

ability to decide the sex of one's children, the availability of effective contraceptives, or the manipulation of internal states by

Why do I sit here with all my 30 odd years grouchy complaining that things ain't gonna be what they were? Is it a failure of nerve? An inability to look the future in the eye

There is at least one profoundly hopeful movement occurring in the hard sciences that I think will ultimately both help us to look at the universe more optimistically and have direct relevance

It is rooted in thermodynamics its implications are relevant for medicine just as its implications are relevant for astrophysics, ecology, and neurophysiology.

tion of evolving systems—for example, embryogenesis, growth and development, and family dynamics—and provide us with

Since healing, be it of tissues or psyche, is self organisation par excellence autonomy and the space to work out one's own

References

- 1. Lifton R, Falk J. *Indefensible weapons*. New York: Basic Books, 1982.
2. Prigogine I. *From being to becoming*. San Francisco: W H Freeman, 1980.
3. Jaynes E. *Thinking without a brain. Evolution and consciousness*. London: Addison-Wesley, 1976.
4. Jaynes E. *The self-organizing universe*. Oxford: Pergamon, 1980.
5. Wilson HR. *Mathematical models in rural case*. In: Haken H, ed. *Cooperative effects*. Oxford: North Holland, 1974.

STUDENT DRESS IN 1817 IN BRISTOL. In The Biographical Memoirs: Bristol Infirmary (Vol XI, p 130) there is a letter from the students to the honorary staff. It concerns the customary dress the students

say, I can do nothing for you. POOR WOMAN (with her hand half-concealed, nailing a sovereign between her finger and thumb). I wish, Sir, you would please to look at it. If it was only for a moment; it would be

MEDICAL ADMIRATOR An old physician, on being asked his opinion of a new remedy, that was praised for its extraordinary virtues in a certain disease, very gravely replied: "Depêchez-vous de vous en servir, pendant qu'il est bon!" As severe, but well merited censure on the fond credulity, not of the public only, but also of many medical men.

CHARITY AND DECEIT. Scene—Out-patient's Receiving Room in an Hospital, near a hundred miles from Smilhfield. Present—STURGEON, NURSES, PATIENTS. A POOR CREATED WOMAN (addressing the Surgeon).

work load upon the normal routine running of the practice, and though our system was geared to managing without one doctor

with whom we could happily live and work, who would fill the niche left by our partner, and who had at least one interest

Our shortage of 10 reduced itself to eight because two that we had selected obtained partnerships elsewhere. The eight whom we interviewed were shown the practice and taken to lunch.

Having reviewed the necessary number of partners, the pressure was relieved and we were able to move into our new surgery with optimism. Fears of discovering mistakes had just

Selecting a new partner

Selecting a new partner to fit into our practice routine was the next step in our rehabilitation. Choosing from 100 applicants, all well qualified and vocationally trained, brought us the widest

Overlapping with General Practice

Advice bureau

BRIDGET GREEVES

Against one wall sit a girl with a new baby crying on her knee, a middle aged man with "unemployed" stamped all over him,

are five in Tottenham—although there is a sometimes obtrusive telephone on the desk and occasionally a student sitting in

No need to advertise

Why do they come to our bureau? It is clear enough when it is about claims of unfair dismissal from warning letter to industrial tribunal, which take up much of our time, as do

Tottenham Advice Bureau, 296 High Road, London N18 4AJ BRIDGET GREEVES, MA, diploma in social work, London 402, GRAD

Thinking About the Unthinkable

Death of a partner

R J R LEWIS

My mother used to tell me that the recipe for a happy and successful marriage was to ensure that you marry your best friend. A successful partnership requires a similar duct. Twenty

and we knew that it was only a few months before we would take possession of the keys and move in.

Each of the partners had interests outside the practice, so that we never wanted to play tennis, golf, sail, motor cycle, or climb mountains all at the same time. Only two of the partners

We watched the practice grow from a two man set up to its present size of six; indeed, we had had only one new partner in nine years until 18 months ago when because of the rapid

All systems shut down

Two months before the appointed time of moving into our new surgery, when we were looking forward to this happy event

Many hours were spent travelling to look at other buildings and talking to doctors about their ideas, and many more hours were spent arguing and discussing among ourselves about the

The next day while I was sitting in the Saturday morning surgery a voice over the telephone calmly announced that our

William, Taunton, Somerset TA4 4QE R J R LEWIS, MA, general practitioner

of these cases, and there is an intriguing study to be done on the choice made by clients. Time and again the opening sentence

The doctor said "Is he a danger to himself?" And I said "In law you've got every right to turn him out of your house." There

Grey areas

So some problems are essentially grey areas and clients are going to go on choosing for themselves which type of professional help they want, often with a logic that escapes us.

headaches, the stiffness, and the tension. Claims for compensation drag on endlessly, and require going over the same ground repeatedly and reliving the accident or the attack. The pain

Fit for what?

Most topical, I think, is the doctor's present role in pro-nouncing fitness for work. Several conversations (and a few arguments) with local general practitioners over shared cases

So sometimes the client uses the bureau in the patient way that he might use a surgery and sometimes he uses it in a complementary way, but often we find ourselves being asked questions that are "proper" to doctors alone. It is one thing

I've just had my breast removed. (I started thinking of breast and making sympathetic noises.) "Any neighbours?" "Any complaints the wallpaper is falling off?" Relief—it's all about chinneys.

and I would put in a plea for the genuineness of those lingering