MAJOR A. M. DAVIES, R.A.M.C.

We are glad to learn that the Government of India have applied for the services of Major Davies, R.A.M.C., to be extended at headquarters for another year. This officer, who has had capital training and holds an excellent reputation in all matters connected with army hygiene, has done much valuable bacteriological work whilst serving in India.

The following is a list of the surgeons on probation nominated by the medical schools for the Royal Army Medical Corps:—H. S. Anderson, Queen's College, Belfast; J. H. R. Bond, St. Mary's Hospital, London; L. N. Lloyd, Charing-cross Hospital; E. L. Munn, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh; S. V. H. Underhill, St. George's Hospital, London; L. Wood, Mason College, Birmingham; and E. P. Connolly, Catholic University Medical School, Dublin.

Colonel T. J. Gallwey, C.B., R.A.M.C., who was for seven years Principal Medical Officer of the Egyptian Army and served in the late campaign, reports himself at Aldershot on return to the establishment. It is understood that he is to take over medical charge at Salisbury.

Correspondence.

"Audi alteram partem."

TRAINED NURSES IN IRISH WORKHOUSE HOSPITALS.

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—Justice has not been done to the Local Government Board for Ireland in the paragraphs on the new rules of that Board in reference to nursing in Irish workhouse hospitals and on the objections raised to those rules at a recent meeting of the Tralee Board of Guardians which appeared in THE LANCET of April 8th, 1899 (p. 993).

It will be only fair to give *in extenso* a circular letter sent to the clerk of each union in Ireland by the Secretary to the Local Government Board for Ireland under date Jan. 12th, 1899:—

WORKHOUSE HOSPITAL TRAINED NURSE.

Local Government Board, Dublin, Jan. 12th, 1899.

SIR,—The Local Government Board for Ireland desire to state that they have recently received communications from several boards of guardians inquiring the qualifications a workhouse hospital nurse should possess in order that the guardians may be in a position to apply for recoupment out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account of one half of the salary of such nurse.

The Local Government Board have to inform you that it is proposed in due course to prescribe the following qualifications as necessary in the case of any person claiming to be a "trained nurse" for the purposes of Section 58, sub-section 2 (a) (ii.) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898:—

"The term 'trained nurse' shall mean any person who has resided for not less than two years in a clinical or other hospital recognised by the Local Government Board and who after examination has obtained from such hospital a certificate of proficiency in nursing."

The Board have to point out, in connexion with this matter, that they will not be prepared to accept the certificate of the authorities and staff of any hospital except a clinical hospital recognised by the medical examining bodies in Ireland, England, or Scotland, unless the non-clinical hospital has at least 150 beds for medical and surgical cases and unless due provision is also made for giving the probationer nurses a course of training in the nursing of cases of infectious diseases. In addition, the hospital should have a staff of at least one resident and two visiting physicians and a trained head nurse. Such arrangements should likewise be made, including the giving of lectures and the holding of examinations, as shall satisfy the Local Government Board that sufficient opportunities are afforded to the persons undergoing instruction to become fully trained, experienced, and certificated nurses.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOS. A. MOONEY, Secretary.

To the Clerk of each Union.

It will be observed that the regulation as to qualifications applies only to the *one nurse* in each workhouse upon whose salary recoupment can be claimed from the Government grant provided under Section 58, sub-section 2 (a) (ii.) of the Local Government (Ireland) Act, 1898. The payment, status, and privileges of existing nurses are not in any way interfered with by the new regulation. It may be well to quote the Act of Parliament: "The Lord Lieutenant shall cause to be paid in respect of every local financial year, out of the Local Taxation (Ireland) Account, to each county council, on behalf of the guardians of every union, one half of the salary (approved by the Local Government Board) of one trained nurse in each workhouse who is actually employed and possesses the prescribed qualifications."

In reference to the special cases referred to in your correspondent's letter of April 5th¹ we are credibly informed that the reason why the Gorey Board of Guardians received no applications for the post of trained night nurse was because the guardians did not offer sufficient inducements to good nurses to come forward. The object of the Government grant of half the salary of a trained nurse provided for in Section 58 of the Local Government Act of 1898 was to induce boards of guardians to offer really good salaries—say, from £40 to £60 per annum—with the view of securing for each workhouse hospital at least one first-class, highly qualified, and competent nurse.

With regard to the paragraph about Tralee and the nuns the facts are that the medical officer asked for two trained nurses to assist the nuns, and the Local Government Board for Ireland urged the guardians to make the appointments not with a view of superseding the nuns but to assist in the nursing. In 1895 the Roman Catholic Archbishops and Bishops of Ireland requested the Local Government Board for Ireland to insist upon the appointment of "trained nurses" in all hospitals nursed by nuns who should assist at operations, &c., and perform the night nursing.

The foregoing facts in my judgment fully vindicate the action of the Local Government Board for Ireland in regard to the "one trained nurse" within the purview of Section 58 of the Local Government (Ireland) Act.

I am, Sirs, yours faithfully,

Dublin, April 18th, 1899.

J. W. MOORE.

"THE RINDERPEST IN SOUTH AFRICA."

To the Editors of THE LANCET.

SIRS,—I notice in THE LANCET of Nov. 5th, 1898, an article by Mr. John Maberley headed "The Rinderpest in South Africa," in which, inadvertently no doubt, a misstatement occurs which may lead to future misapprehension in the minds of men as to the full measure of credit which is due to Dr. Turner in respect of his recent valuable investigations into rinderpest, and more especially in respect of his treatment of the disease by the system of simultaneous inoculation with preventive serum and virulent blood; and as, owing to my official position, I am particularly competent to vouch for the correct facts of the case I trust you will see your way to publish this letter or otherwise to correct the misapprehension. Mr. Maberley states, *inter alia*, that the work of Dr. Koch has been "brought to such a happy and successful conclusion by the labours of Dr. Kolle, who came out to carry on Professor Koch's work, and of Dr. George Turner, the Government Health Officer of Cape Colony. It is very satisfactory to be able to place on record the fact that the name of an English medical man is associated with this, perhaps one of the most important achievements in the antitoxic method of treating disease," and throughout his article he has everywhere been careful to place the name of Dr. Kolle in advance of that of Dr. Turner, the implication being that the latter acted merely as an assistant in the work, or almost as a collaborator, to Dr. Kolle.

While in no way wishing to disparage the valuable work of Dr. Kolle I may put forward the following facts. Dr. Turner was placed in charge of the Kimberley rinderpest laboratory and of the Government investigations into rinderpest early in March, 1896, at which time Dr. Koch, in response to the order of the German Government, was called away to proceed to India to investigate bubonic plague, and from that time until June, a period of some four months, Dr. Turner carried on the work unaided. In June, however, Dr. Kolle came out to this colony under an engagement with the Colonial Government to investigate leprosy; but on his arrival he was, at my suggestion, sent by the Government to Kimberley to assist Dr. Turner in his researches. As a matter of fact, although all the results of those researches were given to the world under the joint signatures of Dr. Turner and Dr. Kolle a considerable number of them were prosecuted by Dr. Turner alone, although the converse cannot be said in regard to Dr. Kolle.

The official reports upon which Mr. Maberley has based his article are clearly signed by Dr. Turner as chief, and it is therefore extraordinary that the writer should have gone out of his way to invert the proper order of things. Dr. Kolle is at present absent from the colony, but doubtless no one

¹ See THE LANCET, April 8th, p. 993.