

recommends the party to the Secretary, who almost invariably confirms the appointment. If possible, however, it is far better to get a direct appointment, which in the case of Medical Officers on the Immigration staff is always a supernumerary office at a salary of three hundred pounds. Changes are so frequently occurring that an appointment to a district soon follows.

The duty of the district Medical Officer is to attend to all Estate Hospitals at stated intervals, or oftener if necessary, and the police and recognized paupers in the district when required. He is also to attend all Criminal Courts when subpoenaed without compensation except his travelling expenses. He has to make all post mortem examinations when ordered by a coroner, but for that he receives a fee of ten dollars. He also receives a fee of five dollars for giving evidence at the coroner's inquest.

The number of Estate Hospitals in the several districts vary from one to eight, and in some districts they are several miles apart, consequently a large portion of his time is spent in going to and from the hospitals, which adds very materially to his expenses in the way of horseflesh and waggons. These hospitals are certified to accommodate from thirty to eighty patients each, but generally there are not more than half that number in them; occasionally, however, they are full, and sometimes even have more than the certified number.

The patients are chiefly Coolies, or East Indians, laborers on the estates, numbering from two hundred to two thousand on each estate or plantation, indentured and free. The former are entitled to all the privileges of the hospitals, according to the immigration ordinance, and the latter only when they get an order from the manager or other estate official, and this is invariably given when asked for while working on the plantation. The names of the patients are entered on the daily case book by the head sick nurse before or on the arrival of the Medical Officer, and he then makes them in or out patients as he thinks best, except in the case of those who have not been a year in the Colony, when it is specially requested that they be made in-door patients.

In the year 1880 there were treated in the Estate Hospitals throughout the Colony, (in all about one hundred,) 105,552 patients, of whom 1480 or 1.4 per cent. died. Of these patients 73,744 were indentured East Indians or Coolies, that is those who had not been in the Colony five years. Of

the remainder, all of whom were free laborers, there were 24,761 East Indians, 1023 Chinese, 4018 Creoles, 992 Barbadians, 734 Portuguese, 162 Africans, 49 Europeans and 63 other nationalities. Of the whole number 70,410 were treated as in-door patients, of whom 1407 or 20.05 per thousand died, and 35,142 as out-door patients, of whom 73 or 2.09 per thousand died. 181 cases were admitted into the hospitals in a moribund condition, and died on the day of admission, and of these 71 were children. Of the 70,410 patients treated in-doors, 53,745 were adults with 486 or .815 per cent. deaths, and 2454 children under ten years with 65 or 2.63 per cent. deaths. In all 56,199 indentured, with 551 or 98 per cent. deaths, and 14,211 free laborers, with 856 or 6 per cent. deaths. The great difference between the number of deaths in the indentured and free laborers shows the advantage of the supervision by the estates officials over the former class. On the first sign of illness they are ordered to the hospitals, and are compelled to go, whereas the latter class only go to the hospitals whenever they feel inclined, as they are not compelled. Of the whole number treated as in and out-door patients, the rate of deaths in the several nationalities were: of East Indians, 1.27 p.c.; Chinese, 4.1 p.c.; Creoles, 2.7 p.c.; Barbadians, 2.9 p.c.; Portuguese, 2.4 p.c.; Africa, 9.2 p.c.; Europeans, 6.1 p.c.; other nationalities, 11.01 p.c.

The larger portion of those admitted in a moribund condition were free laborers. The number of those who died within the first year of their residence in the colony, or period of acclimation, were 173, or 11 per cent. of all the deaths, and of this number 21 were children; of these deaths 59 died within three months, 56 within six months, 38 within nine months and 20 within twelve months. After deducting the number of deaths within the first year from the whole number of deaths among the indentured immigrants treated in-doors, we find that only .68 per cent. died between the first and fifth year of their indenture.

There were in 1880 22,718 indentured Coolies, of whom 173 or .72 per cent. died within the first year and 383 or 1.7 per cent. between the first and fifth year of their indenture; in the same year there were 45,523 free Coolies, of whom 701 or 1.54 per cent. died.

Of the prevailing diseases, the more important are intermittent and remittent fever, simple bilious and occasionally of a pernicious or congestive type, diarrhoea and dysentery, debility, dropsy and