

## Electrocution the Only Humane Killing

By Dr. E. A. Spitzka, the Eminent Brain Specialist.

**D**R. SPITZKA, the eminent brain specialist, read before the opening session of the American Philosophical Society, at Philadelphia, last week a paper which was virtually an out-and-out declaration for electrocution as the only humane method of inflicting death, and he urged its adoption in all States and countries. His paper, from which the brief extracts presented below were taken, was based upon the results of thirty-one electrocutions, which he witnessed in the Sing Sing, Auburn, Dannemora, and Trenton prisons, the method being employed in New York, New Jersey, Ohio, Massachusetts and Virginia.

The history of electrocution covers a period of only twenty years. It was first introduced in New York in 1888. In its operation, the electric current is turned on and reduced and increased alternately. From seven to ten amperes pass through a body. The time consumed in strapping is about forty-five seconds, and in sixty to seventy seconds the victim is shocked to death. Consciousness is blotted out instantly. In only two cases of those I have observed was there respiratory effort after the current was turned on.

A post mortem examination of the body reveals much interesting phenomena. There is a rising of the temperature, in one case as high as 129½ degrees F. The lungs are devoid of blood and weigh six or seven ounces avoirdupois. The blood seems to be under a chemical change and is of a dark brownish hue, almost black, and it rarely coagulates. On the nervous cells there is no apparent effect, although there is a molecular change.

I have witnessed a number of hangings at Moyamensing Prison, and would recommend a reading of Oscar Wilde's poem "Ballad of Reading Jail," to illustrate the unpleasantness of the hanging in the air.

The preparations in hanging are about as quick as in electrocution, but the heart beats for some time after the drop, usually thirteen minutes. And there is a spasmodic movement of the body after the shock of the drop, due to a partly conscious effort to stop the choking, lasting for about one and a half minutes.

In only one case was there no movement of the body after the drop, and that was a Chinaman, who, it is believed, died of apoplexy. Of five bodies which I examined at the Jefferson Hospital, in every case death was due to strangulation.

## The Meaning of a Smile

By Winifred Elack.



**M**old man died in Michigan the other day and left \$25,000 to a young woman who was no kin to him.

In the old man's will he said: "I leave this money to this woman for the sake of her bright smile. She comforted the last months of my dear wife's life, and I never saw her when she was not ready to smile."

Twenty-five thousand dollars for a smile.

Well, it was cheap at the price.

It was a smile that came from the heart. If it hadn't been it would never have made the impression that it did.

A smirk is not a smile, neither is a grin. You can smirk with malice and you can grin when you feel like slamming the door, but you can't smile to save your life, unless there is kindness and love in your heart.

The young woman who took her youth and her vitality and her cheerful smile, and gave it to a sick old woman, did it because she was good and she couldn't help smiling.

I am glad she is going to get that money.

It isn't what we do that counts so much, after all; it's what we are. I've been given a present with such a mean spirit showing in the eyes of the giver that I felt like throwing the gift into the fire.

And I have been refused a favor by some one who looked at me with a kind kindness that my heart was light in spite of the refusal.

Hypocrisy doesn't pay—it never deceives any one long.

I never knew a man who lived for himself alone who could deceive people into liking him for longer than six months.

I never knew a woman who was at heart mean and envious who could make even a little child like her when she smiled.

Beware of the man who's smile is a mere twist of the mouth.

Look out for the woman who looks as if she had been eating something sour when she tries to smile.

Give me the woman who smiles because she can't help it and the man who laughs and doesn't know it.

They're the sort of people to live with.

## The Criticism That Helps

By Ellen Terry.



**I**f I were asked, "Are you affected by adverse criticism?" I answered then, and I answer now, that legitimate adverse criticism has always been of use to me, if only because it "gave me to think"—furiously. Seldom does the outsider, however talented as a writer and observer, recognize the actor's art, and often we are told that we are acting best when we are showing the works most plainly, and denied any special virtue when we are concealing our method.

Professional criticism is helpful chiefly because it induces one to criticize one's self. "Did I give that impression to any one? Then there must have been something wrong somewhere." The "something" is often a perfectly different blemish from that to which the critic drew attention.

Unprofessional criticism is often more helpful still, but alas! one's friends are to one's faults more than a little blind and to one's virtues very kind. It is through letters from people quite unknown to me that I have sometimes learned valuable lessons. During the run of "Romeo and Juliet" some one wrote and told me that if the dialogue at the ball could be taken in a lighter and quicker way, it would better express the manner of a girl of Juliet's age. The same unknown critic pointed out that I was too slow and studied in the balcony scene. She—I think it was a woman—was perfectly right.—McClure's Magazine.

