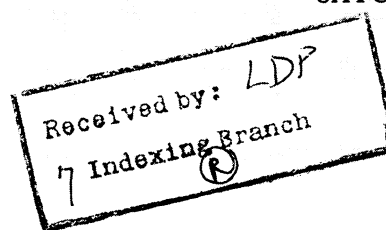


BMJ

SATURDAY 19 AUGUST 1989



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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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It may be August with politicians supposedly safely on holiday but the storm over the NHS review rumbles on. The cross party social services select committee has upbraided the government for going too far too fast, and others comment on the contentious review on pages 509, 520, and 521. The government's aim is a better quality of service to patients, and seven principles of medical audit (p 498) should prove helpful in that task. But agreed assessments of quality in medicine are elusive: Dr Mike Pringle's "The quality divide in primary care" (p 470) contributes to the debate, as does the survey which concludes that

what patients want is to see the same doctor who will listen and sort out their problems (p 494)—down to earth wants which may be helped by the medical credit cards containing a patient's entire medical records described on p 472.

Though it may alarm this year's crop of new house officers, Dr John Havard's analysis of the responsibility of the doctor (p 503) should be essential reading for them (and some of their seniors)—if they can find the time in their frantic working day. On a brighter note, as befits the holiday season, Bernard Freedman (p 496) describes his familial ability to "click" his ears: can you do this?