TERRIFIC VOLTAGE

BUT IT DOESN'T HURT HUMAN BODIES.

PROF. B. F. BAILEY LETS 500,000 VOLTS GO THROUGH HIM.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., March 7.—Special.—Prof. Benj. F. Bailey, in a demonstration before his class, let a half-million volt alternating current of electricity pass through his body. The current which kills at Sing Sing prison is 1,500 volts.

Prof. Bailey has robbed electricity of its deadly effects by creating a current which alternates at the rate of 435,000 times a second.

He performed his startling experiments with a current from the laboratory generators of about 133,000 alternations a second. This current was run through two "stepup" generators, which increasd th rat of altrnaion.

Two students were called from the class to the front of the room. An ordinary electric light, suspended on a two-foot length of wire bare of insulation, was handd to them. Each grasped an end of the naked wire in his bare hand, and the pair stood swinging the light between them like a boy and a girl holding a pail. Their other hands were connected with the 500,000-volt current. Prof. Bailey turned the current on and the swinging electric lamp suddenly glowed, then lighted the darkened room.



PROF. BENJ. F. BAILEY,
Who Demonstrates the Harmlessness of a 500,000-Volt Current of Electricity.

Prof. Bailey himself took hold of the bare wires, which were purposely separated so that no current could possibly pass except through his body. If one of the "stepup" transformers had failed to work at that moment, he would have grasped his own death warrant. The spectators held their breaths, but both transformers were working. Calmly Prof. Bailey described his sensations.

"There is no sensation except a slight feeling of warmth in my wrists, due probably to the fact that the great amount of bone at that point crowds the current some, as it rushes through the flesh," he said. "If I should keep only a loose grasp on those wires I should feel a light pricking sensation in my hands."

There is a theory that because of its extremely rapid alternations the current has no time for deadly effect. No one professes to understand the phenomenon fully, however. Though the current is harmless, it possesses the possibility of great practical use.

In a darkened room, Prof. Bailey placed the ends of the wire in communication with two zinc plates, which were set up facing each other about three feet apart. A gray, milky looking haze was seen between the plates. A glass bulb, the interior of which was a vacuum, when held anywhere in the space between the plates, was filled with a white light of several candle power. This is Nicola Tesla's scheme for lighting the homes of the future, by making the two opposite walls of a room great zinc plates.

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