



## Editorials

- 1211 **Overdiagnosing hypertension**  
Eoin O'Brien, Kevin O'Malley
- 1212 **Overtreating hypertension**  
D G Beevers
- 1213 **Controlling the carcinoid syndrome**  
H J F Hodgson
- 1214 **New Zealand proposals to unshackle hospitals**  
Robert J Maxwell
- 1215 **Local anaesthetic creams**  
G W Hanks, Isabel White
- 1216 **Veterinary medicines in animal foods**  
A Stewart Truswell

## News

- 1217-1222 **Health service finances · More money for science · GMC and Race Relations Act · New head of RCN · Cigarette advertising · National Heart and Lung Institute · Campylobacter enteritis · Fraud in Australia · New president for GMC · Alcohol advertising · Nurses still restless · Government receives a health check**

## Papers

- 1223 **Damp housing and childhood asthma: validation of reporting of symptoms**  
D P Strachan
- 1227 **Coronary flow reserve and the J curve relation between diastolic blood pressure and myocardial infarction**  
John M Cruickshank
- 1230 **Babies with spina bifida treated without surgery: patients' views on home *versus* hospital care**  
Eileen Delight, Janet Goodall
- 1233 **Smoking in pregnancy and development into early adulthood**  
K R Fogelman, O Manor
- 1236 **Recombinant DNA derived monomeric insulin analogue: comparison with soluble human insulin in normal subjects**  
Jiten P Vora, David R Owens, John Dolben, Jameel A Atiea, John D Dean, Steven Kang, Anna Burch, Jens Brange
- 1240 **Pulmonary toxicity of malaria prophylaxis**  
A C Davidson, C Bateman, C Shovlin, M Marrinan, G H Burton, I R Cameron
- 1241 **Plasma methionine enkephalin concentration and prognosis in primary biliary cirrhosis**  
J R Thornton, M S Losowsky
- 1242 **Bacteraemia in salmonellosis: a 15 year retrospective study from a regional infectious diseases unit**  
B K Mandal, J Brennand
- 1243 **Metatarsal periosteal reactions: a common non-specific finding in radiographs of the diabetic foot**  
C E Williams, B M Carey, A J Birtwell, J K Wales, P G Wiles
- 1244 **Incidence and consequences of ejection in motor vehicle accidents**  
G F McCoy, R A Johnstone, I W Nelson, J Kenwright, R B Duthie
- 1245 **Postnatal presentation of coeliac disease**  
Kevin Stewart, J M T Willoughby

## Practice Observed

- 1246 **Referrals to hospital by general practitioners: a study of compliance and communication**  
Kieran J McGlade, Terry Bradley, Gerard J J Murphy, Gerard P P Lundy

## Middles

- 1249 **How much day surgery? Delphic predictions**  
John Gabbay, Lesley Francis
- 1252 **A rehabilitation ward in a district general hospital: first three years' experience**  
Kevin J Walsh, Michael P Barnes, D Lindsay McLellan
- 1256 **Use and abuse of performance indicators**  
Paul W Skinner, David Riley, E Maelor Thomas
- 1260 **Anticoagulant drugs in the elderly: valuable in selected patients**  
G D O Lowe
- 1261 **Anticoagulant drugs in the elderly: the risks usually outweigh the benefits**  
Peter J W Scott
- 1260 **Editorial comment**  
Peter Rubin

- 1264-1280 **Obituary · Correspondence · BMA Affairs · Notes · Medicine and Books · Opinion · Personal View · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)**

# CONTENTS pages 1259-1280

1259 **Fillers** Any Questions Bernard Knight (1259); Dian Donnai (1259); John M Edwards (1263)

1264 **Obituary** J F N Ward-McQuaid, A Curtis, T Wilson, M Yousuf, J A Oddie, W R Henderson

