

DOES CURRENT REALLY KILL?

Doctors Hold Out Hope of Resuscitation After Death by Means of Electrical Fluid.

Washington, Nov. 22.—That it may be possible to revive persons who have been killed by electricity was admitted by many of the prominent medical men of Washington after they had read the dispatch in The Post giving an account of the successful termination of experiments made in New York before a number of experts and physicians and surgeons by a young Russian woman physiologist, who killed and then brought back to life a dog and a rabbit.

This learned woman, who apparently has solved a problem on which surgeons have been working for a number of years, is Dr. Louis Robinovitch, and she performed her experiments before the officials of the Edison Electrical company. She did so at the request of the latter, who had under the leadership of Thomas A. Edison, been trying to find some means to revive workmen and others killed by contact with live wires and machinery.

One startling phase of the matter admitted yesterday by local surgeons is that it may be necessary for several of the states which now execute condemned criminals with electricity to change their mode of punishment if the Russian woman's apparatus works as well on human being as it does on animals.

"These experiments," said one surgeon, "make it hard to believe that a man so executed is really dead if it is certain that life can be restored by the apparatus of Dr. Robinovitch. One of the states, New York, most appropriately, should give the young doctor an opportunity to experiment on a condemned man. If he is resuscitated, freedom should be granted him. The apparent success of the experiments indicates that the executed criminals are not really dead when the current is turned off, but that they die later, under the hands of the surgeons who perform the autopsy. Also, the bodies of men who have been apparently executed could not be given to their relatives."

At the office of the surgeon general of the United States army Saturday it was pointed out that the method of killing the rabbit had been very similar to those used in the several prisons where criminals are electrocuted. The rabbit was shocked to death by a current passing through its head, and out by a wire attached to its foot. The current was continued until the surgeons present pronounced the animal dead. Dr. Robinovitch allowed it to remain dead two minutes. Then the points of contact were reversed. The current was made intermittent, with a small mercury interrupter, such as is used in the army. A current of fourteen volts, of one second duration, given every two seconds, was continued three minutes, when respiration began. In half an hour the animal was frisking around its cage, none the worse for its remarkable experience. The same thing happened when a fourteen pound dog was experimented on.

"It has been known in the medical profession for some time," said Lieut. Col. E. C. Allen, who has been making experiments with electricity for the army, "that, under certain conditions, it is possible to revive a person who apparently had been shocked to death. In fact, there are on record a few cases where it has been done. However, the subject was put under treatment immediately after his apparent death, and, as in the case of the rabbit and dog, before the animal heat had left the body, and before the rigor mortis had begun to set in. This would mean that a person might be revived within several hours after apparent death, but it is far from probable, as far as we now know. But, in the light of the discovery, it would appear that a great many things are possible."

Col. Allen, Col. Kline, Maj. O'Brien, and the other medical officers, however, were more interested in the experiments made by the New York doctor, showing that electricity may, in the future, be used as an anesthetic. They said that at the present time there is no perfect anesthetic. This is the reason that medical men are trying to invent new ones. If electricity could be used, it undoubtedly would solve the problem and remove much of the danger now surrounding major operations.

The experiments of Dr. Robinovitch were comparatively simple. Ten-volt currents were used. While under the current, the animal seemed to be insensible to pain. There is, of course, something in the apparatus used by Dr. Robinovitch which is not yet understood here.

"If this latter experiment was as successful as reported," said Col. Kline, "it would indicate that a valuable discovery has been made. Electricity will not affect the heart like ether, cocaine, chloroform, or the other anesthetics now in use. A patient would not suffer the after-effects that follow the administration of a drug. However, I will have to learn more about the matter before I can go into details."

Surgeon Gen. Walter Wyman, of the public health and marine hospital service, who has been following up the several cases of record of the revival of apparently dead victims of electrical shocks, but he did not care to express any opinion on Dr. Robinovitch's experiments until he had heard more about them.

ports are too indefinite. It is possible to do many things with a small animal that cannot be done with a human being. Within a certain period after apparent death, it might be possible to revive a person, provided none of the vital organs had been injured, nor the quality of the blood changed."

It was recalled yesterday that one Edward Moran, an electric lineman of Washington, had, a few years ago, been revived after he had been killed, apparently, by a wire. He fell from a pole near the department of agriculture grounds, was rushed unconscious to Emergency hospital, where Dr. J. G. White was house surgeon. The latter applied in intermittent battery, current similar to that described by Dr. Robinovitch's experiments. In a few minutes Moran revived. It is supposed that he is alive and well today.

"There wasn't much life in him," said Dr. White yesterday, "but I would not like to say he had died. But he was certainly unconscious. As to the New York experiments, I will continue to think that they were simply cases of suspended animation until more exact details are obtainable."

