The textbook “Philosophy and General Philosophy of Medicine” written by professors of Bohomolets National Medical University (Kyiv, Ukraine) I.V. Vasilieva and A.Yu. Vermenko under review is designed to provide the methodological basis of teaching and mastering the academic course of philosophy for the English-speaking medical students of higher education establishments. The main objective of the course is to shape the students’ knowledge of all the main philosophical concepts, to form the plurality and alternative ways of philosophical perception and thinking and in such the way to provide the theoretical, axiological, methodological basis for the formation of systematic scientific world view of students.

The book contains 12 chapters: Human World Outlook and General Problems of Philosophy, Ancient World Philosophy, Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy, European Philosophy of the XVII–XIX centuries, Modern Philosophy, Philosophy of Ukraine, Ontology, Philosophical Anthropology and Problems of Human Conscience, Gnoseology, Philosophical Aspects of Methodology, Social Philosophy and Philosophy of Medicine. The list of recommended literature, the guidelines for seminars and questions for students’ self-control are also included. A guide to philosophical terms will help readers in mastering the main notions and concepts of Philosophy.

The course focuses on the main notions and aims of philosophy, the philosophical aspects of methodology, ontology and gnoseology, as well as the current problems of society development. The greatest attention (five chapters out of ten) is paid to the history of philosophy as basis of mastering all philosophical knowledge. The final chapter is devoted to philosophy of medicine, since from ancient Greece to the modern era philosophy has been the basis of medicine. Philosophy provides theoretical, analytical, methodological tools for the analysis of concepts in medicine, such as disease, health and care. The art of medicine involves practical reasoning, i.e., critical thinking, intuition and sound judgment, which are in the field of philosophical issues. Moreover, the medical practice raises the questions which are central in philosophy. The general concepts and principles of philosophy of medicine are highlighted in the textbook.

Students are supposed to get explicit information about the general content of the course: the main notions and definitions of the fundamental philosophical categories, the facts from the history of philosophy and those regarding the contemporary problems of the modern society development. At the end of the course students will be able to use the acquired philosophical knowledge for the real social life problems analysis and formation of personal position about the most topical problems of the modern society development.

In comparison with the previous textbook in philosophy for the English-speaking students that was published at Bohomolets National Medical University by professors N.V. Popov and A.A. Zakordonets more than 15 years ago (in 2004) the text under review has undergone quantitative and qualitative changes. The volume of the new textbook is increased more than in three times and this allows including much wider and more pluralistic approach to the main modern problems of philosophy as well as to its history. Still the further improvements to the methodological basis for teaching and mastering the academic course of humanitarian disci-
Disciplines of the high school for the English-speaking medical students are needed as the disciplines of Bioethics, Political Sciences, Religious Studies and History of Medicine really need the comparable improvements in their textbook basis. We would like to wish our colleagues from the department of philosophy, bioethics and history of medicine of Bohomolets National Medical University further advancements in improving methodological basis for teaching humanitarian subjects for the English-speaking medical students.

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