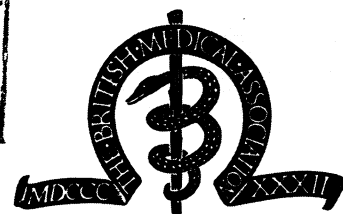
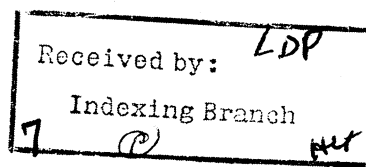


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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Checklists are one of the flavours of the times and there are good examples in three of our articles this week—information needed by the transplant team (p 1571), the indications for admission of patients with head injuries (p 1576), and the scoring systems used in trauma (p 1560). That these are a genuine help rather than a fashion is well shown in the last instance, where the use of a revised trauma score enabled a Belfast team almost to halve the errors in clinical management. Even so, clinicians have to be cautious about guidelines: as M G Dunnigan

shows, the use of those in a recent Scottish publication on hypercholesterolaemia might deny many patients effective treatment (p 1583). And the rigidity of stigmatising individuals as a "Crohn's patient" or "a schizophrenic" is another useful warning, even if one could do without the ugly description of "disabilist" language (p 1597). But even the last shock may be necessary to keep us on our guard against the hidden persuaders—see Tony Delamothe's description of moves afoot to persuade us to come to love our brave new NHS (p 1543).