

# R31 . B55- BMJ

SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER 1991



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## EDITOR'S CHOICE

# BMJ

This week's journal is one of endings and beginnings. Our series on health and the environment begins with an introduction that outlines the broad array of environmental problems and weighs up which are the most serious (p 1124). Doctors need to consider these problems because they present in the consulting room as well as threatening the globe. Our series responding to *The Health of the Nation* ends with two health economists criticising the strategy for not considering cost (p 1119) and two public health doctors advising on what the government should do now (p 1120). Our responses to *The Health of the Nation* should be published as a book within a few weeks. Angela Thomas concludes our series on trying to improve conditions for junior doctors by pointing out that the agreement with the government covers more than

hours of work: also important is progress on sharing work more with nurses and on reducing the clerical and administrative load on junior doctors and improving their often miserable residential facilities (p 1123). The Rugby World Cup also ends this week, and an editorial calls for better data on the frequency and distribution of rugby injuries (p 1082). Finally, we publish the obituary of Sir James Cameron, one of the great BMA leaders this century (p 1130). General practice is now widely acknowledged as the strongest part of the British health care system, but when Sir James came to the chair of the General Medical Services Committee in 1964 general practice looked set for destruction. He more than anybody else reversed the decline, and one of his methods was to listen—for most of the night if necessary.