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THE

NEW ORLEANS

CREMATION SOCIETY,

OFFICE, No. 30 CARONDELET ST., NEW ORLEANS.

—(o)—

1885

OFFICERS:

F. FORMENTO, M. D.,	-	President.
J. ARONI, Esq.,	-	Vice-President.
EUGENE H. LEVY,	.	Secretary and Treasurer.

—(o)—

DIRECTORS:

Dr. FELIX FORMENTO,	JULIUS ARONI,
B. R. FORMAN,	C. L. WALKER,
Dr. L. H. Von GOHREN,	GEO. NICHOLSON,
J. J. MUGNIER.	



NEW ORLEANS:

PICAYUNE JOB PRINT, 66 CAMP STREET.

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THE

NEW ORLEANS CREMATION

SOCIETY.

OFFICE, No. 30 CARONDELET STREET,
NEW ORLEANS.

OFFICERS:

F. FORMENTO, M. D., - - PRESIDENT.
J. ARONI, Esq., - - VICE-PRESIDENT.
EUGENE H. LEVY, - SEC'Y AND TREASURER.

DIRECTORS:

DR. FELIX FORMENTO, JULIUS ARONI,
B. R. FORMAN, Esq., C. L. WALKER,
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J. J. MUGNIER.

NEW ORLEANS:
PICAYUNE JOB PRINT, 66 CAMP STREET.
1885.

ROLL OF MEMBERSHIP.

APPLETON, NATH'N, Boston, Mass.	HOPKINS, JNO. P.
ARONI, JULIUS	HUDSON, E. M.
ANTOINE, EUGENE	KENNEDY, DR. S. D.
ANDRY, M.	KATZENSTEIN, D.
BEUGLESS, DR. J. D., of Brook- lyn, N. Y.	KOHNKE, QUITMAN
BUCKLEY, H. P.	KOHN, JOS.
BARBIER, E.	LEVY, E. H.
BERCEAGAY, A.	LOEBER, DR. F.
BEAUREGARD, Gen'l. G. T.	LARENDON, C. A.
BEAUREGARD, RENE	MUGNIER, J. J.
CHAMPON, C. E.	MAILHES, J. A.
CHAVIERE, E. C.	MOFFETT, A. W.
CENAS, L. E.	MOJONNIER, DR. J. F.
CHIAPELLA, H.	MAXWELL, THOS. L.
CHRISTOFORIS, De DR. of Milan, Italy.	NORTON, W. F. Jr., of Louisville, Ky.
CHAILLE, PROF. S. E.	NORES, E. D.
DUCROS, E. O.	NICHOLSON, GEO.
ESTEEN, A.	NAEF, L.
FORMENTO, DR. FELIX	POTTS, JNO. C.
FORMAN, B. R.	PINI, DR. G., of Milan, Italy.
FREUND, GEO. A.	ROBINSON, W. M.
FEARN, WALKER	ROBINSON, MRS. W. M.
FERGUSON, J. H.	SURGI, E. D.
GENTIL, J.	SAUCIER, HON. A. D.
GOGREVE, H. R.	VON GOHREN, DR. L. H.
GIRLING, N. R.	WALKER, C. L.
GREGG, WM.	WERLEIN, P. P.
GREGG, MRS. ADA	WEBER, L.
HYVER, G. A.	WILLIAMS, GEO. A.
HEARSEY, H. J.	WEST, DR. JAS.
	WALKER, DR. J. R.



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CHARTER.

STATE OF LOUISIANA, }
PARISH OF ORLEANS, CITY OF NEW ORLEANS. }

BE IT KNOWN, That on this fourteenth day of February, in the year of our Lord One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighty-Four, and of the independence of the United States of America, the One Hundred and Eightb, before me, Nicholas Browse Trist, a Notary Public, in and for the Parish of Orleans, State of Louisiana, duly commissioned and qualified, and in the presence of the witnesses hereinafter named and undersigned,

Personally came and appeared the persons whose names are hereunto subscribed, who declared that, availing themselves of the provisions of the laws of this State relative to the organization of corporations for literary, scientific, religious and charitable purposes, they have contracted and agreed, and by these presents do covenant, agree and bind themselves, as well as such persons as may hereafter become associated with them, to form and constitute a corporation and body politic for the objects and purposes, and under the agreements and stipulations following, to wit :

ARTICLE I.

