

7. That aged and infirm blind persons of good character should be entitled to out-door relief in order to enable them to live with their friends, or be maintained in an asylum or home at the cost of their union, and that there should be no legal disqualification imposed on them in consequence of such out-door relief.
8. That as soon as properly qualified teachers of the deaf for the purpose can be obtained, pupils who have the remains of hearing or speech should be educated apart from those trained on the sign and manual system and in a pure oral school, and that every child who is deaf should have full opportunity of being educated on the pure oral system. We are aware that for this purpose further provision is required for obtaining teachers on this system, and that it will be necessary that trained teachers should be provided by the existing denominational institutions.
9. It must be understood that our suggestions are not intended to be applicable to all children now under instruction, and that the recommendations indicated will, by their very nature, have to be carried out according as circumstances permit.

ISLE OF MAN.

Extract from letter from H.E. Lieut.-Governor of Isle of Man, dated 4th July 1888.

834. According to the Census of 1881 there were 66 blind persons in the Isle of Man, six of these only being of school age.

835. Among the adult blind are a pianoforte tuner, a basket maker, and a member of the Insular Legislature (since dead).

836. Some of the adult blind have lost their sight through accidents in mining. Most of these belong to benefit societies.

Payment of for poor, or blind, or deaf and dumb children.

837. Special provision is made for the education of the blind and the deaf by the following section (3.) of the (Isle of Man) Elementary Education Act of 1884:—

3. . . . The school committee may, if they think fit, from time to time, for a renewable period, not exceeding six months, pay the whole or any part of the school fees payable at any public elementary school (whether within their district or not) by any child resident in their district whose parent is, in their opinion, unable from poverty to pay the same; but no such payment shall be made or refused on condition of the child attending any public elementary school other than such as may be selected by the parent; and the school committee may also, if they think fit, from time to time, for a renewable period, not exceeding one year, make a contribution towards the payment, in whole or in part, of the expenses of the education of a child who is blind, or who is a deaf-mute, at a school or institution (whether within this Isle or not) for the instruction of the blind or of deaf-mutes (as the case may be) the parent of which child is resident within their district, and is, in their opinion, unable from poverty to pay such expenses, such school or institution being one to which the parent may wish or consent that the child be sent.

Extract from letter from H.E. Lieut.-Governor of the Isle of Man, dated 14th July 1888.

838. There were, according to the Census of 1881, 35 persons in the island deaf and dumb. Of these, 12 were of school age. Nine (or three-fourths of these) were in three families, containing respectively four, three, and two deaf-mutes. These children have all been since sent off the island for training in institutions, 11 by voluntary agency, and one by voluntary agency assisted by the provisions of the Insular Education Act.

839. Among the deaf and dumb adults are an officer of the post office and a carter in regular agricultural employment.

CHANNEL ISLANDS.

Letter from Under Secretary of State for Home Affairs (A. 29673), dated 8th April 1889.

840. There were, according to the Census of 1881, 81 blind and 35 deaf and dumb persons in Jersey, and 48 blind and 18 deaf and dumb in Guernsey. In these islands there are neither laws nor public institutions relating to these classes, but in Jersey there exists a small private society for the benefit of the blind, started in 1886 by Professor D'Odiardi. Its objects are to educate the young blind and to assist the adult blind to help themselves by visiting them at their own homes, and by reading to them, and affording them instruction in knitting, sewing, or any branch of industry for which they may show an aptitude. Thirty blind persons were visited by the society at their own homes in 1887. There are four children boarded out with

private families, and receiving, under the auspices of the society, instruction in English, French, German, reading and writing in the Braille system, arithmetic, history, geography, and music.

841. We think that the insular authorities of the Isle of Man and of the Channel Islands should pass such enactments as will carry out (as far as the local circumstances permit) the general recommendations which we make in respect of the classes referred to.

All which we humbly submit to Your Majesty's consideration.

