

**OUR SOCIETY : ITS AIMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS**

(1847-1919).

BY

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*[Read on 9th January, 1919.]*

On the 22nd November, 1847, a number of gentlemen met in the Royal Irish Academy, Grafton Street, when it was unanimously resolved, on the motion of Captain T. A. Larcom, R.E. : " That a Society be established to be called The Statistical Society of Dublin." The office bearers then elected were:—President: The Most Rev. Richard Whately, D.D., Archbishop of Dublin; Vice-Presidents: Captain T. A. Larcom, R.E., and Mountiford Longfield, Q.C., LL.D.; Hon. Secretaries: James A. Lawson, LL.B., and W. Neilson Hancock, LL.B.; and Hon. Treasurer: Stewart Blacker. The object of the Society was " to promote the study of Statistics and Economical Knowledge " by means of written communications to be read at meetings of the Society, and it was expressly stipulated that " no communication shall be received by the Society involving topics likely to produce discussions connected with religious differences or party politics."

This meeting was the outcome of an earlier one, held in the previous month, in the rooms of Professor Hancock, 16 Trinity College, when it was resolved: " That it is expedient to form a society in Dublin for promoting the Study of Statistical and Economical Science, to be called The Dublin Statistical Society." Ten gentlemen were present, viz., W. Neilson Hancock (in the Chair), W. Cooke Taylor, LL.D.; Robert Ball, LL.D.; George James Allman, M.D.; Stewart Blacker, James A. Lawson, LL.B.; J. Kells Ingram, F.T.C.D.; Professor Patton, and Rev. R. M. Kennedy.

Mr. Hancock had just then been elected, as the result of a competitive examination, to the Chair of Political Economy (in succession to Mountiford Longfield, Isaac Butt and James Anthony Lawson) which had been founded in 1832 by Archbishop Whately, who suggested to the young Professor that he should investigate the application of economic doctrine to the special case of Ireland.

The first ordinary meeting of the new Society was held in the Royal Dublin Society's rooms on 21st December following, when Mr Lawson read a paper " On the Con-

nection between Statistics and Political Economy," and Professor Hancock "On the Use of the Doctrine of *Laissez Faire* in investigating the Economic Resources of Ireland." At the close of the First Session the President delivered an Address in the Ancient Concert Rooms on 19th June, 1848, in which, after stating that "next to sound Religion sound Political Economy was most essential to the well-being of society," he congratulated the members "upon the formation, and the promising—he might almost say flourishing—condition of an institution such as this, and he trusted they would live to witness the good fruits of their exertions in the diffusion of sounder notions on one of the most important, one of the most vitally essential, subjects on which the human mind in this country could possibly be exercised."

The number of original members was 81, and at the end of the First Session it had increased to 110, which numbers at the end of the Second and Third Sessions were 146 and 196, respectively. During the Third Session it was found desirable to limit the membership to 200, and this regulation remained in force till it was repealed some four years later.

During the Second Session a circumstance occurred which enabled the Society to diffuse sound economic and social information throughout Ireland. Mr. John Barrington, a Dublin manufacturer, had bequeathed by his Will a considerable sum of money, the interest of which was to be applied by his Trustees "for the purpose of providing lectures on Political Economy" in the largest sense, and particularly as it related to the conduct of the people one to another. The lectures were to be given in the various towns and villages throughout Ireland, on the express condition that all party politics and religious polemics were to be excluded.

The fund had lain dormant for 12 years in consequence of the difficulty of finding suitable persons who would administer a trust which involved very considerable care and judgment. Two years after the formation of our Society the Trustees entrusted the Council with the administration of this valuable endowment, which had then accumulated to about £4,000, for the period of one year, and the arrangement proved so satisfactory that it has been continued ever since, and the list of Barrington Lecturers during the last 70 years contains the names of many men who afterwards rose to eminence in their respective professions. I mention a few at random. Mr. Justice Lawson, Professor Hancock, Sir Thomas Moffett,

President of Queen's College, Galway; Professor T. E. Cliffe Leslie; David Ross, Recorder of Belfast; Lord Ashbourne, Sir A. M. Porter, Master of the Rolls, Mr. Justice Monroe, Mr. Justice Dodd, Sir James H. Campbell, Lord Chancellor; Professor C. F. Bastable.

Shortly after the formation of the Society it was discovered that a body called the "Howard Society" was about to be established in Dublin for the purpose of investigating questions on the nature and effect of legal punishment and prison discipline, but as such investigations came within the scope of our "objects" it was decided to abandon the formation of a new Society, and to use our platform for the promulgation of their philanthropic efforts.

#### SOCIETY FOR PROMOTING SCIENTIFIC INQUIRIES INTO SOCIAL REFORM.

In November, 1850, a branch society was formed—The Social Inquiry Society—with a view to having an accurate and systematic investigation into many questions that were then absorbing public attention, and for which legislation was required. The council selected the subjects for investigation, and either employed competent persons to inquire and report on the questions selected, or offered prizes for the best essays on such subjects. For five years that society carried on a useful and important work, and published eight reports, for each of which a fee of £20 was paid, so that the cost, including that of printing and circulation, was about £300 for the following series.

Longfield, Robert.

"Legislative Measures requisite to Facilitate the Adoption of Commercial Contracts, respecting the Occupation of Land in Ireland."

Lawson, James A., LL.D.

"The Patent Laws."

Ferguson, William D.

"Law of Debtor and Creditor, so far as relates to Proceedings subsequent to Final Judgment."

Mayne, Edward G.

"Inquiry into the Foreign Systems of Registering Dealings with Land by means of Maps and Indexes."

