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Balance of Limits and Experimentation

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Abstract

In science, there is an equilibrium between advancements in knowledge, ethics, and reason. Equilibrium is when two contrary sides are in balance and, typically, once one side becomes disproportionate, there will be a disturbance. In the novel *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley portrays how going beyond the limits of science can cause a disturbance to human nature. One of the main characters, Victor Frankenstein, fabricated a living creature out of unliving parts. Victor is displeased with the result, leaving the Creature neglected and destined to feel loathing toward his creator. The consequences of seeking glory brought about torture. Aside from providing entertainment, *Frankenstein* is still relevant today because of how medical advancements are rapidly finding answers to prolonging life exponentially and resuscitating long after death. The question comes to mind, how far will scientists and society push the limits of human nature and life span?

Key Points

- Shelley did not explicitly explain the process of creating the Creature, but that doesn't stop science and society today from finding answers.
- Who decides what is ethical when it comes to testing on animals or humans?
 - Possibility of causing harm to those being experimented on due to errors
- How responsible can people be when choosing to live longer, and where will their life end?
 - Giving power to the general public to be experimented on may not be beneficial either, due to lack of forethought on consequences.
- Resuscitation in the short term exists with cardiac arrest patients
 - Research shows that with certain stable blood and cell conditions, the body can remain dead for a longer amount of time and still be resuscitated.

Conclusion and Discussion

While scientific advancements benefit those suffering from chronic diseases and epidemics, limits must be imposed on those advancements to ensure public safety. There should be limits on how long a person can live, and how much scientists can test on people. With today's rapidly advancing technology, the possibility of prolonging or restoring someone's life is closer than ever. Even if there is no way to stop these advancements, the pace should slow down. Research should be done to see if patients are competent enough to decide to prolong their own life if it becomes possible. There ought to be sessions for them to inform them of what the future consequences could be.

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