

822 Correspondence

bottled milk is almost universally used in National Health Service (NHS) hospitals. The cost per unit is approximately double that charged to the hospitals, a striking example of philanthropy! The actual cost to the hospital of a single supplier or multiple suppliers is marginal when one considers the high rate of breast feeding and early discharge home that is now widely practised. In the long term it is theoretically possible that by chasing the lowest price one could end up in a monopoly situation with the price being dictated to the NHS and the general public.

My personal moment of enlightenment came when a regional sales manager asked what substantial piece of equipment or research project could be funded when he learnt that his company's monopoly was to be ended.

To be consistent, should we not give equally careful consideration to the distribution of 'bounty bags' and free 'baby's progress' wall charts, which are bordered by unsolicited advertisements. Here again our professional silence surely implies endorsement.

ALEX HABEL
West Middlesex University Hospital,
Isleworth,
Middlesex TW7 6AF

Reference

- ¹ Bamford MFN. Choice of feeding preparations for the newborn. *Arch Dis Child* 1986;61:526.

Turner's syndrome

Sir,

I am very sorry to see the article entitled 'Turner syndrome'¹ in the March journal—not because of its content, which was excellent as would be expected in an article by Charles Brook; it was the lack of the apostrophe 's' that disturbed me. I have of course been aware for some time that a number of American journals have dropped this recently but I am sorry to see that you have joined them. I am afraid I fail to see how a group of journal editors can take a unilateral decision to change the English language and I fail to see any logic whatever in trying to

abolish the apostrophe 's'. To talk of Turner's syndrome or Cushing's syndrome without it is difficult and sounds extremely ugly. It doesn't even save on space or printing ink as it is necessary to refer to 'the Turner syndrome' from time to time.

I do wish you would change your mind and reintroduce the apostrophe 's'.

Reference

- ¹ Brook CGD. Turner syndrome. *Arch Dis Child* 1986;61:305-9.

C G BEARDWELL
Withington Hospital,
Manchester M20 8LR

Treatment of asthma with beclomethasone

Sir,

I am sorry that credit is not given where it is due. The first paper on the use of beclomethasone for treating asthma in children was written in 1973 in Derby by Dr Morrow Brown and his colleague.¹ This was published a year before the article by Godfrey and Kornig, which is given as the first reference in a recent paper by Storr, Lenney, and Lenney on nebulised beclomethasone.²

I think we should recognise that Dr Morrow Brown was the first person to publish on the use of steroid aerosols for childhood asthma and not ignore this work.

References

- ¹ Brown MH, Storey G. Beclomethasone dipropionate steroid aerosol in treatment of perennial allergic asthma in childhood. *Br Med J* 1973;iii:161-4.
² Storr J, Lenney CA, Lenney W. Nebulised beclomethasone dipropionate in preschool asthma. *Arch Dis Child* 1986;61:270-3.

M MONCRIEFF
John Radcliffe Hospital,
Oxford OX3 9DU