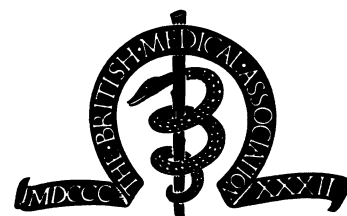


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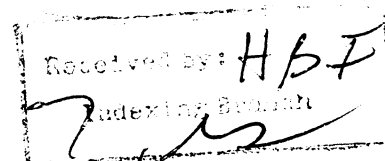
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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Things get hot in the United States in the summer. The highly conservative senator Jesse Helms seems to want health workers who know that they are infected with HIV and who have treated patients to be horse whipped (p 325). Meanwhile, militant homosexual activists have disrupted the service in the Catholic cathedral in New York in protest against the church's position on AIDS (p 370). The extreme statements of Jesse Helms and others are leading the US rapidly towards mandatory testing of some health workers for HIV. Michael Morris describes what is happening and puts the case for consent rather than coercion, a case supported by

the Centers for Disease Control (p 325). In Britain everything is much cooler so far, but A G Bird and others argue for testing all patients who have been in contact with health workers infected with HIV in order to collect essential data on the degree of risk (p 351). If doctors are seen to be responding to the problem rather than denying it the extremes of the US may be avoided. But if things are hot in America they are, tragically, much hotter in Yugoslavia, and Lynne Jones, a psychiatrist, sends us a report from Zagreb of a joint meeting of Serbian and Croatian doctors trying to stop the seemingly unstoppable descent to civil war (p 371).