- | | | |
|--------|----------|------------------------------|
| (L.S.) | (Signed) | EGERTON OF TATTON, Chairman. |
| (L.S.) | (") | F. LONDIN. |
| (L.S.) | (") | LYON PLAYFAIR. |
| (L.S.) | (") | A. J. MUNDELLA. |
| (L.S.) | (") | HENRY JOHN SELWIN-IBBETSON. |
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| (L.S.) | (") | WM. A. ARROL. |
| (L.S.) | (") | *F. J. CAMPBELL. |
| (L.S.) | (") | *EDMUND C. JOHNSON. |
| (L.S.) | (") | WILLIAM WOODALL. |
| (L.S.) | (") | *W. BLOMEFIELD SLEIGHT. |
| (L.S.) | (") | *CHARLES MANSFIELD OWEN. |
| (L.S.) | (") | *LIONEL VAN OVEN. |

CHARLES EDWARD DRUMMOND BLACK,
Secretary.

* These Commissioners sign, subject to the reservation or reservations which bear their signatures.

RESERVATIONS.

I have cordially signed the foregoing Report with the following Reservations:—

REPORT ON THE DEAF OF ENGLAND AND WALES.

Summary of Recommendations.

Para. 3.—It seems unwise to recommend any maximum sum, seeing that the tendency of legislation is to make elementary education increasingly expensive.

Para. 9.—It is impossible for deaf children to have the full benefit of the Pure Oral system if they have at any time been taught on another system, or are allowed to become acquainted with the manual alphabet or system of Signs. (*See para. 477 of this Report.*)

The recommendation, therefore, in the first sentence of this paragraph cannot be carried out if any deaf children are, as recommended in the second sentence, to be taught at all on any other system than the Pure Oral.

Also, there are not any deaf children "physically or mentally disqualified," and so schools on any other system than the Pure Oral are not required; for it has been abundantly proved in Italy (where the Sign and Manual was first in use, then the Combined, and now for many years past the Pure Oral has prevailed), that the Pure Oral can give a better and more useful education than any other system to all deaf children, of however low a level of intellect, capable of being taught at all on the Sign and Manual, Combined or any other system. (*See Tarra Correspondence, in Appendix 34.*)

The number of deaf children physically unable to be taught on the Pure Oral system is confined to those who are practically blind. These (*see final recommendation of this Report*), should not be taught in schools for the deaf. Deaf children who have cleft palates or other serious affections of the vocal organs are very few; and, notwithstanding these defects, are best taught on the Pure Oral system.

For the above reasons we are unable to concur in the second sentence of this paragraph, as it is contrary to experience and sound policy. The latter demands that the State shall see that all deaf children, in schools aided by Government grants, are taught on that system which best fits them to become useful and self-supporting citizens, and tends to diminish congenital deafness.

(Signed) B. ST. JOHN ACKERS.

I agree with Mr. Ackers's remarks regarding paragraph 9.

(Signed) LIONEL VAN OVEN.

We agree with the Report as a whole. We believe it is the best compromise that is possible under the circumstances; nevertheless we wish to place on record that a few points are not in accordance with our views.

(Signed) T. R. ARMITAGE.
F. J. CAMPBELL.

Whilst signing the report as a compromise on many points of controversy, I wish to record my differing to a certain extent from the conclusions mentioned in paragraphs 252, 255, and 259, relating to Endowments and Pensions for the Blind, and in paragraph 568, concerning the Deaf and Dumb, who receive at the Church and in the Lecture Hall of the Royal Association in aid of the Deaf and Dumb, Oxford Street, London, both religious and secular instruction, and *who attend in large numbers*, both male and female, the lectures and the services of the Church of England given on the *sign and manual system*; a result that could not be obtained if similar instruction was attempted to be given to equally large numbers of the Deaf on the *pure oral system*.

(Signed) EDMUND C. JOHNSON.

As we adopt and approve the greater part of the Summary of Recommendations with which the foregoing Report concludes, we have subscribed it, but we object to the tone of the Report so far as it deals with the sign and manual method, as we consider it is not borne out by the evidence of those who have had long *practical* experience in teaching the deaf and dumb. Moreover, the evidence of missionaries in England, who work among the adult deaf and dumb, is that the oral method breaks down in after life, and that its pupils not unfrequently resort to writing or the manual alphabet.