Similar views were expressed at the George Washington University medical school and Georgetown University. Dr. Joseph S. Wall, physiologist of the latter, and Dr. Barton, dean of the former, declined, however, to express an extended opinion.

"We believe in the massage of the heart," was all Dr. Barton would say concerning the revival of apparently dead people. "There are several cases on record where this treatment has revived men who, to say the least, were pretty far gone."

At George Washington University it was said that, so far as known, only one attempt has been made to revive a man who had suffered electrical execution. This was said to have taken place in the New Jersey State penitentiary. According to the report, a convict had been executed, and a few minutes later electricity was applied. It is said that a reflex action of the muscles was obtained, but no other evidences of returning life.

Dr. Robinovitch admits that, after electricity has been passing through a body for a long time, or if life has been extinct for more than half an hour, it is impossible for her to revive her animal subjects.

PATRICK TRIES AGAIN.
Holds That He is Legally Dead and Prison is No Place for Him.

New York Sun, 19th.
Albert T. Patrick, the lawyer now serving a life sentence in Sing Sing for the murder of William March Rice, secured a writ of habeas corpus yesterday from Justice Hirschberg of the Appellate division of the Supreme court in Brooklyn. The writ is directed against Jesse D. Frost, warden of Sing Sing, and is returnable on the afternoon of November 29. Lawyer William L. McDonald of 49 Wall street, Manhattan, appeared for Patrick.

In his latest application Patrick presents certain matters which he forgot to incorporate in his last previous plea for liberty, when he insisted that Governor Hughes had no legal right to commute his sentence to life imprisonment against his protest. The Appellate division decided against him in that instance and the appeal will be argued before the Court of Appeals in January.

Now the appellant claims to have discovered that Justice Dennis O'Brien of the Court of Appeals had no authority to issue the stay that saved his life, and he wants the Appellate division to decide whether he isn't legally dead and therefore entitled to his freedom. Patrick says that the Court of Appeals had sentenced him to die in a certain week, that Justice O'Brien interfered while the court was taking a vacation, that the prescribed time for the execution passed and that the alleged malfeasance of the warden in not putting him to death as ordered by the court allowed him to pass into the condition of being physically alive, but legally dead.

This is Patrick's twenty-fourth attempt to gain his freedom through appeals. Justice O'Brien signed in July, 1905, the stay that prevented the execution of the prisoner. Patrick says that his authenticity has never been decided by the courts.

THIS RABBIT A BOMB.

Was Loaded With Dynamite and the Hunter is Glad He Missed.

Montclair (N. J.) Dispatch to New York Press.
A rabbit full of dynamite is in the woods somewhere between Montclair Heights and Little Falls. When the news got around among the gunners Wednesday there was a general stampede to get out of the region. Many pot hunters who were planning to go out Saturday decided to wait a few days. Two men were out in the forest north of the State Normal school saw the rabbit nibbling at a substance that was concealed from their view. One of the hunters fired at the rabbit, which turned and dashed off into the woods. The hunters then investigated and found the bunny had been devouring one of 24 sticks of dynamite which were concealed in the underbrush. The explosive, the police report, was stolen last August from J. Dorisy, a contractor, who is cutting through Fifth avenue in the northern part of this town. The sticks were taken from a storage house. It is supposed the thieves hid them and then forgot where they concealed their plunder. Twenty-three of the sticks were returned today to Dorisy.

The wonder is that none of the hundreds of gunners who have swarmed through the woods has hit the concealed dynamite with a stray shot. One shot probably would have set the stuff off with a flash and bang, and probably the loss of life of the sportsman. The place has been tramped over, too, but luckily, no one stepped on the dynamite. As for the rabbit, people in the hills were lying awake at night listening for an explosion. When it comes, that unlucky rabbit will probably be scattered over a large section of the Jersey state.

THE NATIONAL CORN SHOW

Frederic J. Haskin's Syndicate Letter.

The department of agriculture estimates that the corn crop of the United States this year will amount to 2,767,316,000 bushels. At the current prices this represents a value of more than \$1,900,000,000—almost two billions dollars. This estimate forebodes the greatest corn crop on record, with the sole exception of the bumper crop of 1906, which fell only a little under 3,000,000,000 bushels. It is impossible for the human brain to conceive the full significance of such enormous figures, but they tell, even to the dullard, the fact that corn is king.

