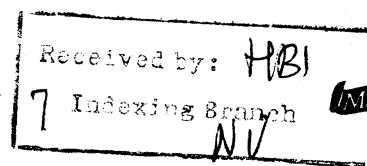


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1162 Minerva

EDITOR'S CHOICE

BMJ

With the announcements of redundancies at Guy's and Lewisham Trust and in Bradford the NHS has gone back to the top of the political agenda. The BMA council met last week and heard many stories of services disintegrating around the country (p 1108). A report from a fundholding practice, meanwhile, talks of improving services (p 1147), and Rudolf Klein thinks that much of the current clamour over the reformed NHS was to be expected (p 1102). Back in the world of science Jane Dawson uses some exquisite colour pictures to describe progress in a project to simulate the electrical activity of the whole heart

(p 1107), and three Norwegians advocate caution in treating non-genetic hypercholesterolaemia with drugs because the cost of a life year gained may be over £100 000 compared with £12 for one saved through a population based strategy (p 1119). Finally, a survey of attitudes to mental illness around Europe suggests that there may be a north-south divide with more tolerance in the north (p 1150). Thus 8% of Swedes agree that "It's only people with a weak psyche who develop mental illness," compared with 19% of Britons, 58% of Italians, and 68% of Greeks.