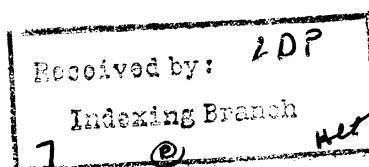


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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

A Bangladesh study published this week (p 103) has produced some impressive findings. Intervention by community health workers, with advice on contraception and baby care, together with immunisation and providing vitamins, lowered overall mortality among neonates and children as well as maternal mortality. Given all the local difficulties, a particularly interesting aspect was the method used for assessing the results—"verbal necropsy." Elsewhere, two sections contain comments on the new techniques for treating gall stones (pp 120, 132); perhaps these are in such flux that one can only agree with Minerva's view that the

choice has to be made by a fully informed patient. And there is a frightening tale of how two children with croup were scalded while inhaling steam—a non-proved remedy in any case (p 113). Finally, ponder another aspect of Britain's decaying and inadequately funded infrastructure—our railways outside the few major routes; anybody who has stood on Oxford station recently, listening to a litany of late train announcements, or travelled in the dirty ancient rolling stock across the country from a northern city to a southern port will sympathise with the two Oxford doctors (p 128); they deserve some sort of medal.