

Report from the Select Committee on Improvement of the Health of Towns, together with the minutes of evidence, appendix, and index. : Effect of internment of bodies in towns / Ordered, by the House of Commons, to be printed, 14 June 1842.

Contributors

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London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine

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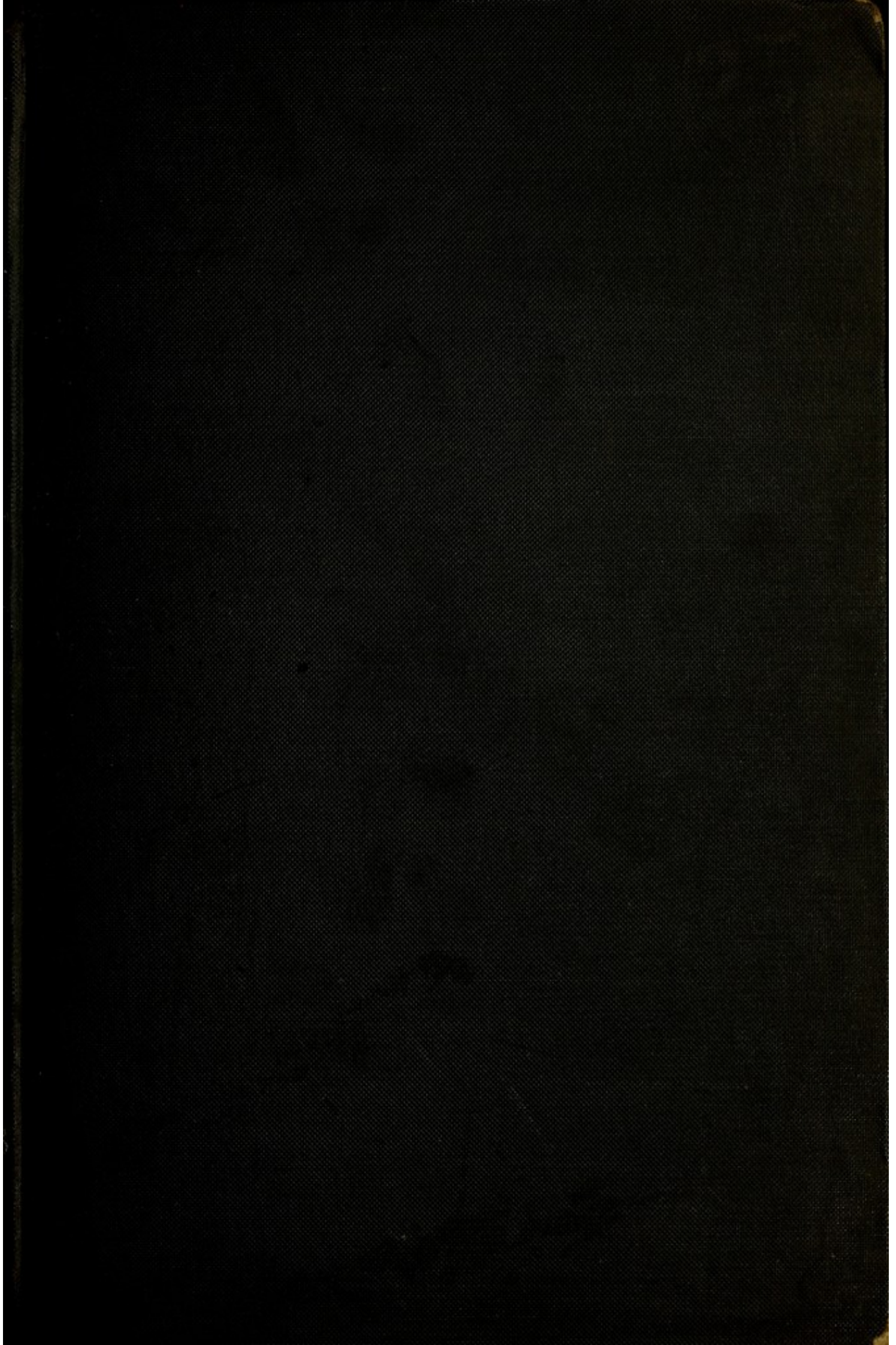
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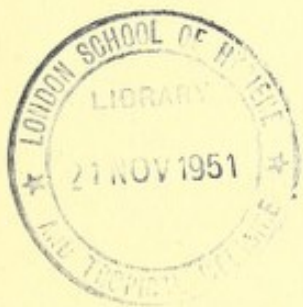
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R E P O R T.

