THE EVENING NEWS.

Monday, . . November 29, 1869.

THE WONDERS OF ELECTRICITY.

The following,—the climax of all sensation stories ever printed, is now going the rounds of the press. Munchausen and Gulliver are completely thrown into the shade by it.

On the 18th of April 1868, in the prison of Villerica, (Province of Minas Geraes) in Brazil, two men named Averio and Carines were executed at the same time. In Brazil, executions take place with closed doors, in the interior of the prison. Dr. Lorenzo y Carmo, of Rio Janeiro, well known by accounts for his remarkable works on electricity applied to physiology, his surgical skill, and his success in auto-plastic operations, obtained permission to profit by this event, in order to experiment on the power of electricity, and to illustrate its analogy with some of the phenomena of life. The numerous experiments hitherto attempted have been made on the head and trunk separately. Dr. Lorenzo y Carmo's design was, if possible, to unite the head to the neck after decapitation.

The heads of the two criminals fell within a few minutes of each other into the same basket—first that of Carines, then that of Averio. Immediately after this second execution, a compression was effected by a pupil of Dr. Lorenzo on the carotid arteries of one of the heads so as to stop the hemorrhage. The body was then placed on a bed already prepared and Dr. Lorenzo stuck the head as exactly as possible on the section and kept it in that position. The cells of a powerful electric pile were applied to the base of the neck and on the breast. Under this influence, as in former experiments, the respiratory movements were perceptible. As the blood, which penetrated in abundance through the surface of the scar, threatened to stop the passage of air, Dr. Lorenzo had recourse to tracheotomy. Respiration then ensued regularly. The head was fastened to the body by stitches and by a special apparatus. The physiologist wished to ascertain for how long a time the appearance of life could thus be artificially maintained.

His astonishment was great when he saw that, at the end of two hours, not only did respiration still continue under the influence of the electric current, but that circulation had even resumed a certain regularity. The pulse beat feebly, but sensibly. The experiment was continued without intermission. At the end of sixty-two hours, it was evident, to the astonishment of every one, that a process of cicatrization had commenced on the lips of the section. A little later, signs of life manifested themselves spontaneously in the head and limbs, till then deprived of motion. At this moment the director of the prison, arriving for the first time in the experiment-room, observed that, by a singular mistake due to the haste of the operation, the head of Carines had been taken for that of Aveiro, and had been applied to the body of the latter. The experiment was continued notwithstanding. Three days later, the respiratory movements reproduced themselves and electricity was suppressed. Doctor Lorenzo y Carmo and his assistants were stupefied, frightened at a result so unexpected, and at the power of an agent which, in their hands had restored life to a body whose right to exist the law had forfeited.

The learned surgeon, who had only had in view a simple physiological experiment, employed all his skill to continue the work, which science, aided by Nature, had so singularly commenced. He assisted the process of cicatrization, which progressed under the most favorable conditions. By means of an œsophagian probe liquor nourishment was introduced into the stomach. At the end of about three months, the cicatrization was complete, and motion, though still difficult, became more and more extended. At length, at the end of seven months and a half, Aveiro Carines was able to rise and walk, feeling only a slight stiffness in the neck, and a feebleness of the limbs.—Annales de la Chirurgie Etrangere.

In giving an account of the eating of a French soldier by cannibals, the London Daily News says:

If any of us look forward to being eaten by cannibals, he may wish to be informed how he is likely to be cooked. It is a comfort to know that the savages who may devour him are by no means devoid of refinement in their culinary disposition. Some French soldiers were recently taken prisoners by the Kanaks, and one of them was killed and eaten. His comrades described the process. The Kanaks first decapitate their victim; a matter of no small difficulty considering the bluntness of their hatchets. Ten to fifteen blows are necessary. The body is then hung up to a tree by the feet, and the blood allowed to run out for an hour. Meanwhile a hole a yard and a half deep and a yard wide is dug in the ground. The hole is lined with stones, and then in the midst of them a great fire is lit. When the wood is burned down a little and glows with heat, it is covered over with more stones. The man is then cleaned out and divided into pieces about a foot long, the hands and feet being thrown away as worthless. The pieces of the man are placed on the leaves of a large rose tree peculiar to the tropics. The meat is surrounded with coconut, banana, and some other plants noted for their delicate flavor. The whole is tied together firmly; the fire is then removed from the pit; the meat is placed among the hot stones, and thus, carefully covered, is left to cook for an hour. Women do not partake of the warriors' feast. Men alone are permitted to enjoy so great an honor and so rare a delicacy.

Home Museum.

FRIENDS OF SCIENCE and of the progress of the Territory who choose be preserving ANIMALS and BIRDS indigenous to the Rocky Mountains, or will gladly purchase them for our Home Museum. Friends who contribute rather than sell, they will not be forgotten. We are to be found on the outside to do the interest and usefulness of the Museum will be received and properly cared for with pleasure.

For further particulars inquire of G.G.R. MANGIOVANNI, at my residence, opposite the City Hall.

JOHN W. YOUNG.