Human Genetic Information: Science, Law and Ethics. Ciba Foundation Symposium 149. (Pp. 212; £35.95.) John Wiley: Chichester. 1990.

Good and evil, said Durkheim, do not exist for science. Good science, however, may carry evil implications, as illustrated by this 40th anniversary symposium of the Ciba Foundation which was devoted to the biological revolution initiated by the discovery of DNA. The scientists have their say in the first half of the volume, summarizing current ideas on such technical topics as the genome, personal identification markers and the genetics of various diseases, including psychiatric disorders. Then come the papers from representatives of other disciplines (law, religion, philosophy) and the larger questions pile up, many of them clearly outlined in the extensive edited discussions. On these issues the scientists have something to contribute but, as the chairman concludes, 'given the limitations of the model-building on which science depends, this commentary rarely surpasses the trivial'.

Psychopharmacology of Addiction. Edited by M. Lader. (Pp. 184; illustrated; £25.00.) Oxford University Press: Oxford. 1988.

Here are eleven papers presented at a 1986 joint meeting of the Society for the Study of Addiction and the British Association for Psychopharmacology. Most of them go over familiar animal and human studies of familiar dependence-inducing substances—benzodiazepines, alcohol, opiates, nicotine and caffeine. Some of the general points made in the final overview, which attempts to place addictive behaviour in a broader social framework, might have been related profitably to the plethora of data presented in the preceding chapters.

Quality of Life Assessments in Clinical Trials. By B. Spilker. (Pp. 470; illustrated.) Raven Press: New York. 1990.

'The first major quality of life study on a pharmaceutical product published in the New England Journal of Medicine occurred in 1986...This event sent a clear message to the entire drug industry about quality of life data. This message was confirmed by subsequent sales increases of the product described.' So writes Bert Spilker, Director of Project Coordination of the Burroughs Wellcome company in the US and author of books entitled Multinational Drug Companies: Issues in Drug Discovery and Research and Inside the Drug Industry. Proceeding as though the huge volume of quality-of-life studies conducted over the past forty years had been unpublished, he has persuaded some 60 American workers to prepare 32 chapters touching on most of the theoretical and practical problems as they are now viewed by the caring drug firms. Measurements, instruments, scales, tests, individual populations and disorders are all reviewed, some more effectively than others. But the core of the book is located in the two chapters on 'A marketing perspective' and 'An industry perspective'. In a nutshell: 'The essential goals a marketing unit seeks from quality of life data are a strong marketing position and competitive advantage'. The quality of life may receive a shot in the arm if it can be shown to affect the quality of the balance sheet.

Studies of Psychosocial Risk. Edited by M. Rutter. (Pp. 392; illustrated; £35.00.) Cambridge University Press: Cambridge. 1988.

Despite the obvious advantages of longitudinal research it has proved all too often to be, in the words of one critic 'a big investment for relatively small return'. This comment applies more to psychosocial than to physical disorders, and the reasons for caution can be discerned in this volume, based on a 1987 European Science Foundation workshop. The contributions, paired to provide comparative assessments, relate the various longitudinal strategies to the concepts of developmental psychology and to the problems associated with the notion of risk factors. Paradoxically, the theoretical papers on methodology and modelling read more persuasively than the data-based discussions of normative life events, delinquency, school experience and 'biological high-risk groups'.

Anxiety and the Heart. Edited by D. G. Byrne and R. H. Rosenman. (Pp. 496; illustrated; £40.00.) Taylor and Francis: Basingstoke. 1990.

Large conferences not only breed large publications of the main proceedings. They also generate satellite symposia which in time lead to 'out-