Preamble
The Foreword is by W Linford Rees MD, FRCP, FRCPsych, DPM (Professor of Psychiatry in the University of London, and Physician in Charge, Department of Psychological Medicine, St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London).

Aims
This book is intended to introduce the newcomer to clinical research methodology, and as stated, it assumes that the reader has no knowledge whatsoever of the subject. This book by itself will allow the reader to select a research subject, show him how to design the method whereby he intends to pursue his work, how to execute it, and it will also introduce the concepts by which inferences are drawn and conclusions reached. Because a very important part of the work of clinical research lies in the field of medical statistics, and because this is not a book on statistics, the reader may later wish to progress to simple books on that specific subject. This book is intended as the first step: because it is self-sufficient at a modest level, it can just as easily be the last, because in taking it the principles of clinical research will be acquired. While directed primarily at doctors, this book will also prove useful to research minded people in para-medical subjects. Provided they have the required permission there is really no reason why important research should not be done by nurses, social workers, physiotherapists, radiographers, dieticians, cardiographers, laboratory personnel and anybody else who works scientifically and thinks! (Preface, pages vii-viii).

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