

n the constitution of the Board will at all affect the institution in its management, which is now placed on a more representative basis. The District Lunacy Board have nominated their representative, who has already been a member of the Asylum Directorate for years.

THE CAIRO ASYLUM.

Lord Cromer reports most favourably on the work of Dr. Warnock in the *Egyptian Gazette* of 15th January last. He writes that: "While it is true that certain of the most terrible faults in administration were abolished in the first years of the British occupation, it is only within the last two years that a serious effort has been made to introduce scientific methods of treatment. Great alterations have been made on the buildings, mechanical restraint has been abolished, the mortality has been lessened, and a great number of patients are usefully employed. Lord Cromer concludes by hoping that the two years' engagement of Dr. Warnock will be made permanent; for without European control there would certainly be a return to the evils of the past.

DR. BODINGTON.

The following cutting from *The Province*, published in Victoria, British Columbia, will be of interest to many of the members of our Association:—

"The Provincial Secretary's 'Bill to amend the Lunacy Act' was introduced to the House (not before it was wanted) on Wednesday last, and read a first time. We trust that provisions have been made to render impossible any recurrence of the sad circumstances attendant upon the care of the insane which we recently had occasion to deplore, and that common humanity will compel members to take the keenest possible interest in every clause of the enactment. Reform has been the order of the day at the Westminster Asylum ever since Dr. Bodington took charge two years ago—another appointment, by the way, upon which it is only just to congratulate the Government. We predicted that Dr. Bodington would prove a success, and we are glad to hear on excellent and altogether unbiassed authority that the asylum may now be considered in every way a credit to the country. Perfect discipline is maintained amongst the patients without any necessity for that 'restraint' which formed so barbarous a characteristic of the ancient *régime*. More satisfactory still is the knowledge that marked improvement has become noticeable amongst cases formerly rated hopeless or incurable."

CORRESPONDENCE.

From DR. FREDERICK PETERSON.

My attention has lately been called to a paper by Dr. Walter Channing entitled "The Significance of Palatal Deformities in Idiots," published in your *Journal* for January, 1897.

As the author takes issue on several points with many who have investigated the subject of deformities of the hard palate, I trust you will allow me a brief space in your columns to indicate errors into which Dr. Channing has fallen, errors which in my opinion render his results and conclusions entirely valueless as far as they bear upon the subject of true palatal deformities.

The key-stone in the structure of error which he has raised is the confusion that exists, especially in dental literature, regarding the signification of the words "palatal arch." Some dentists imply by this the horizontal arch made by the upper row of teeth, with the apex forward. I believe few if any medical writers consider this a palatal arch. The hard palate forming the arched roof of the mouth is in the minds of most of them the palatal arch.