

could well be the only book you need to buy on ethics from the christian viewpoint. It is not cheap, but I recommend that every practice should have a copy in their library, and every doctor interested in the approach of christianity to ethics would greatly enjoy this book and benefit from it. It should continue to be of value throughout the professional lifetime of anyone who buys it.

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LIFE AFTER NINETY

Michael Bury and Anthea Holme
Routledge, London (1991)
198 pages. Price £38.00

Life after ninety describes a survey of individuals aged 90 years and over. The aim was to obtain a representative sample of that group in England. One of the difficulties of such a study, as stated by Margot Jefferys in the foreword, is that those in this age group are of necessity short-lived and the next group of over 90 year olds are likely to be very different.

Nevertheless it is interesting to have a snap shot of this age group. General practitioners will be interested in the difficulty the researchers had in obtaining the names of those aged 90 years and over from general practitioner lists. My own experience has

been that approaching general practitioners direct helps to solve this problem.

A total of 222 people aged 90 years and over were interviewed (response rate 82%). The book gives basic information about the marital status, education and occupation of these people. This is followed by the financial circumstances of the group together with information about housing and the numbers living in communal establishments.

The point is made that this group had experienced the first world war and the enormous social and economic changes occurring around that time. The group exhibited remarkably good recall of childhood health, which appears to have been excellent, compared with the high level of infant mortality at that time.

Only 3% of the men in the group and none of the women were current smokers, although two thirds of the men had smoked at some time. About 50% of both sexes currently drank alcohol. Information on diet suggests that those who reach the age of 90 years are not particularly interested in the present day obsession with different types of diet.

All in all this is an interesting book. General practitioners will be very aware of their patients who are over 90 years of age and might like to compare notes.

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(Ref. 90/91-103)

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Inquiries may be directed to Dr Cindy Lam, General Practice Unit, 2/F Southern Centre, 130 Hennessy Road, Hong Kong (tel. (852) 8351859). Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from Appointments (39505), Association of Commonwealth Universities, 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, UK; or from the Appointment Unit, Registry, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong (Fax (852)-5592058; E-mail APPTUNIT@HKUVM1.HKU.HK).

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