

bined court, and there was a general indisposition among the elective members to place the Estates Hospitals under the absolute control of the executive so long as the cost was entirely defrayed by the planters. I was frequently met by the argument that, if the Government took the patronage of the medical appointments, they must also assume the entire charge of the Hospitals. The whole subject had been fully discussed long before Mr. Des Vœux's appointment to British Guiana, and the result was a compromise between Governor Wodehouse and the elective members, under which the latter agreed to provide a salary and travelling expenses for an Inspector General of Estates Hospitals to be appointed by the Crown, and who was to visit twice a year every Estate Hospital in the Colony. Mr. Des Vœux admits the integrity, zeal, and independence of the Inspector General, and though my individual opinion is favorable to an alteration of the present system, there are many difficulties in the way of taking the Hospitals into the hands of the Government. I should infer from Mr. Des Vœux's letter that he had given very little consideration to the subject. He makes no reference whatever to the Creole population, which is much more in need of increased medical aid than the immigrants, and yet one of the chief difficulties to be encountered if the Government were to assume the charge of all the hospitals in the Colony, would be the mode of securing the co-operation of the negro villagers, and of obtaining from them the ways and means. I believe that Mr. Des Vœux has very much exaggerated the defects of the present system. No doubt the practice is not uniform. Some hospitals are more liberally managed than others; but it is my conviction that there has been gradual improvement going on, and that there will be a concurrence of testimony among the best informed medical men, that great progress has been made of late years, and that the immigrant labourers are not only better attended to than they were formerly, but that they are much better cared for in British Guiana than they were in their native country, and better than the same class in any other tropical country.

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