

IS DEATH BY ELECTRICITY PAINLESS?

Whether or No, Five States Employ Electrocuting, and Tendency Is Spreading—Modes in Other Lands—Ancient Inhumanity.

Progress in therapeutics will be noted by Mr. Haslin tomorrow. He will tell about the revival of interest in materia medica on the part of the medical fraternity, and of the latest wonders in bacteriological discovery.

By FREDERIC H. HASKIN.
(Copyright 1909 by Frederic H. Haskin.)
Washington, May 5.—The electrocution of five negroes, practically together, for two murders in Powhatan, Virginia, is probably the record for the administration of capital punishment in the United States. It was planned to execute all of the condemned on April 30, but the nervous of the superintendent of the Richmond penitentiary appears to have forsaken him. Governor Swanson listened to his plea that he could not execute more than two men in any one day and reprieved three of the negroes, one until May 5 and the other two until May 7. One would think that the prison official would have preferred to finish his ghastly task all at once.

Virginia is the latest state to adopt electrocution as its form of capital punishment. The first was New York. After the Empire State came Massachusetts, Ohio and New Jersey. Minnesota and other states have considered the adoption of the electric chair. There is a general tendency in that direction. The reason for the substitution of electrocution for hanging as a means of punishing capital crimes was that the new method of inflicting the death penalty was supposed to be painless and therefore more humane than hanging.

Is Electrocuting Barbarous?
For years, however, there have been many people to dispute this assertion. They contend that electrocution is not painless by any means and that in fact it is most barbarous. The insect that nobody ever dies in the electric chair, but that the passage of the current through the body merely suspends the vital functions and the victim is killed in reality after the electrocution. These are questions which may never be settled.

The United States is the only country in which capital punishment is administered by electrocution. In France, guillotine has been used—except for a short intermission—to punish capital ever since the days of the French revolution, when Dr. Guillotine urged the adoption of this method, which he claimed was painless. The French doctor, however, had no idea of the Scotch "maiden," so called because some debonair nobleman declared facetiously, just before his head fell, that the knife was the sweetest maiden he had ever kissed.

Guillotine Going Again.
Recently, after 10 years of idleness, the guillotine has been brought into action, with a prospect of beheading 25 criminals within a few weeks. The responsible French officials have long been opposed to capital punishment, but they had to yield to the public demand that extraordinary steps be taken to break the existing reign of violence and crime. The guillotine began work again at Bethune with a quadruple execution. An immense crowd was present and thousands of troops were necessary to quell the riot which the legalized bloodshed incited. Somebody took moving pictures of the affair. The authorities sought to prevent him and later to seize the films, but the photographer escaped, successfully. Anecdotes in America that Marcellus three heads were to fall and other cities clamored for the guillotine.

The Horrible Garrote.
Hanging is the most common form of execution. It prevails in Great Britain and her colonies and many other countries. In Mexico the method is shooting, and in Germany it is beheading. In Spain the garrote has been used for centuries. The Moorish conquest of the Philippines and Cuba before the Spanish-American war. The garrote consists of a heavy metal collar fastened around the criminal's neck and a screw is turned which pierces the victim's spinal column where it connects with the brain. Death is instantaneous. In China the executioner holds the sword while two assistants stretch the culprit's neck.

List of Capital Crimes.
For a century there has been a general tendency all over the civilized world to lessen the number of capital offenses, to make the infliction of the death penalty as humane and secret as possible, and finally to abolish capital punishment altogether. In the United States as late as 1894 there were 25 capital offenses under the military code of laws, 22 under the naval code, three under the extra-territorial jurisdiction of consuls, and 17 under the civil code. In the 54th congress the number was reduced to three—treason, murder and rape. Such crimes can only be punished under the federal law if committed in a territory or national reservation, or on the sea. In 1906 Virginia headed the list of states with eight capital offenses. Louisiana had seven, Missouri and Delaware six each. In most states murder is the only capital crime. Other capital crimes in America are kidnapping, arson, piracy, etc. In England a century ago there were 200 capital crimes, so called, including such comparatively minor offenses as stealing apples, counterfeiting, forgery, and so on. Now there are said to be only two, murder and treason.

