

# BMJ



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6807 VOLUME 303

INTERNATIONAL

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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

The coming together of Europe has been one of the most exciting developments in recent years, and most national organisations within individual European nations recognise that their future lies in Europe. This week's journal is bristling with European articles. Authors from Britain and Hungary report on p 879 on how all cause mortality has not declined in eastern and central Europe as it has in western Europe and suggest that eastern countries should put high priority on improving the environment and promoting healthier lifestyles. Peter Reizenstein from Sweden opens a new series on international quality assurance by noting that the Swedes have come to medical audit only recently (p 900): he observes drily that the Japanese think that Volvos are such good cars because each is made

twice and that it's better to do it right the first time. Rodolfo Saracci from France makes observations on drawing conclusions from necropsies that will be applicable everywhere; reports on our news pages cover meetings in Madrid (p 877) and Brussels (p 874) and developments with euthanasia in the Netherlands (p 877); a musical called *Freudiana* currently running in Vienna is reviewed (p 931); and Lord Walton writes an obituary of the famous Norwegian neurologist Sigvald Refsum (p 919). But in the last analysis the *BMJ* aims at being truly global, and David Gillen reports on how immunisation of children around the world has risen from a coverage of 5% in 1974 to over 80% now (p 875), and a review of a related television programme (p 931) points out that immunisation is now "going gangbusters."