



<b>Editorials</b>	1573	<p><b>How to improve monitoring and forecasting of disease patterns</b> Ronald E Laporte <i>Techniques for forecasting disease patterns are outdated but could be improved by learning from weather forecasting</i></p> <p><b>AIDS: global lessons from a global epidemic</b> Jonathan Mann, Mary E Wilson <i>We haven't learnt from AIDS about how to counter the next epidemic</i></p> <p><b>Poor children in rich countries</b> Martin McKee <i>Countries with an Anglo-American culture pursue very different social and economic policies than countries with a continental European culture—and children are the big loser</i></p> <p><b>Refugee children</b> D P Southall, Mary E Black <i>Refugee children have many problems—host countries should have policies for helping them before they arrive</i></p> <p><b>Left handedness</b> Bryan S Turner <i>Long associated with evil and weakness, left handedness is now linked with a reduced life span</i></p> <p><b>The knowledge disease</b> Graham Hills <i>A little knowledge is a dangerous thing; more knowledge may be even more dangerous</i></p>
<b>A little science</b>	<p>1579</p> <p>1582</p> <p>1584</p> <p>1587</p> <p>1588</p>	<p><b>Was Young's syndrome caused by exposure to mercury in childhood?</b> W F Hendry, R P A'Hern, P J Cole <i>Pink disease of childhood (pain and swelling of the extremities, pink colouring, and failure to thrive), which disappeared after teething powders that contained mercury were banned in 1955, may be linked with Young's syndrome (chronic sinusitis and bronchitis or bronchiectasis with obstructive azoospermia), which is disappearing in men born after 1955</i></p> <p><b>Multicentre randomised double blind crossover trial on contamination of conventional ties and bow ties in routine obstetric and gynaecological practice</b> Marinko M Biljan, Charles A Hart, Deborah Sunderland, Paul R Manasse, Charles R Kingsland <i>Bow ties are worn by a few obstetricians who believe that they are more hygienic than conventional ties. They may or may not be</i></p> <p><b>Is Friday the 13th bad for your health?</b> T J Scanlon, Robert N Luben, F L Scanlon, Nicola Singleton <i>People shop as much as ever but drive less on Friday the 13th. Even so, the risk of a road accident may be 50% higher</i></p> <p><b>The Midas touch?</b> Peter A U Twiddy <i>General practitioner trainees bring in so much through fees and allowances and cost so little that they are (almost) worth their weight in gold</i></p> <p><b>Urine culture in the diagnosis of colovesical fistula</b> A Sandison, P A Jones <i>Growing tomatoes from urine is good evidence for an enterovesical fistula</i></p>
<b>Bits of history</b>	<p>1589</p> <p>1592</p> <p>1595</p>	<p><b>Charcot and his visits to Britain</b> Raymond Hierons <i>Charcot may not have been such a swine as history records. What's more, he loved the English language, enjoyed visiting Britain, and even attended BMA meetings</i></p> <p><b>Medical women in the first world war—ranking nowhere</b> Leah Leneman <i>When war broke out in 1914, women doctors volunteering were told to "go home and sit still." In fact they were urgently needed and gave excellent service. But after the war Winston Churchill was still not willing to let them be commissioned; they had to wait for the next war</i></p> <p><b>A summons to Carthage, December 1943</b> J G Scadding <i>Winston Churchill was said by his biographer, Lord Moran, to have savaged John Scadding in North Africa during the last war. Professor Scadding remembers it differently</i></p>
<b>The last continent</b>	<p>1597</p> <p>1599</p>	<p><b>Alexander Hepburne Macklin: physician, polar explorer, and pioneer</b> I D Levack, S W McGowan <i>Macklin was the medical officer on Shackleton's attempted crossing of Antarctica, an expedition that became one of the most remarkable triumphs of group survival</i></p> <p><b>Walking across Antarctica</b> Fiona Godlee <i>After three months of extreme hardship, Mike Stroud and Ranulph Fiennes were picked up more dead than alive, having completed the longest ever journey unsupported by men, animals, or machines and the first unsupported crossing of Antarctica. Why did they do it?</i></p>

Sporting chance	1602	<b>The dangers of sledging</b> J R Silver <i>Sledging, particularly after drinking alcohol, can be extremely dangerous</i>
