discovery of these bodies in differentiating the heterogeneous
I cannot be responsible for the extravagant version published
of the recent gas explosion in the grounds of this infirmary
5. Without staining too many mistakes occur. Vacuoles are
pleasant task to have to deprive the reading public of even a
reason that the accident occurred in connexion with the gas
wards, no upheaval of corridors, no breaking of glass, and
no panic among the patients whatever, and for the simple
company's mains quite outside the buildings. It is an un-
repudiate the inference that there was any lack of super-
vessels and none were found in the spleen, though this
contained much recent pigment. As a rule, however, the
bodies will find their presence most easily demonstrated in
parts of the body), contain none, as in a recent case here
red corpuscles. 3. Anyone in doubt as to the existence of the
554 "THE EXPLOSION AT THE MILE-END INFIRMARY."
some such mark the ambulance work in all regiments would languish and suffer, I made a special repre-
does not keep, and with Löffer's solution the eosine is too rarely replaced.
5. Without staining too many mistakes occur. Vacuoles are
easily taken for the plasmodium, and in much that has been
written too little has been made of this liability to error. I
am convinced that till some more certain but quick and simple
method is found we shall have little help from the
discovery of these bodies in differentiating the heterogeneous
mass of tropical fevers.—I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,
C. W. DANIELS, M.B. Cantab.,
Pathologist to the Georgetown Hospital,
Georgetown, Aug. 8th, 1895.

"THE EXPLOSION AT THE MILE-END INFIRMARY."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Having supplied the press with a veracious account
of the recent gas explosion in the grounds of this infirmary
I cannot be responsible for the extravagant version published
by some of the daily prints, upon which your annotation
last week was, no doubt, based. The devastation described
in yours by so simple a method as the discovery of the air of
titration, the contributor, and there was no wreckage of
wars, no upheaval of corridors, no breaking of glass, and
no panic among the patients whatever, and for the simple
reason that the accident occurred in connexion with the gas
company's mains quite outside the buildings. It is an un-
pleasant task to have to deprive the reading public of even a
moderately sensational paragraph, but I feel bound, after the
practice in question is equally hard upon the general practi-
by cases in point. From the fact that he ignores this
persuaded by friends to go to London to "see a specialist."
I can only assume that "A Specialist" has become so
among certain specialists the fee is too often dishonestly
earned. For what name other than dishonesty can be given
to specialists, of subjecting patients after the most trivial opera-
tions to after-treatment considered totally unnecessary in the
case of hospital patients, and of investing these minor operative procedures with all the gravity associated with a
major operation, for the sole object of enabling a larger
fee to be asked? To draw attention to this practice was the object of my letter published in THE LANCET of
Aug. 17th. In it I took pains to illustrate the charge laid
by cases among or without. From the fact that I have
I can only assume that "A Specialist" has become so
accustomed to viewing life through special spectacles that he fails to recognise as dishonest acts which the
ordinary man does not hesitate to pronounce such. If he reflects a moment, too, he will see that the practice in question is equally hard upon the general practi-
tioner as upon the unfortunate patient—e.g., it has happened to me, and, as I am aware, to many others, that patients
for whom I have arranged to remove adenoids have been
charged with something no longer possible for but a very short length of time. The
possibility in future will, so far as we are concerned, be
evertheless diminished by the adoption by our board of electric
lighting throughout the infirmary which is in process of
being carried out.

I am, Sirs, yours obediently,
A. H. ROBINSON,
Medical Superintendent.

VOLUNTEER MEDICAL SERVICE.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I beg to inform the Volunteer Medical Service
through the columns of THE LANCET that my corps has been
enabled to obtain permission, after representation to that
effect, for regimental stretcher-bearers to wear a permanent
badge on their right arm, showing their efficiency in their
special instrument.
The Geneva Cross, which to wear would
be withdrawn from regimental stretcher-bearers, being
actually fighting men, could not adopt that badge without
contravening the provisions of the Geneva Convention.
Knowing that the Geneva Cross was much valued and
that the stretcher-bearer would greatly appreciate the
with a nurse in attendance; or it has been assumed, and
that was enclosed. This badge consists of a circle of red
efficiency a distinctive mark on their right arm, a sketch of
which was enclosed. This has been that last week we received an official letter stating that the request had
been granted the request and that for the future all regimental
stretcher-bearers might wear a permanent badge of their
efficiency a distinctive mark on their right arm, a sketch of
which was enclosed. This has been that last week we received an official letter stating that the request had
been granted the request and that for the future all regimental
stretcher-bearers might wear a permanent badge of their
efficiency a distinctive mark on their right arm, a sketch of
which was enclosed. This has been