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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Given its place in the queue Dr H A Dewar's Personal View on avoiding the dentist appeared by chance in the week before the House of Lords was considering dental charges, evoking an understandable shout of anguish from organised dentistry. Nevertheless, "facts are sacred, comment is free" and often the ignorant are best informed by a sharp clash of views —while the *BMJ* has always cast a cold eye on those publications such as the *Drugs and Therapeutics Bulletin* and the *Bulletin of the Institute of Medical Ethics* which have no place for legitimate outside

opinion, protest, and comment, however misguided. The value of such a policy is shown in the correspondence columns this week, where the classic Hegelian dialectic continues its examination of Dr Dewar's points (p 1467) and will no doubt go on doing so. And much the same points could be made about oxygen concentrators (p 1468). Should only respiratory physicians be concerned in prescribing and supervising these expensive devices? The answer is surely surveys to find out what is happening and better education.