

Introduction

John Saunders

This edition of *Medicine* is the third with a focus on ethical issues, medical humanities and philosophy in medicine. It includes a wide range of current concerns to inform medical practice for all doctors.

The General Medical Council (GMC) was set up by the Medical Act of 1858, and its starting point was 'Make the care of your patient your first concern'.¹ I hope this edition of *Medicine* furthers that aim in improving good medical practice through the understanding of the often complex issues we face every day.

Being a good doctor is not just about following the clinical guidance and medical measurements, it is about understanding how we achieve a moral compass in our practice, through understanding the ethical aspects of our work. I hope the following recommendations below will tempt you to broaden your reading beyond a collection of facts:

- Richard Hoggart: *Promises to Keep: Thoughts in Old Age* (Continuum, 2005)
- Simone de Beauvoir, *Old Age* (translated by P. O'Brien; Penguin Books, 1977)
- Camilla Cavendish, *Extra Time* (Harper Collins, 2019). ♦

KEY REFERENCE

- 1 General Medical Council. *Good medical practice*. London: GMC, 2024.

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