

# BRITISH JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE & SOCIAL MEDICINE

## *EDITORIAL BOARD*

J. KNOWELDEN (*Editor*)

H. CAMPBELL and A. H. SNAITH (*Assistant Editors*)

A. L. COCHRANE  
P. FROGGATT  
J. A. HEADY  
M. A. HEASMAN

R. E. HOPE-SIMPSON  
MARGOT JEFFERY'S  
G. MCLACHLAN  
K. RAWNSLEY

D. D. REID  
G. ROSE  
M. D. WARREN  
A. WILLIAMS

EDITOR *British Medical Journal*

C. R. LOWE      }  
T. W. MEADE      } representing the SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE

JENNIFER ORTON (*Technical Editor*)

### Policies of the Office of Population Censuses and Surveys: philosophy and constraints

A. M. ADELSTEIN .. . . . .	.. . . . .	1
----------------------------	------------	---

### A review of the National Health Service's computing policy in the 1970s

M. ALDERSON .. . . . .	.. . . . .	11
------------------------	------------	----

### Malignancy in relatives of patients with coeliac disease

P. L. STOKES, P. PRIOR, T. M. SORAHAN, R. J. MCWALTER, J. A. H. WATERHOUSE, AND W. T. COOKE .. . . . .	.. . . . .	17
---	------------	----

### Seasonal distribution of Henoch-Schönlein purpura

S. R. ATKINSON AND D. J. P. BARKER .. . . . .	.. . . . .	22
---	------------	----

### Anencephalus, spina bifida, twins, and teratoma

S. C. ROGERS .. . . . .	.. . . . .	26
-------------------------	------------	----

### Twinning and anencephalus occurrence in relation to fetus-fetus interaction

J. M. ELWOOD .. . . . .	.. . . . .	29
-------------------------	------------	----

### Area differences in the incidence of neural tube defect and the rate of spontaneous abortion

J. FEDRICK AND P. ADELSTEIN .. . . . .	.. . . . .	32
--	------------	----

### Trace elements in water and congenital malformations of the central nervous system in South Wales

M. S. MORTON, P. C. ELWOOD, AND M. ABERNETHY .. . . . .	.. . . . .	36
---	------------	----

### Screening for spina bifida cystica: a cost-benefit analysis

S. HAGARD, F. CARTER, AND R. G. MILNE .. . . . .	.. . . . .	40
--	------------	----

### Cost-effectiveness of two methods of screening for asymptomatic bacteriuria

G. RICH, N. J. GLASS, AND J. B. SELKON .. . . . .	.. . . . .	54
---	------------	----

### Maintenance of weight loss in obese subjects

A. E. BENDER AND D. A. BENDER .. . . . .	.. . . . .	60
--	------------	----

### Incidence and variables contributing to onset of cigarette smoking among secondary school-children and medical students in Lagos, Nigeria

O. O. ELEGBELEYE AND D. FEMI-PEARSE .. . . . .	.. . . . .	66
--	------------	----

## BRITISH JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE AND SOCIAL MEDICINE

The Journal is primarily concerned with the problems of public health and their solution. The field of interest includes studies of the distribution and behaviour of disease in human populations; the definition of the agents responsible for the patterns observed; the consideration of the modifying effect of social or environmental conditions on disease evolution; and the assessment of the health and efficiency of people exposed to various external circumstances. Linked with these subjects is the design of measures intended to control or prevent disease and the field assessment of their value in public health practice. Preventive and Social Medicine also encompasses the objective study of the organization and functioning of medical services with particular emphasis on the measurement of their efficiency. Papers are accepted on their scientific originality and general interest, and ethical considerations will be taken into account.

### NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

#### COMMUNICATIONS

Papers, which will be accepted on the understanding that they have not been and will not be published elsewhere, and are subject to editorial revision, should be addressed to The Editor, *British Journal of Preventive and Social Medicine*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

The Editors cannot undertake correspondence about papers returned as unsuitable on the advice of members of the Editorial Board.

