

28th January 1930

THE

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY DEBATES

(Official Report)

Volume I, 1930

(20th January to 24th February, 1930)

SIXTH SESSION

OF THE

THIRD LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 1930

~~Chamber Enlarged~~ 18-X-73



DELHI
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA PRESS
1930

Legislative Assembly.

President :

THE HONOURABLE MR V. J. PATEL.

Deputy President :

MAULVI MUHAMMAD YAKUB, M.L.A.

Panel of Chairmen :

PANDIT MADAN MOHAN MALAVIYA, M.L.A.

MR. M. A. JINNAH, M.L.A.

SIR DARCY LINDSAY, KT., C.B.E., M.L.A.

SIR ZULFIQAR ALI KHAN, KT., C.S.I., M.L.A.

Secretary :

MR. S. C. GUPTA, BAR.-AT-LAW.

Assistant of the Secretary :

RAI SAHIB D. DUTT.

Marshal :

CAPTAIN SURAJ SINGH BAHADUR, I.O.M.

CONTENTS.

PAGES.

VOLUME I—20th January to 24th February 1930.

Monday, 20th January, 1930—

Statement by Mr. President <i>re</i> Protection of the Assembly Chamber and its precincts	1-3
Members Sworn	3-4
Questions and Answers	4-44
Unstarred Questions and Answers	44-81
Resolution <i>re</i> Attempt to wreck the Viceroy's Train—Adopted	81-84
Governor General's assent to Bills	85
Statement laid on the Table	85-86
The Indian Sale of Goods Bill—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee:	86
The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee	86
The Inland Steam-vessels (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee	88
The Dangerous Drugs Bill—Appointment of Mr. E. F. Baum to the Select Committee	87
The Cantonments (House-Accommodation Amendment) Bill—Appointments to the Select Committee	87
The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	88
Resolution <i>re</i> Fixing Minimum Wages—Adopted, as amended	88-92

Tuesday, 21st January, 1930—

Members Sworn	93
Questions and Answers	93-130
Statement by Mr. President of his position in relation to the boycott of the Legislatures	131-34
Statement laid on the Table	134-61
The Hindu Widows' Right of Inheritance Bill—Circulated...	162-68
The Imperial Bank of India (Amendment) Bill—Motion to consider negatived	168-93
The Arya Marriage Validation Bill—Discussion on the Motion to refer to Select Committee adjourned	193-97

Wednesday, 22nd January, 1930—

Resolution <i>re</i> Stipends of the Members of the Carnatic Family --Adopted	199-201
Resolution <i>re</i> Currency Offices—Withdrawn	201-02
Resolution <i>re</i> Slaughter of Milch Cows—Negatived	203-35

Thursday, 23rd January, 1930—

Member Sworn	237
Statement of Business	237
The Arya Marriage Validation Bill—Circulated	237-63

CONTENTS—*contd.*

	PAGES.
Thursday, 23rd January, 1930—<i>contd.</i>	
The Reservation of the Coastal Traffic of India Bill—Re-circulated	263
The Indian Steam-vessels (Amendment) Bill—Passed	263-66
The Mussalman Wakf Validating (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	266
The Court-fees (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	266-68
The Indian Penal Code (Amendment) Bill—Motion to circulate, negatived	268-71
The Indian Electricity (Amendment) Bill—Withdrawn	271-74
The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	274
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	275
The Indian Religious Pictures Trade Marks (Prevention) Bill—Introduced	275
Saturday, 25th January, 1930—	
Address by H. E. the Viceroy to the Members of the Legislative Assembly	277-82
Monday, 27th January, 1930—	
Member Sworn	283
The Indian Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Bill—Appointments to the Select Committee	283
The Indian Patents and Designs (Amendment) Bill—Passed as amended	283-88
Tuesday, 28th January, 1930—	
Closing of the Galleries of the Legislative Assembly Chamber	289
Short Notice Question and Answer	289-90
Resolution <i>re</i> Recruitment for the Indian Medical Service—Adopted, as amended	290-312
Wednesday, 29th January, 1930—	
Questions and Answers	313-38
Unstarred Questions and Answers	339-48
Statement of Business	348
The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee	348
The Indian Sale of Goods Bill—Passed	348-58
The Indian Contract (Amendment) Bill—Passed	358
The Transfer of Property (Amendment) Bill—Passed	359
Tuesday, 4th February, 1930—	
Questions and Answers	361-83
Unstarred Questions and Answers	383-94
Short Notice Questions and Answers	395-404
Resolution <i>re</i> Report of the Indian Road Development Committee—Adopted, as amended	405-21

CONTENTS—*contd.*

	PAGES.
Wednesday, 5th February, 1930—	
Questions and Answers	423-36
Unstarred Questions and Answers	436-37
Statement laid on the Table—Reports on the Damage done by Floods in the North West Frontier Province and Baluchistan	437-44
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—(Amend- ment of section 552)—Motion to refer to Select Committee negatived	444-59
The Code of Criminal Procedure (Amendment) Bill—(Amend- ment of sections 205 and 540A)—Motion to refer to Select Committee negatived	459-69
The Indian Religious Pictures Trade Marks (Prevention) Bill —Circulated	469-73
Thursday, 6th February, 1930—	
Statement of Business	475
The Dangerous Drugs Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee	475-76
The Provident Funds (Amendment) Bill—Passed	476
The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill—Passed	476-79
Demands for Supplementary Grants, in respect of Railways... ..	479-83
Working Expenses—Administration	479-81
Working Expenses—Repairs and Maintenance and Operation	481-82
Appropriation from the Depreciation Fund	482-83
Strategic Lines—Working Expenses and Miscellaneous	483
Saturday, 8th February, 1930—	
Questions and Answers	485-90
Unstarred Questions and Answers	490-92
Resolution <i>re</i> Relations between Railways and Inland Steamer Services in Eastern Bengal—Withdrawn	492-98
Resolution <i>re</i> the Present System of Education in India— Adopted, as amended	499-543
Resolution <i>re</i> Medical Research—Debate adjourned	543-50
Tuesday, 11th February, 1930—	
Members Sworn	551
Questions and Answers	551-72
Short Notice Questions and Answers	572-75
Messages from His Excellency the Viceroy and Governor- General	575-76
The Cantonments (House-Accommodation Amendment) Bill— Presentation of the Report of Select Committee	576
Resolution <i>re</i> Medical Research—Withdrawn	576-89
Resolution <i>re</i> Enfranchisement of Indians in Ceylon—Adopted	590-618
Wednesday, 12th February, 1930—	
The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee	619
The Indian Merchandise Marks (Amendment) Bill—Presenta- tion of the Report of Select Committee	619

CONTENTS—*contd.*

PAGES

Wednesday, 12th February, 1930—*contd.*

The Court-fees (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee	619
The Indian Railways (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of Select Committee	619
The Indian Lac Cess Bill—Introduced	619-20
The Indian Companies (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	620
The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	620
The Steel Industry (Protection) Bill—Introduced	621
The Dangerous Drugs Bill—Passed	621-24
Amendment of Standing Orders—Motion to refer to Select Committee, adopted	624-25
Election of Members to the Select Committee on the Amendment of Standing Orders	625

Thursday, 13th February, 1930—

Motion for Adjournment—Strike on the Great Indian Peninsula Railway—Motion for leave being granted fallen through	627-31
Statement of Business	631-32
The Hindu Gains of Learning Bill—Referred to Select Committee	632-45
The Special Marriage (Amendment) Bill—Discussion on the Motion to refer to Select Committee adjourned	645-75

Monday, 17th February, 1930—

Members Sworn	677
Questions and Answers	677-718
Short Notice Question and Answer	718-19
Unstarred Questions and Answers	719-22
Election of Members for the Select Committee on the Amendment of Standing Orders	722
Statement laid on the Table	722-27
Presentation of the Railway Budget for 1930-31	727-37
Panel of Chairmen	737

Tuesday, 18th February, 1930—

The Indian Income-tax (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	739-40
The Insolvency Law (Amendment) Bill—Introduced	740
The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	741
The Steel Industry (Protection) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	741-44
The Indian Lac Cess (Amendment) Bill—Referred to Select Committee	745-47
Election to the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association	747
Election of Members for the Standing Finance Committee for Railways	747
Election of a Panel for the Central Advisory Council for Railways	748
Demands for Supplementary Grants	748-56

CONTENTS—*contd.***Tuesday, 18th February, 1930—*contd.***

Elections to the Governing Body of the Indian Research Fund Association, the Standing Finance Committee for Railways and the Central Advisory Council for Railways	756
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Wednesday, 19th February, 1930—

Election of Members to the Select Committee on the Amendment of Standing Orders	757
The Railway Budget—General Discussion	757-818

