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INTERNATIONAL

<b>Editorials</b>	805	<b>Lessons from the cardiac arrhythmia suppression trial</b> Clifford Garratt, David E Ward, A John Camm
	806	<b>Mothers with HIV</b> Caroline S Bradbeer
	807	<b>Self assessment and medical audit: an educational approach</b> Colin Coles
	808	<b>Regular Review: Immunisation: causes of failure and strategies and tactics for success</b> A Nicoll, D Elliman, N T Begg

<b>News</b>	813-818	<b>Mergers in the drug industry · British Health Care Arts Centre · Abortion debate · Housing and children's health · Juniors' hours: latest round to Johnstone · Women wasted · Review still dominates NHS politics</b>
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<b>Papers</b>	819	<b>Declining incidence of AIDS dementia complex after introduction of zidovudine treatment</b> Peter Portegies, Jan de Gans, Joep M A Lange, Mayke M A Derix, Hans Speelman, Margreet Bakker, Sven A Danner, Jaap Goudsmit
	822	<b>Inequalities in health within the health sector</b> R Balarajan
	826	<b>Zinc supplementation during pregnancy: a double blind randomised controlled trial</b> Kassam Mahomed, David K James, Jean Golding, Rosie McCabe
	830	<b>Failure of interferon alfa and tribavirin in rabies encephalitis</b> M J Warrell, N J White, Sornchai Looareesuwan, R E Phillips, Pravan Suntharasamai, Pornthep Chanthavanich, Mario Riganti, S P Fisher-Hoch, K G Nicholson, Sathaporn Manatsathit, Suparp Vannaphan, D A Warrell
	834	<b>Treatment of recurrent premenstrual orogenital aphthae with implants of low doses of testosterone</b> R Misra, D C Anderson
	834	<b>Dietary salt affects biochemical markers of resorption and formation of bone in elderly women</b> B E McParland, A Goulding, A J Campbell
	835	<b>Overtreatment of children with Wilms' tumour outside paediatric oncology centres</b> J Pritchard, C A Stiller, E L Lennox
	836	<b>Prevalence of antibody indicating Lyme disease in farmers in Wigtownshire</b> A G Baird, J C M Gillies, F J Bone, B A S Dale, N T Miscampbell

<b>Practice Observed</b>	838	<b>Preventing iron deficiency in preschool children by implementing an educational and screening programme in an inner city practice</b> John James, Pauline Lawson, Paul Male, Anthony Oakhill
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<b>Middles</b>	841	<b>Is it possible to "achieve a balance" and meet the "safety net"?</b> S A M Jones, I Kovar, M Williams, D Bentley
	843	<b>Electrophoresis of proteins and nucleic acids: I—Theory</b> John D Hayes, Paul K Stockman
	847	<b>Hoarse cry with fatal outcome</b> D E Phillips, D Childs, S Walsh
	848	<b>Imaging amyloidosis in Still's disease</b> Philip Hawkins

	851-870	<b>Obituary · Correspondence · BMA Affairs · Notes · Medicine and the Media · Opinion · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)</b>
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## 846 Fillers

- 846 Any Questions A B Shrank; Linda Beeley  
850 Materia Non Medica James Owen Drife

## 851 Obituary

Sir Robert Macintosh, Mary E Hewart Jones, D H Sivadevaiah, R M Maher, E J L Jones-Evans, H J Minford, R P Parkinson

