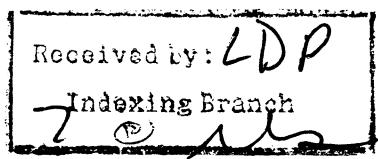


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SATURDAY 22 SEPTEMBER 1990

# BMJ

1840-1990



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6752 VOLUME 301

INTERNATIONAL

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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

As the debate on inequalities in health continues (p 608), our first editorial discusses another aspect of preventive health where Britain lags behind (p 563). While the French employ several hundred occupational physicians who specialise in the construction industry, Britain has just three to cover many thousands of vulnerable workers. For some time the Scots have been extolling the virtues of their community health index—a list of everyone in a

defined population registered with the NHS. It was recently used to identify vulnerable groups in the west of Scotland when the public water supply had to be cut off (p 607) and is clearly an initiative that other parts of Britain could learn from. And we end with an oncologist's puzzlement that the same patients who argue vigorously with him about his proposed treatment accept, apparently meekly, "extraordinary advice" from alternative practitioners (p 613).