

**Modern cremation : its history and practice with information relating to the recently improved arrangements made by the Cremation Society of England / by Sir H. Thompson.**

**Contributors**

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MODERN CREMATION

ITS HISTORY AND PRACTICE

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*a*

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.



DIET IN RELATION TO AGE  
AND ACTIVITY.

BY  
SIR HENRY THOMPSON.

NINTH THOUSAND.

LONDON: KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH & Co.,  
1, PATERNOSTER SQUARE.



MODERN CREMATION

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.



*Price One Shilling.*

CREMATION :

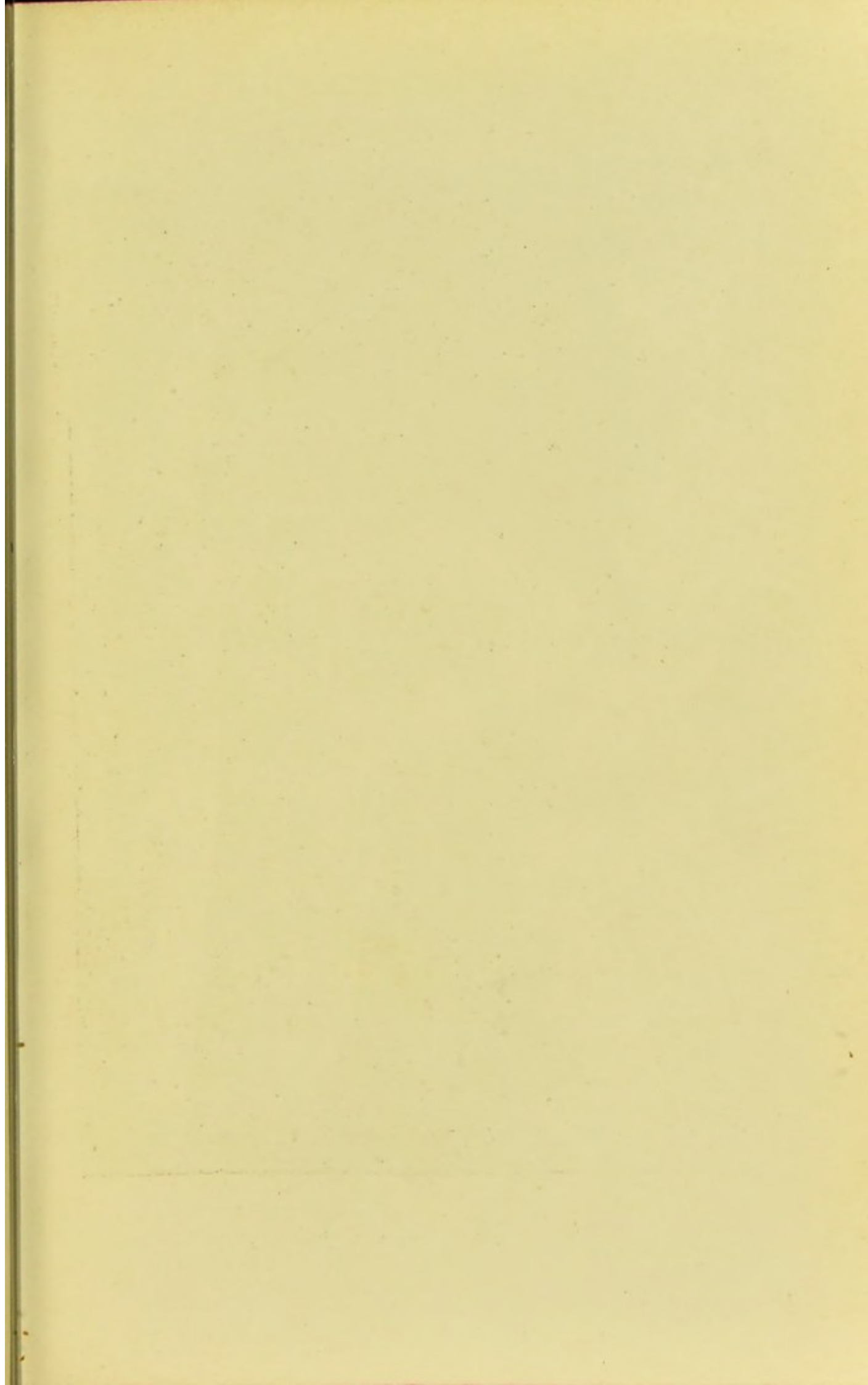
THE TREATMENT OF THE BODY AFTER DEATH.

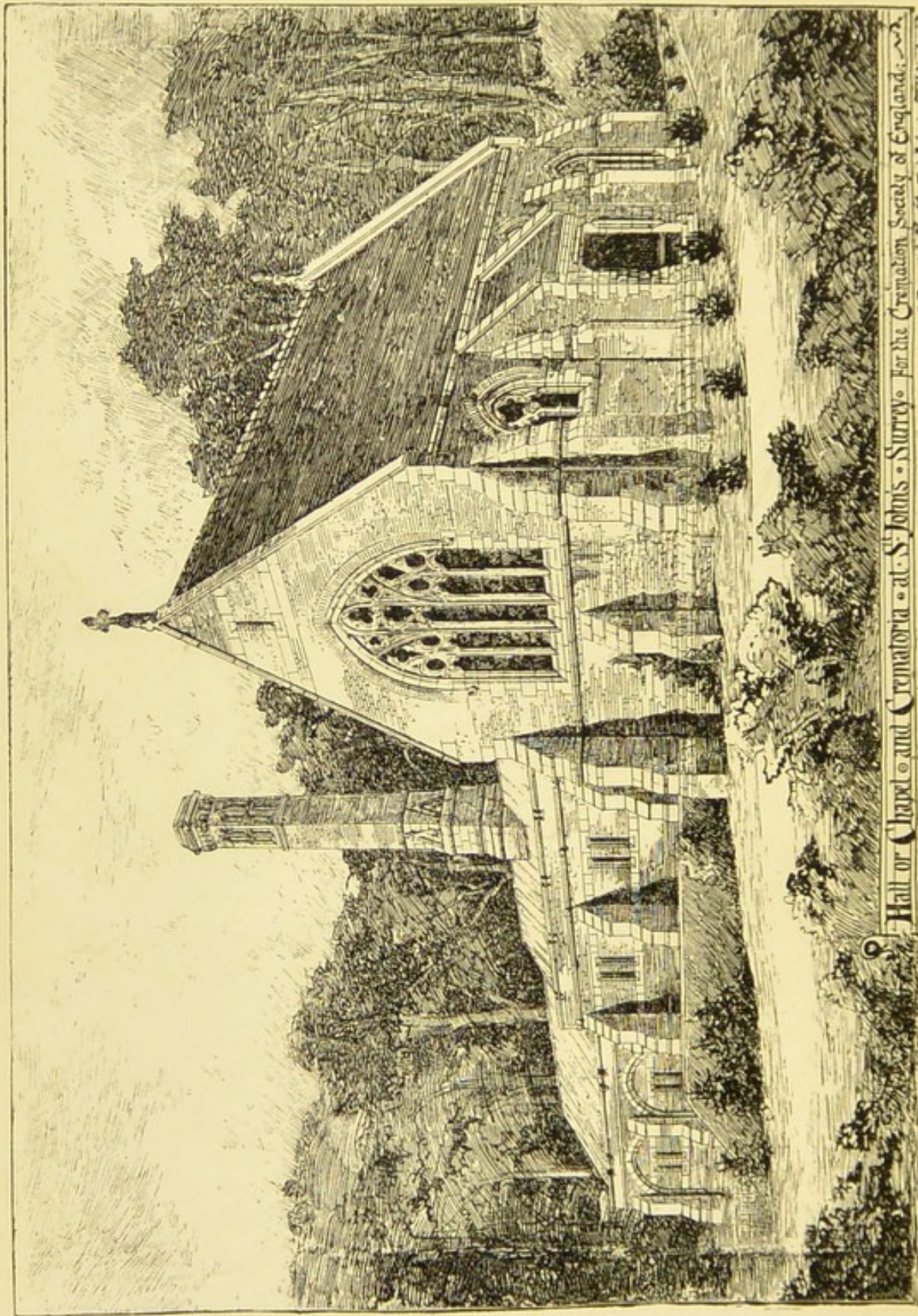
THIRD EDITION.

TOGETHER WITH A PAPER BY SIR T. SPENCER WELLS, BART.,  
AND  
THE CHARGE BY SIR JAMES STEPHEN, ON THE SAME SUBJECT.

LONDON : SMITH, ELDER & CO.



