



Editorials

- 1 **NHS: a time to choose**
Tony Smith
- 2 **Postoperative diabetes insipidus**
Jonathan Seckl, David Dunger
- 3 **Delirium tremens**
Jonathan Chick
- 4 **Assessing clinical competence**
Peter Maguire
- 5 **The importance of hospital domestics**
Jane Salvage
- 6 **The obstetric problems of the thalidomide children**
Geoffrey Chamberlain
- 6 **Correction: Smoking and leukaemia** Wald

News

- 7-12 **The world's children · Children in Britain · Infant mortality · Coordinating medical research · Political split · Transforming skeletal muscle · Dismissing consultants · Cholera in China · Doctor managers · Private health care · New chairman of HEA**

Papers

- 13 **Treatment of the terminal stages of breast cancer**
Kaija Holli, Matti Hakama
- 14 **The polymerase chain reaction: a new epidemiological tool for investigating cervical human papillomavirus infection**
L S Young, I S Bevan, M A Johnson, P I Blomfield, T Bromidge, N J Maitland, C B J Woodman
- 18 **Prevalence of diabetes in a predominantly Asian community: preliminary findings of the Coventry diabetes study**
S Simmons, D R R Williams, M J Powell
- 21 **Adverse changes in mood and cognitive performance of house officers after night duty**
D I Orton, J H Gruzelier
- 23 **Lung immunoglobulins in the sudden infant death syndrome**
Kevin D Forsyth, Sandy C Weeks, Lin Koh, John Skinner, John Bradley
- 26 **Serious eye injuries due to war games**
J F Acheson, M F P Griffiths, R J Cooling
- 27 **Effect of uterine contractions on left atrial pressure in a pregnant woman with mitral stenosis**
Peter Jakobi, Zvi Adler, Etan Z Zimmer, Simcha Milo
- 27 **Increased plasma concentration of von Willebrand factor in insulin dependent diabetics with incipient nephropathy**
Tonny Jensen
- 28 **Hidradenitis suppurativa associated with use of oral contraceptives**
A J Stellon, M Wakeling
- 29 **Correction: Aluminium accumulation and immunosuppressive effect in recipients of kidney transplants** Nordal *et al*

Practice Observed

- 30 **Prevalence of symptoms of dyspepsia in the community**
Roger Jones, Susan Lydeard

Middles

- 33 **Increasing incidence of aortic aneurysms in England and Wales**
F G R Fowkes, C C A Macintyre, C V Ruckley
- 36 **Pain relief in active patients with cancer:**
Analgesic drugs are the foundation of management
Mary Baines
The early use of nerve blocks improves the quality of life
Sampson Lipton
Editorial comment
Peter Rubin
- 39 **Time to let the patient speak**
J N Blau
- 40 **Guidelines for writing papers**

- 43-62 **Obituary · Correspondence · BMA Affairs · Notes · Opinion · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)**

38 Fillers

- 38 Words B J Freedman
39 Any Questions Linda Beeley

43 Obituary

- 43 R A Binning, Beatrice M Watts, M J Hunter, R R Wilson, G M Killpack, H L Pierce, J D Warren, A A Kirkland, H Hartley, Margaret K Ounsted

46 Correspondence

- | | |
|--|--|
| 46 What has happened to patient care?
Di Ferdinand | 50 Active versus physiological management of third
stage of labour
R J Guidotti |
| 46 The roots of violence
S I Cohen, FRCPsych, and R Lawrence, MRCPsych;
S Bute; A D Robertson, MB; P G Cronk, MRCP | 50 Serum screening for Down's syndrome
P Burton, MB, and others; N J Wald, FRCP, and
others |
| 47 Postnatal presentation of coeliac disease
S Travis, MRCP, and P Ciclitira, MD | 50 Monitoring the acute phase response
A G Freeman, MD |
| 48 Referrals to hospital by general practitioners
D A Alexander, PhD, and G Hillis | 51 Anaesthetic complications of a weight reducing
regimen
D S Selsby, FFARCS |
| 48 Sustained compression and healing of chronic
venous ulcers
A D B Chant, FRCS; S D Blair, FRCS, and others | 51 Chlamydia: One step forward or two backwards?
D M Coker, MRCP, and others |
| 48 Breast screening programme
J A M Gray, FFCM | 51 Diagnosing and treating dementia
R Ramsay, MB, and C L E Katona, MRCPsych |
| 48 Malmö mammographic screening trial
L Tabár, MD, and S Duffy; I Andersson, MD, and
others | 52 J curve relation between diastolic blood pressure
and myocardial infarction
L Hansson, MD |
| 49 Mastectomy or conservation: the patient's choice
A Corder, MB, and others; Sir Reginald Murley,
FRCS | 52 Racism in health care
M Chan, FRCP |
| 49 RU486
A C Eaton, FRCOG | 52 Merit awards
B A Evans, FRCP |
| 49 Health economics: the end of clinical freedom?
R Carlen, MD | 52 MP apologies
A Prosser |

53 BMA Affairs

- 53 LMC's call to stop white paper talks rejected
54 People may now see their insurance and employment reports
55 Disparate views on treating drug abusers
56 Correction: Overseas doctors' training schemes

57 Notes

58 Opinion

- 58 Enriched, bothered, and bewildered Louis Appleby
58 Surrogates George Dunea

59 Personal View

- 59 Our patients' lifestyle is their business Oliver Samuel

60 Medicine and Books

- 60 T H Turner: *Tavistock Classics in the History of Psychiatry* (General editors W F Bynum, R Porter)
61 J D Oriel: *Genital Tract Infection in Women* (Ed M J Hare)
61 C D Shaw: *Professional Competence and Quality Assurance in the Caring Professions* (Ed R Ellis)

62 Minerva

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

"The way we live now" is not just the title of one of Trollope's most subtle (and unappreciated) novels: it applies equally well to life in the year before another of the belle epoques that characterise the final decade of a century. Di Ferdinand's description of the dehumanising management of her 82 year old mother (p 46) is a human example of the statistics in Tony Smith's leader on our inadequate health service (p 1). Whether the current overt violence in our society is more or less than it was is debated in the

correspondence columns (p 46), with a reminder not to forget the role of alcohol. And across the Atlantic George Dunea reminds us of the bogus—unqualified medical imposters and quack remedies (p 58). Fortunately at least somebody has come up with an answer to one problem: what to say to the snoopers who inquire about sexual and personal habits (p 59). Oliver Samuel's practice has had a rubber stamp made that reads "we are not willing to answer questions about lifestyle." Bravo!