LESŁAW T. NIEBRÓJ
„HIPPOCRATIC OATH”: IS THE PROHIBITION AGAINST EUTHANASIA STILL IN FORCE?
(Summary)
Background: Legalization of euthanasia in several countries and attempts to introduce permissive law in this issue in other countries (including Poland) have made that euthanasia has been one of the most hotly debated bioethics and health policy issues of the past decade.
Aim: In discussions about moral un/acceptability of euthanasia, its opponents refer to the authority of Hippocrates and, in particular, to the famous oath which is ascribed to him. This article aims to find out if at all/in how degree such references are justified or, speaking more precisely, in which meanings attributed to the phrase ‘Hippocratic medicine’ it could be said that the prohibition against euthanasia exists and is still in force.
Findings: In this article, three main meanings of „Hippocratic medicine/ethics” are indicated, i.e.: (1) as a medicine which is aware of its moral responsibility; (2) as a medicine which has its background in Christian ethics, and (3) as a medicine known from works of a historic Hippocrates or of an unknown author of the ‘Hippocratic oath’. Considerations undertaken in this article permit us to sustain the thesis that the prohibition against euthanasia exists and is in force in the second of the indicated before meanings and only in this one.
Key words: euthanasia, medical ethics, Hippocrates.

MARIA NOWACKA
THE CONCEPT OF HOLISTIC TREATMENT
(Summary)
The article criticizes the concept of holistic treatment. The concept is expressed by a thesis that a physician during the process of treatment should not be limited to activities on somatic sphere of his/her patient, but should encompass “the whole human being.” However, the term “the whole human being” is not a medical category, it does not have definite contents and that is why it cannot play any methodological function, whereas it is used in various paramedical and parapsychological presumptions, with no responsibilities, which is very dangerous in medicine. A physician is expected to show professional competence and ordinary human decency, as well as some dosage of empathy. However, the conviction that influencing the
mental sphere of the sick constitutes a necessary condition for performing activities on the somatic sphere is both illegitimate and dangerous.

Key words: holistic treatment, physician, empathy.

PIOTR ASZYK
LYING AS A COMPONENT OF THERAPY
(Summary)
There is not common agreement among doctors and ethicists about permission to lie to the patient in order to support the process of healing and cure. The article shows various moral attitudes to the use of lying during therapy. Practitioners, as well as, ethicists offers arguments for and against particular clinical practices. However, analyses lead to the truthfulness as the best approach which respects ones rights. There is not place for exceptions. With sufficient care and support from medical staff, the obligation to tell the truth always, even if it is very difficult element of therapy, serves the patient in the best possible way.

Key words: lying, therapy, ethics.

TOMASZ ORŁOWSKI
EPISTEMOLOGY AND METHODOLOGY OF BRAIN DEATH
(Summary)
The article discusses the definition of death from metaphysical and biological points of view. Also, the paper analyzes various criteria of human death. The considerations are based on a methodological assumption that first of all a proper definition of death should be given, and then criteria assisting in recognizing a state defined as already existent should be set. An anatomical (neurological) criterion of human death is characterized as a real state of patient’s death when irreversible atrophy of all cerebral functions has been diagnosed.

Key words: brain death, human death.

JAN TRĄBKA
BIOPHYSICS, METAPHYSICS AND MYSTICISM IN CONTEMPORARY NEUROPHYSIOLOGY THE BIRTH OF ETHICS AND MORALITY

(Summary)
The article is a compilation of reflections on the necessity to elaborate a new paradigm of physical sciences. The new paradigm should bind issues of physics and biology into one, i.e. problems of studies on matter and life. This would allow to indicate an area where to seek solutions to those problems which presently seem to surpass the methodology of natural sciences.

Key words: biophysics, neurophysiology, metaphysics, mysticism.

