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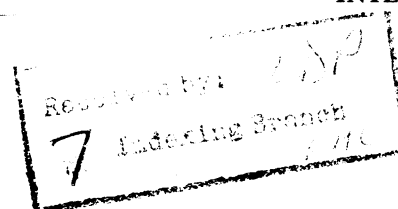


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EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

The life of a Victorian barmaid might seem a topic for hilarity—until you read a sober description of it, with some girls working for 15 and a half hours with only one hour off and appalling conditions for "leisure" (p 423). I wonder what happened to the proposed parliamentary bill. Fortunately, the spirit of concerned inquiry is not dead, and a report from the Norton Medical Centre, Cleveland, produces a scheme for assessing patients over 75 who are most likely to be prone to severe disability (p 424). And a different type of study reminds us how important

accidents and violence are, occupying an increasing percentage of potential life lost (p 429). Even so, we need to retain a sense of proportion in advising the population, and Thurstan Brewin believes that a recent video had to scrape the barrel to find 10 commandments for avoiding cancer; for him there are only three: stop smoking, stop smoking, and stop smoking (p 428). Finally, if you're one of those with troublesome recurrent nose bleeding consider the solution in Minerva's picture this week (p 450).