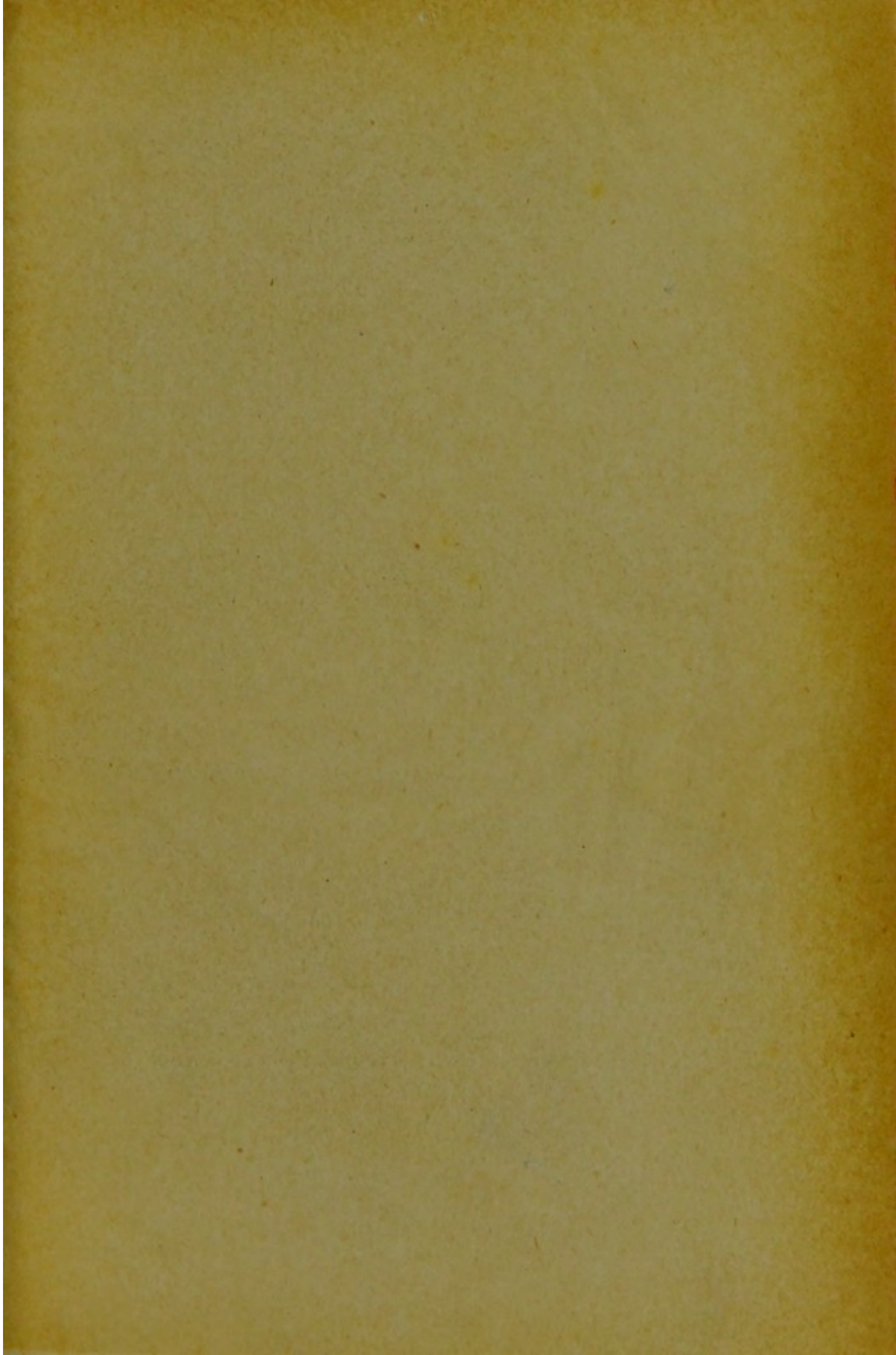


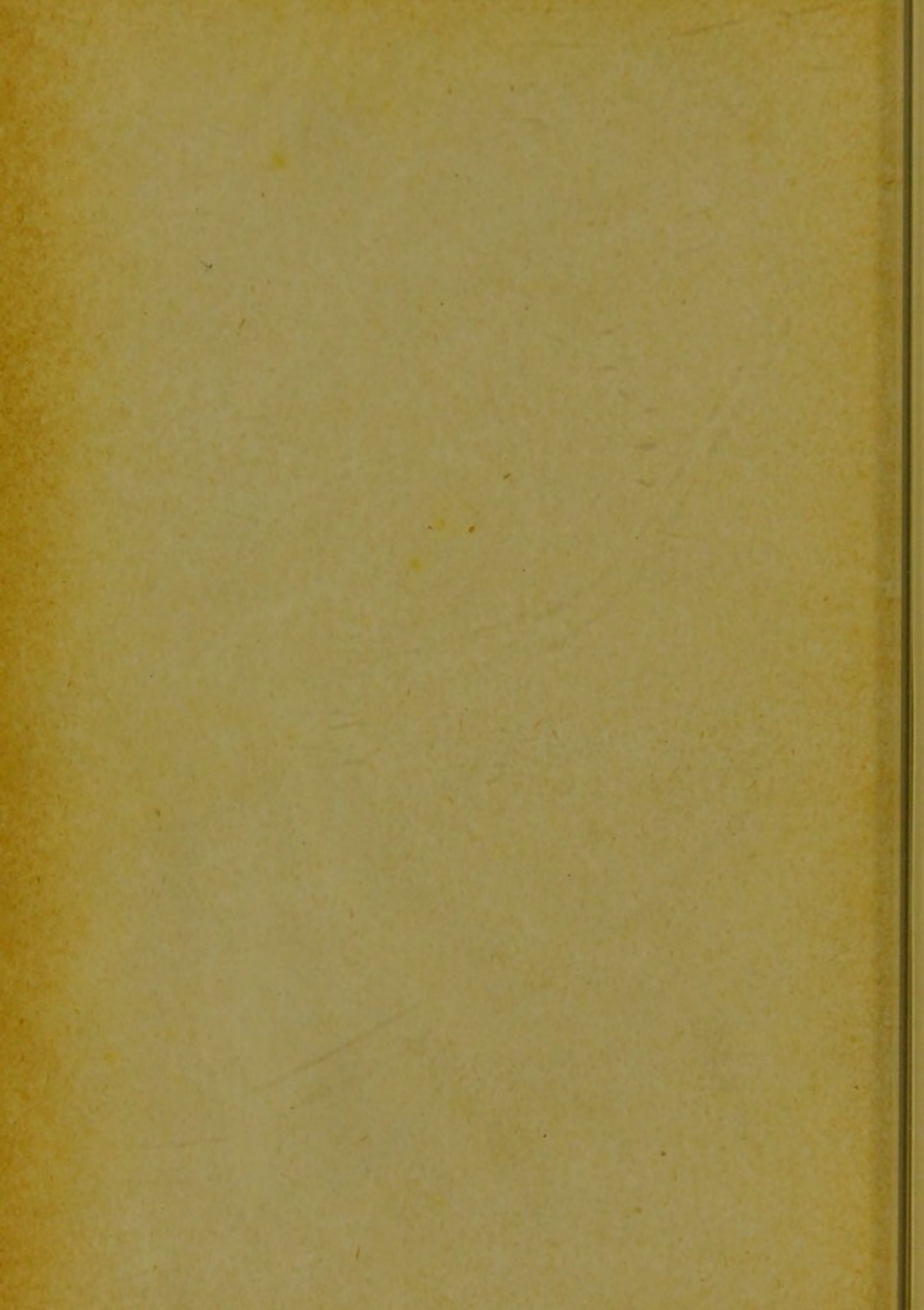


Hall or Chapel and Crematoria at St. John's Surrey. For the Cremation Society of England.

By Francis C. Gough, F.R.S., Architect.









# MODERN CREMATION

*ITS HISTORY AND PRACTICE*

WITH

INFORMATION RELATING TO THE RECENTLY  
IMPROVED ARRANGEMENTS MADE BY  
THE CREMATION SOCIETY  
OF ENGLAND

BY

SIR H. THOMPSON, F.R.C.S., M.B. LOND.

PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY, ETC.

LONDON

KEGAN PAUL, TRENCH & CO.

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## P R E F A C E.



FIFTEEN years ago cremation of the body as a substitute for burial was, in Europe and America, little more than an idea. That a generally practicable mode of accomplishing it was not difficult had recently been demonstrated in Italy. Now, notwithstanding opposition of the strongest kind, it is an already established practice in some parts of Europe, and has ceased to be a rare incident elsewhere.

A brief history of this change is presented here, based on a paper which appeared on the subject in the *Nineteenth Century* for January, 1888. This my friend Mr. Knowles kindly permits me to republish, but I have made additions to it of much fresh and important matter. For since that date the council of the Cremation Society have been happily enabled to erect new and handsome crematories at Woking, with a

chapel, and accommodation wholly wanting before.

New regulations and a greatly improved procedure naturally follow, and will be in force as soon as the new buildings are completed and fitted. All the information relating thereto, necessary to be known by intending applicants and others interested in cremation, is furnished here in detail.

One objection has been urged with great reason against the practice of cremation, viz. the possibility, by its agency, of destroying evidence of the presence of poison in the body. This is confessedly an important one; it has therefore received full and serious consideration in these pages. There is no desire to avoid this question; on the contrary, it is encountered without hesitation, or misgiving as to the result.

Lastly, the necessity for improved legal enactment in relation to the registration of deaths throughout the United Kingdom is pointed out, as well as the propriety of regulating the future practice of cremation.

HENRY THOMPSON.

LONDON, 35, WIMPOLE STREET,  
*February, 1889.*



## MODERN CREMATION.



IT is now fifteen years ago that I *First seriously*  
ventured to bring before the public *advocated here*  
the subject treated in this little *in 1874,*  
volume, in the form of an article,  
which appeared in the *Contemporary*  
*Review* in January, 1874, entitled  
“Cremation: the Treatment of the  
Body after Death.” And I advocated  
the plan there set forth based on a  
few trials abroad and illustrated by  
experiments of my own in this  
country, asserting its superiority at *and shown to*  
all events to any method by burial *be practicable.*  
in the soil. The reason assigned for  
taking this step was my belief, sup-  
ported by a striking array of facts,  
that cremation was becoming a  
necessary sanitary precaution against

the propagation of disease among a population rapidly increasing, and daily growing larger in relation to the area it occupies.

*Public opinion  
aroused,*

The degree of attention which this proposal aroused was remarkable, not only here but abroad, the paper being translated into several European languages. In the course of the first six months of that year I received eight hundred letters on the subject, from persons mostly unknown to me, requiring objections to be answered, explanations to be given, supposed consequences to be provided for; some, indeed, accompanied with much bitter criticism on the "pagan," "anti-Christian," if not altogether irreligious tendency of the plan. I was encouraged, however, to find that about a fourth of the number were more or less friendly to the proposal. But I confess I had been scarcely prepared to expect that people in general would be so much startled by it, as if it were a novelty hitherto unheard of. Long familiar with it

*and not alto-  
gether un-  
friendly.*



in thought myself, cherishing a natural preference for the manifest advantages it offers, on sanitary grounds, to burial, and after thoughtful comparison on all considerations governed by feeling or sentiment, the opposition manifested appeared to me curiously out of proportion with the importance of certain interests or predilections I had perhaps underestimated. Even the few who approved yielded for the most part a weak assent to the confident assertion of a host of opponents, that, whatever might be the fate of the theory, any realization of it could never at all events occur in our time. To use a phrase invented since that date, the proposal was not to be regarded as coming within the range of a practical policy. At some future day, when the world's population had largely increased, we might possibly be driven to submit to such a process, but, thank Heaven! the good old-fashioned resting-place in the church-yard or cemetery would amply suffice

*Regarded as a theory which*

*at some remote period might be practically useful.*

to meet all needful demands for several future generations still.

*Some active  
controversy  
followed.*

To some of the more formidable objections, especially those which had been urged by men of experience, weight, and position, entitled to be listened to with respect and attention, I endeavoured to reply in a subsequent article which appeared two months later in the same journal. Since that date, although maintaining undiminished interest in the subject, I have taken no public part in any of the numerous platform discussions and published controversies which have frequently appeared both in this country and abroad. But I think the time has come to present, as far as it is possible to do so within brief limits, a sketch of what has been accomplished here, after a patient and quiet service of twice seven years, by a few earnest friends and co-operators, in regard of the practice of cremation, and also to what extent it has been employed in other countries.

This division of the subject will be



first disposed of. But it is a matter of greater importance to meet certain objections to cremation commonly urged, as well as to formulate conditions by which the practice should be regulated in future. An endeavour to do so will occupy the concluding portion.

## I.

*History of  
cremation  
movement  
during last  
twenty years.*

*Practical ex-  
periments com-  
menced in  
Italy.*

*Results shown  
at the Vienna  
Exhibition,  
1873.*

The brief historical outline which I design to make relating to the last fifteen years will be incomplete without an allusion to what the modern reaction in favour of cremation had achieved before 1874. The proposal to adopt it in recent times originally proceeded mainly from Italy. Papers and monographs appeared commending the method as early as 1866, but practical experimenters, Gorini and Polli, published separately the results of their experiments in 1872; and among others, Professor Brunetti, of Padua, in 1873 detailed his experience, exhibiting the results of it in the form of ashes, etc., with a model of his furnace, at the Great Exhibition at Vienna of that year.



I first became practically interested in the subject on seeing his collection there ; and having long been inclined to the theory, satisfied myself for the first time that if not by this apparatus, yet by some other, complete and inoffensive combustion of the body might almost certainly be effected without difficulty. Brunetti's first *Brunetti.* cremation took place in 1869, his second and third in 1870, and were effected in an open furnace out of doors.

In no other European country had any act of human cremation taken place, as far as I can learn, prior to 1874 ; and very little notice or information respecting it appeared in any literary form. Dr. de Pietra Santa, *Dr. Pietra de* the well-known sanitary authority of *Santa, Paris.* Paris, reported the Italian cases in a little brochure on the subject in 1873, according his hearty support to the practice. But in the autumn of 1874 there appears to have been a solitary example at Breslau ; while another *Breslau and* occurred almost immediately after- *Dresden.*

wards at Dresden, where an English lady was cremated in a Siemens' apparatus by the agency of gas. No repetition of the process has taken place there since.

*The English  
Cremation  
Society in  
1874.*

In 1874 a society was formed in London, taking for its title "The Cremation Society of England," for the express purpose of disseminating information on the subject, and adopting the best method of performing the process as soon as this could be determined, provided that the act was not contrary to law. In this society I have had the honour of holding the office of president from the commencement to the present date, endeavouring thus to serve a most able and efficient council, most of whom have been fellow-workers during the same period. I am thus well acquainted with its labours and their results, and with each step in its history.

The membership of the society was constituted by subscription to the following declaration, carefully drawn so as to insure approval of a principle,



rather than adhesion to any specific practice :—

“ We disapprove the present custom of burying the dead, and desire to substitute some mode which shall rapidly resolve the body into its component elements by a process which cannot offend the living, and shall render the remains absolutely innocuous. Until some better method is devised, we desire to adopt that usually known as cremation.”

And the conditions of membership are :—

I.—Adhesion by signature to the above declaration.

II.—The payment of an annual subscription of one guinea, or a single payment of ten guineas.

The council of the society commenced operations by submitting a case to legal authorities of high standing, and received two opinions, maintaining that cremation of a human body was not an illegal act, provided no nuisance of any kind was occasioned thereby. Thus advised, an

*Declaration  
adopted.*

*The conditions  
of membership.*

*Legal opinions  
taken.*

*Search for a site.*

arrangement was soon after concluded with the directors of one of the great cemeteries north of London to erect on their property a building in which cremation should be effectively performed. This site, so appropriate for its purpose, and so well placed in relation to neighbouring property, etc., would have been at once occupied, had not the then Bishop of Rochester, within whose jurisdiction the cemetery lay, exercised his authority by absolutely prohibiting the proposed addition.

*Woking selected,*

*and a freehold purchased.*

It was necessary, therefore, to find an independent site, and we naturally sought it at Woking, since railway facilities for the removal of the dead from the metropolitan district already existed in connection with the well-known cemetery there. Accordingly, in the year 1878, an acre of freehold land in a secluded situation was purchased, with the view of placing there-upon a furnace and apparatus of the most approved kind for effecting the purpose.



After much consideration it was decided to adopt the apparatus designed by Professor Gorini, of Lodi, Italy; and that gentleman accepted an invitation to visit this country for the express purpose of superintending the erection of it, and the plan was successfully carried out in 1879 by the late Mr. Eassie, the well-known sanitary engineer.

When the apparatus was finished, it was tested by Gorini himself, who reduced to ashes the body of a horse, in presence of several members of the council, with a rapidity and completeness which more than fulfilled their expectations. This experiment foreshadowed the result which numerous actual cremations have since realized, namely, that by this process complete combustion of an adult human body is effected in about an hour, and is so perfectly accomplished that no smoke or effluvia escapes from the chimney; every portion of organic matter being reduced to harmless gases and a pure white, dry ash, which is abso-

*Gorini's  
furnace  
adopted,*

*and erected by  
himself and  
Mr. Eassie.*

*What it  
accomplishes.*

lutely free from disagreeable character of any kind. Indeed, regarded as an organic chemical product, it must be considered as attractive in appearance rather than the contrary.

*Opposition to  
cremation at  
the Home  
Office in 1879.*

During the year 1879 the society met with strong opposition from the Home Office, and were involved in a long correspondence, not of sufficient interest to be presented here either wholly or in part. But it was the occasion of much labour and anxiety to the working members of the council, and of disappointment to their hopes: demanding moreover, on the score of prudence, a patient and quiescent policy on the part of the council, and delaying the use of the building for a few years.

