

A WOMAN MAY HANG.

GEORGIA MURDERESS' CASE GOES TO THE BOARD.

Women Urge Female Immunity from Capital Punishment—Sentiment So Strong Commutation of Sentence May Result.

ANLESS the newly-created board of pardons of Georgia shall grant the petitions of Georgia for a commutation of the sentence of Mrs. Elizabeth Nobles that woman will be executed by due process of law. Mrs. Nobles was tried, convicted and sentenced to be hanged for the murder of her husband. She killed him with an ax in 1895. The supreme court of the United States has refused her application for a new trial on the ground that at her trial the question of her sanity was never raised. The court holds it is now too late to raise the question for the purpose indicated. More is involved in this matter than the mere disposition of the case of Mrs. Nobles. The point most interesting to the people of the state is the exemption of women from the death penalty. The petitions are all based on the theory that no court of that state should condemn a female to hang. Mrs. Nobles was sentenced in the superior court of Atlanta to this death and now the only hope of preventing its execution is to bring such pressure on the new board of pardons as will result in commutation. All applications for executive clemency must now be laid before this board. Petitions are being circulated and, it is said, extensively signed by the women of the state, asking that the sentence be made life imprisonment or such other term as may seem best. Mrs. Nobles' attorney, W. C. Glenn, has returned from Italy to do what he can to prevent the carrying out of the sentence. He says his return was due almost entirely to his belief that the old woman was wrongfully convicted and should not suffer death. The petitions so far completed have been filed with Governor Atkinson for the consideration of the pardon board. The case must be disposed of in a very short time and, whatever the ultimate result, is bound to cause some very spicy proceedings.

There is a deeply rooted sentiment in that state against the hanging of women, especially those of the white race. But two of the latter have ever been executed in the history of the state. About a century ago Polly Baker was hanged in Wilkes county for poisoning a rival. The other case was that of Miss Susan Eberhardt, who was hanged in 1872 for the murder of Mrs. Spann. At this time public feeling was so strong against the hanging of a woman that Governor Smith lost all political influence when he permitted Miss Eberhardt to ascend the scaffold. His career ended with the fall of the drop.

The eloquence of Henry W. Grady probably saved Mrs. Souther from a similar fate. Mrs. Souther killed her rival in a ball-room in northern Georgia and was tried for the crime. The case would have gone against her but for the eloquent plea of Mr. Grady for the immunity of women from execution. Mrs. Souther was sent to the state's prison instead of the gallows, and later received a pardon. She showed her gratitude by naming one of her boys for the lamented editor.



MRS. NOBLES.

But none of these cases had specially unusual complications.

That of Mrs. Nobles is so complicated, however, that the influence of these complications will add to the interest of the case. Mrs. Nobles had an accomplice, a negro. This will have some possible effect, although it has not prevented many of the leading women of the state from adding the weight of their names and influence to the petitions. Mrs. Nobles is also of that peculiarly Georgian element known as "crackers." The family—what remains of it—was ignorant and shiftless to a degree. Whether or not this feature of the case will be brought out or suppressed is one of the things so far unknown. But the strange people who constitute this element are little thought of among the better classes.

Mr. and Mrs. Nobles lived on a small place twelve miles from Jeffersonville. They had two children, Deborah, 18 years of age, and John, a boy of 18. They were typical of the "cracker" element that might as well have been in another world for all

they knew of their own land outside of the small community where they dwelt. They knew nothing of the outside world and cared less. They were content to plod along in the ignorance and poverty of that region remote from civilizing influences. Mrs. Nobles says her husband was cruel by nature and mistreated her shamefully. This is her motive for the crime. On the trial the alleged cruelty of the husband was urged in defense. But the witnesses for the state, the neighbors, all stoutly maintained that the reverse was true. The old man was not cruel to his wife; she was to him. But whichever is true, they did not get on well with each other and there were many quarrels before the fatal fight when the old man's head was split with an ax. Three negroes were employed by Nobles to help in the work. One of these was convicted as an accomplice, and has been under the death sentence for a couple of years. Gus Fambles, a former Atlanta hackman; his wife, Mary Fambles, and Dalton Joiner were the negroes who obtained employment on the farm. They were typical negroes, but Fambles had learned a good many things in the city not learned in the cane brakes or cotton fields. The murder was the result of a conspiracy which involved everybody on the farm but the victim and his son. Mrs. Nobles was accustomed to work in the fields with the farm hands, and it was while she was trudging along that the plot was hatched. One day, while working with Fam-



