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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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This may be the age of consumerism, but a Reading family doctor has found that the principal reason for choosing general practitioners is that they are nearest the patients' home (p 608). Possibly, he speculates, given the delay in registering with a general practitioner, the analogy should be not choosing a new car but more in finding a local garage quickly when the car breaks down. Another valuable study from general practice emphasises the importance

of differentiating facial palsy caused by Lyme disease from Bell's palsy: early treatment with tetracycline will hasten recovery in the former (p 605). Finally, two *cris de coeur* show how easy it is to forget reality in general practice—one emphasising the complex pattern of referrals to hospital outpatient departments (p 627), the other the high workload out of hours in forgotten areas of deprivation (p 627).