

Colonies is responsible, openings occur in all parts of the world. Many future appointments are likely to be made on the bases of short-term contracts, usually renewable. Doctors in the N.H.S. may take temporary appointments overseas up to six years without loss of pension rights. In some territories permanent appointments are available; candidates selected for these appointments become members of the medical branch of Her Majesty's Overseas Civil Service. Candidates must normally be British subjects whose names appear on the *Medical Register*, and should not be over 45 years of age.

Full terms and conditions of service may be obtained from the Director of Recruitment, Colonial Office, Sanctuary Buildings, Great Smith Street, London, S.W.1.

#### Missionary Service

For doctors with a call to dedicated service, the mission field offers great opportunity for the exercise of medical knowledge and skill where the need is greatest. Though the financial rewards are small, a Christian doctor will find this work immensely satisfying. Any who have this service in view are advised to spend eighteen months or two years in resident appointments after qualification. Special missionary training is required by some of the societies. Although long service is preferred, short-term offers are considered by most societies. Application may be made to any of the missionary societies, or to the Secretary of the Medical Advisory Board, Edinburgh House, 2, Eaton Gate, London, S.W.1, or to the Secretary, Medical Missionary Association, 31, Bedford Place, London, W.C.1.

#### Medical Service of the L.C.C.

Just over 100 whole-time and nearly 500 part-time medical officers are employed by the London County Council in its Public Health Department. The duties of those holding whole-time appointments in the higher grades are mainly administrative. Senior officers have, generally speaking, graduated through the clinical field and have special knowledge of at least one branch of the service. The medical officers (recruitment grade) are mainly engaged in the school health and maternity and child welfare services. The D.P.H. is a suitable qualification. Arrangements are made for some of the officers to have clinical responsibilities at hospitals and to gain experience of environmental health services in the metropolitan boroughs. Part-time officers may be employed in residential nurseries, welfare institutions, staff examinations, sessional work at clinics, school medical inspection, etc. By arrangement with the London School of Hygiene, the Institute of Child Health, and several undergraduate schools, students have the opportunity of gaining experience in the Council's various services.

Salary scales of the Council's medical staff have recently been revised. The salary of the medical officer of health to the Council is £4,250. That of the deputy medical officer of health is £2,575 by £250 (biennially) to £3,075. For divisional medical officers the scale varies according to the population of the nine divisions in the London area. For populations up to 400,000 it is £1,780 to £2,215; for populations over 400,000 it is £1,885 to £2,320. A divisional medical officer who is also medical officer of health for two boroughs receives £2,795 to £3,060. A deputy divisional medical officer in a division with a population up to 400,000 receives £1,625 to £1,955, and in divisions above that limit, £1,675 to £2,005. The scales for other grades are: senior principal medical officer, £2,225 to £2,425; principal medical officers and psychiatrist (whole-time), £1,940 to £2,320; assistant principal medical officers, £1,530 to £1,790; and medical officers, £1,050 to £1,475. The remuneration of medical staff holding mixed appointments—that is, including some work for metropolitan borough councils—is determined in accordance with a Whitley Council formula.

## PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

### British Medical Association

The British Medical Association, which was founded in 1832, now comprises a membership of almost 70,000, of whom about 16,000 are overseas. Its purpose is to promote the medical and allied sciences and to maintain the honour and interests of the medical profession. Membership is voluntary, and, as 80% of practising doctors in this country are members of the Association, it can justly claim to speak for the profession in its dealings with the Government and other authorities. The Association has important branches in Australia and New Zealand, and flourishing local units in many parts of the British Commonwealth. The Medical Associations of Canada, South Africa, India, and Ceylon are affiliated to the B.M.A. There are local units of the Association in every part of the United Kingdom; each member is automatically included in the membership of the local unit—the Division or Branch—in whose area he resides or practises. The local units hold regular meetings, and whether these are clinical, or social, or convened for business purposes, every member is entitled to take part.

Other privileges of membership of the Association include the weekly receipt of the *British Medical Journal* and its *Supplement*; the use of the Association's house and library at Tavistock Square, London, and elsewhere in Great Britain, and in certain Overseas Branches; and, not least important, the help of a highly skilled and experienced staff at Headquarters in the many difficulties and problems which arise in practice.

The policy of the Association is determined by the Representative Body, which is composed of representatives from all the Divisions. The Council is the Association's executive; its method of election has been recently revised to ensure as equal a representation as possible of all parts of the United Kingdom as well as to afford opportunity for the election of a certain number of members on a national basis, and to include representation of the medical branches of the fighting Services, the public health service, and the Overseas Branches. The principal work of the Association is carried out through a large number of standing and special committees. The Central Consultants and Specialists Committee (which also has a regional organization) acts with the Royal Colleges on all matters arising under the National Health Service Acts affecting consultants and specialists. The General Medical Services Committee acts as the executive of the Conference of Representatives of Local Medical Committees in all questions affecting practitioners rendering general medical service under the Acts and is the recognized mouthpiece of the profession in this field. The Public Health Committee, which has a working agreement with the Society of Medical Officers of Health, deals with all matters relating to the public health service. Other committees of the Association are concerned with private practice, ethical questions, and the encouragement of medical science and research, and there are joint committees with other bodies for the consideration of matters of mutual interest.

In addition to the *British Medical Journal* the Association publishes a number of specialist journals and abstracts. The library of the Association contains 70,000 volumes, and 1,600 periodicals are received regularly. The library has a large lending and circulating service and is available for reading and reference purposes to members calling at B.M.A. House.