Colles, Henry.

"Inquiry as to the Policy of Limited Liability in Partnerships."

Lawson, James A., LL.B.

"The Present State of the Law and Practice in Ireland with respect to Wills and the Administration of Assets."

O'Hagan, John, and Jackson, Arthur S.

"Inquiry into Taxes on Law Proceedings in Ireland."

Longfield, Robert, Q.C.

"Alterations and Amendments necessary in the Present System of Sale and Mortgage of Land in Ireland."

In 1855 the two societies were amalgamated by mutual agreement, and the funds of the Social Inquiry Society were transferred to a "Social Inquiry Fund," which was in no way to be devoted to the general working of our society, but was to be used exclusively "towards the promotion of scientific inquiries into social questions of public and general interest." Some three inquiries were pending at the time of amalgamation, and an appeal was made for voluntary subscriptions towards their completion and publication of the results. This effort was revived by Mr. Jonathan Pim in 1866, who offered a fee for a report "*On the Impediments to Express Contracts as to the Occupation of Land in Ireland*," which was awarded to Mr. Randall W. M'Donnell; and in 1871 Mr. Alexander Thom contributed a sum of 100 Guineas for four reports on questions relating to Irish Jurisprudence, as follows:—

Brooks, William G., M.A.

"Differences in the Law of England and Ireland as regards the Protection of Women."

Mulholland, William.

"Best means of Reducing the Town Law of Ireland to a Code."

Donnell, Robert, Professor.

"Best means of Facilitating Land Transfer by Means of Local Registry."

Molloy, Constantine.

"Application of the Principles recommended by the Judicature Commission to the Irish County Courts."

In 1875 our Council offered a Prize of £30 for each of three Essays on "*The Differences in the Laws in the several parts of the United Kingdom and on the best means of effecting assimilation where desirable*," with the condition that the Prize Essays were to be the property of the society, and these were subsequently published in the Journal, as follows:

Nolan, Francis, B.A.

"Simplification effected by the Codes of Law prepared and Adopted for British India; and the Desirability of Framing similar Codes for England, Ireland, and Scotland."

Dodd, William H.

"Jurisdiction of the Land Courts in Ireland, Scotland and England Compared."

Dodd, William H.

"Differences in the Organisation of Local Courts in Ireland, Scotland, and England."

In addition to this system of paid inquiries the Council, by virtue of their Rules (c. 3, s. 7), had power "to form special committees for promoting the investigation of any particular subject." Several committees were thus formed,

and their reports were subsequently presented to the Council and printed in *The Journal* as follows:—

“Registration of Marriages, Births and Deaths in Ireland.”

“Suggestions for Diminishing the Excessive Summoning of Jurors in the County and City of Dublin.”

“Complaints of Foreign Consuls in Ireland of the Want of a Local Court in each Irish Port, with permanent Judicial Officers for the prompt determination of all questions between Foreign Captains and Irish Merchants.”

“Legislation by Provisional Orders in England, Scotland and Ireland.”

“Impediments to the Trade between the United Kingdom and America, which exist in Dublin from the Unsatisfactory State of the Law as to Foreign Sailors.”

“As to Census of 1881.”

“Homes of the Poor.”

“As to the Best Means of Diminishing Vice and Crime in Dublin.”

“Control and Improvement of Tenement Houses in Dublin.”

#### THE CHARITY ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE.

An Address was delivered on 16th November, 1875, at the opening of 29th Session, by J. Kells Ingram, LL.D., Vice-President, entitled “*The Organization of Charity, and the Education of the Children of the State.*” The careful reasoning of that Address, with its characteristic wide social sympathies, will well repay the most attentive perusal.

Dr. Ingram says (VI. 453):—“It may be worth while to ask whether here in our own country and city some movement in the same direction is not needed—whether the wealthy and influential, though never deficient in liberality when their aid is invoked for cases of distress, have not been too supine and passive with respect to the administration of our charities, and too willing to devolve on others—on the officials of societies, or on the clergy, often overburdened with their strictly spiritual duties—the management and control of our agencies for the relief of the poor. I am convinced that if the zeal, the ability and the resources already spent in isolated or desultory efforts in the cause of charity, were concentrated and organized, and brought in some degree into relation with the operations of the Poor Law, far more substantial and permanent good would be done, and the deserving poor and the burdened tax-payer would alike have reason to bless the change.”

The immediate outcome of that Address was the formation, on 7th December, 1875, of “The Charity Organization Committee,” of which Dr. Ingram was chairman. The Committee prepared the following reports which appear in *The Journal*:—

“Proposed Reform in the Law as to Lunatics in humble circumstances who are within, or just above the Pauper Class.”

"Amendment of the Laws as to Ruined Houses in Dublin."

"Legal Provisions in Ireland for the Care and Instruction of Imbeciles, Idiots, Deaf and Dumb, and Blind, with Suggestions for Amended Legislation."

"Houseless Poor, other than Destitute Wayfarers and Wanderers."

"Importance of Extending to Dublin the London System of having a Common Fund for Metropolitan Unions for all Expenditure in Workhouse Relief."

"Further Information as to the Proposal to Extend the Scotch Law as to Improvements in Town Holdings in Ireland."

"Imbeciles, Idiots, and Harmless Lunatics."

"Organisation of the Courts by which Drunkenness is Punished, in connection with Suggested Extension of the Justices' Clerks Act, 1875, to Ireland."