Thursday, 20th February, 1930—

Questions and Answers	813-22
Orders by His Excellency the Governor-General	822-23
Allotment of Dates for the General Budget	822
Discussion of certain Heads of Expenditure by the Legislative Assembly	823
Message from His Excellency the Viceroy	823-26
Arrangements for Protection of the Assembly Chamber and neglected	859-59
The Indian Income tax (Amendment) Bill—Passed, as amended	827-28
The Cantonments (House-Accommodation Amendment) Bill—Considered	829-43
Statement of Business	843-44
Arrangements for Protection of the Assembly Chamber and its Precincts	844-45

Friday, 21st February, 1930—

Member Sworn	847
The Railway Budget—List of Demands—	847-93
Demand No. 1—Railway Board—	847-93
Standardisation of Wages	847-48
Recent revised rates of East Indian Railway Wages ...	848-49
Abolition of the additional post of Labour Member on the Railway Board	849-84
Displacement of Anglo-Indians and domiciled Europeans on the various Railways	884
Re-examination of the Convention of the Separation of Railway Finance from General Finance	884-93

Saturday, 22nd February, 1930—

Member Sworn	895
Questions and Answers	895-901
Unstarred Questions and Answers	902-12
The Railway Budget—List of Demands— <i>contd.</i>	912-66
Demand No. 1—Railway Board— <i>contd.</i>	912-66
Re-examination of the Convention of the Separation of Railway Finance from General Finance	912-44
Relations of Railways with their customers	944-48
Indianisation of the staff of Railways	948-49
Failure of the Railway Board to settle Labour Problems and the Great Indian Peninsula Railway Labour troubles	949

CONTENTS—*concl'd.*

	PAGES.
Saturday, 22nd February, 1930—<i>cont'd.</i>	
The Railway Budget—List of Demands— <i>cont'd.</i>	
Demand No. 1—Railway Board— <i>cont'd.</i>	
Non-development of Railway communications in Orissa...	950-51
Reorganisation of the Central Advisory Council for Railways and of Local Advisory Committees ...	951-55
Removal of penal clauses from the agreements by Company-managed Railways and their reintroduction ...	955-58
Policy of Government Recruitment to Accounts and Audit Department of Railways and how Provincial quota is neglected ...	958-59
Larger employment of Mussalmans ...	959-66
Monday, 24th February, 1930—	
Appointment of Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru to the Library Committee ...	967
The Indian Tariff (Amendment) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee ...	967
The Steel Industry (Protection) Bill—Presentation of the Report of the Select Committee ...	967
The Railway Budget—List of Demands— <i>cont'd.</i> ...	967-1020
Demand No. 1—Railway Board— <i>cont'd.</i> ...	967-1020
Larger employment of Mussalmans ...	967-98
Desirability of State Railways running Steamer Services between Important Points in the Railway System ...	998-1002
The Dacca-Aricha Railway Project ...	1002-20

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY.

Tuesday, 28th January, 1930.

The Assembly met in the Assembly Chamber of the Council House at Eleven of the Clock, Mr. President in the Chair.

CLOSING OF THE GALLERIES OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER.

Mr. Arthur Moore (Bengal: European): May I ask, Sir, whether it is your intention, without consulting this House, to keep the galleries closed indefinitely by refusing to issue passes to visitors and thereby causing inconvenience to Members?

Mr. President: The Honourable Member must give notice.

SHORT NOTICE QUESTION AND ANSWER.

REPORT OF THE HAJ INQUIRY COMMITTEE.

Maulvi Mohammad Shafee Daoodi: (a) Will Government be pleased to state when the Report of the Haj Inquiry Committee will be published?

(b) Will the recommendations of the Haj Inquiry Committee, which are of urgent utility to the pilgrims and can be enforced by executive order, be brought into practice during the present Haj season?

(c) Are Government aware that pilgrims proceeding to Hejaz in the present Haj season are very anxious to have the benefit of the unanimous recommendations made by the Haj Inquiry Committee?

(d) Will Government be pleased to state whether they intend to bring in some legislative measure on the lines of the recommendations of the Haj Inquiry Committee during the present Session of the Legislative Assembly?

Sir Frank Noyce: (a) As the Honourable Member is presumably aware, the Report of the Haj Inquiry Committee is still in the Press. It will be published as soon as circumstances permit. Every effort will be made to ensure its early publication.

(b) I am sorry, Sir, that I am unable to give an assurance on this point. The consideration of the Report and consultation with Local Governments and others concerned must necessarily take time. On our part, we shall deal with the Committee's recommendations as expeditiously as possible.

(c) This may be so, but Government have no information. In this connection, I may, however, point out that the pilgrims can have no knowledge of the recommendations of the Committee, as its Report has not yet been published.

(d) I do not think this will be possible, but I may repeat my assurance to the Honourable Member that no avoidable delay will be allowed to occur in taking such action as may be decided by Government on the Committee's recommendations.

Maulvi Mohammad Shafee Daoodi: Is the delay due to the pilgrim conditions not being considered sufficiently important by Government?

Sir Frank Noyce: No, Sir. The delay is due to the fact that the Report has not yet been officially received by Government but is still in the Press.

Maulvi Mohammad Shafee Daoodi: Will Government, on the publication of the Report, agree to the different Haj Committees putting into practice experimentally during the current pilgrim season such of the unanimous recommendations made by the Committee as are in the best interests of the pilgrims? If so, will they instruct the Haj Committees concerned on this point?

Sir Frank Noyce: I should not like to answer the question off-hand without a detailed examination of the recommendations of the Committee, but *prima facie* there would seem to be no objection to the Protectors of Pilgrims and the Haj Committees putting into force such of the recommendations of the Committee as are within their competence. If the Honourable Member will be good enough to discuss this question with me at an early opportunity I shall be very glad to go into the matter with him.

Mr. B. Das: May I enquire, Sir, if the Government will give this House an opportunity to discuss the Haj Committee's Report?

Sir Frank Noyce: I can only promise that that will be considered.

RESOLUTION *RE* RECRUITMENT FOR THE INDIAN MEDICAL SERVICE.

Mr. M. B. Jayakar (Bombay City: Non-Muhammadan Urban): Sir, the Resolution which stands in my name runs as follows:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to revive the competitive examination for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service, which has been held in abeyance for the last fourteen years, and to hold it annually at a convenient centre in India and to make it obligatory for the entrants to the examination to hold a medical qualification registrable in India."

Honourable Members are aware that, until 1915, this examination for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service used to be held regularly in India, and it was one of the avenues by which the middle classes of India could enter the superior medical services. In 1915, purely as a war measure, the examination was discontinued, and the reason given, so far as I recollect, was that it was necessary to obtain quick and rapid recruitment, and therefore, as a temporary measure necessitated by the contingencies of the war, the examination was stopped. The war ended long ago

and nearly a decade has passed since the Armistice was declared and yet we find that the examination has still been held in abeyance. The present supply of Indian Medical Service men is obtained by a system of nomination entirely in the hands of a Committee which sits in England and another Committee in India controlled by the Government of India; and the closeness with which the rights of this Committee have been preserved will be apparent to Honourable Members when I mention that Government have refused, so far as my information goes, to give to the Public Service Commission the right of making or suggesting recruits for these nominations although that is an *ad hoc* Commission whose main function is to supervise the supply of candidates and make a selection from them. This system, therefore, has caused intense dissatisfaction in the country. And Honourable Members will follow my point more appreciatively when I tell them that European candidates—I am very sorry to introduce the racial element but I have to do it because the whole system is based upon racial selection—the European candidates are given special terms and also obtain a most extraordinary concession that, after six years of service, they get a handsome gratuity and can retire and do whatever they like in their own country. Besides, the established policy of the Selection Committee and the Government of India seems to be, when dealing with Indian candidates, to accept mainly British qualifications. However high an Indian may have risen in the examination instituted by Indian Universities, he has got to go to England, not for the purpose of acquiring more expert or technical knowledge but for the purpose of getting a qualification registrable in the United Kingdom, without which he may not be able to compete for this examination. Now Honourable Members can imagine the great hardships to which the middle class population of India are put. However intellectual and bright a young man may be, he has first of all to find the money to go to England. Secondly, he has to go and compete in a foreign language, the tyranny of which only those can understand who for their bread and butter purposes have to use that language from day to day. Thirdly, he has to compete with British candidates on their own grounds, very often with a few months preparation after arrival in England. But Honourable Members will be pleased to hear that Indian candidates have very creditably distinguished themselves in spite of these handicaps of travelling, expensiveness and language. But for some extraordinary reason a rule has been passed by the Secretary of State that only a certain percentage of places will be open to Indians. Only 33 per cent. are open to Indians and the rest, *viz.*, 67 per cent. have to be competed for by British candidates. The result of that naturally has been—and I am assured by those who are entitled to express an opinion on that point—that European candidates of very poor qualifications have been introduced into the service. There are in this service a number of temporary appointments held by Indians and continued from the time of the war. For no reason which may be said to be satisfactory, the Government do not confirm these temporary incumbents. Government go on keeping them from time to time dragging on a precarious existence with the sword of Damocles always hanging over their heads. Honourable Members will remember that a few questions were put in this House in the last and previous Sessions, but with the characteristic reserve with which my Honourable friend, Mr. Young, always speaks on behalf of these services, he did not give any satisfactory reply as to why these appointments had not been confirmed. They are kept temporary from year to year, and in the meanwhile new recruits come up who are made permanent. The

