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EDITOR'S CHOICE



There's one bright spot this week—the NCEPOD report on children (p 1608). Though, as Malcolm Gough's editorial emphasises (p 1606), there's some way to go before surgical services for children are perfect, things have improved a lot in the past few years, and the findings are a good illustration of why audit matters, however much clinicians are beginning to mutter that it's all a waste of time. And there's more discussion using the retrospectoscope in the correspondence on obstetric accidents—notable for a restrained contribution from general practice in Bradford (criticised though it was a few weeks ago) pointing out that in the local hospital

obstetric unit three or four of the 13 junior medical staff are seriously sleep deprived (p 1651). Perhaps the BBC could do with a bit more of inward scrutiny, given that it seems to have got its recent television programme on Asian consanguineous marriages seriously wrong (p 1662). Finally, with the welcome inclusion of so many distinguished people in the birthday honours list (p 1661), one can play the game of speculating why some never make it—Ronald Illingworth, for instance, a doctor who as much as anybody left life better than he found it: perhaps the answer lay in his shyness, avoidance of politics, and puritanism (p 1644).