

*By Mr. Blair:*

Q. In your department, have you found many cases where death did not take place for from 8 to 20 minutes, and in some cases 25 minutes?—A. In our department we are not directly concerned with the actual carrying out of the death penalty.

Q. Have you any reports to that effect?—A. That death would have taken that long?

Q. Yes?—A. Well, we have the pronouncements of the jury.

Q. That is what I mean.—A. That life appeared extinct—

Q. Yes?—A. That is when the body has become—

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. Pulseless?—A. Pulseless.

Q. When the body is pulseless, then life is extinct. You can depend upon that?—A. Yes.

Q. Just a question along that line, you had an opportunity of discussing that matter with him. Did he give you any intimation as to the average length of time it takes before the pulse is extinct?—A. Yes; I would say the average is about six minutes.

*By Mr. Hamilton:*

Q. You have already said that unconsciousness was almost instantaneous?—A. Yes.

Mr. O'NEILL: It seems to me, if death by hanging is almost instantaneous, that you could not get a more humane method of carrying out the death penalty. There is a certain amount of preparation in any event. The man must walk to the lethal chamber, if that method is used, he must walk to the electric chair, if that method is used, and he must walk to the scaffold if hanging is used. There is a certain amount of preparation in each case, and only two or three minutes in the case of hanging. By hanging death is instantaneous when the body reaches the end of the rope. If death is instantaneous I do not know how you could make it very much more humane.

The CHAIRMAN: Is there any difference of opinion among the doctor members of the committee as to whether death is instantaneous?

Mr. HOWDEN: Death is not instantaneous, but consciousness is abolished, and when consciousness is abolished, what is the difference.

Mr. O'NEILL: It is consciousness we are interested in.

The CHAIRMAN: Are there any further questions?

Miss MACPHAIL: I do not know whether you would call it a question or not, but I should like to say we are becoming more interested in prisoners from a humanitarian point of view, but not particularly this type of prisoner. The prisoners we are now discussing are prisoners who have admittedly become worse and worse. They have worsened, at any rate. I should like Mr. Gallagher, who must have handled many cases in his experience, to answer this question, if he feels like it: Do you think that there is a point at which humanity could save these men from any form of death, whether by hanging or otherwise. Is there a point at which we can save these men?

The WITNESS: That brings us, of course, face to face with the whole problem of reform. Now, I would say it would be infinitely preferable to begin at the other end of the line, leave the real bad man who is convicted of murder after a fair trial to his doom, and devote our attention and study and our sympathy—

Miss MACPHAIL: And our science.

The WITNESS: Yes. —to the young, the youthful offender. He is the only hope in this field.