

Dr. Channing's study and his classification relate entirely to the dental or alveolar arch, and therefore are not to be looked upon as contravening in any way the work of Clouston, Lombroso, and others whom he quotes in his paper.

He quotes a classification of abnormal hard palates made by myself in a paper on "*The Hard Palate in Degenerates*" under the impression that mine was a classification of the shapes of the dental arch. He gives a classification of his own of the shapes of the dental arch, but calls it "a classification of the *palates* of pathological individuals" (italics mine).

I feel especially called upon to point out his error, not alone because of misconceptions which must arise on reading his paper, but because the error was called to his attention by me seven months before the paper was printed, and there would seem to be no excuse for not making the standpoint from which he studied the subject more clear in the paper.

The paper was read before the American Medico-Psychological Association in May, 1896. An abstract of it with the discussion is published in the Transactions of that body. I took part in this discussion, and my remarks at the time were as follows:—

"I think there must be a good deal of confusion as to what is meant by the hard palate. I may be wrong in this matter, but I have taken the view that the hard palate is composed of the palatal bones and the palatal portions of the superior maxillary bones. As far as I can learn, Dr. Channing calls the hard palate the teeth and alveolar processes. In describing the arch he always means the dental arch, and not the arch of the palate. . . . If you examine Dr. Channing's casts of the hard palates of normal and of idiotic children, you will observe great differences in the palatal arch, very marked deformities in many of his idiots. If you look at the dental arch only, as Dr. Channing has done, I agree with him that there are no particular differences."

Despite the criticisms thus made, the paper was read before the Medico-Psychological Association of Great Britain two months later and printed in your Journal seven months afterwards.

In the conclusions, therefore, of Dr. Channing's paper we should translate the word "palate" by "dental arch" whenever the word occurs. The following are his conclusions:—

1. Two-fifths of the palates of idiots are of fairly good shape.
2. Palates of normal individuals may be deformed.
3. In the idiot it is a difference in degree and not in kind.
4. In either case it shows irregular development anatomically.
5. Palates of average children and idiots under eight years of age probably do not in the majority of cases markedly differ.
6. There is no form of palate peculiar to idiocy.
7. The statement that a V-shaped or other variety of palate is a "stigma of degeneracy" remains to be proved.

Thus interpreted, and such must be the interpretation of any careful reader of the paper, there can be no differences of opinion between himself and others, for he has made one of the pioneer studies in a new field of investigation, and I do not know of anyone able to controvert his conclusions.

OBITUARY.

Charles Lockhart Robertson, M.D.Cantab., F.R.C.P.Lond. and Ed.

We regret to record the death of this distinguished member of our specialty, which occurred on the 18th May at Exmouth.

On the occasion of Dr. Robertson's retirement from his appointment as Lord Chancellor's Visitor, a very full account of his life work and of his connection with the Medico-Psychological Association was published in this Journal, of which we give a condensed sketch.

Dr. Robertson's medical career commenced by studentship both in Edinburgh

and St. Andrew's, and on becoming qualified he entered the Army Medical Service, which led to his becoming Assistant Surgeon to the Yarmouth Army Lunatic Asylum, and after holding this post for some years he resumed his medical studies at Cambridge.

Taking his degree in this University he, for a short time, entered on consulting practice in London, but soon abandoned this in favour of our specialty and became Superintendent of the Sussex County Asylum. From this post he was advanced to that of Lord Chancellor's Visitor, which office he held until quite recently.

Dr. Lockhart Robertson's association with the Medico-Psychological Association has been both intimate, prolonged, and distinguished. He must ever rank amongst those who materially contributed to its success, when yet in its earliest childhood. From 1855 to 1862 he acted as General Secretary, a period in which the Association strengthened very considerably.

From 1862 to 1870 he became Editor, in conjunction with Dr. Maudsley, taking the place of Dr. Bucknill, who resigned in 1862, and in 1867 he became President. His interest in the Association has been manifested in many ways up to the latest period of his active professional life, and on resigning his post quite recently he made a very handsome donation of books to the Asylum Library.

On the occasion of the meeting of the International Congress in London, Dr. Robertson was selected as the President of the Medico-Psychological Section, a post he filled both with dignity and ability. His presidential address on that occasion dealt with the position of lunacy at that date and in every way justified his character as a man of clear views and foresight, with a cultured power of expression.

His personality, too, well fitted him for the post of honour he then held, as well in appearance as in manners, tact, and linguistic knowledge.

Dr. Robertson's strictly professional reputation will rest more on his great ability as an administrator than as a writer. Under his charge the Sussex Asylum obtained a distinct reputation for its successful administration, and was undoubtedly in the first rank of English Asylums.

His literary contributions were numerous and principally devoted to practical administrative matters. His name will probably be best known in this aspect from the translation of Griesinger's work on Mental Disease for the Sydenham Society in conjunction with Dr. Rutherford.

Dr. Robertson married quite late in life the daughter of Colonel Rochfort. For many years he suffered much from ill health and was from time to time constrained to take periods of rest from work, and this probably helped to limit the literary output which might have been expected from such an active-minded, experienced and cultured man.

A large number of the members of this Association who knew him during the more active portion of his career will deeply regret his loss, and those to whom he was less intimately known must regret the loss of one who had been so long and actively connected with the Association.

THE LATE DR. C. LOCKHART ROBERTSON: A REMINISCENCE.

It was in the summer of 1859 that the writer, then a candidate for the Chaplaincy of the Sussex Asylum, Haywards Heath, first made the acquaintance of Dr. Lockhart Robertson, who had recently been appointed Superintendent. In a few characteristic words he introduced himself, conveying the impression that he already felt himself in authority. His decisive manner and the keen glance of his eye intimated his capacity for government. Rule he did, and his strong will made itself felt not only in the wards and household, but also in the committee-room. The asylum, then newly constructed, had not received its first patients when Dr. Robertson made himself known to the future Chaplain. "It is easier," says the proverb, "to walk on the road than to make the road." And the Superintendent had to *make* the road; and this he did so successfully that many travelled