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*Short reports.* Case reports, brief laboratory observations, preliminary communications, and other short papers may be submitted for this section. Length must not exceed two printed pages of the *Archives*, i.e. in general not more than 1000 words of text, two figures or tables, and eight references. Single case reports will usually only be considered in this form.

For guidance on ethical aspects authors should refer to Editorials in this Journal (1967, 42, 109; 1973, 48, 751; 1978, 53, 441).

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Authors should check the following requirements before submitting a paper:

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- (3) Institution(s) where work done to be stated.
- (4) Address and position of author(s) to be given.
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- (7) Diagrams to be drawn on stout white paper; any lettering may be lightly inserted in pencil.
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(11) From January 1980 references in the text will be numbered. References given at the end of the paper should be listed in the order in which they are first mentioned. The full title of article or book should be given, and the first and last page numbers of the particular paper or chapter. The titles of journals should be abbreviated according to the style used in *Index Medicus* (see *British Medical Journal*, 24 February 1979, 1, 532-535).

(12) Summary to be typed on a separate sheet; and it should say what was done and what was concluded.

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relief from the children. The mother showed no previous Munchausen tendency, but since the twins have been taken into care she has presented to her doctor with a history of haemoptysis and also with a bleeding lesion on her breast which was extremely slow to heal.

#### Reference

Meadow, R. (1977). Munchausen syndrome by proxy. The hinterland of child abuse. *Lancet*, 2, 343–345.

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## Change of reference style

From January 1980, the *Archives* will change its style for citing references and will follow the number system. We are making this change in order to conform with the 'Vancouver style' of uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to bio-medical journals.

Previously the *Archives* has used the Harvard reference system. Its advantages and disadvantages compared with those of the number system have seemed evenly balanced, but the editors have been aware of the burden imposed on authors and their secretaries by the different styles which different journals require. Therefore, with the unanimous agreement of the editorial committee, we have decided to support a move whereby a large—and increasing—number of major medical journals

will accept manuscripts presented in one agreed style.

The system numbers references consecutively in the order in which they are first mentioned in the text. References are identified in the text by arabic numerals. For further details see instructions to authors inside the front cover, and the references cited.<sup>1,2</sup>

From now onwards all manuscripts submitted should accord with the new style.

<sup>1</sup> International Steering Committee of Medical Editors. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to bio-medical journals. *Br Med J* 1979; 1: 533–535.

<sup>2</sup> Lancet. The Vancouver style. Uniform requirements for manuscripts submitted to biomedical journals. *Lancet* 1979; 1: 429–430.