

PRISON MEDICAL SERVICE.

THE prison department consists of two branches—the convict service and the local prison service. These are now practically amalgamated, and the officers of each branch are freely interchangeable. In the case of the smaller prisons the medical officer is usually a local practitioner, but in the case of the larger prisons the medical officers are appointed by the Convict Prison Board or the Prison Commission, and form practically a special service. The Chairman of the Board is Sir Evelyn Ruggles-Brise, K.C.B. Application for employment may be made to the Board on a special form, which, we understand, can be obtained from the Secretary, Major E. G. Clayton, Prison Commission, Home Office, London, S.W.

The number of vacancies is not large and the prospects of promotion are bad. This is due in part to the fact that the rate of pay of the higher appointments depends upon the number of prisoners in the particular prison, and that the total number of prisoners in the country is not increasing in proportion to population.¹

Convict Service.—Four deputy medical officers at £250, rising to £300; four medical officers at incomes ranging from £300 to £550.

Local Prison Service.—Ten deputy medical officers at £250, rising to £300; nine medical officers at £200; three medical officers at £250; three medical officers at £300, rising to £390; six medical officers at £400, rising to £500. Quarters, or an allowance in lieu, are granted to those who give their whole time to the service.

MEDICAL APPOINTMENTS IN THE COLONIES.

1. MEDICAL appointments are from time to time filled up by the Colonial Office in the following Colonies and Protectorates: British Guiana, Jamaica, Trinidad, Windward Islands, Leeward Islands, British Honduras, Fiji, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Gold Coast, Lagos, Northern and Southern Nigeria, East Africa and Uganda Protectorates, British Central Africa, Somaliland, Ceylon, Straits Settlements, the Federated Malay States, Hong Kong, Mauritius, Seychelles, Cyprus, Gibraltar, St. Helena, and the Falkland Islands. In Ceylon, Jamaica, and Mauritius, vacancies are almost always filled locally by the appointment of qualified native candidates. As a rule officers are required on appointment to undergo a three months' course of instruction at the London or Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine, and to obtain a certificate of proficiency before taking up their appointment.

It is for the West Indies and the East and West African Colonies and Protectorates that medical officers are chiefly required.

2. The majority of the West Indian appointments involve medical charge of a district, including, as a rule, the care of a hospital, poor house, asylum, or other institution, and free attendance on the aged and children.

N.B.—*Passage money on first appointment, and leave of absence on half-pay (in addition to the ordinary annual vacation on full-pay, not exceeding three months in two years), are granted only in the cases specified in the Colonial Regulations. Leave on half-pay is not granted before the completion of six years' service, except on the ground of illness or urgent private affairs. With regard to pension, medical officers are usually on the same footing as other Government servants; but in cases where private practice is allowed the rule is that they are not usually entitled to pension.*

3. The following is a short account of the appointments in the separate colonies:

British Guiana.—42 appointments. Candidates must have held for at least six months a resident medical appointment in some public institution. Officers are appointed on two years' probation as supernumeraries and are paid a salary at the rate of £300 per annum with quarters, without the right to private practice. Supernumerary officers, married or single, who obtain leave to reside out of the quarters provided for them will not be entitled to lodging allowance. After serving for two years, if appointed to the permanent staff, the officer will receive £400 per annum, rising by increments of £25 annually up to £700 per annum. A Government medical officer on being appointed to a district, and a supernumerary on being appointed to act in charge of a district, will receive a salary of £500 per annum, but will not receive any incre-

ments thereto until entitled to such increments by length of actual service. Every medical officer appointed to a district or to act in charge of a district will receive a travelling allowance at a rate varying from £100 to £150 per annum as the extent of the district may require. He is allowed private practice. No more than £30 is allowed for passage money on first appointment. There is a Widows' and Orphans' Fund in the colony to which all Government servants are compelled to subscribe at the rate of 4 per cent. on their salaries. The Governor now has the power to appoint private practitioners to perform the duties of medical districts on temporary agreements, and in recent cases vacant appointments have been filled in this way.

The conditions of medical appointments in British Guiana are now under consideration with a view to revision.

Jamaica.—The appointments, 54 in number, are mainly district appointments with private practice allowed; the salary paid by Government varies from £100 to £250 per annum. New-comers are, in some cases, attached for a while to the public hospital in Kingston, and given an allowance at the rate of £200 per annum, but not permitted to undertake private practice. Some medical officers receive a varying capitation allowance for attendance on immigrants. There is a Civil Service Widows' and Orphans' Fund established by law, to which all medical officers are obliged to subscribe at the rate of 4 per cent. on their salaries.

Trinidad and Tobago.—In Trinidad there are 32 appointments. Under the terms of the Ordinance regulating the medical service, officers are appointed in the first instance on two years' probation as supernumeraries. They receive a salary of £250 per annum with furnished quarters, and are usually attached to the Government hospital; the salary assigned to the district appointments, to which they are promoted as vacancies occur, is £300, which is increased to £400 and upwards by various allowances for horse, house, or otherwise. These posts carry the right to private practice. After every five years' service an officer is given an additional personal allowance at the rate of £50 per annum. All officers hereafter appointed are required to contribute 4 per cent. of their salaries to the Widows' and Orphans' Fund. But for the past few years no appointments have been made under the Ordinance, and officers appointed have received a fixed salary of £250 per annum without any subsequent increment, and in a few districts a system has been introduced by which the work is performed by private practitioners under temporary contracts. The question of revising the terms of appointment is under consideration.

In the island of Tobago there are three district appointments with salaries of £250 per annum with quarters.

Windward Islands (Grenada, St. Lucia, St. Vincent).—The 22 appointments are, with few exceptions, district appointments with the right to private practice attached; the salaries paid by Government vary from £250 to £400, with allowances in certain cases. The Governor has the power to transfer a medical officer from one island to another at his discretion.

Leeward Islands (Antigua, St. Christopher and Nevis, Dominica, Montserrat, Virgin Islands).—The 25 appointments are of the same nature as in the Windward Islands. An officer when first sent out is not appointed to a particular island, but to the service of the Leeward Islands, with a salary of £250, and the Governor decides as to the district which is to be allotted to him. He is liable to be transferred at the Governor's discretion to any medical district in the Leeward Islands, and in certain districts may be required to perform magisterial duties. The medical officers receive fees for successful vaccinations, *post-mortem* examinations, attendance, and giving evidence at courts of justice, certificates of lunacy, and, in the larger islands, for burial certificates. They are also allowed private practice.

British Honduras.—There are five medical appointments (besides the principal post of Colonial Surgeon). One of the medical officers is paid \$1,200 a year, two are paid \$1,080 a year, and two are also district commissioners, and receive \$1,500 for the combined posts of medical officer and district commissioner. Unless they already possess a diploma of Public Health, medical officers are liable to be required before they join the colony to undergo a course of instruction at a laboratory of Public Health or analogous institution. The dollar = about 4s. 2d.

Fiji.—The medical service has recently been reorganized, and officers appointed in future will be styled Government Medical Officers, and receive a salary of £300, rising by annual increments of £10 to £400. They will be allowed private practice, so far as is consistent with the proper discharge of

¹Intending applicants would do well to consult a memorandum prepared for the use of the Parliamentary Bills Committee of the British Medical Association, and published in the BRITISH MEDICAL JOURNAL on April 23rd, 1892.