*British  
Medical Asso-  
ciation in  
1880,*

Nevertheless there was no reason why public attention to the proposed method should not be invited by other means. My friend Sir Spencer Wells, one of the most active members of the council, brought the subject prominently before the medical profession at the annual meeting of the British



Medical Association at Cambridge in August, 1880, and, after a forcible statement of facts and arguments, proposed to forward an address to the Secretary of State, asking permission to use the crematory under strict regulations. This was largely signed and duly transmitted, achieving, however, no immediate result. But in various quarters, and at different times during this period, advocacy by means of essays, articles in journals, lectures, etc., had arisen spontaneously, no organization having been set on foot for the purpose; several members of the council, however, taking an active part in some of these proceedings.\* And I desire to add that the share which Mr. Eassie, our honorary secretary, whose sudden and recent death we deeply deplore,

*addressed the  
Home  
Secretary.*

*The subject  
explained and  
discussed:*

*Mr. Eassie's  
valuable  
services.*

\* A few admirable examples of this advocacy, offering sources of information to those who desire to be acquainted with the best modern literature on the subject, are given below.

“Cremation, and its Bearings on Public Health.” Illustrated. By Wm. Eassie, C.E., Secretary to

took in this work, his ceaseless attention to the arranging of practical details at Woking, and the multifarious correspondence, etc., he conducted during fourteen years, demand a warm tribute of grateful acknowledgment from me here, on the part of his late friends and colleagues on the council.

*Cremation at  
Milan in a  
gas furnace,  
1876.*

Meantime the progress of cremation abroad may be again referred to. The first cremation of a human body effected in a closed receptacle, with the object of carrying off or

the Cremation Society of England. Smith, Elder and Co., 1875.

“Cremation or Burial.” By Sir T. S. Wells, Bart. Cambridge, 1880.

“Lecture on Cremation.” By Sir T. S. Wells, Bart. Parker Museum, 1885.

“Transactions of the Cremation Society,” Nos. 1 and 2. Smith, Elder and Co.

“God’s Acre Beautiful; or, the Cemeteries of the Future.” With engravings. 2nd ed. By W. L. Robinson, F.L.S. London, 1882.

“Cremation.” By Dr. J. Comyns Leach. London, 1884.

“The Modern Cremation Movement.” By Charles Cameron, M.D., M.P. Gardner : Paisley and London, 1888.



destroying offensive products, with the exception of the Dresden example referred to, took place at Milan, in January, 1876, and was followed by another in April, the agent adopted being gas. The next occurring there, in March, 1877, was accomplished in like manner, but by employing ordinary fuel. It was in Milan also, in September following, that the first cremation was performed by the improved furnace of Gorini, already mentioned. In the preceding year, 1876, the Cremation Society of Milan had been established, under the presidency of Dr. Pini, and it soon became popular and influential. During that year a handsome building was erected with the view of using gas as the agent; but it was subsequently enlarged, namely in 1880, to make room for two Gorini furnaces. These were soon in operation, and since that date many bodies have been burned every year, the number up to the 31st of December, 1886, being 463.

*Milan Cremation Society in 1876.*

*Gorini's furnace adopted at Milan first in 1880;*

*others in Italy  
since,*

*and numbers  
cremated.*

*Germany; the  
Gotha crema-  
tory largely  
employed.*

Similar buildings on a smaller scale have been constructed, and largely employed elsewhere; for example, at Lodi, Cremona, Brescia, Padua, Varese, and more lately at Rome, in the Campo Varano cemetery. This was first used in April, 1883, since which date 123 cremations have been performed there up to the 31st of December, 1886. The number of all cremations occurring in other towns, excluding Milan and Rome, up to the same date, is 202, making 788 for Italy alone.

In Germany the only place at which the practice has been regularly followed is Gotha. A building was constructed there, under permission of the Government, the first cremation taking place in January, 1879. It has been largely employed since, the number of cremations amounting to 473 up to the 31st of October, 1887.\* Cremation societies, some of

\* As this work is passing through the press, I have received the following note from Germany: "L'incinération des restes du baron de Handel,



them with numerous members and displaying much activity, have been recently established in other countries; in Denmark (where the first cremation in a Gorini apparatus took place in September, 1886), in Belgium, Switzerland, Holland, Sweden, and Norway, and in various parts of the United States, where also cremation has been employed on several occasions. In the city of Buffalo a well-organized crematory has been established in the most beautiful part of the suburbs. Both externally and internally its arrangements are planned and executed in good taste, and its furnace is one of the most efficient kind. The system is growing in favour, and is more frequently adopted in each successive year than before.

In Australia, the Hon. J. M. Creed, a well-known physician in Sydney, has warmly advocated the practice,

qui a eu lieu à Gotha, dans la journée du 15 janvier, 1889, a été la 600<sup>e</sup> cérémonie funèbre de ce genre qui ait été célébrée dans cette ville."

which has numerous supporters there. He moved the second reading of a bill, to establish and regulate cremation, in the House of Assembly, June, 1886, in an able speech, pointing out the dangerous proximity of neighbouring cemeteries to their rapidly developing city, and giving instances in which great risk had been already incurred. He cited in illustration the occurrence of pestilence thus produced among the rapidly growing population in the suburbs of New York and other American cities. The act was approved by the Legislative Council, but failed to pass the House of Assembly.

*The Paris  
crematory.*

In Paris, projects for performing cremation have for some time been discussed, and a crematory of considerable size has at length been constructed under the direction of the municipal council. It is situated at Père la Chaise, and although unfinished, was successfully employed on the 22nd of October, 1887, for the bodies of two men who died by



small-pox. The entrance of the building leads into a spacious hall, sufficing for the purposes of a chapel. In the side wall opposite the entrance are three openings, each conducting to an apparatus constructed on the Gorini principle.

I shall now return to the history of our own society, at a time when it was probable that active operations might once more be resumed. In 1882 the council was requested by Captain Hanham, Blandford, Dorsetshire, to undertake the cremation of two deceased members of his family, who had left express instructions to that effect. The Home Secretary of the day being applied to, reiterated objections which had been made three years before, and the society was unable to comply. The bodies had been preserved for some years in a mausoleum on the estate, pending a favourable solution of the difficulty. This failing, Captain Hanham took leave to erect a crematorium there, and to carry out the wishes

*An important incident occurred in England, in 1882,*

*through the act of Captain Hanham.*

of his relatives, and did so with complete success. This was in October, 1882. He himself dying about a year later, was cremated on the same spot at his desire by a relative. The Government meantime made no sign; no notice, in fact, was taken of the proceeding by any authority, although the occurrence was described in the public journals, and excited much comment. But in the following year a cremation took place in Wales on the body of a child, on which the ceremony was performed by the father in defiance of the coroner's authority, and legal proceedings were taken against him in consequence. The result was that, in February, 1884, Mr. Justice Stephen delivered his well-known judgment, declaring that cremation is a legal procedure provided it be effected without nuisance to others. The council of the English society now decided on offering facilities for performing it, and to place their crematorium at the service of the public for practical use; having

*The Welsh  
cremation  
followed soon,*

*leading to  
Mr. Justice  
Stephen's  
decision in  
1884.*



first carefully considered the best means of taking precautions to prevent the destruction of a body which might have met death by unfair means.

Only two months later, on the 30th of April, 1884, Dr. Cameron, the member for Glasgow, and one of the council of our society, brought a bill into the House of Commons "to provide for the regulation of cremation and other modes of disposal of the dead." He proposed to make burial illegal without medical certificate, excepting for the present certain thinly populated and remote districts. No crematory to be used until approved and licensed by the Secretary of State; no body to be burned except at a licensed place, in accordance with regulations to be made by the Secretary of State. Two medical certificates to be necessary in the case of cremation, and if the cause of death cannot be certified, an inquest by the coroner shall be held. Dr. Cameron supported the

*The same year  
a bill brought  
into Parlia-  
ment*

*to regulate  
cremation*

*strongly supported in debate, and*

proposals by an amount of evidence of various kinds which amply warranted the course he had taken. Dr. Farquharson, M.P. for Aberdeen, another member of the council, seconded the motion, which was opposed by the Home Secretary, to whom Sir Lyon Playfair made an able reply, demonstrating, by a comparison of the chemical effects of combustion with those of slow decomposition in earth, the superiority of the former. The bill was opposed by the Government, and the leader of the Opposition took the same course; nevertheless, no less than 79 members voted in favour of the bill on the second reading, to 149 against—a result far more favourable than we had ventured to hope for.

*by a large minority on division.*

*The English society determined to use their crematory,*

It was at this juncture that the English society issued a public notice, formulating certain conditions on which they would undertake to employ the crematorium at Woking. They stated that great care and absolute compliance with their con-



ditions were necessary, because "they are aware the chief practical objection which can be urged against the employment of cremation consists in the opportunity which it offers, apart from such precautions, for removing the traces of poison or other injury which are retained by an undestroyed body."

These conditions were expressed in the following terms:—

1. An application in writing must be made by the friends or executors of the deceased—unless it has been made by the deceased person himself during life—stating that it was the wish of the deceased to be cremated after death. They must furnish the name of the medical man who has attended the deceased, in order that he may receive an official communication from the secretary before certifying.

2. A certificate must be sent by a qualified medical man who, having attended the deceased until the time of death, can state without hesitation

*demanding compliance with certain conditions, as follows:—*

*1. The application.*

*2. The certificate.*

that the cause of death was natural, and what that cause was. Another qualified medical man, if possible a resident in the immediate neighbourhood of the deceased, is also required to certify, after independently examining the facts within his reach, that to the best of his belief the death was due to natural causes.\*

To each of these gentlemen is to be forwarded, before certifying, a letter of "instructions" marked "private," signed by the president of the society, calling special attention to the important nature of the service required.

3. *Further inquiries when necessary.*

3. If no medical man attended during the illness, an autopsy must be made by a medical officer appointed by the society, or the cremation cannot take place; unless a coroner's inquest has been held, and has determined the cause of death to be natural. These conditions being fulfilled, the council of the society still reserve the right in all cases of

\* See Appendix, pp. 72 and 76.



refusing permission for the performance of cremation if they think it desirable to do so.\*

Public attention had thus been called to the subject ; and the Woking crematory was used for the first time on the 20th of March, 1885, two other cremations following in the course of the year. During 1886 ten bodies were burned, five male and five female, one of them that of a Brahmin. During 1887, thirteen bodies were burned, one only being that of a female. During 1888 twenty-seven bodies have been burned, fifteen being female ; making a total since the commencement of fifty-three cremations.

*First cremation at Woking in 1885,*

*since which a total of fifty-three cremations has been reached.*

The complete incineration is accomplished by this apparatus without escape of smoke or other offensive product, and with extreme ease and rapidity. The ashes, which weigh about three pounds, are placed at the disposal of the friends, and are removed. Or, if desired, they may be

*The ashes are carefully preserved for friends of deceased.*

\* See Appendix, p. 77.

restored at once to the soil, being now perfectly innocuous, if that mode of dealing with them is preferred. One friend of the deceased has hitherto been always invited to be present, and in most instances has expressed satisfaction with the way in which the proceeding has been carried out.

*Mode of proceeding when cremation is applied for.*

Practically what takes place when an application for cremation takes place is as follows:—

Evidence from the medical attendant, endorsed by another medical man, is obtained in writing. The forms containing it are in every case submitted to the president of the society, who, acting on behalf of the council, decides whether or not the cremation may take place. The papers being approved, a well-known firm in the neighbourhood of the society's office undertakes to remove the body in a hearse from any house or station within the four-mile radius from Charing Cross to the society's cemetery at Woking, for a reasonable



fixed sum. It is strongly recommended to all applicants that no large, heavy, or ornamented coffins should be employed for the transit, but, on the contrary, only a thin, light, pine shell; as in the former case cremation cannot take place without removing the body, and in the latter there is no necessity even to uncover it.\* The charge made by the society for effecting cremation is moderate, and will be made less when the demand increases. At present the apparatus has to be put into action for a single cremation, involving an amount of labour and expenditure which would be only slightly exceeded for three or four repetitions of the process.†

About a year ago the council made public the following resolution, in the form of a "minute of council," which after due consideration had been passed: "In the event of any person desiring, during life, to be cremated at death, the society is prepared to accept

*Recommendations to the applicant.*

*Engagement offered to persons desiring to insure cremation at death;*

\* See Appendix, p. 73. † See Appendix, p. 74.

a donation from him or her of ten guineas, undertaking, in consideration thereof, to perform the cremation without the customary fee, provided all the conditions set forth in the forms issued by the society are complied with."

