

Philosophy of Science

December, 1977

EDITORIAL INTRODUCTION TO THE SPECIAL SECTION ON VALUE ISSUES IN SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, AND MEDICINE

The first four essays in this number of *Philosophy of Science* constitute a Special Section on "Value Issues in Science, Technology, and Medicine." The journal will, on an occasional basis, continue to announce such special sections or full numbers sufficiently far in advance to allow interested authors time to submit articles for possible inclusion. (An announcement concerning the prospective special number of the journal on *Philosophy of Psychology* appeared in September 1977 on p. 508.)

The articles in this number's special section explore various facets of value issues in science, technology and medicine. That the treatment of such issues does not represent a radical departure from previous journal editorial policy is indicated by an examination of the References within these articles. *Philosophy of Science* will continue in the future to remain open to the publication of essays dealing with value issues in science.

In the first essay in the following Special Section, James Gaa in "Moral Autonomy and the Rationality of Science" contends that science is not morally autonomous, and attempts to articulate a more comprehensive notion of scientific rationality which has a significant ethical dimension. Christopher Boorse in his "Health as a Theoretical Concept" argues against the prevailing view that health is a value-laden concept, that the medical concept of health is a value-free theoretical notion. Stanley Carpenter surveys the important growing evaluative discipline of technology assessment from logical and epistemological perspectives. Marcus Singer, in a detailed essay review of John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*, examines this already classical work for its relevance to the increasing interest of philosophers of science in matters of method and justification of theories of moral value.

Philosophy of Science, 44 (1977) pp. 511-512.
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Rounding out this issue, though not part of the Special Section, are several papers on philosophy of the biomedical sciences which seem more coherent with the Special Section topic, as well as several reviews of books in the philosophy of the social sciences.