

the Provincial Council. But how in the world can we in Montreal help honestly to decide upon the best man from Chicoutimi, or *vice versa*, why should the Chicoutimites be asked to say who they would prefer, say, from the city of Sherbrooke? The thing is really preposterous. This objection to the plan was pointed out in these pages when first before Parliament, but it commended itself to the majority, and it is the law.

Another advantage of district elections is, that candidates are named, their merits and demerits discussed, and thus a fair field offered to the combatants before the final decision is arrived at—just as with any ordinary political campaign,—whilst under the system in vogue here only a few who have been holding private caucuses have the least idea of the names of those who are about to present themselves for the suffrages of the voters. The latter, therefore, have no means whatever of finding out how a particular candidate will vote upon any of the open questions of the day. Would it, therefore, not be advisable to reopen this question for general discussion? If the system here advocated be found to commend itself to the general profession, especially as now represented by the new Board, steps could be taken to have the law so amended before the next triennial election.

LONGUE POINTE ASYLUM.

It is doubtful if many physicians of this Province are aware of the manner in which the patients in the Provincial Lunatic Asylum at Longue Pointe are attended to—medically, of course, we mean. At the present day it is an exploded idea that mad people are sent to asylums either to be permanently retained or merely to be kept out of harm's way until their mental malady have cured itself. On the contrary, the view now held is, that every lunatic asylum should be, as far as possible, an hospital: that is to say, that the mental malady of every admitted person should receive the careful consideration of physicians in regular attendance, just as is the case as regards the physical troubles of those taken to our general and other infirmaries. Thus, the entire management—hygienic, dietetic, and medicinal—should be under the direct control and guidance of a skilled medical