and the editorial was that such labels should not be so casually applied. In fact, we did not find evidence to support their contention about dothiepin, especially from the studies they themselves have conducted.

It is profoundly disappointing that Kerr *et al* chose to ignore completely the serious scientific and clinical issues raised in our editorial. Instead, they have focused on our motivation; this *ad hominem* tactic reflects no credit on them. Neither does it encourage progress towards identifying true behavioural toxicity and establishing it on a scientific basis.

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CORRIGENDA

CROW, T. J. (1995) The Darwinian Approach to the Origins of Psychosis. *BJP*, **167,** 12–25. On page 25, the reference to MacLean & Triune (1973) should read:
MACLEAN, P. D. (1973) *A Triune Concept of Brain and Behaviour*. Toronto: University of Toronto.

SHEPHERD, M. (1995) Two faces of Emil Kraepelin. *BJP*, **167,** 174–183. The picture of Kraepelin on page 174 is from the *American Journal of Psychiatry*, **151,** 423, 1994. Copyright 1994, the American Psychiatric Association. Reprinted by permission.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

Society for the Study of Inebriety

At a meeting on July 4th, Dr Norman Kerr in the chair, Dr A. Mansfield Holmes of Denver, U.S.A., gave an interesting account of the records of the Dalldorf Asylum at Berlin. The proportion of cases of hereditary insanity to acquired insanity was from 2 to 1 to 3 to 1 in different periods. Of the former group, 9 per cent of the cases were directly traced to drunken parents; of the latter, 10 per cent. The Director, Dr Rust, placed heredity as the chief cause of insanity, and alcoholism the second. His conclusions were that alcohol excited to acquired insanity and produced hereditary insanity by bringing about organic changes in the ancestor which are transmitted to the children in the form of predisposition. Periodical drinking to excess was more detrimental to the individual parent and habitual to the offspring. Dr Kerr, with reference to the objections urged in the House of Lords as to undue interference with the liberty of the subject and other abuses of a law for the restraint of habitual drunkards, said there would be no difficulty, by definition, ample inspection, power of appeal, etc., in so safeguarding the interests of habitual drunkards as to render any such abuse practically impossible.

British Medical Journal, July 1895, 117.

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