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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

The activity that surrounds the advent of the new NHS (p 258) cannot completely camouflage the fact that one of the health service's underlying problems is still lack of funding. This is highlighted by a correspondent in the debate over the Oregon experiment (p 288) and illustrated closer to home by a short report that shows what happens to patients undergoing dialysis whose erythropoietin is suddenly withdrawn at the end of a trial (p 272). The answer, according to our editorial writer, is for general practitioners to prescribe it (p 248).

Three other fierce debates in the correspondence columns are on the side effects of fluoxetine (p 289), the control of GIFT (p 290), and the value of homoeopathy

(p 289); all have arisen out of Medicine and the Media reviews. Doctors may not like the way that the media handle medical issues, but television in particular is an increasingly important medium for conducting medical debates. We thus plan to ensure that television and other media are covered almost every week. This week's reviews are on the place of doctors in the class structure and panic attacks (p 297). Meanwhile, for those who dislike the anecdotal and prefer the epidemiological, another editorial suggests that researchers should stop stamping their work (wrongly) with the seal of approval implied by the word "prospective"—and instead describe what they actually did (p 249).