

column after column of sensational descriptions of all the harrowing details of such an event, then surely the public may as well be admitted to executions and view with their bodily eyes the scenes which are so vividly presented to the mental vision of the millions.

We believe that death by electricity might be made absolutely painless, and absolutely certain. In the present case, despite the horrible pictures presented by the reporters, of the strugglings, twitchings and convulsions of the criminal, it is as certain as anything can be in this world that his consciousness was abolished immediately, and that he suffered nothing. Much has been made of the lengthened and elaborate preparations in the chair before the current was sent to do its fatal work, and of the horrible suspense of the doomed man during that time. Doubtless such preparations are cruel, but are they any more protracted or any more cruel than the procession from the cell to the gallows and all the attendant horrors of fixing the rope, etc.? We think not. Indeed when the doomed one knows that at a certain moment he must pass into eternity it is probable that the last few hours are not rendered more terrible by any amount of preparation made for the accomplishment of the purpose of the law.

The chief objection to this method of execution would appear to be the difficulty of its general adoption in all parts of the country. It is complicated in its application, requires elaborate preparation, expensive machinery, and the presence of skilled manipulators. Without these, its action is not only uncertain but actually dangerous to executioners and spectators. So that we may not expect "electrocution" to become the popular method of execution, at least until the "harnessed lightning" is under more perfect control than at present, and that by more simple appliances than we now possess.

The English press is almost a unit in condemning the method, but is, we venture to think, somewhat unnecessarily severe in its denunciation. Thus the *London Standard* says: "The scene can be described as a disgrace to humanity. It will send a thrill of indignation throughout the civilized world. We cannot believe that Americans will allow the electrical execution act to stand." The *Times* also speaks very strongly against the method, and characterizes the spectacle as "re-

volting." Is it any more so than that of hanging? The lethal chamber would, we think, be preferable to any known method of execution. The time seems not to be ripe for its introduction, but there can be little doubt that if the consensus of opinion of the medical men of the world were taken, it would be shown that, had *they* to suffer the death penalty, anæsthesia would be the method adopted as a painless, and, after the first few respirations, even a pleasant way of passing out of the world.

CANADIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION.

The programme of the next annual meeting of the Association, which will be held in Toronto, on the 9th, 10th, and 11th September, will include the following addresses and papers:—

Address in Medicine, by Dr. Prevost, Ottawa.

Address in Surgery, by Dr. Chown, Winnipeg.

Address in Obstetrics, by Dr. J. Chalmers Cameron, Montreal.

Address in Materia Medica and Therapeutics, by Dr. W. S. Muir, Truro, N. S.

PAPERS.—"The Failure of the Removal of the Ovaries and Tubes to Relieve Symptoms," Dr. James F. W. Ross, Toronto.

"Abscess of the Brain," Dr. G. Stirling Ryeson.

"Pernicious Anæmia" (with report of two cases), Dr. A. McPhedran, Toronto.

"The Cardiac Complications of Gonorrhœal Rheumatism," Dr. R. L. MacDonnell, Montreal.

"Pharmacology of Salicylamide," Dr. W. Beat-tie Nesbitt, Toronto.

"Syphilitic Ulceration of the Vocal Cords," Dr. F. G. Finley, Montreal.

"Cholecystotomy," Dr. F. J. Shepherd, Montreal.

"Inhalations in the Treatment of Chronic Pulmonary Diseases," Dr. Price Brown, Toronto.

(a) "The Local Administration of Bichloride of Mercury as an Alterative in Pelvic Exudations in Women; and

(b) "Why Apostoli's Method Sometimes Fails," Dr. A. L. Smith, Montreal.

"Chronic Urethral Discharges; their Diagnosis and Treatment, with a Demonstration of the Electric Endoscope," Dr. Edmund E. King, Toronto.