

the effect that such clerk's conduct during the year immediately preceding the date of such report has been approved. Before an advance beyond £200 is permitted a certificate is required, in like form, to the effect that the clerk concerned is competent to perform efficiently the highest duties ordinarily assigned to clerks of the Second Division. The salary of a clerk of not less than six years service, who is exceptionally meritorious, may be specially advanced by an amount not exceeding four annual increments. Promotion in the Second Division is according to positive merit, not seniority.

Assistant Clerks or Abstractors have taken the place of men copyists who are, as a class, practically extinct. Their appointments are permanent and the salary commences at £55 per annum and rises by annual increments to £150.

Boy Clerks are employed for temporary service and are paid 15 shillings per weeks for the 1st year. If deserving they may at the end of the 4th year attain to the munificent salary of 19 shillings per week. The Boy Clerks are not retained as such after the age of 20; but facilities are afforded them of obtaining a permanent status as Abstractors or Assistant Clerks, all vacancies in this class being filled by competition amongst Boy Clerks.

Women Clerks are employed in the Post Office Department. They secure appointment by public competition and the positions are eagerly sought after. The limits of age at appointment are from 18 to 20. Candidates must be unmarried or widows and are required to resign their appointments on marriage. After six years service they are entitled to a gratuity, when they retire on marriage. The salary of a Woman Clerk of the second class commence at £55 and rises by annual increments of £5 to £110. On promotion to the first class the salary commences at £115 and rises £5 per annum to £140.

Female typists are employed in a number of the Departments. The salary is 18 shilling per week during one year of probation, and afterwards 19 shillings per week, rising by 2 shillings a week yearly to 25 shillings. Appointments are permanent and a gratuity is granted when resigning on marriage.

#### Examinations.

Competitions for Class I Clerkships are held in August concurrently with those for the Civil Service of India and for the Eastern Cadetships in the Colonial Service and in the same papers. Candidates must have attained the age of 22 and must not have attained the age of 24 on the 1st day of August in the year in which the examination is held. A fee of £6 is required from each candidate. The subjects set for these examinations are as follows, viz: English composition, Sanskrit language and literature, Arabic, Greek translation, composition and literature; Latin translation, composition and literature; English, Italian, French, German, Mathematics, Advanced Mathematics, Natural Science, Greek History, Roman History, English History, General Modern History, Logic and Psychology, Moral and Metaphysical Philosophy, Political Science, Roman Law, English Law. The marks assigned to candidates in each branch (except in mathematics and English composition) are subject to such deduction as the Civil Service Commissioners may deem necessary in order to secure that a candidate be allowed no credit at all for taking up a subject in which he is a mere smatterer.

Successful candidates are allowed to choose, according to their places on the list, among the vacancies for which they are duly qualified, or they may elect to wait for the chance of a vacancy. When vacancies occur they are filled in rotation to the qualified candidates then on the list who will be free to decline them without forfeiting their claim to subsequent vacancies.