

## A Study of Lynchings.

An interesting study of lynchings in the United States is made by Mr. J. Elbert Cutler of the graduate school of Yale university and summarized by the Philadelphia Press. Mr. Cutler has collected statistics concerning mob violence extending over twenty-one years and the results are not flattering to national pride. The author goes at some length into the question of cause, but, like most who have approached the subject, tacitly admits that to suggest a remedy is beyond him.

There were 3,233 lynchings, in one form or another, in this country in the twenty-one years ending Jan. 1, 1903. Of these victims 1,872 were Negroes and 1,256 whites, the color of 105 not being stated. On an average 89 blacks and 59 whites have been lynched every year. Sixty-one women, 38 colored and 21 white, have been victims of mobs' wrath in the period under consideration.

It is significant that the number of lynchings in the south has steadily decreased in the past ten years. The spread of education in general and the growth of anti-lynching societies in particular are given the credit for this gratifying showing. Only 35 per cent. of the Negroes and 16 per cent. of the whites were lynched for assaults upon women. Contrary to the general impression only about half of these lynchings took place in the south, the far west being credited with a majority of the balance.

Mr. Cutler, attempting to explain the prevalence of mob violence in this country and its relative absence in older nations, says that lynching is resorted to here to terrorize the lawless rather than in a spirit of vengeance. The author maintains that Americans are not less law abiding than other peoples, but that they have less confidence in the law's administration. He continues: