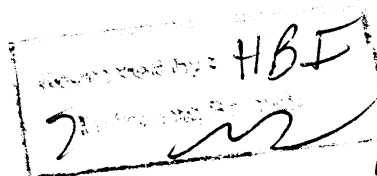


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SATURDAY 4 APRIL 1992



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6831 VOLUME 304

INTERNATIONAL

Editorials	855	Health policy in Europe Chris Ham, Philip Berman
	856	Avoiding amputation Jack Collin
	857	Asthma's changing prevalence John Britton
	858	Discovery of the gene for familial adenomatous polyposis Andrew J S Macpherson, Ingvar Bjarnason, Ian C Forgacs
	859	Adjuvant treatment for breast cancer: the overview Richard D Gelber, Alan S Coates, Aron Goldhirsch
<hr/>		
News	861-866	Russia's psychiatric law · Patenting "useless" genes · BMA meeting · Videos help patients decide · Japan bans pill · French doctors' deal · Home HIV tests banned · Italy short on babies · European prescribing · Burmese women refugees · Shiley's anxiety money · Jennifer's ear · The Week
<hr/>		
Papers	867	Fetal nuchal translucency: ultrasound screening for chromosomal defects in first trimester of pregnancy K H Nicolaides, G Azar, D Byrne, C Mansur, K Marks
	869	Predictive diagnosis of familial adenomatous polyposis with linked DNA markers: population based study F MacDonald, D G Morton, P M Rindl, J Haydon, R Cullen, J Gibson, J P Neoptolemos, M R B Keighley, C M McKeown, M Hultén
	873	Respiratory symptoms and atopy in Aberdeen schoolchildren: evidence from two surveys 25 years apart Titus K Ninan, George Russell
	876	Evaluation of nurse triage in a British accident and emergency department Steve George, Susan Read, Linda Westlake, Brian Williams, Alistair Fraser-Moodie, Paul Pritty
	878	A survey of hospital toilet facilities A F Travers, E Burns, N D Penn, S C Mitchell, G P Mulley
	879	Perforation of gloves in an accident and emergency department P W Richmond, M McCabe, J P Davies, D M Thomas
	880	Sex bias in the BMJ: an audit Tim Usherwood
	881	Hospital admission and the start of benzodiazepine use D Surendrakumar, M Dunn, C J C Roberts
	882	Drug points: Thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura due to rifampicin I H Fahal, P S Williams, R E Clark, G M Bell · Parotitis due to nicardipine X Bosch, J Sobrino, A Lopez-Soto, A Urbano-Marquez · Acute hypothermia due to penicillin Bjørnar Hassel
<hr/>		
General Practice	883	Edinburgh primary care depression study: treatment outcome, patient satisfaction, and cost after 16 weeks Allan I F Scott, Christopher P L Freeman
	888	Can health visitors prevent fractures in elderly people? Norman J Vetter, Peter A Lewis, Diane Ford
	887	Correction: Workload of general practitioners before and after the new contract Hannay <i>et al</i>
<hr/>		
Education & Debate	891	Law, coercion, and the public health Peter Old, Jonathan Montgomery
	892	Public opinion, the NHS, and the media: changing patterns and perspectives Ken Judge, Michael Solomon, David Miller, Greg Philo
	895	Health policies in the 1992 general election
	898	Lesson of the Week: Critical ischaemia of the lower limb: femorodistal bypass in preference to amputation R D Sayers, M M Thompson, N J M London, P R F Bell
	899	Medicine in Europe: European research: back to pre-eminence? Richard Smith
	904	ABC of Colorectal Diseases: Anal fissures and fistulas B D Hancock
	907	The New NHS: first year's experience: Freeman Hospital: working to improve services Sharon Kingman
<hr/>		
	910-928	Obituary · Letters · Medicopolitical Digest · Soundings · Medicine and the Media · Personal View · Medicine and Books · Minerva · (in detail overleaf)

CONTENTS *pages 910-928*

910 **Obituary** J W B Douglas, A N Henry, R B McGrigor, G H Moss, P D Thomson, J R S Hutchison, F Cavanagh, I E Jameson, D Naidoo, H B G Thomas

