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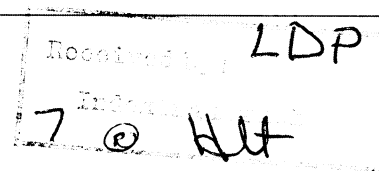
INTERNATIONAL

| | | |
|------------|---------|--|
| Editorials | 889 | Massive haemoptysis D Kevin Jones, Robert J Davies |
| | 890 | Idiopathic dilated cardiomyopathy A L P Caforio, J T Stewart, W J McKenna |
| | 892 | Private inpatient psychiatric care Isaac Marks, Graham Thornicroft |
| News | 893-898 | New Zealand medicine after Cartwright · Merging German health care systems · Relationship between GP and FPC is a contract · Seasickness · Anthrax isle · Hidden influenza deaths · Clarke says contract review is possible · Dalkon claims · Shaping tomorrow's world · GPs' chairman promises doctors will do their best for patients |

| | | |
|--------|-----|--|
| Papers | 899 | Sodium and potassium intake and blood pressure change in childhood Johanna M Geleijnse, Diederick E Grobbee, Albert Hofman |
| | 902 | Long term propranolol treatment and changes in body weight after myocardial infarction Stephan Rössner, Carol L Taylor, Robert P Byington, Curt D Furberg |
| | 904 | Contrasting effects of enalapril and metoprolol on proteinuria in diabetic nephropathy Staffan Björck, Henrik Mulec, Svend Aage Johnsen, Gudrun Nyberg, Mattias Aurell |
| | 908 | Clearance of severe psoriasis after allogenic bone marrow transplantation D J Eedy, D Burrows, J M Bridges, F G C Jones |
| | 908 | Hypoglycaemic attacks treated by ambulance personnel with extended training Clive Weston, Michael Stephens |
| | 909 | Early experience with an implantable intratracheal oxygen catheter Mark Jackson, Martin King, Sandra Hockley, Francis Wells, John M Shneerson |

| | | |
|-------------------|-----|---|
| Practice Observed | 911 | Training for general practice: a national survey Helen S Crawley, Jonathan B Levin |
| | 916 | Screening in Practice: Mass screening: theory and ethics David Mant, Godfrey Fowler |

| | | |
|---------|-----|---|
| Middles | 919 | For Debate: Contracts and quality of care Anthony Hopkins, Robert Maxwell |
| | 923 | After the Asylums: The future of community care Trish Groves |
| | 925 | Everyday Aids and Appliances: Walking frames Graham Mulley |
| | 928 | Controversies in Therapeutics: Theophylline in the management of airflow obstruction 1 Much evidence suggests that theophylline is valuable George J Addis 2 Difficult drugs to use, few clinical indications I D A Johnston |
| | 932 | Evolution of AIDS policy in the Soviet Union II. The AIDS epidemic and emergency measures Zhores A Medvedev |



935-956 **Obituary · Correspondence · BMA Affairs · Notes · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva ·**
(in detail overleaf)

918 Fillers

- 918 The Memoir Club
 924 Any Questions D A T Southgate (924); R R A Coles (934)
 927 Update box for *Oxford Handbook of Clinical Medicine* J M Longmore

935 Obituary

H M Jones, R E M Pilcher, S K Livingston, W Hunter, W J Atkinson, D G Brownlie, J B King, D H Broughton, G K Thornton, R Milton, J D Kynoch, Gerda L C A Sloan

938 Correspondence

- | | |
|--|---|
| 938 Anaesthetic awareness J N Lunn, FCANAES, and M Rosen, FCANAES | 942 Community care Maureen Beauchamp, MB |
| 938 General practice obstetrics in Bradford J K Clayton, FRCOG, and others; Judith Danby, MRCGP, and Katie Simmons, MB | 943 Research ethics committees Jean Robinson; T W Meade, FRCP |
| 939 Tacrine and lecithin in Alzheimer's disease G K Wilcock, FRCP; J R Murray, MRCGP, and C B Blakemore, PHD; R Levy, FRCPSYCH; G Chatellier, MD; P C Wood, FRACP, and C M Castleden, MD; L S Schneider, MD | 943 Bovine spongiform encephalopathy G W Roberts, PHD, and J Collinge, MRCP; E M R Critchley, FRCP |
| 940 Pocket programmable computers in clinical practice M F Ryan, PHD, and others | 944 Non-invasive mechanical ventilation for acute respiratory failure D Bell, MRCP, and others |
| 941 Streptokinase in acute aortic dissection G Hartnell, FRCP | 944 Vasectomy and testicular cancer I-C Chi, MD |
| 941 Medical problems of adults who were sexually abused in childhood J H Williams, MRCPSYCH; R Fry, MRCPSYCH, and Ruth Wallis, MB; J D Mitchell, FRCP, and H N Gibson, MRCP | 945 Air embolism during transcervical resection of endometrium S M Wood, FRCOG, and F L Roberts, FCANAES |
| 942 Attitudes to viability of preterm infants Alison Macfarlane, DIPSTAT | 945 Portal vein thrombosis in myeloproliferative disease N Heaton, FRCS, and others |
| | 945 Clinical directorates H Keen, FRCP |
| | 946 Juniors' hours of work P Kinnersley, MB; J Stubbing, FCANAES |
| | 946 Inadvertent duplicate publication (Hunter) |

947 BMA Affairs

- 947 BMA continues to push for NHS pilot studies
 949 Ms Harman and Mr Clarke clash on NHS bill

950 Notes

951 Personal View General M Practice, MB, CHB, FRCGP N C H Stott

952 Medicine and Books

- 952 R H Michell: *Fortune or Failure: Missed Opportunities and Chance. Discoveries in Science* (A Kohn)
 952 Jeffrey S Tobias: *Not a Moment to Lose: Some Reminiscences* (D W Smithers)
 953 Henry R Rollin: *Conceptual Issues in Psychological Medicine: Collected Papers* (M Shepherd)
 953 Noted
 954 What's new in the new editions Clifford Hawkins
 955 Some new editions

956 Minerva

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Perhaps it's the duty of journals to report things as they really are, but sometimes the degree of chaos sounds less than any civilised society ought to tolerate. Thus, for all the pious statements, we're still not training our general practitioners very well (p 911) and it seems hardly likely that the conclusions in Trish Groves's final article about the scandals of present day community care are going to be any more reassuring than those in her opening piece (p 923). There are more calls for changes in research ethics committees (p 943), and a moving obituary

on General M Practice records a world that we may already have lost (p 951). Those addicted to *Schadenfreude* should beware of finding comfort in the fact that some things are worse elsewhere, as in Medvedev's distressing second article on the outbreaks of HIV infection in the USSR (p 932). All in all this week we are better off with the retrospectroscope, with two giants of our times, Sir David Smithers and Professor Michael Shepherd, showing what can be achieved despite all the imperfections (pp 952-3).