The respiratory rate

Sir,

The recording of a patients respiratory rate is an integral part of trauma scoring. Yet 10% of MTOS patients are excluded from TRISS analysis, most because one or more of the revized trauma score variables has not been assessed or recorded (Cope *et al.*, 1989). We should like to draw attention to a respiratory rate monitor (available from Simonsen and Weel Ltd). The unit detects respiration by measuring changes in thoracic compedents via the same set of electrodes that are used for ECG measurement. By providing a display of the respiratory rate and respiration wave amplitude this may act as a potent reminder to record this important physiological variable.

Perhaps we should aim for all resuscitation monitoring equipment both in the pre-hospital and hospital phases to provide the respiratory rate as standard.

M. J. CLANCY & M. J. WILLIAMS
Accident & Emergency Department
Hull Royal Infirmary
Hull, U.K.

REFERENCE

Copes W. S., Sacco W. J. & Champion H. R. (1989) Guest Editorial. *Archives of Emergency Medicine* 8, 165–8.

QED A150 & A350 saliva alcohol tests

Sir,

As suppliers of the above products we would like to draw the attention of your readers to the following points.

The paper published in *Archives of Emergency Medicine* 7 (2) 69–72. which was an evaluation of an alcohol testing strip by Dr I. Phair *et al.* (1990) of Leicester refers to a completely different alcohol testing product from QED.

The product described bears no relationship to QED by either design, manufacturer or distributor.

The product referred to in the article is, as far as we are aware, not currently on sale in the U.K.

C. SAVORY, Director
Cambridge Diagnostics Services Ltd
Horseheath, Cambridge, U.K.