*has been  
largely  
adopted.*

*How this  
arrangement  
helps to insure  
the realization  
of applicant's  
wish.*

A considerable number of persons have adopted this course in order to express emphatically their wishes in relation to this matter, and to insure as far as possible the accomplishment of them. The society undertakes to do their utmost to facilitate the subscriber's object; and probably no better mode of effecting the purpose can be selected than that of placing a written declaration of the testator's wish, together with the society's signed undertaking, in the hands of the friends who are to act as executors. Hence, on the decease of a subscriber, the society undertakes to send, without further charge, an agent when required to the family residence, if within twenty miles of Charing Cross, in order to supply information



and make all the necessary arrangements. In this way survivors, who may naturally anticipate considerable difficulty in complying with a request, on the part of the deceased, to be cremated, being often ignorant even of the mode of making an inquiry, may be spared all anxiety as to the manner of carrying his design into execution. Where the distance is greater than twenty miles, all information will be supplied by letter, or an agent sent for a very moderate charge.

It has long been the desire of the council to render the crematory established at Woking as complete as possible. Although they have had reason hitherto to be satisfied with the capability of the apparatus employed, and with the results obtained, recent improvements have been achieved in furnace - construction which are being rendered available there. But especially they have been anxious to provide buildings suitable for the performance of religious service at the crematory when re-

*At first the crematory only existed at Woking, for lack of funds to construct other buildings.*

quired, besides waiting-rooms for the accommodation of friends and other visitors. Hitherto a funeral service has in most cases been performed before the arrival of the body at Woking; although in four instances it has been held in the grounds of the crematory.

*Appeal  
recently made  
for funds;*

The council decided on making a special appeal to the public last spring for funds to carry out this purpose, and a considerable sum was soon provided by subscription. The list was headed by a hundred guineas each from the Duke of Bedford and the Duke of Westminster, who warmly testified their interest in the project.

*resulting in  
the erection of  
a spacious hall  
and waiting-  
rooms.*

When about three-fourths of the required sum had been received, plans were prepared by Mr. E. F. C. Clarke, the architect, and after tenders had been obtained and a contract made, a series of buildings was commenced in the early autumn. These are now nearly finished, although some delay must be incurred in rendering the arrangements perfect, on account of



unexpected difficulties met with in constructing the new furnaces and chimney.

The buildings are designed in the character of English thirteenth-century Gothic, with richly traceried windows, agreeable in appearance, the buildings harmonizing well with the surrounding woods. The body of the structure is in red brick, relieved to a large extent by Bath stone; and when the grass terraces and gardens are completed, the general effect will be extremely good. The central hall, or chapel, is forty-eight feet long by twenty-four feet six inches wide. The vista of the roof, which is twenty-eight feet from the floor to the top panelling, is thus left intact. The hall is so arranged that those who attend see and hear nothing of the proceedings in the crematory proper. Its ceiling is richly panelled, and will, as well as the walls, be suitably decorated; the windows are filled with stained glass. A convenient ante-room and porch

*Character of buildings.*

*The hall or chapel.*

*Waiting-rooms, etc.*

are arranged in this space by the introduction of richly panelled and moulded screens. Suitable lavatories etc. are provided.

*The Duke of  
Bedford's  
private crema-  
tory.*

In connection with these buildings is another, a small but very complete crematory for the exclusive possession of the Duke of Bedford, which has been built at his expense on the society's land.

*The lodge.*

A pretty porter's lodge, at the entrance of the well-wooded grounds, forms the dwelling of the attendant and superintendent of the crematory.

The drawing placed as frontispiece to this volume is reproduced from a sketch by the architect, and shows the hall or chapel as the loftiest part of the structure, the next block with the chimney being the chief crematory, beyond which is that of the Duke of Bedford. The waiting-rooms are on the further side of the chapel.

*Funds still  
urgently  
required*

There is a debt of about one thousand pounds remaining, to meet which the council earnestly solicit donations from those who are in-



interested in the repeated and continuous efforts they have, during the last fourteen years, personally and collectively made to establish the practice of cremation in this country, and to ensure a successful procedure in accomplishing it. With this end in view they especially desire to devise and employ all precautions necessary to avoid destruction of the body in cases where the cause of death is unknown or uncertain. This subject I have now to consider at length in the second division of the work. Their course has been a long, an arduous, and a costly one, and they trust the effect of this appeal may be to rid the society of the encumbrance in question. The organization of the society, the names of the council, its officers, and the locality of its chief offices in London, are set forth in the appendix, together with the precise objects of the society and all practical directions relating to cremation, amount of fees, etc., for the guidance of persons desiring such information.

*to ensure  
complete and  
successful  
practice.*

II.

*Unquestion-  
able superiority  
of cremation to  
any other  
method of  
dealing with  
the dead body ;* Arriving now at the second part of my subject, I venture to think that few persons can doubt that cremation, as a mode of safely decomposing the body after death, is at all events the most rapid and efficient agent known.

*incomparably  
less revolting  
than the  
practice of  
burial ;*

Instead of the old process of putrefaction, occupying a term of several years, and inevitably disseminating innumerable germs of fatal disease, which propagate it wherever they find an appropriate nidus, the effect of combustion is to resolve the mass rapidly into volatile matters, and into pure white ashes, the only visible residue. But the process of putrefaction after burial is one of a nature too horrible to be described ; and were any attempt adequately to



realize it made, the violence done to those natural feelings of affection, cherished with loving memory for a dear friend deceased, would be intolerable. Sentiment, for those who know the truth of the matter, is enlisted wholly and powerfully on the side of cremation; and shrinks with inexpressible repugnance from any vision, however transient, of the prolonged and revolting phases of decay—"the corruption" of the grave.

On the other hand, the action of fire in the space of an hour or two destroys all offensive, poison-laden impurities, rendering inert all that is infectious, and restores valuable elements in the form of gases to the atmosphere, where they at once enter into new combinations with healthy living organisms in obedience to the order of nature.

To this process of combustion I know now but one objection. One only, indeed, is ever seriously urged against it; and the gravity of that I do not dispute. So complete is the

*ensuring rapid  
decomposition  
with safety  
from infection.*

*One objection  
to it only can  
be sustained;*

*a serious one,* destruction of all noxious matter accomplished by cremation of the body, that if any extraneous poison happens to be present in its tissues before death, administered by accident or design, all traces of it are necessarily destroyed also. Hence, in those exceedingly rare cases where the evidence of a poisoner's guilt depends on the production by chemical skill of the very agent employed, from the tissues of the body exhumed for the purpose some time after death, justice would be defeated and the criminal would escape if in that particular instance cremation had been employed.

*and to be fully discussed.* I do not desire to underrate the force of the objection which lies against the procedure on that ground; I intend to deal with it seriously.

*1. Many buried bodies are charged with poison,* I might first, however, rejoin with great force that many bodies committed to the grave every week in the metropolitan area alone, are charged with poisons not less dangerous to the living population than those which may have been used to cause death



by design. I state as a fact of the highest importance that by burial in earth we effectively provide—whatever sanitary precautions are taken by ventilation and drainage, whatever disinfection is applied after contagious disease has occurred—that the pestilential germs which have destroyed the body in question are thus so treasured and protected as to propagate and multiply, ready to reappear and work like ruin hereafter for others. *liable to contaminate the living.*

Since last I wrote, the argument for cremation on this ground has been immeasurably strengthened. It was then notorious that the water-courses and wells in the proximity of graveyards and cemeteries had often been the demonstrated sources of disease to a neighbouring population.\*

\* It can scarcely be necessary to reproduce evidence in proof of the statement here made. Yet I am told there are signs that its force and abundance have been forgotten by many. It should suffice to refer to the printed transactions of our society for a list of published records which long ago settled the question beyond all dispute.

*Further inquiry has shown that germs of disease,*

*as bacteria, etc.,*

But the later discoveries of science point more strongly to other dangers, arising still more directly from the buried dead. Every year records new facts identifying the cause of certain of the most familiar types of contagious disease with the presence of minute organisms, bacteria, the absorption of which into the blood, or even in some cases into the alimentary canal, suffices to reproduce the dangerous malady. One of the most deadly scourges to our race, viz. tubercular disease, is now known to be (See "Transactions," Nos. 1 and 2, edited by Mr. Eassie, and for bibliography of the subject given there. London: Smith & Elder.) But for those who desire specific statements on this head, together with much interesting matter regarding cremation in its scientific aspects and in connection with religious observance, see a paper in *Good Words*, July, 1885, by the Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, K.C.B., M.P., entitled, "Disposal of the Dead." In relation to the subject above referred to, I shall make two brief extracts: "In most of our churchyards the dead are harming the living by destroying the soil, fouling the air, contaminating water-springs, and spreading the seeds of disease." . . . "I have officially inspected many churchyards and made reports on their state, which, even to re-read, make me shudder."



thus propagated. Then, besides an-  
thrax or splenic fever, spores from  
which are notoriously brought to the  
surface from buried animals below,  
and become fatal to the herds feeding  
there, it is now almost certain that  
malarious diseases, notably Roman  
fever, and even tetanus, are due to  
bacteria which flourish in the soil  
itself. The poisons of scarlet fever,  
enteric fever (typhoid), small-pox,  
diphtheria, malignant cholera, are un-  
doubtedly transmissible through earth  
from the buried body by more than  
one mode. And thus by the act of  
interment we literally sow broadcast  
through the land innumerable seeds  
of pestilence; germs which long re-  
tain their vitality, many of them des-  
tined at some future time to fructify  
in premature death or ruined health  
for thousands. Especially is this the  
case in the "earth to earth" system  
when the exposure of the body to the  
soil is instant and complete. The  
most dangerous elements are no  
doubt decomposed and rendered less

*are preserved  
in the soil;*

*and thus some  
of the most  
fatal diseases  
are spread—*

*an action  
promoted by  
the "earth to  
earth" system.*

*Impossible to  
stamp out such  
diseases if the  
bodies are  
buried ;*

virulent by retention in close coffins for a few years, before contact with the surrounding soil takes place. But the adoption of a system which is designed to hasten dispersion of the elements by any and every channel open in the soil six feet below the surface, so that the same spot may be similarly used after a brief term of years, is fraught with risk to the living. It is vain to dream of wiping out the reproach to our civilization which the presence and power of these diseases in our midst assuredly constitute by any precaution or treatment, while effective machinery for their reproduction is in constant daily action. Probably not the least important among the several modes by which buried infection may reappear is the ceaseless activity of the earthworm, bringing to the surface—which indeed in a measure it slowly creates—poisonous matters engendered in animal bodies, although covered by a considerable depth of permeable soil. The proportion of deaths due



to the diseases referred to is exceedingly large. And let it never be forgotten that they form no necessary part of any heritage appertaining to the human family. All are preventable, all certainly destined to disappear at some future day, when man has thoroughly made up his mind to deal with them seriously.

*many diseases  
would dis-  
appear, under  
proper  
management.*

Thus, in the year 1884 the total number of deaths from all causes in England and Wales was 530,828; of which those from zymotic diseases\* were 84,196, or about 16 per cent.

In the year 1885 the total number of death was 522,750; of these the zymotic diseases were 68,972, or about 13·3 per cent.

*Proportion  
of zymotic  
diseases  
causing death.*

In the year 1886 the total number of deaths was 537,276; of these the zymotic diseases were 73,747, or about 13·4 per cent. During the three years

\* Zymotic diseases (from ζύμωσις, a ferment) are held to include small-pox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, whooping-cough, typhus, enteric fever, simple fever, diarrhoea and dysentery, and cholera.

these diseases were below the average of preceding years.\*

And one of the first steps, an absolutely essential step for the attainment of the inestimable result I have proposed, is the cremation of each body the life of which has been destroyed by one of these contagious maladies. I know no other means by which it can be insured.

2. "*Poisoning*" should be discovered before the body is buried,

The next important fact for our consideration is, that at present no adequate means are employed to insure the discovery of poison as a cause of death before burial takes place. That "the prevention of an evil is better than its cure" is an old adage, full of truth in its application to most human affairs. It ought to be accepted as a principle that, for the purpose of insuring the safety of the public, it is infinitely preferable to provide a system adapted to detect an act of poisoning before burial,

\* "Registrar-General's Report of Births, Deaths, and Marriages in England and Wales," 47th and 48th, for the years 1884-1886.



rather than to rely upon the slender chance that may arise hereafter. Once the victim has been consigned to the grave, small hope remains that discovery will take place. It is often stated that burial insures the conservation of evidence that poison has been given, but without large qualification the statement is very far from true. Very soon after burial all traces of most poisons—certainly those which are the most potent, such as morphia, aconite, atropine, strychnine, prussic acid, etc.—are rapidly decomposed; or they may become associated with new septic poisons developed in the body itself, which complicate the steps of subsequent inquiry, and invalidate unquestionable evidence which was present for some days after death, and might have been obtained while the body was above ground. There remain, then, only the metallic poisons which can be reckoned on as open to detection through exhumation, practically three in number, arsenic, antimony, and mercury. These will often

*after which  
all traces are  
generally  
rapidly de-  
stroyed.*

*Three only,  
of which  
traces long  
remain.*

continue for a considerable time in a condition which permits them to be obtained by analysis from the tissues of the person poisoned.