[Mr. M. R. Jayakar.]

reason for this, so far as I could gather from what appears in the Press, is that there is a difficulty of finding suitable British candidates who will submit to the test of a competitive examination, and therefore Indian recruitment must wait on European recruitment. It is stated that one of the reasons why the competitive examination has been done away with is that, even if it were held in England, the right sort of British candidates would not be available who would submit to the examination, although it was held in their own country, conducted in their own language and based upon the medical qualifications of their own land. This is a strange spectacle indeed, that though Indians are prepared to go to a foreign country and submit to an examination held in a foreign language on uneven terms, the British candidate will not enter competition in spite of all facilities. And yet, the order of the Secretary of State is continued, under which 67 per cent. of the places are reserved for the British element and 33 per cent. for the non-British. So it comes to this in plain language that these unjust facilities have to be kept up to tempt the British dullard. Honourable Members will see the excellence which the Indian candidate has attained in spite of all hardships. Let me give a few figures.

In 1914, when one of the last examinations was held in England, Indians secured 50 per cent. of the places. From the figures which are obtainable, Honourable Members will note that 17 out of 35 places were secured by Indians in the competitive examination, and if Honourable Members add two more, the domiciled Europeans, whom I regard as Indians (Hear, hear.), we get 19 out of 35 places secured by Indians. That is the result of the competitive examination held during one of the last years in India. The examination was becoming increasingly popular in consequence of that and medical schools and colleges began giving special training with a view to preparing candidates for this examination. The result was that there was a good deal of hope created in the middle classes of India. I will give Honourable Members some figures to show the popularity of this examination:

Year.	Number of vacancies filled in.	Number of successful Indians.	Percentage.
1910	28	5	18
1911	26	5	19
1912	24	4	17
1913	24	9	37
1914	35	17 (2 domiciled Europeans).	50
1915	7	3	43

Honourable Members will see that the percentage, which began with 18 and 19, rose up to 50, and in the last year of that period it was 43. This is the result of the competitive examination in spite of the hardships

which I have mentioned. If one compares these figures with the percentage of Indians let in by the door of nomination, which one may without exaggeration describe as jobbery, one will find as follows:

Year.	Total Number of recruits.	Indians.	Europeans.	Percentage of Indians.
1923	19	0	19	0
1924	8	0	8	0
1925	13	8	10	42
1926	13	3	10	23
1927	20	8	12	40
1928	24	0	24	0

Totalling up these figures, Honourable Members will find that, out of 102 total recruits from 1923 to 1928 only 18 per cent. Indians could get through. That is the result of the system of nomination. If Honourable Members look to qualifications, which is a test of finding out the quality of the material, the following are the figures.

In 1915 among the Indians who came out at the open test examination, 80 per cent. held University degrees, whereas among the European candidates, only 53 per cent. held such degrees. A large number of them held inferior degrees like Licentiates in Medicine. Whereas 85 British candidates held such inferior degrees, only 23 Indians held them. Tested by another method, namely the post-graduate degrees of M.D., D.O., F.R.C.S. and so on—I see my Honourable friend, Colonel Gidney accepting these figures with an air of suspicion.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney (Nominated: Anglo-Indians): Not with suspicion, Sir, but with great approval.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar: I may mention to him that, speaking of post-graduate qualifications, 17 per cent. of Indians held these high qualifications, whereas only 8 per cent. of Europeans held them. Therefore, the feeling in this country, for all these reasons, is very strong. I know what kind of answer I am going to get from Mr. Young the representative of that dark chamber in the edifice of Government, the Military Department; but for his information I may mention that no less a body than the Second Inter-Universities Conference, which was held last November in this very city, and over the deliberations of which no less a person than His Excellency the Viceroy presided, crystallised the great dissatisfaction which the middle classes feel on this point in a resolution which reads as follows:

"This Conference is of opinion that, in the interests of medical education in Indian Universities, the competitive examination to recruit men to the Indian Medical Service, should be revived early and that it should be held periodically in India, and that all candidates should possess medical qualifications registrable in India"

and so on.

[Mr. M. R. Jayakar.]

Similarly I got only this morning a letter from an important medical association called the All-India Medical Association, which passed a similar resolution, but going into greater detail than the other resolution. Well, this is the state of feeling in the country. I know many of my friends outside this House will doubt my wisdom in having moved this Resolution when my countrymen are asking for complete Dominion Status, and another section goes further and asks for independence; and I can well imagine many newspapers will criticise the wisdom of a Resolution like this, moved at a time when the entire government in this country is required to be transferred to the people. But, as the Resolution was there, and as many of my medical friends desired that it should be moved, although I am not sure what the fate of the Resolution is going to be in the present state of the House, it was my duty, I thought, to move the Resolution and put before this House the case of my medical friends.

Now, the time has come, I submit, Sir, when just as in the case of other examinations like the Bar and the Indian Civil Service—I am only taking two instances—the examination should be held in India. Provision has been made for the holding of superior competitive examinations in India—as an instance, I may mention Bar examinations. It is now unnecessary for an Indian to go to England to qualify himself for the Bar, because the rule has been made that he can pass the same examination in India and get qualified for the Bar and enjoy all the privileges except becoming the Chief Justice of a High Court which in most cases is a very remote possibility. Similarly, in the Indian Civil Service examination, provision has been made, though of a very defective and partial character, under which an Indian need not go to England to qualify himself; he can get the same qualification in India. There is no reason why the same should not be done in the case of the Indian Medical Service examination, except that it is of a quasi-military character and partakes of the nature and characteristics of that hush-hush secrecy which obtains in the Military Department of this country.

Honourable Members will find that the facilities for medical education in this country have increased considerably since 1915. Let me take three tests. As regards the increase of medical colleges, Honourable Members will find, according to the figures which are available, that in 1915 when the examination was closed, we had six big colleges in India giving medical instruction; now they have increased to ten—nearly double. The number of teachers has trebled—I do not wish to weary the House with figures, I am speaking generally. The number of students remains the same in spite of the absurd restrictions which have been imposed on their admission. Government in this country says: "We shall only educate a few"; though the traditions of the country, Hindu as well as Muhammadan, have been from time immemorial that he who wants to grow wise will have the opportunity given. The British Government however say: "No, we will have restrictions put upon the number of students allowed to receive medical instruction". It is therefore creditable that in spite of these restrictions, the number of students has gone up just a little. I have no doubt that, if there had been no restrictions at all, the number would have increased tenfold. Further, improvement has been made in the facilities which are available now in India. A number of

places for acquiring medical experience, namely, house-surgeons and house-physicians have now been thrown open. Taking only Bombay, of which I know a little, we have four large teaching hospitals. Bombay is by no means an exception, and in other places in India we have similar facilities. In Bombay alone, a hundred places of this character exist, providing experience for the incumbents who occupy them. So much value was at one time attached to these places for acquiring experience that I remember there was a rule which provided that if an I. M. S. candidate possessed experience of this description, having acted in places like a house-surgeon or a house-physician, he received special facilities and encouragement. I do not know whether the rule exists now.

Likewise, the post-graduate courses in India, speaking only of my own University in Bombay, have considerably increased, and for the information of Honourable Members I may mention that in medicine, surgery, pathology, ophthalmics and midwifery, post-graduate courses have now been founded. We now get, on an average, nearly five to six hundred medical graduates every year, many of whom, I have not been able to find the percentage, are post-graduate students. All this supply is available in the country. I do not know whether I am going to be told by Mr. Young in his habitual way that an adequate supply is not forthcoming. That would be an absurd plea. The supply is there. The demand is there too. The total strength of the Indian Medical Service is about 620 roughly. Taking 25 to 27 years as the average length of service, we get every year 25 vacancies, speaking roughly. India turns out 500 to 600 medical graduates every year. Therefore, it is clear that there is excellent material to be had in this country which could be utilised for the purpose of filling these places. Speaking of the quality of instruction imparted in India, I have only to remind the House of what my Honourable friend Dr. Moonje said last Simla season when he was dealing with the appointment of an autocrat in medical studies. He called the attention of the House to the report of two English experts, General Megaw and Colonel Sprawson, who had borne testimony to the high quality of the medical instruction given in the Indian Universities. There is therefore no impediment in the way except the desire of the Government to keep this examination as a close preserve for British boys.

