use of this drug as these serious side effects become more apparent. Given the sometimes minimal benefits, it may be advisable to think twice before issuing a prescription; however, with increasing use, we are likely to see more cases of severe skin reactions in the future.

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On aphorisms

I read with interest the article ‘On aphorisms’ in the December issue of the BJGP. I would echo Dr Shaw’s view that these pithy sayings are useful in education and personal practice.

In the interest of correctly ascribing credit, I would like to point out that the aphorism relating to the five tumours that metastasise to bone can certainly be dated to earlier than he notes. I first heard this aphorism during the entertaining and useful pathology lectures by Dr Derek Roskell in the Oxford University clinical course in 2000. I wonder if any of your readers can date it any earlier?

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