

R31. B55

BMJ

1840-1990

7

SATURDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 1990



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6753 VOLUME 301

INTERNATIONAL

Editorials	617	Influenza vaccination and the elderly K G Nicholson	7	LBP
	618	Vasectomy and the human testis Stuart W McDonald		
	619	Hirsutism Gerard S Conway, Howard S Jacobs		
	621	The epidemiology of malpractice Richard Smith		
	622	Regular Review: Interventions in chronic renal failure J R Curtis		
<hr/>				
News	625-628	The world summit for children · In pursuit of a one dose vaccine · Immunisation targets achievable by 1991? · US Congress slams NIH over scientific misconduct · Attendance allowance payments · Death of the young · More progress in cystic fibrosis · Of NHS trusts, an upbeat minister, and ice cream		
<hr/>				
Papers	629	Steps towards cost-benefit analysis of regional neurosurgical care J D Pickard, S Bailey, H Sanderson, M Rees, J S Garfield		
	635	Sodium-lithium countertransport activity in red cells of patients with insulin dependent diabetes and nephropathy and their parents James D Walker, Taimur Tariq, Giancarlo Viberti		
	638	Prediction of hip fracture in elderly women: a prospective study R W Porter, C G Miller, D Grainger, S B Palmer		
	641	Four and a half year follow up of women with dyskaryotic cervical smears Astrid Fletcher, Nikki Metaxas, Chandra Grubb, Jocelyn Chamberlain		
	644	Why costs of consultations in general practice vary S E J Twaddle, A M D Porter, J G R Howie, J F Forbes		
	645	Effectiveness of eye protection in the metal working industry Ashis Banerjee		
	646	Differences in disability between people with mental handicaps who were resettled in the community and those who remained in hospital Richard Farmer, Sue Holroyd, Jenifer Rohde		
	646	Correction: Aetiological importance of ovulation Cruickshank		
<hr/>				
Practice Observed	647	Consultation rates among middle aged men in general practice over three years D G Cook, J K Morris, M Walker, A G Shaper		
<hr/>				
Middles	651	Guidelines for management of asthma in adults: I—chronic persistent asthma Statement by the British Thoracic Society, Research Unit of the Royal College of Physicians of London, King's Fund Centre, National Asthma Campaign		
	654	Glasgow: city of managerial culture Tony Delamothe		
	656	Letter from Brasilia: Mucocutaneous leishmaniasis P D Marsden		
	658	ABC of Major Trauma: Transport of injured patients Alastair Wilson, Peter Driscoll		
<hr/>				
	663-676	Obituary · Correspondence · BMA Affairs · Notes · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)		

CONTENTS pages 650-676

650 **Medicine and the Media** Too much trouble Neville W Goodman

653 **Fillers**

- 653 *Materia Indomedica* Sunil Pandya
657 Any Questions H Ludman

663 **Obituary**

R I N Greaves, M S Jones, J P Senior

664 **Correspondence**

- | | |
|---|---|
| 664 Crisis in admission beds
Doris Hollander, FRCPSYCH, and others | 668 Referral letters and replies from orthopaedic
departments
M A Edgar, FRCS |
| 664 General practitioner maternity units
S Jenkinson, FRCGP; M Charny, MFPHM;
J E U Moxon, LRCP; F Dobbs, MRCGP; G Young,
MRCGP; H Williams, MRCGP, and others; M Patch,
DRCOG; J P Osborne, FRCP, and others; T Walker,
MB, and others; D Malcolm, MB | 668 Mobility allowance
Elaine Goldman, LLB |
| 667 Effect of erythropoietin in patients with myeloma
S Rogers, MRCP, and others | 668 Cycling masks
M C O Bax, FRCP |
| 667 Rectal examination in general practice
T Kemple, MRCGP; T W Hennigan, FRCS, and
P J Franks, PHD | 668 Drug points Dystonic dysphagia associated with
fluspirilene (Martina Stones and others);
669 Captopril and systemic lupus erythematosus
syndrome (C Sieber and others); Inhibitors of
hydroxymethylglutaryl coenzyme A reductase for
treating hypercholesterolaemia (J D Barth and
others); Potentiation of action of warfarin by
itraconazole (J Yeh and others) |

670 **BMA Affairs**

- 670 From the GMSC: New review group will monitor NHS changes
671 New liaison committee for OMPs and opticians

672 **Notes**

673 **Personal View** Sick cell anaemia: a patient's tale Dion Daniels

674 **Medicine and Books**

- 674 Richard Lovell: *Mirror of Medicine: a History of the British Medical Journal* (P W J Bartrip)
675 J Malcolm Pearce: *Infections in Pregnancy* (Ed L C Gilstrap, S Faro)
675 Patrick K Plunkett: *Resuscitation Handbook* (P J F Baskett)
675 Noted

676 **Minerva**

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

As the long, hot summer fades to autumn the producers of influenza vaccine will soon be singing their annual siren song. In a leading article (p 617) Dr K G Nicholson assesses its value for the elderly, advising its use in "elderly people in whom longevity is a blessing." The epidemiology of another type of epidemic, medical malpractice, is analysed by Richard Smith (p 621), who calls for more data, in particular to assess the "bad apple" theory. The General Medical Services Committee discussed the problems of general practitioners trying to come to terms with the new contract (p 670). On p 647 Dr D G Cook and colleagues warn that to fulfil their contracts most practices will have to approach 10% of their men aged 46 to 65 specially to provide them with

information to promote health and prevent illness.

Consultants keen to assess the impact of the forthcoming management changes in hospitals will get a pointer from Tony Delamothe's interview with Laurence Peterken, the "high profile" manager of Greater Glasgow Health Board (p 654). The near incandescent correspondence on general practitioner maternity units (pp 664-7) should silence anyone who still believes that general practitioners rarely open the pages of the *BMJ*. And for those who might challenge the value of general medical journals Dr P W J Bartrip's *Mirror of Medicine: a History of the British Medical Journal*, reviewed on p 674, should be compulsory reading whether or not they know that next week the *BMJ* celebrates its 150th anniversary.