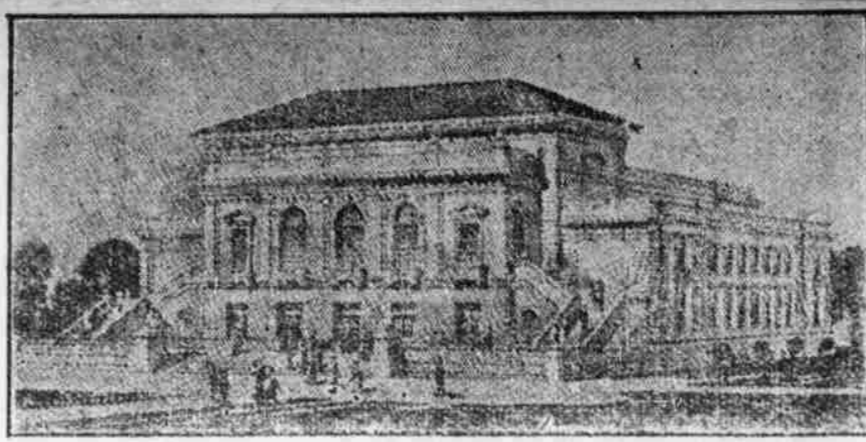
## Intuition the Root of Trouble

By George Harvey.



**T**HE dominance in the feminine mind of intuition or intuition produces paradoxes in morals, and is largely responsible for the trials and tribulations now being experienced in this curiously and somewhat causelessly unhappy land. Envy, it is true, lies at the root of our trouble; but, oddly enough, envy not of the rich who hold, but of the rich who give. Men continue to amass great fortunes and keep them to themselves or bequeath them to their own, and are uncensured by their fellows, to pass to their just rewards or

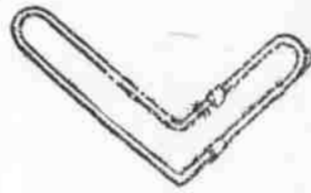
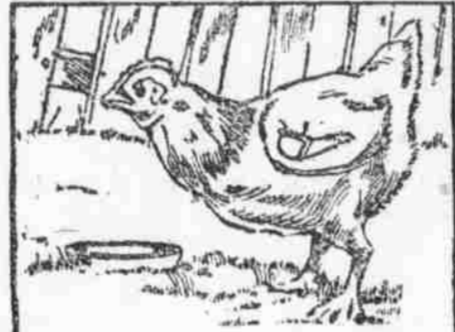
punishments elsewhere; it is upon those who are suspected of purloining from the people in order that they may distribute more liberal aims, that the wrath of the populace is now visited. Undoubtedly instinctive resentment of the double gratification thus obtained—of first acquiring and then bestowing—constitutes the chief cause of this quite general disapproval; but it is clearly the fault, as we have indicated, of intuition inherited from woman rather than of the reasoning faculty granted by the Maker for some purpose known only to Himself, to man.—The North American Review.



How the Pan-American "Temple of Peace," at Washington, Will Appear When Finished.

### Prevents Chicken Flying.

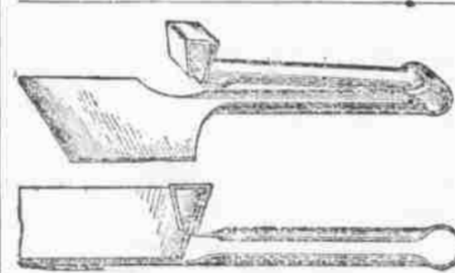
An Iowa man has designed an anti-flying chicken wing attachment having in view to prevent the annoyance and damages incident to chickens scratching in your neighbor's garden. As shown in the illustration, the device is attached to the chicken's wing. It is made of parallel pieces of wire bent into the form of an elbow, with a hook at the end. To apply the attachment to a chicken's wing it is



slipped over the wing and by placing the parallel sides toward each other the hook can be snapped in position and retained by the resiliency of the wire. The hook will be on the inner corner of the wing and will prevent the device from slipping off. The chicken will thus be prevented from spreading the wing as required to fly and thereby unable to get over a fence into the neighbor's garden.—Washington Star.