	1603	<b>A commission of lunacy, mad doctors, and happy hunting</b> D B E C Gill <i>A novel published in 1854 contains a vivid account of the legal proceedings taken against a person to relieve him of the conduct of his affairs and his liberty on the grounds of mental unfitness. The hero—and victim—is John Jorrocks, Master of Foxhounds</i>
	1606	<b>A Christmas tale</b> Graham M Hunter <i>Hardened by years of daily swimming in the sea and helped by a minor miracle, an octogenarian survived after finding that his clothes and car keys were locked inside the car after a swim on Christmas Eve</i>
	1607	<b>Cycling for health: forty years ago</b> O L Wade <i>To obtain information on cardiac output in normal subjects during exercise, the research team volunteered for catheterisation—and when it was finished stayed to help with data analysis</i>
Far away . . .	1609	<b>Mongolia: a health system in transition</b> S Manaseki <i>Today Mongolia is not a backward remnant of Genghis Khan's era but a progressive culture with one of the highest ratios of doctors to population in Asia and a positive view towards Western medicine</i>
	1611	<b>Travelling as a doctor</b> Christopher J K Bulstrode <i>If medicine seems to be a ticket to go anywhere in the world, take along the seven lessons learnt by this doctor in your luggage</i>
	1613	<b>Gumboots at the Christmas party</b> Duncan Curr <i>Anyone who's anybody is at the Mosvold Hospital Christmas party. Prayers are in Zulu, the whole room sways to a favourite hymn, and then the entertainment begins</i>
	1614	<b>Information sharing: getting journals and books to developing countries</b> Trish Groves <i>Free and affordable health information can be sent to developing countries through several schemes, but in the long run rich countries can help poorer ones best by encouraging and sustaining good indigenous research and publishing</i>
. . . and long ago	1618	<b>Christmas 1937 in the children's ward</b> John A T Duncan <i>A 4 year old suddenly taken to hospital with diphtheria found the isolation from his parents bewildering but remembers Santa Claus</i>
	1619	<b>Getting started</b> W E Holmes <i>"My rival had good cause to hate me. One day, on the road in front of my house, he shouted at me, saying that I had no right to call myself a doctor." One of the difficulties of starting in general practice in the 1920s</i>
	1621	<b>Hillingdon County Hospital 1930-3</b> R G Macbeth <i>The dail tramps' parade was a highlight at a former poor law infirmary. Even more interesting was when a young German woman arrived on a bicycle with a dog, an accordion, and a monkey. The hospital had no system for monkeys and so registered it as a child called Jacko Schmidt</i>
Looking ahead	1623	<b>Big Brother is looking after your health</b> Richard Turner <i>The technology available now could be put together to eliminate—almost—the need for primary care</i>
	1624	<b>Consultatio epistulae—the way forward?</b> M C Walker, J W A S Sander <i>Should we be wasting patients' time by requiring them to attend outpatient clinics when a simple questionnaire would do as well?</i>
Watch your language	1626	<b>Ensuring the robustness of targeted briefs</b> Barbara Ghodse, Elizabeth Rang <i>Are frontline managers working top down or bottom up? The essentials of the new NHS-speak (see p 1596 for the related competition)</i>
	1627	<b>Paradigm, parameter, paralysis of mind</b> Neville W Goodman <i>Choosing the right word, rather than the easy option or the current favourite, makes for clear writing and good communication</i>
The political and the personal	1630	<b>Deprivation and health</b> Douglas Black <i>As medical student Douglas Black saw barefoot children in Dundee. Now he argues that the recurrence of monetarism has created evils that should have been relegated to history</i>
	1631	<b>Metachromatic leukodystrophy: two sides of a coin</b> Robert Jeffrey, Alison Jeffrey <i>Parents' accounts of their child's progressive illness. "Wishing for it all to be over—for the child and the family—yet being unable to say goodbye are not irreconcilable alternatives"</i>
Photo finish	1633	<b>Clearly bilingual • A new type of cowpox? • All in a flash • Unwelcome passenger • Dangers of bathtubs • A shot in the dark • Undressing for x rays</b>
Cover		<b>Cover story: Kitaj's "Heart Attack"</b> (See p 1616) Tony Delamothe
Fillers		<b>Wood engravings by Alan Woodruff</b> (p 1594, 1608, 1629) Katy: six months old Chris Woods (p 1632)