

3. Yearly incremental rises of pay.

1. An officer in the R. A. M. C. can take £1,000 after 5 years' service in the rank of Captain and there is a rising scale of "bonuses" up to 20 years' service when the first pension is earned.

2. I would suggest a pension of £200 after 12 years' service, or even after 12 years' "service in India." This brings the I. M. S. into line with the combatant ranks of the Indian Army who can go after 18 years on £200.

3. All Indian Army officers seem to have had a rise of pay recently, except the Indian Medical Service; presumably because the supply of the latter more than equalled the demand. The yearly incremental rise of pay would appear to meet the case very well; and especially so, if some system of "retiring bonuses" or an earlier retiring pension, came into vogue.

Yours, etc.,

H. G. STILES WEBB,

CAPTAIN, I.M.S.,

Dy. Sany. Commsr., Punjab.

(Sub. pro tem.)

THE LATE DR. BUSTEED, I.M.S.

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—Early in the present year there died, at the age of 78, Brigade-Surgeon, Henry Elmsley Busted, M.D., C.I.E., formerly in the Medical Service of the Honourable East India Company.

Those who were in India during the last quarter of the nineteenth century, and all who are interested in the stirring tale of the rise of British power in that country must be sensible of the great debt due to Dr. Busted for the sagacious and indefatigable researches which he conducted into the history of "Old Calcutta," for the light which he threw upon the life and conversation of our countrymen in that city, and for the graphic pictures drawn by his careful pen of one of the most momentous periods in the growth of our Indian Empire, the days of Warren Hastings and Impey, of Francis and Clavering and Madame Grand. It is not too much to say that Dr. Busted re-discovered "Old Calcutta," and brought to life again a crowd of interesting figures who once trod that famous stage.

It is felt that some memorial of him should be placed in the Premier City of India, which he loved so well, and which owes so much to his inexhaustible knowledge and untiring erudition, and it is thought that not only his personal friends but also many of those who have read with delight his fascinating "Echoes from Old Calcutta" would be glad to contribute to such an object. The nature of the Memorial must obviously depend upon the amount of the fund raised for this purpose, but it is hoped that it may be possible to place a bust in the Victoria Memorial Hall in Calcutta which is now in course of erection, and will, when completed, be the National Gallery and Valhalla of India.

Contributions will be gladly received, in England, either by Sir James Bourdillon, Westlands, Liphook or by Messrs. Richardson and Co., 25, Suffolk Street, Pall Mall, and in India by Messrs. Grindlay and Co., Calcutta.

S. C. BAYLEY.

J. A. BOURDILLON.

HENRY COTTON.

A. W. CROFT.

E. DENISON ROSS.

CURZON of Kedleston.

H. MORTIMER DURAND.

A. S. LETHBRIDGE,

MACDONNELL.

[We have much sympathy with this proposal. Dr. Busted died 1st February 1912. Born 4th December 1832. M. D. (Irel.) in 1854, entered I. M. S. 4th August 1855, at the first competitive examination, retired 1st June 1886. Served in Mutiny, Cawnpur, relief of Lucknow, Gwalior Operations. Joined Madras Mint 1865, and in 1872 Assay Master, Calcutta Mint, and remained 16 years in Calcutta till he retired. The 1st Edition of *Echoes* was published by Messrs. Thacker, Spink & Co., in 1882; the 4th Ed. in 1908.—ED., I. M. S.]

CONVICT MARRIAGES.

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—Major Woolley's excellent article on Convict marriages in the *Andamans* in your March number does not appear to have aroused the comment—favourable or the reverse—which I anticipated and which it deserved. It is, however, of great interest to all those who have at heart the improvement of the criminal in the present and his disappearance in the future.

As he says, it is rather a shock to one conversant with the strict régime of European and Indian prisons to go to Port Blair and find convicts receiving pay from, and being given in marriage by, the Government. Major Woolley in his article, has put forward most of the arguments that exist in favour of this marriage system, but the very fact that he feels constrained to suggest improvements shows that he is not satisfied with it. I quite agree that if the marriage system is to continue,—and it is now so deeply rooted that its extermination would be a difficult matter, Major Woolley's scheme of married and bachelor villages is a sound attempt to improve it; but I do not think that he has laid sufficient stress on the two great drawbacks to the system.

The first drawback is the immorality which prevails, and is bound to prevail—in villages where men outnumber the women by 20 to 1. A woman may leave the Female Jail with a full intention of living a moral monogamous life with her new husband, but the temptations are so great that the end is, in a large proportion of cases, a life of prostitution on the woman's part, while the husband lives in idleness on her earnings.

The second—and still greater—drawback to my mind, is the condition of the offspring of these marriages.

Major Woolley regrets the high percentage of childless marriages. I rejoice at it. By all means let male and female convicts have the chance of improving their characters by giving them a form of self-supported home life, but it is terribly hard on the children, and the fewer of them the better.

Modern thought seems to be putting less emphasis on heredity and more on environment in the production of health and character, but in this case we have both forces influencing the child and the influence is about as bad as it can be. Major Woolley states that the parents are carefully selected, but the fact remains that the majority of them are murderers—the men (may be) dacoits and the women murderers of previous husband or children.

If there is any truth at all in heredity (and undoubtedly there is) it is difficult to imagine such persons as likely to produce offspring who will be a credit to society. And when the child is born, his environment could not be worse. From his earliest years he is surrounded by convicts. He learns their ways and becomes an expert at evading the laws in petty matters, as he sees his elders doing. A year never passes without some foul crime being the talk of his village, and he becomes accustomed to bad language and immoral practices at an age when he should be all youthful innocence. These evils would certainly be mitigated by a scheme such as that outlined by Major Woolley.

There is just one other point in Major Woolley's article to which I should like to draw attention. He says as "venereal diseases are very common among the convicts, it is by no means difficult to understand how it comes about that they prevail pretty extensively among the village population."

This is an indictment against the settlement and especially against the Medical Administration thereof, which ought not to go unnoticed. But my two years' experience of Port Blair leaves me little doubt about its truth.

And yet if it is possible to exclude plague, smallpox, typhoid, rabies, and the like, (diseases which are non-existent there), it should be possible to exterminate such diseases as Gonorrhœa and Syphilis; and I look forward to the day when efficient Medical Administration (preventive, prophylactic, and curative) aided by the whole-hearted support of the non-medical officials and possibly of the convicts themselves, will result in a penal settlement purged of these loathsome diseases, and all the healthier and happier for their absence.

I remain, Sir,

Yours faithfully,

F. A. BARKER, M.B.,

CAPT., I.M.S.,

Superintendent, Borstal Central Jail, Lahore.

QUERY

To the Editor of "THE INDIAN MEDICAL GAZETTE."

SIR,—A medical man attends a case of opium-poisoning—may be suicidal, homicidal or accidental—and the case recovers under his treatment.

Is he bound by law to give information to the Police about it?

Of course, in case the patient dies, the medical attendant is bound to inform the police. Everybody seems agreed there.

M. B.

November 1912.

[Opinion is invited.—ED., I. M. G.]