

## REGISTRATION OF OVERSEAS DOCTORS

### THE NEW REGULATIONS

In the recent Educational Number of the *Journal* a leading article (August 30, p. 481) dealt with the new intern year and the new regulations on registration as they affect the United Kingdom student. Briefly, no qualified person applying for registration on or after January 1, 1953, will be admitted to the *Medical Register* until he has satisfactorily completed one year's recognized house-appointments in approved hospitals. During this period he will be eligible for admission to a *Provisional Register* kept by the General Medical Council. Approval of pre-registration appointments is the function of "licensing bodies"—that is, any university or other body in the United Kingdom empowered to grant a qualifying diploma. The licensing bodies may approve hospitals or institutions in Commonwealth or foreign countries for this purpose. The General Medical Council will periodically publish a list of recognized pre-registration appointments,\* and this will include those in approved hospitals outside Britain.

The notes below describe how the provisions of the Medical Act, 1950, affect doctors from overseas applying for medical registration in the United Kingdom on or after January 1, 1953. *Applications before this date will be dealt with under the old regulations.* The General Medical Council is the sole authority for determining whether an overseas applicant for full registration has complied with the necessary requirements.

### Conditions of Registration

These conditions apply only to those overseas applicants who hold recognized diplomas granted in Commonwealth or foreign countries which have reciprocity with the United Kingdom. An applicant for full registration must satisfy the General Medical Council: (a) that he has fulfilled the requirements for persons qualified in the United Kingdom; or (b) that he has rendered satisfactory service in appointments conferring experience of the practice of medicine and surgery, or medicine, surgery, and midwifery, not less extensive than that required for persons qualified in the United Kingdom; or (c) that he has otherwise acquired experience not less extensive than that required for persons qualified in the United Kingdom.

An overseas applicant who is newly qualified, and who wishes to obtain in due course full registration in the United Kingdom, may apply for employment as a house-officer in a recognized post in an approved hospital in the United Kingdom. After being selected for a pre-registration post he may then apply to the General Medical Council for provisional registration, supporting his application with a certificate of appointment from the hospital authority which appointed him. A fee of 5 guineas is payable for provisional registration. At the end of a pre-registration appointment the practitioner must obtain a certificate from the hospital authority showing the duration of the period for which he was employed and stating whether his service was satisfactory. When he has satisfactorily completed his year's pre-registration appointments he may apply for full registration to the General Medical Council. The additional fee for this is 6 guineas.

An overseas applicant who produces evidence satisfactory to the General Medical Council that, by virtue of intern (house-officer) service for not less than 12 months, he has obtained full registration in the territory where his diploma was granted, may apply for full registration in the United Kingdom, provided the territory where he obtained his diploma has adopted, and the applicant's service was rendered under, a compulsory scheme of intern (house-officer) service substantially equivalent to the United Kingdom scheme. Full registration, the fee for which is 11 guineas, is likely to be granted without delay in such cases.

An overseas applicant who has acquired experience for not less than 12 months as a house-officer, but has not acquired that experience under a compulsory internship scheme, may apply to the General Medical Council for full registration. The applicant

may have qualified in a territory where no internship scheme substantially equivalent to the United Kingdom scheme has been introduced or in a territory where such scheme was introduced after his qualification. The General Medical Council will take into consideration evidence of satisfactory service for not less than 12 months in employment in a resident medical capacity in any hospital or institution which the Medical Council or other appropriate medical authority of the territory in which the applicant qualified may consider satisfactory for the purpose of acquiring the required experience. The fee for full registration is 11 guineas.

Other overseas applicants not falling within the classes described above, who may have acquired clinical experience after qualification in other ways, may apply for full registration to the General Medical Council. Such applicants may have had experience in non-recognized clinical appointments in hospitals or as medical officers in the armed Forces or in general practice; or they may have had a combination of experience in two or more such capacities. These applicants should give full information of this experience well in advance of the date by which a decision is required. The fee for full registration is 11 guineas.

## INTERNATIONAL VACCINATION CERTIFICATES

The Ministry of Health has issued some notes for general practitioners on the new international certificates of vaccination which came into force on October 1. The notes are reproduced below.

The International Sanitary Regulations which came into force on October 1, 1952, prescribe new forms of international certificates for vaccination against yellow fever, cholera, and smallpox. The term "vaccination" is now used internationally for all three diseases (replacing "inoculation" used hitherto for yellow fever and cholera), and the new forms differ materially from the existing forms. There is no international certificate for any disease other than the three named (the existing international certificate for typhus having been discontinued), as no other vaccination is required internationally.

*Yellow Fever.*—For a certificate of vaccination against yellow fever to be recognized internationally, the vaccination must be done at a centre designated by the Government. International certificates can therefore be obtained only at those centres, and general practitioners will not be concerned with them. A list of centres for free vaccination is given in the Notice to Travellers issued by the Ministry of Health and distributed by all travel agencies, shipping companies, air transport companies, and the passport office.

*Cholera and Smallpox Certificates.*—(a) The date in the first column of the certificates should be the actual date of vaccination. The forms issued for use in the United Kingdom bear an additional note on the method of dating, and also a note on the approved stamp which must be placed on every such international certificate in order to authenticate the identity of the vaccinator as a doctor. (b) The Ministry of Health advises that it is sufficient for the vaccinator to add the initials of his medical qualifications after his signature in the second column. (c) The person vaccinated must sign on the front of any certificate issued to him. Failure to complete any part of the certificate may render it invalid. (d) The start of the period of validity of a certificate is given in the first rule on the new forms: it varies with the vaccination or revaccination. A cholera certificate remains valid for six months and a smallpox certificate for three years.

*Cholera Certificates.*—One of the rules on the new form refers to pilgrims. A pilgrim is defined in the regulations as a person making the pilgrimage to the holy places in the Hedjaz (to whom special sanitary measures apply). The rule mentioned does not therefore apply to persons on other pilgrimages.

*Smallpox Certificates.*—The recording in the fourth column of the certificate of the result of vaccination is required only for primary vaccination. If a first attempt at primary vaccination fails, subsequent attempts should not be regarded as revaccination: at least two more attempts with different vaccine are recommended, each attempt (with its date) being recorded on the certificate and each failure being shown as "unsuccessful." If such a certificate is produced abroad the question of further vaccination will then be one for the health authorities there to whom such a certificate may be produced.

*Other Notes.*—(a) Vaccination of babies against smallpox is dealt with in Memo 312/MED (Revised), issued by the Ministry

\*The first list of recognized posts in approved hospitals can be obtained from the Registrar, General Medical Council, 44, Hallam Street, London, W.1, at a cost of 5s. (postage extra).