

# BMJ

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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

This week, 50 years after Dunkirk, Richard Doll at last reaches the beach (and a boat) in the final part of his account of his regiment's retreat (p 1449). Dr A G Wilson (p 1461) had a more remarkable war. He served not only in 1939-45 but also in the first world war, during which, after being injured at the Somme, he joined the Royal Flying Corps, gaining the Military Cross for his exploits in the closing days of the war. In his plays Henrik Ibsen fought against the attitudes of nineteenth century Norwegian society, believing, like George Bernard Shaw, that the majority is often wrong. A correspondent bewails the fact that, unlike Ibsen in *An Enemy of the People*, playwrights today are unlikely to look to medicine for inspiration or absolute

truth (p 1464). More optimistically, another uses the fact that autologous blood transfusion has allowed urological surgery to continue in Tanzania as an illustration of the importance of maintaining contacts between rich and poor countries despite the gaps in the practice of medicine (p 1464). On a topical parliamentary note a leading article (p 1410) warns of a probable sharp fall in semen donors if the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill now in the Commons is passed without guaranteeing anonymity. And, finally, this week's book reviews encompass a range of contentious subjects: animal experimentation, racism in the health service, and hospital closures (p 1472).