Our pregnancy rates are high. In other series in which they are mentioned the average is 0.3%.⁵ Our follow-up in a limited region with a stable population and one hospital was probably good. The highest failure rates occurred in the early years when the laparoscopic technique was being learnt, and this problem was emphasized by Steptoe.⁶ We have had over 25 operators in the series, some of whom were experienced but many of whom were not.

Among those patients who became pregnant almost half had one tube completely undamaged. Most of the remaining patients had one tube only lightly damaged, and only a few (20% of failures) became pregnant when the operation was correctly performed. With tubal ligation the morbidity is higher and the hospital stay longer. The pregnancy rate is lower. We feel that laparoscopy offers considerable advantages provided that it is done with sufficient skill and after careful training. These points must be emphasized. In the light of this review we hope to make a great improvement on the failure rate after laparoscopic sterilization.

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Outside Medicine

John Leyden, Poet and Linguist

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John Leyden became medically qualified to advance his career, not in medicine but as a linguist. His notability, like that of the other men described in this series of articles, was not attributable to his medical qualification. He was, however, alone in having acquired this qualification as a means of furthering his chosen career.

He was born in Denholm, in Teviotdale, in 1775. His family had long association with the area as his ancestors had farmed land leased from the Douglasses of Caver. For centuries the male population of the Scottish Borders had engaged in raids into England for cattle and other booty. Their exploits were described in ballads full of romantic braggartry tinged with a gentle poetry of great beauty. These ballads must have roused and inspired successive generations of moss troopers, as the raiders were called.

The Treaty of Union between England and Scotland in 1707, however, abruptly changed the character of border life by introducing a common law on either side of the border. The moss troopers, and similarly the gypsies of Kirk Yetholm, were no longer protected and consequently suffered by the loss of the border. The source of inspiration was gone; only a nostalgic memory lingered. So began the decay of the border ballads. Yet the functional death of the ballads coincided with the appearance in the late 18th century of original poets such as Ferguson, Hogg, and Burns and also of the great ballad collectors, of whom Sir Walter Scott gained the greatest fame.

John Leyden was both poet and ballad collector. His interest in border folk lore must have been initiated by his mother's rich

fund of border ballads. His childhood home was dominated by Ruberslaw, a sullen hill redolent with exploits of the Covenanters.

John Leyden

Reputation for Brilliance

He entered Edinburgh University in 1790, aged 15. Initially he had an uncomfortable time, for his broad accent and general uncouthness were not immediately suited to classical studies. The discomfort was not long lived. He rapidly gained a reputation for brilliance, a reputation which must have been

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difficult to obtain at a time during which Edinburgh burgeoned with illustrious men. His friends included Thomas Brown, subsequently professor of moral philosophy, Sidney Smith, and Lord Jeffrey, later to be editor of the *Edinburgh Review*.

He learnt mathematics under Playfair and logic, Greek, and Latin, but his aptitude for modern languages soon began to express itself. He learnt German, Icelandic, French, Italian, Spanish, Persian, Hebrew, and Arabic. He must have been a bore while learning them as he insisted on trying out his latest language on anyone who would listen. In the long vacation he taught and also began enthusiastically to contribute to a collection of ballads, Scott's *Border Minstrelsy*, for which Scott received much credit. He also translated poems into English from Norse, Greek, Arabic, Syrian, and Persian.

Failing to get the chair of rhetoric, Leyden entered the faculty of divinity to become a licentiate of the Scottish Church, which ambition he achieved in 1798. His plans to become a minister, however, failed largely perhaps because his preaching was ungainly. His appointment to his native parish was opposed by the old retiring minister, a man sorely tried by Leyden's practical jokes.

His principle occupation at the turn of the century was the provision of ballads to Scott's *Border balladry*. Leyden was a principal but poorly rewarded contributor to this collection. Scott, however, had the drive and single-mindedness which Leyden did not possess. Leyden's many interests are demonstrated by his learning Gaelic on a visit to the Highlands; writing an essay on fairy superstitions; producing a dictionary of Scottish language with Robert Jamieson, and for some years being the editor of the *Scots Magazine*. James Hogg, the Ettrick Shepherd, regarded Leyden as an eccentric. The poet Campbell, a depressive, loathed Leyden the manic.

Great excitement was developing as India and Africa became known to Europeans. The exploits of Mungo Park, a fellow Borderer, stimulated Leyden, and as a result he accumulated an immense store of information on the Niger, Senegal, and Gambia territories. These he published in a small book—the *Historical and Philosophical Sketch of the Discoveries and Settlements of Europeans in Northern and Western Africa*. This successful book ran to a German translation.