## 1266 Correspondence

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1266 Breast screening in Britain and Sweden<br>B Lundgren, MD  | 1269 Postmarketing surveillance of enalapril I<br>D Millson, PHD, and T Walley, MRCP;<br>D Blowers, MB, and D Chalmers, MB;<br>A H Morice, MRCP, and others |
| 1266 Controversy over mammographic screening<br>Lesley Fallowfield, PHD  | 1270 Preoperative biochemical screening<br>R Gabriel, FRCP; B I Hoffbrand, FRCP   |
| 1267 Malaria prophylaxis and epilepsy<br>U Hellgren, MD, and L Rombo, MD; D R Fish,<br>MRCP, and M L E Espir, FRCP                           | 1270 Psychosis from alcohol or drug abuse<br>S I Cohen, FRCPsych, and K Johnson   |
| 1267 Chlamydia: One step forward or two backwards?<br>Penny Owen, MRCP, and others   | 1271 Anxiety and depression in general medical<br>settings<br>P Silverstone, MRCPsych; D Goldberg, DM, and<br>K Bridges, MRCPsych                           |
| 1267 Fertility and legal abortions as performance<br>indicators<br>J Ashton, FFCM; I Holtby, MRCP, and R S<br>Ramaiah, MFCM; J K Anand, FFCM | 1271 Compensation for medical negligence<br>A M Taylor, BA, and R W Taylor, FRCP  |
| 1268 The bends, anaesthesia, and smart cards<br>Margaret L Heath, FFARCS   | 1271 Health and the ozone layer<br>Rona M MacKie, FRCP, and M J Rycroft   |
| 1268 Hyperprolactinaemia<br>T H Jones, MRCP, and R L Kennedy, MRCP   | 1272 The closed eyes sign<br>R S Bhopal, MRCP   |
| 1269 Disciplining midwives<br>J O Drife, FRCP  | 1272 Holding back the tide of caesareans<br>G Bréart, MD  |
|  | 1272 On the edge of the abyss<br>D Rosewarne, LMSSA   |

## 1273 BMA Affairs

- 1273 Change of title wanted by BMA students  
1273 BMA gives evidence to review body

## 1274 Notes

## 1275 Medicine and Books

- 1275 Edward Hare: *The Key to Genius* (D J Hershman, J Lieb)  
1275 June Hutchinson: *Dictionary of Medical Laboratory Sciences* (Ed A D Farr)  
1276 C B Brown: *Kidney Disease*. Vol 8. *The Nephrotic Syndrome* (Ed J S Cameron, R J Glasscock. Series editors J S Cameron, R J Glasscock, A Whelton)  
1276 Jovo Lakic: *The Crucial Ligaments: Diagnosis and Treatment of Ligamentous Injuries about the Knee* (Ed J A Feagin, Jr)  
1277 John M K Spalding: *Major Problems in Neurology*. Vol 16. *Neurological Infections* (M Wood, M Anderson. Consulting editor Sir John Walton)  
1277 In brief *Microsurgery in Trauma* (W W Shaw, D A Hidalgo)  
1277 Selection

## 1278 Opinion

- Arrogant asses in white coats Jane Salvage  
Letter from Bombay S K Pandya

1279 **Personal View** Do look before you leap Eric Buchser

## 1280 Minerva

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

This week's main news has been the £2 billion increase for the NHS in 1989-90 (p 1217), a welcome higher than inflation boost that nevertheless failed to soothe the unrest among nurses about the outcome of their clinical grading exercise (p 1221). Research workers, however, may feel soothed by an increase of 16% in the government's science budget (p 1218). Greater efficiency in the NHS's budget has been an unyielding aim of this government: accurate information is essential for this, but Skinner and Riley, reporting on performance indicators (p 1256), warn of the risks of amplifying inaccurate data. Warnings from Dublin and Birmingham (pp 1211 and 1212) that a fifth of patients with borderline hypertension may be treated unnecessarily remind doctors not to rush into treatment without careful assessment. The link between bad housing and

health may seem obvious, but Dr D P Strachan (p 1223) shows how hard it may be to disentangle cause and effect in his study of asthmatic children in damp housing. The effects of ejection on car accident victims are, surprisingly, disputed, but on p 1244 the Oxford Road Accident Group concludes that ejection causes more deaths and serious injuries than would otherwise happen. In the start of a new series, *Controversies in Therapeutics* (p 1260), Drs G D O Lowe and P J W Scott polarise the arguments about anticoagulant drugs in the elderly. Finally, Jane Salvage, a nurse from the King's Fund, finds it ironic as a health authority member (p 1278) to be "silently cheering" those "arrogant asses in white coats" whose "rampant individualism" is that "last bastion of a service built on a collective ethic to benefit the whole community."