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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

"Dr Rogers had turned over the stone of ancient abuse, and had shown to the world . . . the vermin that throve in the darkness. As might have been expected, there was a mighty squirming and wriggling." So it is with other matters more than a century after Joseph Rogers's humane efforts to reform workhouse medicine (p 1507), and one wonders who the *BMJ* will be commemorating in 2089—or, for that matter, who will be today's equivalent of Charles Dickens in arousing public concern. Certainly there is concern—

over unnecessary experiments on animals, which may prejudice experiments vital for medical research (p 1523); over the future of our mental hospitals (p 1524); and over embryo research (p 1528). And we are painfully relearning yesterday's lessons, as the experience of lead poisoning in demolition workers shows (p 1542). But some progress has been made: our consultants no longer have to make a ritual bow to the hospital secretary before they can start their lunch (p 1542).