

missioners, whose unfavourable report as to the treatment of his patient will deprive him of his position.' We hope this will not fall under the eye of the Visiting Commissioners of Hanwell, for this faithful servant of fifteen years might be deprived of his position for speaking his mind freely on the subject of mechanical restraint.

Dr. Kellogg states his opinion on the use of mechanical restraint in an extract from the report of the Utica Asylum for 1864. Their practice is very similar to that in use in most continental asylums, and includes strait-waistcoats, padded leather wristlets, waist-belts, leather muffs, and a contrivance similar to Dr. Lauder Lindsay's protection bed, against the use of which we recently elsewhere protested. Yet no fallacy, (writes Dr. Conolly), can be greater than that of imagining what is called a moderate use of mechanical restraint to be consistent with a general plan of treatment, in all other respects complete, and unobjectionable, and humane.

It is indeed weary, heartless work, going over the old objections to the non-restraint system. They were all finally disposed of by Dr. Conolly, in his last work. A more perfect answer still is (with all deference to Dr. Kellogg's fiction about the use of the "refractory bath") that in the public asylums of England, containing 30,000 patients, no mechanical instrument of restraint whatever has for the last fifteen years been used. Moreover, the condition of the patients in these asylums is, by the unanimous report of all competent visitors, in every way better than those similarly placed in the continental or American asylums, where the old restraint system still lingers.

St. Luke's Hospital for Lunatics.

The following letter appeared in the "Times" of the 27th February:—

SIR.—With reference to the various strictures on the management of St. Luke's Hospital, recently admitted into your columns, we, the undersigned members of the committee, think it right to protest against such unfair and garbled statements; and at our meeting this day, being desirous of the fullest investigation, resolved that a letter be addressed to the Lord Chancellor requesting that he will cause an

independent inquiry to be made as to the condition and management of the Hospital.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,

H. F. S. LEFEVRE, Treasurer.	P. CAZENOVE.
CHAS. WOODWARD, F.R.S.	JOHN WILLIAMS.
AND J.P.	F. BARRON.
ARTHUR POWELL.	F. R. PHILP, M.D., Cantab.
CHARLES FEW.	MARK WM. HUNTER.

Feb 26th.

There can be no doubt of the necessity of such an inquiry, if only from the fact that it is found necessary, year by year, to sell several thousand pounds of the funds of the Hospital in order to maintain the present state of things.

St. Luke's Hospital is no longer called upon to exercise the office of a Public Hospital for the Insane Poor. The legislature have provided public asylums, free of charge, for the insane poor in every county in England. The requirement of the day left unfulfilled, is a middle-class asylum, where for small payments—about ten shillings a week—recent cases of mental disease could be admitted for treatment. The authorities at St. Luke's could readily fill their present hospital with 300 patients of this class, whose payments at 10s. a week would at least meet all costs of food, attendance, and medical extras, and enable the funds of the hospital to be applied solely to the house expenses and the necessary repairs, &c. The middle classes do not ask for free treatment for their insane relatives, but are willing and anxious to pay the usual cost of maintenance as charged in the county asylums (10s. a week), if only they knew where to find such a house. Herein lies alike the opportunity and the duty of the Governors of St. Luke's, and we believe that any official enquiry into their administration would convince all well-wishers of the hospital of this fact. We shall look with anxious interest to the reply of the Chancellor to the above application by the Committee of St. Luke's FOR AN INDEPENDENT INQUIRY AS TO THE CONDITION AND MANAGEMENT OF THE HOSPITAL.