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Full instructions to authors appeared in 7 January issue: *BMJ* 1989;298:40-2

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Spare a thought for the Short Reports sometimes, since, although these are not described in This Week in the *BMJ* (a section known in the office as the TWIB), they usually reward careful reading. This week's typical bag includes, for instance, articles showing that balloon tamponade for oesophageal variceal bleeding was effective in only a third of cases (p 1158); that over half of elderly patients surveyed in Leeds were not receiving baths as often as they would have liked (p 1158); that a prospective

study of forearm fractures in children showed that better supervision of girls roller skating was probably the clearest way of preventing some (p 1159); and that continuous testing for HIV antibody in medico-legal necropsies is valuable for monitoring the epidemiology of the infection in the community (p 1160). And there is one good piece of news for England and Wales in the Middles: outbreaks of hospital salmonella infection have halved between 1968-77 and 1978-87 (p 1161).