

The WITNESS: Which way do you mean—that nothing was done to find out about that, about the cause of death?

Mr. HOWDEN: That is what he means, yes.

The WITNESS: Oh, yes. All that I am saying now about the circulation of the brain and about strangulation—of course all those things were found out by different scientists, by autopsy. This was not done here, but it had been done in many countries.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. Just taking you up on that point, Dr. Plouffe—if the patients do not always die from suffocation, then the post mortem conditions are not always similar; that is to say, from time to time you have seen corpses which, after hanging, did not exhibit the signs of strangulation?—A. I have seen some, yes.

Q. You have seen some?—A. Yes.

Q. In which there was no suffusion of the face?—A. No. I told you about four.

Q. About four?—A. In those cases the face is pale.

Q. But in the majority of them there are signs of suffocation?—A. Yes.

*By Miss Macphail:*

Q. I would like to know first who it is that puts the strap around their feet and ties their hands. Who is it that does those last things? Is it the sheriff?—A. Oh, no. It is the hangman.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. The hangman is the sheriff's deputy in that case?—A. Yes.

*By Miss Macphail:*

Q. How many people will there be about the prisoner at that time—several people?—A. The twelve members of the coroner's jury and two or three guards who will attend to the body after that. I should not be there, but I am just the same, from the scientific point of view. That is about all. For the last four or five years the members of the jury are always doctors—every one of them.

*By Mr. Blair:*

Q. The members of the jury?—A. Yes—always doctors.

*By Miss Macphail:*

Q. What is the effect or what is the reaction on those people who are there up till the last? Do you think there is a strong reaction? Do you think they suffer a strong reaction—those people who are with the prisoner until the last moment and have to contemplate, whether they want to or not, the death or the manner of death?—A. You mean the jury?

Q. The jury, the hangman, and the deputy sheriff?—A. Well, they are all doctors, and they do not let much impression be seen on their faces. They are used to being in the operating room and all that.

Q. The hangman is not a doctor. There must be others who are not doctors there at the time, are there not?—A. Well, the hangman—to tell the truth, I never observed him. It has nothing to do with my work.

*By Mr. Hamilton:*

Q. Has it been the same hangman all the time since you have been there?—A. No. Lately, in the last two hangings, it was a different man.

[Dr. Daniel Plouffe.]