The name and title of the corporation shall be "THE NEW ORLEANS CREMATION SOCIETY ;" it shall exist for the period of ninety-nine years, unless sooner dissolved by the action of the corporators.

ARTICLE II.

The domicile of said Corporation shall be in the city of New Orleans, State of Louisiana, and all citations or other legal process shall be served upon the President of this Corporation, and, in his absence, on the Vice-President.

ARTICLE III.

The objects and purposes for which this Corporation is established, are the following, to-wit :

1st. By scientific research and investigation, to ascertain and demonstrate the importance and necessity to society of incineration, as the best method of disposing of the bodies of the dead ; and in pursuance thereof

2d. To make known to the people the dangers to public health resulting from the mode of burial generally practised all over the country, more particularly the special dangers to a city like New Orleans, from the peculiar method followed here.

3d. To demonstrate the advantage of cremation over all other modes of disposing of the dead, in a sanitary, social and economical point of view.

4th. To remove all prejudices which there may be against the introduction of cremation in our midst, and to prove that cremation can be practised without in the least wounding religious sentiment or susceptibilities.

5th. To obtain information in regard to the different methods of cremation and their respective costs.

6th. To obtain, if necessary, proper legislative enactments on the subject of cremation, providing for the disposal of bodies, especially those whose death resulted from contagious or infectious diseases, and especially in small-pox hospitals and other public institutions.

7th. To procure necessary funds for the erection of a crematorium in the city of New Orleans, and for its management under proper sanitary regulations.

ARTICLE IV.

The business and affairs of this Corporation shall be under the management and superintendence of a Board of Directors, composed of seven members, who shall be elected annually by ballot, on the first Monday of February of each year, any four of whom shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business; and until an election is held, as hereiu provided for, the following members shall constitute the first Board of Directors, and shall hold office until the first Monday of February, 1885, and until their successors shall have been installed, viz: Dr. F. Formento, Julius Aroni, Geo. Nicholson, A. D. Saucier, C. L. Walker, D. H. Von Gohreu, J. J. Mugnier, and Dr. F. Formento shall be President, and Julius Aroni, Vice-President.

At their first meeting after their election, the seven Directors shall elect two of their members President and Vice-President. The President shall preside at all meetings of the Board of Directors and meetings of members. In his absence the Vice-President shall perform those duties.

The Board of Directors shall also elect a person to be Secretary and Treasurer, who shall give bond, and the Directors shall adopt such by-laws as may be necessary for the management of the business of said Corporation.

ARTICLE V.

No member shall ever be held liable or responsible for the contracts or suits of said Corporation, nor shall any mere informality in organization have the effect of rendering this charter null, or of exposing a member to any liability beyond any dues or assessments he may owe to said Corporation.

ARTICLE VI.

This act of incorporation may be modified or amended, and this Corporation dissolved, with the assent of two-thirds of the members present or represented at a general meeting convened for such purpose, after thirty days' prior notice of such meeting shall have been published in one or more daily papers published in New Orleans. And in case of the dissolution of said Corporation, its affairs shall be liquidated under the superintendence of three members elected for that purpose, at such general meeting, whose duties and compensation shall be fixed by said meeting.

This done and passed in office, at New Orleans, the day, month and year first above written, in the presence of Adolphe Demarest, Jr., and Leon L. Labatt, competent witnesses, residing in this city, who hereunto sign their names, with the appearers and me, Notary, after reading of the whole:

(Original Signed :

STANFORD CHAILLE,	F. FORMENTO,
JULIUS ARONI,	EUGENE H. LEVY,
B. R. FORMAN,	C. L. WALKER,
L. H. VON GOHREN,	L. L. LABATT,
J. J. MUGNIER,	A. DEMAREST, JR.
N. B. TRIST, Notary Public.	

