

APPLICATIONS FOR STUDY LEAVE FROM THE I. M. D.

513. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Will the Government give the total number of applications from the I. M. D. for study leave during the past five years, and also state the number of such applicants that have been granted this leave?

Sir Godfrey Fell: On the civil side the figures are as follows:

Number of applications received, 6.

Number of applicants granted study leave, 3.

With regard to the Assistant Surgeons in Military employ, the number of applications received since September 1919 is 30, out of which 6 were sanctioned.

Study leave was in abeyance from August 1914 to September 1919.

DISCONTENT IN THE I. M. D.

514. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: (a) Is the Government aware of the widespread discontent and resentment felt by all ranks of the I. M. D. regarding the manner in which they are employed in British Hospitals, viz., the senior men are, for all practical purposes, looked upon and employed as Head Clerks of the Hospital Offices, the junior men as glorified compounders and dressers?

(b) What steps does the Government intend to take to remedy this treatment of a body of qualified men?

Sir Godfrey Fell: (a) Government are not aware of the discontent and resentment referred to by the Honourable Member. It is not the case that members of the I. M. D. are regarded or employed as Head Clerks or glorified compounders in British Hospitals.

(b) This part of the question does not arise.

PAY OF THE I. M. D. MEN IN CIVIL EMPLOYMENT.

515. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: (a) Is the Government aware of the fact that in some provinces the pay of I. M. D. men holding civil employments and posts has not been increased at all since about the year 1870?

(b) Is the Government aware that in other provinces the pay of such appointments has not been raised since 1914?

(c) If such a state of affairs exists what steps, if any, does the Government propose to take to remedy it?

Mr. S. P. O'Donnell: The emoluments of Military Assistant Surgeons in civil employ are generally fixed at the pay of their rank in military employ, plus the allowances attached to the post which they hold. Orders have already been issued sanctioning the application of the new military rates of pay to Military Assistant Surgeons in civil employ with effect from the 1st April 1920. There remain the cases of Military Assistant Surgeons in independent medical charge of civil stations. The pay of these officers is given in Article 143 of the Civil Service Regulations. The rates there specified were first fixed in 1867 and there have been few changes in them since that date.

A substantial concession was however granted in 1916 when officiating service was allowed to count for purposes of the quinquennial increments shown in the scale in that article on the same basis as substantive service. It is expected that orders revising the pay of Military Assistant Surgeons in independent medical charge of civil stations will issue shortly.

### I. M. D. OFFICERS IN MILITARY HOSPITALS.

516. **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney**: Is the Government prepared to give an assurance that in future, in military hospitals I. M. D. officers will not be called upon to serve as subordinate to R. A. M. C. or I. M. S. officers of junior rank?

**Sir Godfrey Fell**: Under existing regulations, command cannot be given to a R. A. M. C. or I. M. S. officer over an officer of the I. M. D., whose commission confers no military command, if the latter is of superior rank.

On the rare occasions when, owing to the exigencies of the service, I. M. D. officers may be called on to serve in military hospitals with officers of the R. A. M. C. and Indian Medical Service who are junior to them in rank; an officer of the I. M. D., who is not a registered practitioner under the Medical Act, must, as regards all technical matters, be subordinate to the commissioned medical officers of the R. A. M. C. or I. M. S., on whom the responsibility for the medical care of the patients in hospital rests.

### INCLUSION OF THE I. M. D. IN THE TERM 'MEDICAL OFFICER.'

517. **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney**: Do the Government propose to order that in future Government communications, orders and circulars of any description whatsoever, the term 'Medical Officer' will include commissioned officers of the I. M. D. and not only officers of the I. M. S. and R. A. M. C. If not, why not?

**Sir Godfrey Fell**: Government regret that it is not possible to adopt the suggestion. The Royal Warrant for the I. M. D. specifically lays down that members of that Department exercise their authority 'under medical officers', from which it is clear that the designation 'Medical Officer' does not include members of the I. M. D.

### INITIAL PAY IN THE I. M. D.

518. **Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney**: (a) Does the Government realise that the initial pay of an I. M. D. man holding the warrant rank of sub-conductor is less than that of a sergeant in the Ordnance or Supply and Transport, and is Government prepared to remedy this state of affairs without reducing the initial warrant rank of the I. M. D. man?

(b) Will the Government state how the initial pay of an I. M. D. man compares with the pay, allowances, clothes, food and other emoluments of a private in a British regiment, and will the Government say definitely in whose favour such a comparison results and to what extent?

**Sir Godfrey Fell**: (a) It is not true that the initial pay of an Assistant Surgeon of the I. M. D. is less than that of a sergeant of the Indian