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EDITOR'S CHOICE



Old debates continue in the correspondence columns this week, and new ones start. The news about the dangers of thrombolysis is encouraging: though some new risks are reported, with care the dangers of inappropriate treatment can be greatly reduced (p 810). J N Johnson's recent editorial about clinical directorates has produced some squibs and an equally lively riposte, and who will forget Gordon Jackson's description of his feelings on finishing his term as clinical director of medicine at Lewisham Hospital—"much like the feelings patients report on emerging from a moderate depressive illness" (p 813). Harty Keen has pointed out that his only connection with the Communist party—see John Warden's article last

week (p 703)—was an uncle who was a prewar member—and what intellectual in those days wasn't? And he puts a brave face on the recent High Court judgment, pointing out that his appeal represented the voice of the great majority of health service workers, as well as the public (p 817). Happier times, farther away, are covered in the autobiography of M K Mani, an avid BMJ reader, which contains statements that are not modest but still true (p 801). Dr Mani would feel at home with the "lively medical pluralism" of orthodox treatment and quackery that flourished before the middle of the nineteenth century (p 822), and he would chuckle sympathetically with Bashir Qureshi's tale of social education of a schoolboy from another culture (p 802).