

# BMJ

SATURDAY 27 MARCH 1993



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6881 VOLUME 306

INT

## Editorials

- 805 **Thyroid eye disease**  
Donald Munro
- 806 **Institutional care and elderly people**  
J Grimley Evans
- 807 **Juniors' new deal meets its first deadline**  
Luisa Dillner
- 808 **Enhancing the educational content of SHO posts**  
Maureen Baker
- 809 **Urinary incontinence in the community**  
G J Jarvis
- 810 **Filtering white cells from blood for transfusion**  
Richard Smith

## News

- 811-816 **Oregon goes ahead · Sweden's welfare cuts · Concern over care funding · US doctors and executions · Poland's abortion law · French health reforms · Insulin action · Britain's budget · Protection from press · NHS scrutinised · Protocols or guidelines?**

## Papers

- 817 **Effects of prematurity and intrauterine growth on respiratory health and lung function in childhood**  
R J Rona, M C Gulliford, S Chinn
- 821 **An evaluation of the multidisciplinary approach to psychiatric diagnosis in elderly people**  
Gill Collighan, Alastair Macdonald, Joe Herzberg, Michael Philpot, James Lindesay
- 824 **Evaluating perinatal mortality rates: effects of referral and case mix**  
Michael Clarke, Elizabeth S Mason, John MacVicar, David G Clayton
- 827 **Residential care for elderly people: a decade of change**  
Morag Campbell Stern, Carol Jagger, Michael Clarke, Judith Anderson, Catherine McGrother, Tim Battock, Cate McDonald
- 830 **Leukaemia linked to eating disorders**  
Aya Nishizono-Maher, Hisashi Sakamaki, Hiroaki Mizukami, Takashige Kuraki, Kuninao Minakawa, Yoshihiro Masuda

## General Practice

- 832 **Urinary incontinence in the community—analysis of a MORI poll**  
J C Brocklehurst

## Education & Debate

- 835 **Weighting in the dark: resource allocation in the new NHS**  
Trevor A Sheldon, George Davey Smith, Gwyn Bevan
- 840 **Is routine induction of labour at term ever justified?**  
Linda Cardozo
- 841 **Lesson of the Week: Acute haemolysis induced by high dose ascorbic acid in glucose-6-phosphate dehydrogenase deficiency**  
D C Rees, H Kelsey, J D M Richards
- 843 **ABC of Sleep Disorders: "I do not get enough sleep, doctor"**  
German E Berrios, Colin M Shapiro
- 846 **For Debate: Long term care on the NHS: a vanishing prospect**  
John Kellett
- 848 **Countdown to Community Care: Mental health services—the user's view**  
Peter Campbell

- 851-870 **Obituary · Letters · Medicopolitical Digest · Soundings · Personal View · Medicine and the Media · Medicine and Books · Minerva · Minerva Pictures · (in detail overleaf)**

# CONTENTS pages 851-870

851 **Obituary** R A McCance, B N Ballantine, W W Mushin, Lady Gaddum, T Fitt, H Trail, D Wilson