### Society of Medical Officers of Health

The Society of Medical Officers of Health (Tavistock House South, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.) is a body of medical officers engaged in public health work. It has branches and groups throughout Great Britain and Northern Ireland in New South Wales, and, since October, 1956, in Malaya, which meet regularly to discuss the medical and administrative aspects of preventive medicine. The

Council of the Society, representative of the branches and groups, is the governing body in respect of policy and finance. It examines all legislation concerned with the Ministries of Health, Housing and Local Government, and Education and the Department of Health for Scotland, and with public health, and maintains relations with the public health departments of the universities and local government authorities.

There is reciprocal representation on the Public Health Committee of the British Medical Association and the Council of the Society, and the Public Health Committee acts in conformity with an agreement with the Society of Medical Officers of Health under which medico-political activities are undertaken by the Association.

The Society is fully conscious of the need to keep members abreast of modern practice and developments in the field of public health. Accordingly the various groups of the Society arrange refresher courses for their members, which are well attended.

Apart from the new branch established in Malaya in 1956, two new functional groups were inaugurated in March 1957—namely, the Mental Health Group and the Teaching (Social and Preventive Medicine and Preventive Dentistry) Group. The membership of the former includes some twenty distinguished psychiatrists, and the Teaching Group has most of the professors of social and preventive medicine and preventive dentistry among its London members. The County Borough Group holds a week-end school every year, during the month of July. The County District Group also arranges a course. The Maternity and Child Welfare Group and the School Health Service Group also customarily hold courses. For senior school medical officers a course is held every few years in different centres. Some of these courses are residential in character, and in this way opportunity is given for those attending to discuss more easily and readily their common problems and the advances which are being made year by year.

#### Medical Women's Federation

The Medical Women's Federation (Tavistock House North, London, W.C.1) works closely with the British Medical Association, and is represented by a woman member on the General Medical Services Committee. The Federation is the only professional organization consisting solely of medical women, and is thus in a position to represent the interests of women doctors and to deal with the problems affecting them as a minority in the profession. It also considers and investigates medical matters of special concern to women doctors. The Federation has active local associations all over the kingdom, including a large London association, and an association of its overseas members. These associations meet regularly, and the *Journal* of the Federation is published quarterly for private circulation among its members.

#### British Medical Students' Association

This association was founded in 1942, and its membership now includes over 90% of the medical students in the country. It is purely a professional organization, providing a means of communication between medical students in the different universities and hospitals, and also between British students and those in other countries. It presents the medical students' point of view to the medical profession, to Government departments, and to other interested bodies. The organization of the association depends on an annual general meeting at which an executive committee is elected, and on four regional councils. Both clinical and preclinical conferences and "schools" are arranged from time to time, and these are appreciated not only for their academic interest but also for the opportunities which they provide for meeting fellow students from other medical schools. Local activities of the con-

stituent organizations of the association include lectures, visits, discussions, and the showing of films from the B.M.A. and other film libraries. Amongst its publications are the *British Medical Students' Journal*, which appears once a term, and an annual list of vocation appointments for those members requiring work in hospitals during vacations.

The B.M.S.A. takes a keen interest in medical education and is in the process of compiling a report on the medical curriculum, bearing in mind the new G.M.C. "Recommendations" on medical curricula.

The association is represented on the Medical Students and Newly Qualified Practitioners Subcommittee of the B.M.A. and on the Undergraduate Education Committee of the College of General Practitioners. It maintains its close interest in the British Student Tuberculosis Foundation, of which it is a sponsoring body, and is a foundation member of the United Kingdom Committee of the World Health Organization.

In the field of sickness and other insurance the association has made arrangements with an insurance agency, set up by the medical profession for its own guidance, for the development of a special section to advise medical students.

The B.M.S.A. is a founder member of the International Federation of Medical Students Association, whose membership now embraces the associations of eighteen nations. I.F.M.S.A. continues to develop successfully and is recognized by the World Medical Association and Unesco. Under its auspices the annual students' international clinical conference has been held this year in Germany, while other courses both clinical and preclinical have been held in Yugoslavia and Denmark. Opportunities also exist for individual clerkships in hospitals abroad, and the B.M.S.A., through the offices of a student international secretary, does much to assist British students to take advantage of these and other opportunities to travel and see something of medicine in other countries. Similarly the B.M.S.A. makes arrangements for many foreign students to visit hospitals in this country, and the number of applications increases yearly, but unfortunately the number of places does not. To encourage and assist deserving British students to attend courses and hospitals abroad the B.M.S.A. established three years ago a travel fund. This year the administrators of the fund awarded nineteen scholarships of the total value of £150. It is hoped to improve on this figure in future years.

As its honorary president this year the B.M.S.A. has Professor J. Henry Biggart, professor of pathology in the Queen's University of Belfast. The address of the association is B.M.A. House, Tavistock Square, London, W.C.1.

#### ADVISORY BUREAUX

##### Medical Practices Advisory Bureau

About eight years ago the Association established the Medical Practices Advisory Bureau under the direction of a medical member of the secretariat.

The Bureau has two functions: it acts as an agency and source of information concerning openings in various fields of medical practice, introducing partners, assistants, and locumtenents. In addition, it is prepared to advise on individual problems associated with the entry into and the day-to-day conduct of practice. For example, the drawing-up of a partnership agreement is a matter for a lawyer, but there are many problems connected with contracts between doctors on which advice is needed from the medical rather than the legal angle. This advice is offered by the Bureau, and, as it is a department of the B.M.A., its services are free of charge to members of the Association. Non-members may be required to pay nominal charges for the agency service.

Inquiries should be addressed to the Medical Director either at the head office of the Association in London or at the branch offices: 33, Cross Street, Manchester; 7, Drumsheugh Gardens, Edinburgh, 3; or 234, St. Vincent Street, Glasgow, C.2.