From what we ourselves have seen, in visiting the various schools and institutions in the United Kingdom, we are bound to assert that, with few notable exceptions (and those chiefly semi-mute or semi-deaf), the articulation and lip-reading of pupils taught under the pure oral method are so poor as to be practically of little value to them in their intercourse with the general public.

Further, we consider that the Report gives very inadequate expression to the value of the combined method, and on this subject we refer especially to the evidence of Dr. Gallaudet (President of the Deaf-mute College at Washington), which ought to receive the greatest attention considering the high authority from which it emanates. We more particularly refer to Answers 13,139, 13,140, 13,141, 13,427, 13,428, 13,444, 13,466, 13,470, 13,474. In one of these he says that, "it is by the practice of the "combined system that the greatest advantage to the greatest number may be "secured."

We are of opinion that undue weight has been attached to the evidence of Mr. Graham Bell. We yield to none in our high appreciation of that gentleman's great ability and integrity of purpose, but we submit that his conclusions as to methods of education must of necessity be based upon *theory* rather than experience, as he himself admits that he only had a school for two years, and the number of pupils in it was limited to four. *See Answers 21,690 to 21,693.*

We regret that more prominence has not been given in the Report to the important evidence of the Right Hon. J. Chamberlain, who, after his visit to the famous institution at Washington, says, in Answer 20,572, "I was quite satisfied with the results "I saw, and thinking over it since, I confess I cannot bring myself to believe that "the oral system could possibly be satisfactory by itself. I am strongly in favour "of the combined system." *See also Answers 20,583, 20,585, 20,586, 20,639.*

We desire to qualify the following paragraphs in the report.

No. 307.—From our own lifelong experience among the adult deaf and dumb we find that the offspring of those who intermarry are *generally* hearing and speaking. In support of our statement we would refer to statistics supplied by Mr. Townsend at the end of his evidence, as to the "Intermarriages among the deaf-mutes of "Birmingham."

No. 382.—It is here stated that "the sign and manual system specially trains the "deaf to communicate and associate with their fellow deaf." We demur to this, as we think it is misleading. The real object sought in sign and manual institutions is not to build up an elaborate and complex system of signs, intelligible only to the deaf and dumb themselves and to their teachers, but to familiarize them with written language in its common colloquial forms, and thus to place them in possession of a ready means of communication with those among whom they may be placed in after life.

No. 397.—It seems to us unfair to attribute “deaf-mutism” to the use of signs, as it is found that pupils taught on the pure oral method fall into similar inaccuracies. See paper 35 in Appendix by Mr. Williams (Principal of the Connecticut Asylum for Deaf-mutes) handed in by Dr. Gallaudet. (Answer 13,172.)

No. 398.—We consider the “chilblain theory” quite absurd. Deaf and dumb children, taught by the manual method, use their lungs at play; they shout and make all kinds of noises, see Answers 17,055, 17,056, 17,304, 17,305.

No. 400.—We are strongly of opinion that this paragraph and others quoted from the evidence of Dr. Buxton against the sign and manual method, and in favour of the pure oral, must be taken with considerable reserve. We emphatically protest against the sign and manual method being stigmatised as a “cage.” With few exceptions the very poor powers of articulation and lip-reading which we have seen in this country possessed by pupils taught under the pure oral method prove that if any pupils are “caged” they truly are, for it is as natural for a deaf and dumb child to sign as it is for a bird to fly. Even in Germany, the home of the oral method, deaf-mutes hold conventions and invariably carry on their discussions by gestures. See Answer 13,464. Moreover, Dr. Buxton explicitly states in his evidence that he had “not taught the oral system so as to acquire the means of giving an opinion “of his own.” See Answer 9368.

No. 417.—We are of opinion that in the Report an importance has been attached to the Milan Congress which is scarcely warranted by the evidence of Dr. Gallaudet. See especially Answers 13,306, 13,520 to 13,522, 13,528 to 13,530. We would also refer to a similar opinion of the Congress expressed by Dr. Elliott, Head Master of the Margate Institution (himself an advocate of the oral method), in the “American Annals of the Deaf,” July 1882.

