The early repetition of deliberate self harm.
Editor – Simon Gilbody and colleagues have shown that previous history is a useful predictor of repetition of deliberate self harm, and that the more frequent the episodes the shorter the interval between them. That this is so may be because after each episode those who repeat this behaviour are returning to the adverse conditions that provoked it in the first place. Deliberate self harm is known to be more common in those who abuse alcohol and other substances; this is because they are disinhibited. Such persons might be more effectively treated if attention were paid to this aspect.

SAMUEL I COHEN
Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry
University of London

Increasing demand for dermatological services
Editor – Dr Hywel Williams has highlighted the growing demand for dermatological services, and has proposed models of future care. Whilst these are helpful, there will have to be even more radical changes to cope with future demands for dermatological services.

SAMUEL I COHEN
Emeritus Professor of Psychiatry
University of London