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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

Change may be the life blood of clinical medicine, but the delivery of medical care could well founder in the seas of government initiated change. John Havard demolishes the Monopolies and Mergers Commission's case for changing doctors' strict advertising rules (p 903), and in Heartsink Hotel (p 968) Dr Brian McAvoy provides a graphic account of how the government's propaganda bandwagon to change the NHS is rolling.

The report by Brenda Leese and Nick Bosanquet (p 932) that general practice is becoming increasingly divided between high income, high cost practices and those with low incomes and few resources should provide something to think about for ministers and doctors negotiating on the white papers. Doctors have criticised the NHS review for failing to promote

preventive medicine, but the pitfalls in this activity are apparent in a Glasgow study showing that the positive correlation between cholesterol concentrations and mortality from coronary heart disease was balanced by an inverse relation between cholesterol and other causes of death, particularly cancer in men (p 920).

Letters are a barometer of doctors' opinions, which suggests that sudden infant death syndrome (p 958) is high among their concerns. Any Questions are a quirky indication of doctors' uncertainties, and Linda Beeley warns (p 943) that the existing regulations "are probably inadequate . . . to prevent the occasional generic product failing to come up to standard." General practitioners perturbed by that comment may find some solace in Stefan Cembrowicz's advice on how to write a practice annual report (p 953).