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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**  
Annalia 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 Keetartut
- 1257 **Correction: Recovery after subarachnoid haemorrhage**  
McKenna *et al*

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 Shrank, 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<br>A M Zalin, FRCP  | 1282 Immunisation: causes of failure and strategies for success<br>T Waterston, MRCP; Gillian Sleight, MRCS       |
| 1279 Sex and the elderly<br>F G Lawton, MRCOG, and N F Hacker, FACS;<br>Karen E Rogstad, MRCP, and C J Bignell, MRCP   | 1282 Brain stem death and organ donation<br>D J Hill, FCANAES, and others   |
| 1279 Oestrogen deficiency and oestradiol implants<br>K F Gangar, MRCOG, and others                                     | 1282 Infection after caesarean section<br>G Constantine, MRCOG, and M Shafi, MRCOG;<br>M J Turner and M Rasmussen |
| 1280 Cardiotocographs at a distance<br>P M S O'Brien, MRCOG, and others; A J Dawson,<br>MRCOG, and others              | 1283 Captopril in congestive cardiac failure<br>D J Webb, MRCP, and J R Cockcroft, MRCP                           |
| 1281 Do treatment protocols improve end results?<br>M McCarthy, FFCM   | 1283 Peripheral vascular disease<br>R N Lawrence and others; E Ernst, MD  |
| 1281 Body weight and arterial hypertension<br>E O'Brien, FRCPI, and K O'Malley, FRCPI;<br>S Sonne-Holm, MD, and others | 1284 Gall bladder lithotripsy<br>M C Bateson, FRCP  |
| 1282 Rape and subsequent seroconversion to HIV<br>Ilene Foster and J G Bartlett, MD                                    | 1284 The destruction of a welfare service<br>D C Taylor, FRCPSYCH   |
| 1282 What a waste of human resources<br>C J Langridge, FRCS  | 1284 Mental Health Act 1983: guardianship order and<br>definition of mental impairment<br>T H Singh, MRCPSYCH     |
|  | 1284 Overprescribing<br>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: *Health, Happiness, and Security: the Creation of the National Health Service* (F Honigsbaum)  
1288 A M Turner: *A Colour Atlas of Multiple Sclerosis and Other Myelin Disorders* (C W M Adams)  
1289 Graeme R D Catto: *The Kidney and its Disorders* (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.