CORRESPONDENCE

Neglect of sports medicine F A d'Abreu, FRCS.....	118	Cervical smears D G H Sylvester, MD; O A N Husain, FRCPATH.....	122	Beta-blockers and lipid metabolism A Nilsson, MD, and others.....	126
Penicillin-resistant gonococci S Selwyn, MD, and M Bakhtiar, DPHARM...	118	Anaesthetic waste gas scavenging systems S Mehta, FFARCS.....	123	Psychotropic drugs and road accidents D P Wheatley, MD.....	126
Treatment of children with diarrhoea and vomiting D A McCredie, FRACP.....	119	Effect of antihypertensive drugs on growth hormone secretion C Ferrari, MD, and others.....	123	Takayasu's disease and giant cell arteritis —a single disease? S A Cairns, MRCP, and S Oleesky, FRCP....	127
How dangerous is obesity? J Womersley, MB.....	119	Hospital inpatient provision for patients with dementia J H Baron, FRCP.....	124	Diagnosing familial hypercholesterol- aemia in childhood D J Betteridge, MRCP, and others.....	127
Motorcyclists' injuries J G Avery, MFCM.....	119	Wound sepsis: effect of incidental appendicectomy A V Pollock, FRCS, and Mary Evans, BA....	124	Phenothiazine resistance D L M McNeill, MRCPsych.....	127
Fellows of the Royal Society L Mary Pickford, MRCS, FRCS.....	119	Use of ritodrine in pregnant diabetics T C G Smith, MB.....	124	Reviving the hospital necropsy J G Benstead, MD.....	128
Shortage of anaesthetists J L Craven, FRCS; J P Alexander, FFARCS; P A Casey, MD; T R Austin, FFARCS.....	120	Lithium carbonate in schizoaffective states A J H McGennis, MRCPsych.....	124	Concentration of thyroxine-binding globulin and the Thyopac-3 test M C Davies, BSC, and H Allison, FRCPATH..	128
How effective is measles immunisation? M D Coulter, MB, and B M Jones, MB.....	120	Microsomal enzymes in malnutrition I T Gilmore, MRCP, and R P H Thompson, DM.....	124	Comparison of treatment with fast neutrons and photons W M Ross, FRCR.....	128
Commitment to oncology R G B Evans, FRCR, and others.....	121	Management of hypertension R M E Stone, BM.....	125	Prevention and health I M Richardson, FRCGP.....	128
Breath, alcohol, and the law B M Wright, MB.....	121	Drug compliance in hypertensive patients D A Persoff, MRCP, and Elaine Mason, BPharm.....	125	Women in medicine Anne J White, MB; Bridget C Rennie, MB...	128
MRC treatment trial for mild hypertension R W D Turner, FRCP.....	121	Learnt voluntary control of the heart J Shackleton Bailey, MRCS.....	125	Preferred prescribing penalised J N Stenhouse, MB.....	129
Severe thrombophlebitis with Praxilene J Chamberlain, FRCSed; W Morris-Jones, FRCS.....	121	Sulphinpyrazone in acute stuttering hemiparesis G D O Lowe, MRCP, and R V Johnston, MRCP.....	125	A confidence trick E S Field, FRCS.....	129
Vitamin D "resistance" and the bioavailability of calciferol tablets C R Paterson, DM.....	122	Colony-forming cells and myeloblasts in chronic granulocytic leukaemia J M Goldman, MRCP, and others.....	125	Resignation by profession M A Gilbert, MRCGP.....	129
Epilepsy and drowning in childhood B G R Neville, MRCP.....	122	Alternatives to medicine T L Jones, BA.....	126	Seniority allowance and large restricted lists R M Whittington, BM.....	129
Combination chemotherapy in metastatic breast cancer W Mattson, MD; I H McIntosh, FRCS, and others.....	122			Foreign graduates' entry to general practice J B Davis, MD.....	129
				Administrative obstructionism R L L Simmons, MRCOG.....	129
				National insurance contributions M S Hall, FRCGP.....	129

Correspondents are urged to write briefly so that readers may be offered as wide a selection of letters as possible. So many are being received that the omission of some is inevitable. Letters should be signed personally by all their authors.

Neglect of sports medicine

SIR,—Your leading article on "Rugby injuries to the cervical cord" (18 June, p 1556), will, I hope, be read and studied by all those interested in sports medicine. There is far less official notice taken of unacceptable injuries in rugby than in boxing and horse racing.¹ In these two sports all serious injuries have to be reported to the governing bodies and it is comparatively easy to compile annual statistics proving the efficacy of preventive measures instituted as a result of a study of these figures.

I do not feel that the figures quoted in your article, in the absence of compulsory notification of serious injuries in rugby to a national authority, give a complete picture of the unacceptable injuries in amateur rugby football, though such figures are obtainable for professional rugby. It is evident also that your article contains no figures at all for English rugby, and I cannot but feel, as you do, that exact figures from Wales, Scotland, Ireland, and South Africa are hard to find and are by no means complete.

Your article highlights the necessity for the appointment of properly qualified medical

advisers to the various governing bodies in sport at a national level, with the authority to recommend measures to cut down, if not eliminate, the incidence of unacceptable injuries and death. Great Britain is the only member country of the EEC which has no centre for training in sports medicine in spite of the directive of the Council of Ministers of the EEC on 26 October 1973 that all countries in the European Community should establish these. It is perhaps high time that the Minister for Sport takes action in this matter to bring us in line with other nations.

FRANK D'ABREU

London NW1

¹ d'Abreu, F A, *Lancet*, 1976, 1, 1241.

Penicillin-resistant gonococci

SIR,—Your leading article on the control of penicillinase-producing gonococci (25 June, p 1618) was both timely and informative. A misleading impression may, however, be given

by the unqualified statement that cefuroxime is effective for treatment. This implies that the antibiotic is actually available for treatment, but it is in fact still at the stage of clinical trials. Moreover, the manufacturers (Glaxo Laboratories Ltd) can give no information about the date when the antibiotic is to be released for general use.

Of the available β -lactam antibiotics, two— which you do not mention—retain full activity against penicillinase-producing gonococci. Cephalexin was shown by Percival *et al*¹ to inhibit large inocula of penicillin-resistant gonococci at a concentration of 2.5 mg/l whereas the equivalent concentrations for cephaloridine, cloxacillin, and benzylpenicillin were 50, 50, and >250 mg/l respectively. Cephalexin was also found to be at least four times as active as cephaloridine against penicillin-sensitive strains. Phillips *et al*² have, however, shown cephradine to be even more active than cephalexin against penicillin-sensitive strains, but as they used small inocula of gonococci their results appeared inconclusive for the more resistant organisms. We have shown that cephradine is even more stable than cephalexin in the presence of the TEM type of β -lactamase (penicillinase),³ which the most resistant gonococci produce,³ and cephradine also has the advantage of being available in injectable as well as oral formulations. We therefore await with interest the results of clinical studies using cephradine