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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Stephen Hunter, chairman of the Hospital Junior Staff Committee, says (p 1008) that hopes are now pinned on the latest initiative—the ministerial working party—to resolve the crisis over junior doctors' long hours of work. Much is at stake this time, and he urges juniors to respond to the BMA's survey seeking their views so that the negotiators have evidence of the need for urgent change. At the other end of the age scale Alistair Burns and colleagues report an 88% success rate in diagnosing Alzheimer's disease by using specified clinical criteria (p 1026). On the next page two surgeons from Belfast

warn that all injuries to the chest caused by plastic bullets—used as a supposedly non-lethal method of riot control—should be regarded as potentially life threatening, a warning confirmed by the reviewers of the film *Plastic Bullets: The Silent Scream*, who tell us that the fatality rate for this weapon is one per 7000 rounds fired (p 1053). Another supposition—that continuity of care is a pillar of general practice in Britain—is dented by George Freeman and Sally Richards, who report (p 1028) that continuity may be fairly low in group practice, which poses “a question for the future of individual clinical responsibility.”