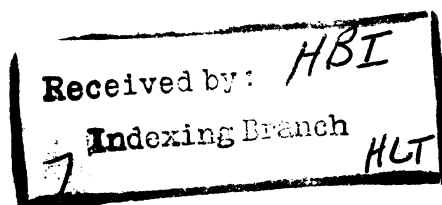


R31. B55

BMJ

1
SATURDAY 30 OCTOBER 1993



BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL NO 6912 VOLUME 307

INTERNATIONAL

Editorials

- 1085 **Socioeconomic differentials in wealth and health** George Davey Smith, Matthias Egger
1086 **Childhood drownings: who is responsible?** Victor F Carey
1087 **Maternal "near miss" reports?** James Owen Drife
1088 **Giftedness** John F Feldhusen
1089 **The latest reorganisation of the NHS** Chris Ham

News

- 1091-1094 **NHS high command • Dutch TB controls • Royal colleges and fundholding • Hungarian health reforms • Australian private health care • India's x ray controls • Radiation and Sellafield cancers**

Papers

- 1095 **Effect of concurrent acute infection with hepatitis C virus on acute hepatitis B virus infection**
Larry T Mimms, James W Mosley, F Blaine Hollinger, Richard D Aach, Cladd E Stevens,
Muriel Cunningham, David V Vallari, Luiz H Barbosa, George J Nemo
1097 **Social deprivation and premature mortality: regional comparison across England**
Margaret Eames, Yoav Ben-Shlomo, M G Marmot
1102 **Stressful life events, social support, and mortality in men born in 1933**
Annika Rosengren, Kristina Orth-Gomér, Hans Wedel, Lars Wilhelmsen
1106 **A randomised controlled trial to test equivalence between retinyl palmitate and β carotene for vitamin A deficiency**
C Carlier, J Coste, M Etchepare, B Périquet, O Amédée-Manesme
1111 **Prediction of osteoporotic fractures by postural instability and bone density**
Tuan Nguyen, Philip Sambrook, Paul Kelly, Graeme Jones, Stephen Lord, Judith Freund, John Eisman
1115 **Influence of social deprivation on illness in diabetic patients**
William F Kelly, Rashad Mahmood, Miranda J Kelly, Steve Turner, Keith Elliott
1116 **Childless women revisited**
Gina Johnson for the South Bedfordshire Practitioners' Group
1117 **Value of radiological follow up of childhood pneumonia**
N A Gibson, A S Hollman, J Y Paton

General Practice

- 1118 **Market penetration of new drugs in one United Kingdom region: implications for general practitioners and administrators**
H McGavock, C H Webb, G D Johnston, E Milligan

Education & Debate

- 1121 **Capitation funding: population, age, and mortality adjustments for regional and district health authorities in England**
James Raftery
1125 **Lesson of the Week: Hypercholesterolaemia: not all cases warrant treatment**
Jane Patmore, Sean Coyle, Richard Jones, Gilbert Wieringa
1126 **Grand Rounds—Hammersmith Hospital: Diabetes and rhabdomyolysis**
G M Lord
1129 **ABC of Emergency Radiology: The shoulder**
D A Nicholson, I Lang, P Hughes, P A Driscoll
1135 **Letter from Serbia and Montenegro: Collapsing health care in Serbia and Montenegro**
Mary E Black

- 1138-1154 **Obituary • Letters • Medicopolitical Digest • Soundings • Medicine and the Media • Personal View • Medicine and Books • Minerva • (in detail overleaf)**

CONTENTS *pages 1138-1154*

1138 Obituary

E A Barker and M Barker, A Kertesz, D A Rees, C A Kendrick, G T M Hayes, S L Gooding, M M Hurst, J MacIntosh