912 **Letters**

- | | |
|--|--|
| 912 Injuries sustained on "bouncy castles"
G Singer and L S Freedman | 916 Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine: time for a
two stage policy?
D S G Sloan |
| 912 Self poisoning by adolescents
E A Procter | 916 Missing women
P D O Davies |
| 912 The cholesterol controversy
P Thomas; A S Truswell; M F Oliver;
G Davey Smith and J Pekkanen | 917 Tibial fixation
E G Hardy |
| 913 Age associated memory impairment
J O'Brien and R Levy | 917 Starting date of house officer posts
A Kaiser; D R Tooth |
| 914 Medical abortion
J Barnard and A Ulmann; R C Henshaw and others;
M Heard and J Guillebaud | 917 Outcome measures should be relevant
R H Harwood and others |
| 914 Functional iron deficiency during erythropoietin
treatment
E G Anastassiades and others | 917 Rationing health care
L Breimer |
| 915 Back pain and thrombolysis
P Hannaford and C R Kay | 918 Support for suspended surgeon
J Shea and 30 others |
| 915 Diagnosing Alzheimer's disease
A Burns and others | 918 Problems of the NHS reforms
C R Paton |
| 915 Monitoring lithium treatment
P Sharma; S Rowlands | 918 Cold comfort for carers
N Pearce |
| 916 Organ donation from intensive care units
G B Smith and others | 918 Writing left handed
M G Jacoby |
| 916 Morphine for pain in infants
R J Brereton | 918 Hype from journalists and scientists
W Bodmer; A Ballantyne; B M Ogilvie; T Albert;
C Richmond |

920 **Medicopolitical Digest**

SRM calls for continued opposition to NHS reforms · Continued belief in comprehensive NHS · Separation of purchaser and provider rejected · Health care rationing is inevitable

BMA Annual Report of Council 1991-92 Enclosed with this issue of the *BMJ*

923 **Soundings** Auntie's trial Trisha Greenhalgh; A doctor writhes James Owen Drife

924 **Medicine and the Media**

- 924 Taking his own medicine Fred B Charatan; Ups and downs of antenatal diagnosis Charlotte Fleming
925 Correction *QED*: "Little Monsters"

925 **Personal View** Taste of life at the apology trap Elinor Thompson

926 **Medicine and Books**

- 926 Eric Walker: *Immunization: Principles and Practice* (Ed J A Dudgeon, W A M Cutting)
926 P E Gower: *Johns Hopkins Series in Contemporary Medicine and Public Health*. "Erythropoietin: Molecular, Cellular, and Clinical Biology" (Ed A J Erslev, J W Adamson, J W Eschbach, C G Winearls)
927 Best books on anatomy: a personal choice Bruce Charlton

928 **Minerva**

Sex, money, and Mozart in Macclesfield

The eagle eyed will notice various small changes in this week's journal, one of which is the addition of a headline to this column. The changes are being introduced in response to feedback from readers and are designed to make the journal still more accessible. The headline aims at capturing floating readers with trigger words. Sex and money (which are not mentioned hereafter) are trigger words for almost everybody; from experience Mozart is a trigger word for many *BMJ* readers; and Macclesfield is a trigger word for almost nobody except those who either live in the town or have had an exciting experience while visiting it.

As well as trigger words there are also what might be called antitrigger words—and foremost among these is the word politics. Those suffering the excesses of the British election will understand why, but we have tried to winkle out of the competing parties what their policies are for health (p 895). Jack Warden writes about the extraordinary episode—now known to some

as "grommetgate"—which occupied centre stage for two whole days of the election last week (p 866), and we also report on the BMA's special representative meeting, which took place in the midst of the loudest election clamour yet over health (pp 862 and 920). Meanwhile, a group from the King's Fund Institute shows that public dissatisfaction with the NHS probably peaked in 1990 (p 892) and Sharon Kingman begins our series following up developments in the four NHS sites we first surveyed a year ago, when the changes were introduced (p 907). Generally, things seem to be going well in the Freeman Hospital, which has just finished its first year as an NHS trust.

Finally, one series ends and another begins. The last article on medicine in Europe is published (p 899), and Chris Ham and Philip Berman write an editorial on the many changes that will result from the inclusion of a chapter on public health in the Treaty of Rome (p 855). The new series is an ABC of colorectal disease (p 904); and it too includes some new designs.

BMJ
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