"DEBBY" NOBLES.

bles, she complained bitterly of her husband's ill treatment. Fambles asked her why she didn't "put the old man out of the way." Mrs. Nobles asked him how it could be done, and the first step toward the commission of the crime was taken. During the three weeks which followed the plans for killing old Nobles were developed, and it is surmised that in the making of those plans Debby Nobles, Mary Fambles, the wife of Gus, and Dalton Joiner materially assisted the chief conspirators. Early one Sunday morning Mrs. Nobles awakened her husband and sent him out to drive away robbers who, she said, were stealing their corn. She had hidden his gun, and he went unarmed. As he stole out in the darkness Fambles brained him with an ax. Then Mrs. Nobles struck the dying man twice with the same weapon. While yet life was in the body the old man was killed. Mrs. Nobles, it is said, paid Fambles \$10 for his services. The excitement following the discovery of the crime was great. The unusual heinousness of the crime and the character of the criminal made it a remarkable case. Mrs. Nobles was arrested, together with Fambles and his wife, Joiner and Debby Nobles. At the trial of the case a few weeks after the murder a verdict of guilty was brought in and Mrs. Nobles and Gus Fambles were sentenced to be hanged Aug. 16, 1895. Joiner proved an alibi, was acquitted and immediately left the state. Debby Nobles was acquitted, Mary Fambles was sentenced to life imprisonment.

How Killed Baby.
The police of the Vernon avenue station, Brooklyn, recently sent to the morgue the body of a newly born infant which, without doubt, was murdered. A boy in the employ of the White-Potter-Palidge picture frame works, at Sanford street and Willoughby avenue, came across the body while closing the lower shutters of the factory. The child was wrapped in fairly good goods and had evidently not been long in the place where it was found. At the station the clothing was removed and the face indicated that the child when born must have been exceedingly pretty. On its left side was a black mark. This, the police believe, was where the child was probably struck a vicious blow which caused its death. The police made an investigation, but failed to find any clue which would lead to an arrest.

Contempt of Court.
A stranger once walked into a criminal court and spent some time watching the proceedings. By and by a man was brought up for contempt of court and fined, whereupon the stranger rose and asked: "How much was the fine?" "Five dollars," replied the clerk. "Well," said the stranger, laying down the money, "if that's all, I'd like to see you. I've had a few hours' experience in this court, and no one can feel a greater contempt for it than I do, and I am willing to pay for it."

A Roundabout Intimation.
From Brooklyn Life: He (on the piazza)—"It's so dark I can't see, but that another couple next to us?" She—"Yes, and he is trying to kiss her." He—"Can you see so well as that?" She—"Oh, no. But I know who she is with."

NOTES OF THE WHEEL

MATTERS OF INTEREST TO DEVOTEES OF THE BICYCLE.

Church Authorities Beginning to Realize That War on the Wheel Is Futile—More European Cyclists Are Coming—Days of Big Profits Gone Forever.

BECOMING LIBERAL.
THE Sunday cycling question is being discussed exhaustively in the leading church periodicals throughout the country. It is interesting to note that many of the papers have veered around, changed their policy and now rather approve of Sunday cycling to a certain extent. The Church, a Journal of American churchmanship, published in Boston, has this to say on the subject:

"The bicycle has been declared the source of injury to many good trades and causes. It has been claimed that it has decreased the sales of oil paintings and shoes, hot-house flowers and dress-goods, groceries and theater tickets. It has broken up meetings in the interest of philanthropic endeavor, decreased the attendance at lectures, and finally diminished the congregations in the churches. There is truth in some of these statements, and much imagination in many of them. If there are any who find that bicycle riding is interfering with their participation in the worship of the church on the Lord's day they should look to it. They are, perhaps, imperiling an eternal heritage for temporary gains or pleasures. There is time enough in life for proportionate living, and place for both wheeling and worship. The church likewise should look to it that it makes provision for the needs of all, and stands open where bicyclists can enter, and preaches to men a wheel. But what must be remembered, in fairness and emphasized, is what the church gains from the bicycle. As an annihilator of all distances it is lessening the distance to church from homes whose remoteness has been a burden. As an improver of roads it is bettering the roads that lead to the house of God. As a promoter of simplicity of living and out-of-door naturalness it is relieving the approaches to worship of some of the conventionalities of dress and outward ceremonial. At a time when the church is making effort in many directions to cast aside traditional observances, and find men, by every means where they are, a movement from the other side that tends to bring men, as they are, to church, should be welcomed and encouraged. A bicycle suit in a pew is a wholesome and welcome sign. It means that simplicity and that reasonableness in dress everywhere have a kinship to true religion, and it means further that men, out of their work and out of their play, are finding immediate access to worship; that another step is taken toward the more perfect union of the church with the actual everyday lives of men."

