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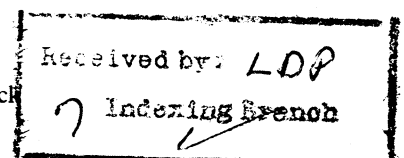
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BMJ EDITOR'S CHOICE

"He was a man with severe porphyria who smoked too much and was without consolation of a wife, a religious belief, or a merit award—but he didn't do so badly." You might never think that this was the Archie Cochrane who had such a lacklustre obituary in *The Times*—but to accuracy and speed of publication his self written obituary on page 63 adds another advantage of the genre: the occasional sharp insight of a writer into his own personality. Since suggesting self obituaries a few years ago we have received about 50 for the files and have already used four this year, and another four are in the pipeline; so we hope that readers will be encouraged to send us theirs. If death is always

with us so is AIDS, and the debate at the LMC conference (p 74) is bound to add to the potential polarities for next week's annual representative meeting. On another page (69) McNicholas and his colleagues show how frequently a risk of AIDS—contamination of the surgeon's skin—occurs during endoscopy; redesign of equipment and greater time, they think, should allow safer surgery. Finally, two other letters continue the debate about editorial chauvinism, with *Radiology* being a pathfinder in the drive to prevent this (p 66); there is also a savage proposal from France for a European association to boycott references to American papers altogether.