



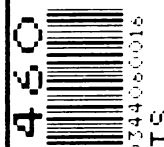
1840-1990

BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6748 VOLUME 301

CLINICAL RESEARCH

<b>Editorials</b>	349	<b>Poverty and health in the 1990s</b> Tony Smith
	350	<b>Hereditary (primary) haemochromatosis</b> Niall D C Finlayson
	351	<b>Sleep disorders in children</b> Gregory Stores
	352	<b>Medical termination of pregnancy</b> John Guillebaud
	354	<b>Correction: Vitamin supplements</b> Truswell
<b>News</b>	355-358	<b>Triple trouble – or more · Rationing health care in Oregon · Prescribing psychologists · French emergency service suspended · Leaked document on London health services · GPs get £469m for staff and premises costs · International dissatisfaction with health care · Death by 1000 cuts: 11 Oxford · Correction: Speed kills</b>
<b>Papers</b>	359	<b>Short course chemotherapy for tuberculous lymphadenitis in children</b> M S Jawahar, S Sivasubramanian, V K Vijayan, C V Ramakrishnan, C N Paramasivan, Vanaja Selvakumar, Sare Paul, S P Tripathy, R Prabhakar
	362	<b>Symptoms of low blood pressure: a population study</b> Simon Wessely, Judith Nickson, Brian Cox
	366	<b>Screening and genetic counselling for relatives of patients with colorectal cancer in a family cancer clinic</b> R S Houlston, V Murday, C Harocopos, C B Williams, J Slack
	369	<b>Detection of endometrial cancer in postmenopausal women by transvaginal ultrasonography and colour flow imaging</b> Thomas H Bourne, Stuart Campbell, Malcolm I Whitehead, Patrick Royston, Christopher V Steer, William P Collins
	370	<b>Occult ischaemic necrosis of skeletal muscle associated with renal failure</b> J H Coakley, R H T Edwards, P McClelland, J M Bone, T R Helliwell
<b>Practice Observed</b>	371	<b>Problems of care in a private nursing home</b> Jo Pearson, Linda Challis, Clive E Bowman
<b>Middles</b>	373	<b>The Black report on socioeconomic inequalities in health 10 years on</b> George Davey Smith, Mel Bartley, David Blane
	378	<b>Everyday Aids and Appliances: Feeding aids</b> M J Connolly, A S Wilson
	380	<b>ABC of Major Trauma: Paediatric trauma: primary survey and resuscitation – II</b> A R Lloyd-Thomas
	382-394	<b>Medicine and the <i>N</i> Minerva · (in detail o</b>

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# CONTENTS pages 379-394

379 **Fillers** Any Questions Brian Livesley; P W Bull

382 **Medicine and the Media** Self sufficiency John Ashton

## 383 **Obituary**

E N Glick, C R Frazer, J D Morrissey, D O Hancock, G S A Knowles, W M Gray, E Lee, A McCrone, S C McPherson, J B Penfold

## 385 **Correspondence**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 385 The Independent Living Fund<br>D Black, MRCP   | 388 Consanguineous marriage<br>Narendhra Morar  |
| 385 Epidural anaesthesia and long term backache after childbirth<br>J D Murphy, FCANAE; Mary Newburn;<br>P A J Hardy, FCANAE; C MacArthur, PHD, and others | 389 Hypothyroidism in polymyalgia rheumatica and giant cell arteritis<br>Elisabeth Paice, FRCP, and Caroline Smith, MRCP; G S Rai, FRCP, and others |
| 386 Cerebral mass lesions in patients with AIDS<br>I R Whittle, FRCSED   | 389 Hyperosmolality related to propylene glycol in an infant<br>S Murch, MRCP, and Kate Costeloe, MRCP  |
| 386 Directing a DoH funded research unit<br>A Smith, FRCM  | 389 Vocational training in general practice<br>D G Nasmyth, FRCS  |
| 386 Emergency treatment of avulsed teeth<br>G J Roberts, MDS   | 390 Genetic screening for ethnic minorities<br>M Bhavnani, MRCPATH; Bernadette Modell, MRCP   |
| 387 Eosinophilia myalgia syndrome associated with tryptophan<br>A S Douglas, DSC, and others; A C MacLennan, MB, and D G Stewart, MB                       | 390 Warning leak in subarachnoid haemorrhage<br>Bhaswati Majumdar, LMSSA, and J Partridge, MRCP   |
| 388 Chief inspector criticises prison medical service<br>Rosemary J Wool, FRCPSYCH   | 390 Liver transplantation in patients with alcoholic cirrhosis<br>J Jankowski, MRCP   |
| 388 Human papillomaviruses in anogenital warts in children<br>Greta E Forster, MRCOG, and others; V A Venning, MRCP  | 390 Applications for self government<br>J S Cameron, FRCP, and others   |
|  | 390 Kindly knife<br>G O Cowan, FRCP   |

391 **Personal View** The time of our lives Andrew Riley

## 392 **Medicine and Books**

- 392 Anthony W Clare: *A Doctor's Story* (A Dally)
- 393 Philippa Easterbrook: *Interpreting the Medical Literature. Practical Epidemiology for Clinicians*. 2nd edn (S H Gehlbach); *Studying a Study and Testing a Test. How to Read the Medical Literature*. 2nd edn. (R K Riegelman, R P Hirsch); *Making Sense of Data. A Self-Instruction Manual on the Interpretation of Epidemiological Data* (J H Abramson)
- 393 Noted

## 394 **Minerva**

## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

It seems longer than 10 years ago that the Black report first appeared, possibly because the features of the two nations in Britain are so more obvious today than they were in 1980—the homeless sleeping rough in our major cities, the beggars on the streets, and the overt poverty of our industrial cities. Davey Smith and his colleagues show that social class differences in mortality exist in other countries as well as Britain, but that these are getting wider only in this country (p 373), while Tony Smith proposes a twofold strategy for improving the overall health of our population (p 345). A rather more optimistic survey comes jointly from London and

Cambridge showing that low blood pressure may be linked with fatigue but is probably good for longevity (p 362). And, given that, like it or not, many of us are going to end up finishing our days in a private nursing home, we should welcome the audit of care by Jo Pearson and her colleagues; perhaps their suggestion of expanding the role of the Hospital Advisory Service should be pursued to ensure reasonable standards and expectation for homes, patients, and staff (p 371). At least it would escape any accusation of an ageist approach to care, which seems to have been a feature of the Independent Living Fund (p 385).