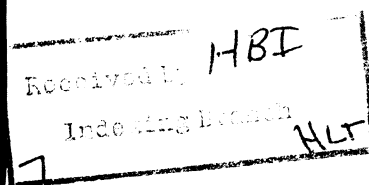


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EDITOR'S CHOICE

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And so to the new NHS. Diane Plamping argues in an editorial that doctors should be working to make the best of the changes (p 737), while Hart says that years of competition in the health care system in the United States have caused more rather than fewer problems (p 748). John Bain completes our baseline survey of the changing NHS with an account of preparations in a fundholding practice in Nottinghamshire (p 771), and Linda Beecham reports on a survey showing that in 1990 over 3000 beds were closed in the NHS for financial reasons (p 745). Back in the equally complicated world of clinical medicine Roar Johnsen and

others have examined almost 2000 people—many of them symptomless—by endoscopy and found a startling lack of association between endoscopic appearances and dyspeptic symptoms (p 749). Further confusion arose from recent media reports that drinking milk and eating butter seemed to protect against heart attacks. Gerry Shaper and others have in response analysed data from the regional heart study and found the same result—but it looks as if it is explained by inactive, heavily drinking people who already have heart disease tending to stay away from milk and butter (p 785). No doubt we will hear more.