

Kirkbride on Hospitals for the Insane.—We have received from Dr. Kirkbride, Physician to the Pennsylvania Lunatic Asylum, an excellent work "on the construction, organization, and general arrangements of hospitals for the insane." The talented author has entered very fully into the subject. Indeed, there is no point connected with that all-important part of the treatment of the insane, which is included in the title of his work, that he has omitted to notice. We hope the new asylums to be erected in Canada may each be such as Dr. Kirkbride represents what an asylum ought to be.

Galt on Insanity in Italy.—From the general tenor of Dr. Galt's remarks, rather than from the insufficient statistics which are given, we should infer that insanity is more prevalent in Italy than we have hitherto supposed. Agriculturists and artizans, as in other countries, form the great majority of the insane; "but of 982, 56 are ecclesiastics, lawyers, physicians, and placemen: 26 are beggars and vagabonds. The hereditary influence, as traced in 52 cases; mania, 9; dementia, 15. Amongst the direct causes, 370 are moral causes. The physical causes amount to 249. Of these the largest in the catalogue is intemperance, 143 being so attributed. Twenty-seven are set down as owing to excessive venery, 11 to onanism, and 25 to insolation. Then the author has a third division, including chiefly different diseases, which he entitles physico-organic. Twenty-one are included under the head of organic, and five under that of palsy. It is doubtful, however, we think, whether we should consider these complications as simply such, or in the light of causative influences. As characteristic of the country, we find 24 to have originated from pellagra. Under the item meningitis, 19 are included."

Mayoralty of Boston.—"It affords us much pleasure to inform our readers," says the junior editor of the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal, "that Dr. Smith, the senior editor of the Journal has been triumphantly re-elected Mayor of this city. This mark of confidence by his fellow-citizens is, without doubt, extremely gratifying to him, and we think he has merited it, for Boston never had a more energetic and faithful chief magistrate." We are very happy to hear of Dr. Smith's re-election.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Dr. Ruttan. Send down particulars, and state whether the announcement is to be an advertisement or editorial notice.—*Dr. A. H. Bucke.*