CENSUS OF THE IMBECILE.

At the Scotch Quarterly Meeting of the Association, held at Glasgow, reference was made to an application forwarded to the Office of the Secretary for Scotland, suggesting the advisability of distinguishing between the classes "lunatic" and "imbecile" in the next census.

The following satisfactory reply, addressed to the President, Dr. Yellowlees, was received :—

Office of the Secretary for Scotland,
Whitehall, S.W.,
12th November, 1890.

SIR,—With reference to your letter of the 1st September last, I am directed by the Marquess of Lothian to acquaint you that the suggestion of the Medico-Psychological Society as to the advisability of distinguishing between the classes "lunatic" and "imbecile" in the census of 1891 has received careful consideration, with the result that the column in the Householders' Schedule has been amended to read as follows :—

II.
If (1). Deaf and Dumb. (2). Blind. (3). Imbecile or Idiot. (4). Lunatic.
Write the precise infirmity, if any, opposite the name of the person, and if the infirmity dates from childhood, add "from childhood." Do not use such a general term as "afflicted" or "infirm."

I am to add that the Secretary for Scotland trusts that the object aimed at by the Society will be attained by this alteration.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient Servant,
R. W. COCHRAN PATRICK.

D. Yellowlees, Esq., M.D., LL.D.,
Superintendent Royal Asylum,
Gartnavel, Glasgow.

At the Council Meeting, held in London November 20th, 1890, the subject was brought forward by the President, and it was agreed that he should make a similar request to the Registrar-General in regard to the census for England and Wales. This letter elicited a courteous reply, in which the information was conveyed by the Secretary, Mr. Noel Humphreys, that "in the Householder's Schedule to be used at the approaching census in England and Wales, in April next, the heading adopted for the column relating to the deaf and dumb, the blind, and the lunatic, imbecile and idiot, is in precise accord with that which has been adopted in the Scotch Schedule, which the Registrar-General is glad to learn meets the views of your Association."

We understand that the distinction has already been adopted in the census for Ireland.

[Since above was in type, the subject has been reconsidered by the English and Scotch offices, and "Lunatic, Imbecile or Idiot" will be printed together, but the foot note will remain.]

AN ASYLUM PHYSICIAN SHOT DEAD BY A LUNATIC.

It is with great regret that we have to record the homicide of Dr. George F. Lloyd, the Assistant Superintendent of the King's County Asylum, Flatbush, Long Island (U.S.A.).

It appears that* James M. Dougherty was admitted to the Flatbush Asylum in November, 1888. In August, 1889, he escaped, and threatened to strike the

* We are indebted to the courtesy of the Editor of the "American Journal of Insanity" for the account of this melancholy event, as sent to him by Dr. Fleming, of the Flatbush Asylum, N.Y.

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