### Handle For Cooking Utensils.

The device shown herewith provides a ready means for lifting a hot pan or like utensil from the stove. It is formed of a single piece of sheet metal doubled upon itself to provide a bifurcated spring handle. The lower end of the handle is formed in



Handle for Cooking Utensils.

the shape of a blade, which may be inserted beneath the cooking utensil. The opposite end is bent to form a gripping surface, which fits over the edge of the pan. In use the two ends of the device are caused to automatically grip the pan by the very act of grasping the handle.—Scientific American.

### Uninherited Forgetfulness.

It was a severe trial to Mr. Harding that his only son's memory was not all that could be desired. "Where in the world he got such a forgetful streak is beyond me," said the exasperated father to his wife on one occasion.

"What has he forgotten now?" asked Mrs. Harding, with downcast eyes and a demure expression.

"The figures of the last return from the election on the bulletin board," and Mr. Harding inserted a finger in his collar as if to loosen it, and shook his head vehemently. "Looked at 'em as he came past not half an hour ago, and now can't tell me."

"As I said to him, 'If you're so stupid you can't keep a few simple figures in your head, why don't you write 'em down on a piece of paper, as I do and have done all my life, long before I was your age!'"—Youth's Companion.

Burmah is to have a Pasteur Institute.

Those scientists are right; the sun is losing its heat—and we are getting it.—Florida Times-Union.

### PHILANTHROPY.



—From Brooklyn Life.



New York City.—The blouse that is simply tucked is one of the prettiest that young girls can wear and this season it is greatly in vogue

### Embroidery For Gloves.

The embroidered edge to the gloves is so light and lacy looking, button-holed in scallops as a finish, that one could not help thinking what pretty work it would be to decorate plain silk gloves one's self, and save almost half the cost of those already ornamented.

### Four Gored Skirt.

The skirt that is perfectly smooth over the hips while it is gracefully full at the lower portion is the one that is most in demand for walking and general wear. This one includes that essential feature and is novel at the same time, being made with wedge shaped panels that are laid under the gores and which allow of treatment of various sorts. In this case the skirt is made of mohair and is trimmed with silk braid and little buttons, but if a combination of materials was wanted the panels could be of striped, plaid or checked material, while the gores were of plain, or vice versa; or one material can be used for the skirt with another for the panels. Again, the trimming can be banding of any sort, either braid or the same in contrasting material cut into bands, or anything of a similar sort.

The skirt is made in four gores, these gores being made with exten-



made with collar and cuffs of lace as illustrated. In this case it matches the skirt and the material is dotted Swiss muslin, but the model suits the



A Hundred-and-Ten-Year-Old Mokl Squaw—Juana of Isleta.

### Hot.

Those scientists are right; the sun is losing its heat—and we are getting it.—Florida Times-Union.

odd waist quite as well as it does the entire frock and is adapted to every seasonable waisting.

The blouse is made with front and backs and with moderately full sleeves. The lower edges of these last are gathered into narrow cuffs for elbow length, into deep cuffs, that fit the forearms snugly after the latest fashion, for long sleeves.

The quantity of material required for the sixteen year size is three and one-eighth yards twenty-four, two and three-eighth yards thirty-two or one and three-quarter yards forty-two inches wide with three and seven-eighth yards of insertion, one yard of ruffling to trim as illustrated, seven and one-eighth yards of insertion for the deep cuffs if these are used.

### For Stormy Days.

It is a great relief to know that when hot weather comes, and it is necessary to wear a raincoat, we will not have to wear those heavy silk affairs, either in white or any other color that have been worn for so long. The new raincoats are of rubberized pongee, just as waterproof as the strongest rubber, but light and cool, and fairly becoming in their soft lines.

### Facing Often Matches Feathers.

Black picture hats, trimmed with long ostrich feathers chosen in pale pastel shades of blue and pink, light-green and lilac, are enjoying a great vogue at the moment. Sometimes feathers in two or three of these pastel colors are seen grouped together on one and the same hat, but a more surely successful result is obtained when the feathers are selected in one shade, or in several tones of the same shade.



yards forty-four or three and five-eighth yards fifty-two inches wide, eighteen and one-half yards of braid.

### Fichu Without Frills.

A fichu of satin, without frills, worn over a diaphanous frock, is a change from the usual order of things, and should be accompanied by a transparent hat trimmed with big bows or choux of the same satin, and a transparent parasol treated likewise.

### Cotton Voiles.

The figured cotton voiles make ideal negligees.