I shall now proceed to deal with the last part of my Resolution. That does not require much talking. It only provides that the Government of India should occupy a fair and just position with regard to the rights of the Indian medical profession. They must either observe the principle of reciprocity as other countries do, that is, tell the British Medical Council that, if Indian qualifications are recognised in England and Indians can go and appear for examinations or practise there, as the British can come and practise in this country, well and good; if not, they will have to submit to a test qualification in India before they will be allowed either to practise or to pass examinations in India. I do not think I am asking anything unreasonable when I say that this injustice should be removed, namely, that Indian candidates, after taking the highest medical degree in this country, have got to qualify themselves for another degree in England without which they may not be able to appear for the I. M. S. examination. It is not an examination for the benefit of the British people; it is for the purpose of being of use to the people of this country, and yet the extraordinary circumstance is that degrees of our Universities do not count; we have to submit ourselves to the humiliation of passing another degree. I can understand such a requisition of

[Mr. M. R. Jayakar.]

an Indian going out to England for the purpose of getting expert or technical knowledge and information—that is quite intelligible, but to have to go there for the purpose of qualifying for an examination which is meant for the benefit of the Indian people is, I submit, an absurd requisition.

Another point is that tropical diseases require special study. A man may be excellent in his medical knowledge as regards diseases in England; but there are a number of diseases which are regarded as tropical and they require special study. I say to Government: "Please do not extend the principle which you apply to the Indian Civil Service to medical services". As we say, the Indian Civil Service men are all *subjanta wallas*; they know everything; one day an I. C. S. man is a Legal Remembrancer; the next day he becomes President of a Tariff Board; the third day he is a Health Officer, or a Police Commissioner, or fills an appointment semi-military in character, the presumption being that an I.C.S. man knows everything under the sun. Please do not apply this principle to the medical service; it may or may not be all right when Government are dealing with the civil or political needs of a community; but it is a positively dangerous principle when dealing with the medical needs of the community. I am therefore submitting in the last portion of my Resolution that the Government of India should take their stand upon the doctrine of reciprocity and assert the right of India to be mistress within her domain. There are nearly two thousand Europeans practising in this country now on the basis of European qualifications. They run about, bungle, make mistakes, grow wise, make money and retire. We want the same footing in all countries where these medical men come from.

Mr. G. M. Young (Army Secretary): No one, Sir, who is familiar with the course of recruitment for the Indian Medical Service since the war can deny that the present position is in many respects unsatisfactory; and I think that no one who has heard the eloquent speech which my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, has just delivered on the subject can fail to recognise the strength of his case. He said that he doubted his own wisdom in moving this Resolution at the time. I, who have to oppose his Resolution, have no doubts whatever about his wisdom. I would go further and say, if I may, that the Honourable Member has rendered a public service in moving this Resolution at the present time. The position certainly is *prima facie* unsatisfactory. On the one hand you have candidates forthcoming; I grant it, in large numbers and with high qualifications, for the Service in India. On the other hand you have a relatively flagging recruitment in England. This is a state of affairs which obviously requires examination. The Government of India themselves hold it under periodic review, but it is also right that wider publicity should from time to time be given to the problem, as was the case in 1925 and is the case to-day. My Honourable friend has come forward with a remedy; and before I proceed to examine his proposal in detail, I should like to make sure that I have rightly apprehended what that remedy is. He demands, as I understand him, the immediate institution of a competitive examination for the Indian Medical Service, to be held at a convenient centre in India; and the simultaneous cessation of all recruitment whether of Indians or of Englishmen, whether by examination or by any other means, in the United Kingdom. My Honourable friend will correct me if that is wrong.

Mr. M. B. Jayakar: I should very much prefer if the examination was held exclusively in India; but if I cannot get it through the present House, I want an examination to be held in India, even if it is simultaneous with another examination in London.

Mr. G. M. Young: The distinction is a most important one, because the effect of having an examination only in India would be to bring to an immediate end the whole of the European recruitment. If that is what my Honourable friend wants, then the Resolution as it is moved aims at that object.

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub (Rohilkund and Kumaon Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): You accept the second alternative.

Mr. G. M. Young: As regards the second part of the Resolution I understand that he means that no candidate shall sit for this examination unless he has acquired a qualification not only registrable in India but one which can only be acquired in India.

Now, Sir, what is the situation? My Honourable friend gave some figures of previous recruitment under the old system and also under the system of selection during the war. Some of his figures do not tally exactly with mine, but in general the figures he quoted are correct. I should like to give to the House, however, a rather more comprehensive survey of those figures, which will in some ways put them in a better perspective.

I have not, Sir, got the figures of recruitment before 1910; but if we take the I. M. S. list as it stands today, we find that there are altogether 218 members of the Service who entered it before 1910. Of these 201 are Europeans and 17 Indians. In the five years immediately preceding the war, as the Honourable the Mover has pointed out, the proportion of successful Indian candidates advanced very considerably. The figures, which I have, show that in that period there was a total of 107 successful European candidates and 39 successful Indian candidates; and of those who are now in the Service, the total recruited during the pre-war period is 273 Europeans and 39 Indians or a total of 312; that is to say, of the officers of the Service recruited in the period before the war and before the introduction of the present system of recruitment, the proportion of Europeans to Indians is 7 to 1.

Then we come to the war. During the war, 1915 to 1919, 44 Europeans were recruited and 18 Indians. Immediately after the war there was a very large increase in Indian recruitment. I do not think my Honourable friend referred to those years, but the total recruited during 1920 to 1922 is 46 Europeans and 83 Indians. In the year 1920, 59 Indians were recruited, which is considerably more than the total annual intake of a normal year. The Honourable the Mover concentrated rather on the years immediately succeeding this period. It is quite true that during 1923 and 1924 no Indians were recruited, but the total for the five years 1920 to 1925 is 83 Europeans and the same number of Indians

Maulvi Muhammad Yakub: Are the Indians recruited in these years permanent or temporary?

Mr. G. M. Young. They are all permanent, Sir. I admit that at that time the cadre was in an abnormal condition and recruitment was therefore also abnormal; hence there were these large fluctuations from year

[Mr. G. M. Young.]

to year. After 1923 and 1924, in which years, as I said, no Indians were recruited, we had a Resolution moved in this House in September 1925 by the late Dr. Lohokare. His Resolution was for the re-establishment of the competitive examination, but he proposed that it should be held both in the United Kingdom and India. At that time the reorganization of the Service was not complete; recruitment, as I said, was in an abnormal condition. The line taken by the Government spokesman at the time was that it was too early to consider the re-introduction of the examination. A distinguished officer of the Indian Medical Service, who took part in the debate, also pointed out the practical difficulties if the competitive examination were held simultaneously in England and in India. In that year, the year 1925, 11 Europeans and 10 Indians were recruited. In the following years the reorganization of the Indian Medical Service was worked out. The ratio adopted, as my Honourable friend has said, was approximately 2 Europeans to 1 Indian. The actual numbers recruited from the year 1925 up to date work out to 86 Europeans and 47 Indians.

Now, Sir, I quote these figures only to show that, under the system of selection, there has been a very considerable advance in Indianisation. It may be possibly not so great as might have been expected from the figures for the one or two years immediately preceding the war, but taking everything into consideration, it does constitute a very great advance.

There is, however, one respect in which I have always thought the situation is most unsatisfactory; that is the rule to which the Honourable the Mover has referred, by which Indian recruitment has to wait upon European recruitment. It has been the practice in the last few years not to recruit to an Indian vacancy until two recruits have been obtained in England to fill European vacancies, with a view to maintaining recruitment in the proportion of 2 to 1. Indian recruitment was made to wait upon European recruitment which during those years has been fitful and flagging. The object of that arrangement originally was to prevent the proportion of Indians becoming too great at any given time. But all the same, I readily admit that, from the Indian point of view, that system is invidious and unsatisfactory; and I am glad to say that, on a representation by the Government of India, the Secretary of State has agreed to abolish that arrangement. In future, Indians will be recruited to Indian vacancies in the recognised proportion without respect to the rate at which European candidates are forthcoming for European vacancies . . .

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: What is that recognised proportion?

Mr. G. M. Young: As I have just said, the recognised proportion is 2 to 1.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Thank you, Sir.

Mr. G. M. Young: I claim that this step does meet the principal grievance underlying the Resolution, that the recruitment of Indians to this Service has been made to wait upon the recruitment of Europeans; in other words, an Indian candidate's chance of getting into the Service has been regulated by the enthusiasm or otherwise of British candidates to go to the Service. Admittedly, Sir, this reform would not meet the literal implication of the present Resolution, which is that European recruitment should forthwith cease. To those who do accept this Resolution in

its literal sense, I would point out that such a step would go far beyond the recognised rate of Indianisation in any of the other All-India services. The Indian Medical Service is primarily a military service, but it also is a servant of the Civil Services. The two reasons for maintaining the present ratio are that a certain military reserve of European officers is required, and that, under the orders of the Secretary of State, a certain proportion of European medical practitioners is maintained to look after those Europeans who are members of the other Civil Services and their families. With regard to this actual proportion, I can only say that it is the outcome of the most careful examination and analysis. When the Government of India submitted their proposals to the Secretary of State 3½ years ago, they did not pretend that these proportions would be immutable and abiding for all time. They said that they would subject them periodically to review. If in the impending constitutional changes an advance takes place in the pace of Indianization in the other services, or if any other reason indicates that the modification of the proportion is *prima facie* desirable, the Government of India will have no hesitation in examining it afresh. The rate is merely the rate which holds good at the present time. For these reasons, Sir, I submit that the Resolution, in so far as it involves immediate and radical changes in the organization of the Service, is premature.

I will now turn, Sir, to the practical problem involved by the institution of a competitive examination in this country. If it were merely a question of securing a regular flow of Indian candidates from the Universities, there is much to be said for a system of competitive examination. But there is, as I have already pointed out, the question of European recruitment, and there is also the question of those Indian students who, after qualifying at the Indian Universities, have the means, the time, the enterprise and the ambition to proceed to Europe and study in medical institutions where, taking it as a whole, the standard of teaching is higher, the opportunities of learning are greater, and the qualifications obtained are ultimately higher. Indians will continue to do this in considerable numbers, whether their object is entry into the Indian Medical Service or into the far larger field of private practice. Would it be fair then to insist that they should come back to India to submit to an examination in competition with those who may have left their Indian Universities at exactly the same time and have spent the whole of the intervening period in studying at the same University and preparing themselves for this examination, and gaining no fresh or wider experience? I submit that a system of that kind would penalise your best source of recruitment for the Indian Medical Service. It would penalise them and it would handicap them.

Another objection to the immediate institution of a competitive examination is that it would be unfair to those temporary officers, of whom we hear so much. They have been several years in the Service. It would not be reasonable to expect them to sit down and pass an examination alongside of students who have just left the University and have been preparing for that examination. There is another point about competitive examinations which, though it does not apply to Indians in the same way as Europeans, is nevertheless worth noting. In no medical service in the United Kingdom has it been found possible to introduce a system of competitive examination since the war. The Royal Army Medical Corps, the Royal Air Force, Medical Corps, the Naval Medical Corps, and medical

[Mr. G. M. Young.]

appointments in the Colonies, are all recruited for by selection at the present day. Severe criticism has been made of this system of selection. It has been described by my Honourable friend as jobbery. Some form of selection is present in most public examinations. This particular examination certainly consists entirely of selection. On the other hand those who appear for it, especially those who have been to the United Kingdom and obtained a variety of qualifications there, have already submitted to a great many examinations, and I do not think there is any reason to suspect that the Board, constituted as it is, is unable or unqualified to discriminate between various candidates and to select the best men. My Honourable friend said that it is an invariable rule to accept a candidate only if he has a British qualification. That is not the invariable rule. The last batch, for instance, contained a candidate who had no British qualification. My Honourable friend also suggested that the Public Service Commission's services might be utilised in holding these examinations. That is a suggestion to which Government will certainly give consideration. They are not hidebound in this matter. Other objections to the present system of selection may possibly be brought to light in the course of the debate. Government are perfectly willing to examine them; and in the report of this discussion, which they intend to send to the Secretary of State, they will take into consideration any suggestions that may have been made to that effect.

As regards that part of the Resolution which deals with registration, I have no doubt that my Honourable friend Sir Frank Noyce will be able to supplement any deficiencies that result from my working, as Mr. Jayakar said, in the dark cell of the Military Department. I understand that the Government of India are at this moment engaged in negotiations, the object of which is to set up as soon as possible a Medical Council in this country corresponding to the General Medical Council in the United Kingdom and the Medical Councils in the various Dominions; and that if they are successful in that object the whole difficulty about the mutual recognition of registrable qualifications will have disappeared. Whatever the particular object of my Honourable friend's Resolution, I would suggest that the discussion of this matter in connection with the recruitment to the Indian Medical Service can only, if it does anything at all, prejudice those negotiations; and, even if my Honourable friend does not see eye to eye with me as regards the rest of this Resolution, I do suggest that this part is at the moment inopportune.

Before I sit down I should like to say a word again about the temporary officers. I have explained their position and their relation to the permanent officers of the Service several times in this House. But it is a matter of regret that even the Honourable the Mover, with his ample knowledge of the subject, is still under a misapprehension as to those terms. The terms granted to temporary officers are by no means illiberal. They receive on joining an outfit allowance of Rs. 600, which is, I think, the same as officers of the permanent service, and while they are in the Service they draw exactly the same pay and allowances as the permanent officers of the Service. It is true that they are not presented with a gratuity on retirement at the termination of their contracts. There are officers recruited on temporary terms in the Royal Army Medical Corps. They also draw the same pay as the regular officer, but they serve on contracts which are terminable at a month's notice only, and get no gratuity on retirement.

Our temporary officers serve on contracts which may be extended at present to five years. Both at the time of entering on their first agreement and at each annual subsequent renewal, they sign a declaration acknowledging that their services will not in any case be extended beyond five years. Therefore there is never any question of these officers being turned off suddenly or being disappointed in their prospects. They know exactly where they stand when they enter upon their first temporary agreement, and very large numbers of them are willing to accept service on those terms. We have no difficulty in filling these positions. I admit, Sir, that the system of temporary officers is in itself unsatisfactory. I look forward to the day when the permanent cadre will be completely filled. But I do not think that these officers can be said to be treated illiberally, as compared with, say, the temporary officers in the Royal Army Medical Corps to whom I have referred. A comparison is often made, my Honourable friend made it again, between the terms on which these officers serve and the terms on which officers of the permanent service are permitted to retire on a gratuity, if they so wish, after six or twelve years' service. We are told that European officers have the privilege of retiring with a large gratuity after six years and after twelve years, whereas Indian temporary officers are turned off after five years without a gratuity. Well, Sir, those gratuity terms apply to all permanent service officers.

Mr. President: Order, order. The Honourable Member is running against his time.

Mr. G. M. Young: Thank you, Sir, for reminding me. I shall finish in a very short time. As I was saying, Sir, these gratuity terms are offered to Europeans and Indians alike. It is simply the option of retiring on gratuity instead of continuing in service. As a matter of fact the opportunity is rarely taken and the gratuity is rarely paid. It is an inducement to an officer on entering service. When he has been there for five or six years, generally he does not want to go away. My point is that these terms are offered to Europeans and Indians alike, and there is no racial discrimination in the matter. I have made that point clear many times before and I make it again.

You have reminded me, Sir, that my time is short. I have stated the case to the best of my ability. The position as I have said is not wholly satisfactory. But I do hope that I have succeeded in conveying to the House that we are doing, and will do, our best to improve it. If I have satisfied my Honourable friends that these are our intentions, I shall be more than content; and I am even grateful to the Honourable the Mover bringing forward this Resolution, although I cannot accept the demand for the immediate institution of a competitive examination in this country without further consideration.

Ident.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidday: Sir, I rise to support this Resolution. (Hear, hear.) At the outset I should like to tell my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, that his vision appears to be somewhat distorted, for when he charged me with looking at him with suspicion, I was actually viewing him with considerable approval. Before I proceed any further—I speak, I believe, on behalf of the European Group also—I should like to ask my Honourable friend Mr. Jayakar whether his Resolution means that the competitive examination for the I. M. S. is to be confined to India or to be held simultaneously in England and in India.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar: My Resolution speaks of an exclusive examination in India only. But I am quite agreeable, having regard to the apprehended fate of my Resolution, that, if the Government of India agree to the first part of my Resolution, there should be simultaneous examination in India as well as in England.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Thank you. I therefore wish to move an amendment to the original Resolution to the effect that the examination be held simultaneously in England and in India, and I am glad my Honourable friend has accepted it.

Mr. B. Das (Orissa Division: Non-Muhammadan): Is the Honourable Member speaking as representative of the European Group or representative of Anglo-Indians? I should like to have that made clear.

Dr. A. Suhrawardy (Burdwan and Presidency Divisions: Muhammadan Rural): He is speaking as Colonel Gidney.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: My Honourable friend, Mr. Das, has no reason to question me. I am not speaking as an Oorya.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar: May I know from my Honourable friend whether he has any hopes of such an amended Resolution being accepted by the Government of India? If so, I will agree; if not, I will push forward my own Resolution.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I am not in the confidence of the Government of India. But I believe the European Group would support the Resolution if it contained a provision for simultaneous examination.

Mr. M. R. Jayakar: May I mention to my Honourable friend that, if I have the assurance from Honourable Members of the European Group that they will support the Resolution, I will accept it in the amended form rather than risk losing the entire Resolution.

