

word 'bedlam', which is a corruption of its name. Known locally as St Mary Bedlam it was moved to another site in 1814 and is still in use.

A tradition of free at the time treatment and old age relief was firmly established in mediaeval England. It lasted for over 400 years and was largely abandoned about 400 years ago during the process of the Reformation and has recently been in the process of restoration. Whatever one thinks of mediaeval society and of the reasons for reforming it, there existed in it a powerful desire to help the afflicted. This desire was expressed in practical terms, at times most generously and effectively. Making full allowance for the difference in resources it compares well with what we have today.

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#### ERRATUM

##### General medicine in the danger zone?

The third sentence of this article should have read "... The Norwegian Medical Society sees no alternative to the general practitioner who knows the patient and his family and has not to start every time afresh, who sees the whole man." Our apologies are tendered to the author.