More Cyclists Coming.
That the coming outdoor racing on the cycle racing path will be the most interesting of this or any other country has been seen in the success and the sometimes exaggerated statements as to the amount of money made by the little Welshman, Eddie Bald, Gardner Cooper, Kiser, and other successful circuit chasers, that have reached the other side of the ocean have created a general desire on the part of British and continental riders to come to America and



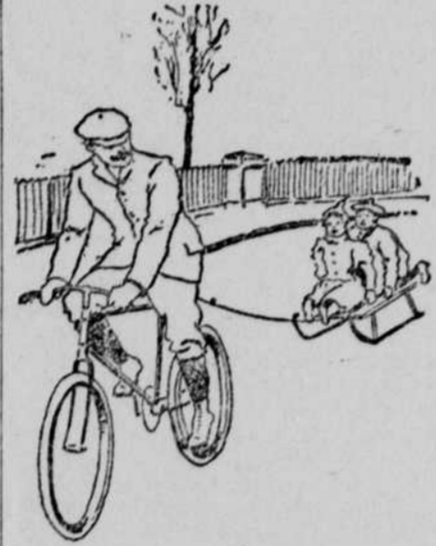
TOM LINTON.

gather a crop of Yankee dollars. While there is at present a large contingent of foreign cracks here, including many of the best riders in all Europe, within three months' time it will be much larger. Champions and record holders who have been carrying big salaries by riding in and about London and Paris are coming over and with them a corps of French pacemakers. Tom Linton, the hour champion, will forsake France for a year of racing in America. Jaap Eden, Jacques and Hurst will also make the trip, and Lehr, the "Zimmerman of Germany," is now here. These men, who are the fastest sprinters on the continent, and who have defeated the American stars who went to Europe in the last few years, should make matters interesting for our short distance champions.

Some Forecasts.
A prominent dealer who has been many years in the bicycle business, expressing his opinion of the cycling outlook, says: "I cannot conceive of any departure, however radical, ever returning to cycling the halcyon days

which it has known. The question with the riders next year will not concern the gear or the make. It will be simply 'How much?' There are hundreds, yes thousands, of persons who in the past have pledged themselves to keep on kicking until bicycles are selling for \$25, and those are the people to whom we must cater." In view of this economic tendency it is interesting to note that one of the largest retail firms has refused absolutely to sign the usual contract with manufacturers agreeing to maintain the list price. The head of the concern says he proposes hereafter to deal in bicycles as he would in sugar or dry goods; to buy for what he can and sell for what he chooses. Should this policy spread bicycle buyers in the future are likely to find such an assortment of goods and prices that they will of necessity develop shopping abilities equal to those of a country housewife.

A New Winter Sport.
The art of cutting hair and shaving beards is not the only accomplishment that Barber Fred Brust of Philadelphia has. He is also something of an inventive genius, and a few days ago he gave the impetus to a new species of amusement in which many of his neighbors indulged during the recent cold snap. The streets were covered with a fine coating of ice and snow which made excellent sledding for the youngsters. Brust's two little girls were out with a sled, and they had made frequent demands upon their father to come out and drag them up and down. But the clever barber had a better scheme than that; it flashed upon him like a poet's inspiration. He got his bicycle and a long, stout rope and securely fastened the sled to the back part of his wheel's frame. Mounting his bike he got a good start before the rope became taut. There was a momentary jar and slacking of speed,



SLEDDING AND CYCLING COMBINED.

but the next moment the sled with the two youngsters upon it shot forward and the merry ride was on. Brust scorching up and down the street and around into the neighboring streets with the little girls screaming delightedly behind him. A number of other men in the neighborhood caught on to the scheme and while the ice lasted there were many cycle-sleds flying along the street.