The third annual national corn show will be held in Omaha early in December, and at this exhibition King Corn will hold court. The first annual show was held in Chicago three years ago. Although not a financial success, it was accounted a most interesting exhibition of corn and other farm cereals. It was brought to a close by an allegorical pageant, in which King Corn brought to his throne Queen Alfalfa. The third anniversary of the wedding will be celebrated at Omaha. Chicago decided that the corn show was too slow; that the people did not care for "still life" exhibitions. Omaha did not accept the verdict, and by its corn show of last year proved that it could be made a great national success. State corn shows, with general exposition features attached, have proved to be very successful in many western cities. Sioux City, Iowa, has the honor of originating the corn exposition idea some twelve or fifteen years ago.

To Exhibit 50,000 Ears of Corn.

More than 50,000 acres of corn will be exhibited at the Omaha show. Other grains also will be shown, but corn is to rule supreme over all. The prizes to be distributed will aggregate \$50,000. But perhaps the greatest public interest will center in the contest for the largest and finest ear of corn grown in the country in this year, for which a prize of a gold cup has been offered by a certain breakfast food concern. The wide advertising given to this prize cup in the newspapers and magazines has focused the interest of the whole country upon this one feature of the national corn show. Every corn-growing state will be represented in the exhibits, as well as every variety of corn grown. Including the decorative effects, ranging from a landscape done in corn to the latest thing in millinery, copied in maize, the show will boast more than 8,000 separate exhibits.

"More corn to the acre" is the slogan of the national corn show. James G. Blaine once predicted that corn would become the backbone of agriculture in the United States, and the prophecy long since has been fulfilled. It is conceded that the prospective corn acreage of the nation is now nearing its maximum. With 101,000,000 acres devoted to the growing of corn in 1908, the total yield was 2,665,000,000 bushels, and the farm value of the crop was \$1,616,000,000. The acreage was more than double that of wheat, and its value a billion dollars greater. In fact the acreage of corn in 1908 was greater than that of all the rest of the cereal crops of the nation taken together, the yield was a full billion bushels greater than the aggregate yield of all other grains, and the American farmer received more for his corn crop by nearly half than he received for all his other grain crops.

How Profits May Be Increased.
If the farmer can get one bushel more for his corn his profit is increased \$27,000,000. If he can induce his land to grow 1 bushel more to the acre, he has profited to the extent of nearly \$60,000,000 by the operation. By increasing the yield per acre of corn vast wealth will be added to the national store, and by enhancing the quality of the yield the farmer can multiply his profits.

It is a distressing fact that the figures for 1908 show an average yield of corn amounting to only 26.2 bushels to the acre. This is but little larger than the average yield of all the years since the close of the civil war. While all the rest of the world has been making vast strides in productive capacity, the corn farmer has stood still, increasing his acreage at a remarkable rate, but giving little attention to increasing the yield per acre—the very vital point in profitable farming.

The corn exposition will seek to remedy this. It will endeavor to show the corn farmer that he may double his crop if he will. It will direct his attention to the eloquent lesson of New Hampshire, a state certainly far below the average in soil fertility, yet with the highest average of per acre yield in the United States. Did every cornfield in the United States do as well as the New Hampshire cornfields in the years from 1879 to 1908, the annual corn-harvest of the nation would produce one and a fifth billions more bushels than it does now. In other words, the brains of the New Hampshire farmer, applied to the cornfields of the nation, would smite the rocks of latent wealth and make a stream of gold amounting to three-quarters of a billion dollars flow therefrom. And even New Hampshire's average yield per acre is poor farming compared with that which the national corn exposition aims to teach.

Work of Experiment Stations.
The old saying that "blood will tell" applies with as much force to plant life as it does to animal life. In one of the recent textbooks on corn there is an illustration of the old-fashioned pod corn ear and the celebrated "Pascall ear," which was the champion of America in 1907, and which sold for \$1.50, or nearly 15 cents per grain. The difference between a "razorback" and a prize-winning Poland China hog was never so marked. A few years ago the various experiment stations throughout the corn belt began a systematic study of corn. They give free information and advice to farmers.

The railroads, with an eye to the millions that may flow into their coffers directly and indirectly through an enhanced production of corn, have given their aid to the movement by furnishing "corn gospel tracts," which carry the good news of the new evangel of progressive farming to all sections. The farmer is given object lessons of what may be accomplished by correct methods. For instance, he is shown that at a cost of only 6 cents per acre to test the seed he sows the farmer may vastly increase his harvest.

What Testing Will Accomplish.
One striking picture held up to him is that of two fields with only a barbed wire fence dividing them. The seed of the one was tested; that of the other was not. The result in the tested field was 77 bushels to the acre, and that in the untested field was 25 bushels. All careful students of corn culture agree that by application of scientific methods to corn culture through the country might easily be brought up to 60 bushels per acre. At that rate the United States could supply the world with its corn, and have enough left to substitute every grain of wheat grown on the globe.

