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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

Screening is always in the news, and this week a Cambridge team (p 1107) shows that general practitioners miss dementia in the elderly much less often than has been alleged but would do even better if they used cognitive tests taking only a couple of minutes. Two Bristol workers, on the other hand, found that many health districts are being too intensive in screening children for vision when the benefit of any treatment is unlikely (p 1111). The debate on preoperative biochemical screening continues in the correspondence columns, with the suggestion that it is unnecessary in healthy children

(p 1129), while Dr David Jenkins emphasises that such problems can be solved only by the opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration that exist in the NHS (p 1128). Will these exist in the expanded Medicare programme in the USA (p 1140), which is now facing criticisms similar to those levelled against the NHS? Not that there is any shortage of ideas for altering the latter: as Calum Paton shows in his new feature (p 1138), every member of the thinking classes seems to know what changes are right for the service, but heaven help those working in it if most of them were introduced.