*Carefully  
examine them,  
before burial.*

Nevertheless, exhumation is at the best a clumsy attempt to rectify culpable want of care before burial. For it is not too much to say that the chances in favour of discovering poison will be at least twenty to one if adequate inquiry be made while the body is above ground, as compared with the result of analysis made of those which have once been buried. Yet what is our position in relation to this inquiry? Does the fact just named practically rule our action in this matter? By no means. Thousands of bodies are buried every year, in this country, even without medical certificate of any kind.\* Of course there

*Our neglect to  
inquire is  
remarkable.*

*We bury  
thousands even  
without  
certificate!*

\* For an account of the laxity of usage in certifying death in Scotland, see a pamphlet by Dr. Charles Cameron, LL.D., M.P., entitled "The Modern Cremation Movement." Alex. Gardner, Paisley and London, 1888. The whole work is an admirable and very forcible statement of the case in favour of cremation.



are numerous deaths from disease in which no medical advice has been demanded, because the warning symptoms of danger have been absent or insufficient; and for this very reason an inquiry should be made by some competent official. And there are perhaps occasionally some in which the absence of the medical man has been insured in furtherance of a sinister design. The proportion of inquests to deaths is by no means inconsiderable, but it is certainly less than it ought to be. Of the 522,750 *Proportion of inquests held.* deaths of 1885, no less than 27,798, or 5.3 per cent., were certified after inquest; but no less than 18,146, or 3.5 per cent., were buried without medical certificate or any inquiry whatever. And in the year 1886 these uncertified deaths amounted to 18,322! While, confessedly, many *Great numbers of the certificates are useless.* more were ill-defined by certificate and unsatisfactorily accounted for. Few persons probably are aware of the infinitesimal relation which exhumation for legal purposes bears, by

comparison, with the enormous opportunities offered for the commission of undiscoverable crime, due to our imperfect arrangements for inquiry into the cause of death in all ordinary cases. It is not too much to say that, in a very large proportion of these, the registration is merely an empty form. "To strain at a gnat and swallow a camel," as a metaphor, inadequately represents the inconsistent conduct of those who continue to disregard the facilities carelessly permitted for criminal poisoning, to magnify the slender detective resources afforded by exhumation. Dr. Danford Thomas, the well-known Coroner for Central Middlesex, informs me that during the last seven years he has held about 10,000 inquests in that district, and only three exhumations have been ordered during the same period.

*Exhumation  
excessively  
rare.*

But at my suggestion, Mr. Danford Thomas has been good enough to organize a systematic inquiry extending throughout England and Wales,



designed to obtain the results of exhumation for the last twenty years or thereabouts. There are 334 coroners in England and Wales, of whom 317, embracing all the important districts, have responded to a series of questions sent out to each for the purpose. Of this number, 62 had been directed to perform exhumation, and the total number of exhumations was 102. From these data it may be estimated that the mean number of exhumations made in a year throughout England and Wales is only five, and less than one yearly for poison! The number of inquests during 1886 was 30,548—showing, as an average, one exhumation to every 6100 inquests.

*Five in a year  
in this country,*

EXHUMATIONS MADE FOR MEDICO-LEGAL PURPOSES IN ENGLAND AND WALES DURING THE LAST TWENTY YEARS.

ANALYSIS OF VERDICTS IN 102 CASES OF EXHUMATION.

Natural Causes.	Accidental Causes.	Murder.	Man-slaughter.	Open Verdicts.
57	20	13	4	8

*and very few  
of these are  
cases of poisoning.*

*Far more searching inquiry must be made at death.*

*England behind other countries in performing this duty.*

*The French practice*

Whether cremation be adopted, or the practice of burial alone be continued; in either case it is equally desirable to make a far more searching inquiry than we do at present in all cases of death. And this inquiry should be conducted by a qualified officer appointed for the purpose. I called special attention to this fact in my paper fourteen years ago, showing that the practice in this country was then, as it still is, greatly behind that of France, Germany, and other European nations. In every case of death without exception in those countries, the uncovered dead body is examined by a medical officer set apart for that duty, distinguished as the *médecin vérificateur*. In Paris, for example, as soon as a death is reported, the civil officer communicates with the medical officer of the *quartier* in which the deceased resided, and awaits the report to decide (in concert with the deceased's friends) at what hour burial should take place. The medical officer attends at the



residence indicated, and makes a written report, detailing all the ascertainable facts relative to the death which he has obtained by inquiry, besides those which result from the examination of the body, in accordance with a schedule supplied. This officer, having of course had no professional relation, with the deceased, records the name and address of the doctor who has attended, as well as those of the chemist who supplied the medicines, together with the names of nurses if any were employed. He describes the hygienic condition of the house, states what surviving relatives lived there, etc. No burial can take place under any pretext whatever until this inquiry has been made, all the facts recorded, and permission has been granted. In short, it is the object of the examination to leave no means untried of detecting the cause of death before the body disappears from view.\*

\* See Appendix pp. 81 *et seq.*, for a facsimile copy of the schedule employed in Paris.

*The practice  
in Austria  
and elsewhere.*

I may add that the same system is adopted throughout the departments of France. In Vienna a similar document is always prepared, and perhaps with still greater care and minuteness. The same may be said of Munich, Frankfort, Geneva, and other Continental cities.

*To detect the  
poisoner such  
an inquiry  
should be  
adopted here.*

It is needless to say how greatly superior this system is to our own; and it is impossible not to add that all who are really earnest in a desire to detect the secret poisoner are bound to advocate the establishment of that or some similar method of supervision here. Otherwise it is scarcely fair, and it is certainly inconsistent, to defend the practice of earth burial, with its manifold dangers to the living, for the sole purpose of insuring the right of occasionally exhuming a body, in order to repair the lack of adequate observation at a more fitting time.

The next step in the argument will take its starting-point from the undeniable fact that a large majority



of deaths taking place in our community are obviously and unquestionably natural. It is very desirable to ascertain as nearly as possible what is the proportion of these, or, inversely, what is the percentage of those about which some doubt as to the cause may be entertained. I have carefully studied this question, and it is important to consider it before we come to close quarters with the objection started at the outset. I suppose no one will imagine that there is the slightest ground for doubt about the nature of the fatal attack, in other words the cause of death, in, say, nine-tenths of the cases which occur. In fact, the proportion of obviously natural causes is very much larger than that. Old age and natural decay; all zymotic or contagious diseases, most of which have been enumerated; the acute and chronic diseases of the lung and other local organs, cancer, diabetes, rheumatic affections, childbirth, besides the 5 per cent. of unknown cases deter-

*Regarding cremation, let it be noted that almost all deaths are due to natural causes;*

*certainly nine-tenths of them.*

*Five per cent are determined by the coroner's inquiry.*

*Perhaps one per cent. more would be referred to the coroner by an official investigator.*

mined by the coroner, leave a narrow margin for doubtful examples. In acute dysentery and diarrhœa, and in some affections of the brain, circumsppection is necessary in relation to the possibility of poisoning; and in infantile disorders, especially among the illegitimate, observation should be alert. Regarding all sources of uncertainty I think 1 per cent. a full estimate. In other words, the present system, demanding as it does exercise of the coroner's function in 5·3 per cent. of deaths, this might be found necessary in another 1 per cent. after the inquiry of the *médecin vérificateur*. This is a considerable addition, because it must be recollected that the coroner's quest is chiefly needed to investigate mechanical accidents causing death, and personal violence, of which evidence is easily available. It is not altogether a secret that some medical men of large experience hold the opinion that the administration of poison causing death is not so uncommon as



the infrequent discovery of the act might be held to indicate. Conviction in a court of justice following the crime is very rare. The present system of burial after certificate—*Very few convictions for poisoning obtained under present system.* and not a few, as we have seen, have no certificate — throws very little light on the class of doubtful cases. And yet we have been gravely forbidden to practise cremation, which would deprive thousands of bodies now buried of those elements which are dangerous to the living, lest perchance in a solitary case of criminal poisoning, which we have neglected through carelessness or indifference to investigate at a fitting time, the chance should be lost, if some years afterwards suspicions arise, of acquiring the often questionable evidence which exhumation might afford!

Well, unreasonable as such a course of action must appear, when seriously considered, I will grant its advocates, if there still be any, for argument's sake, that it is not wholly unjustifiable, and nevertheless I shall assert the

safety and the superiority of cremation.

*Advocates of  
cremation only  
desire that it  
should be  
optional ;*

The advocates of cremation, as I learned with some disappointment fifteen years ago, and many a time since, have been widely misunderstood in respect of their aims, and no amount of restatement appears to correct an impression made on the public at the outset, to the effect that we proposed, or at all events have desired, to make cremation compulsory. Let it be understood then, once for all, that we have never suggested that any man should be submitted to the process against his own will or that of his nearest friends. As to enforcing it in all cases by legal enactment, as has been imagined by some, I doubt whether the most uneasy sleepers among us have ever dreamed of such a scheme of legislative tyranny. So far, indeed, have we been from holding such views, that I believe it has never been proposed to make the system under any circumstances universally applicable.



All we have ever asked is that cremation should be optional; that it should be recognized as legal (it is not illegal); that leave to perform it should be granted only under certain conditions; and that adequate precautions should be taken against its abuse, so that the destruction of evidence against criminal poisoning should be rendered almost if not quite impossible, through the exercise of ordinary care.

I earnestly ask the great public to consider the significant fact that it is *we*, the advocates of cremation, who have sought to perform it under the above-mentioned specific conditions; that *we* have brought Bills into the Parliaments of this country and of New South Wales to obtain these objects;\* and that our critics and opponents have done nothing to diminish or prevent the dangers they allege to attend on cremation, and which do largely appertain to

*never to make it compulsory.*

*And they desire to practise it only under stringent conditions, so as to avoid it when doubt exists as to cause of death.*

\* House of Commons, April, 1884; Legislative Assembly of Sydney, August, 1886.

burial, while they have actually voted in majorities to prevent us from doing so. Had the practice of cremation in our own country not been conducted thus far by cautious hands, the abuse in question might have arisen. But that they have not occurred is due to us, not to our opponents.

*Safety attained by following means :—*

The proposals here conceived to be necessary to insure the safety of the public, regarding equally dangers innumerable arising from the buried dead and the occasional risk of destroying evidence against crime by cremation, are as follows :—

1. *Reject all doubtful cases.*

First. I desire to act on the principle that we shall reject all doubtful cases as unsuited for cremation. It will soon be seen that the limit of this class may be provided for without difficulty by way of exclusion, and that it will be ascertained by proper management to be exceedingly small.

Secondly. My first definite proposal will be as follows ; and here for the present the appeal is made



not for legal provision, but to the common sense of my fellow-citizens, who cannot be less desirous than myself to guard the health of their families from disease and death, seeing that this is our common interest.

Consent to cremate the body of every member of the family who has died of small-pox, scarlet fever, or diphtheria, to begin with. General acquiescence in this reasonable proposal alone would tax somewhat severely for some years the resources of cremation. Yet here is a large and most important group of cases which, in common justice to the living, ought to be destroyed with as much rapidity as possible, and about which no manner of doubt as to the cause of death can possibly be entertained. Honest, thoughtful consideration as to the mode of treating that which remains in most instances after the destructive action of such diseases on the body must diminish the desire to preserve it, and reconcile survivors to its purification and reduction to

*2. Cremate the bodies of those dead from zymotic diseases:*

*a large group.*

harmless ashes, when these are followed to the last resting-place. Concerning which more hereafter.

*In all such cases the use of chemical agents to counteract danger should be compulsory unless cremation be practised.*

But I interpolate a suggestion here ; and it is one which must ere long be considered with a view to legislative enactment. It ought to be made imperative that in every one of these cases, when not cremated, the coffin should be filled, after the body is placed therein, with quicklime, not longer than twenty-four hours after death. Less perfect than cremation, this process at least ought to be enjoined under penalty. It will rank as a national folly, if not a crime, to omit this or an equivalent safeguard after due warning given of the importance of protecting the living ; since there can be no difficulty in resorting to this mode of largely diminishing, although not of extinguishing, the risk from infection.

Thirdly. In all other cases, such as those of old age, consumption, and various other modes of death, which have gradually arrived at their termi-



nation under medical supervision without manifesting a symptom to denote the action of any violent agent, an application to be cremated should be granted on the conditions prescribed by the Cremation Society of England (already detailed). When a responsible officer, *médicin vérificateur*, is appointed, the decision will of course form part of his ordinary business. As before intimated, I have charged myself with the duty, on behalf of the English society as its president, of carefully examining the certificates sent in and other sources of information, and no cremation has taken place until I have been satisfied with the evidence adduced.

Fourthly. In every case in which evidence is wanting, one of two courses are open to the applicant. If there really is any doubt as to the cause of death, it is a case in which, according to the present state of our law, the coroner ought to interfere. If he thinks that it is not necessary to do so, the responsible officer may say,

3. *In all deaths manifestly from natural causes cremation should be permitted.*

4. *In doubtful cases autopsy is always necessary;*

*by which  
means the  
question is  
mostly settled ;*

*if not, bury  
the body.*

as I should feel called on to say now, if circumstances suggested the want of more distinct evidence, " I advise an autopsy to be made, and will send a proper person to conduct one." In that case the doubt will almost certainly be solved ; but if not, the stomach and a portion of some internal organ would be transferred to a small case, sealed and preserved. And doubt after autopsy could be entertained only in an extremely small proportion of cases. If the friends object to the proposal, let the body be buried by all means ; we have avoided the doubtful case.

