the population was examined for the presence of dementia.

The first search revealed 15 patients, none of whom were found to be demented following a stepwise history as judged from a review of the history of the present illness in the case notes. That is to say, no sub-clinical phenomena or pseudo-stroke phenomena were occurring which could have led to a diagnosis of arteriosclerotic dementia being made in any of these cases.

The second search found 26 patients, of whom 7 had a pre-existing psychiatric or neuro-psychiatric condition dating from middle age or earlier (i.e. antedating arteriosclerotic dementia), for example depression, schizophrenia, Korsakoff's psychosis and head injury. Six of the patients in this group were demented, and had presented with an episodic stepwise history.

The high discordance between the pathological findings and the ante-mortem diagnosis of 'arteriosclerotic dementia' is well known. This study has searched for a clinical way of bridging this gap, but has failed to find that in the concept of sub-clinical strokes.

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### CORRIGENDUM

*Journal*, May 1987, **150**, 662–673 (R. E. Kendell *et al*). The first line of the summary should read "Computer linkage of an obstetric register and a psychiatric case register made it possible to investigate the temporal relationship between childbirth and psychiatric contact in a population of 470 000 people over a 12-year period: 54 087 births resulted in 120 psychiatric admissions within 90 days of parturition.

## A HUNDRED YEARS AGO

### Mental disorder caused by jaborandi

Dr Wauzh of Liège, who has great belief in the efficacy of jaborandi as a stimulant of the mammary functions, mentions a case which has recently occurred in his practice, showing that inconveniences may occasionally arise from the administration of this drug. He prescribed ten drops of the fluid extract every four hours for a patient whose milk had ceased for a fortnight, with satisfactory results, the secretion being re-established. After a time, however, the patient began to suffer from extreme nervous excitement, accompanied by a fixed idea that she should murder all her family with a hatchet. On the jaborandi being stopped these alarming symptoms disappeared, and together with them the activity of the mammary glands.

(Jaborandi: The dried leaflets of a Brazilian plant *Pilocarpus pinnatifolus*. *N.O. Rutaceae*, having diuretic and sudorific properties – *OED*)

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*The Lancet*, 24 December 1887, 1286.

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