

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