No Holidays for Butchery.
The wholesale executions that marked the ancient Roman persecution of the French revolution and practically all the wars and insurrections of many centuries have gone. It is to be hoped, never to return. Rarely now does an execution constitute an occasion for a public holiday, feasting and rejoicing, as was the case in the olden days. Modern humanitarians, criminologists and penologists agree that executions should be as private as possible. Publicity, the keynote of present day life, is not applied to infliction of the death penalty.

States That Do Not Kill.
There are five states where capital punishment does not exist—Maine, Michigan, Rhode Island, Wisconsin and Nevada. In the last named state the death penalty may be inflicted upon a warrant of the governor, but such a warrant never signed. Laws abolishing capital punishment some years ago, but reenacted it after the number of murders in the state increased. Colorado abolished the death penalty in 1897. Shortly afterwards there was such an outbreak of rioting, murders and lynchings that the law was amended in 1901 so that a jury can inflict either a death penalty or life imprisonment. Capital punishment is not practiced in Portugal, Holland, Roumania, Finland,

PORTLAND WOMAN OF 93 EARNS HER LIVING BY MAKING LACE



Mrs. A. K. Graves, who has just passed her ninety-third birthday.

Few persons at the age of 93 can thread a needle without wearing glasses and make fine point lace, yet Mrs. A. K. Graves, who celebrated her ninety-third birthday April 15 last, at her home at the corner of Taylor and Second streets, can do both and earn her living by making point lace.

Mrs. Graves was born in Pennsylvania in 1817, but moved to New Jersey in her infancy and spent her girlhood in that state, which was at that time a slave state. After leaving New Jersey she moved to New York and then drifted with the general westward movement across the entire continent, moving from state to state until she came to Portland 21 years ago.

Strangers seeing Mrs. Graves and her 19-year-old son, who lives in St. Johns, are inclined to think her his sister instead of his mother. Mrs. Graves has the appearance of a woman of not over 60 years.

She takes long walks frequently and says she does not feel in the least tired, but thinks she needs the exercise because of the lightness of her household duties. At the Lewis and Clark exposition she took first prize for her point lace and was told by an expert on laces that he believed there was not another woman of her age in the United States that could make such lace, of which compliment she is justly proud.

"I have outlived my brothers and sisters and my husband," said Mrs. Graves, "and I feel now as if I might outlive my son."

In New Jersey, while a child, Mrs. Graves was waited upon by negro servants as her parents were, for that day, considered wealthy, but owing to many misfortunes the inheritance left her is now gone and she has nothing left excepting her wonderful skill in lacemaking.

to tear victims limb from limb; the "scavenger's daughter," which expressed a human being into a ball; tearing the flesh with hot pincers; flogging with the cat-o-nine-tails; breaking on the wheel; stoning; torturing with hot lead and boiling oil; placing the victim in the pillory or stocks, or on a ducking stool; and all sorts of mutilation were approved forms of punishment. A Roman general, captured from the Carthaginians, was put into a cask into which spikes were driven from all sides. King John encased a clergyman, who had offended him, in a garment of lead, where he died.

Millions upon millions of human beings have been legally killed, and not in wars. Under Henry VIII, 72,000 thieves were hanged in England, while 100,000 people are said to have been executed there between the accession of William of Orange and the death of George III. Some of the best blood in the world has been shed upon the scaffold. King Louis XVI, Marie Antoinette, Joan of Arc, Madame Roland, Charles I, Mary Queen of Scots, Sir Walter Raleigh, the wives of Henry VIII, Charlotte Corday, and others too numerous to mention, heroes, generals, princes, statesmen, scientists and churchmen have forfeited their lives under form of law.

In recent generations few women have

suffered the death penalty. During the nineteenth century only three were hanged in England. Only two women are said to have been electrocuted, one being Mrs. Mary Farmer, who recently paid the penalty of her crime in New York. A Mrs. Rogers was hanged in Vermont several years ago. There is a negro living in Mississippi who is legally dead. He was hanged by a certain number of minutes, as the law then provided, but failed to die, as the law did not contemplate. Since then the law has been amended.