1140 Letters

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1140 Vitamin K and childhood cancer
S J Passmore and others | 1144 Cooperatives and GPs' 24 hour commitment
E M R Reynolds |
| 1140 Caution over journal supplements
P Lurie and others | 1144 Guidelines on sensible drinking are invaluable
B Ritson and J Chick |
| 1141 Surgical castration for sex offenders
N Eastman; W Bingley; N Gandhi and others;
P Joseph | 1145 Liver transplantation in babies R Hopkinson |
| 1141 Urinary tract infection in childhood
A Gennery; A D Short; P M J Wilson;
T L Chambers | 1145 Covert video surveillance of children
G Adshead; S Shepherd; J Fox |
| 1142 Giving intravenous drugs
J Dacre and others; C M Clark and others | 1145 Recommended dose of anti-D immunoglobulin
D Lee |
| 1143 Tuberculosis and poverty
M T Kearney and others | 1146 Deciding who should have thrombolysis
K S Channer |
| 1143 Deregulating emergency contraception
L Mascarenhas; S Rowlands and others;
R Sockanathan | 1146 Whistleblowers P G Baddeley |
| 1144 Primary care and public health
L Parsons and others; D R Hannay | 1146 Smoking and benign breast cancer
J A Thomas and others; J M Dixon and others |
| | 1147 GPs' role and recognition
N J Sharvill; J H K Fitton; P McCartney |
| | 1147 Royal Medical Benevolent Fund's Christmas
appeal J Barnes |
| | 1147 Failure of the new deal on juniors' hours
M Porter |

1148 Medicopolitical Digest

Violent patients · More money for patient care · Managed change in London · GP reaccréditation · Out of hours cover

1149 Soundings I love it when you talk commas James Owen Drife; The charity scam Tony Smith

1150 Medicine and the Media

The soul is bolted to the body Alexander Dorozynski; Rights and responsibilities Jennifer Gray

1151 Personal view Trusting in our carers' judgment Anthony McCluskey

1152 Medicine and Books

- 1152 C D Marsden: *Movement Disorders in Neurology and Neuropsychiatry* (Ed A B Joseph, R R Young)
1152 Tom Woodcock: *Sedation and Analgesia* (G R Park, F Gempeler)
1153 J A W Wildsmith: *Percutaneous Local Anaesthesia* (David Woolfson, Dermot McCafferty)
1153 Alex Paton: *Threats Without Enemies. Facing Environmental Insecurity* (Ed Gwyn Prins)

1154 Minerva

Instructions to authors appeared in the issue of 2 January 1993, p 55

We're all social engineers now

Social engineering got a bad name because of the unintended adverse consequences of well intentioned actions. But there's plenty of evidence in this week's journal that social engineering is alive and well (under the guise of politics, marketing, public health, charity) —and still producing unintended consequences. A couple of papers on social deprivation (pp 1097 and 1115) provide further data on the association between deprivation and ill health and early mortality. In their accompanying editorial George Davey Smith and Matthias Egger show how increasing disparities in mortality have paralleled the increasing disparity in material wellbeing over the past decade in Britain (p 1085). Although acknowledging that the causes of socioeconomic differentials in health are complex, they also point out that the association between income and mortality is consistent across time and place.

In another editorial Victor Carey argues for the benefits of social engineering—this time in the context of preventing childhood drownings: passive safety measures, such as fences round pools, are, he argues, an important part of prevention (p 1086). Otherwise, unrealistic exhortations to parents to "be careful" serve only to attribute blame. Tony Smith too thinks that society/state provision is the only answer for services such as health and education: "a return to charitable

funding is a return to nineteenth century inequalities and chaos" (p 1149). In her account of the appalling conditions in the hospitals of Belgrade, Kóvin, and Budva, Mary Black shows what happens when society's functions break down almost completely (p 1135). The state of the hospitals is a direct consequence of economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro, she claims.

This week's issue also has reminders of two continuing scientific debates: the Health and Safety Executive has weighed in with another piece of evidence on Sellafield and radiation (p 1094), and in the letters columns S J Passmore and colleagues consider recent conflicting studies on whether vitamin K causes childhood cancer (p 1140). They suggest that exposure to vitamin K needs to be verified by consulting records and not just assumed; studies currently under way should, they hope, settle the issue.

And, finally, something for the social engineers of the future. Analysing data from Bedfordshire and elsewhere over the past few decades the South Bedfordshire Practitioners' Group has concluded that childlessness (much of it voluntary) seems to be increasing among British women (p 1116). This, they suggest, "has important implications for British society."

BMJ
Editor's
Choice

© British Medical Journal 1993.
All Rights Reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any other means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without prior permission, in writing, of the British Medical Journal.

US second class postage paid at Rahway, NJ. Postmaster: send address changes to: BMJ, c/o Mercury Airfreight International Ltd Inc, 2323 Randolph Avenue, Avenel, NJ 07001, USA.
US (direct) subscription \$250.00.

Published by the proprietors, the British Medical Association, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Printed by BPC Magazines (Milton Keynes) Ltd, Milton Keynes. Typesetting by Bedford Typesetters Ltd, Bedford. Registered as a newspaper.