

BMJ



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6710 VOLUME 299

INTERNATIONAL

Editorials	1237 The future of Britain's mental hospitals R E Kendell
	1238 Experiments on animals Peter Singer
	1239 Treatment of persistent pain C E Pither
	1240 Is sudden infant death syndrome a diagnosis? John L Emery
News	1241-1246 Hard drugs and even harder decisions · IVF legislation in Australia · Doctor-MPs' forum · New challenges face private hospitals and insurers · Troops called out in ambulance dispute · Marginalia · Dr Owen on the white paper · Reform by stealth · Megapolitical volcanoes and medicopolitical molehills
Papers	1247 Aspirin use and chronic diseases: a cohort study of the elderly Annlia Paganini-Hill, Ann Chao, Ronald K Ross, Brian E Henderson
	1250 Perinatal transmission of HIV-I in Zambia S K Hira, J Kamanga, G J Bhat, C Mwale, G Tembo, N Luo, P L Perine
	1253 Negative extrathoracic pressure in treatment of respiratory failure in infants and young children M P Samuels, D P Southall
	1258 Seizures related to blood transfusion and erythropoietin treatment in patients undergoing dialysis A L Brown, B Tucker, L R I Baker, A E G Raine
	1259 Hay fever, hygiene, and household size David P Strachan
	1260 Spare artificial legs Suresh Keetarut
	1257 Correction: Recovery after subarachnoid haemorrhage McKenna <i>et al</i>
Middles	1261 An introduction to housing and health Stella Lowry
	1263 Senior house officers and their training I. Personal characteristics and professional circumstances Janet Grant, P Marsden, R C King
	1265 II. Perceptions of service and training
	1269 Sun, sand, and science: the BMA in Jamaica Tony Smith, Stella Lowry
	1272 The First Year of Life: Jaundice in the newborn H B Valman
	1275 Drug wars in the United States R J Epstein
	1277-1290 Obituary · Correspondence · BMA Affairs · Notes · Medicine and Books · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)

CONTENTS *pages 1277-1290*

1262	Fillers Any Questions W J Cunliffe (1262); Alan B Shrake, J R Bennett (1276)
1277	Obituary A G Heron, Olive M Cameron, Jennifer M Oxley, I P Granger, T W Mimpriss, H E Stevens, A E P Swinson, Millie M J Peralta
1278	Correction
1279	Correspondence
1279	Cannulas and junior doctors A M Zalin, FRCP
1279	Sex and the elderly F G Lawton, MRCOG, and N F Hacker, FACS; Karen E Rogstad, MRCP, and C J Bignell, MRCP
1279	Oestrogen deficiency and oestradiol implants K F Gangar, MRCOG, and others
1280	Cardiotocographs at a distance P M S O'Brien, MRCOG, and others; A J Dawson, MRCOG, and others
1281	Do treatment protocols improve end results? M McCarthy, FFCM
1281	Body weight and arterial hypertension E O'Brien, FRCPI, and K O'Malley, FRCPI; S Sonne-Holm, MD, and others
1282	Rape and subsequent seroconversion to HIV Ilene Foster and J G Bartlett, MD
1282	What a waste of human resources C J Langridge, FRCS
1282	Immunisation: causes of failure and strategies for success T Waterston, MRCP; Gillian Sleight, MRCS
1282	Brain stem death and organ donation D J Hill, FCANAEs, and others
1282	Infection after caesarean section G Constantine, MRCOG, and M Shafi, MRCOG; M J Turner and M Rasmussen
1283	Captopril in congestive cardiac failure D J Webb, MRCP, and J R Cockcroft, MRCP
1283	Peripheral vascular disease R N Lawrence and others; E Ernst, MD
1284	Gall bladder lithotripsy M C Bateson, FRCP
1284	The destruction of a welfare service D C Taylor, FRCPSYCH
1284	Mental Health Act 1983: guardianship order and definition of mental impairment T H Singh, MRCPSYCH
1284	Overprescribing D G Beevers, FRCP
1285	BMA Affairs
1285	Student survey shows opposition to loans
1285	NHS indemnity scheme
1286	Notes
1287	Personal View Psychology of limb loss A W G English
1288	Medicine and Books
1288	Douglas Black: <i>Health, Happiness, and Security: the Creation of the National Health Service</i> (F Honigsbaum)
1288	A M Turner: <i>A Colour Atlas of Multiple Sclerosis and Other Myelin Disorders</i> (C W M Adams)
1289	Graeme R D Catto: <i>The Kidney and its Disorders</i> (P Sweny, K Farrington, J F Moorhead)
1289	Selection
1290	Minerva

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

The practice of decanting mentally ill patients into a community unprepared for them and the gap between housing needs and housing supply are the consequences of government influenced policies that profoundly affect the nation's health. They reflect, too, how much—or how little—the country cares about its disadvantaged citizens. Neither Professor R E Kendell in a leading article (p 1237) nor Dr Stella Lowry in the first of a series (p 1261) paints rosy pictures. Are our future consultants and general practitioners being properly trained in their hospital posts? A survey (p 1263) suggests that improvements are needed. At a more senior level

of education doctors at the BMA's biennial clinical congress heard the Jamaican proverb "Alligator lay egg, but him no fowl" used as an illustration of the problems of diagnosing schizophrenia among West Indians (p 1269). The social problems of schizophrenia pale into insignificance, however, against the social catastrophe implicit in the explosion of drug abuse. The decriminalisation of abuse as a constructive solution is reviewed by Professor Howard Parker on p 1241, while on p 1275 Dr R J Epstein reports on the failure of traditional prohibition style policies in America, where legalisation of drug use is now being seriously debated.