



Editorials	1405 BMA rejects NHS review but . . . Tony Smith
	1406 ... Sends the GPs' contract out for consultation Gordon Macpherson
	1407 Genetic factors in hyperactivity Robert Goodman
	1408 Fetal uropathy Richard H R White
	1409 Mechanical ventilation at home M A Branthwaite
	1410 Tobacco and Europe: Britain against the rest Martin Raw
News	1411-1416 Special representative meeting of the BMA · Guidelines on assisted reproduction · New sorting machine for islet cells · NHS Policy Board · Teachers not doctors · GMC elections · Medical students and the AUT · Labour plays a timid hand · Governments that won't listen
Papers	1417 Value of antenatal diagnosis of abnormalities of the urinary tract J D Greig, P A M Raine, D G Young, A F Azmy, J Ruth MacKenzie, F Danskin, M J Whittle, M B McNay
	1419 Bilateral fetal uropathy: What is the outlook? R J Arthur, H C Irving, D F M Thomas, J K Watters
	1421 Antenatal ultrasonography to detect fetal renal abnormalities: a prospective screening programme L N Livera, D S K Brookfield, J A Egginton, J M Hawnaur
	1423 Clinical and laboratory studies of arthritis in leprosy S L Atkin, A El-Ghobarey, M Kamel, J P Owen, W C Dick
	1426 Soluble interleukin 2 receptor in atopic eczema Graham B Colver, Julian A Symons, Gordon W Duff
	1429 Use of stents for treating obstruction of urinary outflow in patients unfit for surgery G Williams, R Jager, L McLoughlin, A El Din, L Machan, K Gill, R Asopa, A Adam
	1429 Hearing loss leading to impaired ability to communicate in residents of homes for the elderly J K Anand, Ivy Court
	1430 Captopril for correcting diuretic induced hypotension in pulmonary oedema after scorpion sting Dilip R Karnad, Avinash M Deo, Nitin Apte, Ashutosh S Lohe, Sunil Thatte, G H Tilve
	1428 Correction: Transcervical resection of endometrium in women with menorrhagia Magos and others
Practice Observed	1432 Hospital training for general practice: views of trainees in the North Western region Hugh Reeve, Ann Bowman
	1434 General practitioner training in paediatrics in the Trent region Leon Polnay, Mike Pringle
Middles	1437 Lake Nyos disaster, Cameroon, 1986: the medical effects of large scale emission of carbon dioxide? Peter J Baxter, M Kapila, D Mfonfu
	1441 Profile of the GMC: Overseas doctors: diminishing controversy Richard Smith
	1445 ABC of Child Abuse: Poisoning Roy Meadow
	1447-1466 Obituary · Correspondence · BMA Affairs · Notes · Personal View · Opinion · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)

CONTENTS *pages 1447-1514*

1447 **Obituary** A J White, H Bentovim, J Jemson, G Chatterjee, N R McEvoy, J M Titcombe, T H Fairbairn

1449 Correspondence

1449	Studying the gall bladder J Affronti, MD, and J Baillie, MRCP	1452	Neck sprains after car accidents S P Hodgson, FRCS, and M Grundy, FRCS
1449	Multiple authorship Marie Rolland-Cachera, SCD, and J Fricker, MD	1452	Burns from fluid heated in a microwave oven M J James, FRCS
1449	Faint heart I D Anderson, FRCS	1452	Orthopaedics and the core curriculum D A Jones, FRCS
1450	Cholesterol in ischaemic heart disease N E Miller, DSC	1452	Training for coronary angioplasty J L Caplin, MD
1450	Prevalence of reflex anal dilatation C J Hobbs, MRCP, and Jane M Wynne, MRCP	1452	Attitudes to blood donation and AIDS D Nutbeam, PHD, and others
1450	Control of meningococcal disease I J Smith, MB, and others	1453	Pharmaceutical trials in psychiatric patients J Griffin, FRCR, and F Wells
1450	Life sustaining technology: making the decisions B Bennett, FRCS	1453	Sexual behaviour of young women J McGarry, FRCOG
1451	Changing character of cervical cancer in young women P M Elliott, FRACOG, and others	1454	Science, surgery, and senior registrars A K Banerjee, FRCS, and E R T C Owen, FRCS
1451	Hypoxaemia and adenoidectomy C A Milford, FRCS	1454	Achieving a balance R A Fiskin, MD
1451	Effects on birth weight of smoking, alcohol, caffeine, socioeconomic factors, and psychosocial stress P Dowling, MD	1454	The new general practitioner contract J Shapiro, MRCGP
1451	General practitioner obstetricians L Zander, DOBSTRCOG, and G Young	1454	NHS review G Karmi, MRCP, and others
		1454	The Hapsburg jaw D C Beckingham, MRCOG

1455 BMA Affairs

1455 Future of NHS in jeopardy, warns council chairman
1457 LMC conference to decide on GPs' contracts

1460 Notes

1461 Personal View

1461 Caffeine and babies Michèle I Clement
1461 On not being born a native speaker of English J P Vandenbroucke

1462 Opinion Recycled words Louis Appleby

1463 Medicine and Books

1463 R H Pearson: *Practical Ultrasound* (Ed R A Lerski)
1463 Peter D Toon: *Ethical Issues in Caring* (Ed G and S Fairbairn)
1464 C M Page: *Oxford General Practice Series. 14. "Epidemiology in General Practice"* (Ed D Morrell)
1464 R P Mills: *Diseases of the Ear: Clinical and Pathologic Aspects* (M Hawke, A F Jahn)
1464 Frances M B Calman: *A History of the Imperial Cancer Research Fund 1902-1986* (J Austoker)
1465 In brief

1466 Minerva

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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).