Surgeon in Six Months

Leyden, now aged 27 years, was keen to explore Africa but his friends persuaded him that the array of languages and the historical interests of the East were more exciting. The East India Company monopolized the resources of India at that time, and entrance to India was possible only through official influence or patronage. Such patronage was obtained from the Minister of India, but the only vacancy at Mr. Dundas's disposal was that of a surgeon's assistant. So Leyden set about to obtain a surgeon's diploma in six months. His enthusiasm was typical. He would produce the bones of the hand at dinner parties, give tutorials, and was always at hand if someone fainted. After he had taken his diploma as a surgeon, he decided to obtain the degree of M.D. His boasting of how easily he had qualified in medicine came to the knowledge of the medical faculty of Edinburgh University who refused to allow him to sit for his degree. He therefore had to go to St. Andrews, where he was immediately successful.

He was due to leave London for India on the *Hindustan* in January 1803, when he was prevented from travelling by stomach cramp. The ship was wrecked at the entrance to the Thames with many lives lost. John Leyden's incapacity achieved not only the extension of his lifespan, but also his best poem—"The Scenes of Infancy," which he wrote during the wait for the next boat. This poem, 2000 lines in length, is a loving description of scenery and local tradition of Teviotdale, from the tiny burn to its flow into the river Teviot. He mentions the various places of interest and interweaves this with a variety of allusion to the customs, legends, and heroes of Teviotdale and other lands.

The Teviot leads her young, sequestered stream,
Till, far retiring from her native rills,
She leaves the covert of her sheltering hills,
And, gathering wide her waters on their way,
With foaming force emerges into day.

Wher'er she sparkles o'er her silver sand,
The daisied meads in glowing hues expand;
Blue osiers whiten in their bending rows;
Broad o'er the stream the pendant alder grows

Yon mouldering cairns, by ancient hunters placed,
Where blends the meadow with the marshy waste,
Mark where the gallant warriors lie: but long
Their fame shall flourish in the Scotian song,
The Scotian song, whose deep impulsive tones
Each thrilling fibre, true to passion, owns

How wide and harsh the moorland music floats
When clamorous curlews scream with long drawn notes,
Or, faint and piteous, wailing plovers pipe,
And here the lonely lapwing whoops along,
That, piercing, shrieks her still repeated song

When his poem was published it was heavily criticized, yet this poem captures all the charm, nature, and history of an area and era.

Leyden had a phenomenal memory. While he was in Mysore he was present at an argument about a point in English History. To settle the dispute he was able to recall verbatim a whole Act of Parliament from the reign of James I of England. He had referred to this Act as an example of a particular style of era some years earlier while writing on changes which had taken place in the English language.

Of middle stature, with lively dark eyes and brown hair, Leyden was as competitive athletically as intellectually. Lord Cockburn said his conspicuous defect was affectation, yet his was an enthusiasm for all in which he involved himself. He believed himself capable of becoming a great physician, the greatest orientalist, or surpassing Milton as a poet.

Travels in the East

On arrival in India he stayed with and became friends with the physician general, the naturalist James Anderson. For four months he managed the General Hospital in Madras while learning Eastern languages. The governor general made him surgeon and naturalist to a commission in 1804 and he set out to survey Mysore and Travancare. He wrote several papers on native languages, customs, soil production, and endemic diseases. At this time he became ill with a "severe liver complaint and a slow fever". After convalescing he travelled to Sumatra and also visited Coimbatore and Wynaad. Despite continued ill health he persisted in his ambition to become an expert on Oriental culture. He travelled extensively along the Malay peninsula and as a result wrote a Malay grammar and dissertation on the language, history, and literature of the Malayan nation, and the interrelationship between the people of the peninsula and Sumatra, Borneo, Celebes, and Java.

His health recovered and, elated by his new knowledge of Eastern manners, he left Puloo Penang for Calcutta at the beginning of 1806. This visit, during which he was out of work, was spent writing an essay on the mongrel dialects of Hindustan. This essay so impressed the Governor of Calcutta that Leyden was made a professor at the college and also a judge. The judgeship entailed becoming a banditti hunter, and he cleared the district of Nuddya of this problem. Later he became a commissioner of the Court of Request and after a year assay master of the Calcutta Mint, but during the same period he also translated the Gospels into Siamese, Macassar, Bugis, Afghan, Rakheug, Maldivian, and Jagatai for the British and Foreign Bible Society.

