

of existing institutions. It has already started a new home for feeble-minded girls in the west of London, and is at this moment collecting funds and looking for quarters for a similar home for boys. The list of subscribers is, however, quite inadequate to enable the work to be carried out to the fullest extent, and therefore an appeal is made to the public for support of an institution which not only relieves the very feeblest of our fellow-creatures, but aims at so assisting and educating them that a proportion of them, at any rate, may be able to take their share in the world's labour and hold their own, notwithstanding the initial defects in their constitution. Contributions should be sent to the Secretary, Miss Paul, 27, Percy Street, London, W.

MR. W. J. CORBET, M.P., AND LUNACY REFORM.

Mr. Corbet has been writing in the *Westminster Review* this time. He abuses the Commissioners in Lunacy, he condemns Private Asylums, and he protests against the propagation of the race by those who have been insane. Mr. Corbet's opinions and Mr. Corbet's methods are all his own, and he has been corrected so often that it is sheer waste of space to return to the task. If he were to devote his energies to the increase of the staff of Commissioners, to the regulation of incompetent and illicit private care, and to the dissemination of reasonable teaching as to the prevention of insanity, Mr. Corbet might yet be a power for good. In the meantime he is, to the extent of his ability, detrimental to the cause he has at heart.

GLASGOW DISTRICT ASYLUM AT GARTLOCH.

This institution has now been completed and declared open. It consists of two parts, asylum and hospital. The former is for chronic and incurable patients, and contains 380 beds. It consists of four large blocks, three storeys in height, with boot and bath-rooms attached. These blocks are connected with the administrative and official departments by long corridors, under which are subways where are found the heating pipes, water supply pipes, and electric light cables.

The hospital is a separate building, and has a separate kitchen and dining hall, while for asylum and hospital there is a common recreation-room. It contains 150 beds and is principally of one storey. In it are the admission wards, wards for the treatment of intercurrent bodily diseases in the insane, wards for old and feeble cases, and infectious blocks. The whole buildings have been suitably furnished and are well adapted for their purpose. The lighting throughout is electric, the heating is by radiators, and the water supply is from the Glasgow mains. The asylum is situated about seven miles from Glasgow, on an estate of 400 acres, and is built in the Francois Premier style of architecture from the plans of Messrs. Thomson and Sandilands, of Glasgow. The total cost will not fall much short of £200,000.

DUMFRIES ROYAL ASYLUM.

A new Act of Parliament has been obtained for the Crichton Royal Institution, Dumfries, which supersedes the original Act of 1840. The principal changes introduced are, that instead of three testamentary trustees, as provided by the old Act, who held office for life, and named their successors in their wills, there are substituted the Chairmen of the County Councils of Dumfries, Kirkcudbright, and Wigton, and instead of certain testamentary trustees, who were the Duke of Buccleuch, the Duke of Hamilton, the Earl of Galloway, the Member of Parliament, the Lord Lieutenant and the Sheriff of the County of Dumfries, and the Minister of the Parish, there are substituted certain members nominated by public bodies, viz., the three above named County Councils, the Town Council of Dumfries, and the District Lunacy Board. It is not anticipated that this change

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.