

in *The Lancet*. This may well be true of our authors. We do not generally rewrite, but do request substantial revisions at times.

So our gallant band of unpaid, unsung reviewers continues to enhance the journal with skilled reviews of submitted materials. We acknowledge the reviewers of course at year end, but suffice it to say that our journal is so much the better

for their help. Scientific medicine is dependent upon such giving people and many of them are unstintingly helpful. We very much admire them.

**Robin Eastwood, MD**  
Editor-in-Chief  
St. Louis, MO, USA

## Letters, Belles-Lettres, and Silence

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When the *Titanic* sped towards New York, the captain was less concerned about icebergs than about transatlantic records. Nevertheless when the ship crashed, the captain did his duty and went down with the ship. Captains lead lonely, but not necessarily isolated, lives. What about editors? I do not wish to drown, but do lament the lack of letters (or correspondence as it is called elsewhere in the English-speaking world). Despite the pleas, nobody answers the call for letters to the editor. Like the captain, I want to know what's going on and what people think.

When I grew up in England, writing to newspapers was an art form and a

democratic right. People would compete to be the first person to hear the first cuckoo of the year. Vicars, squires, and colonels would sweetly or crankily air their views about the state of the universe in no uncertain terms. Are there no International Psychogeriatric Association members and readers fit to bust to express themselves in print? Can I not cajole members into giving their opinions of articles or other points of view? Letters, even belles-lettres, will be welcome, but definitely not silence.

**Robin Eastwood, MD**  
Editor-in-Chief  
St. Louis, MO, USA