

Facts of sex change

SIR—It is sad to see your new Weekend Magazine (Sept. 17) referring to Jan Morris in an interview with Pauline Peters as "the man... who is now a woman..."

Transsexualists are psychologically disturbed physically normal individuals who even after "sex change surgery" remain genetically and biologically of their original sex.

Such individuals do not *become women* but only *appear* to be women and, as male transsexualists, can only ever really become, and remain as, mutilated male transsexualists — mutilated because they have been castrated and thus rendered sterile.

Indeed, no female reproductive apparatus exists and, on the contrary, they retain their male prostate gland and much of the vas.

Jan Morris was a physically normal married man and is (still) the father of two children.

Whilst no-one would wish to deny this person the happiness she has found in her new sexual role *living as a woman*, to speak of her as being "now a woman" is a travesty of the medical facts.

More than 25 years ago, as a pioneer, I wrote the first ever comprehensive medical work on the subject of sex-change and clearly and precisely explained the full medical and legal facts concerning this phenomenon differentiating the true sex-change of the hermaphrodite from the *fantasy* "sex-change" of the transsexualist, and these facts have, over the years, been confirmed both by authoritative medical opinion and in the English and European courts.

(Mrs) GEORGINA SOMERSET
Hove, Sussex

D. T.
Monday 26/9/88