A Chainless Defect.
One of the latest charges brought against the chainless bicycle is that it numbs the feet. Only bevel gear wheels are said to produce the curious result noted, which is ascribed to the meshing of the gears. This gives rise to a steady vibration that is communicated through the crank hangers to the pedals, and thence to the feet. This incessant pulsation due to the striking of the teeth of the gears, is said to have the effect of a massage. In time it results in numbness, just as a series of blows will numb the part of the body where they fall. Of course, the vibrations are so light that their effect is only appreciated after a long ride. To demonstrate the strength of the vibration, place the ear to any part of the frame and spin the rear wheel. The "chuckle" of the gears is plainly evident. Somewhat similar is the sensation imparted to the hands by the vibration of steel handlebars, to overcome which wooden handlebars were invented.

A New Device.
One of the most serious accidents that can happen a cyclist on the road is the breaking of the chain. It is not exactly a common occurrence for a chain to break, but it does happen with sufficient frequency to be a constant menace. Cautious riders carry an extra chain link or two; but even with them tools are needed and a blacksmith is not always near by. Some riders fertile in expedients have been known to patch up with wire well enough to get home. The average cyclist is, however, absolutely crippled by a broken chain, and something should have been devised long ago to bridge the difficulty. At last an inventor has come to the rescue with a light steel yoke, shaped like a letter B. The curved part couples the two links, the indentation giving a conformation to the mended part that corresponds with the rest of the chain. A bolt passing between the ends of the curved part holds it in place.

Clungman on the Bust Hit.
Billy Clungman, third baseman of the Louisville team, who is at home at Bush Hill, O., writes about the bust hit as follows: "What do I think of doing away with the bust hit? I hope it will not be abolished; it is a good feature of the game, and if it is abolished there will be a great deal more third base play than as it stands. Do the know-alls want the game to go backward? I should think they might as well prohibit fielding or base running."

INSIDE YOUR BRAIN

BRILLIANT FRENCHMAN DESIGNS UNIQUE CONTRIVANCE.

To Locate Foreign Substances That May Have Found Lodgment in Your Head—Successful Experiments With New Apparatus Demonstrates Its Value.

(Special Letter.)
THE X-ray, as an adjunct to surgery, has been gone one better. Science has developed a more perfect system of determining upon the exact location of a foreign substance in the human body, and even a bullet embedded in the brain may now be removed without jeopardizing the life of the patient.

The surgeons were not long in discovering the fact that it was imprudent to exact too much from these rays. They did not always indicate the precise location of these foreign substances, and the operator sometimes risked the patient's life by depending too completely on the insufficient indication given by the X-rays. But now a young man, M. Contremoulin, of the Laboratory of Micro-Photography, under the direction of M. Renny, member of the Faculty of Medicine, in Paris, has come to the fore and quieted the fears of scientists and surgeons by inventing an apparatus called "le chercheur de projectiles," or "searcher for projectiles," which he claims is capable of revealing with absolute precision the exact location of a ball in the brain. Experiments have resulted successfully.

The principle of the method is as follows: With the aid of two radiographic proofs, obtained at different times, of a head, inside of which is seen a ball, the center of this ball is determined by a geometrical construction, and by its relation to three fixed points or guiding marks traced on the face of the wounded man.

Then by means of small movable arms jutting outward, the ends of which come together, the relative position of the three fixed points and the ball are determined. The four extremities of these movable arms are then attached to a compass. This compass, thus set, is placed upon the head of the patient and adjusted to the three guide marks on the patient's face; the extremities of the fourth arm, if the head has been perforated, will coincide exactly with the center of the ball. It is then only necessary for the purpose of extraction to follow the direction indicated by the fourth arm and to penetrate to the depth indicated by the length of this arm.

To obtain two radiographic proofs which will permit of the exact locating of the center of the ball calls for the absolute rest of the Crookes tubes in connection with the sensitive plates. With this end in view, two small, thin pieces of wood are sealed in plaster and placed on the upper part of the patient's head, and to these is screwed a metal plate.

This plate supports on one side of the head a shutter, in which is successively disposed two photographic plates, and on the other side two improved Crookes tubes, joined in such a manner as to allow them to be moved in any desired position.

Besides, this metal plate has on its outer surface three pointed arms, whose extremities are placed on the three guide marks on the patient's face; these marks are, generally, one on the forehead and two on the cheeks. A photographic plate is slid into the shutter and is worked by sending a current from the very powerful Rhenokorff coil, giving a 14-inch spark, through one of the Crookes tubes.