No. 478.—Germany has never “given the system of signs a fair trial.” The first institution ever established in Germany was that at Leipsic, founded by Heinicke in 1778 on the oral method.

No. 502.—We cannot accept the latter part of this paragraph, as we do not think it at all likely that orally-taught pupils could take advantage of the ordinary college education or receive oral teaching from private tutors. See Answers 13,452 to 13,455.

No. 543.—We would recommend that there should be training colleges attached to (say) two of the existing large institutions where both methods of instruction are employed side by side, so that ample opportunity might be afforded for the training of a sufficient number of teachers on either one method or the other. This would carry out the recommendation adopted at a conference of head masters of British institutions, held in 1882.

Nos. 566 and 567.—We do not object to the mixture of the sexes in institutions up to the age of 15 or 16, that is to say, in the schoolroom, and at meal times. On this point we entirely agree with Dr. Gallaudet. See Answer 13,198.

No. 568.—This paragraph seems to us far too sweeping, and is not supported by the evidence of those who have had long experience of the adult deaf and dumb. We think that the deaf and dumb, taught under any system, will always associate with each other, and therefore, we think it desirable that there should be societies, missions, &c. to ensure due regulation and proper control. Besides, we know full well the great benefit of these associations and the inestimable boon they prove to our afflicted fellow-creatures.

No. 611.—This paragraph must be taken with considerable reserve. Nothing has shaken us in our opinion that the ability to read the lips with accuracy and facility is so rare that it would be practically impossible to interpret the ordinary sermon or lecture by word of mouth. It is within our own knowledge that orally-taught pupils (after leaving school) attend the services, &c. provided by societies for the adult deaf and dumb conducted purely on the sign and manual method. They do this because they find that the ordinary service is little more than an empty form to them. See Answers 13,351 to 13,353.

SUMMARY OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

No. 9.—We cannot accept the paragraph as it stands. What we recommend is this:—

Every child who is deaf should have full opportunity of receiving some instruction on the oral method in all institutions or schools which receive Government grants, on

whatever method they may be conducted. If a child, after a fair trial, should prove incapable of making satisfactory progress in lip-reading and articulation, he should be educated entirely on the sign and manual method. The institution or school authority should determine by which method the child should be finally educated.

No. 14.—We are strongly of opinion that the Government Inspectors to be appointed hereafter should be men who have had actual and mature experience in the work of deaf-mute instruction. We are quite sure that an ordinary Government Inspector will not be able readily to acquire a sufficient knowledge of the sign and manual method; and to appoint a non-expert would be a great injustice to the very large number of children now in schools or institutions conducted on the manual or combined method. In support of our opinion of the great importance of expert inspection, we would refer to the evidence of Mr. Cumin and Mr. Craik, the secretaries of the English and Scotch Education Departments. See especially Answers 19,603, 19,730, 19,731, 19,741, 19,962, 19,976.

The testimony of *Teachers* is to the same effect, see Answers 7674, 9100, 14,635, 15,377, 15,403.

No. 26.—Except in the case of hereditary tendency, we know of very few instances where deaf and dumb parents have deaf and dumb offspring, and therefore we do not share the objection to the intermarriage of the deaf.

(Signed) CHARLES MANSFIELD OWEN.
W. BLOMEFIELD SLEIGHT.

I have signed the foregoing Reports and Recommendations, which, if not in every respect carrying out my views to the fullest extent, are, in my opinion, well drawn, and likely to prove of great benefit to the classes whose education and welfare this Commission was appointed to investigate and report upon.

I, however, feel it my duty to call attention to paragraphs 295, 308 to 314, and Recommendation 26 of the Report on the Deaf and Dumb, as they lead to the conclusion that the marriage of blood relations is an undoubted cause of deafness in the offspring quite apart from other considerations, and that, therefore, “such marriages should be strongly discouraged.”