The Celebrated "Jack Ketch."
The executioner is in a class by himself. In continental Europe he generally belongs to a family of executioners and generally is proud of it. Although his profession has fallen into comparative disuse in some countries, he may not be in disrepute. In England the headsman for generations was named Gregory. Later a long series of Jack Ketches held the job. It is a singular fact that many English hangmen have turned murderers and been executed on their own gallows, as was the case with the executioner of the United States there is no executioner, recognized as such, unless it be the state electrician. New York in France the executioner draws a good salary and is known unofficially as "Monsieur de Paris." For nearly two centuries the place was filled by the Sanson family, curiously enough all men of refinement and intellect. One of these during the Reign of Terror made the unequal record of 62 executions in 45 minutes.

Without capital punishment life imprisonment would be meted out to serious offenders. Than penal colonies would be in demand, such as France maintains in Devil's Island and Guiana, Great Britain in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, Italy in the Lipari Isles, Germany in Lichtenau and Africa, and Russia in Siberia.

FAMOUS VIOLINIST PLAYS NEXT MONDAY

It was in March, 1905, that Mischa Elman, the great violinist, made his first appearance in London, on which memorable occasion he played the Tschaiakowsky concerto and completely captured the English critics and the public. Other orchestral concerts followed in rapid succession, Elman being welcomed with the most extraordinary enthusiasm at each appearance. The young Russian genius has appeared repeatedly in Paris, in the Colonne orchestral concerts as well as in recitals. He has had two successful seasons at the Gewandhaus concerts in Leipzig. Elman's concert here will be at the Hellig theatre, Monday evening, May 10, under the direction of Louis Steers-Wynn Coman, and will be a most brilliant windup to a big and brilliant season.

CHINOOK SALMON ARE CAUGHT IN NEHALEM

(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Mist, Or., May 5.—There is a good run of salmon and trout in the Nehalem river. Several chinook salmon were caught last week. This is the first run of Chinook ever reported this far up the river. Old fishermen claim their presence is due to an unusual amount of snow water from the Coast range.

MUST STAY IN PORTLAND

This Will Interest Those Who Have No Pianos.

I brought four different sample styles of our finest pianos to the coast. I wanted to establish an agency in San Francisco. I showed these samples to every dealer there. Everybody praised them highly. No one found fault. But conditions of trade have been and are such in California that no one was in position to accept the representation of our fine pianos. Then I shipped these samples to Portland. I found the same situation here. I don't want to send these pianos back to the factory. So I left them with our family's old friends, the Messrs. Eilers. I told them to sell these pianos at wholesale, or even less, rather than have me pay freight back. I can't publish prices. That would hurt the future sale and representation of our instruments, but I am willing to take cost and less than cost. They are good pianos. They will please any teacher, any cultured musician. Numerous pianos bearing my father's name and sold here maybe a dozen years ago, are used every day in some of Portland's finest homes. We will sell these pianos on time if responsible buyers are not prepared to pay all cash. Ask for me or Mr. Reed, at Eilers Piano House, 351-355 Washington street—Wm. T. Brinknerhoff.

RAILROADS FOR NEGLECTED PARTS

State Highway Commission Will Investigate Existing Conditions.

Investigation of the railroad possibilities of Oregon is to be conducted by the state highway commission, which met at the Commercial club yesterday afternoon and which will hold another meeting this afternoon. At the meeting yesterday C. F. Swigert, was elected president and Drake O'Reilly was elected secretary. All of the members but one were present.

This is the commission appointed by Governor Chamberlain to investigate the feasibility of the construction of railroads by the state or by agents of

the state, in districts not given adequate transportation facilities by existing railroad companies.

It was agreed that a report be compiled covering all districts of the state along the same lines as embodied in the report of the state conservation commission. Each county and district will be covered in the report. Tonnage possibilities, inducements that can be offered, existing surveys, feasible passes and routes, cost of construction and all details will be covered in the report.

After having collected all the data possible by correspondence and in other ways for this report an engineer will be sent on a six months tour of the state to carefully investigate conditions prevailing for incorporation in the report. It was also decided to cooperate with the backers of the Idaho-Coos Bay railroad plan.