Moreover, we have done so without raising an imputation. If any arise, it is solely due to the action of those who have declined a private autopsy requested by the officer responsible for cremation, who merely desired to avoid the faintest chance of applying the process to a body when the cause of death is not quite apparent. It is difficult to imagine an objection to such a proceeding ; but if there is,



as I said before, the cemetery is always open.

What has become of the medico-legal difficulty? I contend that it has absolutely vanished. And I add that, if my suggestions are adopted, secret poisoning, which it must be confessed, owing to our carelessness in the matter of the certificate, is much more easily practicable in this country than in France or Germany, would, thanks to the supporters of cremation, be more readily detected, and therefore would be more unlikely to occur, than in any other country in the world.

*The objection, to cremation thus administered, disappears.*

Three results of another kind must be named, which naturally follow the adoption of cremation.

*Other considerations.*

First. Thousands of acres, yearly increasing in number, might be restored to better uses than that of storing decaying bodies.\* Action to

*Cremation would save thousands of acres for profitable husbandry,*

\* The number of acres at present thus occupied for the metropolis is upwards of two thousand; and the value of this unproductive land is considerably more than a quarter of a million sterling.

*so important  
in a crowded  
country.*

*The Bishop  
of Manches-  
ter's remarks.*

this end will be inevitable some day, and is simply a question of time and population. The late Bishop of Manchester drew attention to this obvious fact some years ago. Having in the course of duty to consecrate a cemetery, the Bishop observed, "Here is another hundred acres of land withdrawn from the food-producing area of this country for ever." He went on to state that "cemeteries are becoming not only a difficulty, an expense, and an inconvenience, but an actual danger;" finally adding, "I hold that the earth was made, not for the dead, but for the living. No intelligent faith can suppose that any Christian doctrine is affected by the manner in which, or the time in which, this mortal body of ours crumbles into dust and sees corruption." If the directors of these institutions are wise in time, they will, after the passing of an Act, petition for leave to erect crematories, utilizing the chapels as before, and reserving small spaces for the conservation or burial of ashes.



Nine-tenths of the area will be available, with due care, for ornamental gardens for the use of towns where such exist; or, after the lapse of suitable periods of time, for other purposes.

Secondly. The reduction of wholly unnecessary expenditure upon funeral rites is accomplished by cremation. *Cremation largely reduces the cost of funerals.* The cost of funerals during the year 1884 in England and Wales was carefully calculated by an expert at nearly five millions sterling. One-third of this sum would amply suffice for cremation, including the use of appointments for transit, etc., in the most decorous manner. Modern cremation does not suggest or harmonize with display. Small as the cost is at present, it will be largely diminished when the demand has considerably increased. A tariff of expenditure, regulated according to the varying requirements of applicants, has been recently drawn up, and may be obtained at the office of the society.\*

\* See Appendix, p. 78.

*Cremation enables the ancient churchyards and crypts to be utilised again ;*

Thirdly. Cremation has created an opportunity for restoring the purified remains of the Christian worshipper to the consecrated precincts of his church, whence the "corruptible body" has been for ever banished by urgent sanitary necessity.

*which by order of the Home Secretary could be reopened with absolute safety.*

In ancient crypt, or in cloisters newly erected for the purpose on the long disused burying-ground, the ashes might be deposited, each in its cell, in countless numbers after religious service performed. Being absolutely harmless, every intramural burying-ground and every vault or tomb within our churches, long closed to burials on account of their dangerous influence, may now be safely and appropriately utilized as depositories of the ashes, when the last solemnities have taken place. It is high time to bring this important fact under the notice of the Secretary of State ; for there is now no pretext whatever for refusing to localities—long ago consecrated for the express purpose of receiving human remains, and



recently closed on urgent sanitary grounds alone, the restitution of their ancient service, provided that all future deposits are absolutely deprived of any and every insanitary taint by complete incineration.

On the other hand, when no desire is manifested to preserve the relics of the departed, and no urn or casket is sought to contain them, they may be safely spread abroad on the soil, and thus be submitted without delay to the process of forming those new combinations which must inevitably sooner or later take place.

Cremation, indeed, lends literal truth and reality to the grand and solemn words, "Ashes to ashes, dust to dust;" and that impressive service, with slight change, will be read with a fulness of meaning never conveyed before. The last rite has purified the body; its elements of physical evil have been annihilated by fire. Already its dispersed constituents, having escaped the long imprisonment of the tomb, pursue their eternal circuit, in

*Cremation illustrates our ancient form of service, and adds to the force of its sentiment.*

harmony with nature's uniform and perfect course.

*Application to Parliament essential.*

It will soon be desirable to ask the Government of the day, or Parliament itself, again to consider the question of legislating in order to secure better evidence as to the cause of death in all cases than is attainable by the present system. At the same time the conditions on which cremation should be performed should be considered and determined.

*Regulations suggested for the registration of death, and management of crematories.*

I venture to offer the following suggestions, by way of indicating the chief provisions to be settled by any Bill introduced into Parliament to regulate the registration of death and the disposal of the dead :—

*Official certificate indispensable before burial or cremation.*

1, No body to be buried, burned, or otherwise disposed of without a medical certificate of death signed, after personal knowledge and observation, or information obtained from investigation made by a qualified medical man.

2. A qualified medical man should



be appointed as official certifier in every parish, or for a group of neighbouring parishes, whose duty it will be to examine in all cases of death and report the cause in writing, together with such other details as may be deemed necessary.

*Official  
examiner in  
every case of  
death,*

3. If the circumstances of death obviously demand a coroner's inquest, the case goes into his court and the cause is determined, with or without autopsy. If there appears to be no ground for holding an inquest, and autopsy be necessary to the furnishing of a certificate, the appointed officer will make it and state the result in his report.

*who certifies  
the cause or  
demands an  
inquest.*

4. No person or company should be henceforth permitted to construct or use an apparatus for burning human bodies without obtaining a license from the Home Secretary or other authority as determined.

*All crematories  
to be licensed  
by Home  
Secretary.*

5. No crematory should be so employed unless the site, construction, and system of management have been approved after survey by an officer

*None to be  
employed until  
after inspec-  
tion, and to be  
subject thereto.*

appointed by Government for the purpose. But the licence to construct or use a crematory should not be withheld if guarantees are given that the conditions required are or shall be complied with. All such crematories to be subject at all times to inspection by an officer appointed by the Government.

*Cremation otherwise illegal.*

6. The burning of a human body, otherwise than in an officially recognized crematory, shall be illegal, and punishable by penalty.

*No cremation without official permit.*

7. No human body shall be burned unless the official examiner who signs the certificate of death shall, in consequence of application made, add the words "Cremation permitted." And this he is bound to do if, after inquest or autopsy, and also in any other circumstances admitting in his mind no doubt as to the cause of death, this is returned by him as natural.



APPENDIX.

## A P P E N D I X.



### PART I.

CONTAINING practical directions relating to the course necessary to be followed by the friends or representatives of the deceased for whom cremation is desired ; together with copies of the forms which must be filled up. Copies of these are supplied to all who require them at the offices of the Society, 8, New Cavendish Street, Portland Place.

### PART II.

Contains copies of the forms, and mode of procedure adopted throughout France, in order to ascertain the cause of death in every instance without exception. A similarly exhaustive inquiry is made throughout Germany also.



PART I.

OFFICIAL PAPERS

ISSUED BY THE  
CREMATION SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

THE COUNCIL.

SIR HENRY THOMPSON, F.R.C.S., etc., President.

Right Hon. Lord Bramwell,

James S. Budgett, Esq.

Dr. Cameron, M.P.

Mrs. M. Rose Crawshay.

Dr. Farquharson, M.P.

Captain Sir Douglas Galton, K.C.B., LL.D., etc.

Ernest Hart, Esq.

Rev. H. R. Haweis, M.A.

Rev. Brooke Lambert, M.A.

Right Hon. Sir Lyon Playfair, M.P., etc.

W. Robinson, Esq., F.L.S.

Martin Ridley Smith, Esq.

Rev. Charles Voysey, B.A.

Sir T. Spencer Wells, Bart.

J. C. Swinburne-Hanham, Esq., J.P., Hon. Sec.

## I.

This Society was formed to promote the objects set forth in the following Declaration :—

“ We disapprove the present custom of burying the dead, and desire to substitute some mode which shall rapidly resolve the body into its component elements by a process which cannot offend the living, and shall render the remains absolutely innocuous. Until some better method is devised, we desire to adopt that usually known as Cremation.”

The Conditions of Membership are :—

- I. Adhesion by signature to the above declaration.
- II. The payment of an Annual Subscription of One Guinea, or a single payment of Ten Guineas.

## II.

The arrangements for cremating a body at the Society's Crematorium, St. John's, Woking, are complete, and are available to the public on the following conditions :—

- (a) An application in writing must be made by the friends or executors of the deceased, requesting that cremation should be performed, no objection having been made thereto by the deceased during life. In cases of children, application must be made by the nearest relative.
- (b) Two certificates from duly qualified medical men are required relative to the cause of death, one, at least, of whom must have attended the deceased.

These must satisfy the Council of the Society or their representative, and in some rare or doubtful case an autopsy might be desirable.



## III.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS.—It cannot be too clearly understood that it is most undesirable to convey the body in a heavy or costly coffin ; a light pine shell is the best receptacle for the purpose of cremation. There is no reason why, for the funeral service, a simple shell should not suffice, but it may be covered with black cloth at very small expense, if preferred. There is a certain fixed but ample limit for the breadth and depth of this, which is not to be exceeded. When, however, it is intended to hold a funeral service in public, and with some degree of ceremony, before cremation, a more ornate coffin may be used if desired, but it should contain the shell described, which is to be employed afterwards.

When a funeral service is performed over the ashes after cremation, they should be placed in a casket suitable for the purpose.

One or more friends of the deceased may be present in the building during cremation, with the object of holding service in the chapel, or occupying the waiting-rooms, during the process of cremation, for the purpose of receiving and removing the ashes, if it be desired to preserve them. Scrupulous care is taken to maintain them intact and pure for this purpose.

No person is permitted to enter the Crematory during the process but the officers of the Society.

A day's notice being given, Messrs. Garstin and Sons, the well-known undertakers, of 5, Welbeck Street, Cavendish Square, will provide a shell and remove the body in a hearse from any house or station within the four-mile radius from Charing Cross to the Society's Crematory.

A fixed scale of moderate charges for removal of the deceased, according to the mode of transit, the number of



attendants required, the cost of shell, etc., can be had on application to the office of the Society (see pp. 78, 79).

The charges for the use of the Crematorium, for all attendance there, and all expenses connected with the ceremony, is fixed for the present at £6, and this sum is to be paid to the Cremation Society of England on the day preceding the Cremation.

#### IV.

Attention is called to the following "Minute of Council" which has been recently passed:—

"In the event of any person desiring, during life, to be cremated at death, the Society is prepared to accept a donation from him or her, of Ten Guineas, undertaking in consideration thereof to perform the cremation, provided all the conditions set forth in the forms issued by the Society are complied with."

In consideration of the above payment the Cremation Society undertakes—on the decease of a subscriber—also to send an agent when required, without further charge, to the family residence if within twenty miles of Charing Cross, for the purpose of supplying information and making all the necessary arrangements. By this means survivors, who may naturally anticipate considerable difficulty in complying with the request on the part of the deceased to be cremated, may be spared all trouble and anxiety as to the manner of carrying it into execution. When the distance is more than twenty miles, information will be supplied by letter, or an agent sent for a very moderate charge.

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*The necessary forms, ready for filling up, can be obtained on application at the Society's Offices, No. 8, New Cavendish Street, Portland Place, W.*



FORMS NECESSARY TO BE DULY  
FILLED UP WHENEVER CREMA-  
TION IS DESIRED.

**FORM No. 1.**

APPLICATION FROM RELATIVE, EXECUTOR,  
OR FRIEND OF DECEASED.

I, (Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(Occupation) \_\_\_\_\_ hereby request

the Cremation Society of England to undertake the Cre-  
mation of the body of \_\_\_\_\_

and I certify that the deceased expressed no objection  
(orally or in writing) to being cremated after death.

Medical Certificates of the cause of death are, or will  
be, forwarded.

(Signature) \_\_\_\_\_

NOTE.—When no Medical Certificate is enclosed, an  
Autopsy must be made and certified by a Medical  
Officer appointed by the Society, and at the expense  
of the Applicant or of the Estate of the deceased.

**FORM No. 2.**  
**MEDICAL CERTIFICATES OF THE CAUSE OF DEATH.**  
 TO THE CREMATION SOCIETY OF ENGLAND.

CERTIFICATE  
 NO. 1.

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

I hereby Certify that I attended

(Name) \_\_\_\_\_

(Address) \_\_\_\_\_

(Profession or Occupation) \_\_\_\_\_

aged \_\_\_\_\_, that I last saw h \_\_\_\_\_ on \_\_\_\_\_ 18

that \_\_\_\_\_ he died on \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_

and that the cause of death was as hereunder written.

