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Corrections and clarifications

Obituaries

We apologise for saying that Dr John Sarkies (16 September, p 709) served in the Indian Civil Service; he in fact served in the Indian Medical Service.

Lesson of the week: Right sided aortic arch in children with persistent respiratory symptoms

In this paper by Donald Payne and colleagues (16 September, pp 687-8) a mix-up over arrows resulted in an inaccuracy in the labelling of the chest x ray film. The left hand arrow was incorrectly positioned and does not, as stated, point to the right sided arch. The arrow is correctly positioned in the website version of the figure (at <http://bmj.com/cgi/content/full/321/7262/687>).

Recent advances: Complementary medicine

We misspelt the name of the plant *Ginkgo biloba* in the caption to the first figure on page 684 of this article by Andrew Vickers (16 September, pp 683-6).

Science, medicine, and the future: Stem cell transplantation

Because of some rather clumsy editing, the second sentence of this article by A L Lennard and G H Jackson (12 August, pp 433-7) read: "Allogeneic transplants are haemopoietic stem cells from the bone marrow, peripheral blood, or umbilical cord blood. . . ." A more felicitous turn of phrase would be: "For allogeneic transplants, haemopoietic stem cells are taken from. . ."

Life is as much a pain as it ever was

In one of the affiliation addresses at the end of this letter by Gary J Macfarlane and colleagues (7 October, p 897), we rather inexplicably spelt out the ARC in "ARC Epidemiology Unit" as "Agricultural Research Council." It should have been, of course, "Arthritis Research Campaign."

One hundred years ago A converted "Fruitarian"

Mr. Hector Waylen, who not long ago was a militant "fruitarian," and taught that fruits and nuts were the "natural and ultimate food" of mankind, has had his eyes opened to the error of his dietetic ways, and frankly confesses the fact in the *Bradford Truth Seeker*. Since 1894, when he preached vegetarianism in Bradford, he has travelled round the world, has lost his health and slowly recovered it, has studied many things of which he was ignorant—among them, as we gather, the philosophy of food. For about eight years he was a vegetarian of the strictest kind, wore sandals, went without a hat, and tried hard to nibble beech nuts, thinking that by indulging in these eccentricities he was returning to Nature. But in process of time he was given light to see that a man can be natural without doing unnatural things. It dawned upon him that man is physiologically somewhat different from beasts, and that because a monkey can do something it does not follow that it is well for man to go and do likewise. His mental

vision improving, he saw things that had been hidden from him before. He discovered, for instance, that "vegetarians as a rule are not a healthy folk. Either they present a wizened and emaciated appearance, or there is a tendency to flabbiness. They have poor circulation, and are liable to chills. They suffer from dyspepsia and anaemia; bad breath and flatulence, proceeding from a foul stomach, are noticeable among them. The liver and kidneys are commonly affected, and altogether there is a marked want of vitality." Mr. Waylen now believes that the Anglo-Saxon race of to-day flourishes best upon a diet of flesh foods, starch foods, dairy products, fresh fruits, and green vegetables. Vegetarians, he says, burden their digestive organs with masses of crude stuff, practically deprive themselves of fats and oils, and then think—while they daily grow thin and nervous—that they are improving in health.

(*BMJ* 1900;ii:37)