

*By Mr. Hamilton:*

Q. Is a post mortem performed on the body afterward?—A. I do not stay after. When I have seen the body I go. I do not think there is an autopsy in each case.

Q. As I understand it death results from the breaking of the neck, or the dislocation of the vertebrae?—A. Not in every case.

Q. From what cause then?—A. The principal cause of death is constriction of the throat which stops entirely the circulation to the brain, then strangulation and asphyxia.

Q. What causes unconsciousness?—A. Lack of circulation in the brain. As soon as that rope is tight around the neck there is no more circulation in the brain and the man becomes unconscious very very quickly.

Q. Would you say it was instantaneous?—A. Well, I say from five to eight seconds; that is all I would say.

Q. What is the difference between an execution in Canada and pulling up a man in a lynching down in the southern States, as far as death is concerned?—A. There is not much. You know very well that many many people take their lives by hanging, and it is not necessary to hang yourself, that is, to have your body off the ground without touching any walls or anything. It is so easy, unconsciousness comes so quickly, so fast, that you can hang yourself sitting down on the floor or on your knees in your bed, or even lying down on your side with only your head off the ground. I remember very well when I was in St. Jean du Dieu hospital that one morning I found a woman in her bed on her knees. She had died. She had hanged herself with her stocking; one end was attached to the head of the bed and the other end was attached around her neck, and she was on her knees like that and she was dead. That is because the circulation to the brain is stopped very quickly. The least pressure on the big vessels, the caratoid and the juglar veins, the least constriction of them brings an arrest of or a stop in circulation, and more so because the arteries of the brain are of small calibre in general so that the least constriction stops circulation in the brain, and unconsciousness happens very quickly.

*By Mr. Blair:*

Q. What percentage would you say died from strangulation, and what percentage died from the breaking of the neck, by the knot on turning over on the cord?—A. Of the 18 cases I saw at Bordeaux I would say that three died of a broken spine, or dislocation of the first and second vertebrae, and the others died of strangulation. And I want you to remember when I say strangulation, before that you have anaemia of the brain caused by the constriction on the blood vessels by the rope.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. Would you really have an anaemia? The flow in the caratoid artery would be intensely stronger than the return flow in the jugular; would you not be inclined to have a congested brain rather than anaemia of the brain?—A. No, I do not think so; the flow of blood in a caratoid—it is a big vessel, but when it comes to the brain vessels they are very small.

Q. There are arteries there, of course?—A. I will give you an example of when the circulation of the brain is stopped and where this is the principal cause of death. This did not happen here, I read it in a medical review. A woman was suffering from cancer of the larynx and a tube was placed in her trachoma, and shortly afterwards they found her hanging. It did not have anything to do with the constriction, but she was dead and she died in about fifteen minutes.

Q. Well then, even where there is no dislocation between the atlas and the axis you are inclined to think they died of anaemia of the brain?—A. Yes, I am positive that the unconsciousness is there, no matter if the first and second vertebrae are dislocated. I am positive of that.