

techniques, command a growing support and interest.

I feel that, given appropriate indications, these will give more benefit than a black box ever did, and will not depend upon the neurosis or gullibility of the patient.

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REFERENCE

Moor, F. (1973). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, **23**, 588.

TWO COPIES OF THE JOURNAL

Sir,
For some considerable time, I have been receiving two copies of the *Journal*. In spite of letters sent to the publishers and to the Longman Group in Edinburgh, two copies continue to arrive each month.

As this seems to me to be a waste of money, some of which comes out of my pocket, I wish to draw the attention of yourself and perhaps of the readers of the *Journal* to this rather strange state of affairs. May I also ask how many recipients of the *Journal* also receive more than one copy per month?

NORMAN F. LEIGH
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The journal office would also like to hear of any reader regularly receiving two copies—Ed.

CONSULTING ROOM TESTS FOR BACTERIURIA

Sir,

I was interested to read the article by Dr D. W. W. Hendry on *The assessment of two consulting room tests for bacteriuria* in the August *Journal*. I do feel, however, that the results could have been presented more clearly.

In particular Tables 1, 2 and 3 could have been combined in a more meaningful way by comparing the number of false results using the laboratory 'Uricult' with the number of such results using the general-practitioner 'Uricult', as shown below;

	General-practitioner 'Uricult'	Laboratory 'Uricult'	Total
False negative	21	3	24
False positive	42	20	62
Correct	237	277	514
TOTAL	300	300	600

$$X^2 = 41.09, \quad 2d.f. \quad p < 0.001$$

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REFERENCE

Hendry, D. W. W. (1973). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, **23**, 365-8.

BOOK REVIEWS

Patient—Centred Medicine (1972). Editor: HOPKINS, PHILIP. London: Regional Doctor Publications. Pp. xvii & 364. Price: £3.50.

I find it impossible to review dispassionately this book as I had already read my personal copy several times and seen at least two of my friends, to whom I lent it, order their own copies. It is the collected papers of the First International Conference of the Balint Society, held on 23-25 March 1972, at the Royal College of Physicians, London. It was attended by 423 delegates from 17 countries, papers being given in up to five rooms and the more than 50 contributions have been most expeditiously and excellently edited. The index is related both to case histories discussed and authors quoted as well as the book having a

subject interest and impeccable bibliography. Having listened to the conference (with the novelty of switching to French or German simultaneous translation on the headphones), I would say it most faithfully records the contributions and catches the essence of this exciting meeting.

Michael Balint and the movement he founded are not topics on which most observers adopt a neutral attitude as either positive or negative attitudes are usually engendered. This meeting, gathering the faithful from all over the world to a conference organised by the London élite, was not likely to attract the critics or the evaluators, but more the expanders or the enthusiasts. Furthermore, Michael Balint's death at the end of