

said Dr. Gibbons, 'I still have some hope of being allowed to perform my experiment upon the body of an electrocuted man. I am perfectly confident that the alternating current, as now applied in the death chamber, does not kill. Animation is suspended, of course, and the knives of the autopsy surgeon are the real executors of the law.

"I do not claim that this apparatus which I brought here to place in Bellevue Hospital will bring the dead to life; but I am satisfied, as the result of a long series of experiments upon animals, that it will resuscitate any man who has received in his body the alternating current now applied at executions in the State prisons, viz., 1,700 volts. As you see, the contrivance is merely a double bellows, one-half of which will send pure air into the lungs, while the other half will pump out the bad air.

"This rubber tube can be placed in the mouth of the subject, or, preferably, in the trachea after the operation of tracheotomy has been performed. The latter condition is usually most favorable for working of the apparatus, because often in cases of suspended animation it is necessary for nourishment to be given by mouth.

"Of course I do not say that the alternating current will not kill men provided enough power is applied; but at present 1,700 volts are used, and this is not deadly.'

"Dr. Gibbons has experimented largely on dogs, rabbits, cats, and even sheep and cattle. He has applied a current of from 1,500 to 2,500 volts, and these animals have permanently recovered as full possession of their faculties as before the current was turned into their system. The periods of apparent death had varied from a few moments to several hours. Dr. Gibbons has still in his employ an assistant who received 1,500 volts in Cleveland in 1885."

Dr. Hodgins having written to Dr. Gibbons for an explanation of his method of resuscitation from the effects of lightning, etc., he replied as follows, under date of February 16th, 1895:—

"Your request for my 'Method of Resuscitation from Electric Shock' was received in due time.

"You will find enclosed in brief form what I think will answer the purpose for which you wish it. I also send you a photograph of the front and back views of the apparatus itself.

"With best wishes for the Royal Canadian Humane Association," etc.