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**Reply**

Dr. Yash Paul makes some very interesting observations. I agree with his view that in our medical set up (where doctors act as masters and nursing staff as those who take orders) any criticism by the nurses would not be appreciated by the doctors. One or both parents should be allowed to be present while procedures are being carried out. The home remedy that he suggests for neonates and infants certainly needs to be tried. Distraction techniques

may work if one has time and patience. Most of us are short on both. In final analysis it is a matter of attitudes and concern. It is so much simpler to give a prick quickly and get it over with! However, pricks and pain must be minimized for hospitalized children who often undergo prolonged treatment and are subjected to multiple injections, venesections and other procedures.

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**Tobacco Use in Rural Indian Children**

I read with interest the recent publication on this subject(1). The statement "Data on tobacco use by rural children or youth in India are few and only recently available" is surprising. In 1987 in Indian Pediatrics a paper on "Smoking behavior of rural school boys" was published by us(2). Other papers on the subject in urban school boys were published in 1978 and 1980(3,4). These studies have specifically addressed the reasons for smoking among the school boys.

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