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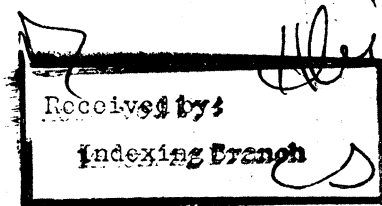
SATURDAY 18 MAY 1991



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6786 VOLUME 302

INTERNATIONAL

- Editorials**
- | | |
|------|--|
| 1163 | America's uninsured and underinsured
Ken Judge |
| 1164 | Haemopoietic growth factors
Asim Khwaja, Anthony H Goldstone |
| 1165 | Taking pains to take away pain
A M S Black |
| 1166 | β_2 Agonists and asthma
John Rees |
| 1167 | Perinatal bereavement
Stanford Bourne, Emanuel Lewis |
| 1168 | Keeping confidences in published papers
Jane Smith |



- News**
- 1169-1174 **Education: save now, pay later · Ozone and health · Resource management in the community · Bangladesh cyclone · Major, Hansard, and the BMJ · Major to meet BMA · Two tier health service? · Raccoons and rabies in New York · Dorrell greens the NHS · Edging into Europe · Maternity services · The Week**

- Papers**
- | | |
|------|--|
| 1175 | Aluminium sulphate in water in north Cornwall and outcome of pregnancy
Jean Golding, A Rowland, Rosemary Greenwood, Peter Lunt |
| 1178 | Importance of maternal history of non-insulin dependent diabetic patients
J C Alcolado, R Alcolado |
| 1180 | Home nebulisers in childhood asthma: survey of hospital supervised use
Ilona M Bendefy |
| 1182 | Identification of patients in medical publications: need for informed consent
Magne Nylenna, Povl Riis |
| 1182 | Correction: Assessment of cognitive and psychomotor function and rehabilitation of elderly people with prostheses
Hanspal and Fisher |

- Practice Observed**
- | | |
|------|--|
| 1183 | General practices and the new contract. I—Reactions and impact
John Bain |
| 1186 | Doctors' perceptions of pressure from patients for referral
David Armstrong, John Fry, Pauline Armstrong |

- Middles**
- | | |
|------|---|
| 1189 | Delay to invasive investigation and revascularisation for coronary heart disease in South West Thames region: a two tier system?
Michael Marber, Callum MacRae, Michael Joy |
| 1192 | Letter from Latvia: surviving surveillance
Ann-Louise Kinmonth, Juris Lazovskis |
| 1194 | Style Matters: Statements from the Vancouver Group
International Committee of Medical Journal Editors |
| 1195 | ABC of Antenatal Care: Vaginal bleeding in early pregnancy—II
Geoffrey Chamberlain |
| 1198 | Maternity services: the shaping of things to come
Luisa Dillner |
| 1200 | Lesson of the Week: Inhalation of baby powder: an unappreciated hazard
P W Pairaudeau, R G Wilson, M A Hall, M Milne |
| 1194 | Correction: Medical research in Australia: Top of the pile: the institutes
Smith |

1202-1218 **Obituary · Correspondence · Medicopolitical Digest · Medicine and the Media · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)**

CONTENTS pages 1202-1218

1202 **Obituary** G M Carstairs, G N Bailey, Elizabeth M Pringle, R A de Souza, M J Carey, R W Simpson, Benudhar Goswami, Una Roma Wickens

