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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

The publication of the NHS review as we go to press will inevitably dominate this week's medical and political news. We publish a brief summary on p 275 but have desisted from editorial comment until we have read the authoritative version. Next week we hope to publish an editorial, a longer summary, and an analysis of the constant leaking and media manipulation that have been associated with the review since its inception. Thereafter we are planning a series that will dissect some of the key proposals. Meanwhile, further evidence from Australia supports the impression that cervical cancer among young women is becoming more common and more aggressive (p 288), and we have

harder evidence than usual on the relation between stress and cancer (p 291). A group from London has shown that recurrence of breast cancer is more likely in women experiencing severe life difficulties such as divorce or the death of a close relative. For light relief we have the extraordinary story of James Barry (p 299), who practised medicine for 40 years in the army and yet proved on his death to be a woman. The *BMJ* of 1865 claimed some insight into the affair: "The gentleman alluded to was well known to many members of the profession. It was always suspected by those who knew him well in the army that he was a she."