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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

J shaped curves seem to be in fashion. A few weeks ago we published a paper supporting a J shaped relation between alcohol consumption and risk factors for heart disease (27 July, p 211), and soon the journal will carry further evidence linking light drinking with reduced mortality. This week we publish a paper looking at the J shaped relation between blood pressure and death from coronary heart disease (p 385). The question was whether low blood pressure might be associated with increased deaths from heart disease in everybody or simply among those who already had evidence of heart disease. A reanalysis of the Framingham data shows that only those patients who had already had a heart

attack were at increased risk. Treating tattoos is less complex (p 380), but a study of 95 patients wanting tattoos removed showed that 87 of them were under 18 when tattooed, 30 of whom were tattooed professionally and therefore illegally (p 397)—yet another British law that is not enforced. Also in this week's journal are two papers questioning the importance of computers in audit (p 398 and p 403); an analysis of how health might feature in the forthcoming British general election (p 405); and an argument from the president of the Royal College of Nursing that nursing should be seen for the highly complex intellectual activity that it is (p 376).