

REPRODUCTIVE BIOLOGY
RESEARCH FOUNDATION CONFERENCE

Ethical Issues in Sex Therapy and Research

EDITED BY

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Little, Brown and Company

BOSTON

1977

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THIS unique and historic book, edited by three of the world's foremost sexologists, discusses in detail the fundamental ethical issues of therapeutic and investigative approaches to human sexuality. Drawn from the proceedings of a symposium sponsored by the Reproductive Biology Research Foundation, **ETHICAL ISSUES**

IN SEX THERAPY AND RESEARCH combines the expertise of over thirty authorities of national stature from the fields of psychiatry, psychology, theology, philosophy, sociology, law, nursing, obstetrics and gynecology, and internal medicine.

The structure of the book provides a balanced format for a lively discussion of the issues. Each chapter is devoted to a comprehensive presentation of a single topic by a noted authority on the subject; comment on it by another specialist follows; and an informal discussion by other symposium participants concludes each chapter.

The book begins with a description of the historical development of ethical

research, including the era preceding the Kinsey studies, the reception of Kinsey's work, and the work of Masters and Johnson. Next, three theologians describe the evolution of the Judeo-Christian viewpoint on the suitability and moral limitations of sexology.

The authors then review some of the current and controversial aspects of sex research and therapy. These include a timely discussion of the ethical responsibilities of sex researchers in regard to informed consent, methodological concerns, research involving children and prisoners, and issues of confidentiality. A chapter on issues surrounding and attitudes toward variant forms of human sexual behavior combines research with clinical problems to present an insightful view of transsexuality, homosexuality, chromosome disorders, and criminal sex offenses. In an intriguing chapter on the ethics of sex therapy authors debate the use of surrogate partners and the ethical issues of sexual relations between therapist and client. Following a detailed chapter on the knowledge, preparation, and technical skills needed to train a sex therapist, the final chapter presents Masters' scholarly summary and review of the issues identified at conference.

Further steps must be taken to formulate cohesive and responsible ethical guidelines for this field, but the pioneering efforts of these authors have resulted in identification and documentation of the issues and problems that today face both the concerned professional and the layman. The historical importance and multidisciplinary nature of **ETHICAL ISSUES IN SEX THERAPY AND RESEARCH** make it of interest to sex therapists, sex researchers, medical ethicists, psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, physicians, sociologists, nurses, teachers, theologians, and the concerned public, all of whom are involved in these contemporary issues.