Preamble
The chapter on “Controls” by Crofton clearly sets out the basis of treatment allocation by randomisation thereby establishing this text as the first, outside of research papers, and within the period studied, to do so (but see Pre-amble to (3) below).

Aims
The growing number and complexity of chemical compounds that are being developed for the treatment of disease is making the problem of clinical evaluation increasingly acute. To accord a new remedy its due place in medicine is no easy task and often it is only after extensive trial that any definite conclusions can be reached. The pharmaceutical houses, with their research facilities, play a part in the progress of medicine, not least through the discovery and production of new drugs. Close liaison between the industry and the medical profession is therefore of first importance. The purpose of this symposium was to examine the main problems involved in the carrying out of clinical trials with a view to producing, if possible, a general picture of how such trials might best be conducted (Foreword, page iii).

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