### BELFAST SOCIAL INQUIRY SOCIETY.

In 1849, on the establishment of the Queen's College, Belfast, Professor Hancock was appointed to the Chair of Political Economy and Jurisprudence in that College, and through his exertions the Belfast Social Inquiry Society was established in December, 1851, of which he was appointed Honorary Secretary. Its objects were to promote the scientific investigation of social questions of general interest, including inquiries in the sciences of Statistics, Political Economy, and Jurisprudence. By an arrangement with our society, which stands clearly in parental relationship, the publications of each were sent to all the members of both societies.

The President was Most Rev. Robert Knox, D.D., Lord Bishop of Down and the Council consisted of Rev. John Edgar, D.D., James Garrett, Charles B. Hancock, John Hancock, William M'Gee, M.D., Andrew G. Malcolm, M.D., Alexander Mitchell, John Mulholland, Joseph John Murphy, John Owden, James Shaw, John Taylor. Secretaries—Professor Hancock and James M'Intyre; and Treasurer—William Bottomley.

The following were published by the Society in 1852:

Hancock, W. Neilson, LL.D. (*read 23rd December, 1851*).

"What are the Causes of the Prosperous Agriculture in the Lowthians of Scotland?"

Hancock, W. Neilson, LL.D. (*read 10th February, 1852*).

"What are the Causes of the Distressed State of the Highlands of Scotland?"

Thompson, James (*read 2nd March, 1852*).

"Public Parks in connexion with Large Towns; with a Suggestion for the Formation of a Park in Belfast."

The British Association met in Belfast in September, 1852, when three papers were read by members of the Society before the Statistical Section, of which James

Heywood, M.P., F.R.S., was President. Those papers, published by subscription, were as follows:—

Edgar, Rev. John, D.D. (*read 3rd September, 1852*).

“The Dangerous and Perishing Classes.”

Malcolm, A. G., M.D. (*read 7th September, 1852*).

“The Sanitary State of Belfast, with Suggestions for its Improvement.”

M’Cormac, Henry, M.D. (*read 7th September, 1852*).

“The Connexion of Atmospheric Impurity with Disease.”

### THE JOURNAL.

During the first seven years of our society such of the papers read at its meetings as the Council judged to be deserving of publication were printed, each in a separate form, and so circulated among the members and corresponding societies. Eighty-three papers were thus printed, (including 7 read by members before the Statistical Section of the British Association at Edinburgh, Ipswich, and Belfast), and published as “The Transactions of the Dublin Statistical Society.” These papers were paged as separate pamphlets, but title-pages were issued to facilitate them being collected into volumes, and when bound have the following dates:—Transactions: Vol. I.—November, 1847, to October, 1849. Vol. II.—November, 1849, to October, 1851. Vol. III.—November, 1851, to October, 1854. It was, however, found that such mode of publication, though possessing certain advantages, was unfavourable to the preservation of the Transactions, and the Council therefore determined to publish a Journal containing a series of selections from the Proceedings of the Society after January, 1855. The Journal has since been published regularly and systematically, and comprises 96 parts, which are contained in 13 Volumes, containing, 6,470 pages.

### THE LIBRARY.

The next matter that engaged the attention of the Council was the formation of a Library, and on 6th September, 1850, it was resolved:

“That the books that have been presented to the society, and such books as shall hereafter be presented to or deposited with the society, be placed under the care of Mr. Richard D. Webb, as Librarian, to be by him lent to the members, or to such other trustworthy persons as he may approve of; and that the Librarian keep a list of the books presented to, or deposited with, the society, and a report of the persons to whom they are lent, with the dates of their being issued and returned.”

The Council attached great importance to the formation of a Statistical Library as a means of extending the usefulness of the society, and they expressed the hope that members who have rare or valuable books or pamphlets on Political Economy or Statistics would deposit them for a time in the Library, so that writers of papers might have an opportunity of consulting such books without being involved in the expense of buying them.

The difficulty of properly housing the books suspended for a time any further action, until the matter came to a climax in 1862. Immediately after the National Association for the Promotion of Social Science had met in Dublin, in August, 1861, the Council felt that the stimulus thus given to the study of Social Science in Ireland necessitated such changes as would involve a modification in the existing relations between the Royal Dublin Society and the Statistical Society. Our Council approached that of the Royal Dublin Society, whose answer, dated 24th January, 1862, was as follows:—

“ Referring to the request of the Dublin Statistical Society to be permitted to hold their meetings on these premises on evenings other than those upon which this society meets, and more frequently than heretofore, to which meetings it is proposed that ladies should be admitted, I am directed by the Council to inform you that having taken the opinion of the Committee of House and of Evening Meetings on the subject, who have reported against any alteration in the existing arrangements, they have directed me to express their decided opinion as to the inexpediency of sanctioning the proposal; and at the same time beg that you will be so good as to convey to the Statistical Society their regret at being obliged thus to decline acceding to the Society’s request.”

In consequence of this letter an Extraordinary Meeting of the Society was held on 21st February, 1862, at the Dublin Friends’ Institute, 35 Molesworth Street, when a new set of Rules was adopted, embodying the following changes:—

I. The extension of the objects of the society to all questions of Social Science.

II. The change of the name of the society to that of The Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland.

III. The admission of Ladies as Associates.

IV. The division of the society’s business into three departments.



(a) Jurisprudence and Amendment of the Law, including the subject of Punishment and the Reformation of Criminals.

(b) Social Science, including Education; Political Economy, including the Principles of Trade and Commerce.

(c) Public Health and Sanitary Reform.

