use of, limb etc). Vasectomy does neither of these things. The second definition (render imperfect by excision) refers to *books*, etc. I must repeat that vasectomy is not a mutilation since the removal of a portion of the vas cannot be regarded as the removal of, or rendering imperfect, an organ. The vas is not an organ.

L. N. JACKSON
Hon. Director, The Crediton Project

West Longsight,
Crediton.
Devon.

PRE-RETIREMENT ASSOCIATION

Sir,
The Pre-Retirement Association maintains a list of speakers on retirement planning. Some deal with general aspects and others are experts on particular subjects.

The Association is building up a national list so that a comprehensive service can be provided for colleges, companies and organisations running courses or holding meetings about preparation for retirement, and requiring speakers.

The PRA Medical Advisory Panel welcomes enquiries from suitably qualified people wishing to be included in the list as speakers on health as an aspect of preparation for retirement. Please write to Information Officer, The Pre-Retirement Association of Great Britain and Northern Ireland at Greenfield House, 69–73 Manor Road, Wallington, Surrey, SM6 0DQ.

B. W. BUTTLE
General Secretary

The Pre-Retirement Association,
Greenfield House,
69–73 Manor Road,
Wallington,
Surrey, SM6 0DQ.

OMITTED ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Sir,
Among the acknowledgements at the end of my recently published article on the telephone messages received in seven general practices in Aylesbury, I inadvertently omitted to mention my source of funding for this project. May I amend this by saying now how grateful I am to the Nuffield Medical Centre for Combined Research at Stoke Mandeville for the grant that was made and other material help given in carrying out the research.

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REFERENCE
Reedy, B. L. E. C. (1975). *Journal of the Royal College of General Practitioners*, **25**, 916–23.