The author should make adequate reference to previous work on his subject, and provide a full summary of his observations and conclusions.

Articles must be typewritten on one side of the paper only in double spacing with ample margins.

All measurements should be expressed in SI units and authors are referred to *J. clin. Path.*, 27, 590.

#### ILLUSTRATIONS

These should be marked on the back with the author's name and the top edge indicated. Photographs should be printed on glossy paper, and should be a little larger than the size desired for reproduction. Graphs, charts, and tables should be presented on separate sheets apart from the text. Except letters and numbers, which should be lightly written in pencil, diagrams should be drawn in black ink on tracing linen, Bristol board, or smooth white paper.

#### REFERENCES

In the text, the year of publication must follow the author's name, more than one paper by the same author in any one year being indicated by a letter (a, b, c.) after the date. References should not be numbered or given in footnotes, but should be listed at the end in alphabetical order of authors' names as follows: Author's name and initials, year of publication (in parentheses), title of article,

title of periodical (in italics, abbreviated as in *World Medical Periodicals*, 3rd ed., 1961 BMA), volume number (bold type, Arabic), first page number (ordinary type, Arabic), thus:

Rose, G. (1968). Variability of angina. *Brit. J. prev. soc. Med.*, 22, 12.

For books the author's name and initials, year (in parentheses), full title, edition and page number, publisher, and place of publication should be given.

References will not be checked by the editorial office, as responsibility for the accuracy and completeness of references lies with the author.

#### PROOFS

Contributors will receive one proof, and should read it carefully for printers' errors, and check the tables, figures, legends, and any numerical, mathematical, or other scientific expressions. Alterations to the original text should be kept to a minimum.

#### REPRINTS

Twenty-five reprints will be supplied free of charge. A limited number of additional reprints may be ordered from the Publishing Manager when the proofs are returned.

**COPYRIGHT © 1976 by the British Journal of Preventive and Social Medicine.** This publication is copyright under the Berne Convention and the International Copyright Convention. All rights reserved. Apart from any relaxations permitted under national copyright laws, no part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means without the prior permission of the copyright owners. Permission is not, however, required to copy abstracts of papers or of articles on condition that a full reference to the source is shown. Multiple copying of the contents of the publication without permission is always illegal.

### NOTICE TO ADVERTISERS

Applications for advertisement space and for rates should be addressed to the Advertisement Manager, *British Journal of Preventive and Social Medicine*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

### NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS

The *British Journal of Preventive and Social Medicine* is published quarterly. The annual subscription rate by surface mail is £12·00 in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland, and £13·00 (USA \$32) in all countries overseas. Payment for overseas subscriptions should be made in sterling, i.e. £13·00, and sent by Mail Transfer (*Charges Remitter*) through a bank to the British Medical Association. Orders can also be placed locally through any leading subscription agent or bookseller. For the convenience of readers in the USA subscription orders, with or without payment, can be sent to: BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL, 1172 Commonwealth Avenue, Boston, Mass 02134. All inquiries, however, must be addressed to the publisher in London. All inquiries regarding air mail rates and single copies already published should be addressed to the publisher in London.

# BRITISH JOURNAL OF PREVENTIVE & SOCIAL MEDICINE

## EDITORIAL BOARD

J. KNOWELDEN (*Editor*)

H. CAMPBELL AND A. H. SNAITH (*Assistant Editors*)

A. L. COCHRANE

R. E. HOPE-SIMPSON

D. D. REID

P. FROGGATT

MARGOT JEFFREYS

G. ROSE

J. A. HEADY

G. MCLACHLAN

M. D. WARREN

M. A. HEASMAN

K. RAWNSLEY

A. WILLIAMS

EDITOR *British Medical Journal*

C. R. LOWE  
T. W. MEADE

} representing the SOCIETY FOR SOCIAL MEDICINE

JENNIFER ORTON (*Technical Editor*)

VOLUME 30

1976