

**M 6 *The use made of national or international information, whether from journals, research findings, registers or investigations such as the Confidential Enquiry into Peri-Operative Deaths (CEPOD)***

The information gleaned from clinical and research papers in *international cardiac journals* is of the utmost importance in maintaining a grasp of advances and trends in paediatric cardiac practice, as in other fields. In terms of the results of operations in series of cases, it is widely recognised that it is the most successful results that are submitted for publication. However, this does set the optimal standard towards which any unit can strive. The task of reviewing the journals was very much left to the individual practitioner. We did discuss the possibility of running a Journal Club, but we could not identify a suitable time for yet another monthly meeting that could be attended by the whole group.

The *UK Cardiac Surgical Register (UKCSR)* was the only national reference data with which any paediatric cardiac unit could compare its results. The data were submitted voluntarily by surgeons, and could only be accessed by surgeons. It is well known that the national data has never been validated. An important drawback throughout the 1980s and early 1990s was that the cases were stratified by diagnostic groupings only and not by the type of operation (see my comments under Issue B). The Bristol figures were collated by our paediatric cardiac surgeons and regularly provided. If we asked for them, they were readily available, eg for the Annual Reports.