The Martin-Bell-Renpenning syndrome

SIR,

Interest has centred around non-specific X linked mental retardation since the discovery that in one form it may be associated with a fragile site at Xq27-28 or macro-orchidism or both. The lack of complete correlation between the cytogenetic and physical findings and the fact that the condition is as yet incompletely defined clinically has resulted in the terminology the 'Martin-Bell-Renpenning' syndrome after the authors of early clinical and genetical studies in such families. Recently, however, the family studied by Renpenning *et al* has been found not to carry the fragile site at Xq27-28,¹ while cytogenetic studies performed on the family originally described by Martin and Bell have shown the fragile site to be present in five affected males.²

For this reason we propose that non-specific X linked mental retardation associated with a fragile site at Xq27-28 be termed the Martin-Bell syndrome,

and would like to withdraw the word Renpenning from the title of a recent article in the *Journal of Medical Genetics*.³

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