Cause of Death.	Time from Attack till Death.
	*
	*

(a) First.  
 (b) Second.

The Medical Attendant will sign here.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Prof. Title \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_

\* The time for each form of Disease or Symptom is reckoned from its commencement.

*This Certificate must be signed by a Registered Medical Practitioner.*



CERTIFICATE  
NO. II.

I Certify that I have, in relation to the expressed desire that the deceased should be Cremated, carefully and separately investigated the circumstances connected with the death. I declare that there are no circumstances connected with the death which could, in my opinion, make exhumation of the body hereafter necessary.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prof. Title \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date \_\_\_\_\_

The Second  
 Will sign here.

*This Certificate must be signed by another Registered Medical Practitioner.*

The CREMATION SOCIETY reserves to itself the right of refusing to carry out Cremation in any case without assigning reason.

## SCHEDULE OF EXPENSES

Connected with the Conveyance of a Body from London,  
—that is to say, from any part not distant more than  
four miles from Charing Cross,—to the Crematory,  
Woking.

		<i>£</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
For a Pine Shell with ordinary lining ...	1	10	0	

N.B.—More expensive Shells and Coffins can be provided, but the Society strongly recommends the simplest form for the purpose of Cremation only.

When required for service in Church also, it may be covered in black, or colour, from Two Guineas upwards. An ornate coffin may be employed for this purpose, provided the body occupies a shell, to be removed for Cremation afterwards.

Delivery of Shell at Residence within limit named, with attendants ... ..	0	15	0	
Hearse, Driver and Man in charge from the Residence to Woking, about thirty miles	5	10	0	
Men's Attendance at Residence, to place body in Hearse, if required ... ..	0	15	0	

N.B.—If the Shell is sent and the body is removed to the hearse at the same time this charge is not incurred.

---

*£* 8 10 0



	£	s.	d.
If the Hearse and Horses are sent by Rail— which saves much time, and is often con- venient for those who desire to attend— including one Man besides the Driver, an extra Guinea is incurred ... ..	}	1	1 0
For each additional Man to the above-named for removing the body at Woking, as may be necessary, whether sent by Road or Rail ... ..	}	0	15 0

N.B.—This should be determined, if possible, when making the preliminary arrangements, with Messrs. GARSTIN & SONS, 5, Welbeck Street, who undertake the service at the above-named rates.

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OFFICES OF THE CREMATION SOCIETY OF ENGLAND,  
 8, New Cavendish Street, Portland Place.

J. C. SWINBURNE-HANHAM,  
*Hon. Sec.*





PART II.

CONTAINING ALL THE

FORMS ADOPTED FOR INQUIRY,

and invariably filled up by the officers appointed, in every case of death occurring either in Paris or in the Departments of France.

Form No. 1 is sent by the municipal authority to the official medical examiner, requiring him to verify the fact of the cause of death.

Form No. 2 is the certificate which, after examination of the body, the medical examiner leaves with the family, who send it to the municipal authority. Permission to bury can then be obtained.

Form No. 3 is the record which is made by the medical examiner and preserved by the authorities.

## FORM No. 1.

PREFÉCTURE DE LA  
SEINE

RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE  
LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ

—  
SECRETARIAT GÉNÉRAL

VILLE DE PARIS.—MAIRIE DU       <sup>me</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

—  
DIRECTION  
des

NOUS, MAIRE DU        ARRONDISSEMENT DE PARIS,

AFFAIRES MUNICIPALES

Vu la déclaration qui nous a été faite à        heure,        minutes

—  
2<sup>e</sup> Division.—3<sup>e</sup> Bureau

du       , le        et d'après laquelle M.       

—

prénoms        épou ou veu de       

—

âgé de        profession        serait décédé des suites

—

de        au        étage d'une maison sise       

Vérification des Décès

n<sup>o</sup>        à        heure        minutes du       

—

le       

MANDAT DE VISITE

Déléguons M.       , docteur en médecine, à l'effet de se transporter dans la dite maison, de se faire montrer le corps non vêtu, de constater le décès et d'en indiquer les causes.

N<sup>o</sup> DU CARNET       

A Paris, le        188      , à        heure d       

—

Cachet de la Mairie

Signature :



*Le présent mandat doit être conservé par le médecin  
de l'État civil.*



CERTIFICAT DE DÉCÈS  
—<sup>e</sup> ARRONDISSEMENT

FORM No. 2.

*Le présent certificat doit être laissé à la famille et rap-  
porté à la Mairie pour l'établissement de l'acte de décès.*

N<sup>o</sup> DE L'ACTE : \_\_\_\_\_

Je soussigné, docteur en médecine, en vertu du mandat  
délivré par le Maire, certifie avoir fait la visite du corps de la  
personne désignée audit mandat, et avoir constaté ou recueilli  
sur place, à l'aide des indications fournies par \_\_\_\_\_,  
les renseignements suivants :

État civil du décédé... {  
Nom \_\_\_\_\_  
Prénoms \_\_\_\_\_  
Sexe \_\_\_\_\_ âgé de (ou mort-né) \_\_\_\_\_  
Célibataire \_\_\_\_\_  
Marié à \_\_\_\_\_ veu de \_\_\_\_\_  
Né à \_\_\_\_\_ département d \_\_\_\_\_  
Filiation ..... {  
Fil de \_\_\_\_\_  
Et de \_\_\_\_\_

## FORM No. 2.—Continued.

Profession \_\_\_\_\_ (patron ou ouvrier) \_\_\_\_\_

Est décédé le \_\_\_\_\_ 18\_\_\_\_, à \_\_\_\_\_ heure du  
Rue \_\_\_\_\_ N° \_\_\_\_\_

Nom et demeure du médecin traitant \_\_\_\_\_

" " du pharmacien \_\_\_\_\_

Je déclare que le décès est constant et paraît avoir été causé par \_\_\_\_\_

Fait à Paris, le \_\_\_\_\_ 188\_\_\_\_, à \_\_\_\_\_ heure du \_\_\_\_\_

*Signature :*

Je déclare, en outre, avoir constaté la nécessité de prescrire la mise en bière d'urgence à raison de \_\_\_\_\_  
**et avoir délivré une réquisition à cet effet** (Ce paragraphe doit être rayé lorsqu'il n'y a pas eu réquisition et que la Maire doit pourvoir aux mesures à prendre).

*Signature :*

Le logement est-il insalubre : \_\_\_\_\_



## FORM No. 3.

SECRETARIAT  
GÉNÉRALService de la  
Statistique  
municipale

D É C È S

N<sup>o</sup> DE L'ACTE :RÉPUBLIQUE FRANÇAISE  
LIBERTÉ, ÉGALITÉ, FRATERNITÉ.

PRÉFECTURE DE LA SEINE

VILLE DE PARIS.—MAIRIE DU  
— ARRONDISSEMENTNOTICE STATISTIQUE IMPERSONNELLE  
A remplir en même temps que le certificat de visite, et à  
déposer à la Mairie

NOTA.—Le médecin de l'État civil peut biffer les mots contraires au cas qu'il a sous les yeux, ou écrire oui ou faire une croix après le mot conforme. Il est prié d'écrire le nom de la profession exercée, en faisant suivre ce nom d'un *o*, s'il s'agit d'un ouvrier, ou d'un *p*, s'il s'agit d'un patron, et aussi de mettre un *x* à la suite des questions auxquelles il ne peut répondre. Le degré de salubrité est *apprécié* et non *demandé*.

Mois d \_\_\_\_\_ 188 \_\_\_\_\_

ADULTES ET ENFANTS AGÉS DE 5 ANS ET AU-DESSUS.

État civil	{	Sexe du décédé _____
		Célibataire _____
		Marié _____
		Date ou durée du mariage _____
		Veuf _____ et depuis quand ? _____
		Agé de _____
		Né à _____
Département d _____		

Date du décès : le \_\_\_\_\_ du mois d \_\_\_\_\_

Demeure	{	Quartier _____
		Rue _____ n <sup>o</sup> _____
		_____ étage.
		Salubre _____ insalubre _____

Dans le cas de mariage	Degré de parenté des époux	{	Nombre d'enfants morts et vivants issus du mariage	_____	
		{	Nombre d'enfants survivants	_____	
		{	Oncle et nièce	_____	
		{	Tante et neveu	_____	
Profession	Du décédé	{	patron	_____	
		{	ouvrier	_____	
		{	De l'époux survivant	patron	_____
			ouvrier	_____	
S'il s'agit d'un écolier	Est-il ?	{	interne	_____	
		{	externe	_____	
Fréquente-t-il ?	t-il ?	{	un lycée	_____	
		{	un collège	_____	
		{	une école communale	_____	
		{	une école libre	_____	
Adresse de l'institution :					
Rue _____ n° _____					
Vacciné _____ non vacciné _____					

## ENFANTS AU-DESSOUS DE 5 ANS.

État civil	{	Sexe du décédé	_____		
		Légitime	_____ illégitime _____		
	{	Reconnu	{	par le père	_____
			{	par la mère	_____
	Non reconnu	Agé de	_____		
		Né à	_____		
Département d		_____			
Date du décès ; le _____ du mois d _____					



Demeure	{	Quartier _____
		Rue _____ n <sup>o</sup> _____
		_____ étage.
		Salubre _____ insalubre _____
Enfant au-dessous de 2 ans nourri	{	Au sein _____
		Au biberon _____
		Par allaitement mixte _____
		Par la mère _____
		Dans la famille par une nourrice _____
		Hors de la famille _____
Résidence de l'enfant	{	Enfant gardé dans la famille _____
		La crèche _____
		La salle d'asile _____
		La garderie ou école enfantine _____
		Adresse de la résidence hors de la famille : Rue _____ n <sup>o</sup> _____
État du père ou de la mère	Profession	{ Du père (patron, ouvrier) _____
		{ De la mère (pat <sup>ne</sup> , ouv <sup>re</sup> ) _____
	Age	{ Du père _____
		{ De la mère _____
	Degré de parenté	{ Oncle et nièce _____
		{ Tante et neveu _____
		{ Cousins germains _____
	{ Issus de cousins germains _____	
Vacciné _____ non vacciné _____		
Le décédé était-il premier né? * _____		

MORT-NÉS ET ENFANTS MORTS AVANT LA DÉCLARATION  
LE NAISSANCE.

Sexe \_\_\_\_\_  
 État civil : légitime \_\_\_\_\_ illégitime \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date de l'accouchement : le \_\_\_\_\_ du mois d \_\_\_\_\_

\* Ce renseignement ne doit être demandé que pour les enfants au-dessous d'un an.

Demeure { Quartier \_\_\_\_\_  
 Rue \_\_\_\_\_ n° \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_ étage.  
 Salubre \_\_\_\_\_ insalubre \_\_\_\_\_

Mode d'accouchement { Naturel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Artificiel \_\_\_\_\_  
 Avec seigle ergoté \_\_\_\_\_

Mère : primipare \_\_\_\_\_ pluripare \_\_\_\_\_

Lieu de l'accouchement { Dans le famille \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chez une sage-femme \_\_\_\_\_  
 Chez un médecin \_\_\_\_\_  
 Autre : (Hôpital, prison,  
 hôtel meublé, voie publique, etc.) \_\_\_\_\_

Durée de la gestation \_\_\_\_\_

A respiré pendant \_\_\_\_\_

N'a pas respiré \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre d'enfants déjà issus du ménage actuel { Garçon { Encore vivant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Décédé \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mort-né \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fille { Encore vivante \_\_\_\_\_  
 Décédée \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mort-née \_\_\_\_\_

Nombre d'enfants déjà issus de la mère au cours de ménages antérieurs { Garçon { Vivant \_\_\_\_\_  
 Décédé \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mort-né \_\_\_\_\_  
 Fille { Vivante \_\_\_\_\_  
 Décédée \_\_\_\_\_  
 Mort-née \_\_\_\_\_

État du père et de la mère { Profession { Du père (patron, ouvrier) \_\_\_\_\_  
 De la mère (pat<sup>ne</sup>, ouv<sup>re</sup>) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Age { Du père \_\_\_\_\_  
 De la mère \_\_\_\_\_



État du père et de la mère {	Degré de parenté {	Oncle et nièce _____
		Tante et neveu _____
		Cousins germains _____
		Issus de cousins germains _____

Durée du mariage (en années) \_\_\_\_\_

Y a-t-il eu un {  
accoucheur { Nom et sexe \_\_\_\_\_  
Domicile \_\_\_\_\_

**Maladie cause de mort** \_\_\_\_\_

Correspondant au numéro \_\_\_\_\_ de la nomenclature (Voyez  
au verso).