Sir Darcy Lindsay (Bengal: European): I have not consulted all the Members of the Group, but from the indications given to me, the Resolution in its amended form will receive our support.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I desire to congratulate my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, on the very thorough and reasonable manner in which he has presented his Resolution. I agree with him in reopening the competitive examination and holding it in India. I have always maintained that it should not be necessary for India alone, of all the possessions of the British Empire, to be compelled to send her sons thousands of miles away to Europe to be trained for service in their own country. Admission into the I. M. S. has hitherto demanded a training and a degree in England, and, as such, has entailed great expense to parents in India to be able to send their sons to England to qualify. I have always objected to this demand for entrance into the Imperial services. But, if this Resolution is passed, it will certainly give Indians an opportunity of passing this examination in India. My Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, has stressed the point that Indian Universities provide ample opportunities to supply suitable candidates for entrance into the I. M. S. I am afraid, I cannot entirely agree with him, because some of the newer Universities do not offer adequate training to their students before giving them a degree.

Dr. B. S. Moonje (Nagpur Division: Non-Muhammadan): What about old Universities?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I am not referring to them. There are certain Universities

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Does the Honourable Member mean to say that the old Universities cannot supply the requisite number?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Will the Honourable Member Dr. Moonje—I mean Colonel Moonje—have patience and hear what I have to say and not interrupt me? There are certain Universities, such as, Bengal, Madras and Bombay which can supply suitable candidates in plenty and as good as can be had in any other country. There are other Universities, such as Patna, Rangoon

Mr. B. Das: I strongly protest against the inclusion of Patna.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: And in a way, the Punjab too where the training is not adequate. I believe this was the reason why the British General Medical Council demanded the appointment of an Inspector of Standards and Qualifications. However, that is not the point at issue in this Resolution. The question is whether the present system of obtaining recruits to the I. M. S., by nomination only is the best method. I agree with my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, that nomination is not a good system. It certainly opens the door to nepotism and favouritism,—I would not say jobbery, because that would not be a fair term. In opposing this Resolution the Honourable Member, the Secretary to the Army Department, stated that nomination was the present system for recruitment into the R. A. M. C., and the Royal Medical Air Force. But, that is no answer to Mr. Jayakar's statement that nomination is not the best system for the I. M. S. on such an occasion and at such a discussion I would like to have seen, seated in this House, the Director General of Indian Medical Service answering this Resolution. He is more qualified to give a suitable and ample reply, for he is familiar with all the details of the matter. The system of nomination that is at present in vogue is, in my opinion, one that should certainly be stopped. The Army Secretary has given certain reasons why recruitment by nomination should continue. He stated that the I. M. S., was primarily an Army Department. He next referred to the medical needs of wives and families of European members of the services, for which reasons he said, there should be a sufficient percentage of Europeans in the I. M. S. Both these points certainly need careful consideration, but, they are not adequate enough reasons why to oppose the reopening of the competitive examination for which the Resolution asks. The Honourable the Mover was wrong when he said that, before one could enter into the I. M. S., it was a *sine qua non*, that he must possess a British medical qualification. The Honourable Member in charge of the Department has said that Indians have been accepted as permanent Members of the I. M. S., who did not possess British qualifications.

An Honourable Member: How many?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: Not many; but it is nevertheless a fact.

An Honourable Member: One swallow does not make a Summer.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I know that, nor does one swallow quench a thirst. The Honourable the Mover of the Resolution also stated that the standard of officers who enter the I. M. S. today is not of a good quality. I am, in a way, inclined to agree with him. Speaking as I can as a retired Member of the I. M. S., one who had to stand a competitive examination in England, having obtained my education in this country, I can state, without any fear or hesitation, that the standard of officers who enter the I. M. S. today is certainly not the same as in the days when a competitive examination was the only door of entrance into this great service. I go further and state that this, in turn, has its effect on the quality of our graduates who are not adequately trained. It was in 1922, Sir, that I presented to this House a Resolution which I called, for want of a better term my Medical Swaraj Resolution, which asked that the medical institutions in this country be examined by a proper Committee with a view to elevating their standard of teaching and training and so enabling India to supply all her medical needs. That Resolution was thrown out by this House. I am however, glad to see that Mr. Jayakar has now come forward practically to substantiate my Resolution in as much that India should supply all her medical needs from top to bottom, and I again repeat this can only be done if we have efficient professors to train and supply a good standard of men entering the I. M. S. Now the question is, in view of the inferior class of men who have entered the I. M. S. since nomination has replaced competition, will you improve or reduce the quality and standard of the I. M. S. by having a competitive examination in this country? I view this question with some considerable anxiety and concern because I believe I am more familiar than the Honourable Mover is with the standard of medical education received at certain Universities in this country. The fault does not lie so much with the students, but with the class of professors; and this brings me to my original observation that the type of officers who have come out within the past decade and are coming out into the I. M. S. today is certainly not of that standard to maintain the past high level of the I. M. S. The really first class men in England refuse to come out today among other reasons, because of the uncertainty of tenure of service, with the result that a poor class of men are coming out today, men who will be our professors of tomorrow. I felt almost inclined to say that with some exceptions only third and fourth-rate men are coming out. The I. M. S. today, especially if graduates with Indian degrees are to be accepted, wants only the best and India's first-rate is better than the third and fourth-rate from England. Therefore, I submit that we have to move very cautiously in this matter, because if you recruit an inferior class of officers, men who will in time be appointed as professors to our Colleges, you must have a poor type of graduate. What I maintain is that, if this Resolution is passed we should demand that our Colleges and Universities be elevated to such a standard as to maintain the high standard of the I. M. S. and also to supply all our medical needs.

The Honourable Mover has quoted certain figures which showed that Indians do not have a chance of getting into the Indian Medical Service but the Honourable Secretary to the Army Department has certainly shown figures that disprove the accuracy of the Honourable Mover's statement, especially within recent years. I do not know if the Honourable Army Member referred to the 1929 figures when, I believe, 23 or 24

Indian candidates entered the Indian Medical Service from India. I am not sure of my figures, but the Honourable Member will correct me if I am wrong.

Mr. G. M. Young: I gave the figures for 1925—29 inclusive. They are 86 Europeans and 47 Indians. The figures for 1929 are 24 Europeans and 13 Indians.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: That goes to prove that Government are certainly anxious to increase the recruitment of Indians in the Indian Medical Service. Sir, this is the last Department of the Government of India in which racial or communal discrimination should be allowed or tolerated, and I maintain that India should be encouraged to recruit all her medical needs from her own country, not all at once but more liberally than at present and the only way in which this can be accomplished is by holding a competitive examination for the I. M. S. in India only. But at the present time India is certainly not prepared for such a radical change because, with the present inadequate training that is given in certain Universities, I would prefer to go slower, and I therefore recommend simultaneous examinations and I am glad the Honourable the Mover has accepted my amendment that these should be held simultaneously in England and India on an acceptable percentage.

Mr. President: What is the Honourable Member's amendment? It is no use saying the Honourable the Mover has accepted his amendment. I have not been any amendment yet.

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I will move an amendment to the Honourable Member's Resolution now.

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Member give me a copy of his amendment?

Lieut.-Colonel H. A. J. Gidney: I have not sent you any written amendment but if you will permit me I will give it from my seat which is this, "That simultaneous examinations be held in England and India and not exclusively in India".

Mr. President: Will the Honourable Leader of the European Group move the amendment in proper form?

Sir Darcy Lindsay: I am having it drafted at the moment.

Mr. President: Then the Honourable Member has already exceeded his time limit.

Sir Frank Noyce (Secretary, Department of Education, Health and Lands): Sir, I do not wish to traverse the ground which has been fully covered by the Army Secretary. My only reason for intervention in this debate is that I should like to say a few words with reference to the question raised by the Honourable Mover's Resolution in regard to medical qualifications registrable in India. I am very glad indeed that both the Army Secretary and Colonel Gidney have emphasised the fact that there is no hardship involved at present in this respect, that the humiliation to which the Honourable Mover referred of a candidate for the Indian Medical Service having to go to England to secure a degree in that country before he is admitted to the service does not exist, and that candidates

[Sir Frank Noyce.]

with Indian degrees have been admitted to the service. The only stipulation is that their degrees should be those of Universities which are recognised by the General Medical Council. That brings me to the point on which the Honourable Mover laid much emphasis. I should like again to reaffirm the position of the Government of India in that respect and to explain how matters now stand. The position of the Government of India is that they are as anxious that India should possess Dominion Status in this respect as is the Honourable Mover of the Resolution. It is their desire to see a statutory Medical Council established, the position of which in relation to the General Medical Council will be exactly the same as that of the Medical Councils which have been established in Australia, New Zealand and Canada. They hope shortly to be in a position to place before this House their proposals in that respect. The Bill which was originally circulated for opinion has to be redrafted in some respects. That will be undertaken at the earliest available opportunity, and we trust that, before long, the House will have an opportunity of expressing its views on this subject.

