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## Editorials

- 633 **Ectopic pregnancy**  
John Newton
- 635 **Genes on the X and Y chromosomes controlling sex**  
M A Ferguson-Smith
- 636 **Sickness absence: the doctor's role**  
D Coggon
- 637 **Counsellors in general practice**  
Edwin Martin
- 638 **Smoking and leukaemia**  
Nicholas Wald

## News

- 639-642 **Black nurses · Chemical castration · Hammersmith plans · Motor neurone disease · Irish general practitioners · Medical negligence · Single homeless · Choose science · Antioncogenes**

## Papers

- 643 **Langerhans' cells and subtypes of human papillomavirus in cervical intraepithelial neoplasia**  
Robert J S Hawthorn, John B Murdoch, Allan B MacLean, Rona M MacKie
- 647 **Fluorescent lights, ultraviolet lamps, and risk of cutaneous melanoma**  
A J Swerdlow, J S C English, R M MacKie, C J O'Doherty, J A A Hunter, J Clark, D J Hole
- 650 **Evaluation of a proposed breast cancer screening regimen**  
E G Knox
- 654 **Outcome of untreated infection with *Entamoeba histolytica* in homosexual men with and without HIV antibody**  
Erica Allason-Jones, Adrian Mindel, Peter Sargeant, David Katz
- 657 **Leukaemia and smoking habits among United States veterans**  
L J Kinlen, E Rogot
- 660 **Exercise induced rhinorrhoea (athlete's nose)**  
C F Stanford, R L Stanford
- 660 **Acute laryngeal stridor with respiratory arrest in drug induced systemic lupus erythematosus**  
W K Chong, A G Dewhurst, J R E Dathan
- 661 **Reduction of size of thyroid with radioactive iodine in multinodular non-toxic goitre**  
Laszlo Hegedüs, Bo Mølholm Hansen, Niels Knudsen, Jens Mølholm Hansen
- 662 **Review of postperinatal mortality in a health district with a garrison town**  
Mala Rao, Elizabeth Hoinville
- 646 **Correction: Screening tests for hepatitis B**  
Saha *et al*

## Practice Observed

- 663 **Randomised controlled trial of general practitioner intervention in patients with excessive alcohol consumption**  
Paul Wallace, Stephen Cutler, Andrew Haines

## Middles

- 669 **BACUP—the first two years; evaluation of a national cancer information service**  
M L Slevin, Y Terry, N Hallett, S Jefferies, S Launder, R Plant, H Wax, T McElwain
- 672 **Graphical aid for determining power of clinical trials involving two groups**  
Douglas K Miller, Sharon M Homan
- 677 **ABC of Eyes: The glaucomas**  
A R Elkington, P T Khaw
- 676 **Corrections: The eye and the nervous system; General medical disorders and the eye**  
Elkington and Khaw

- 681-696 **Obituary · Correspondence · Medicine and Books · Medicine and the Media · Opinion · Personal View · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)**

676 **Any Questions** Complications after splenectomy Eric Walker

## 681 **Obituary**

T Forrest, S H Burges, D C Lamont, J G Sandrey, J M Loughran, B V Hassan, C C S Pike

## 683 **Correspondence**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 683 Surgical training in the private sector<br>Debra Seaton, MB; B Gibbons, MRCP; D A Mosquera, FRCS                                | 686 The code for promoting drugs<br>F O Wells, MRCP  |
| 683 Heart disease in Asians in Britain<br>J K Cruickshank, MD   | 687 The MD and MS degrees in Britain<br>M J Kelly, FRCS  |
| 684 Fatal pulmonary aspiration of oral activated charcoal<br>V Danel, MD; D Vickers, MRCP   | 687 Skeletal effects of oestrogen and testosterone in postmenopausal women<br>G I M Swyer, FRCP; C H Mortimer, MRCP, and W Perry, MRCP |
| 684 Treating the premenstrual syndrome<br>Kay Callender, MRCPsych, and C S Thomas, MRCPsych   | 688 Defence subscriptions for general practitioners<br>P Fenn, BPHIL, and others   |
| 684 Salt saga continued<br>F O Simpson; R Finn, MD  | 688 Achieving a balance<br>A H Henderson, FRCP, and others   |
| 685 White blood cells and venous ulceration<br>P R S Thomas, FRCS, and others   | 688 Crisis in the maternity services<br>Jane E O'Hara, RM  |
| 685 Lithotripsy versus percutaneous nephrolithotomy for renal calculi<br>P C Milner, MRCP, and others; A J Coleman and J E Saunders | 688 Children and apartheid<br>T L Pilkington, FRCPsych   |
| 686 Domiciliary consultations<br>F A Johnston, MRCP, and others; D J Jolley, FRCPsych; A J H Al-Barazanchi, MRCPsych                | 688 Computer viruses<br>P J R Harkin, MB   |

## 689 **Medicine and Books**

- 689 John Webster: *Beta-blockers in Clinical Practice* (J M Cruickshank, B N C Pritchard)  
 689 A J Tulloch: *The Ageing Population: Burden or Challenge?* (N Wells, C Freer)  
 690 Stephen Wolkind: *A Secure Base: Clinical Applications of Attachment Theory* (J Bowlby)  
 690 Alex Paton: *Bird on a Rocking Chair: a Miscellany of Occasional Essays from Family and Professional Life 1957-1987* (J R Elkinton)  
 691 What's new in the new editions? Clifford Hawkins

## 693 **Medicine and the Media**

- 693 A dying fall Tony Delamothe  
 693 Arresting images Louis Appleby

## 694 **Opinion** Grease and Greek George Dunea

## 695 **Personal View** Coping with famine and terrorists Kate Gingell

## 696 **Minerva**

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

The strong British tradition of high quality epidemiology is reflected in several places this week, with the discovery of yet another disease (leukaemia) commoner in smokers (p 657), a significantly increased risk of melanoma in sunbed and ultraviolet lamp users (p 647), and an unexplained high death rate in babies born to soldiers' wives (p 662). A concomitant of such work must be rigorous criticism and audit, and Knox has found that the cost of each death from breast cancer saved by mammography is £39 000 (p 650) while there is encouraging news from BACUP, the national cancer information service set up at Barts by the late Vicky

Clement-Jones, showing how this has improved the quality of information and emotional support received by cancer patients and their families. The widely different requirements for higher degrees means that time spent in discovering the easiest option by a candidate able to choose among several universities may be seldom wasted (p 687). But there is still need for simple studies into common conditions: exercise may make your nose run because of increased catecholamine secretion (p 660), and counselling by GPs could reduce excessive drinking among their patients (p 663).