Our connection with the Royal Dublin Society was for a period of 15 years, during which time our society held their ordinary meetings in this building where we are privileged to meet this afternoon, a kindness that was duly acknowledged in our annual reports. The place of meeting was then changed to 35 Molesworth Street, which for the next 50 years was the home of our deliberations, until in 1912 we removed to our present address, 93 Stephen's Green. Ample accommodation was afforded for the formation of a Library at 35 Molesworth Street, and various donations were received from time to time, but the most valuable contribution to our Library was the bequest of General Sir Thomas Larcom, R.E., who by his Will, dated 30th June, 1877, bequeathed "All my books which deal with Political Economy and Social Science in all its branches and which relate to Land and Land Tenure to the Statistical Society of Ireland."

The number of books thus acquired amounted to over 500 volumes, of which 142 volumes consisted of letters and papers, all uniformly bound, relating to such matters of national importance as Statistics of Crime, Emigration, Taxation, Poor Law System, Jury System, Land System, and other matters relating to the economic or political condition of Ireland between the years 1850 and 1879, the year of Sir Thomas Larcom's death.

This collection is unique, inasmuch as it contains the private correspondence between Sir Thomas and successive English Governments, as well as autograph letters from Sir Robert Peel, Earl Russell, Earl of Carlisle, Viscount Cardwell, Mr. Gladstone, Mr. Lowe, Duke of Leinster, Earl of Mayo and others. An interesting paper descriptive of the bequest was read before the society on 6th July, 1880, by Mr. J. H. Campbell (now Right Hon. The Lord Chancellor of Ireland) and which was afterwards published in the Journal, in which he described the bequest as "a storehouse of the most valuable information for the historian, the economist, and the statesman."

Our Council felt strongly that such a valuable collection should be utilised to the greatest advantage and at the same time protected from the risk of fire, and by a resolution of the Society, held on 6th December, 1918, it was

decided to hand over a portion of the Larcom Bequest, comprising 176 volumes, to the National Library of Ireland, where the members would continue to have free access to the books, and where they would be open to a much larger and wider circle of readers. In thus giving the books to the National Library of Ireland the Council felt they were acting in accordance with the true intention of the testator, and this opinion was endorsed by the Commissioners of Charitable Donations and Bequests for Ireland, who stated: "that the proposed transfer is one which might be carried out with propriety and advantage to all concerned."

### AIMS AND ACHIEVEMENTS.

Our society launched its career in one of the darkest periods of our country's history. The failure of the potato crop in two successive years carried in its train an almost unparalleled amount of suffering and starvation, and it was not until 1847 that the shortage of food began to bear its fruits of evil. As Mr. Justice Lawson subsequently stated:—"At that period estates were unsaleable, properties were going to destruction, the entire of our country seemed as it were to be fast verging to the workhouse."

Many social problems presented themselves for investigation and imperatively demanded a solution, when Dr. Hancock, who must ever be regarded as the founder of our society, conceived a method by which some amelioration of the people's lot might be accomplished.

As one of our Presidents has stated (IV. 26):—

"The members of this society do not, as such, seek to intrude into the province of the politician. Our business is to discover and demonstrate, by the application of scientific principles, the legislative action appropriate to each phase of society, and each group of economic conditions. At what precise time, and in what particular form, our conclusions shall be adopted in practice is a question of political expediency, which those who are acquainted with the varying exigencies of public life can determine better than we. But it is encouraging to know that in endeavouring, by our researches and discussions to overthrow error and to establish truth, we are labouring at no unpractical—no hopeless—task; that any wise suggestion developed here may one day become a beneficent reality, a living agency for good; and that thus, without sitting in the councils of State, or mingling in the strife

of parties, we may, each of us, do something towards the improvement of the institutions of our country."

But while Dr. Ingram thus stated our aims in 1863, another of our Presidents, Rt. Hon. Lord Monteagle, thought it necessary, twenty years later, to sound a note of warning (VII. 388):—

"We are commonly known as 'The Statistical,' and this abbreviation of our full title probably encourages the idea that we are a kind of literary ostriches. It is perhaps inevitable that our name should be put into this straight waistcoat, but we should be all the more careful on that account to remember that statistics are only a means to an end, and to impress on the public that, though we can digest nails, we refuse to be fed on them exclusively."

As an illustration I would mention the following incident. In the year 1848 Sir Charles E. Trevelyan, an enlightened and philanthropic Englishman who had the deepest interest in the advancement of Ireland, published *The Irish Crisis*, in which there occurred the expression: "But what hope is there for a nation that lives on potatoes?" Dr. Hancock, on 17th April of the same year, read a paper before our society refuting such an imputation as that the potato was a curse and the root of all our social evils. After pointing out two mistakes into which the author of *The Irish Crisis* had fallen. viz., "that of representing the use of inferior food as the cause instead of the effect of poverty, and that of ascribing to the potato itself the effects of the conacre system and the precarious tenure under which it has grown," Dr. Hancock proceeds: "What the intelligent portion of the community can do is to inquire into the causes of such unwise arrangements as conacre and precarious tenures."

This suggestion was at once acted on, and, as the pages of our Journal will testify, the most valuable contributions on the entire Land System of Ireland were brought before the consideration of our society during the next 50 years by some of the most eminent economists and jurists. As a result of those deliberations Land Purchase has become, to a large extent, a realised fact, and the wisdom of thus creating a system of Peasant Proprietorship has been verified by the increased production of food at a time when our oversea supplies were seriously threatened. and, to a large extent extinguished, through an unforeseen system of brigandage by an unscrupulous and relentless enemy.

