the ball and strike it to the point of an audible sound.

References

- Hultgren, H. N., and Hubis, H. (1965). A phonocardiographic study of patients with the Starr-Edwards mitral valve prosthesis. *American Heart Journal*, **69**, 306.
- Leachman, R. D., and Cokkinos, D. V. P. (1969). Absence of opening click in dehiscence of mitralvalve prosthesis. New England Journal of Medicine, 281, 461.

Starr, A., Herr, R. H., and Wood, J. A. (1967). Mitral

replacement; review of six years experience. Journal of Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, 54, 333.

- Starr, A., Pierie, W. R., Raible, D. A., Edwards, M. L., Siposs, G. G., and Hancock, W. D. (1966). Cardiac valve replacement. *Circulation*, 33 and 34, Suppl. I, 1-115.
- Yacoub, M. H., and Keeling, D. H. (1968). Chronic haemolysis following insertion of ball-valve prostheses. British Heart Journal, 30, 676.
- Zitnik, R. S., and Burchell, H. B. (1963). A phonocardiographic study of patients with total prosthetic mitral valve replacement. *Diseases of the Chest*, 44, 11.

Requests for reprints to Dr. Christ Aravanis, 47 Vasilissis Sophias Ave., Athens 140, Greece.

Erratum

The article, *The early detection of congenital malformations*, by H. Watson, which appeared in the January issue of this journal (vol. **34**, pages 37-40) contains a fairly major error. Page 38, lines 39-40, left-hand column, should read—'had almost 4 times this number, 27.5/1000, in 1334 stillbirths'.