

METHODS OF SOCIAL ADVANCE

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Methods of social advance by C. S. Loch

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C. S. LOCH

**METHODS OF
SOCIAL ADVANCE**

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METHODS OF SOCIAL ADVANCE

Short Studies in Social Practice by
various Authors

EDITED BY

C. S. LOCH, B.A.

SECRETARY OF THE LONDON CHARITY ORGANISATION SOCIETY

*'If citizens be friends they have no need of justice, but, tho'
they be just, they need friendship or love also; indeed, the
completest realisation of justice seems to be the realisation of
friendship or love also.'*

London

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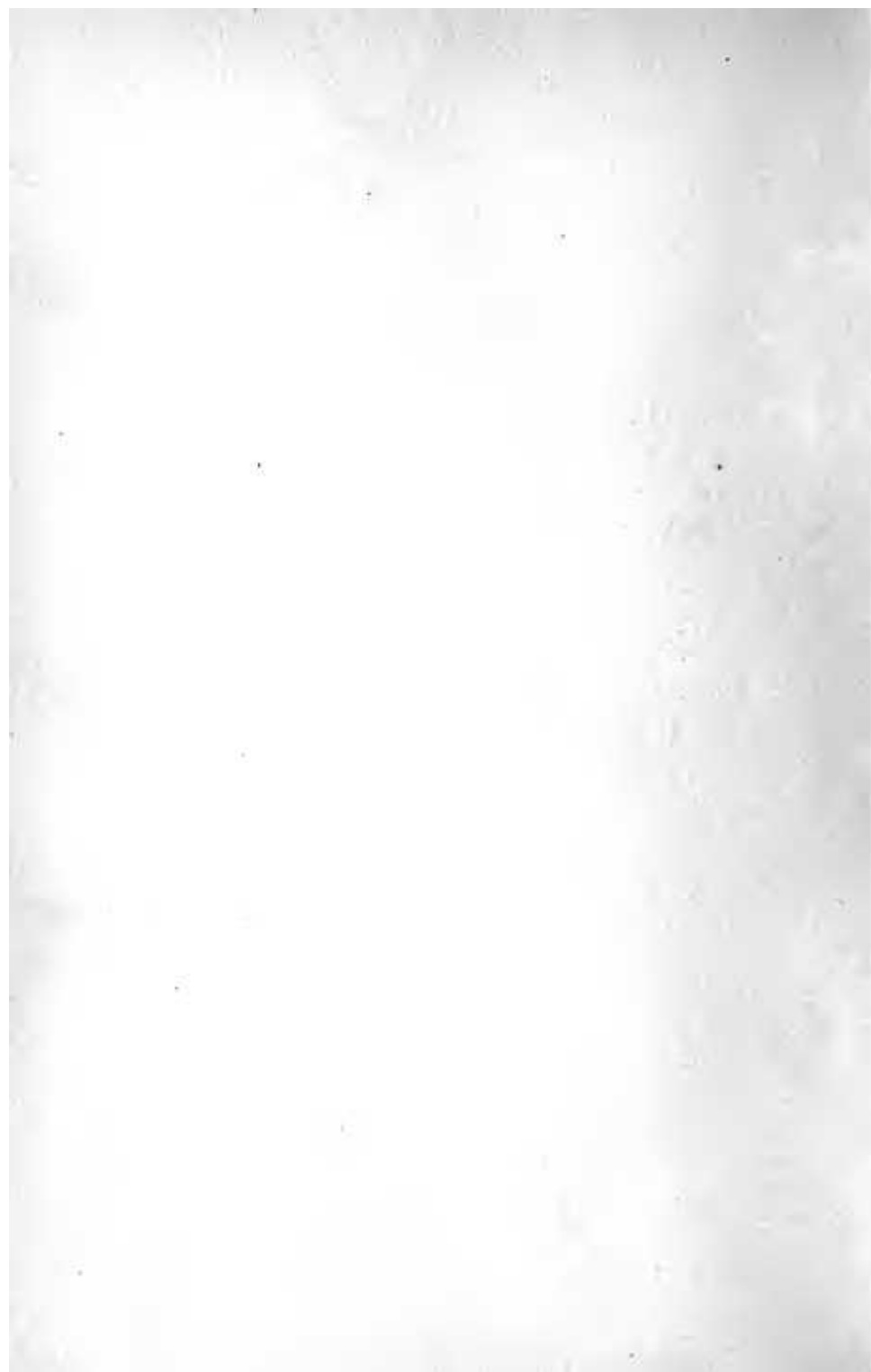
1904

PREFACE

IN December 1902 a letter, here reprinted, was addressed to the *Times*, in which suggestions were made for social reform and the prevention of distress. The suggestions of the letter have since served as a kind of agenda for discussion during the present year (1903) at special meetings of the Council of the Charity Organisation Society. On most of them papers were written, and many people interested in them from different points of view took part in the debates. Afterwards it was thought that the papers would interest a yet larger audience. Accordingly they have been published in this book with some additions.

