

*By Mr. Hamilton:*

Q. Have there been many cases in your experience where there has been any bungling or any miscarriage of the execution in that way?—A. I gave you an example where it was forgotten to put the strap around the feet. That is the only time.

Q. Is that the only one?—A. Yes.

*By Mr. Blair:*

Q. What would be the longest time that you had certified death in your 18 cases?—A. Well, death is not certified by me. It is certified by Dr. Benoit. But I am always with him—not officially, but scientifically.

Q. What is the longest time—A. You mean that the body—?

Q.—from the drop until you certify that death has occurred?—A. Between 13 and 15 minutes.

*By Mr. Howden:*

Q. Do you mean to say that the heart is beating for 15 minutes after the drop?—A. No. We leave them. Before the circulation has stopped. That is what I mean.

Q. Dr. Blair asked what was the longest period of time of which you knew after the drop before the patient was dead?—A. Before the heart stopped?

Q. Well, before the patient was dead, anyway?—A. Ten minutes.

Q. Ten minutes?—A. Yes.

Q. How do you ascertain that? What is your basis of knowing?—A. By the pulse.

Q. By the pulse?—A. And by the stethoscope.

Q. Then you say that the heart is beating for as long as ten minutes after the drop?—A. In some cases, yes.

Q. May I ask another question. You stated a little while ago that a woman had hanged herself, in whom there was no interference with respiration—there was a tracheotomy tube in her neck?—A. Yes.

Q. Hanging in that way, it would be quite impossible for her to dislocate the two first vertebrae in her neck?—A. It was impossible.

Q. Then that woman must have died from some other cause. What was the cause of death in her case?—A. Compression which stopped the circulation of the brain, an inhibition.

Q. What is that?—A. Inhibition. This means sudden disequilibrium of the function of the brain caused by great emotion—not in this case, maybe, but in other cases of men who are hanged—or by the surprise caused by the rope on the neck. We call that inhibition. It is a phenomenon which is caused by great emotion.

Q. Shock—nervous shock?—A. Yes.

Q. Then you think they do occasionally die from nervous shock in hanging?—A. I am inclined to think so, yes.

Q. That is a new one on me.

Mr. TAYLOR: As a matter of fact, it seems there is no definite understanding of how they do die.

The WITNESS: I am sorry I did not catch you.

Miss MACPHAIL: But they do die.

Mr. TAYLOR: I say it is becoming apparent to me that there has been very little scientific attempt to discover precisely how they do die. They just die, and that is all there is to it.

Mr. HOWDEN: Of course, that is all you want.

Mr. TAYLOR: I know. But still we are trying to find out how they die and how long it takes.