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Nota di bibliografia	Includes bibliographical references and index.
Nota di contenuto	Courtrooms, 'physic' and drama: the 'criminal process' and the regulation of medicine before 1858 -- Crime, doctors and the body (politic) -- From 'theatre' to the dock via the mortuary -- Protecting life before birth? -- Medical (and non-medical) ending of life: criminal responsibility and the (ir)relevance of motivation -- Which twin lives? Jodie and Mary (Gracie and Rosie) -- Drawing connections: moral philosophy, (political) liberalism, responsibility and the theatre of interpretation -- Parallels and disconnects: bioethical principles, principles of criminalisation and the rule of law.
Sommario/riassunto	To date, little analysis exists of the criminal process's roles as a regulator of medical practice and as an arbiter of bioethics, nor

whether criminal law is an appropriate forum for judging ethical medical dilemmas. The conscription of criminal law into moral controversy and the (perceived) rise in criminal investigations of medical errors sets the backdrop for this innovative historical and theoretical analysis of the relationship between medicine, bioethics and the criminal process. Case studies on abortion, end of life and the separation of conjoined twins reveal how judges grapple with bioethics in criminal cases and the impact of 'theatre' on the criminal law's response to ethically controversial medical cases. A central argument is that bioethics and criminal law are not necessarily incompatible; rather, it is the theatre surrounding interactions between bioethics and criminal law that often distorts and creates tension.
