



Editorials	725	Ethics, money, and the human genome Norman H Carey
	726	Notifiable diseases Bryan Jefferson Heap
	727	Confidential medical records and epidemiological research E G Knox
	728	A team future for general practice Jacky Hayden
	729	Vasectomy and testicular cancer R R West
	730	Hype from journalists and scientists Richard Smith
News	731-736	Results of GP survey · Anencephaly in Texas · Surgeon accused of high mortality · Cholera rises in US · Call for day surgery repeated · Mice found free of Alzheimer's disease · Safeguarding patient information in Scotland · A and E departments must progress · Why elect doctors? · The Week
Papers	737	Childhood deaths from intussusception in England and Wales, 1984-9 Mark D Stringer, Gordon Pledger, David P Drake
	740	Influence of the Royal College of Radiologists' guidelines on hospital practice: a multicentre study Royal College of Radiologists Working Party
	743	Incidence of disease after vasectomy: a record linkage retrospective cohort study Henriet Nienhuis, Michael Goldacre, Valerie Seagroatt, Leicester Gill, Martin Vessey
	746	Melanoma in people aged 65 and over in Scotland, 1979-89 Pamela M McHenry, David J Hole, Rona M MacKie
	749	Home based care and standard hospital care for patients with severe mental illness: a randomised controlled trial M Muijen, I Marks, J Connolly, B Audini
	755	How much do doctors know about the notification of infectious diseases? Simon Voss
	739	Correction: Community surveillance of complications after hernia surgery Bailey and colleagues
General Practice	756	Storage of vaccines in the community: weak link in the cold chain? Yogini Thakker, Sheila Woods
	758	Asthma care in Darley Dale: general practitioner audit Cedrick R Martys
Education & Debate	761	Infection with hepatitis B virus after open heart surgery M B Prentice, A J E Flower, G M Morgan, K G Nicholson, B Rana, R K Firmin, C J Mitchell
	765	A right to die Alison L McAdams
	766	Lesson of the Week: Fatal outcome with use of rectal morphine for postoperative pain control in an infant G K Gourlay, R A Boas
	768	Leading for Health: responses: Funding health care in the United Kingdom Charles Normand
	770	Agenda for health: an economic view Cam Donaldson
	771	Correction: Laparoscopic or minilaparotomy cholecystectomy? Baxter and O'Dwyer
	772-788	Obituary · Correspondence · Medicopolitical Digest · Soundings · Medicine and the Media · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)

CONTENTS pages 772-788

772	Obituary D M Wallace, G Currie, H M A S Standish-Barry, P H Davison, F A Macrae, I Gordon, M S A Collis, G F Conway, S M McLaughlin	
774	Correspondence	
774	Quality management in the NHS K Mackay; J P Bunker and others; R Johnson; S Dowling	779 Diagnosing bronchioloalveolar carcinoma F G Mayall
775	Reducing risks in the sudden infant death syndrome D Keeley; D P Davies and others	779 Underreporting of pedestrian accidents P J Morrison
775	Monitoring cot death rates R R Gordon	780 Home visits by psychiatrists A Shah
776	Neonatal mortality since 1935 J M Gould; S Sepkowitz	780 Fundamental principles of the NHS N H L Starey; D L McLellan
776	Laparoscopic cholecystectomy D Shanahan and M Knight; I M C Macintyre and R G Wilson; M Emberton and R Howerton	780 Prescribing at the hospital-general practice interface R Davies
777	Hazards of tests of growth hormone secretion G Owen; R Stanhope and P C Hindmarsh	780 One car down G Bickler
778	Drug treatment for acute upper gastrointestinal bleeding G G Birnie and others; S A Jenkins and R Shields	781 On your bikes N Unwin
778	Swimming and grommets M François and others	781 Doctors' contribution to environmental health G Watt
779	Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccination A Hill	781 Changing to dry powder inhalation systems S Ford
779	Transvaginal ultrasonography V Green	781 Action Asthma: privatising the airways? C Goode
		781 Medical arbitration D L Woolf and others
782	Medicopolitical Digest	
	Juniors remain committed to ballot on hours · Junior doctors' pay delayed · Changing role for POWARs · Reviewing doctors' performance · BMA council election 1992-4	
784	Soundings	
	Fundholding: who gains? David Widgery	Basic science overlooked in fighting cholera Bernard Dixon
785	Medicine and the Media	
	Personal views Margaret Cooter	Images of disability Daphne Gloag; Sara Davies
786	Personal View Developing countries need collaborative links Beltus Ivo Bejanga	
787	Medicine and Books	
	787 N H Dyer: <i>Irritable Bowel Syndrome</i> (Ed N W Read)	
788	Minerva	

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Do you think that red monkey disease is notifiable? If you do you shouldn't be too ashamed because over 10% of doctors in Simon Voss's survey would agree with you that this non-existent disease should be notified (p 755). The serious point of his survey is to show that doctors are ignorant about which diseases are notifiable and which are not, explaining in part why notification is so poor. Bryan Jefferson Heap reminds us in an editorial why notification is important—for long term surveillance and to enable action to stop potential epidemics—but he also points out that the current list of notifiable diseases is outdated (p 726).

Vasectomy is a simple operation that arouses primal anxieties in some men. It may be that these deep anxieties have led to reports in medical journals that vasectomy might be associated with increases in cardiovascular disease and testicular and prostatic cancer. A study from Oxford of over 13 000 men who had vasectomies makes comparisons with over 22 000 other men and shows no increase in any of these

conditions or any others because of vasectomy (p 743). But longer follow up will be necessary to get rid of the last anxieties.

It was anxieties that they might be out of touch with ordinary doctors that led the leaders of general practice to organise a huge survey of what those doctors did think. The leaders also wanted to encourage general practitioners to think a long way ahead so that they could lead rather than follow in the reform of general practice. The survey of all 36 000 general practitioners in Britain achieved a remarkable 70% response rate. The results are given on p 731, and Jacky Hayden comments on them in an editorial (p 728). She observes that there is a clear tension between patients wanting easier access to doctors for more services at all hours and general practitioners wanting to have a more normal life. The answer, she suggests, is for multi-disciplinary health care teams rather than individual doctors to become the main focus of primary health care.