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1704 **Minerva**

Instructions to authors appeared in the issue of 4 January 1992

Transforming London and Europe

In 20 years' time the European Community and the health service in London will both be very different from now, but how will they be different? It is easy to recognise that changes must happen but hard to know what form they will take. Both issues are discussed in this week's journal.

Britain takes over the presidency of the European Community next week at a time when the whole future of the community is in doubt after the Danes' rejection of the Maastricht treaty. John Ashton looks at what Britain could do for health during its presidency (p 1643), while Jack Warden describes how the British government will be trying to convince its European counterparts of the benefits of the NHS reforms (p 1654).

The problem with London's health service is that it has too many expensive specialist services and inadequate primary and community care (p 1651). Some 18 reports this century alone have recognised the problems, and one question that Jane Smith addresses

in an editorial is whether there will now be real change (p 1646). The arrival of the NHS reforms and the expected report in the autumn of the Tomlinson committee may well mean that this time the logjam will break.

Another long running debate is over the risks and benefits of lowering blood cholesterol concentrations in the population. An important letter on p 1689 suggests that it may be many years before we know the effects on total mortality simply because most of the trials currently being conducted are too small. This is especially true of trials looking at primary prevention (where fewer deaths are expected than in trials of secondary prevention) and of any attempt at subgroup analysis.

Finally, it may seem perverse to be thinking of Christmas in midsummer, but anybody thinking of submitting a paper for our Christmas issue should aim to get it to us by the end of August. Otherwise it may be too late.

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Editor's
Choice