## 853 **Letters**

- |     |   |     |   |
|-----|---|-----|---|
| 853 | Racial discrimination against doctors<br>P Moodley and D Bhugra; J N Rao; M R D Johnson;<br>N H V Chong; C L E Katona and M M Robertson;<br>R K Banerjee; F B Beswick | 858 | Publicity and infants' sleeping position<br>E A Mitchell and S Tonkin                               |
| 854 | The fortysomething barrier E Shore  | 858 | Mothers' consent to screening newborn babies for<br>disease H Statham and others                    |
| 854 | Death rate from asthma<br>B D W Harrison; W T Berrill   | 859 | Medical management of Duchenne muscular<br>dystrophy C S B Galasko                                  |
| 854 | Effect of alcohol on asthma J A Talbot  | 859 | Working with adult survivors of child sexual abuse<br>S Bewley                                      |
| 855 | Screening for prostatic cancer<br>R H Harwood; K Lawrence and others;<br>A K Nigam; J S A Green and W B Peeling; S Moss<br>and others; F H Schröder                   | 859 | Mothering skills of women with mental illness<br>S Bourne and others                                |
| 856 | Dangers of long waiting times J C Gingell   | 859 | Screening for hypertrophic cardiomyopathy<br>P S Harper and A J Clarke; G R McLatchie and<br>others |
| 856 | Reducing waiting lists requires more staff<br>J R Heron and others  | 860 | Community dermatology<br>W J Farrell; P Bower; S Allan and others                                   |
| 857 | Waiting time for first outpatient appointment<br>H T O Davies and others  | 861 | Academic obstetrics and gynaecology P Bennett   |
| 857 | Preventing congenital abnormalities<br>S N Huddart and others; P Saunders; A E Czeizel<br>and B Modell  | 861 | Continuing education needed for forensic medical<br>examiners K J B Rix                             |
| 858 | Screening for diabetes during pregnancy<br>C McBride and others   | 861 | Male obstetricians and their patients<br>J M Atkinson   |
| 858 | Management after life threatening events in young<br>children R H Davies  | 861 | <b>Correction</b> Drugs, secrecy, and society<br>(Kilgour-Christie and Watt)                        |

## 862 **Medicopolitical Digest**

Future of general practice · NHS funding problems · Community care assessments · Helping London consultants · Prescribing incentives · GPs' fees and allowances

864 **Soundings** Hospital foyer, evening James Owen Drife; Guns or better health? Tony Smith

865 **Personal View** Overseas doctors training scheme: an unforgettable experience Anonymous

866 **Medicine and the Media** Sun spots Neil P Smith; Waiting for the chance to live Paul A Corris

## 867 **Medicine and Books**

- 867 Irvine Loudon: *The American Way of Birth* (J Mitford)  
 867 Terry Hamblin: *Interleukin-2* (Ed J Waxman, F Balkwill)  
 868 P W Emery: *The Contribution of Nutrition to Human and Animal Health* (Ed E M Widdowson, J C Mathers)  
 868 R L Herbert: *Essentials of Immediate Medical Care* (C J Eaton)

## 869 **Minerva**

## 870 **Minerva Pictures**

### Neglecting the elderly and exploiting the young

The old and the young feature prominently in this week's journal. In the week before community care begins and all junior doctors are supposed to be down to 83 hours a week we look at how the NHS is offering a poor deal to elderly patients and to junior doctors.

Long term beds in the NHS are rapidly disappearing, and John Kellett says that in practice the NHS is abrogating its responsibility to provide long term care to elderly people (p 846). Rather, they are increasingly being cared for in the private sector, and a study from Leicester confirms that those in residential homes need much more care than they did a decade ago (p 827). Professor Grimley Evans points out in an editorial that the present arrangements may mean that one elderly disabled person might be looked after free in an NHS bed while another identically disabled person might be financially bled while being looked after courtesy of "community care" (p 806). Dr Kellett argues the merits of the NHS offering 13 weeks of free treatment and then beginning to charge local authorities about £500 a week: the local authorities would then pass on the charges to those who could pay. The problem of how to pay for long term care for elderly people is likely

to get worse in Britain—and in many other countries.

The deadline for junior doctors to be working only (yes, only) 83 hours a week is likely to be met in most hospitals, on paper at least. But the message from Luisa Dillner's editorial is that getting down to 60 hours a week will demand more fundamental changes (p 807). Another aim of junior doctors is to receive high quality training, and Maureen Baker looks at ways of improving the currently poor educational content of the senior house officer year (p 808).

Young patients as well as young doctors feature in the journal, with a scientifically fascinating paper on how the lung function of children may be influenced by the intrauterine environment and respiratory illness, particularly wheezing, by prematurity (p 817). A letter from New Zealand describes how "red nose days" may have been much more important than publications in scientific journals in discouraging parents from putting their babies to sleep prone (p 858).

Finally, the pictures that appear on the Minerva page have proved so popular with readers and contributors that we will now be running an extra full page of pictures every so often. The first appears today (p 870).

# BMJ

## Editor's Choice