Lord Minto asked John Leyden to accompany him as an interpreter on an expedition to Java. On arrival there the city of

Batava was found to have been deserted by the Dutch, so Leyden busied himself in exploring it. One day searching for a valuable library he went to a low, unventilated house which contained some interesting manuscripts and books. He became sick and pyrexia on leaving and for three days his fever continued. He died on 27 August 1811, ten days short of his 37th birthday.

Leyden's knowledge was thought by some to be superficial and imperfect. What he did know he learnt accurately and with facility. In judging his power as a linguist, it is necessary to bear in mind that most of his researches were in areas in which Europeans had not previously worked. His poetry is more difficult to assess. James Hogg wrote of Leyden—

Leyden came from Borderland,
With dauntless heart and ardour high,
And wild impatience in his eye.
Though false his tones at times might be,
Though wild notes marred the symphony,
Between the glowing measure stole,
That spoke the bard's inspired soul.

"I knew him, a lamp too easily quenched."—Scott.

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Medical Education

Married Women Doctors as Part-time Trainees

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International Women's Year and the Secretary of State's recent conference on married women in medicine¹ makes it timely to report our experience in employing married women as part-time trainees at Goodmayes Hospital. In the six years since it was set up our psychiatric unit has had 10 part-time trainees, including the two who are with us now. From our point of view the employment of these doctors has been an unqualified success, and in the early days they comprised most of our staff. Training opportunities for married women (and other doctors who can work only part time) are of urgent importance for the doctors themselves; for the nation, bearing in mind the heavy investment in their medical education that it has made; and for the health service, in which the problems of psychiatric staffing are of "serious proportions"² and other specialties have similar difficulties.³ There are many problems in the employment of part-time trainees and they deserve to be clearly identified and faced; judging from our experience they can be solved.

Origins of the Goodmayes Scheme

Our department is a general psychiatric unit, but our special interest is in providing a comprehensive psychiatric service for the elderly.^{5 6} A month after our unit was set up in January 1969 the Government launched its scheme for the re-employment of married women,⁷ which encouraged the provision of part-time posts for individual doctors who came forward, these posts being supernumerary and tailored to the circumstances of the women themselves. Authorities were encouraged to consider dividing up established posts between more than one candidate when this was feasible, and in particular when posts were difficult to fill with a full-time doctor. Provision was made for the periodic regrading of the posts in the light of the doctors' increasing experience and qualifications and for the creation of part-time consultant posts (though these would be advertised and open to competition).

When the scheme was launched display advertisements appeared in the main medical journals inviting women doctors to approach local hospitals or regional boards. Contemplating the "Everest of psycho-geriatrics" in company with a single registrar, 350 inpatients, and heavy pressure of referrals, my thoughts were fixed on finding effective medical colleagues to help. Even before I took the job I suspected that married women doctors might be a group with whom it should be possible to strike a bargain: as the husband of a doctor I knew how difficult it was for them to find jobs which also offered training. I hoped that by offering to train them as psychiatrists I could entice some women who were unemployed or whose part-time jobs offered only routine without training.

The launching of the Government scheme thus came exactly at the right moment for us, and I immediately advertised for interested women to contact me. To my delight a splendid candidate presented herself and I applied for permission to employ her as a part-time senior house officer. The application was turned down. It seemed that lack of funds was the reason, for the scheme authorized the creation of posts but provided no extra money. This was clearly a fighting issue, and in time the application was granted.

At about the same time we had been granted three clinical assistant sessions, designed for general practitioners to give physical care to elderly patients in our long-stay wards. I decided against such dichotomy of staff—trainees in the acute wards and general practitioners in the long-stay wards. I believed at the time, and in large measure still believe, that it is wrong to "hive off" the long-stay work from the acute work and that all our doctors should work as a team in all aspects of the care of our patients.⁶

I therefore offered these three sessions to another married woman doctor who wished to train as a psychiatrist. So by the end of our first year we had two part-time doctors, one coming for four days a week and one for two short days (arriving after she had taken the children to school and returning home before the rush hour). Since then the number of clinical assistant sessions in our unit, the work of which has greatly increased, has risen to nine and these we have always given to married women trainees. In addition, the regional board eventually agreed to establish seven further clinical assistant sessions which are officially reserved for married women (or similar people who are able to work only part time, though only married women have as yet appeared). These 16 sessions have generally been divided between two doctors, but sometimes between three; all have been encouraged to take part so far as possible in every aspect of our work (acute geriatric psychiatry, general psychiatry of younger patients, long-stay work, outpatient work, and domiciliary work). We have made it a condition that all of them regard themselves as trainees and intend to study for higher qualifications.

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