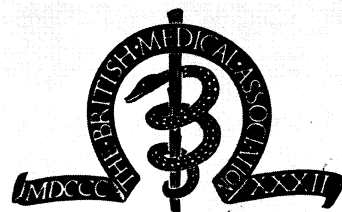


# BMJ

SATURDAY 9 SEPTEMBER 1989



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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

One of the difficulties in preventive medicine for the Third World is ensuring a "cold chain" for transporting and storing vaccines. It now seems that nearer home we may, unwittingly, face the same problems: most of the 36 practice nurses surveyed in south Hampshire and Dorset did not know at what temperatures their fridges were operating, and many of them kept vaccines at room temperature while defrosting was taking place as well as following other undesirable practices (p 661). So yet again we need to think about just what we're doing, a message emphasised by Michael Shepherd's dis-

heartening review of the evolution and impact of the "deinstitutionalisation" of psychiatric patients (p 666). Nor is there any let up in the gloom at the back of the journal: Minerva this week concentrates on serious matters (p 692) and in her article Milica Brozović emphasises that, whatever the cause, doctors of both sexes are guilty of a special kind of discrimination against women patients (p 689). Perhaps the best means of temporary escape might be in the Anglo-Soviet Space Mission, but even here it seems that market forces are at work in the selection process (p 688).