## 853 Correspondence

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 853 Overprescribing<br>J G Scadding, FRCP   | 857 Treating patients with asthma who are dependent on systemic steroids<br>J Studd, FRCOG, and others  |
| 853 Transient nephrotic syndrome during pregnancy in diabetic women<br>S C Bain, MRCP, and B R Rowe, SCM; G Biesenbach, MD, and J Zazgornik, MD | 857 Acute right ventricular infarction<br>M R Thomas, MRCP, and D Smyth, MB   |
| 854 Triage labels: choosing the national standard<br>K C Hines, MB, and B Robertson, MRCS   | 857 General practitioners' referrals<br>R B Jones, PHD, and J P Wall, FFCM  |
| 854 Symptoms of oestrogen deficiency in women with oestradiol implants<br>G I M Swyer, FRCP; J H Tobias, MRCP, and T J Chambers, MRCPATH        | 858 Homoeopathic treatment and fibrositis<br>H Berry, DM  |
| 854 Radiology about to go digital<br>R M Dawood, FRCR   | 858 Role of the general practitioner in managing patients with myocardial infarction<br>J M A Burns, MRCP, and others   |
| 854 Excess benign melanocytic naevi<br>Bronwyn Hughes, MRCP, and C C Bailey, FRCP   | 858 Good clinical practice: a way to better drugs<br>M J Vandenburg, MRCP, and others   |
| 855 Cervical screening and government policy<br>B W Codling, FRCPATH, and Alison Bigrigg, FRCS  | 858 Death after flumazenil<br>A G Lim, MB   |
| 855 Evaluation of a call programme for cervical cytology screening<br>N R Waugh, MRCP, and A J Robertson, MRCPATH                               | 859 Antenatal screening for syphilis<br>P J Horner, MRCP, and others; C O'Mahony, MD, and N Holland, MRCOG  |
| 855 Provision of hearing aids: Does specialist assessment cause delay?<br>J B Campbell, FRCS, and others; A Harris, MRCP                        | 859 Medical credit cards<br>M S Hall, FRCGP, and R J Hopkins, MRCGP   |
| 856 Cocaine and crack<br>A R A Patel, MB, and others  | 860 <b>Drug points</b> Oramorph in diabetes (K Cowcher and others); Ischaemic chest pain after abuse of a topical nasal vasoconstrictor (H B Whittet and D Veitch); Flumazenil causing convulsions and ventricular tachycardia (B Marchant and others); Manic depression induced by dapsone in patient with dermatitis herpetiformis (D Gawkrödger) |
| 856 Twenty four hour care in inner cities<br>B Gibbons, MRCGP; E L Brown, MB  |   |

## 861 BMA Affairs

- 861 Anger at inadequate consultation time  
863 Public's opposition to white paper increases  
863 BMA guidelines on private fees

## 865 Medicine and the Media

- 865 Violence on probation Henrietta Bullard  
865 Troublesome teenagers Jim Watters

## 866 Opinion Sweating it out Bernard Dixon

## 867 Personal View Health for all by the year 2000: why we might not get there Christina M DeWind

## 868 Medicine and Books

- 868 Kevin J Dalton: *When Did I Begin? Conception of the Human Individual in History, Philosophy and Science* (N M Ford)  
868 A M Heagerty: *Concepts of Hypertension: Festschrift for Sir Stanley Peart* (Meeting, Como, Italy) (Ed C J Mathias, P S Sever)  
868 John A Davis: *The British Paediatric Association 1928-1988* (J O Forfar, A D M Jackson, B M Laurance)  
869 Alex Paton: *The Royal Berkshire Hospital 1839-1989* (M Railton, M Barr)

## 870 Minerva

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

Immunisation again. As our regular review shows, in this key topic many professionals are concerned that Britain lags behind most industrialised nations—and even some developing ones (p 808). Yet the 90% target uptake by 1990 can be achieved with energy and enthusiasm, as can that of cervical screening for 80% of all women aged 20-64 (p 855). The uptake of immunisation is better among ethnic minority children born in Britain than in indigenous inner city populations (p 808), and, though in the inner cities the various problems of deprivation are acknowledged to

throw a heavy load on general practice, elsewhere they are equally pressing but often go unrecognised in official measures (p 856). So is the Jarman index too oriented towards London and the inner cities, not forgetting that even in a non-deprived area such as Plymouth out of hours consultations may be half as many again as in London (p 857)? Perhaps the lesson here is, as that lovable anaesthetic pioneer Sir Robert Macintosh emphasised, we should encourage people "not to be afraid to acknowledge their mistakes" (p 851).