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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

What would a journal do without a correspondence column? True, for the subeditors it is the most infuriating section: even from authors whose IQs must be in the genius class letters arrive in single spacing (making subediting impossible), without abbreviations spelt out, and lacking the signatures of all the correspondents—and all this despite regular admonitions. Yet the gains outweigh the frustrations, a conclusion enshrined in last week's recommendation by the Vancouver group that all journals should have some section for carrying comment about the articles they have published (2 December, p 1394). This week, for instance, we have a rumbustious debate over conductive education, with one paediatrician worried

about the Hungarian model, another welcoming the positive attitude the method engenders, and two ripostes from workers in Budapest (p 1461). And two pages later the arguments are still raging about organs for transplantation: Is there a hidden population of potential donors or not (p 1463)? I suspect that the Oxford paper on medical ethics committees will arouse as much passion in two or three weeks' time—particularly the authors' conclusion that unless standards improve the guidelines will be legally enforced for all committees (p 1437). Finally, don't miss Jennifer Gray's review of Margaret Spufford's *Celebration*—a yea saying book if there ever was one (p 1472).