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Sommario/riassunto	This special edition of the IJPSM is primarily concerned with the contemporaryrole of the hospital nurse and the effects that new management arrangementsare having (and are not having) on their work and ability to provide effectivecare. Given the controversy that surrounds the provision of health care inBritain and elsewhere, the contribution of this special issue is timely, and wethink it offers many insights into current issues.