Health of Towns.

(Effect of Interment of Bodies.)

*Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 June 1842.*

[Price 2 s. 10 d.]

PRESENTED TO duplicate

The New York Academy of Medicine

By Dr Willard Parkerof New York May 14th 1878.

Jan. 12 350

R E P O R T

FROM THE

SELECT COMMITTEE

ON

IMPROVEMENT

OF

THE HEALTH OF TOWNS,

TOGETHER WITH THE

MINUTES OF EVIDENCE,

APPENDIX, AND INDEX.

Effect of INTERMENT of BODIES in Towns.

Ordered, by The House of Commons, to be Printed,
14 June 1842.

Martis, 8^o die Martii, 1842.

Ordered, THAT a Select Committee be appointed to consider the expediency of framing some Legislative Enactments (due respect being paid to the Rights of the Clergy) to remedy the evils arising from the Interment of Bodies within the Precincts of large Towns, or of Places densely Populated.

Martis, 15^o die Martii, 1842.

A Committee was nominated of,—

Mr. Mackinnon.	Mr. Ainsworth.
Mr. D'Eynecourt.	Mr. Beckett.
Lord Ashley.	Lord Mahon.
Colonel Fox.	Mr. Cowper.
Mr. Thomas Duncombe.	Colonel Acton.
Mr. Evelyn Denison.	Mr. Kemble.
Sir William Clay.	Mr. Vernon.
Sir Robert Harry Inglis.	

Ordered, THAT the said Committee have power to send for Persons, Papers, and Records.

Ordered, THAT Five be the Quorum of the Committee.

Martis, 19^o die Aprilis, 1842.

Ordered, THAT Mr. D'Eynecourt be discharged from further attendance, and that Mr. Redhead Yorke be added to the Committee.

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R E P O R T.

The SELECT COMMITTEE appointed to consider the Expediency of framing some Legislative Enactments (due respect being paid to the Rights of the Clergy) to remedy the Evils arising from the INTERMENT of BODIES within the Precincts of large Towns, or of Places densely peopled:—HAVE examined the Matters to them referred, and have agreed to the following REPORT:

YOUR Committee have deemed it expedient, in the Inquiries which they have made regarding the important question, how far the Health of the Population might be affected by Interment taking place within Towns or densely-peopled places, to consider the subject under the following heads:

1. Whether the custom of Interments, within the precincts of large Towns or populous places be injurious to the Health of the Community.
2. In the event of the Injury being proved, what Remedies could be suggested.
3. In what manner the Remedies ought to be applied, so as not to interfere with vested rights.

I. In reference to the first subject of inquiry, how far the present custom of Interment in populous places be injurious to the Health of the People, Your Committee have received Evidence from persons in every class of life. That of some of the sextons and grave-diggers in this Metropolis exhibits a loathsome picture of the unseemly and demoralizing practices which result from the crowded condition of the existing graveyards—practices which could scarcely have been thought possible in the present state of society. Your Committee have also obtained the Evidence of men of a superior education and acknowledged ability; of gentlemen at the head of the medical and surgical professions; of Clergymen and high Dignitaries of the Church; and, after a long and patient investigation, Your Committee cannot arrive at any other conclusion than, that the nuisance of Interments in large Towns, and the injury arising to the Health of the Community from the practice, are fully proved.

Your Committee refer to the following extracts, among many other portions of the Evidence taken in support of their conclusion, as to the evils of the practice:

The Rev. J. Russell, D. D. (2497): “It is sickening; it is horrible.”—Sir James Fellowes, M. D. (2613): “It becomes a serious question, with an increased and increasing population, upon what rational grounds such an objectionable feature can be longer continued without danger to the public health.”—James Copland, Esq. M. D., F. R. S., Censor of the Royal College of

Physicians (2659): "I believe that the health of large towns is influenced by four or five particular circumstances: the first, and probably the most important, is the burial of the dead in large towns. In considering the burials in large towns, we have to consider not only the exhalation of the gases and the emanations of the dead into the air, but the effect that it has on the sub-soil or the water drunk by the inhabitants."