The old question of the relationship between Capital and Labour was one of the earliest to find a place in our deliberations, and in all probability it will again demand

consideration, under new and varied conditions. But the questions underlying that vexed problem have been clearly enunciated by a former President (J. Kells Ingram, LL.D.), who in an Address to the Trades' Union Congress, entitled "*Work and the Workman*," classified the requirements of the working-classes for securing an amelioration of their position under three heads: (1) Adequate Wages; (2) A well-regulated Home; and (3) Education.

In that Address Dr. Ingram says (VII. 117):—

"I have hitherto generally spoken of the workingman as an individual; but no study of his position is complete which overlooks the fact that he is ordinarily the head of a family. The principal solace of a life of labour—nay the principal source of human happiness generally—lies in the exercise of the domestic affections. It is the duty of the chiefs of the industrial world to do all that in them lies towards securing to the workingman the enjoyment of so great a blessing. This involves in it the regulation of his labour in such a way that he may have the opportunity of sufficient intercourse with the members of his family, and may return to them fatigued, perhaps, but not exhausted in body or broken in spirit by too prolonged or excessive exertion. A life of work and nothing but work is no life for a man, who must not be degraded into a mere instrument of production. . . . The workman needs both in his own highest interests, and in those of society, an habitual expansion of his domestic affections. For family life is not merely the source of the purest happiness; it is also the best school of the heart. The hardness and selfishness which the pressure of practical life too often produces is best tempered by the atmosphere of the domestic hearth, where we learn, in the most elementary and attractive form, the lesson of living for others. It has always been recognised that in the practise of the domestic virtues is laid the surest foundation of civic and social worth."

The time at my disposal this afternoon will not enable me to enumerate fully the various changes that have been effected in our Statute Law as the outcome of our investigations. In the branch of Jurisprudence many of the anomalies that existed in 1847 have been effaced and a simpler and more expeditious mode of jurisdiction has been established. As Mr. Justice Dodd in an appreciative sketch of his intimate friend, Dr. Hancock, says:—

"Associated with him, both in his economic studies and in his zeal for law reform, were Dr. Ingram and Dr. (afterwards Mr. Justice) Lawson, and it would be interesting

if there were time and space to trace the history of the economic and legal reforms in which these eminent men took a part. It would come, I think, as a surprise to many what rapid, or comparatively rapid, strides were made during their time, and in great part owing to their exertions." *Historical Sketch of Belfast Literary Society*, p. 105.

As I have already pointed out, Archbishop Whately attached very great importance to the study of Political Economy. A later and by no means less distinguished member of our Society—W. E. H. Lecky—says, in describing the scheme of progress which Political Economy reveals (*Rationalism in Europe*, II. 399):—

"The same principle that creates civilisation creates liberty, and regulates and sustains morals. The poorer classes, as wealth, and consequently the demand for their labour, have increased, cease to be the helpless tools of their masters. Slavery, condemned by Political Economy, gradually disappears. The stigma that attached to labour is removed. War is repressed as a folly, and despotism as an invasion of the rights of property. The sense of common interests unites the different sections of mankind, and the conviction that each nation should direct its energies to that form of produce for which it is naturally most suited effects a division of labour which renders each dependent upon the others. Under the influence of industrial occupations, passions are repressed, the old warlike habits are destroyed, a respect for law, a consideration for the interests of others, a sobriety and perseverance of character are inculcated. Integrity acquires a new value, and dissipation a new danger. The taste is formed to appreciate the less intense but more equable enjoyments, and the standard of excellence being rectified by the measure of utility, a crowd of imaginary virtues and vices which ignorance had engendered pass silently away."

"It differs essentially from the schemes of most moralists in the fact that its success depends not upon any radical change in the nature of mankind . . . but simply upon the diffusion of knowledge."

In Social Science our efforts have had very considerable success. The housing of the poor has undergone improvement, although much still remains to be done, since Mr. Wm. Hogan read a paper, in 1848, "*On the Necessity for Model Lodging Houses in Dublin*," which was accompanied by a Plan. The subject of Juvenile Delinquents was brought before our society by Mr. J. H. Pim, who pointed out that "to reclaim from vice is far higher obligation than to punish for crime," and four years later

Reformatory Schools were for the first time established in Ireland. The subsequent history of this important branch of Social Reform has been traced by Lord Chief Justice Cherry in a Presidential Address entitled "*Juvenile Crime and its Prevention*," delivered in 1911, in which he says:—

"We recognised, what our grandfathers did not, that harsh and cruel punishments have very little, if any, deterrent effect, and that, on the contrary, they tend to brutalize the minds of those who are subjected to them in such a manner as to more than counterbalance any good effect they may produce through fear of their repetition."

In the matter of Child Life many good and beneficent changes have been effected since Dr. Hancock, in 1855, read his paper "On the Workhouse as a mode of Relief for Widows and Orphans," in which he stated that "the system of rearing pauper children in families should be substituted for that which is at present adopted of rearing them in workhouses." But the full significance of the importance of child life has not yet been recognised by the Legislature, and I repeat to-day what I stated to this society in December, 1916 (XIII. 316):—

"There is one outstanding fact of the present war which gives us a ray of hope for the future—the noble and self-sacrificing part which is being played by women. Let us take courage and give women a more important part in the administration of the laws relating to child life, and it will rebound with untold blessings on the community. By such a course, I believe, we shall minimise the manufacture of criminals and paupers and direct the children of the slums into channels of usefulness and thereby add very considerably to the nation's wealth."

