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## Editorial

### The Editor

#### Abstract

The possibility of a major bioterrorist attack on the British Isles is thankfully remote. Nevertheless, it casts a disproportionately large shadow. The policy and practice of many major institutions has changed dramatically in the wake of anthrax attacks in the USA last year, and public awareness of such action has soared. In this issue, Professor Crawford discusses the use of viruses as agents of mass destruction (p3).

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# EDITORIAL

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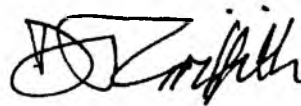
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While the threat does remain small, it is important to be informed about the issues involved. Apart from anything else, increasing our knowledge of the subject will allow us to better educate and reassure our patients, even if we never come into contact with a single case of anthrax. Dr Mike Jones has given us an overview of anthrax and how to deal with it (p14).

Those of us who travel to certain parts of the Third World on an elective are perhaps more likely to encounter this disease. What we are also likely to see is the inequality that still persists in the provision of basic health care in these countries. The continuing role of the World Health Organisation as a care provider is considered in this issue by Jane Atkinson (p8).

As usual, we welcome any comments or suggestions from our readers. Enjoy the issue.



David Griffith, Joint Editor

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