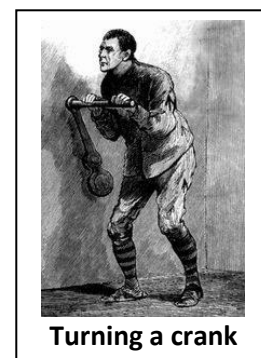
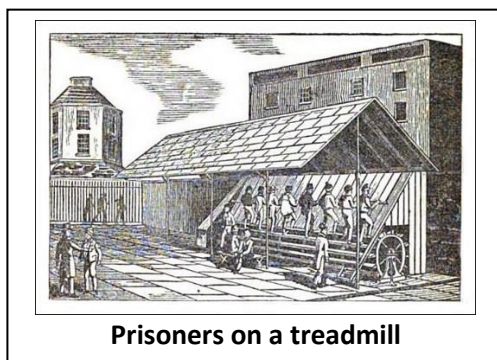


Christie Edmunds and the Victorian era

- Christie Edwards (full name Christiana) was born in 1828 in Margate, Kent. Her father, William, was an architect, and the family was wealthy.
- Christie's story takes place in the late 1860s, during the reign of Queen Victoria (1837 – 1901).
- A police force had been set up in 1829 and constables armed with truncheons now patrolled towns and cities, helping to keep order and make arrests.
- Crimes of murder or treason were still punished with death (usually hanging), but the usual punishment for most other crimes was prison. Transportation had become less common, as Australians were fed up of having so many criminals dumped there!
- Prisons were grim, unpleasant places where inmates had to spend hours doing exhausting, pointless tasks such as walking on a treadmill or turning a heavy handle called a crank.



- The Victorians were fascinated by crime. Some people were interested because they wanted to improve the treatment of criminals. Others just loved a juicy murder story! Perhaps the most famous Victorian criminal was Jack the Ripper, who killed five women but was never caught.