ANETTA BRECZKO
ALINA MIRUĆ

LEGAL STANDARDS OF MEDICAL EXPERIMENTATION ON HUMAN BODY IN CONTEXT OF TECHNICAL AND MEDICAL PROGRESS

(Summary)
The article discusses issues of medical experimentation on humans. The authors focus particularly on legal conditions of experimental research, simultaneously touching on non-legal aspects (mainly connected with the role of moral norms when establishing bioethical standards). The paper brings up the issue of interpretative controversies referring to the notion of medical experiment alone and it also discusses the influence of experimental research on the development of medical studies. The authors analyze legal bases of medical experiments in the light of international and European standards. They focus on the principle of participant’s consent as a sine qua non condition for his/her participation in a medical experiment. The authors also discuss a physician’s legal responsibility for damage caused by such an activity. They particularly focus on attempts at establishing model solutions to regulations of the above mentioned issues and they also focus on presenting legal aspects of medical experimentation in Poland.

Key words: medical experimentation, human body, law.

BARBARA KOEHLER
ANALYSIS OF ACTIVITY OF FACTORS OF CONSCIOUSNESS ON THE BUDDHIST PATH OF SELF-REALIZATION

(Summary)
The following publication specified the subject from the perspective of Abhidhamma – the Buddhist empirical study of personality. From the starting point of a structure of consciousness and a classification of factors (cetasika) of consciousness the author outlines the psychological dimension of Buddha’s science. The fundament of Buddhist psychology is a dynamic process of transformation of individual consciousness (bhavanga-sota) on the Buddhist path (atthangika magga). The positive (kusala/sobhana), negative (akusala) and neutral (annasama) factors of consciousness determine the creative act of evolution of spirit. The aim of the immediate experience (meditation) is to eliminate the negative (akusala) factors of consciousness. On the highest (lokuttara) levels of consciousness negative (akusala) factors of consciousness do not subsist.

Key words: Buddhism, consciousness, self-realization.

MAŁGORZATA ZUBER

HASSIDIC VISION OF MAN

(Summary)
The aim of the article is to interpret the teaching of Hassids in philosophical categories, particularly taking into consideration anthropological context. The key to interpretation is the twentieth century philosophy of dialog, an indirect heir to Hassidic tradition. Understanding of man in Hassidic considerations allows to show ethical and epistemological issues, based on ontological solutions fundamental for Judaism, referring to world order. Considerable attention has been paid to relations between knowledge and faith and ethics and law, which can be read in anecdotal Hassidic stories. Such an approach allowed to stop at the complexity of relations between the zaddik and the community of Hassids and to show causes of conflict between Hassids and Rabbinic Judaism. The article is based on the Tales of Hassidism by Martin Buber.

Key words: Hassids, man, Judaism, Martin Buber.
MATYŁDA POGORZELSKA
CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL LAW AND PROTECTION OF ANIMALS
ANALYSIS BASED ON THE EVOLUTION OF DOLPHINS PROTECTION REGULATIONS
(Summary)
The most radical idea of protection of animals – biocentrism – is still very controversial, but gradually gaining the international recognition. Rules of modern international law are considered anthropocentric, however to some extent there is a tendency for adopting the biocentrism approach. The rules regarding dolphins’ protection could constitute a good example of this; those mammals are protected exclusively for their own sake and for the reason of their own intrinsic value. What is also worth of noticing: the above mentioned rules have evolved and gained the international recognition as a result of hegemonic action of one state, namely the USA.
Key words: dolphins protection, biocentric approach, hegemonic action, rules of justice.

KAZIMIERZ TRZĘSICKI
INFORMATION ETHICS – REASONS AND BEGINNINGS
(Summary)
A change can be evaluated by means of ethical and pragmatic values. Progress is change which entails higher evaluation in comparison with the former state. We ask a question whether progress evaluated by means of pragmatic values is also progress in ethical categories and vice versa: is something receiving better ethical evaluation something that also receives better pragmatic evaluation? The answer to both questions is “no.” Whether progress measured by pragmatic values is progress in ethical dimension is decided by those who make and use that progress. A critical area for progress is information technology. A contemporary form of information technology is computer science technology. The technology brings tools for transmitting, storing, processing and searching for information. It is the most powerful information technology. Its origins date to the early 21st century. We are incapable of foreseeing its results. Computer scientists as creators and users of the technology should be particularly trustworthy people. An ethical reflection has accompanied the development and propagation of computer science in the United States. Today, along with globalization, it has become a global issue.
Key words: computer science, ethics, progress.