for other doctors. Confidentiality answer computers. We find that the Ormond makes moving reliable, this vast London, to raise for Sick Children, to hospital in the 1850s, which had about 30 beds 6 years after it had opened. Dickens, breath-holding, and The Hospital for Sick Children Sir, Douglas Gairdner, in his account of breath-holding attacks as described in Our mutual friend, asks if the hospital to which Johnny was admitted was The Hospital for Sick Children, Great Ormond Street. Charles Dickens was keenly interested in that hospital from its foundation in the early 1850s, and was concerned that it only had about 30 beds 6 years after it had opened. On 9 February 1858 he said that 'even that small number, so forlornly, so miserably diminutive, compared with this vast London, cannot possibly be maintained unless the hospital be made better known...'. Dickens presided at a dinner at the Freemasons' Hall to raise subscriptions for the hospital and his speech makes moving reading; there is a copy in the library at Great Ormond Street, and in the Complete works of Charles Dickens. He was appointed an Honorary Governor, and gave a public reading of A Christmas carol in aid of the hospital on 15 April 1858.

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An improved sampling method to study the small intestinal microflora Sir, To obtain samples of juice from the upper small-intestine for microbiological study, a sampling tube is normally passed perorally or pernasally into the stomach, and is allowed to advance into the duodenum, either by normal peristalsis or by manual guidance under fluoroscopic control. Bacterial contamination of the outside of the tube and the lumen inevitably occurs when opened sampling tubes are used and some organisms isolated from the small-intestine may therefore be contaminants arising from more proximal areas of the gastrointestinal tract. We describe a simple method to prevent such intralumenal contamination.
Depression in mothers of young children.

S J Goldsworthy, J O Warner and R J Ancill

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