into a misconception respecting the anatomy of the adult and embryonic forms of this filaria," by this meaning *filaria perstans*, and that he was comparing the adult forms of his tylenchus with the embryonic or larval forms of filaria perstans which to my mind was not permissible.

The points, however, which I specially wish to lay stress on are: (1) the statement that the information that exists concerning the anatomy of filaria perstans is scanty; and (2) the remarks regarding the mode of infection. As regards the first Dr. Bastian states: "In order to ascertain the genus to which a nematode belongs we want descriptions of the adult worms containing, in addition to mere size and external form, particulars as to the nature of the mouth and pharynx, the relative length of the œsophagus and the number of swellings, if any, in its course, together with the situation of the anus, the character of the ovarian tubes, the situation of the vulva, the shape of the male spicules and accessory pieces, as well as any other details that may be recognisable."

I have already¹ described the adult and embryonic forms of filaria perstans in detail and anyone who wishes to read this description may refer to that paper. It will be sufficient here to state that the information relative to the anatomy of this filaria is well known and the answers which I shall now give to Dr. Bastian's queries show this. The mouth of the adult filaria perstans is simple and circular, there are no papillæ nor is there a spine. (The fang or spine was not mentioned in my original paper as there is no such thing in the adult.)

Similarly the pharynx and œsophagus were not specially mentioned as there is nothing peculiar about them. They form a simple tube which merges insensibly into the intestine. There are no swellings on either of them. The course and termination of the intestine were described as follows: it extends almost throughout the entire length of the worm, ending on the concavity of the curve of the tail, in the female at the apex of a slight bulge on the cuticle, in the male at the general level of the cuticle, with four pairs of pre anal papillæ in front and one pair behind, with two unequal spicules, distant respectively from the tip of the tail 0.160 millimetre for the female and 0.120 millimetre for the male. The ovarian tubes were also described and the situation of the vulva accurately given—e.g., 1.22 millimetres from head. This brief résumé, I think, disproves the statement "that almost all internal anatomical details concerning the adult forms of filaria perstans appear up to the present to remain unknown." The anatomy of the embryo is equally well known. At the extremity of the head is the little spine or fang which in the living forms may be seen alternately pushed out and then retracted, it measures under 1 μ in length and naturally requires a high magnification to demonstrate it. The other anatomical features are described in my original paper.

As regards the mode of infection and the question of an intermediate host Dr. Bastian is peculiarly unfortunate in his statement that the embryos of filaria nocturna may live and advance slightly in development in the mosquito up to the fourth or fifth day, when the insect then dies and liberates them into the water. Surely the writer has studied the recent work on the life-history of mosquitoes and that on the metamorphosis of the filaria and its escape from the proboscis of the mosquito. This recent literature is so fresh in the minds of everyone that it would only be wasting valuable space going over it all again. It will be sufficient to pass to conclusions, then, and sum up as follows. 1. The anatomy of filaria perstans (adults and embryos) is well known. It is a typical filaria, resembling filaria nocturna and filaria demarquaii. 2. From the analogy of the metamorphosis of filaria nocturna in culex fatigans and other mosquitoes, filaria immitis in anopheles maculipennis (Grassi) and in culex ciliaris (Bancroft), and filaria recondita in pulex serraticeps (Grassi), it is exceedingly probable that the embryos of filaria perstans also find their way into some suitable blood-sucking insect where they undergo a metamorphosis and then eventually pass to a fresh host.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

GEORGE C. LOW, M.A., M.B., O.M. Edin.,

Superintendent, London School of Tropical Medicine.

Albert Docks, E., March 7th, 1904.

