

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

Ordnance Department or Supply and Transport Corps, but if the concessions in kind admissible to the latter are taken into account, then it is true that the emoluments of the I. M. D. man are less than those of the departmental sergeant.

I would, however, point out that the Assistant Surgeon is young—about 21 or 22—and inexperienced when he joins, while the departmental sergeant has usually some 8 to 12 years' regimental service before joining a department; he is therefore considerably older.

(b) The initial pay drawn by a member of the I. M. D. compares very favourably with the pay, allowances, etc., received by a private in a British regiment, as the following figures show:

The initial pay of an Indian Medical Department man is Rs. 200 per mensem, whereas the total emoluments of a private in a British regiment, on enlistment, amount to Rs. 115-12-0 a month.

**Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** May I ask a supplementary question, Sir? The Honourable Member just compared a private's pay with that of an I. M. D. man. May I ask if the private's pay includes rations?

**Sir Godfrey Fell:** The figure of Rs. 115-12-0 which I have just given includes pay, and the cash value of rations, clothing, quarters, and so on.

**Rao Bahadur T. Rangachariar:** What is the reason for maintaining the Indian Medical Department separate from the Provincial Medical Service?

**The Honourable the President:** That hardly arises out of the question. The question is one which even Sir Godfrey Fell would require some time to consider.

#### APPOINTMENT OF OFFICERS OF THE I. M. D. IN THE I. M. S. AND R. A. M. C.

**519. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney:** (a) How many men in the I. M. D. are in possession of British registrable medical qualifications?

(b) Were any commissions, temporary or permanent, in the I. M. S. and R. A. M. C. given to any such qualified men in the I. M. D. during or after the war?

(c) If no such commissions were offered even after the war, will the Government be pleased to state why the claims of such men belonging to a most deserving class, were overlooked, whilst many Civil Assistant Surgeons of inferior professional qualifications and experience have been and are so employed?

(d) Is the Government prepared to consider the advisability of annually recruiting at least 10 per cent. of vacancies in the I. M. S. and R. A. M. C. from selected men in the I. M. D. as has lately been resolved upon in this Legislative Assembly regarding the Provincial Civil Service and the I. C. S.?

**Sir Godfrey Fell:** (a) Eleven.

(b) Five of these were granted temporary commissions in the I. M. S. No permanent commissions have been granted to members of the I. M. D. No commissions, permanent or temporary, in the R. A. M. C. have been granted to members of the I. M. D.