There is one point to which I should like to refer. I am not sure that there is not an impression in some quarters that the I. M. S. is in a favoured position as regards such registration as now exists by the provincial Medical Councils. I can assure the House that that is not the case and that in all provinces which have Medical Councils and in which there is compulsory registration, I. M. S. officers have to be registered on exactly the same terms as other practitioners. That I need hardly assure the House would be the case when we have an all-India Medical Council, certainly on the civil side.

That, Sir, I think disposes of the latter part of the Resolution. I can only once again emphasise that we will do our best to expedite the submission to the House of a Bill establishing an all-India Medical Council for India which will, I trust, meet with the approval not only of this House but also meet the views of the General Medical Council which has expressed its desire to be in a position to treat with an all-India Council and to hand over all responsibility in regard to the standards and qualifications necessary to ensure its recognition of Indian Medical degrees.

Sir Darcy Lindsay: Sir, I would like to move the following amendment to the Resolution moved by my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar:

"For the words 'at a convenient centre in India' substitute the words, 'and simultaneously in India and in England' and after the words 'entrants to the examination' insert the words 'in India'."

The Resolution would then read:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor-General in Council that he be pleased to revive the competitive examination for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service, which has been held in abeyance for the last fourteen years, and to hold it annually and simultaneously in India and in England and to make it obligatory for the entrants to the examination in India to hold a medical qualification registrable in India."

Dr. B. S. Moonje: Sir, after listening to the speech of my Honourable friend, Mr. Young, leaving aside the verbiage, I think the only solid ground on which he has based his opposition to the Resolution is that the Secretary of State has fixed 67 per cent. for the Europeans and 83 per cent. for the Indians in the Cadre of the I. M. S. The second point on which he bases his opposition is that, fortunately or unfortunately, British young

men do not come forward to join this service, and therefore he thinks that, if open competitive examination is to be held, it cannot be held for the Indians alone, but it must be held for Britishers also, and if it is held for them also, young British doctors will not come forward in sufficient numbers and the recruitment will not therefore be possible. That is the only solid argument on which he has based his opposition to the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar. He therefore favours the system of nomination, and in support of that he has stated that nominations are taking place successfully for recruitment of candidates to the R. A. M. C. and other Army medical services. If that is so, and if the cadre of I. M. S., like that of the R. A. M. C. had not been open to Indians, I would not have cared to know whether the recruitment was done by nomination or by open examination. Why we feel that open competitive examination should be revived is because we think that Indians also should have the chance to be recruited on equal terms with the Britishers.

Now as for the system of nomination, does Mr. Young mean to say that we have not suffered under the system of nomination? The figures that I have got with me show that, from 1910 to 1915, as long as there was open competitive examination, we secured on the average for these six years about 29·8 per cent. places in the Indian Medical Service, and after the open competition was closed and the system of nomination was instituted, say from 1923 to 1928, we secured only 18 per cent. places on the average for these six years. Under the open competitive examination we were fortunate enough to get 29 per cent. of the places, whereas under the system of nomination we got only 18 per cent. It is for this reason, and because we have suffered under the system of nomination, that we have come forward with this Resolution. It does not matter to us what takes place in England, whether the British people want to come or do not want to come forward for recruitment. What we say is that, under the system of open competitive examination, we were faring better and under the system of nomination we have suffered a good deal. Therefore the statement made that, under the system of nomination, no hardship has been created to the Indians, is not correct.

I do not know whether the Honourable Member, Mr. Young, is aware why the British boys are not coming forward for recruitment. Is it a fact, as we have heard, that some of the retired medical officers go about and create an agitation, saying that the prospects of the service are not good and that therefore the British boys should not come forward for recruitment? That is our information, and we want to know if it is a fact. If it is a fact, is it right that these retired officers should go and create agitation and then come forward to us asking for improvement in the pay and prospects of this Service? I should expect an explanation on that point. Also my information is that British people are taken on short commissions and after they have finished their term of short service, they are allowed to retire on a system of ample gratuity, whereas that system of gratuity is not applicable to the temporary appointments of the Indians. That is also a point on which I should like to have an explanation, whether that information is correct or not.

It is also stated as a reason in support of the system of nomination that if the system of open competitive examination is held in India, it will be unfair to those Indian boys who go to England. Taking into consideration the few Indian boys who go to England and the large number of Indians who are in India, would it be right to say that it will be unfair to those

[Dr. B. S. Moonje.]

Indian boys who go to England? To them recruitment is open in India, and instead of going to England they can have the chance of appearing at the competitive examination in India itself, and after having been thus recruited they can take study leave and go to England for higher examinations. One of the points made by Mr. Young is that these Indian Officers who are holding temporary posts should not be made to appear for the examination. I quite agree. But why are these temporary posts kept so long? If they are found necessary for the efficient working of the Department, they ought to have been made permanent long ago. If they are not found necessary and efficient, they ought to have been asked to go out long ago, giving them the alternative of retiring on the same system of gratuity which applies to the Britishers on short commissions. Under these circumstances, I should like to have an explanation on all these points before we shall be able to understand whether the opposition of Mr. Young to my friend's Resolution is on a sound basis. With these words I support the Resolution.

Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru (Agra Division: Non-Muhammadan Rural): Sir, the Resolution of my Honourable friend, Mr. Jayakar, asks for reversion to the old system of competitive examinations. Now the essence of a competitive examination is that it should be open, as the examination for the Indian Medical Service was before the war. If, therefore, the original Resolution or the amended Resolution is to be beneficial to the people of India, it can be so only in so far as the limit imposed on the recruitment of Indians by the Secretary of State is removed. My Honourable friend, Mr. Young, grasped this point and tried to make out that, although the Secretary of State had not removed this arbitrary limit, he had nevertheless done a great thing by agreeing that Indian recruitment in any one year should not wait upon European recruitment during that year. This change in the rule may enable the Government of India to appoint Indians more rapidly than they might otherwise have been able to do, but the Indian proportion in the Service as a whole cannot undergo any increase because of the new orders issued by the Secretary of State for India. Obviously, then, Sir, the most important point for us to consider is whether there is any justification for the limit of 88 per cent. imposed on Indian recruitment by the higher authorities.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Young, gave two reasons in support of the present position. One was that it is necessary to have a war reserve, which can be employed most economically in the civil medical departments of the Government of India, and under the various provinces. The other was that European medical officers were needed in order to treat European officers of Government and their families. I will take both these arguments in the order in which I have placed them before the House. We have been hearing for a long time, Sir, of the necessity, in the interests of economy, of employing the war reserve of the Indian Medical Service in the civil medical departments. It may be necessary, Sir, in the present circumstances to maintain a war reserve in the Indian Medical Service, but my Honourable friend Mr. Young has not used a single argument to show that this war reserve should consist of Europeans and Indians in certain proportions. You may have a war reserve and yet may widen the opportunities for the employment of Indians. It was only, Sir, in September last that we came to know that, in the war reserve of the Indian Medical Service, it

was necessary to maintain a certain proportion of Europeans. My Honourable friend, Mr. Young, in replying to a question of Mr. Haji on the 17th September 1928 said that the present proportion had been fixed partly in order "to allow for the reserve of British officers required by the Army in war". I followed up Mr. Haji's question with several supplementary questions, in reply to which my Honourable friend Mr. Young elucidated the position further. He said the war reserve of British officers in the Indian Medical Service provides a reserve for the Royal Army Medical Corps. When I asked in a later supplementary question whether the principle of having only European officers to treat British soldiers during the war had been accepted by the Secretary of State for India and the Government of India, he replied:

"I am not aware that the question has ever been raised: it is an assumption rather. British troops are at present looked after by British medical officers, and it is naturally assumed that in time of war the reserve also should be British."

India owes many advantages to the presence of British soldiers in this country. One is that the existence of a British army in this country is supposed to be a serious impediment to a demand for self-government by India. The other luxury enjoyed by India on account of the presence of British troops, Sir, is this: it has to pay almost five times as much for a European soldier as it has to pay for an Indian soldier. Now, Sir, we see that the superior appointments in the Indian Medical Service are not all open to Indians because some of the I. M. S. officers are required for the needs of the British soldiers. The retention, Sir, of British soldiers in this country is bad enough, but to make either the organisation or the officering of the Indian Medical Service in any way dependent on what is supposed to be in the interests of European soldiers is worse. During a war, Sir, conditions are exceptional; nobody gets then what he has been used to in the normal course of his life. Well, if all those who have to do anything with war have to accept the exceptional circumstances in which they are placed, why should the British soldier also not accept those circumstances? Even if the principle enunciated by my Honourable friend Mr. Young were sound, why should the British soldier be the only person, during a war, who must expect all the arrangements followed during a time of peace to be strictly adhered to during a time of war.

