Across the same time period the *Journal* published 10 reviews of treatment. One of these reviews had a Methods section (Bollini *et al*, 1999). Seven of the 10 reviews had key authors with clear links to the producers of the drugs that they were reviewing.

The sea change, if it does indeed exist, is welcome.

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C. Adams Co-ordinating Editor, Cochrane Schizophrenia Group, University of Oxford, Summertown Pavilion, Middle Way, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7LG

E. da Silva Freire Coutinho Editor, Cochrane Schizophrenia Group, Fundação Oswaldo Cruz, Av. Brasil, 4635–Manguinhos, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

L. Duggan Comments Editor, Cochrane Schizophrenia Group, St Andrew's Hospital, Billing Road, Northampton NN1 5DG

L. Roberts Administrator/Co-Ordinator, Cochrane Schizophrenia Group, Summertown Pavilion, Middle Way, Summertown, Oxford OX2 7LG

K. Wahlbeck Editor, Cochrane Schizophrenia Group, Department of Psychiatry, University of Helsinki, Lappviskgen FIN-00180, Helsinki, Finland

One hundred years ago

Notes and comment

A few years since in the State of Kansas for political purposes, a sweeping change was made in the medical officers, attendants and other employees of the State institutions for the insane with the most disastrous results, so disastrous indeed that the politicians who were accountable for the change personally besought at least one of the deposed medical superintendents to resume charge of the institution from which he had been ejected and promised to refrain from interfering with his management in any way if he would only come back and bring order out of the chaos which their meddling had created. There always have been and there always will be men who conceive that it is their duty to change the existing order of things. Some of these by their enthusiasm and by the fact that they are impelled by correct motives have made their mark in the history of the world and have pushed forward the advancing line of civilization. Others who have been governed entirely by selfish motives or even ignorant of the true principles of reform have been clogs in the way.

It after all comes to this, in the words of Herbert Spencer: "There seems no getting people to accept the truth, which nevertheless is conspicuous enough, that the welfare of a society and the justice of its arrangements are at the bottom dependent on the character of its members, and that improvement in neither can take place without that improvement in character which results from carrying on peaceful industry under the restraints imposed by an orderly social life. . . . The defective natures of citizens will show themselves in the bad acting of whatever social structure they are arranged into. There is no political alchemy by which you can get golden conduct out of leaden instincts."

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Researched by Henry Rollin, Emeritus Consultant Psychiatrist, Horton Hospital, Epsom, Surrey

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