EDITORIAL

In this issue we have several articles dealing with the theme of women and health. The major one addresses the medicalizing and marketing of the menopause and osteoporosis, based on the experience from the USA. In Britain the National Health Service still exists, though seriously underfunded and threatened by creeping privatization, and that has important effects on our health care. What market forces tap into and create in the USA, however, heralds the direction changes will take here, changes which are already well under way in the case of the promotion of treatments for the menopause. This article reminds us that the issue of women's health, and our control over our own bodies, however tenuous, is not bounded by reproduction. In the early years of Women's Liberation, critiques of the medical establishment concentrated on reproductive health. Today all the more general issues of health and illness throughout a lifetime, including living our dying, have become central issues for feminists.

In this issue, as well as putting together a patchwork of AIDS pieces which give a taste of the various ideas and projects happening in different countries around women and HIV, and the consistent failure of so much of professional AIDS education to address the needs and interests of women as sexual agents, we reproduce some of the cancer drawings of Catherine Arthur, which illustrate the relationship ill health can have to creativity. We would like to thank our guest editor on this issue, Barbara James, from *Women's Health*, who joined us to help in its production. Sadly, Catherine Arthur died on 1 December, as we were going to press. We dedicate this issue to her.

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