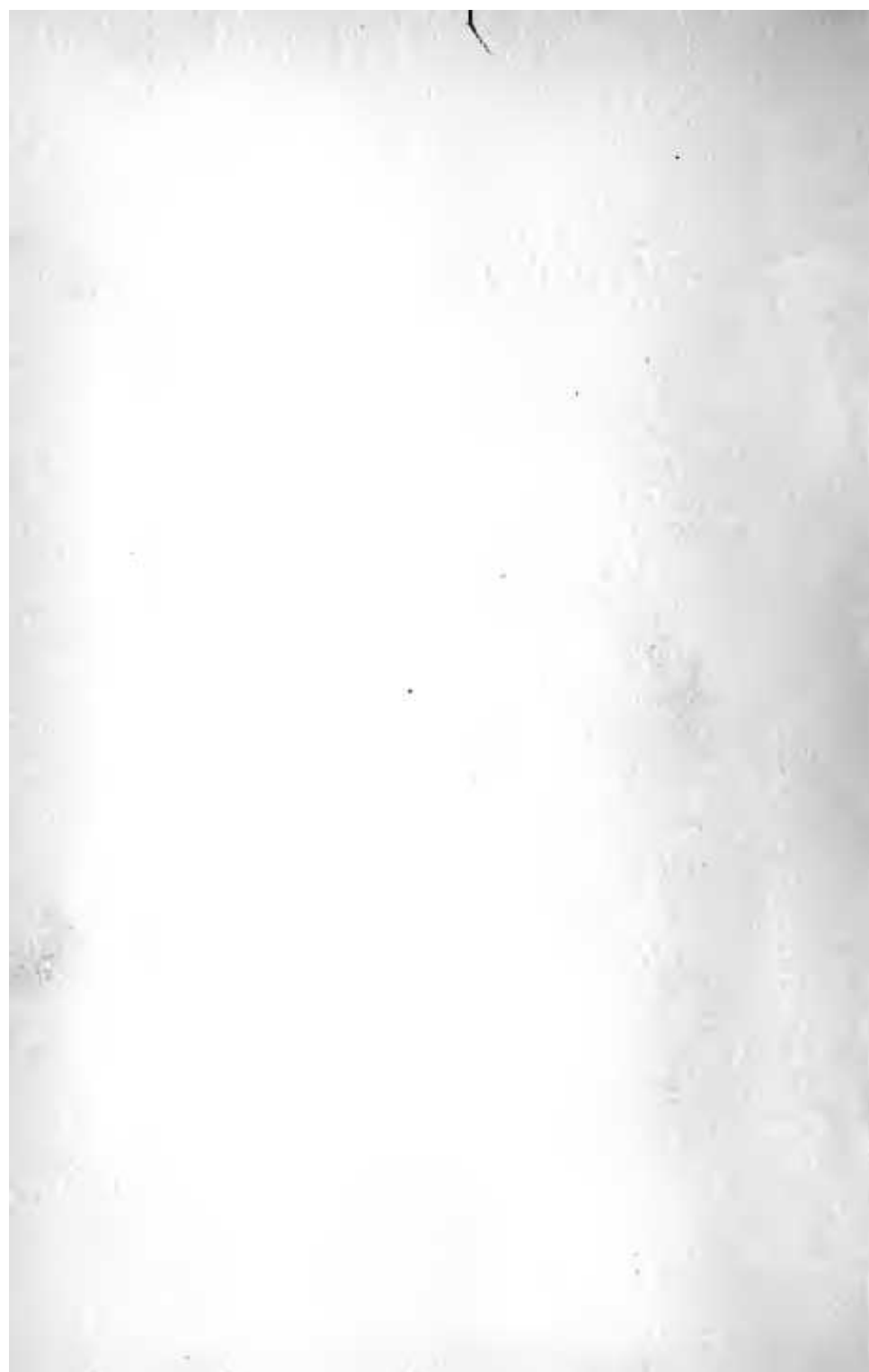
Most of the papers have appeared in the CHARITY ORGANISATION REVIEW. Each author is responsible for his own paper.

C. S. L.



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INTRODUCTION

DISTRESS AND ITS PREVENTION

No small part of our indecision and failure in dealing with social difficulties is due to our lack of any clearly conceived social purpose. Our real purpose, I take it, is to make and keep our people competent. We would add to their ability, energy, and resources, strengthen their affections, and increase their pleasure in a healthy, robust existence; and, as we do this, it would follow, as the night the day, that their power of preserving their independence in all the ordinary contingencies of life and in the strain of hard times would increase proportionally.

It follows, further, that to make the people more competent our appeal must be made, not to their weakness, but to their strength, however elemental or undisciplined that strength may be. We must add strength to strength. This view is of vital importance. It affects the whole question of relief and the use of means. Relief or even increased wage or income will not help the people (of whatever class they be), but will rather weaken them, if it does not coincide with some movement on their part which makes for better social habit. In this, and not in any new form of dependence, does the remedy lie. All the experience of that long history of the enfranchisement of the poorer classes from system after system of social control and eleemosynary or statutory serfdom enforces this conclusion; and, so far as we can yet judge them by results, the experience of German, colonial, and other schemes for the new dependence of the infirm and the aged tells the same tale.

One source of life-long weakness, physical and moral, is