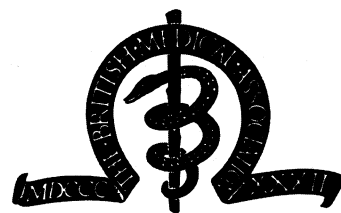


# BMJ

## 1840-1990

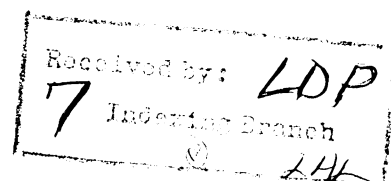
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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

This week there's an illuminating interview with Duncan Nichol, the chief executive of the NHS Management Executive, in which he emphasises the need for a new concordat with doctors (p 856). Elsewhere the sort of local initiatives envisaged are exemplified by an Oxford report showing that severely dependent drinkers can be detoxified as effectively in a hostel for the homeless as in a hospital — but patients prefer the former and it's cheaper (p 848). And increasing prescribers' awareness of

the cost of drugs, as done in the Grampian scheme, is another feature likely to influence the overall expenditure (p 851). Given all this, there's a wry interest in the debate about whether the new All-Union Association of Soviet Doctors should take a political stance or not (p 867). Finally, to look at positive achievements, the description of conditions at Lincoln Prison is a welcome reminder that a humane and efficient service can result from existing resources (p 871).