

PRACTICE IN BRITISH COLUMBIA.

DR. M. D. BRYDENE-JACK (Vancouver, British Columbia) writes: As the season for graduation at the different colleges and universities is approaching, and graduates will be looking round for good locations, I have thought that it might be advisable to give your readers an idea of what British Columbia—which, perhaps deservedly, on account of its climate and natural advantages, is being brought before the public—will offer in the way of attraction to the medical profession.

Every person who desires to practise in British Columbia, no matter what their degrees are—whether university or college, English, Scotch, or American—is compelled to pass an examination in all medical and surgical subjects, comprising chemistry, physiology, anatomy, materia medica, and all the other usual subjects, and for this examination a fee of one hundred dollars is charged.

Then the present proportion of medical men to the population is about 1 to every 400 or 500, and as the class of immigrants is a remarkably healthy one, and as British Columbia itself is one of the finest and healthiest localities in the world to live in, it follows that the proportion of sickness is very small. In Vancouver, the largest and most typical city in British Columbia—with, perhaps, the exception at present of Victoria—the death-rate is 9.2 per 1,000; and what will contribute to make it still more healthy now is the fact that they are putting in an efficient system of sewerage, and they have already what is probably one of the best water supplies in the world.

People need not be deterred from coming here by the fear of not having efficient medical or surgical attendance, as there are here in Vancouver already eight or nine practitioners, graduates of leading English and Scotch universities and colleges, while perhaps in the province there are altogether between thirty and forty; then, in addition to this number, we must reckon in numerous graduates of Canadian and United States colleges and universities who are practising here; and I may further add that the class of practitioners is as a rule exceptionally good. I might, perhaps, say that the proportion of medical men to the population is more than what is stated above, as while writing I have heard of three more who are about to settle in Vancouver.

While heartily endorsing everything favourable that can be said about British Columbia—its climate, natural resources, mining capabilities, farming, lands, etc.—it must be remembered that no one ought to come to a new country without being furnished with ample resources to assist in first developing that country; then, and then only, may he expect to reap an ample harvest in return for his money.

It may, perhaps, interest your readers to know that the average annual rainfall mean is 58.49, and that the average temperature mean is 47° 9"; it very rarely goes below 34°, and very rarely above 70°. We have in the district numerous hot springs, which are available for the treatment of various diseases, and the hotel accommodation is all that anyone can desire.

If any of your readers would like any further information about the province and its prospects I shall be pleased to let them have it.

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