BY-LAWS

OF THE

NEW ORLEANS CREMATION SOCIETY

ARTICLE I.

“THE NEW ORLEANS CREMATION SOCIETY” shall comprise both active and honorary members. There shall be two classes of active members, life and annual members.

The life members shall be those who donate \$100 to the Society, and they shall not be subject to any dues.

Annual members shall pay an initiation fee of two dollars, and dues of six dollars per annum, payable fifty cents monthly. Any member who has neglected to pay his dues for three months shall be notified by the Secretary; and should the amount due be not paid in thirty days, his name shall be dropped from the roll.

ARTICLE II.

All active members in good standing shall be qualified for election or appointment to any official position in the Society, to vote at any election, and to vote and debate at any general meeting.

ARTICLE III.

Honorary membership may be conferred by the Board of Directors upon persons who have promoted cremation, either theoretically or practically.

ARTICLE IV.

Every application for membership must be made in regular form, signed by the applicant, and endorsed by two members of the Society; it must also be accompanied by the initiation fee, and shall require a majority of the votes of the members present.

ARTICLE V.

OFFICERS.

The Board of Directors shall exercise the powers usually delegated by the members of the Society, together with such special prerogatives as may be conferred by the members in meeting assembled.

ARTICLE VI.

All elections of officers shall be by ballot, and a majority of the votes cast shall be necessary for a choice.

ARTICLE VII.

DUTIES OF OFFICERS.

The President shall preside over all meetings of the Society and direct the order of business. He shall countersign all orders drawn by the Treasurer for the disbursement of money.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

The duties of the Vice-President shall be to assist the President in the discharge of his duties, and in his absence, to preside over the deliberations of the Board of Directors and general meetings.

SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

The Secretary-Treasurer shall conduct the general correspondence of the Society, record the proceedings of the Society and the Board of Directors, receive all papers and documents addressed to the Society, and make a proper record of same. He shall issue notices of all meetings, keep the seal and records of the Society, receive and receipt for all moneys and keep a correct account of same in proper books. He shall give a bond satisfactory to the Board of Directors in the sum of \$5000.

He shall make a semi-annual report of the fiscal condition of the Society, and other reports as to finances, whenever the President or a majority of the Board of Directors may demand it. His term of office shall be for one year, and until his successor shall have qualified, and his compensation for services shall be determined by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII.

VACANCIES.

In case of a vacancy in any office, whether by death, resignation, or other cause, the President shall call a meeting of the Board of Directors, who shall proceed to fill the vacancy until the next annual meeting thereafter.

ARTICLE IX.

MEETINGS.

Regular meetings of the Society shall be held at such place as may be determined on by the Board of Directors, on the first Wednesday of each month. Special meetings may be called by the Board of Directors whenever it shall be deemed advisable; and the President shall call a meeting upon the written request of five members of the Society, who shall designate the object of the call. At any general meeting fifteen members shall constitute a quorum.

ORDER OF BUSINESS.

At all regular meetings of the Society the business shall be conducted in the following order :

1. Reading of Minutes.
 2. Reports of Officers.
 3. Reports of Committees.
 4. Communications from Board of Directors.
 5. Proposals for Membership.
 6. Election of Members.
 7. Unfinished Business.
 8. New Business.
 9. Adjournment
-

At a general meeting of the New Orleans Cremation Society, held on February 20th, 1884, the following resolutions were offered by Mr. Julius Aroni, and adopted :

Resolved, That when the subscription amounts to the sum of \$2000, the New Orleans Cremation Society be authorized to issue stock for the purpose of raising the necessary funds for the erection of a Crematory, and the life members who have paid \$100 shall be entitled to ten shares of stock ; that the active annual members shall be entitled to a number of shares as will represent the actual amount of money paid in by them.

