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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Medical education seems on the brink of dramatic changes. There has been deep unhappiness with the quality of medical education as long as anybody can remember, but the strength and breadth of reaction to Robin Fraser's polemic on medical education (6 July, p 41) is more evidence that something's going to have to change (p 244). Postgraduate medical exams also come under attack, with John Woodhouse suggesting that they are there as an arbitrary barrier to stop too many people entering hospital practice and to raise money for the colleges (p 246) and Susie Waterman believing that she has been duped into taking an exam that neither truly assesses competence nor affects

future employment prospects (p 246). Fiona Godlee, meanwhile, having been invited to sit in on the MRCGP exam, is impressed by the openness and professionalism of the Royal College of General Practitioners (p 235). One part of the exam is a critical reading paper, and our two papers on using minidose warfarin to try to prevent thrombosis after hip replacement might make part of an interesting package for this (p 219 and p 224). Both studies resulted from a paper we published in 1987 showing that minidose warfarin prevented thrombosis after gynaecological operations. Sadly, both of the new trials show that it is ineffective after hip replacements.