1980s. They discuss developments in immunosuppressive drugs, the psychological complexities of organs as gifts, the emergence of cluster or multiorgan transplants, the use of living related and nonrelated donors, and market efforts to increase organ supply. The strength of this part of the book is its moving reminder of the emotional complexity of the giving and receiving of organs and of how great technological promises are usually followed by dashed hopes, which they illustrate with the shifting fortunes of the immunosuppressive drug cyclosporine, key to the 1980s increase in transplantation. They also are good at showing how transplant practices blur the line between research and therapy and how periodic moratoria on clinical use of a transplant procedure are essential social control mechanisms.

In this part of the book, however, persons who have followed organ transplantation during this period will find little that is new, and there is little analysis or reasoned argumentation about the significance of the material the authors have gleaned from the literature. Missing are the participant-observer insights that so enrich the authors' earlier book and their account of the Jarvik-7 experiment. Missing too is a reasoned argument considering organ transplantation in relation to other life-extending technologies that now constitute mainstream medical practice.

One can agree with Fox and Swazey that the emotional complexities of organ donation need more attention and that persons facing transplantation need more information about the therapeutic roller-coaster ride that even successful transplants usually bring. One can also share the authors' doubts that the xenografts and multiorgan transplants that now define the cutting edge of transplantation should be so aggressively pursued as a last resort for dying patients.

But the authors never combine their observations and questions into a coherent argument about what the limits of transplantation should be or, indeed, ever state explicitly what they would or would not accept. A reader of their jeremiad against aggressive transplantation could conclude that they favor discontinuing certain kinds of transplants or even organ transplantation altogether in order to avoid the spiritual and cultural harm that they think transplantation inevitably brings. If so, a stronger argument is needed than they provide, or at least some basis for distinguishing acceptable from unacceptable kinds of transplants.

Constructing an argument is not easily done without calling the entire modern medical enterprise into question. Expense and intrusiveness characterize many other medical interventions, and compared to some of these organ transplantation has a lot going for it. It is more effective than treatments for many forms of cancer, for HIV, or for extreme prematurity and is not self-evidently the first candidate for cuts in an age of health care rationing. Nor does its basis in the eagerness of families and doctors for hope in the midst of tragedy in itself disqualify transplantation as a remedy that society should support. Despite its novel features, organ replacement is but another example of the instrumental approach to disease and illness that characterizes our highly technologized medical care system, and it should be given no less respect than other such procedures get.

In the end, Fox and Swazey provide valuable insights into the abuses that can occur in the process of technological innovation and identify many of the problematics of solid-organ transplantation. However, beyond reminding us that there are important psychological, social, and cultural issues at stake, they do not help us to sort out the acceptable from the unacceptable in organ transplantation or in medicine generally.

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