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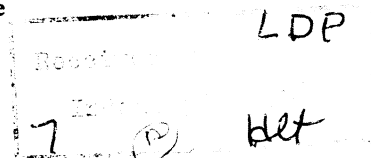
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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

It's becoming monotonous, but part of the *BMJ's* duty is to record the gross misassumptions behind both the new general practitioner contract and the white paper. This week, for example, we are reminded of the known fact that unselective urine analysis prescribed as part of a health check is a waste of time (p 1053); then there's the "potential enormity" of the problem for cytopathologists faced with the vast increase in cervical smears produced by the screening programmes (p 1074), while a Leeds radiologist spells out the difficulties of choosing the cheapest hospital for a patient with jaundice (p 1083). And, as Trish Groves

points out, to understand what the new proposals for community mental care might mean we need more information about existing services (p 1060). After this the once passionate debates for and against the bran wagon are now quite relaxed (p 1063), and there's sanity too at Aspen, Colorado, where the residents have voted two to one not to declare their city a fur free town (p 1068). Finally, in a section that is sometimes accused of being too universally honied, it's refreshing to read the concatenation of adjectives describing James Carmichael (p 1072); *humani nihil a me alienum puto*, as Terence is reputed to have said.