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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

The requirements and complications of negotiating maternity leave in the United Kingdom have doubled in the past 10 years, says Anne Grüneberg, whose guide emphasises the urgent need to resolve the inconsistencies (p 1387). She recommends forming a working party, whose later remit should include paternity leave; in 1986 Britain alone used its full veto to stop the introduction of an EEC directive providing for this, which the other nine member states supported. Let us hope, too, that academics in this country can see their way to setting up "science shops" ("wetenschapswinkel" in The Netherlands and "boutiques de science" in France), which now exist all

over the rest of Europe (p 1416). This might be one way for our universities to make some extra money. But this country is up to date in some developments, and a Liverpool team has shown how cardiac surgery centres are making it easier to save blood by using homologous blood and conservation techniques (p 1390). And, as usual, the obituary columns show the vigour of some members of the profession, from the doctor who passed his Edinburgh FRCS during four days' leave from the Rhine crossing in the second world war (p 1401) to the ear, nose, and throat surgeon aged 90 who attended functions in the midlands, London, and north Wales in the last week of his life (p 1400).