Contents

Preface to the Series, 7

INTRODUCTION: Suicide—the Current View 1

Suicide: The Scientific View, 3 The Treatment of Suicide: Prediction and Prevention, 12° Suicide: The Legal Dilemma, 17° The Suicide Taboo, 20°

PART ONE: TRADITIONAL ARGUMENTS CONCERNING SUICIDE 25

1

Religious Views of Suicide 27

The Religious Arguments against Suicide, 28) The Religious Invitation to Suicide, $\overline{63}$

2 The Social Arguments Concerning Suicide 76

Suicide as an Injury to the Community, 77 Suicide as a Benefit to the Community, 96 Utilitarian Theory and Suicide, 106



Suicide and the Value of Life 112

The Principle of the Value of Life, 112 Modifications of the Principle, 115 Kant and Respect for Human Moral Life, 120

PART TWO: CONTEMPORARY ISSUES IN SUICIDE 129

4

The Concept of Rational Suicide 131

The Characterization of "Rational Suicide", 131 Criteria for Rational Suicide, 132

5

Paternalism and Suicide 154

Paternalistic Intervention in Suicide, 154 Paternalistic Facilitation of Suicide, 160

Suicide and Rights 176

Suicide as a Right, 177 Rights and the Role of Others, 189

CONCLUSION: Suicide and Moral Rules 192

Index 196