Resolved, That every member and shareholder of the New Orleans Cremation Society shall be entitled to cremation at the expense of the Society.

CREMATION.

A THOROUGH EXPOSE OF THE DANGER OF EARTH AND OF
INTRA-MURAL BURIALS.

By Dr. FELIX FORMENTO.

THE SUBJECT OF CREMATION

is one of very great importance to New Orleans, and it is rather surprising that it has so far received but little attention from sanitarians. Cremation is, perhaps, more needed here than anywhere else. In fact, whether it be from necessity, on account of the want of a suitable soil, or from custom and routine, burial in the ground, as generally practiced all over the world, is very seldom or ever seen among us. In place of

this objectionable practice a still more abominable one prevails almost exclusively—that of intra-mural burial in over-crowded cemeteries, situated mostly in the very heart of this great city.

These modes of burial—the intra-mural practice particularly—are, no doubt, one of the principal causes which tend to increase the unhealthfulness of New Orleans, and swell up its death rate. It is time to put an end to these dangerous practices. In order to make our city healthy and pleasant, local sanitation and proper precautions against the introduction of foreign diseases should go hand in hand. If a rigid system of quarantine is absolutely necessary here, local sanitation is not of less importance. New Orleans requires a complete change in its sanitary local conditions, in order to compete with other cities. Hygiene and sanitation are now in every country the order of the day; it absorbs the thoughts of Governments and individuals. We have here many nuisances to abate, among which the most serious, perhaps, is our system of disposing of the dead.

In studying a question of such vital importance to the whole community, we should endeavor

TO DISCARD SENTIMENTALITY.

and deal with facts only. We should consider them, as they exist, in their stern reality and significance. Sanitary science on this subject, as on several others, has dispelled many illusions and has revealed to us truths, which although, perhaps, not altogether palatable, command nevertheless all our attention, and require thorough investigation. From the very moment the vital spark abandons an organized living body, be it man or the lowest animal, putrefaction begins its slow and loathsome process; it gradually passes through all its stages until all the elements of the decomposing bodies are finally set free by a process of slow combustion. This process may last, according to circumstances, especially according to the nature of the earth or soil in which it takes place, ten, twenty, fifty and even hundreds of years! Slowly but surely all the materials composing our bodies must burn. * * * Combustion is nature's process to restore to the elements all material bodies. While the slow process of decomposition and putrefaction is going on, every particle of matter around it is being saturated and infected with germs of disease and death. "No dead body," says Sir Henry Thompson, "is ever placed in the soil,"—we may add or in a vault above ground—"without polluting the earth, the air, and the water above and around it." All decomposing bodies generate, besides water and fixed minerals, carbonic acid, sulphuretted and carburetted hydrogen, ammonia and other offensive organic vapors. Myriads and myriads of *bacteria*, the species of which are innumerable, are developed in the decomposing body, and, according to Pasteur's experiments, are brought to the surface by earth worms. Imagine this process of putrefaction taking place in our own warm, damp and semi-tropical atmosphere, in a soil like ours, so porous, so easily infiltrated, so liable to absorb and carry to long distances all those varied and deadly products of decomposition; or again, in the imperfectly closed vaults above ground, with putrid liquids oozing out through the crevices, and poisonous fœtid emanations corrupting the

atmosphere around!

THE DANGER OF CONTAMINATION

of wells, fountains and running water in and around burial grounds is well known. This contamination sometimes extends to quite a distance and is a source of far greater danger than is generally supposed. These waters present a sparkling and seductive appearance—due to a large proportion of nitrates and nitrites, which makes them still more dangerous. "It is a well ascertained fact," says the London Lancet, "that the surest carrier and the most deadly fruitful aiders of zymotic contagion is this brilliant enticing-looking water, charged with the products of decomposition"

This danger from pollution of soil, air and water by decomposing bodies exists at all times, but during epidemics becomes threatening indeed. The bodies of those who die of contagious or infectious diseases are a source of alarming danger not only during life, but long after they have been buried according to prevailing custom.

