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CONTENTS.

ORIGINAL COMMUNICATIONS.

Medical Practice in British Guiana,
by J. Eneas, C.M., M.D. 121

PROGRESS OF MEDICAL SCIENCE

Recent advances in the Therapeutics of Diseases of the Skin, 125.
—The Treatment of the Night-Sweating of Phthisis, 130.—
The Treatment of Acute Rheu-

matism, 133.—Treatment of Secondary Puerperal Metrorrhagia, 134.—Management of the Shoulders in Labor, 136.—Epistaxis in Children, 138.—Angels' Whispers, 138.—Cough and its Local Treatment, 139.—Aspiration of the Gall Bladder, 139.—The Treatment of Abortions, 140.—Obstetric Aphorisms, 141.—Ovarian Irritation and Pain, associated with Cervical inflammation, 142.—Iodoform in Uterine

and Catarrhal Diseases, 142.—
Chronic Eczema of the Palm.... 142

EDITORIAL.

Correction, 143.—College of Physicians and Surgeons of the Province of Quebec, 143.—The late Dr. Kenneth Reid, 143.—Tonga, 143.—W. R. Warner & Co.'s Preparations, 144.—Personal..... 144

Original Communications.

MEDICAL PRACTICE IN BRITISH GUIANA.

By

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In the Colony of British Guiana there are about forty Medical practitioners; of these twenty-six are Medical Officers in the Immigration Department, a chief Medical Officer, twenty-two permanently appointed to rural districts, and three supernumeraries who may be called upon to fill vacancies that may occur in the districts from sickness, death or other causes, but, when not employed in the districts, they are attending the Colonial Hospital; there are, however, generally three or four district Medical Officers away on leave all through the year; there are nine Medical Officers in the Colonial Hospital, Lunatic Asylum, Alms House, Penal Settlement and as Port Officer, the others are private practitioners in Georgetown, the metropolis of the Colony. All Medical Officers except the resident surgeons in the Colonial Hospitals and Lunatic Asylum are allowed to attend to private practice, but which, however, is not of much importance in many of the rural districts. The salaries in the rural districts range from £500 to £1000, but the expense of living is very high, consequently one does not save as

much as may be imagined out of these amounts, particularly in the districts to which the smaller salaries are attached, as generally in the latter there is the least private practice. There is, however, this advantage in connection with the public service in that Colony, one can retire after ten years service if at the age of fifty-five, or if from bodily illness he is unable to continue more than ten years in the service of the Colony, the retiring allowance being one-fiftieth of the salary received for every year that one has been in the service up to the thirty-five years. It is, however, very rare that any one reaches that number of years. One Medical Officer retired three years ago after a service of thirty-three years, and with a retiring allowance of over three thousand dollars per annum. The Medical Officer is allowed a reasonable leave of absence every six years, and oftener if his health requires it. Again, it being compulsory to pay into the Widows' and Orphans' Fund at the rate of four per cent. of the salary, one's widow and children are sure of a fair pension at his death, even if he should die within the first year of his entry into the service. His retiring from the service after ten or more years will not affect his widow's pension, providing four per cent. of the retiring allowance, which is optional, is regularly paid in.

These appointments are generally made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies direct, but in some instances the Governor appoints and then