I have carefully examined the evidence of the various witnesses on this point, and I find that, as a rule, they either rely upon general impression, or upon the fact that they have known a certain number of deaf-mutes whose parents were first or second cousins, without having investigated whether there were any other circumstances, such as deafness in the ancestry or collateral relatives of such parents, and without knowing whether the proportionate number of such cases (viz., marriages of blood relations having deaf offspring) was larger than the proportionate number of such marriages to the general marriages of the district.

I do not deem it desirable, or necessary to argue upon, or refute the evidence of witnesses who base their opinions upon conjecture, though much might be said against the conclusions they arrive at, and in some instances their assertions could be entirely disproved.

There can be no doubt that to a certain extent, in fact to a very considerable extent, the physical and mental conditions of the ancestry are reproduced in the offspring, and hence peculiarities of form and feature, as well as tendency to special kinds of disease, are looked upon as family characteristics, and are no doubt hereditary; consequently it is exceedingly desirable to discourage the marriage of blood relations in whose family there may be an hereditary tendency to the same defect or disease, as such a marriage must of necessity increase the chance of the transmission of such defect or disease to the offspring; and therefore I approve of Cause (I.) of paragraph 295, but as regards Cause (II.) I consider it can only be said to be a true cause in the case of those families where there has been deafness in the common ancestry, and as in such cases the probability of deafness in the offspring arises from hereditary or family peculiarity, rather than from consanguinity, I would define Cause II. thus—

“From the intermarriage of those in whose families a tendency to deafness exists.”

As regards paragraphs 308 to 312, I have carefully examined the returns made by the institutions, and I find that they are so imperfect that no satisfactory statistics can be made from them.

Out of 2,485 cases summarised in paragraph 312, at least 1,477 are in institutions where either no record is kept, or where the record kept is evidently unreliable. For instance, at the Birmingham Institution a record of consanguineous marriage alone is kept. At Margate, we found on visiting the institution, that a large number of the children were the descendants of former inmates, in some cases the third generation, who had been through the asylum (*see* para. 573), and yet the return first sent to us was that 15 cases were the offspring of cousins, but that there was no instance of any child being the offspring of deaf parents or having deaf relatives. (This statement has, on a second application, been somewhat altered, but had we not called attention to the contradictory information gained on visiting the institution, it would have been deemed correct.)

Again! The returns from the Bristol Institution show the same two children in three different columns, *i.e.*, "parents related," "parents deaf," and "other relatives deaf." Our attention is here drawn to the fact, but I have no doubt that it occurs in many other instances where it is not noticed.

Until more correct records are kept, and the statistics are more carefully compiled, I think that no reliable deductions on this point can be drawn from them.

Mr. George Darwin (*see* American Annals, vol. 23, pages 145 and 146) gives the percentage of deaf-mutes from consanguineous marriages as not larger (if anything $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. less) than the percentage of such marriages.

In paragraph 310, the Irish Census Report of 1881 is quoted. In that same report (page 41) it is stated "that there were—

" 1 deaf-mute to every 939 of the Roman Catholics,
" 1 " " 1,020 of the Protestants,
" 1 " " 1,051 of the Presbyterians,
" 1 " " 1,480 of the Methodists,"

notwithstanding that the Roman Catholic Church forbids the intermarriage of cousins, while such marriages are allowed by the other denominations.

Hence I cordially agree with Mr. Graham Bell, as quoted in paragraph 313, and cannot approve of paragraph 314 and Recommendation 26 in their present form, but as there can be no doubt of the risk of deaf offspring arising from a consanguineous marriage where deafness has existed in the ancestry or collateral relatives common to both parties, I think—

"That consanguineous marriages should be strongly discouraged where deafness has occurred in the family"; and

"That all marriages, where a decided tendency to deafness has been shown *in both families*, should be equally discouraged."

And I would make a similar recommendation with respect to "idiocy." As also to "defective sight arising from hereditary disease."