Sir Benjamin C. Brodie (2920), when asked whether he considered the crowded state of the churchyards as one cause of fever or disease in the metropolis, answers, "I have always considered that as one cause." (2909.) "My opinion is, that the interments in the interior of this town must be injurious to the health of the town." And W. F. Chambers, Esq. M.D., in his letter to the Chairman, which will be found in the Appendix, states, "I have no doubt that the fevers which are called typhus, even in this cleanly quarter of London (Brook-street), owe their origin to the escape of putrid miasma. I should presume that over-crowded burying-grounds would supply such effluvia most abundantly."

George Alfred Walker, Esq. surgeon, of Drury-lane, who has considered the subject with great attention and ability, gives the same testimony, and the whole mass of evidence taken before the Committee leads to a similar result; it has, therefore, not been deemed requisite to give in detail further extracts on this part of the subject.

The chief part of the Evidence given before Your Committee has been in reference to the Metropolis: but the Evidence received from some intelligent persons, in regard to other large Towns, and the mass of correspondence from the mayors, or other official gentlemen, communicated from nearly every large and populous place in the United Kingdom, some portions of which correspondence are inserted in the Appendix, sufficiently prove, to the satisfaction of Your Committee, that the evils of Interment in Towns and populous places have grown to such a height that no time ought to be lost by the Legislature in applying a remedy. That this custom has desecrated the repose of the dead and injured the health and feelings of the living cannot be denied; it has also exhibited the singular instance of the most wealthy, moral, and civilized community in the world, tolerating a practice and an abuse which has been corrected for years by nearly all other civilized nations in every part of the globe.

II. The next question, how to remedy the nuisance proved to exist, would resolve itself into a recommendation that such legislative enactments should be framed as would prevent the interment of the dead, in or near the habitations of the living. Your Committee, however, cannot but foresee that some obstacles must be overcome in effecting this change; besides which an increase of expenditure must be incurred. These difficulties, which Your Committee trust will be overcome, appear to arise from the following causes:

The rapid and extraordinary extension of buildings in various parts of the kingdom, which might approximate them to places of interment when a certain distance was fixed, and might render the necessity of their removal more frequent than at first sight would appear probable.

The outlay requisite to purchase sites for the purposes of interment near large towns must in all cases be considerable, the circumjacent land bearing an increased value in proportion to the extent and population of a town.

The additional charge for removing the remains of the poor to some distance from their dwellings, and the necessity of having an officiating minister at the place of interment, and the consequent increase of expense or inconvenience to the parish or the incumbent, are not to be overlooked.

Although at the first glance these difficulties appear of moment, on consideration they lose much of their importance. The boundaries or limits of towns may be determined, and the flow of human dwellings is more likely to run in any other course than that which leads to the vicinity of a grave-yard or cemetery. Some additional expenses also must necessarily be incurred, but these will be in an insignificant proportion when compared to the great benefit that will arise to the health and enjoyment of the community by a change in the present system of interment. The Bishop of London (Evid. 2947) says, "I am sure that the Clergy, generally speaking, would be willing to make some sacrifice for the sake of effecting so great an improvement as is contemplated." His Lordship says, "With respect to interments under churches, I consider it altogether an objectionable plan."

The difficulty that was suggested in the Committee, arising from the occasional necessity of burying persons of all religious persuasions in the same inclosed ground, if a removal of interments from towns took place, seems obviated by the Bishop of London in the following questions and answers :

2967. Assuming that a piece of land for a cemetery was purchased by a parish, or by a parochial union of parishes, for the purpose of interment, and assuming that this piece of ground was purchased by a penny rate, or a rate to a certain amount raised upon the parish at large, would there be any objection to a portion of this ground being set apart for dissenters, or for people of any other religious denomination, with this money so raised?—I do not see any objection to having a part unconsecrated, if any person should prefer being buried in such ground; of course it would not be for members of our Church; the clergy would be desirous that such persons should be buried in a different part. It would be impossible, unless you set apart one for one, and another for another; you must have a part consecrated and a part unconsecrated in the cemetery for the interment of those not in the communion of the Church of England.

