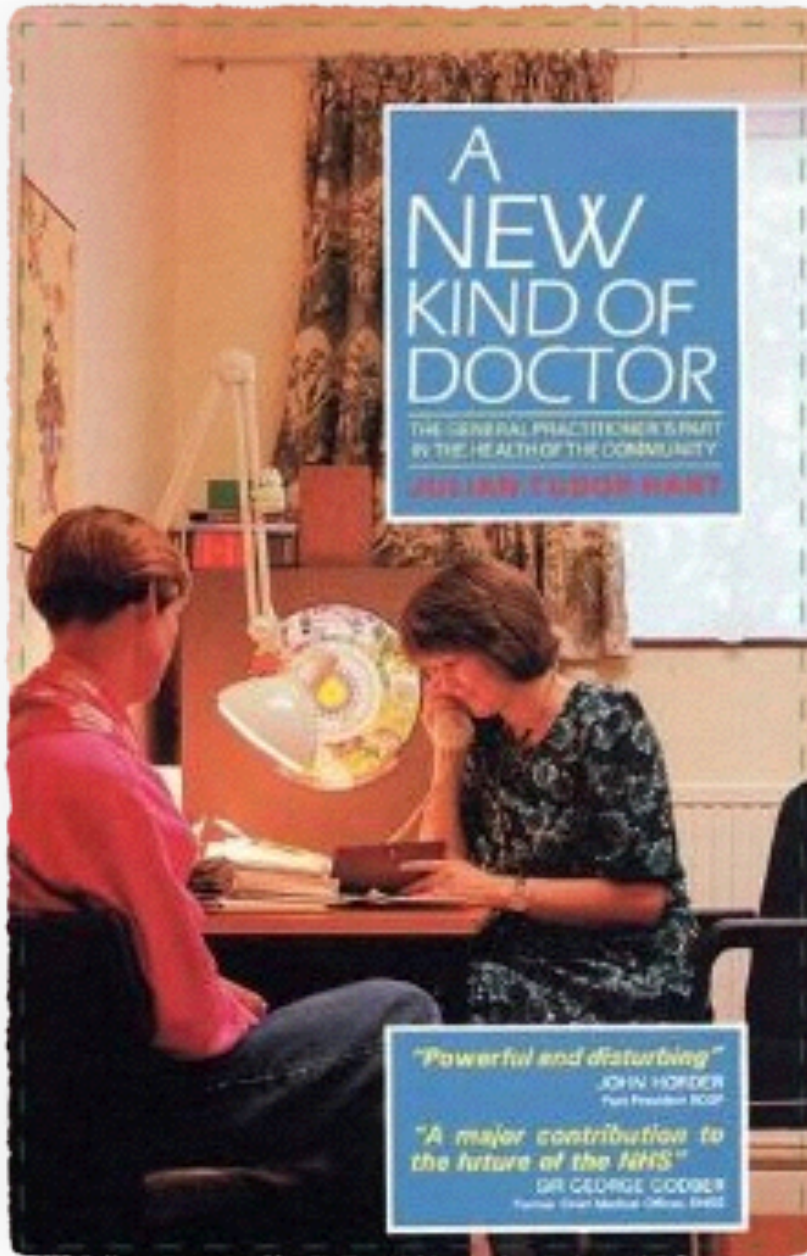


## A NEW KIND OF DOCTOR. JULIAN TUDOR HART

London, The Merlin Press, 1988



In 1948 the National Health Service set out to provide free medical care for the whole population without any direct charges, funded entirely from taxation, available according to need rather than ability to pay. Despite Britain's impoverished postwar economy, the NHS was successful, so much so that within a few years private medical practice for fees almost disappeared, few politicians of any party dared to publicly oppose it, and a generation of doctors grew up which for forty years assumed that medical care had become permanently accepted as a human right.

Today, with the Conservative government's plan for "reform" of the NHS set out in its 1989 White Paper, the welfare of the sick is no longer seen as a social priority.

But, what is the White Paper really about? Is it reform, or the first step to a private market? Are the doctors opposing progress, as they did at the birth of the NHS, or are they now its most significant defenders? A New Kind of Doctor was written in anticipation of this crisis. It challenges not only Margaret Thatcher's assault on public service, but also the consumerist assumptions of many of her opponents.