

approaches will we learn the comparative value of alternative types of evaluations in differing policy situations.

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Health Insurance in Practice, by William A. Glaser. San Francisco, CA: Jossey-Bass, 1991, 542 pp. Price: \$70.00 cloth.

Health of Nations: An International Perspective on U.S. Health Care Reform, by Laurene A. Graig. Washington, DC: The Wyatt Company, 1991, 263 pp. NPA.

Changing to National Health Care, edited by Robert P. Huefner and Margaret P. Battin. Salt Lake City, UT: University of Utah Press, 1992, 371 pp. Price: \$24.95 paper.

Continuity and Crisis in the NHS, edited by Ray Loveridge and Ken Starkey. Bristol, PA: Open University Press, 1992, 237 pp. Price: \$34.00 paper.

Health Care Systems and Their Patients, edited by Marilyn M. Rosenthal and Marcel Frenkel. Boulder, CO: Westview Press, 1992, 345 pp. Price: \$39.95 paper.

Planned Markets and Public Competition, by Richard B. Saltman and Casten von Otter. Bristol, PA: Open University Press, 1992, 178 pp. Price: \$29.95 paper.

Improving Health Policy and Management: Nine Critical Research Issues for the 1990s, edited by Stephen M. Shortell and Uwe E. Reinhardt. Ann Arbor, MI: Health Administration Press, 1992, 505 pp. Price: \$40.00 cloth.

Health care issues alone could keep an entire army of policy analysts employed. The books reviewed here are but a trickle from a wide stream of current publications addressing one aspect or another of a policy area that is at the top of the agenda in all developed nations.

All this research might guide reform of an American health care system that spends much more money much less equitably with no better health outcomes than in other developed nations. Yet its volume gives credibility to William A. Glaser's warning that, "Unable to make difficult financial design decisions . . . Americans may settle for yet more research. America sponsors more research on health care financing than the rest of the world combined, but it has no health care financing system. It has no system because it has no policy, and no more research is needed to create a policy" (p. 149).

Glaser feels the research we need, mainly his, has been done. Whether he is right depends on how we define the health care problem.

The simplest question is, How should a nation finance health care? We can then ask how particular financing mechanisms affect access or quality or