

ship, which is "reserved to physicians or scientists who have demonstrated serious interest in epidemiology or prevention of cardiovascular diseases". It would be helpful if in writing they would mention any published work or projects carried out in their practices, or plans for such projects, as applications must be sponsored, and I am the only GP sponsor available. Membership costs ten US dollars a year, most conveniently paid as thirty dollars for three years through a banker's draft.

JULIAN TUDOR HART

Glyncorrwg Health Centre
West Glamorgan
Wales SA13 3DP.

Disability and Return to Work

Sir,

The November *Journal* (pp. 670-673) included a paper "Long-term disability and return to work" in which one of the authors, Dr K. Sheikh (now working in the USA), gave the MRC Epidemiology and Medical Care Unit as his affiliation.

Regrettably, other members of the Unit who had been involved were not informed about the submission of the paper to the *Journal* and did not, therefore, have the opportunity of approving it. Reference to the Unit should not be taken as its endorsement of the paper's analyses and conclusions.

T. W. MEADE
Director

MRC Epidemiology and Medical
Care Unit
Northwick Park Hospital
Watford Road, Harrow
Middlesex HA1 3UJ.

Dr Sheikh replies as follows:

Dr Meade and other members of his Unit were invited to comment on the results of the study but they expressed no interest. It was not customary to inform each and every member of the Unit before submitting a paper for publication. Reference to the MRC Unit was made because the study was carried out by me while I was a member of the Unit. The fact that the paper did not receive the approval of other members of the Unit should not imply that there were any inaccuracies in the content of the article.

KAZ M. SHEIKH
Assistant Professor

Department of Epidemiology
University of Michigan
109 Observatory Street
Michigan 48109.

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