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Corrections and clarifications

Use of lipid lowering drugs for primary prevention of coronary heart disease: meta-analysis of randomised trials

A confusion between US and British abbreviations for drug doses led to an error in this paper by Michael Pignone and colleagues (21 October, pp 983-6). In the table (p 984) the drug doses shown for pravastatin (WOSCOPS) and lovastatin (AFCAPS/TexCAPS) should have been 40 mg once a day and 20-40 mg once a day, respectively [not four times daily]. In the second sentence of the third paragraph of the methods section (p 983) an analytical method was wrongly described; the sentence should read: "Meta-analysis was performed with the Mantel-Haenszel [not Peto] method for fixed effects models."

Another look at visual standards and driving

Readers may have found the explanation of acuity notation confusing in this editorial by William Westlake (21 October, pp 972-3). It should have been made clear, midway through the opening paragraph, that a Snellen acuity of 6/15 is equivalent to 20/50 in the United States and 0.4 in decimal notation. The author also wants to clarify that the minimum visual field of 120° should also be tested by using specified target sizes and lighting conditions.

Identifying patients with ischaemic heart disease in general practice: cross sectional study of paper and computerised medical records

An error in a formula appeared in the appendix to this paper by Jeremy Gray and colleagues (2 September, pp 548-50). The appendix appears only on the *BMJ's* website, at <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/321/7260/548/DC1>. The formula given in the second paragraph should read: "100 000×0.39×0.087×0.96×1/0.45 [not 100/0.45] = 7166."

One hundred years ago

Much ado about a monument

A monument which it is proposed to erect to Tarnier, the distinguished obstetrician, is giving rise to a good deal of heart-burning in certain sections in the medical world of France.

The design approved by the Committee shows in relief the illustrious professor giving advice to a woman with a child in her arms. He is surrounded, to quote the official description, by a group of his most brilliant disciples, some of whose names are given, the rest being denoted by the inclusive formula "etc." It is this sentence that has aroused anger in celestial souls, especially in those of pupils who are not included amongst the elect. Some austere critics go so far as to denounce the statue as a mere puff of the brilliant disciples aforesaid, and feeling has run so high that many who had put their names down for subscriptions have withdrawn them. Moreover there are other disciples who take it ill

that their individuality should be lost in a too comprehensive "etc." are asserting their claims and proving by documentary evidence the esteem in which they were held by the great master. By serious persons the controversy will doubtless be regarded as a melancholy illustration either of the morbid passion for advertisement which springs eternal in the human breast, or of the equally morbid jealousy which leads professional men to see an advertisement in every mention of a rival practitioner's name. To those who like Tammias Haggart of Thrums have an eye for the humorous side of things, the incident will appear an amusing example of the pettiness of the human mind even when enlightened by scientific culture and elevated by practice of the noblest of the liberal arts.

(*BMJ* 1900;i:1111.)