I will now, Sir, deal with the second argument referred to by my Honourable friend Mr. Young, namely, that it is necessary for the treatment of European officers and their families that there should be a certain proportion of European medical officers in the medical services of the country. I am not sure, Sir, that before the year 1913, in spite of the orders issued by Lord Morley in 1908 for the restriction of the cadre of the Indian Medical Service, the question of having European medical officers only to attend on British officers and their families had acquired any prominence. Although, Sir, I have been following this question for a long time, I do not remember any serious controversy on this subject or serious representations having been made about it. It was left, Sir, to the Government of India themselves, taking perhaps some sporadic and eccentric complaints which might have reached them, to propose seriously that the contentions put forward by a few people merited the consideration of the highest authorities. The Public Service Commission, Sir, took evidence regarding the medical services in 1913, but the Government of India, writing on the 17th November, 1910, that is, almost three years earlier, to the Secretary of State, with regard to the growth of an independent medical profession in this country, and to Lord Morley's orders

[Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru.]

that the cadre of the Indian Medical Service should in no case be increased, and that endeavours should be made to reduce it, said:

"There is, however, a very decided and sharp line which indicates the limit of employment of these men (that is Indians) in the posts referred to, and that is the obligation which rests on the Government to provide medical aid to their European officers in the various services. Although it is nowhere laid down that European officers are entitled to attendance by European medical officers, it is perfectly natural that they should wish to be treated by such officers, just as it is natural that persons of other nationalities should wish to be treated by medical men of their own race. This is a matter of special importance in a country like India where Europeans are living under what are climatically very trying conditions. Still more important is it that European officers should know that they can, without unreasonable expense, procure the services of European medical officers for their families. Anything which would spread a belief that the Government were careless of the interests of their European officers in this respect would, we are convinced, have a very adverse effect upon the recruitment of the European services in this country. Nothing ought to be done therefore which would lead to such a reduction of European Civil Surgeons as would have the disastrous result referred to."

And what is the disastrous result that might have been the consequence of an increase in the proportion of Indians in the Indian Medical Service? It would have been that the European officers, rightly or wrongly believing that they were entitled to being treated by European officers, would have been dissatisfied. In private life, Sir, we know that Europeans do not select their medical officers on racial grounds. Anybody who lives in this country and who knows Europeans at all can say from his own experience that medical officers and lawyers and other technical men are chosen on the ground of their qualifications and not of their race. But when the Government of India and the responsible authorities go out of their way to buttress the irrational prejudices of a few people, can it be wondered that the members of the various services are taking advantage of this position, and insisting on the employment of Europeans, as it would lead to a reservation of a certain number of posts for their own countrymen? I do not think, Sir, therefore that the arguments used by Mr. Young in favour of the retention of the present proportion of Indians in the Indian Medical Service are at all sound. I can understand the need for maintaining a war reserve in the I. M. S. But the maintenance of the war reserve does not necessitate the employment of Europeans in such large numbers as at present.

My Honourable friend, Mr. Young, perhaps realised that his position was not a very strong one and therefore tried to make out that, whatever we might say on theoretical grounds against the proportion which had been fixed, Indians were faring much better at present than they did during the days when competitive examinations were in force. Now, Sir, according to the figures given by the Public Service Commission of 1912, at page 251 of their Report, it appears that in 1913, 33 per cent. of the successful candidates were Indians; and in 1914, it was 40 per cent. If we take the figures of recruitment for the years 1921 to 1929, we find that barely 33 per cent. of the recruits were Indians. Now, one of the main grounds for the attack on Indian officers by the European medical officers before the Islington Commission was the large increase in the percentage of successful Indian candidates in the competitive examinations in England. It was obviously thought that forty per cent. was not going to be the limit of successful Indian candidates. It was expected that their percentage would increase. In view of this fact, can the Government of India congratulate themselves by pointing out to us that, during the last nine years, the recruitment that they have maintained has enabled Indians

to get 33 per cent. of the posts? Mr. Young said "But the suspension of the competitive examination is not peculiar to the I. M. S. We have the same thing in regard to the R. A. M. C. and other medical services in England". If, Sir, in England a sufficient number of English young men are not forthcoming for service in their own country, that may be a very good reason for the abandonment of the competitive examination and its supersession by some other method of recruitment. But in India, Indians have a prior claim to appointment in the service of their own country. If Europeans are not willing to come forward to serve India, that is not our responsibility. Indian youths cannot be told that they cannot be employed in larger numbers in the service of their country because there is not a sufficiency of European candidates for the posts for which they are competing.

Just one word more, Sir, and I have done. My Honourable friend, Mr. Young, urged one last point to convince the House that the present method, after all, resulted in no unfairness to Indians. He dwelt on the high standard of medical education in England and pointed out that it would be rather hard on an Indian candidate who had proceeded to England at his own expense that he should come back to his own country to compete in the I. M. S. examination. Now, Sir, in the first place, the amendment proposed by my Honourable friend, Sir Darcy Lindsay, meets that objection. But does not the present system itself as a rule require Indians to come back to this country before they can be selected for employment in the I. M. S.? I brought a particularly bad case in this respect to the notice of the Army Secretary some time ago. An Indian with good medical qualifications applied for admission to the I. M. S. in England; he appeared before the Medical Board there, but after an examination by the Medical Board he was told that he should come to India and present himself before the Selection Board here. He was chosen by the Selection Board, but I believe, a year after his appointment, the India Office intimated that his appointment could not be sanctioned as the Medical Board in England, before whom he had appeared originally, regarded him as unfit for holding a post in the Indian Medical Service. My Honourable friend, Mr. Young, tried to have justice done to this particular young man but failed. Even, therefore, if the Resolution of Mr. Jayakar stands in the form in which it has been proposed, it is not for Mr. Young to object to it on the ground that it would require Indian medical students to come back to India before they could take part in the competitive examinations for the I. M. S.

I hope, Sir, that the institution of simultaneous examinations will amount to a judgment on the part of this House that the present racial proportions should be done away with. After all, Sir, if the declaration made by His Excellency the Viceroy about three months ago is to be carried out, Government must be prepared for a speedy abrogation of all those rules and regulations which limit the employment of Indians and which deprive them of opportunities of service in their own country. The Government of India have, in connection with one department, an excellent opportunity of showing a change in their angle of vision, and I earnestly hope that they will grasp it.

Mr. President: Does the Army Secretary wish to say anything in regard to the amendment?

Mr. G. M. Young: Yes, Sir; with your permission I should like to say a few words. With regard to the amendment proposing the substitution

[Mr. G. M. Young.]

of simultaneous competitive examinations in England and India for the original proposal of a single competitive examination in India, I have only to say two things. One is that it will alter the existing ratio of British and Indian recruitment, as my Honourable friend Pandit Hirday Nath Kunzru has just pointed out. It would be impossible for us therefore to accept either the original Resolution, or the amended Resolution, without further consideration and without waiting a little longer. As I said in my first speech, it is not impossible that altered circumstances may bring about an alteration in that ratio; but as far as that aspect of the question is concerned, I am afraid that the Government must hold that the Resolution is at the moment premature.

The other difficulty about the amendment was brought out very prominently in the debate on Dr. Lohokare's Resolution in 1925. It is the practical difficulty of holding simultaneous examinations in England and in India for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service. I am not sufficiently an expert to say, Sir, that the difficulties are insuperable, and I can promise the House that the suggestion will be very carefully examined and that the Government of India will forward it with their comments to the Secretary of State. But it is not possible for us, as I said, without further consideration, to accept the proposal.

Mr. Faral Ibrahim Rahimtulla (Bombay Central Division: Muhammadan Rural): Are 14 years not enough for Government to consider the question?

An Honourable Member: No, raise it to 16.

Mr. President: The original Resolution was:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to revive the competitive examination . . ."

Does the Honourable Member (turning to Mr. Jayakar) wish to say anything?

Mr. M. R. Jayakar: No, Sir.

Mr. President: The original Resolution was:

"This Assembly recommends to the Governor General in Council that he be pleased to revive the competitive examination for recruitment to the Indian Medical Service, which has been held in abeyance for the last fourteen years, and to hold it annually at a convenient centre in India and to make it obligatory for the entrants to the examination to hold a medical qualification registrable in India",—

Since which the following amendment has been moved:

"For the words 'at a convenient centre in India' substitute the words 'and simultaneously in India and in England' and after the words 'entrants to the examination,' insert the words 'in India'."

The question is that that amendment be made.

The motion was adopted.

Mr. President: The question is:

"That the Resolution, as amended, be passed."

The motion was adopted.

The Assembly then adjourned till Eleven of the Clock on Wednesday, the 29th January, 1980.