William Handley, C. E. S. Wood, J. N. Teal and other well known men met with the commission yesterday and will join in an effort to raise sufficient funds to defray the expenses of the commission in making its investigations and preparing its report.

School for Mothers Dedicated.

New York, May 5.—In the little town of Hartsville, New York, within easy access of the metropolis, there was dedicated today the construction of a school for mothers ever erected in the United States.

The institution, which bears the name of Carolina Rest, was erected through the munificence of George H. E. Schrader, a wealthy retired business man whose home is in Hartsville. Here the poverty stricken mothers from the tenement tenements of New York city are to be taken for rest and recuperation immediately after the birth of their children. At the same time they will be given a course of instruction in the proper care of infants.

Indian Chief Believed Drowned.
(Special Dispatch to The Journal.)
Pendleton, Or., May 5.—Hosia Moxmok, nearly 90 years of age, chief of the practically extinct Palouse tribe of Indians, is believed to have met death in the Umatilla river last Thursday. The old Indian started out to cross the river on that day and has not been seen since. His pony was found wandering around on the river bank with the wet saddle on him and showing evidence of having had a struggle in the river.

Superb Chickering Grand.
One of the numerous sales at Eilers Piano House yesterday was a magnificent chickering grand piano, purchased by Mrs. W. J. Woodworth of 474 Fourteenth street. Mrs. Woodworth is a very accomplished musician.

Established 1884

Established 1884

POPULAR PRICE STORE



60c on the \$1

Through a very special favor we were offered a line of High-Class Sample Suits at 60 cents on the dollar. We jumped at the chance, and they're certainly beauties. Samples are always the best garments made. The styles and colors will please the most exacting. Wistaria, rose, blue, tan and gray. Come early before they are gone.

Sweaters

Outing time is here and you'll need a Sweater Coat. We have them in all sizes and colors. Best yarn, best weave and best finished. Regular \$2.38 \$4.00 value for \$2.38 A \$3.00 value on sale at \$1.98

New Pongee Silk Suits Beauties

McAllen-McDonnell

Exclusive Portland Agent for Thompson's Glove Fitting Corsets.

Store Noted for Best Goods at Lowest Prices

PARIS MODES FASHIONABLE CLOTHES BY HOME



Closing Out Fast

The Richardson Clothing stock would have been closed out by this time if it were not for

New Clothing Stock

Coming in all the time. Some new Furnishings and Clothing arrived yesterday and went on the counters at

Wind-up Sale Prices

MEN'S CLOTHING

\$35.00 SUIT FOR.....	\$22.15	\$20.00 SUIT FOR.....	\$12.35
\$30.00 SUIT FOR.....	\$18.85	\$15.00 SUIT FOR.....	\$8.75
\$27.50 SUIT FOR.....	\$16.85	ALL STETSON HATS.....	\$3.15
\$25.00 SUIT FOR.....	\$15.65	OTHER \$3, \$3.50 and \$4 HATS	\$2.35
\$22.50 SUIT FOR.....	\$13.65	STRAW HATS GO AT COST	

OLD LOCATION on Washington St., near Fourth was taken by Feldenheimer & Co., the jewelers.

PRESENT LOCATION is 88 Sixth St., opposite the new Wells-Fargo building.

OPEN SATURDAY NIGHT UNTIL 10 O'CLOCK

A. J. Richards & Co.

88 SIXTH STREET, OPPOSITE NEW WELLS-FARGO BLDG.

My Sample Shoes are Superior Shoes, They are the Pick and Cream of the Shoe World

WRIGHT'S

FOR WOMEN

\$2.00

A PAIR

Portland's Busiest Shoe Shop

Positively No Branch Houses in Portland

FOR MEN

\$2.50

A PAIR

Never Pay More Than These Prices

Positively No Branch Houses in Portland

These Shoes are Regular \$3.50 to \$6.00 Values

Open Daily 8 A. M. to 6 P. M.

6th Floor Oregonian Building Rooms 600-601



Open Saturdays 8 A. M. to 10 P. M.

6th Floor Oregonian Building Rooms 600-601

TAKE ELEVATOR