Cette maladie a-t-elle été {  
aigüe \_\_\_\_\_  
chronique \_\_\_\_\_

Accidents terminaux \_\_\_\_\_

Y a-t-il eu opération chirurgicale ? \_\_\_\_\_

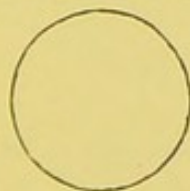
Nom et domicile du médecin traitant \_\_\_\_\_

Le traitement a-t-il été effectué par le service des secours à  
domicile ? \_\_\_\_\_

Fait à Paris, le \_\_\_\_\_ 18—, à \_\_\_\_\_  
heure du \_\_\_\_\_

Cachet de la Mairie

*Le médecin de l'État civil,*



VU :

*Le Maire du \_\_\_\_\_° arrondissement,*

The following schedule gives a very complete list of the various maladies or injuries among which the cause of death may in almost any case be found ; the number corresponding thereto is employed to denote it in the record, Form No. 3 :—

## NOMENCLATURE DES CAUSES DE DÉCÈS.

## MALADIES GÉNÉRALES.

## N° 1.—MALADIES ÉPIDÉMIQUES.

1. Fièvre typhoïde.
2. Typhus.
3. Scorbut.
4. Variole.
5. Rougeole.
6. Scarlatine.
7. Coqueluche.
8. Diphtérie et croup.
9. Grippe.
10. Suette miliaire.
11. Choléra asiatique.
12. Choléra nostras.
13. Autres.

## N° 2.—AUTRES MALADIES GÉNÉRALES.

14. Infection purulente et septicémie.
15. Morve.
16. Farcin.
17. Pustule maligne et charbon.
18. Rage.
19. Fièvre intermittente.
20. Cachexie palustre.
21. Pellagre.
22. Tuberculose {
 

{	<i>a.</i> des poumons.
	<i>b.</i> des méninges.
	<i>c.</i> du péritoine.
	<i>d.</i> d'autres organes.
	<i>e.</i> généralisée.
23. Scrofule.



24. Syphilis.
25. Cancer {
- a. de la bouche.
  - b. de l'estomac, du foie.
  - c. des intestins, du rectum.
  - d. de l'utérus.
  - e. du sein.
  - f. de la peau.
  - g. autres.
26. Rhumatisme.
27. Goutte.
28. Diabète (sucré).
29. Goître exophtalmique.
30. Maladie bronzée d'Addison.
31. Leucémie.
32. Anémie, chlorose.
33. Autres maladies générales.
34. Alcoolisme (aigu ou chronique).
35. Intoxications professionnelles.
36. Absorption de gaz délétères (suicide excepté).
37. Autres empoisonnements (suicide excepté).

## MALADIES LOCALES.

N° 3.—MALADIES DU SYSTÈME NERVEUX ET DES  
ORGANES DES SENS.

38. Encéphalite.
39. Méningite simple.
40. Ataxie locomotrice progressive.
41. Atrophie musculaire progressive.
42. Congestion et hémorrhagie cérébrales.
43. Ramollissement cérébral.
44. Paralysies sans cause indiquée.
45. Paralyse générale.
46. Autres formes de l'aliénation mentale.
47. Épilepsie.

48. Éclampsie (non puerpérale).
49. Convulsions des enfants.
50. Tétanos.
51. Chorée.
52. Autres maladies du système nerveux.
53. Maladies des yeux.
54. Maladies des oreilles.

N° 4.—MALADIES DE L'APPAREIL CIRCULATOIRE.

55. Péricardite.
56. Endocardite.
57. Maladies organiques du cœur.
58. Angine de poitrine.
59. Affection des artères, athérome, gangrène sèche, anévrisme, etc.
60. Embolie.
61. Varices, ulcères variqueux, hémorroïdes.
62. Phlébite et autres affections des veines.
63. Lymphangite.
64. Autres affections du système lymphatique.
65. Hémorrhagies.
66. Autres affections de l'appareil circulatoire.

N° 5.—MALADIES DE L'APPAREIL RESPIRATOIRE.

67. Maladies des fosses nasales.
68. Affection du larynx ou du corps thyroïde.
69. Bronchite aiguë.
70. Bronchite chronique.
71. Broncho-pneumonie.
72. Pneumonie.
73. Pleurésie.
74. Congestion et apoplexie pulmonaires.
75. Gangrène du poumon.
76. Asthme.
77. Autres.





107. Abscès du bassin.  
 108. Hématocèle péri-utérine.  
 109. }  
 110. } Maladies de { Métrite.  
 111. } l'utérus { Hémorrhagies (non puerpérales).  
 112. } { Tumeurs (non cancéreuses).  
 112. } { Autres maladies.  
 113. Kystes et autres tumeurs de l'ovaire.  
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  - i. Autres.
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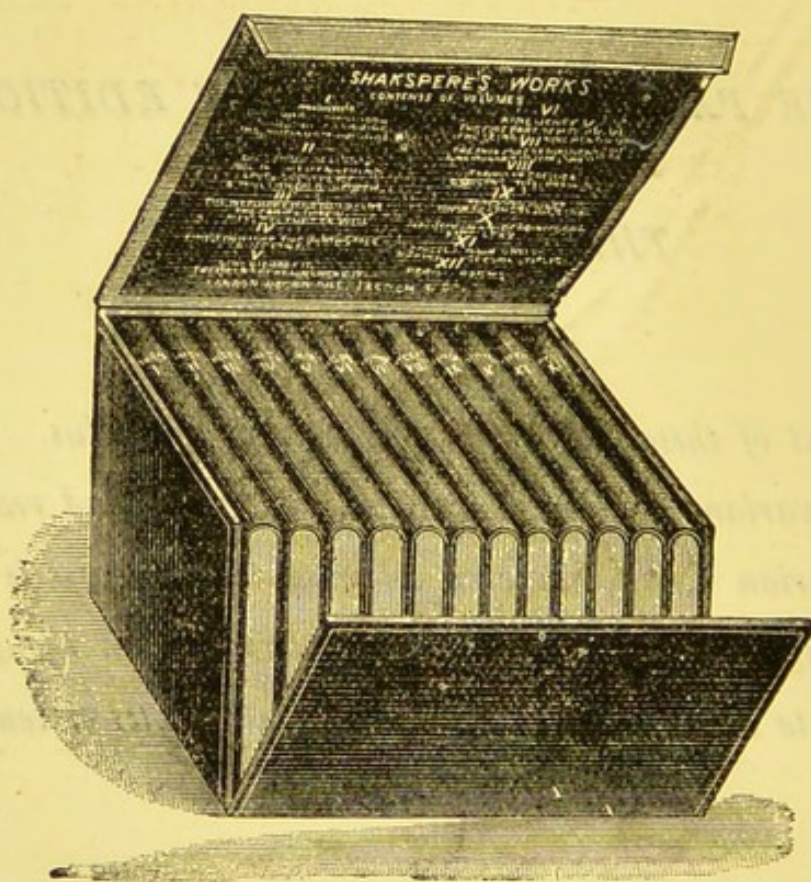


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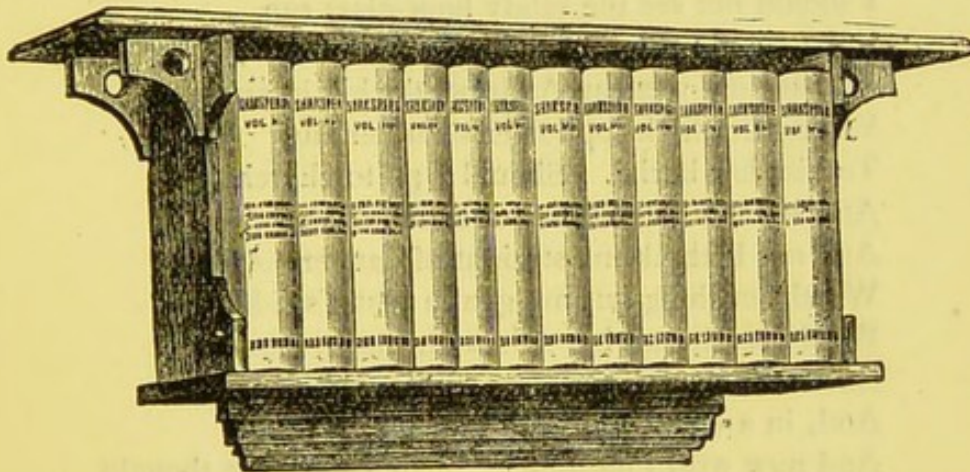


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*Salar.* My wind, cooling my broth,  
Would blow me to an ague, when I thought  
What harm a wind too great might do at sea.  
I should not see the sandy hour-glass run  
But I should think of shallows and of flats,  
And see my wealthy Andrew, dock'd in sand,  
Vailing her high-top lower than her ribs  
To kiss her burial. Should I go to church  
And see the holy edifice of stone,  
And not bethink me straight of dangerous rocks,  
Which touching but my gentle vessel's side,  
Would scatter all her spices on the stream,  
Enrobe the roaring waters with my silks,  
And, in a word, but even now worth this,  
And now worth nothing? Shall I have the thought  
To think on this, and shall I lack the thought  
That such a thing bechanc'd would make me sad?  
But tell not me: I know Antonio  
Is sad to think upon his merchandise.

*Ant.* Believe me, no: I thank my fortune for it,  
My ventures are not in one bottom trusted,  
Nor to one place; nor is my whole estate  
Upon the fortune of this present year:  
Therefore my merchandise makes me not sad.

*Salar.* Why, then you are in love.

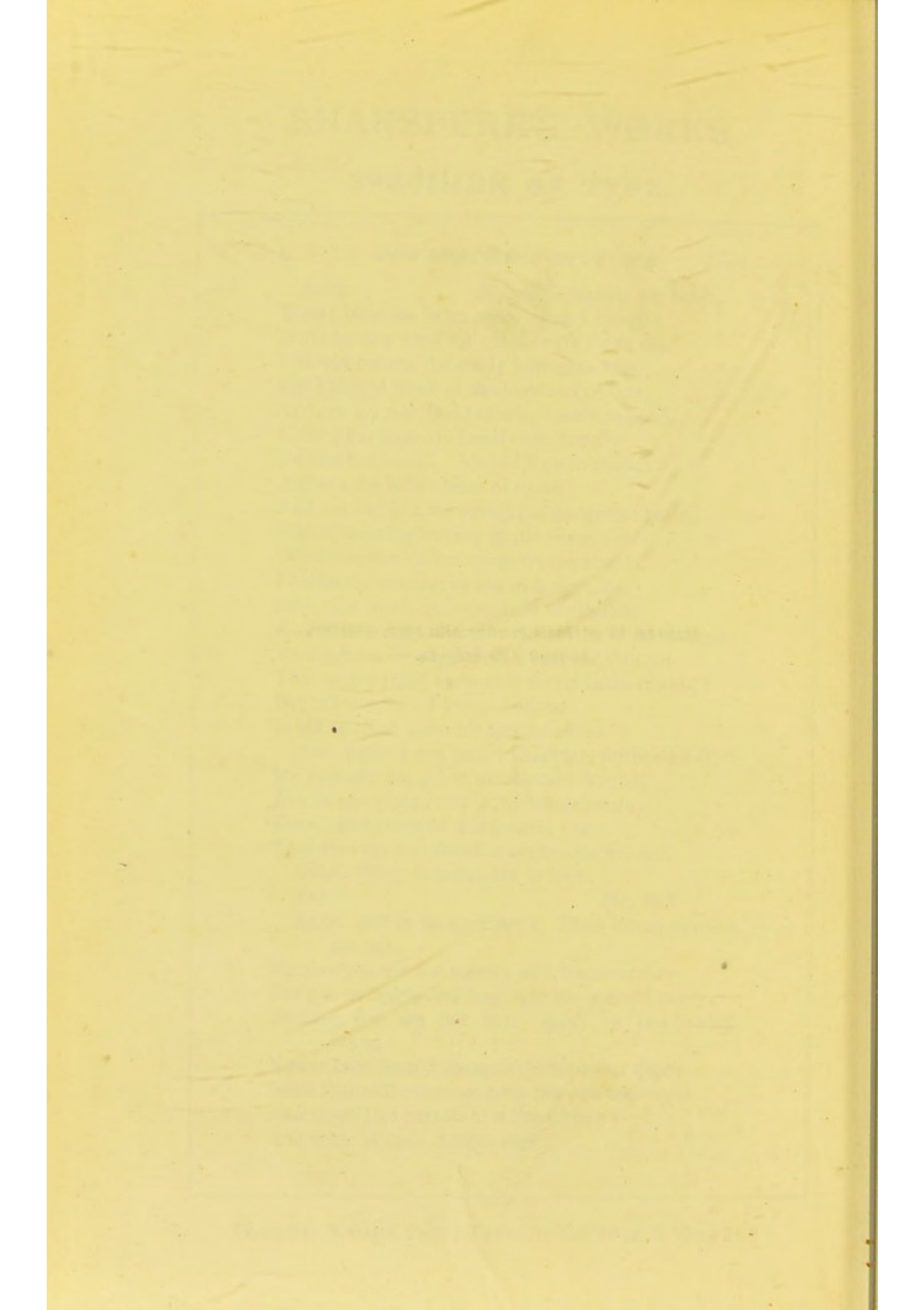
*Ant.* Fie, fie!

*Salar.* Not in love neither? Then let us say you  
are sad,  
Because you are not merry; and 'twere as easy  
For you to laugh, and leap, and say you are merry,  
Because you are not sad. Now, by two-headed  
Janus,  
Nature hath fram'd strange fellows in her time:  
Some that will evermore peep through their eyes  
And laugh like parrots at a bag-piper;  
And other of such vinegar aspect



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