The outlook that presented itself to the founders of our society was not promising, and we, their successors, at the beginning of the 72nd Session, are confronted with numerous social problems, on the solution of which will depend the future well-being of the community. A world-wide war of unprecedented proportions has shattered to fragments many of the principles upon which the stability of society was formerly supposed to exist. At such a time it is well to recall the words of a former Vice-President (Captain T. E. Larcom, R.E.), uttered in 1850, at the end of the Third Session:

"The present is yet dreary. . . . But we may hope the worst is passed—a gloomy night may herald in a brighter day. We are not to despair, but exert ourselves to devote all our faculties and energies to the task. Everyone of us,

in his appointed station, must bend to the oar—every man must do his duty, and look in confidence for that blessing on our labours which never fails those who seek it in blessing and truth.”

The blighting influence of the past four years has necessarily arrested our activities, and has depleted, to a very considerable extent, our roll of membership. But although few in numbers, we have been able to weather the storm, and now wish to restore the full complement of our crew. We seek recruits, and will welcome any voluntary workers who are willing to assist in guiding our frail craft through the rough seas which, in all probability, will accompany the reconstruction of society. We heartily invite your co-operation, and whether statistician or economist, social reformer or jurist, you will find in our society a free platform, on which men and women—for both are equally admissible—can sink for the time being their religious and political differences, and unite in a common effort to improve the welfare of their fellow-countrymen; remembering always the closing words, used by Sir Thomas Larcom, when proposing the formation of the Statistical Society—

“OUR POLE STAR IS TRUTH.”

Mr. Millin read the following letters received by him from:—

Rt. Hon. Mr. JUSTICE DODD, ex-President (elected 1870).  
 Rt. Hon. WM. DRENNAN ANDREWS, LL.D. (elected 1873).  
 Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M. (elected Hon. Member, 1892).  
 Rt. Hon. Sir FREDERICK POLLOCK, Bart., formerly Professor of Jurisprudence, Oxford (elected Hon. Member, 1892).  
 FATHER FINLAY, ex-President, and present Vice-President.

26 Fitzwilliam Square, Dublin.

I regret exceedingly that I cannot have the pleasure of hearing you read your Paper. I have read it with much interest. The problems that are pressing for solution in social life are of surpassing importance. May I mention one in particular—the right of the individual to freedom and the claim of the State to control? These problems, it seems to me, will be solved not by the Economist, or the Theorist, or the Politician. Each proposed addition to State control must be dealt with on the merits by men of business experience and knowledge of affairs, who will approach the consideration of it—

“ Not clinging to some ancient saw,  
 Not mastered by some modern term;  
 Not swift nor slow to change, but firm,  
 And in its season bring the law.”

The Society affords a meeting ground for full and free discussion:—

“ That from Discussion’s lip may fall  
 With Life, that, working strongly, binds—  
 Set in all lights by many minds,  
 To close the interests of all.”

They will all get solved by an instructed and enlightened common-sense; and common-sense is the guiding light of your Society. I wish you a prosperous year.

W. H. DODD.

51 Lower Leeson Street, Dublin.

I am much pleased by the gratifying prospect of increased activity of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland, which your letter of yesterday gives assurance of success. I must deny myself the pleasure and instruction which I would derive from being present at the meeting on the 9th instant, but which the state of my health will not admit of.

The advanced copy of the Paper which will be read by you at that meeting (for which I beg to sincerely thank you) has afforded me renewed interest in the Society’s aims and achievements, and I have read with sincere pleasure the inspiring words with which your Paper concludes.

The names of its founders comprise a valuable record of the benefits which their learning and ability have conferred on our fellow-countrymen, and we can recall their services with not only satisfaction but with pride.

The eminent speakers who are to take part in the proceedings of the approaching Meeting give absolute confidence that the Society has secured the talent and ability which have been so admirably reflected from its eminent members in the past.

With my cordial best wishes for the complete success of the Society’s renewed activity.

I am, very truly yours,

WILLIAM D. ANDREWS.

Hindleap, Forest’s Row, Sussex.

Thanks for the copy of the Paper which you are to read before the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland next week, which I have read with great interest, remembering the admirable work done by Dr. Hancock and others whom you mention as having worked in and through the Society. Nowhere, as it seems to me, is such a Society as yours more needed than in Ireland. When I was Chief Secretary, 12 years ago, I was struck by the many points in



which the management of Public Health and the management of Education were both of them defective in Ireland. You have in Ireland many men whose knowledge and whose views are abreast of the knowledge and the views that have been working for progress in England and Scotland, but unfortunately in Ireland many causes—political and others—have prevented such men from exerting upon public opinion, and upon legislation, the influence to which they are entitled. I earnestly hope that your Society may be the means of calling public attention more forcibly to the Reforms that are needed in Ireland, and of elucidating the conditions upon which such Reforms may be carried out.

One of the first things you may well press for is the establishment of some authority to deal effectively with questions of Public Health.

Believe me to be, faithfully yours,

BRYCE.

21 Hyde Park Place, London, W.

In answer to your request I am glad to express my opinion that the work of the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland is of permanent importance, and especially necessary at present.

English, and I should think Scottish, discussion of Irish affairs is sadly tempered by the ignorance of Irish economic and social conditions that still prevail outside Ireland, not to mention the cumbrous and wasteful complication of governing and administrative bodies, of which few people here have any adequate notion.

Yours truly,

F. POLLOCK.

Galway.

