

moving from attempts to normalise, through watchful waiting and minimal interventions, towards brief counselling, and finally definitive diagnosis and treatment. While acknowledged as innovation in the USA, much of this is familiar ground to UK practitioners.

For many readers of this *Journal*, struggling to keep a grip on a National Health Service they feel slipping away from their grasp, *Saving Normal* will appear as a dreadful transatlantic warning of the shape of things which might come. In this context, the rhetorical shock and awe, and

the lack of balanced argument, will diminish its impact. In so far as the book is targeted at a lay readership, it should be better judged by the standards of popular journalism, although in that arena too it has already been criticised for its lack of objectivity.

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