all scholars under suitable conditions to sixteen years of age, this association is of opinion that the provisions of the Bill as introduced require considerable amendment, especially in the direction of fixing more definitely the age of fourteen as the normal age for leaving the day school and in the incidence of compulsion upon employers to afford facilities for the attendance of young people at continuation schools by the reasonable limitation of their hours of labour."

At the close of the business of the meeting the president presented, on behalf of the association, a handsome silver rose bowl and four candlesticks to Dr. R. S. Clay, principal of the Northern Polytechnic Institute, Holloway, "in recognition of his valuable services as honorary secretary from 1907 to 1911."

The master of Caius presided at a dinner on Thursday night at Caius College, and the president of Queen's College received the members on Friday night.

RALPH S. HYAMS.

THE OPENING OF THE NEW BUILDINGS OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SCIENCE FOR IRELAND.

THE scientific work of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction for Ireland received welcome recognition through the opening of the new buildings of the Royal College of Science for Ireland by the King, accompanied by the Queen, as the first act of the royal visit to Dublin on Saturday last, July 8. The ceremony was under the control of the Commissioners of the Board of Public Works, and a picturesque temporary hall had been constructed in the Great Quadrangle, through the open side of which the front of the new college was visible. The vice-president of the Department of Agriculture and Technical Instruction (the Rt. Hon. T. W. Russell, P.C.), the higher officials of the Department, and the professors of the college, had the honour of being presented to their Majesties. The King was pleased to announce that he had conferred a knighthood on Prof. W. Noel Hartley, F.R.S., dean of faculty of the college, whose absence through temporary illness was greatly regretted. The architects, Sir Aston Webb, R.A., and Mr. T. Manley Deane, and the builder, Mr. W. H. McLaughlin, were presented to his Majesty, who knighted Mr. Deane upon the spot. A pleasing feature was the introduction to their Majesties of a deputation of the foremen engaged upon the works.

The Minister in Attendance (the Rt. Hon. Augustine Birrell, P.C.) then asked the King to open the college, and their Majesties, conducted by the officers of the Board of Works, visited the building. Though the ceremony had little of an academic character, the large number of visitors honoured with an invitation must have realised the place taken by science in the educational system now being built up in Ireland, and the honour conferred on Prof. Hartley will be warmly appreciated. When the classes begin work in October in the handsome building now provided, it is hoped that a scheme of correlation may be introduced by which the Irish universities will take advantage of the courses of instruction in applied science in the college. It is important to remember that the maintenance of such courses, from the days of the Science and Art Department onward, has been recognised as a part of the system of public education, and that the new building of the Royal College of Science for Ireland represents visibly the stimulus given to scientific observation and research by Sir Horace Plunkett and his colleagues when they reorganised the agricultural and technical instruction of the country.

THE EUGENICS EDUCATION SOCIETY.

THE annual report of the Eugenics Education Society shows how much progress has been made by the society during the three years of its existence. Besides quick growth of the parent stem, branches have spread from Liverpool to New Zealand; indeed, in New Zealand eugenic ideas seem to be making their way into legislation.

The main feature of the report, however, is the address of the new president, Major Leonard Darwin. Major Darwin emphasises the view that the study of heredity and its application to sociology is the main function of eugenics. He says:—

"Although the science of heredity is now young, yet certain not hitherto widely recognised conclusions can already be preached with absolute confidence:

"(1) That men are very differently endowed by nature in inherent mental and bodily qualities. . . .

"(2) That in normal conditions, although [individual] children differ widely from their parents, yet each generation closely resembles its predecessors in average inherent qualities; a truth which applies to every nation, and every separable section of a nation.

"(3) That it follows from these premises that, if one nation is more highly endowed than another in inherent qualities, that superiority will remain with it generation after generaton in the absence of disturbing causes. . . .

"(4) That if the least naturally gifted sections of a nation are reproducing their kind more rapidly than are those more highly endowed in mental and physical qualities, then the higher are being swamped by the lower, and the nation is decadent. . . .

"(5) Lastly, that whilst every effort to improve the environment of the nation should be made, modern science indicates that the beneficial results on the race of possible changes in external conditions are, in nearly all cases, likely to be far less than was formerly believed to be the case, the advantages being, moreover, probably dependent on the maintenance of the reforms in question; whereas no assignable limit can be placed to the amount of the improvement in the condition of the nation which might in time result from reforms affecting its inherent qualities, the results thus attainable being also of a vastly more permanent character."

In the necessary application of these principles in practice, Major Darwin places in the forefront the need of legislative power to segregate the feeble-minded. He says:—"Here the difficulties encountered ought not to be great, since public opinion is already largely on our side." Doubtless, instructed public opinion is almost or quite unanimous. But, unfortunately, instructed public opinion has little voting power in present political conditions, and the long delay in carrying out the recommendation of the Royal Commission on Mental Defect is impressing on us the unwelcome fact that the Government and Legislature will take no action, even in a case which is urgent and patent to every thinking man, unless there are votes behind it. All the more need exists, therefore, for the efforts of such associations as the Eugenics Education Society to awake the nation to the evils of further inaction.

On the other side, Major Darwin rightly points out that much might be done by the adjustment of taxation to give really effective economic relief to households consisting of large families of sound stock. He also revives the suggestion that the Government as an employer should pay salaries to include an allowance for every living child. As Government employees are usually picked men, this proposal has definite eugenic value.

Major Darwin concludes with a striking passage on the moral question. He says:—

"With regard to the moral aspects of eugenics, what is it which has hitherto been the chief aim of the moral teacher? Has it not been to enforce the necessity of self-sacrifice for the sake of our fellow creatures? The eugenic reformer now demands an enlargement of this code in the light of facts unknown to our ancestors, and pleads for the self-sacrifice of this generation for the sake of the moral and physical welfare of the countless millions of the unborn of the future. May not this be the greatest moral question of all?"

W. C. D. W.

PERUVIAN ANTHROPOLOGY.

UP to the present, the dearth of knowledge regarding the people of Peru has been due to the almost complete lack of anthropological examination of the living subject and to the nature of the material available, consisting largely of skulls accidentally or artificially deformed, normal specimens from this region being rare in our existing collections. We knew in a general way that Peru, shortly before the conquest, was peopled by at least three