Contents

Acknowledgments xi
List of Contributors xiii

Introduction False Dichotomy versus Genuine Choice:
The Argument over Physician-Assisted Dying 1
   Margaret P. Battin and Timothy E. Quill

PART ONE Perspectives on Mercy, Nonabandonment,
Autonomy, and Choice

1. The Quality of Mercy 15
   Marcia Angell

2. Nonabandonment: A Central Obligation for Physicians 24
   Timothy E. Quill and Christine K. Cassel

3. The Role of Autonomy in Choosing Physician Aid in Dying 39
   Thomas Preston, Martin Gunderson, and David J. Mayo

4. Disability and Physician-Assisted Dying 55
   Andrew I. Batavia

5. When Suffering Patients Seek Death 75
   Eric J. Cassell

PART TWO Clinical, Philosophical, and Religious
Issues about the Ending of Life

   Robert A. Pearlman and Helene Starks
7. Doctor-Patient Communication about Physician-Assisted Suicide 102
   Anthony L. Back
8. When Hastened Death Is Neither Killing Nor Letting Die 118
   Tom L. Beauchamp
9. Physician-Assisted Suicide as a Last-Resort Option at the End of Life 130
   Dan W. Brock
10. Death: A Friend to Be Welcomed, Not an Enemy to Be Defeated 150
    John Shelby Spong

PART THREE  Open Practice in a Legally Tolerant Environment

11. The Oregon Experience 165
    Linda Ganzini
12. The Distortion of Cases in Oregon 184
    Peter Goodwin
13. A Model That Integrates Assisted Dying with Excellent End-of-Life Care 190
    Barbara Coombs Lee
14. Thirty Years’ Experience with Euthanasia in the Netherlands: Focusing on the Patient as a Person 202
    Johannes J.M. van Delden, Jaap J.F. Visser, and Els Borst-Eilers
15. The Death of My Father 217
    Herman H. van der Kloot Meijburg
16. Assisted Death in the Netherlands: Physicians at the Bedside When Help Is Requested 221
    Gerrit K. Kimsma and Evert van Leeuwen

PART FOUR  Political and Legal Ferment

17. Political Strategy and Legal Change 245
    Eli D. Stutsman
18. Legal Advocacy to Improve Care and Expand Options at the End of Life 264
    Kathryn L. Tucker
19. Physician-Assisted Suicide: Shifting the Focus from Means to Ends 282
   Alan Meisel

20. Choice in Dying: A Political and Constitutional Context 300
   Sylvia A. Law

21. Hastening Death: The Seven Deadly Sins of the Status Quo 309
   Charles H. Baron

Conclusion Excellent Palliative Care as the Standard, Physician-Assisted Dying as a Last Resort 323
   Timothy E. Quill and Margaret P. Battin

Index 335