THE BEARING OF THE WAR OFFICE CHANGES ON THE FUTURE OF THE ROYAL ARMY MEDICAL CORPS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—There can be no doubt in the minds of those conversant with the medical wants of the army of the importance of the point you raise in the leading article in THE LANCET of Feb. 27th, p. 588, under the heading of War Office Changes, on the future status of the Director-General in the new Army Council. So far as the present indications go, it seems probable that this official will be deprived of the position he now holds in the Army Board under Mr. Brodrick's scheme, yet until we have Part 3 of the new army scheme, which will embrace the position of the Army Medical Services, before us, and which "will shortly be ready for submission" by the committee, we cannot be certain of the full intentions respecting him. The ruling principle of this committee seems to be to bring the Army Council as far as possible into conformity with the Naval Board and should this principle hold good for the medical service there is every probability of a grave retrogressive step being taken. One prominent and potent defect in the Army Medical Department in the past was that it was placed under the Commander-in-Chief with a Director-General selected practically by him and to all intents his agent in military medical affairs, the department thus being but a subordinate section of the combatant branch of the army and having but little voice and less power in its own organisation, working, and needs; and the resultant of this anomalous arrangement was shown in the condition to which it was brought prior to the formation of the existent Royal Army Medical Corps, the responsibility for the defects observable in the South African war, with all their sad attendant outcomes, lying beyond all reasonable doubt at the door of the officials filling the posts of Commander-in-Chief and Adjutant-General. The formation of the Medical Advisory Board by Mr. Brodrick and the improved status of the Director-General through his inclusion in the higher army councils gave strong grounds to the inference that at last the medical needs of the army had obtained a power of expression and a prospect of practical support hitherto denied them, but should the retrogressive change now outlined be carried out it is apparent that the Royal Army Medical Corps, placed under one or other head of the new Army Council, will be again relegated to the miserably weak and subordinate position previously occupied by it. A belief in a capacity to organise and administer such a professional body as an Army Medical Corps, irrespective of guidance by those who have both professional ability and practical experience of army needs, seems a fixed ingredient in the minds of War Ministers and military officers, and the apparently proposed step of the present committee will do much to still further confirm this idea to the detriment of the service in question. So far the parallelism in the course taken after the Crimean war and the more recent South African war is complete—the same outburst of public indignation, the same exposure of medical deficiencies to meet army field needs, the same undeserved blame falling on the department and its professional head, these being made the scapegoat for War Office and military incompetency to properly administer that which they had undertaken, the same official inquiry followed by schemes to rectify defects and to promote improvements, similar expressions of intentions of War Ministers to make the future state of this service all that was desirable, improvements of conditions for attracting a better professional class leading also to an actual competition for posts offered, though not to the same degree as in 1861, the same initiation of changes not suggestive of progress from the adopted scheme on change of the War Minister, and now apparently the same prospective intention to renew the subordination of the professional head to the military section. To those older ones among us who were led into the adoption of a military career by the improvements wrought after the Crimean war and the inducements then held out, and who subsequently found all their hopes frustrated and the ground of advancement cut from under their feet by the whittling away process put into operation by the military authorities and the apathy or impotence of their professional head, the marked importance of prevention

¹ Brit. Med. Jour., March 28th, 1903.

of any further extension of this parallelism is self evident; and as in the past the main help in extracting the department from the "slough of despond" has come from the general professional body, so now the Corps must look to it, and especially the professional members in Parliament and the civil members of the Advisory Board, to present a strong front against the retrograde innovation which is apparently threatened in the composition of the new Army Council by the exclusion from it of the professional head, the Corps itself being markedly curtailed in its power of expression by the conditions under which it exists.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

FRANCIS H. WELCH,
Surgeon-Colonel (retired) M.S.

Lee, Feb. 29th, 1904.

THE IRISH BRANCH OF THE BRITISH DENTAL ASSOCIATION.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—A careful study of the judgment given in the Court of King's Bench, Ireland, in the test case of "*O'Duffy v. Jaffe*" will convince any thoughtful man that there are principles and rules therein laid down the importance of which it would be indeed hard to exaggerate. Not alone are existing laws shown to be totally inadequate for the protection of the public from the danger and fraud of unqualified practice (whether dental or medical), but the road is clearly demonstrated by which, if it be not blocked by the Legislature, trickery and deception may even further invade the realm of public interests in professional life.

Briefly stated, the case was as follows. The Irish branch of the British Dental Association determined to bring to an issue the question, which had long been let go by default, whether the restrictions and penalties imposed by the Dentists Act of 1878 upon "persons" using the title of "dentist"—i.e., without being registered—did or did not apply equally to a company or corporation as to individuals; and to obtain instead of "counsel's opinion," which had up to then been considered conclusive, a definite and binding legal pronouncement. They accordingly, as a test case, prosecuted for taking and using the title "Surgeon Dentists," and thus infringing the Dentists Act, "*Jaffe, Surgeon Dentists, Ltd.*," a company which consisted of two drapers, four married women, and a dental mechanic, none of whom possessed any dental qualification whatever. The case was heard by the local bench at Limerick in May last and, being dismissed, was carried by the plaintiff to the King's Bench. We send you herewith an official copy of the arguments advanced by counsel on both sides and the judgment delivered by the court after some three weeks' deliberation upholding the magistrates' decision.

