MORTALITY, MORBIDITY and HEALTH STATISTICS

by Michael Alderson

Michael Alderson, who sadly died in 1988, was probably the best-known medical statistician in the UK. His position as Chief Medical Officer at the OPCS placed him at the apex of the UK government health statistics gathering and reporting system. This new book represents a distillation of his lifetime of experience in epidemiology. It is the definitive guide to international medical statistics both for those who use them and for those who generate them.

Contents
- Introduction to Medical Statistics
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- Cancer
- Congenital Malformations
- Hospital Discharge
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- Morbidity treated in General Practice
- Sickness Absence and Occupational Disease
- Health Surveys at National Level
- Monitoring the Public Health
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Each of the areas discussed in the above chapters is examined under the following headings: primary information source, validity, statistical techniques, presentation, publications (worldwide), and uses.

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Aims and Scope

The British Journal of Cancer will accept papers which contain new information, constitute a distinct contribution to knowledge, and are relevant to the clinical, epidemiological, pathological or molecular aspects of oncology.

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Cover Illustration. The search for an equally efficacious but better tolerated alternative to cisplatin culminated in the discovery and registration in the UK (1986) of carboplatin. However, there remains a clinical need to identify new platinum complexes possessing activity against currently resistant disease. In an attempt to develop relevant tumour models, 10 human ovarian carcinoma cell lines have been calibrated in vitro against four platinum complexes: cisplatin, ipecacplatin, carboplatin and tetraplatin. This tumour panel may provide a useful screening facility in that it detects both cell line-determined and structure-determined differences in platinum-based cytotoxicity (see article by Hills et al., in this issue, p. 527).

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