

- 3 Pandey R, Gupta S, Upadhyay A, Gupta RP, Shukla M, Mishra RC, et al. Childhood maltreatment and its mental health consequences among Indian adolescents with a history of child work. *Aust N Z J Psychiatry* 2020; **54**: 496–508.
- 4 Lau JYF, Sharma NP, Bennett E, Dhakal S, Vaswani A, Pandey R, et al. Acceptability of a brief training programme targeting attention and interpretation biases for threat in youth with a history of maltreatment. *Behav Cogn Psychother* 2020; **48**: 370–5.
- 5 Berthelot N, Lemieux R, Maziade M. Shortfall of intervention research over correlational research in childhood maltreatment: an impasse to be overcome. *JAMA Pediatr* 2019; **173**: 1009–10.



Poem

Tread carefully

Rachel Egan 

A perfect square of sunshine and a mop swirls over
 Glistening floor tiles embarrass my well-worn soles
 You've seen all this before,
 blue buckets and yellow cones punctuate your progress.
 This is not your extraordinary.

Paper curtains carefully lifted and draped
 Different tired eyes and tears in oversized chairs, but the pattern's the same
 A change of detail in a familiar tableau.
 Scrubbing down surfaces following all procedures
 scrupulous sanitizing of this artificial womb.

For me every movement, detail, noise
 a revelation

Fearful, fascinating, unreal
 Hands gripping arm wrests
 Resisting impulses to tear the mop from your hands and sing your praise loudly
 You have all saved me, my son, my soul, my heart
 My sanity, my belief, my strength

On an early today and the sterilizing room's a mess
 Your trolley rolls on
 a soft-close exit from this stage

and I am left in the depths of my thoughts
 to stare at the child I cannot hold
 and wonder.

© The Author 2020

The British Journal of Psychiatry (2020)
 217, 599. doi: 10.1192/bjp.2020.79