

written. In August 1980 a White Paper entitled 'Special needs in education' was presented to Parliament by the Secretary for Education and Science, and this stated that the Government does not propose to bring into force section 10 of the Education Act 1976 because it would entail perpetuating the concept of categories of disability, and would give no opportunity for the expression of parental preference. Circular HN (80) 23, which deals with the intended new legislation, should be studied by all paediatricians.

#### Reference

- <sup>1</sup> Rosenbloom L. Should handicapped children attend ordinary schools? *Arch Dis Child* 1980; **55**: 581-2.

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Dr Rosenbloom comments:

I thank Dr Graham for her clarification of the current Government proposals in respect of the integration of handicapped children into ordinary schools; the White Paper to which she refers was unpublished when my

annotation went to press. However, it should be pointed out that although it is not now intended to implement section 10 of the Education Act 1976 (for the reasons stated by Dr Graham) the Government agrees with the principle of integration and modified legislation to this effect is proposed. I think there may be more important priorities in special education, and I believe that this is given extra credence by the acknowledgement in the White Paper that, even at best, no extra resources have been made available for the implementation of the recommendations set out in the Warnock Report.<sup>1</sup>

Paediatricians may not know that in Circular HN (80) 23 they, and other Health Service personnel, are invited to comment on the proposals contained in the White Paper; it is important that anyone who has handicapped children as patients should study these.

#### Reference

- <sup>1</sup> Warnock M, chairman. *Special educational needs. Report of the Committee of Enquiry into the Education of Handicapped Children and Young People*. London: HMSO, 1978.

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### British Paediatric Association

#### Annual meetings

1981	7-11 April	York University
1982	20-24 April	Aviemore Centre, Scotland
1983	12-16 April	York University
1984	10-14 April	York University
1985	16-20 April	York University