In fact, has not the existence of living animalcules been already demonstrated in living animals suffering from virulent maladies, as well as in the bodies of the same long after death? Are these animalcules not susceptible of reproduction and development *ad infinitum*?

A few facts which we read in a very able paper, on "Incineration," by John D. Beugless, President of the New York Cremation Society, will render the danger we speak of still more striking and alarmingly significant.

"Upon the authority of the eminent Drs. Koch, of Germany, and Ewart and Carpenter, of England, it is stated that the blood of the animals dying of splenic pox may be dried and kept for years, and pulverized into dust, and yet the disease germs survive with power to produce infection."

DR. DOMINGO FREIRE.

of Rio de Janeiro, while investigating the causes of a recent epidemic of yellow fever, "came upon the dreadful fact that the soil of the cemeteries in which the victims of the outbreak were buried was positively alive with microbian organisms exactly identical with those found in the vomitings and blood of those who had died in the hospital of yellow fever." This characteristic parasite, says Dr. Freire, permeates the soil of cemeteries even to the very surface. From a foot under ground he gathered a sample of the earth overlying the remains of a person who had been buried about a year before; and though it showed nothing remarkable in appearance or smell, under the microscope it proved to be thickly charged with those yellow fever germs. The cemeteries, therefore, Dr. Freire pronounces, "nurseries of yellow fever," the perennial foci of the disease.

The plague at Modena, in 1828, was shown by Prof. Bianchi to be due to excavations made where victims of the plague were interred three hundred years before; and the terrible violence of the cholera in London, in 1854, is charged to the upturning of the soil wherein the plague stricken of 1665 were buried.

These facts prove conclusively that soils saturated with the emanations of decomposing bodies retain for an indefinite period of time their infecting properties, and continue for generations to be

AN ALARMING SOURCE OF DANGER.

We have examples of this in our own country. Washington Square, New York, was at one time the Potter's Field. In 1806 the graveyard of that city was abolished, and it was converted into a public square. Well, for years following, according to the statement of old physicians, it was almost impossible to raise children on the ground floors of houses in that vicinity. (Beugless.) An aged and reliable citizen of our city has repeatedly assured me that during the terrible epidemic of cholera, which desolated New Orleans in 1832, chickens feeding on and around the burial places, where thousands of dead bodies were hurriedly buried, fell dead, poisoned by the fatal emanations arising from the soil.

Are not all these facts sufficient to prove the disastrous results, the terrible consequences that may arise from the practice of earth, or still worse, of vault burials? Modern sanitary science teaches us a sure and easy method of avoiding all these evils—that method is cremation. It is simply an imitation of nature's process, viz: combustion or oxidation, but nature's process reduced to a few hours instead of years and centuries, and rendered perfectly safe and innocuous to the living. It is nature's remedy facilitated, hastened and purified, instead of slow and dangerous decomposition.

When the question will be once understood, when prejudice and ignorance will have yielded to reason and science, cremation will at once become adopted all over the civilized world. It has already, within the last few years, made sure and rapid progress in Europe. Without overlooking the historical fact that cremation was already in vogue during the Roman Empire, we shall simply recall the extraordinary development this practice of disposing of the dead has taken within the last twenty years. It was in 1849, in Germany, that this question of

CREMATION AS ACTUALLY PRACTICED,

was first scientifically discussed and advocated by Grimm, Moleschott and others. Previous to this, however, a *memoir* in favor of cremation had been addressed to the French Government, in the year 5 of the Republic, by Legrand d'Aussy. Under the Empire, thousands of French soldiers, who had perished during the disastrous retreat from Moscow, were burned by the Russians; and in 1814, after the battles around Paris, more than four thousand dead bodies were *incinerated* at Montfaucon during the space of fourteen days, to prevent infection. * * The same was done after the battle of Sedan, in 1870. Since 1876 cremation has been introduced in almost every country in Europe and America. It has made more rapid progress in Italy than anywhere else. That country contains no less than thirty cremation societies; the most important and most active is in Milan. The best apparatus and the finest crematories are to be found there. There are in the United States no less than ten regularly organized Societies; the most important is that of New York, under the presidency of J. D. Beugless, Esq., organized in 1881. During the inter-

national congress of hygiene at Geneva, the Lemoyne apparatus used in America was said to be much inferior to the apparatus of Gorini, Siemens, Polli and others used in Europe.

In Germany, Italy, Austria, etc., these apparatuses have been adopted in preference to every other. Cremating temples, of heautiful monumental architecture, have been built in many large cities of Europe, in Italy particularly. The process generally followed is thus described: The body is borne into the chapel and placed on a catafalque which stands in front of the altar. The section of the chapel floor upon which the body rests constitutes the floor of a lift or elevator. As the funeral service proceeds, the elevator invisibly and noiselessly descends, bearing the body to the basement directly in front of the incinerator, which by means of superheated air, has been raised to a white heat within, at a temperature of about 1500° Fahrenheit. As the door of the incinerator is opened to receive the body the in-rushing cold air cools it to a delicate rose tint; and the body, resting on a metallic bed, covered with a cloth of asbestos or of linen soaked in alum, passes over rollers into the bath of rosy light. Immediately it becomes incandescent, in which condition it remains until incineration is complete. This requires about an hour per hundred pounds of the original weight. There remains only a few handfuls of pure, pearly ashes, equivalent to about five per cent of the original. These are dropped by means of a lever into the ash-chamber below, and are

DRAWN THENCE INTO AN URN.

of terra cotta, marble, alabaster, or other suitable material, and returned by means of the elevator to the catafalque. The service or ceremony being now over, the friends of the deceased find the ashes just where they had last seen the body of the departed, and may bear them thence to the columbarium or mortuary chapel, or set them on the border and plant violets, hearts-ease and forget-me-nots in them, from year to year.

No fuel or flames of foreign substance come in contact with the body. The process is accompanied with no perceptible sound, or smell, or smoke, absolutely nothing that can offend the sensibilities of the most fastidious. All the smoke and volatile products of combustion are passed through a regenerating furnace before being turned loose into the air, and are absolutely purified. Scarcely an instance is known of any one having witnessed the process, as thus conducted, who has not at once become a pronounced convert to cremation, whatever may have been his pre-existing prejudice. (Bengless.) Connected with the crematory are rooms for post-mortem examinations and medico-legal researches, when deemed necessary.

There are sufficient reasons of a purely sanitary character to secure gradually the more general extension of cremation in all civilized countries. But, apart from these sanitary arguments, there are many other reasons in its favor over all other methods of disposing of our dead. Among these reasons we shall simply mention a few.

The practice of cremation renders impossible the desecration of tombs

and the theft of dead bodies, examples of which have been quite frequent of late in our country. Be it sufficient to recall the theft of the body of the late millionaire, A. T. Stewart, of New York, and the attempts made to steal the bodies of Presidents Lincoln and Garfield, without mentioning the many instances of body-snatching for the purpose of dissection, etc.

With that system in vogue, the danger of being buried alive will no longer prey on our imagination. This danger is not chimerical. In a recent work published in Italy on the dangers of premature inhumations, no less than sixty-five well authenticated cases of burials of living persons are related. In this country there is scarcely a day but that the newspapers chronicle a case of resurrection from what seemed to be the sleep of death—and how often there is no resurrection! Who has penetrated the secrets of the vault! Only a few days ago, we read the harassing news that a young lady (Mary Cox) of Springfield, West Virginia, had been buried alive! The day after the burial the grave was opened at the solicitation of one of her friends who insisted that the girl was not dead and, to the horror of all, it was found that she had been buried alive. The lining was torn from the sides of the coffin, and the pillow was in shreds. The poor girl had literally stripped the clothes from her body. Her arms and hands were torn and bleeding, her lips were bitten through, and handfuls of hair were torn from her head. The girl had come to life and evidently made a fearful struggle to escape!

Again, cremation offers the advantage, the consolation of being able to preserve and transport the ashes of those we have loved. Many of us will heartily join Rev. Burke Lambert, of England, in his opinion, when he said recently: "I have lost three very dear kinsfolk in

REMOTE QUARTERS OF THE EARTH,

and I would give everything I could command if I could receive their ashes and keep them by me in a vase."

RELIGIOUS CONSIDERATIONS.

It is difficult to understand why the religious question should enter into the subject of cremation, any more than question of drainage, sewerage, paving of streets, or other sanitary measures. Yet the greatest objection to the practice of cremation is based upon unfounded and unreasonable religious prejudices.

Cremation is nothing else but a very simple method of reducing the human body to its constituent elements without injurious consequences to humanity. It is in strict conformity with the laws of nature, and merely accomplishes in a few minutes that which putrefaction would take months to accomplish. Why should it be called a barbarous custom, a relic of paganism! Was not inhumation practiced by antiquity, as well as cremation? Yet the custom of burying the dead, which we owe to antiquity, as well as all other customs, such as baths, festivals, etc., has never been called a barbarous or pagan custom. And how can ignorance and fanaticism base their objections to the system of cremation on the religious idea of resurrection? Does an omnipotent God need the assistance of man to accomplish His work? Is the void of the tomb more favorable to resur-

rection than the ashes of the urn? That power which can recall to life every part and parcel of the human body, whether devoured by ferocious beasts or burnt at the stake, like the martyrs and saints, thousands of years ago, or dissolved in the waters of the sea, or which have turned to clay on many a battle field, can certainly resuscitate the ashes of the funeral urn in the hands of friends.

In all countries where cremation has been adopted it is only after all religious rites and church ceremonies have been performed that the corpse is taken to the crematorium. The process of cremation is no more incompatible with the idea of religious services to the dead than our present method of inhumation in a tomb or in the very bowels of the earth. The religious rites could be performed in the crematorium itself, in a room specially consecrated to that purpose.

In an individual, as well as in a general point of view, cremation offers another great advantage not to be despised in this utilitarian and matter-of-fact century. Cremation costs less than any other form of burial. In Italy the cost is reduced to the minimum sum of \$20. It costs less to the individual, and will eventually restore to the State or community vast amounts of valuable land now used as graveyards, and which are lost to agriculture or industry. With all these arguments—sanitary, philosophical, economical—in favor of cremation, why is it that this essentially useful and hygienic measure is not more generally adopted, in our country particularly? Is it not simply on account of the ignorance, bigotry and prejudice that surround us? Would it not be the duty and mission of hygienists, philosophers and sanitarians to attempt to enlighten the people, to advise legislation, to remove prejudice and false ideas, to prepare public opinion to the adoption of one of the greatest sanitary reforms of the age, one which is calculated to bring us excellent sanitary results—in our city more especially?

For the accomplishment of that great and useful object, a cremation society, such as exists in all enlightened communities, has been organized among us. Our people should be taught practically the great advantages of cremation; they should become more familiar with its idea, its object and its results, and for that purpose, in order sooner to generalize this practice, we should begin by adopting it in those cases of deaths from contagious diseases that inspire general fear and repulsion, such as small-pox. We should by all means prefer cremation to the potter's field and all its horrors. The reliques of the dissecting room, of the dead-houses, etc., should be properly cremated. In cases of epidemics of a contagious or infectious character, the crematory flame should be made, by law, the great purifier.

The garbage of cities should be at once cremated. It is the safest and cheapest manner of disposing of it. In one word, Cremation applies not only to the dead human body, but to animals, to garbage, to *excreta* and refuse of all sorts, to everything which is offensive or dangerous to health.

In this manner, the public will soon understand and appreciate its great advantage, and cremation once known, prejudices will be conquered and sanitary science will have made one more great step forward.



