

After Jan. 1, 1880, murderers in New York state will depart this life on a streak of lightning. Any man who has been sentenced to death will go so quick that he won't know anything about it. The subject of putting murderers to death by electricity has been agitated in the Empire state for more than a year.

After mature deliberation it was concluded that hanging would have to go.

Hanging has been the fashionable mode of punishment for centuries, but a commission appointed by Governor Hill concluded that it was too barbarous. They made a number of experiments, and finally decided upon electricity. A bill was passed by the legislature, but no provision was made as to the way the fluid was to be applied. Finally the Medical-legal society took the matter up, appointed a commission, and the result was that a particular form of applying the electricity was suggested. This way of killing off the refuse population will probably be used in New York state hereafter. Three ways of applying the fatal electricity were proposed, but none of them answered the purpose. One was passing the electricity from wrist to wrist through the body, another was passing the current from the head to one of the wrists, the third was to pass the current completely through the prisoner's body from head to foot.



The objections to these methods were that the prisoner might have convulsions. It was desired, of course, to take the utmost care of the prisoner. He was to die as pleasantly as possible. Then the attendant under this method might make a mistake and be struck himself.

The commission finally concluded that the best way would be to have the current pass through the head from the top to the base of the neck. One electrode is fitted to the top of the prisoner's head, another placed in contact with the small of his back. The top electrode connects with the positive pole, the bottom with the negative pole. A hushen rest holds the prisoner's head and tends keep him from moving. The current, in going from one electrode to another, does not keep in a straight line, but spreads out and goes through the entire brain. It resembles somewhat a bundle of figs tied at the two ends and swelling out in the middle. The seat of consciousness being in the brain, and the headquarters for all the nerves being located there, it is of course as plain as day that, when an electro-motive force of 3,000 volts is applied, the prisoner is bound to die. The great beauty of this system is that the prisoners don't know it either.

Here we have a villain who is too bad to stay around and commit murder any more. We lay up ladies and gentlemen, and pass on the way it is done. Here we have a man who is covered with rubber cloth and having holes around his borders for binding. Prisoner, come up here and lie on the table. Attendant, bind the prisoner to the table. Here is an electrode the sensitive one, which comes up through the table and touches the small of the prisoner's back. Here we have a helmet, to which the other electrode is joined, and the helmet is put on the prisoner's head. The electrode now touches the top of the prisoner's head, which has been moistened by warm water. Prisoner, are you ready? Then, let us go, Gallopier, and the table is down. The man is as dead as a door nail. Another modification of this method is to let the prisoner sit in a chair. Some prisoners will absolutely prefer to sit in a chair, while others who were torn tired will prefer to lie at full length. Everything which is done in regard to the execution of the prisoner and their time will be mentioned in every particular.



THE DEATH APPARATUS.

It is, in brief, in the way the prisoners will "kick the bucket" after the 1st of January.

When Charles T. Curry, Matthew Galt and Alfred P. Gaudin were appointed last year to investigate the method they took the trouble to look up the various methods of punishment in different countries.

EARLY MODES OF EXECUTION.

Hanging is a very old institution. The earliest form of the gallows was undoubtedly a stout tree and a convenient limb, and they seem to have remained their popularity ever since the hanging of Al by John, as recorded in the Bible.

Hanging was used and known by the Egyptians in the Thirteenth century. They probably got it from the Greeks. It is recorded in a French historian in 1332 that a traitor, who had been publicly put to death, was hung on the gibbet after the breath had left his body. The first use of the primitive gallows seems to have been to exhibit the body after death. The first gallows used in England to execute criminals was in the reign of Henry III. The first to be executed by the device was Earl Ferrers, May 1, 1701. After we criminals had been secured by a line with one common halter passed around his neck, he was raised part of the scaffold eighteen or twenty feet above the ground, and the signal being given by the sheriff that part of the floor which is over him to a level with the rest, and he was left with nothing around on.

It seems to be fairly settled that execution, by means of a special horror, accompany the part of the victims of those who are to be put to death. Examples are frequent of those who commit suicide by hanging themselves to escape their punishment, finding the torture of strangulation greater than they had conceived. It is reported of a woman, executed in 1821, that the rope slipped her ear partially from her face, and while hanging at the halter's end, by a mighty effort she put up one of her hands efficiently to draw it down again over her distorted features.

METHODS NOW IN USE.

Here are some of the different methods of executing criminals:

- Auto da fe, or execution by the Spanish Inquisition, usually by burning.
- Death by clubs, practiced by the South African tribes.
- Beheading or decapitation, known to the Greeks, Romans and Jews, and used formerly in England and France, and now in China and Japan.

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**NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION.**  
 United States Land Office.

NOTICE is hereby given that in compliance with the provisions of the act of Congress of June 22, 1878, entitled "An act for the sale of timber" in the States of California, Oregon, Nevada, and Washington Territory:

**PETER PARRELL,**  
 of Vancouver, county of Clark, territory of Washington, has this day filed in this office his sworn statement 1777, for the purchase of the 20th sec. 20, 21 Township 12 North, Range 2 East, and will offer proof to show that the land sought is more valuable for its timber or stone than for agricultural purposes, and to establish his claim to said land before the Register and Receiver of this office at Oregon City, Oregon, on Monday, the 24 day of March, 1890.

He names as witnesses John Hamilton, W. W. Probstel, A. Probstel and David Madden, all of Vancouver, Clarke County, W. T.

Any and all persons claiming adversely the above-described lands are requested to file their claims in this office on or before said 24 day of March, 1890.

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