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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Medicopolitics continue centre stage with the BMA's special representative meeting opposing the NHS review proposals, calling for talks with the government, and threatening non-cooperation if the government presses ahead without discussions (pp 1405, 1411, 1455). General practitioners are to be consulted on the contract package commended by their negotiators (pp 1406, 1457). The government's poor health record on health prevention is highlighted by Martin Raw attacking Kenneth Clarke's attempted sabotage of European plans to strengthen health warnings on tobacco packaging (p 1410). The absorption of

scientific advances into daily clinical practice is exemplified by papers (pp 1417, 1419, 1421) and an editorial (p 1408) on ultrasonography of the fetal renal tract.

The value of assessing and acting on common disabilities in the elderly is a lesson from the short report at p 1429, which points out that hearing loss in the elderly leads to loss of independence, social isolation, irritation, and unhappiness. Finally, a report on treating the victims of the Lake Nyos disaster, which produced a large scale emission of carbon dioxide, shows that man is not the only cause of pollution (p 1437).