I regret I shall not be able to return to Dublin in time for the Meeting of the Statistical Society on 9th inst. The proceedings will, I hope, attract public attention to the work of the Society and help to a better appreciation of its services. For these services there is now a call, such as has not come to the Society in the course of its history. Like the peoples of other countries we have been profoundly affected by the war. The return to peace in a changed world will be for us, as for others, the starting-point of new social and economic movements. To these the nation must adapt itself, and in them take its place, under penalty of hurt to its most important interests. But to do so it must be made aware of the significance of what is taking place within it and around it, and have counsel and guidance from those who can read the signs of the times. This ser-

vice to the country it is the appointed function of the Society to render. All who have the national interests at heart must desire that, in the increased number of its members, and thus devotion to its ideals, the Society may prove equal to the more urgent duty and the opportunity of larger usefulness now before it.

Believe me, sincerely yours,

T. A. FINLAY.

Rt. Hon. SIR JAMES H. CAMPBELL, Bart., Lord Chancellor of Ireland, in moving "That the Statistical and Social Inquiry Society of Ireland is deserving of public support," said that it was full time that the people of Ireland should be reminded of what they owed to the great men who originally started that Society—he did not suppose from that day to the present there had ever been a more brilliant, or a more cultured gathering, having regard to their numbers, than that small circle of men. They included Mr. Justice Longfield and Sir Thomas Larcom, one of the most sympathetic public servants and eminent officials that ever belonged to the Executive of Ireland, and a gentleman who had left behind him an invaluable record of his work, consisting of a most interesting collection of volumes in which he had pasted original letters of great value, including letters from Gladstone, Disraeli, Peel, and others. In addition to the two men he had mentioned, there were two others, one of whom was one of the most cultured men that Ireland had produced in a century—Dr. Ingram, a most modest and unassuming man. Then there was Mr. Justice Lawson, a great Economist, whose addresses and articles, when a member of that Society, contributed very largely to form the foundation for the legislation which had been continuously introduced in this country during the past forty years. And last, but not least, there was that lovable genius, W. Neilson Hancock, whom he (the Lord Chancellor) as a young man knew in College. He used to help young struggling men in College, and he had never yet met a man with a greater desire to assist young fellows who were in need of help and wanted stimulus and encouragement either in the University or outside it. And he knew there were others, as well as himself, who could speak of Dr. Hancock's substantial aid with gratitude—for help given when help was needed. A great many thought that Hancock over-estimated the value of Statistics, and that to some extent he made the Society unpopular thereby. He was responsible for the Statistics which now appeared in tabulated form in Thom's Directory. But they owed a tremendous debt of gratitude to the Society, and

especially to Dr. Hancock, for devoting so many years to the preparation of these Statistics, which had formed ever since the foundation of all their information connected with the agricultural, industrial and social conditions of their country; and were it not for those Statistics they would have had to begin and calculate them for themselves. And, incidentally, Dr. Hancock laid the foundations of a great deal of later legislation, especially with regard to the protection of child-life and of their working-classes engaged in industries and factories.

Those distinguished men who had written to Mr. Millin had emphasised the great importance of the work of the Society. His own view was that the Society was likely to do more good work through its reviews and articles from experts on various matters in its Journal than by holding weekly or monthly meetings for discussion among themselves. In that manner they could bring their work more directly to the eyes and ears of the Irish people. In many respects the Society had considerable leeway to make up. No time was ever more favourable than the present, except in one respect—but he did not wish to allude to it, because it bordered on political matters. Probably the atmosphere was not so favourable in that respect. But in all other respects he thought they had not had a more favourable opportunity for the work of that Association. Irishmen at home were never more prosperous, never more alive, than to-day to the necessity for social and economic improvement, and for the regeneration of Ireland. There had been a marked and progressive improvement in the matter of temperance in Ireland in recent years. Land legislation had improved the condition, not only of the farmer, but more especially of the agricultural labourer. The Labourers Acts had completely reformed the entire surroundings of the life and condition of the agricultural labourer. From being a man without hope, without incentive to energy and enterprise, he now found himself most comfortably housed and fairly well paid, and he got a chance in the race of life such as he never had before. Again, never in history had agriculture and industry been so profitable. The farmers and traders were making money, the Banks were flourishing—everything looked well, except in one particular matter. Now was the time for men of all classes and creeds to come together, and see if on a common platform, which excluded the topics of religion and politics, they could not do something to aid in the advancement and regeneration of their beloved country. He thought that the opportunity was afforded by the meetings of that

Society, and he would be glad to do all he could to help it by every means in his power. They wanted expert knowledge to help them to get rid of the terrible scourge of the tenement houses in Dublin. They wanted to save their young children from the dreadful mortality that overtook them to-day. They wanted expert knowledge to improve the ordinary as well as the technical and scientific education of their people. There were many other matters on which there was much need for reform, on which the most cultured minds in Ireland should be brought to bear—in connection with the Legal and Judicial System, the Municipal System, and in many other departments of their public life—all urgent, and calling for and demanding immediate attention, and doing so at a time when the atmosphere was, in his opinion, more favourable, generally speaking, than it had been in his recollection, living in Ireland.

He (the Lord Chancellor) wished to suggest for the consideration of the Council that the paper of Mr. Millin and the letters from public men bearing testimony to the work of the Society should receive not only in the Press, but also in book or pamphlet form, a wide circulation, and that they should not be confined to the small circle of that meeting.

