⁶Calnan M, Johnson B. Understanding non-compliance with cancer education. Public education about cancer, UICC, TRS, 76, 1983.

⁷Foster RS, *et al.* The value of breast self-examination. *New Engl J Med* 1978; **299**: 265–70.

C Flaherty, J Philip, W G Harris, and C A F Joslin

⁸Hugeley CM, Brown RL. Breast self-examination practice and breast cancer stage. *Cancer* 1981; **47**: 989–95.

⁹Your Life in Your Hands. Film, WNCCC, 1977.

Letter to the Editor

Antinuclear appeal from workers in preventive cardiology

SIR—Your readers may have noticed the appearance of a paid advertisement in the *American Journal of Epidemiology*, which resulted from the efforts of more than 1000 epidemiologists and preventive cardiologists from 67 countries joining in an appeal from the international physicians for prevention of nuclear war and calling on leaders of the five nations now known to possess nuclear weapons to end the dangerous futile, and costly arms race.

Nuclear war has justly been called the final epidemic. Those of us who have made our life work epidemiology and preventive cardiology—to create a scientific foundation for the prevention of epidemic disease in our field—are deeply troubled that the

continued nuclear arms race threatens to bring this final epidemic to pass. We who are dedicated to prevention must do everything humanly possible to prevent such a holocaust.

Signers of the appeal have asked the initiators of this effort to bring this action to the attention of the medical community and urge that others add their voices expressing our professional concern at the unprecedented threat to life and health posed by nuclear weapons.

If any readers of your journal wish to support this action, they should write to:

International Physicians for Prevention of Nuclear War

Attention: Dr Thomas Chalmers

225 Longwood Avenue

Boston, Massachusetts 02115, USA

WALTER W HOLLAND

St Thomas's Hospital Medical School

London SE1