

Archives of Disease in Childhood

Editorial Committee

Editors: Bernard Valman and Malcolm Chiswick

Associate Editors: David Milner, Richard Robinson,
Michael Silverman, and Brian Wharton

D P Addy
A G M Campbell
M J Dillon
I M Hann
M J R Healy
I A Hughes
D I Johnston

J W Keeling
J V Leonard
J K Lloyd
S P Lock
N McIntosh
P J Milla
E R Moxon

P O D Pharoah
L Polnay
N Richman
L Spitz
M J Tarlow
J F N Taylor
R M Winter

Technical Editor: Sue Heels

Editorial Assistant: Jacinta Marshall

Notes to Contributors

Papers for publication should be sent to the Editors, *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR and should be prepared in accordance with the 'Instructions to authors' published in the January and June issues of the journal. Copies of these instructions may be obtained from the editorial office on receipt of a stamped addressed envelope.

Notice to Advertisers

Applications for advertising space and rates should be made to the Advertisement Manager, *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR.

Notice to Subscribers

Archives of Disease in Childhood is published monthly. The annual subscription rates are £98 inland and £115 overseas (USA \$165). Orders should be sent to the Subscription Manager, *Archives of Disease in Childhood*, BMA House, Tavistock Square, London WC1H 9JR. Orders can also be placed with any leading subscription agent or bookseller. (For the convenience of readers in the USA subscription orders, with or without payment, may also be sent to *British Medical Journal*, Box

560B, Kennebunkport, Maine 04046. All enquiries, however, must be addressed to the publisher in London.)

Subscribers may pay for their subscriptions by Access, Visa, or American Express by quoting on their order the credit or charge card preferred together with the appropriate personal account number and the expiry date of the card.

All enquiries regarding air mail rates and single copies already published should be addressed to the publisher in London.

COPYRIGHT © 1989 by *Archives of Disease in Childhood*. 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 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 without permission is always illegal.

Participation

The average monthly response rate (proportion of cards returned 90 days after each mailing) was 89% (range 77% in South East Scotland to 100% in East Anglia) for the first quarter of 1988, compared with 90% for the previous quarter; 10 regions achieved 90% or more.

The BPSU continues to receive proposals for inclusion of new surveys. Notes to assist research workers in the preparation of a submission are available from the BPSU office. The Medical Coordinator can be consulted informally on proposed projects by telephone or letter.

Comment

Both the numbers of cases ascertained and the 'queue' of proposals for new surveys are measures of the usefulness of the BPSU as a research methodology. The two retrospective surveys mentioned above yielded information on cases either not previously ascertained through an existing, passive methodology (congenital rubella) or not readily available through routine national statistics (rheumatic fever).

Although more studies could clearly be accommodated if the number of reportable conditions were increased from the existing 12, a survey of respondents' views recently conducted through BPA Regional Representatives suggested (13 out of 16 replies received) that such an increase would be unwelcome. The BPSU Executive Committee (formerly the Scientific Advisory Committee) is seeking ways of resolving this dilemma.

Sir Peter Tizard retired from his position as Chairman of the BPSU Executive Committee in September 1988. Sir Peter's wisdom and experience have guided the development of the Unit from its earliest days to its current thriving position. He is succeeded by Professor J D Baum.

References

- ¹ Hall SM, Glickman M. The British Paediatric Surveillance Unit. *Arch Dis Child* 1988;63:344-6.
- ² Hall SM, Glickman M. Report from the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit. *Arch Dis Child* 1988;63:1117-8.

S M HALL
BPSU Medical Coordinator
and M GLICKMAN
BPSU Administrator

Archives of Disease in Childhood

You are invited to meet the editors on Tuesday 11 April 1989 at 9.15 pm at the Annual Meeting of the British Paediatric Association. The speakers will be Malcolm Chiswick on how papers are assessed and Bernard Valman on how the final decision is made.