We would invite a careful consideration of this judgment under three headings. 1. The court unanimously held that the word "person" in the Dentists Act did not include a company or corporation, and a company or corporation can therefore assume with impunity a misleading title, announcing a professional qualification the assumption of which by an individual would subject him to a penalty of £20. The grounds of the decision appear also to apply just as much to the Medical Act and the veterinary surgeons are also affected by it. The public, ever gullible, can thus be legally imposed upon by a company with a high sounding name which an individual (without six "dummies" behind him) would only assume at his peril. Further, not only can a company formed "*ad hoc*" play these pranks with the public but any existing company whose memorandum does not preclude such a thing may boldly assume any medical or dental title; for instance, the Army and Navy Stores would not come within the penal provisions of these Acts by assuming the description of physicians, surgeons, or dentists.

The second point in the case to which we desire to invite attention is this: counsel for "*Jaffe, Surgeon Dentists, Ltd.*," ingeniously put forward a further line of defence. The point raised was this: "The defendants have added nothing to their name; '*Jaffe, Surgeon Dentists, Ltd.*,' is their name." How this argument impressed the court was shown by the Lord Chief Justice asking the following question: "If a man be born with the name 'Dentist' can he be prosecuted under this Act for using his name?—e.g., 'John Dentist'?" The significance of the defence was, therefore, not lost sight of and in the formal judgment of the court the point was decided as follows:—

The Lord Chief Justice (Lord O'Brien) said: "Person, I think, means a person who having one name takes another name or description, that is a natural person who has his own name and adds to it another name or description. It would seem to me not to include a company which comes into being with a name and adds nothing to it." Judge Gibson said: "The question before us is, whether a company, part of whose registered name is 'Surgeon Dentists,' by using that name committed an offence under Section 3 of this Act. The Act was never designed to apply to a corporation at all or to prevent a limited company from using its own proper name in which it was registered." Judge Madden agreed in the judgment of the court without specially referring to this point.

The case being on the criminal side of the court no appeal could be taken from the decision. This, then, being the law it appears that any fraud or deception on the public by a company, involving the assumption of a false or misleading title or name as of doctor or dentist, can be, and is, legalised by the irresponsible action of the Board of Trade in registering as a company, without question, any such name, title, or description which is presented to it; for, be it understood, the Board of Trade has no power to question or refuse any title brought to it for registration as a company saving only when such title has been already appropriated by some other company, and this registered title, though knowingly and wilfully intended to deceive by those who form the company, becomes forthwith the "proper name" under which the company "came into being"; its right to the use of which is as clear and indisputable as the right of Lord O'Brien's supposititious "John Dentist" to the use of his own patronymic. The hall porter from the hospital may then, should he desire it, rest secure in the name of "Sir Peter Smith, Doctor and Surgeon," and the bottle-washer in the pharmacy may undisturbed prey upon the public as "Sir Ebenezer Dodd, M.D. Lond." An individual would be liable to penalties and imprisonment, but on constituting himself a "company" by virtue of six "dummy" names behind him, under the aegis of the Board of Trade, the company or the individuals who compose it are beyond the reach of all penalties. In fact, anyone may gull the credulous under a name, with the addition of doctor, physician, surgeon, dentist, veterinary surgeon, or any other "proper name" which may suit his purposes, and under which he may elect to "come into being." To the lay mind there is some difficulty in seeing where the line is to be drawn or what limit exists to the assumption of titles by a "one man company." All one has got to do is to form himself into a "one man company."

The third important point in the judgment is the outspoken opinion of the court on the position as it stands and the judicial suggestion of a remedy. "Before, as well as since, the Dentists Act," said Lord O'Brien, "the Legislature has not infrequently failed in its policy and object owing to the inappropriateness and inadequacy of the language it employed. The ingenious have often invented, and I daresay will often invent, devices to get out of Acts of Parliament. We cannot import the words which are necessary to hit the device and reach the mischief."

Judge Madden says: "If the general intention of the Legislature in regard to the protection of the public has been frustrated, and I believe it has, this is a necessary consequence of the language that has been employed." Further on he speaks of "the mischief against which the present prosecution is directed," and finally crystallises the suggestion of himself and his colleagues in these words: "The Legislature, if it thinks fit, can pass a statute specially directed against the mischief which has recently come into existence."

The importance of enlisting the aid of your valuable journal in rousing public opinion amongst professional men and also amongst your colleagues of the lay press, and drawing attention to the incalculable effect of this judgment of the Irish Court of King's Bench, must be our apology for making such a large demand upon your space, and we feel convinced that when the facts come to be widely known to the profession and the public such pressure will be brought to bear upon Parliament as will insure the effectual ending of this anomalous condition. We are advised that a short Act of Parliament providing that the penal clauses of the Medical, Dental, and Veterinary Surgeons Acts, under which unqualified persons are prevented from taking or using