The versatility of corn surpasses that of any other grain. At a recent exposition no less than 100 separate and distinct commercial products made from corn were exhibited. Besides furnishing human food in many forms, and the cup that cheers in many varieties, it yields the glucose that constitutes the base of dozens of by-products, edible and otherwise. It produces dextrin and gums used in sizing and printing cloth. It furnishes starch for the table and starch for the laundry. The stalk furnishes fodder for the cattle, cellulose for the protection of the vitals of warships, and for the making of smokeless powder.

Heavy Exports Looked For.
America expects to make much out of its foreign market for corn in the next decade or two. Eastern Asia is becoming interested in corn as a food-stuff, and those who have studied the situation declare that there are not enough vessels on the Pacific Ocean to

carry the vast stores of corn that will be required to meet the demand which may be created in the Orient. Furthermore, other parts of the world are becoming interested in this peculiarly American product, and while Argentina shows some signs of becoming a competitor as a corn-growing nation, it will be many years before it will be a formidable rival.

Pellagra, said to be due to damaged corn used for human food, is a disease occurring most frequently in Italy and other southern European countries, where the corn is of an inferior quality and where it is improperly cured. Instead of injuring the export trade in American corn for human consumption, pellagra may increase the demand, since export corn is usually the best grown on American soil, and can, therefore, be used with more confidence than the inferior kinds grown in southern Europe.

MODERN FEUDAL LORD.

Iglesias Owned and Ruled Estate of 2400 Square Miles in Peru.

Buffalo Express.
An interesting South American character, type of a civilization that has largely disappeared, died at Lima, Peru, on Monday in the person of Gen. Miguel Iglesias. He lived on an estate of 2400 square miles, which had been in his family since 1574, or within 40 years of the date of the conquest of Peru by Pizarro. There were 20,000 head of cattle on this estate and a population of about 4000 persons, over whom Iglesias ruled as absolute lord. He made and enforced their laws, provided for their education and moral welfare, and never had a rebellion. Drunkenness on any day but Easter Sunday was punishable by a fine of \$5. A wife-beater was punished by a \$2 fine. The fines collected largely supported the schools. It was the life of the feudal lords of the middle ages brought down into the twentieth century.

Gen. Iglesias took a prominent part in the government of the country, particularly at the time of the war with Chile. He was secretary of the treasury and of war when hostilities began. He conducted the defense of Lima in so determined a manner as to win high commendation. After the surrender he made his escape and immediately began efforts to secure peace at any price. It was through him mainly that a treaty finally was concluded with the victorious Chileans. He was elected provisional president of the country, but his rule was disputed by Gen. Andres Caceres, who headed the party which wished to continue the war. A civil conflict between Iglesias and Caceres resulted, in which Iglesias was defeated. He retired for a time to Europe, but later returned to his estate, which he rarely left thereafter even to attend the sessions of the congress of which he was a member. He was 87 years old when he died.

No Coal Claims Patented.
He then stated that no Alaska coal claims have been patented, and says that the investigation of all such claims, with a view of determining their validity or invalidity, has been vigorously prosecuted.

Mr. Ballinger denounced as "a plain, ordinary fabrication" a report that he is interested in 155,000 shares. Continued on page five.

DENIAL MADE BY BALLINGER

Secretary of the Interior Gives His Side of the Cunningham Claims Story.

Washington, Nov. 20.—Today's Post says:

Secretary of the Interior Ballinger yesterday issued a statement containing a denial of all the charges and implications that have been made against him in recent published reports. He set forth his side of the story of the Cunningham claims case, and denied that his law firm in Seattle is known as an adviser for the Standard Oil company, and that he is interested in the Alaska Petroleum and Coal company.

"To say that I ever have advised, aided, or lent support to any effort to perpetrate a fraud upon the government," he said, "is not only false, but is intentionally so, if made by any one who has taken the trouble to inquire into the facts."

In explanation of the charges in connection with the Alaska coal lands, he went into the history of President Roosevelt's withdrawal from entry of all the coal lands of Alaska, in 1904, showing that the order was so modified by Secretary Garfield as to validate all applications made prior to May 16, 1907. He then directed attention to the fact that in his annual report of 1907, as commissioner of the general land office, he had recommended action by congress to prevent the formation of combinations or trusts by claimants to coal lands, and punish the offenders. He added:

"The anti-trust clause of the Alaska coal act, as finally passed May 28, 1908, was not submitted by Gifford Pinchot, but was submitted as a suggestion to Secretary Garfield by Representative Herbert Parsons, of New York, in a letter of May 7, 1908, and favorably considered and indorsed by the Secretary in his report to congress."

Continued on page five.

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