So long as we do not know the proportion of consanguineous to non-consanguineous marriages, we have no possibility of proving whether such marriages produce more than the ordinary proportion of defective children. I therefore recommend—

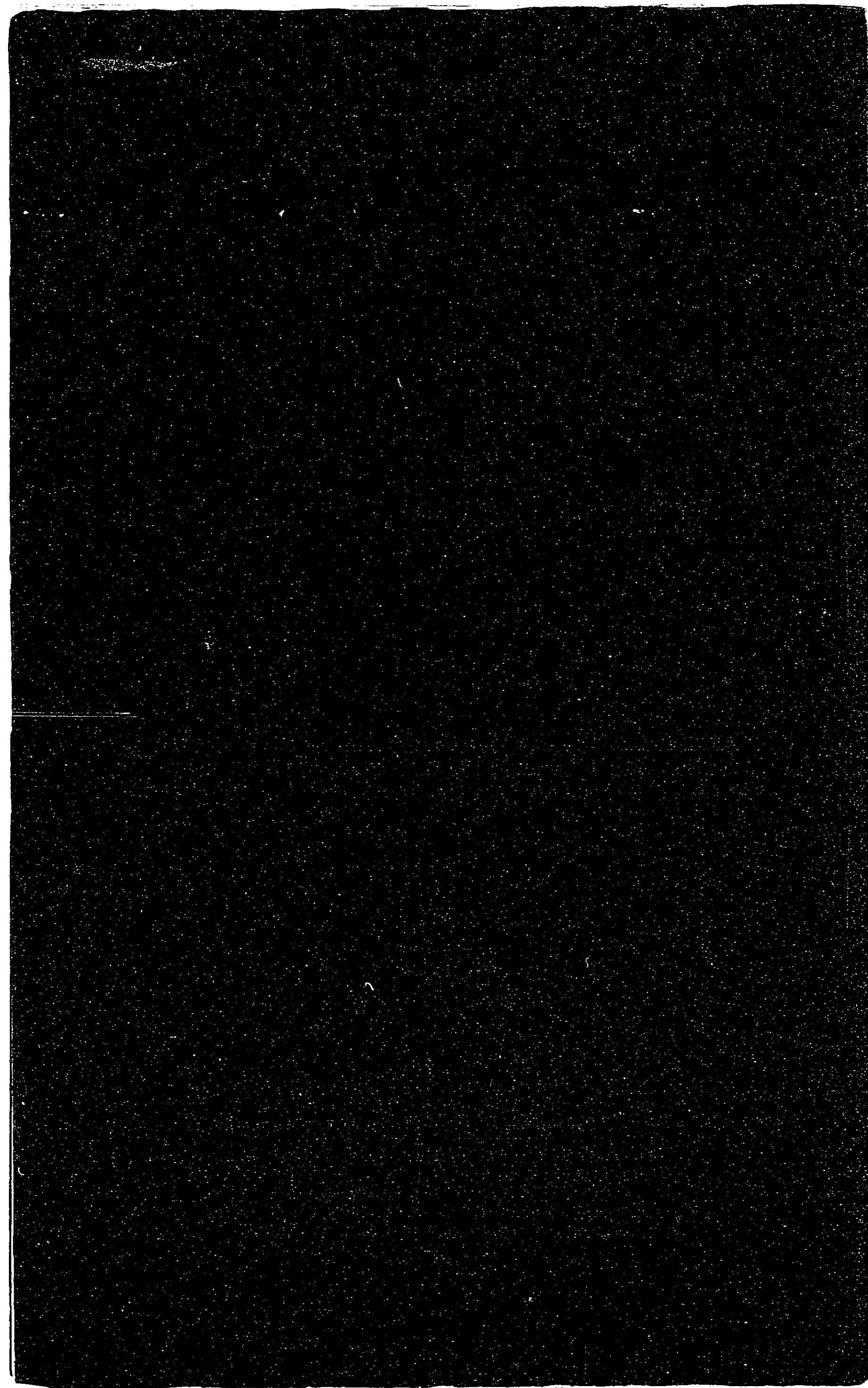
"That the Census returns should contain a record of consanguineous marriages, and that an investigation should be made as to the number of defective children produced therefrom."

I also recommend—

"That the school statistics recommended in paragraph 575 should carefully note all cases where there may have been deafness in the ancestry or collateral relatives of deaf children whose parents were of near kin."

(Signed) LIONEL VAN OVEN.

London, 10th July, 1889.



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