At the end of a quarter of an hour a radiograph is obtained. After this



BEFORE THE OPERATION.

plate is developed, the shadow of the ball will be distinctly seen in the interior of the brain. The operation is renewed by means of a second plate and a second Crookes tube. In this way two pictures of the same ball are obtained, occupying different positions, for the reason that the luminous foci of the two Crookes tubes occupy different positions in relation to the ball and the shutter enclosing the plates.

The metal plate is then removed from the patient's head without disturbing the different parts of the apparatus. If now prolong the feet of each of the Crookes tubes, and the center of the shadow of the ball on the corresponding radiographic plates by means of threads, we reconstruct the path of the luminous rays. The point

at which these threads cross is the point at which the luminous rays had but a moment before met. This then is the center of the ball, and the point at which the threads intersect each other gives the exact position of the ball in the brain, at the moment the radiograph was taken.

THE LADY IS ALWAYS A LADY.

The True Keynote of the Grande Dame—Gentleness and Simplicity.

Ruth Ashmore, writing on "The Simplicity of the Grande Dame," in the Ladies' Home Journal, asserts that "a lady may stand behind the counter, be mistress in her own home, or busy all day at a desk, but no matter what her position in life is, she never swerves, and unconsciously she always impresses those who are around her with the fact of her gentleness and her simplicity. The lady gains her strength not from riches, not from her high position, not from great learning, but from good common sense. Any one of us may learn this if we will take a good model and copy it. No lady is free and easy in her manners. She does not, however, go to the other extreme and become stilted, but she tends rather to quietness and to a slight reserve, since, when she takes a friend, she proposes to keep her. She does not become intimate with you after 24 hours' acquaintance, put you in the place of a confidante in 48 hours, and in a week's time tire of you. The lady knows you first merely as an acquaintance, and then, if she finds you interesting, or if she thinks she can in any way be of use to you, she permits you to come gradually into her life, and between you may grow up a friendship that may last through life, even unto death."

LOST TO SOCIETY.

In a hospital in Philadelphia, learning to be a nurse, is a great-granddaughter of John Adams, second President of the United States and one of the founders of the government. Her name is Miss Emma O'Neill, and, despite the fact that she is scarcely more than 20 years old, she possesses in not a small degree some of the



MISS EMMA O'NEILL.

characteristics of the distinguished family of which she is a proud descendant. She is beautiful and much courted by Philadelphia society men, but on her mother's death a year ago she decided to devote herself to ministering to the sick, a calling that will necessarily separate her from a position in society.

BORN WITH WHISKERS.

Uttered a Prophecy, Closed Its Eyes, and Slept in Death.

A most remarkable story is brought to Macon from Meriweather, says the Telegraph, by a well-known Macon lawyer, who learned about it while attending Pike Superior court at Zebulon. According to the story, as it was told to the Macon lawyer by a prominent lawyer of Pike county, the people in Meriweather, just across the line from Pike, are in a state of excitement bordering on frenzy over a baby in that neighborhood which was born with a set of long, silken whiskers. The baby lived only a few hours, and just before it died, spoke the following words in the presence of a number of people in as plain language as any one could speak: "There will be no more rain in this country for seven years." Without another word the baby died. The news of the baby's strange prophecy soon spread throughout the neighborhood and the wildest excitement prevailed and still prevails. The long drought that prevails throughout the country has helped to increase the belief of the superstitious that the baby's prophecy is true, and many of them are praying for rain. The story of the strange baby, of course, seems incredible, but the gentleman who told it to the Macon lawyer said that he himself knew that the neighborhood was greatly excited, and that the man who told him of it was known to be thoroughly reliable, and not the kind of a man to spread a false report. The man who told the Pike county lawyer of the affair gave the names of the child's parents, but in telling it to the Macon lawyer the Pike county gentleman could not remember the names, he having taken little notice of them at the time. The Macon lawyer suggested to the Pike county lawyer that he go to the home of the child's parents and ask them if the report was true, and it is highly probable that this will be done. The Telegraph was given the name of the Pike county lawyer, with the privilege of writing to him if there was any doubt as to the accuracy of the statement.

Centenarian in the Faith.
The oldest minister in continuous service in the United States is the Rev. James Needham of Glaston county, N. C., who will be 100 next May. He has been continuously in the pulpit and still preaches.