Registration of College Qualifications

The General Medical Council has resolved 'that the qualifications of Member and Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists be recognized as registrable under Section 8 of the Medical Act, 1956, as amended by Section 11 of the Medical Act, 1969'.

The G.M.C. has indicated that it would be helpful if persons applying to register these qualifications would state:

(a) their full name;

(b) their registration number or (failing that) their date of registration with the Council; and

(c) the additional qualification which they wish to register, and the year in which they obtained it.

No fee is payable for the registration of additional qualifications.

Scottish Division

The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow has decided to introduce a new category of Affiliate for Members and Fellows of other Colleges resident in the West of Scotland. It is anticipated that in the long term there will be increasing use of the College facilities as a centre for academic and related social purposes.

The Public Policy Committee of the Royal College of Psychiatrists has endorsed this venture, and the Secretary of the Scottish Division has been authorized to write to Scottish Fellows and Members drawing their attention to this new situation.

Chandos House

The *Journal* office has received several enquiries from readers as to whether copies of Miss Charlotte Halliday's drawing of the exterior of Chandos House, reproduced in the June issue of *News and Notes*, could be made available. There are probably many other psychiatrists who would like to have this very attractive drawing of the first home of their College in a form suitable for framing, and it has therefore been decided, with the agreement of Miss Halliday and the Royal Society of Medicine, to offer copies $13\frac{1}{4}$ in. $\times$ $9\frac{3}{4}$ in., on antique laid paper, at a cost of 20p each, including postage and packing. Orders, enclosing remittance (cheques should be made out to the Royal College of Psychiatrists), should be sent to the *Journal* office, Royal College of Psychiatrists, Chandos House, 2 Queen Anne Street, London, W1M 9LE.

SOME REFLECTIONS ON THERAPEUTIC ABORTION*

Abortion in Sweden

The Report on the Swedish Commission entitled *The Right to Abortion* has recently been published (1971). The Commission are able to point to the fact that comparatively few women need to undergo surgical abortion. They emphasize that no woman 'wants' the operation; all would prefer to avoid it. The measures that might be taken to reduce or avoid the need for abortion are considered under two headings: contraception and socially supportive measures. There should be a speeding up of the programmes for disseminating information about methods of birth control, and the authorities should improve services by allocating sufficient medical sessions to consultations about birth control. As regards social support, the Commission review in detail the assistance a woman can count on getting from the State if she wishes to have a child. The aim should be to give 'fundamental social and economic security' to the woman who wants a child as much as to the one who does not. They mention, for example, that the six-month period of 'job security' should be extended to one year, and make the interesting recommendation that the same rights ought to apply to the man, should it be he and not she who decides to care for the child. The Commission also recommend that the scope of the maternity and child health services be extended to include social and psychological advice, including help in domestic relationships, and that this advice should also be available to the man.

As regards abortion itself, the Commission is not in favour of its being legalized as a new method of birth control; it ought to be done only as a last resort. However, women should have the 'legal right' to undergo the operation. It would not, however, be a matter of abortion on request. One senses that this was a difficult area, but the proposal in effect is that when a woman does not want to have the child the

* The views expressed in this and the other signed articles are those of the individuals or bodies concerned and do not necessarily represent those of the College.

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