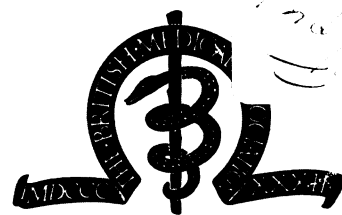


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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

The cliché in medical journals is "more research is needed," so that the three contributions in this week's editorials all calling for this might seem like carelessness. Perhaps, though, it can be put down to an increased emphasis on rigour, as shown in the audit section's article on comparing surgical workloads (p 324). Certainly the debate on pain relief has run

and run—Did it start with the introduction of the hypodermic syringe in 1853 (p 338)?—and possibly that on the treatment of low back pain will do the same (p 341). Anyway, some can take courage from the story about one family with a dyslexic boy, where, as always, encouragement and pressure had to be finely balanced (p 346).