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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

"Make something new!" was Richard Wagner's constant cry to his disciples, but for medicine examining dogma is just as important. There's been a lot of talk about the methods used at the Petö Institute in Hungary for children with spastic diplegia, with pressure being put on the authorities here to send children from Britain. But, though not denying the value of the "pilgrimage effect" or the considerable achievement of the Hungarian scheme—in particular, its imaginative and varied techniques—two articles this week (pp 1115 and 1145) conclude that we need not send children to Budapest for treatment: what is needed is to abolish the fragmented system of child care and therapy services

here. Similarly Maureen Roberts draws a "dismal picture" of present day screening for breast cancer but believes that a nationwide, high quality diagnostic service could be developed (p 1153). As the clinical director of the Edinburgh Breast Screening Project since 1979 (and somebody who was tragically to die of the disease in June this year), her arguments certainly need to be taken seriously. Finally, Dr David Grimes argues that *Working for Patients* might end the tradition of charity, paternalism, and rationing in health (p 1170): once unleashed, consumerism will be difficult to contain and it is probably the only thing that will lead to better funding of the NHS.