1204 Correspondence

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1204 Avoidable blindness
D S McLaren, MD | 1209 Abortion forms
C Smith, MB, and Katy J Shroff, MB |
| 1204 <i>The Cook Report</i> : assisted conception
R M L Winston, FRCOG | 1209 Consensus on cholesterol
Judith Hammond, MB, and R J Rona, FFPHM |
| 1204 Supply of blood products
J D Cash; J P Betts; M B Rodell, PhD | 1209 One or two routine neonatal examinations?
D J Manning, MD; A P Hughes, MB, and others |
| 1205 Penicillin prophylaxis in children with sickle cell disease
F I D Konotey-Ahulu, FRCP | 1209 Home peak flow meters
M Levy, MRCGP |
| 1206 Tuberculosis and HIV infection
H Taelman, MD, and others | 1210 Triage of x ray films?
I G H Renwick, FRCR |
| 1206 Vitamins and IQ
T J Cole, PhD, and R G Whitehead, PhD;
I K Crombie, PhD, and others | 1210 Misuse of temazepam
D G Grahame-Smith, FRCP |
| 1207 Estimations of gestational age and screening for Down's syndrome
T M Reynolds, MB, and M D Penney, MD | 1210 Attendance allowance for patients with cystic fibrosis
Gwyneth Owen, MRCP, and others |
| 1207 Bilateral diaphragmatic paralysis may be misdiagnosed as pulmonary embolism
N Chalmers, FRCP; M J Ward, DM | 1210 Obtaining a postgraduate qualification in Italy
Nicola Maffulli, DMS |
| 1207 Preventing the spread of HIV infection
A Renton, MB, and L Whitaker, BSC | 1211 Telephone services and general practice
S Gidda |
| 1208 Self induced automatism
M J Sworn, FRCPATH | 1211 Further consultant expansion needed
G R Ellis, MB, and L R Jenkinson, FRCS |
| 1208 Ocular prostheses
B Leatherbarrow, FRCS, and J Kwartz, FRCS | 1211 Training for minor surgery in general practice during preregistration surgical posts
Carolyn Chew, MRCGP |
| 1208 Diagnosing maternofetal toxoplasmosis
Susan M Hall, FFPHM | 1212 Junior doctors, nurses, and drips
Christiane Harris, MB |
| 1208 Physiotherapy for stress urinary incontinence
J A Barrett, MD, and Jacqueline A Oldham, PhD | 1212 Redundancies in NHS trusts: effect on junior house officers
T Ind, MB, and 14 others |
| 1208 Childhood immunisation: uptake of pertussis vaccine in Grampian
L D Ritchie, MFCM | 1212 Altitude treatment for whooping cough
P A Casey |
| | 1212 Vulnerability of King's College Hospital
D Smith |

1213 Medicopolitical Digest

Juniors' hours agreement on ice · Prescriptions must be signed · Labour campaigns against more NHS trusts
Regulations on embryology bill · Conscience clause remains · NHS joins Next Steps initiative · More Project 2000 colleges

1214 Medicine and the Media

1214 Show me the way to get a home Luisa Dillner 1214 Secret Service Fiona Godlee

1215 Personal View Danger—women at work Jenny Shaw, Dawn Black

1216 Medicine and Books

- 1216 Alex Paton: *The Kirkland Papers* (A Crane)
1216 Michael Harmer: *Epidural and Spinal Blockade in Obstetrics* (Ed F Reynolds)
1217 S Variend: *Textbook of Fetal and Perinatal Pathology* (Ed J S Wigglesworth, D B Singer)
1217 Duncan Keeley: *Examination for Membership of the Royal College of General Practitioners (MRCGP): Development, Current State and Future Trends*. Occasional Paper 46 (Ed C Lockie)

1218 Minerva

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

John Major, the British Prime Minister, does not have his picture on p 1168 because he has confused us with the newspaper *General Practitioner* and got himself into parliamentary hot water for doing so (p 1171) nor because he has agreed to meet the BMA to talk about the state of the health service (p 1171). His picture is there simply to show that putting a black bar across a person's eyes does not stop him or her being recognised: we are tightening up our procedures for protecting the anonymity of patients mentioned or pictured in case reports (p 1182). In a nutshell, we will require informed consent from the patient if there is any chance that he or she might be identified. In his confusion, John Major also seemed to mix up the NHS reforms with the year old changes in the GP contract,

and so he might like to read the first of a two part review by John Bain of how five contrasting practices have been affected by the contract changes (p 1183). Generally, they are not amused—particularly by health promotion clinics. But at least everybody in Britain has access to a general practitioner: Ken Judge on p 1163 has been looking at a special issue of *JAMA* that examines proposals for dealing with the 40 million Americans who have no medical insurance. This awful problem has been awaiting a solution for a very long time, and Ken Judge observes how pluralist, innovative America is capable of inventing an almost infinite number of ways of going from A to B but then has a propensity to go nowhere.