

A "PEACEFUL HANGING" HIS DUE.

Scientists Will Not Be Allowed to Experiment with Holmes.

PHILADELPHIA, April 7.—Hundreds of applications have been made to Sheriff Clement for permission to witness the execution of H. H. Holmes, who is to hang on May 7 for the killing of Benjamin F. Petzel, but without a doubt the most interesting of these requests is that of Dr. Arthur MacDonald, the head of the Psycho-Neurological Department of the National Bureau of Education in Washington.

Dr. MacDonald has a world-wide reputation as a psych-neurologist. His principal study has been among criminals. Science and ingenuity have contrived an instrument which is known in scientific laboratories as the kymographion. This is an instrument for recording, in visible lines, human emotion. With this machine the scientist wishes to ascertain the emotions of the convicted murderer just before he goes on the gallows. It is predicted that the result will show whether or not Holmes is at all agitated over his taking-off.

Mr. MacDonald wrote to Sheriff Clement and the Inspectors of the county prison, asking for permission to attend the execution and experiment upon the murderer. He explained that it was in the interest of science and that he was acting in his official capacity. But the authorities have refused to grant the doctor's request. Holmes himself was consulted in the matter, and he declined to submit to such examinations. The Sheriff said the prisoner was entitled to a "quiet, peaceful hanging."

The time of the condemned man nowadays is taken up chiefly with efforts to dispose of a statement which he has written, purporting to be a true autobiography, or, "confession," as it is called. There was some lively bidding for this document by New-York newspapers. One of them, it is reported, has secured it for a large sum, and its publication is looked for soon. There are several alleged statements abroad in the land, and newspaper readers may look for fac simile statements in the prisoner's handwriting, and all sorts of alleged interviews with him from now until the day of his execution.