Miss MULVANY, LL.D., in seconding the resolution, said that when she was asked to speak at the meeting, her first impulse was to decline the gratifying, though embarrassing, invitation, for she was nothing of a public speaker; but on reading the first page of the Honorary Librarian's admirable paper she felt constrained, both on grounds of personal and public gratitude, to do what she could to help forward this valuable Society. Her feelings of personal gratitude were roused on seeing that many of the able and wise men with whose names she was familiar as the counsellors and advisers of the pioneer of women's education in Ireland, Mrs. Anne Jellicoe, foundress of Alexandra College, were those who had been the promoters and early workers in the Statistical Society; she alluded especially to Dr. Neilson Hancock and to Dr. John Kells Ingram. It was in educational matters that Dr. Hancock was Mrs. Jellicoe's adviser; for, while he was amongst the first in this city who held that women should have a voice in legislation, Mrs. Jellicoe was ever firm in maintaining that the only "woman's right" she acknowledged was the right to be educated; this achieved, the rest would follow. It has happened recently to us to see how true was her forecast.

Gratitude to this Society is due from the public point of view—gratitude in full measure. Its record shows that it is not a mere academic body, where there is much debate with little result, but a body whose members study social problems, and deliberate with a view to the betterment of humanity, and as voluntary workers seeking for remedial measures, and enthusiastic, bring the results of keen and patient research into the light that permanent benefits to their fellow creatures may follow. Spade-work in preparation for legislative action, not in limited fields, but over the whole area of humanity, is undertaken to good effect—in fact, the Society is so wide in its outlook that the speaker is tempted to apply to it the description of himself by the Terentian personage, Chremes thinking nothing pertaining to humanity to be foreign to himself. The Society affords a common platform and fostering ground for the development of philanthropic schemes by private bodies, recognising that social reforms left to State bureaucracy rarely effect all that is desired from them.

Dr. Mulvany stated that she considered the Society could be availed of with great benefit by women. Now that they were called on—rightly or wrongly—to take their part in the government of the country, they should take advantage of such opportunities as the Statistical Society afforded them of attending the debates and studying the able methods used by members in making up a subject from every point of view; so they will in time make themselves into valuable helpers in similar work.

Rt. Hon. EARL OF MAYO, K.P., supported the resolution, and said the wonder was that such a Society should have been started and flourished in one of the darkest hours of Ireland's history—the period of 1847. They had been through dark days of late, but perhaps they had not suffered so much in this as in other countries. He felt honoured in being asked to speak at that, the first public meeting of the Society since 1914.

With the questions that were now confronting them—the health of the nation, reconstruction, and the proper housing of the working-classes—that Society would be most useful. The Housing question in Dublin was one that should be attended to, and it was the business of all in the South and West to see that at least the poor of their cities should be decently housed. Statistics were necessary for proper government in any country, but figures were very dull, and he generally found that in the Upper House, where he had the privilege of sitting, when a speaker came to figures the atmosphere became one of placid dulness.

He hoped the Society would be supported in these times of reconstruction, when the public were looking to it for figures, and reasons why things should be undertaken.

Rt. Hon. MICHAEL F. COX, M.D., said it was a matter for regret that medical men were not more largely identified with the Society, especially in connection with the important questions relating to Public Health, which were now likely to receive so much attention.

Professor C. H. OLDHAM, University College, Dublin, said the Irish people accepted figures and did not test them, and, after studying statistics for twenty-five years, he could show that at least 85 per cent. of the figures published about Ireland would not bear examination.

The resolution, which was put to the meeting by the President, was adopted unanimously.

The following members and associates were elected:—Rt. Hon. Lord Justice O'Connor; Rt. Hon. T. L. O'Shaughnessy, Recorder of Dublin; James Andrews, K.C.; Mr. George Macnie; and Miss Mulvany, LL.D.

*Extract from Irish Law Times, 25th January, 1919.*

"It may be of interest to our readers to mention a few of the legal changes effected by the efforts of the Society. The Landed Estates Court was the outcome of a series of papers by Dr. Hancock on the legal impediments to the transfer of land, in which he sketched the principles of a measure conferring a Parliamentary title, and urged the extension of the doctrine of "market overt" to the sale of land in Ireland. Dr. (afterwards Mr. Justice) Lawson anticipated the reform of the Patent Laws and the creation of the Probate Court by two reports prepared at the expense of the Society, advocating a less antiquated and complicated system of law as regards those matters than then existed in Ireland. A Committee of the Society drew up a report "On the Registration of Marriages, Births and Deaths in Ireland," five years before the Act of 1863 was enacted. The various changes in the law affecting the jurisdiction of County Courts as to Title, Admiralty and Lunacy were the direct outcome of papers read by such men as Thomas O'Hagan, Constantine Molloy, Henry Dix Hutton, George Orme Malley, and W. H. (now Mr. Justice) Dodd, the last of whom submitted two Prize Essays "On the Jurisdiction of the Local Courts in Ireland, Scotland, and England, Compared," and "Difference in the Organization of Local Courts in Ireland, Scotland and England." The Landlord

and Tenant Consolidation Act of 1860 was passed nine years after Mr. Robert Longfield made a report "On the Legislative Measures Requisite to Facilitate the Adoption of Commercial Contracts respecting the Occupation of Land." The subsequent development of the Land System of Ireland was suggested in such papers read before the Society as those on "Landlord and Tenant Act, 1870," by D. C. Heron, Q.C.; "Impediments to the Prompt Carrying out of some of the Principles Conceded by Parliament on the Irish Land System," by Dr. Hancock; "The Bright Clauses of the Irish Land Act," by J. H. Edge; "Nationalisation of the Land," by J. J. Shaw; "Considerations as to an Extended Scheme of Land Purchase," by R. R. Cherry; "Compulsory Purchase as a Substitute for the Revision of Judicial Rents," by J. H. Edge; and "The Ulster Tenant Right Custom," by W. F. Bailey."

We most heartily wish the Society a long and prosperous career, and endorse the statement of Right Hon. W. D. Andrews contained in a letter which was read at the meeting.