

Council), Mr. F. C. Hulton (Clerk to the Lancashire County Council), Mr. C. B. Hodgson (Clerk to the Cumberland County Council), Mr. Trevor Edwards (Solicitor to the West Riding County Council), and the Rev C. Royds, Mr. J. Brierley, Mr. B. Carver, and Mr. T. Scholfield, members of the Lancashire Asylums Board. The deputation recommended that the grant of 4s. a week at present given to Boards of Guardians to pay for pauper lunatics in County Asylums, Registered Hospitals, and Licensed Houses should also be given for chronic pauper lunatics (whom they defined as harmless lunatics), who are maintained in workhouse wards under special regulations and to the satisfaction of the Commissioners in Lunacy; that, as it is not desirable that idiots (idiots and imbeciles from birth or early age) should be treated in a lunatic asylum, the 4s. grant should, wherever idiots are kept at the public expense, be payable in regard to such idiots to the authority maintaining them to the satisfaction of the Commissioners in Lunacy; that each County Council should be required to appoint visitors of those idiots in respect of whom the 4s. grant is made, and who are kept in places other than lunatic asylums; and that it is not desirable to express an opinion on the question of extending the 4s. grant to idiots boarded out or maintained at home. Mr. Chaplin, in reply, said he was not prepared to give a definite answer as to whether he could advise the Government to bring in a Bill to give effect to the recommendations. He required time to consider the matter more fully, and especially to enquire how the Boards of Guardians throughout the country would be affected if the proposals of the County Councils Association became law.

#### CHILDHOOD SOCIETY.

Sir Douglas Galton writes to the *Times* of 1st March last as follows:—

When the Royal Commission on the Blind, &c., recommended special care for "the children feeble-minded but not imbecile," their evidence was derived from the scientific enquiry now intrusted to this society. So also the departmental committees on Poor Law schools and on reformatories received most important evidence as to the *status* of the children from the same voluntary source as well as from official sources. This society has been formed to continue and extend the work hitherto promoted by various connected committees; its objects are to supply information concerning mental and physical conditions of children in relation to education, such as indicate the special needs of certain groups. It is also prepared to report on children in schools and institutions, whether in London or in the provinces, as well as to give addresses on the study and classification of children.

To enable the society to carry on a useful scientific public work and continue research as to conditions of childhood under various conditions of environment funds are urgently needed. It is estimated that the expenses of reporting on 50,000 children, say in 25 towns, and giving addresses in each on the study and classification of children might be met by a fund of £1,000. Such enquiry would enable the educational authorities to know the numbers of children in various physiological groups and the exceptional cases existing within their area; the special needs indicated; and the effects of local environment. It seems strange that such knowledge has not been demanded in past years; but with the rapid extension of public education the matter cannot be deferred without danger of making mistakes.

The society invite all who are interested to enrol themselves as members and appeal to those who have means to contribute to their funds.

#### CARE OF THE FEEBLE-MINDED.

An appeal has lately been made for support of the National Association for Promoting the Welfare of the Feeble-Minded, which was formed 18 months ago with the object of combining, encouraging, and establishing all over the country homes for this purpose. It is working in cordial co-operation with the managers

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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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.

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#### 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