and discussed alternative explanations for the differences. We hope that others will pursue this important area of inquiry.

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Promoting Patient Safety by Preventing Medical Error

To the Editor: The Editorial by Dr Leape and colleagues1 was timely and appropriate. It is unfortunate, however, that there was no mention of the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation. The fact that a coordinated effort to improve patient safety can be successful has been clearly demonstrated by the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation, which was founded in 1985. Indeed, the National Patient Safety Foundation was directly modeled after the Anesthesia Patient Safety Foundation (Martin Hatlie, Esq, oral communication, November 1998).

It is important to recognize that anesthesia patient safety efforts were the first of such endeavors; in fact we believe that we coined the phrase patient safety.2 We think that the undertakings have resulted in a substantial decrease in anesthesia-related mortality in the last 15 years, from an estimated 1 per 10 000 anesthetic to an estimated 1 per 200 000 for low-risk patients.3

We congratulate those who are taking patient safety to a broader plane. However, history should correctly record and others can learn from what is a successful pioneering effort in anesthesia.

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This letter was shown to Dr Leape, who declined to reply.—EC.

Tales of the Unnatural: Correction

To the Editor: While traveling, my father (S.T.) brought a 20-lb stack of journals to read on the airplane, and I was working on my World Literature homework. As a senior in high school, I was reading Alice's Adventures in Wonderland4 and Through the Looking Glass.5 My father was reading "Tales of the Unnatural: Return From the Dean(d)" in JAMA.6 My father pointed out the section relating to the Red Queen. Dr Hellman writes: "The other phenomenon associated with regression to the mean is described by the Red Queen, who, in Alice's Adventures in Wonderland, responds to Alice's concern that, while she is running, the scenery does not seem to change." The author then quotes the Red Queen: ""[I]t takes all the running you can do to stay in the same place." However, although the author cites Alice's Adventures in Wonderland as the source, the statement made by the Red Queen is in the sequel, Through the Looking Glass.2

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In Reply: While I am chagrined that I made the error of attributing a Lewis Carroll quotation to the wrong book, I am thrilled with the close reading of my essay. I sincerely hope that this is an appropriate reflection of careful reading by all JAMA readers, not just high school students who are also physicians' children.

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CORRECTIONS

Incorrect and Missing Information: In the Original Contribution entitled "Weight Control and Risk Factor Reduction in Obese Subjects Treated for 2 Years With Orlistat: A Randomized Controlled Trial" published in the January 20, 1999, issue of The Journal; (1999;281:235-242), there was incorrect or missing information in the “Methods” section, in the legend for Figure 2, in Table 3, and in the legend for Figure 3. On page 236, under the heading “Assessments,” “triglycerides higher than 2.54 mmol/L (98.2 mg/dL), untreated” should have read 225 mg/dL. On page 239, in Figure 2, the legend for the empty box of “Orlistat, 60 and 120 mg” should have been 120, then 60 mg. In Table 3, the placebo measurement for low-density lipoprotein cholesterol week 104, of 25 ± 4 mg/dL should have been 125 ± 4 mg/dL. On page 240, in Figure 3, under the letter C in the figure legend, “P<.05 for placebo vs orlistat” should be added.

Omission of Financial Disclosure Information: In the Original Contribution entitled “Sexual Dysfunction in the United States: Prevalence and Predictors,” published in the February 10, 1999, issue of THE JOURNAL (1999;281:537-544), the financial disclosures of the authors were inadvertently omitted. Dr Edward O. Laumann has served on the Scientific Advisory Committee to Pfizer Inc, New York, NY, in the development of Viagra, a medication for erectile dysfunction, since January 1997. Dr Rosen has received research and consulting support from Pfizer Inc, Merck & Co Inc, West Point, Pa; Eli Lilly Co, Indianapolis, Ind; Bristol-Meyers Squibb Co, Princeton, NJ; Procter & Gamble, Cincinnati, Ohio; and ICOS Corp, Bothell, Wash.