 1974)

"The uterine cavity was emptied." (Dr. A.K. Mukerjee, 1973)

"Remove the products of conception." (Dr. Thomas Dillon & Colleagues, 1974)

"Abortion as treatment for the sexually transmitted disease of unwanted pregnancy." (Dr. Willard Cates & Colleagues, 1976)

"Evacuate the conceptus painlessly within 45 seconds." (Dr. Harvey Karman, 1972)

Experimental Exploitation

"If you are going to kill all these people, at least take the brains out so that the material could be utilized." (Testimony of Dr. Julius Hallervordan, 1947)

"In the case of abortion, the fetus cannot be 'helped' by being experimented upon since it is doomed to death anyhow, but perhaps its death can be ennobled . . . when the research has as its objective the saving of lives (or the reduction of defects) of other wanted fetuses." (Drs. Willard Gaylin & Mark Lappe, 1975)

"The victims of this Buchenwald typhus test did not suffer in vain and did not die in vain . . . people were saved by these experiments." (Dr. Gebhard Rose, Doctors' Trial, 1947)

"With changes in the abortion laws, fetuses as valuable research material is on the increase." (Dr. Leroy Jackson, 1975)

How did the change come about?

Dr. Leon Alexander, an authority writing after the Nuremberg trials, said it well, and the parallel with the creeping deterioration of today's societal ethics is telling.

"The beginnings were at first merely a subtle shift in emphasis in the basic attitude of the physicians. It started with the acceptance of the attitude, basic in the euthanasia movement, that there is such a thing as a life not worthy to be lived. This attitude, in its early stages, concerned itself merely with the severely and chronically sick. Gradually, the sphere of those to be included in this category was enlarged to encompass the socially unproductive, the ideologically unwated, the racially unwated, and finally all non-Germans. But it is important to realize that the infinitely small, wedged-in lever from which this entire trend of mind received its impetus was the attitude toward the nonrehabilitable sick."

L. Alexander, "Medical Science Under Dictatorship,"
New England Jour. Med., vol. 241, July 14, 1949, pp. 39-47

And in the modern Western world?

The first public admission of this change of basic ethic was an editorial:

"The reverence of each and every human life has been a keystone of Western medicine and is the ethic which has caused physicians to try to preserve, protect, repair, prolong, and enhance every human life.

"Since the old ethic has not yet been fully displaced, it has been necessary to separate the idea of abortion from the idea of killing, which continues to be socially abhorrent. The result has been a curious avoidance of the scientific fact, which everyone really knows, that human life begins at conception, and is continuous, whether intra- or extra-uterine, until death. The very considerable semantic gymnastics which are required to rationalize abortion as anything but taking a human life would be ludicrous if they were not often put forth under socially impeccable auspices. It is suggested that this schizophrenic sort of subterfuge is necessary because, while a new ethic is being accepted, the old one has not yet been rejected."

Editorial, Jour. CA State Med. Assoc., Sept. 1970

Don't doctors know abortion kills a human being?

Several decades ago many did not. Doctors are narrowly specialized. Just because M.D. or D.O. appears after their names, don't assume they know everything about fetal development. Remember, most clergymen aren't scripture scholars, and few attorneys know much about copyright law.

In the last decade or so, this ignorance no longer holds true. Today it is common at a baby shower for the expectant mother to show the guests an ultrasound picture of her baby. Today all doctors, even those most distanced from biological facts, such as psychiatrists,

know this basic scientific fact.

Why do doctors do abortion?

A few do them for ideologic reason, but their numbers are dwindling. Most do them because of the money. Many abortionists are unable to earn a living in regular medical practice, so they turn to this, e.g., we have a letter from Shepel Management, Inc. in Brookline, MA soliciting a physician "to perform abortions." It states, "This is a part time position requiring either a morning or an afternoon a week. It is an opportunity to earn upwards of \$70,000 a year."

What training is needed to do abortions?

None! There are no laws requiring certain qualifications if done in free-standing facilities. In-hospital abortions involve all of the rules and supervision of regular surgery, but the trend is sharply away from hospital abortions. Today few hospitals do abortions in the U.S. This is not true in many other countries.

What do people think of abortion doctors?

At best, they are regarded as a necessary evil by most citizens. Commonly, they are social outcasts, ostracized by most in their community. People avoid them, and their children often suffer.

A nationwide survey showed that, by their own admission:

- * 69% of abortionists say they are not respected in the medical community.
 - * 65% feel ostracized.
 - * 87% have been harassed.
 - * 50% have problems retaining staff.
 - * 20% have been denied hospital privileges because they do abortions.
- 64% say that the non-abortion part of their practice has suffered because they do abortions.

M. Crutcher, *Project Choice*, Feb. 1993

How about psychic stress?

For nurses, this has been a real problem. Except for the unusually high salaries paid, few nurses would work in an abortion chamber.

A detailed accounting of the psychic stress, self-doubts, nightmares, recourse to alcohol and drugs, and the personality deterioration of those doing abortions is described in "Vacant Souls," a chapter in the book *Lime 5*.

M. Crutcher, *Lime 5*, Genesis Pub., 1996, pp. 171-222

Is this true in other countries?

It varies -- some yes, some no. Certainly the trend in the U.S. is clear. Few hospitals do abortions. Fewer doctors want to do them. Fewer medical schools teach how to do them. The abortionist remains an outcast. Malpractice lawsuits against them are more frequent.

[Next Chapter](#)

[Previous Chapter](#)

[Contents Page](#)