2968. Your Lordship sees no objection to the principle, supposing the money to be obtained by a rate levied upon the parish, to its being applied in that manner?—I should say not; I see no objection in principle. I do not suffer my objections to interfere with public measures.

Although the evidence, and especially that of a documentary kind, before Your Committee, tends to show that the grievance in question is felt even in many of the smaller towns; yet, in a question of so great importance, and involving so many feelings and interests, it appears desirable to proceed cautiously and by degrees. With this view Your Committee recommend that legislation be, in the first instance, confined to towns of the largest size, and that legislation with respect to the others, if felt needful or desirable, be postponed until a subsequent session.

III. In directing their attention to the third and last subject of their Inquiry, (the manner in which the removal of places of interment from populous towns may be effected without interfering with vested rights), particular attention ought to be paid to the peculiar situation of the parochial clergy whose chief source of income, in some cases, is derived from fees received from interments. Of these fees it would be great injustice to deprive the parties. The effects of the contemplated change on the emoluments of the parish clerks is also, in the opinion of Your Committee, a matter to be taken into consideration. The only means, therefore, of removing the evils arising from the present mode of interment in towns, seems to be to grant a power in parishes, where an additional fund is required, to raise a rate sufficient to cover all the increased expenses which may be incurred under the proposed system.

It appears difficult to carry into execution any of the provisions recommended here without the assistance of some central and superintending authority to be established for that purpose.

In conclusion, Your Committee cannot but be of opinion that a legislative enactment, prohibiting Interments in Towns and their vicinity, is required for the welfare of the community, and that it is desirable such enactment should emanate from the Government.

Your Committee will conclude their Report with the following Resolutions to which they have agreed:—

Resolved, THAT it is the opinion of this Committee:—

1. That the practice of Interment within the precincts of large Towns is injurious to the Health of the Inhabitants thereof, and frequently offensive to public decency.

2. That in order to prevent or to diminish the evil of this practice, it is expedient to pass an Act of Parliament.

3. That Legislation upon the subject be, in the first instance, confined to the Metropolis and to certain other Towns or Places the Population of which respectively at the last Census exceeded 50,000.

4. That Burials be absolutely prohibited, after a certain date, within the limits of such Towns or Places, except in the case of Family Vaults already existing, the same partaking of the nature of private property, and being of limited extent.

5. That certain exceptions, as applying to eminent public characters, be likewise admitted with regard to Westminster Abbey and to St. Paul's.

6. That certain exceptions be likewise admitted with regard to some Cemeteries of recent construction, according to special local circumstances, to be hereafter determined.

7. That within the dates which may be specified the Parochial Authorities in such Towns or Places be empowered and required to impose a Rate for the purpose of forming Cemeteries at a certain distance from the same.

8. That a power be given to the Parochial Authorities of two or more Parishes or Townships of the same Town to combine, if they think proper, for the same Cemetery.

9. That a *minimum* of distance be fixed for such Cemeteries, from the same motive that leads to their establishment—the Public Health; and that a *maximum* of

of distance be likewise fixed, so as to secure the lower classes, as far as possible, from the hardship of loss of time, or weariness in proceeding to a great distance to attend the funerals of their relatives.

10. That the Parochial Authorities be responsible for the due and decent administration of each Burial within the new Cemeteries, in the same manner as they now are within the present Churchyards; and that, on the other hand, they be entitled to the same amount of Fees on each Burial as they at present receive.

11. That due provision be made for the perpetual possession by the Parishes or Townships of the ground on which the Cemeteries shall be made.

12. That due space be reserved, without consecration, and within the limits of the intended Cemeteries, for the separate Burials of such persons or classes of persons as may be desirous of such separation.

13. That no Fees from any such Burials in unconsecrated ground be payable to any Ministers of the Church of England.

14. That, subject to the conditions expressed in the 10th and 13th Resolutions, arrangements be made to equalise as far as possible the total amount of Fees payable on Burials within the same Cemetery, whether in the consecrated or the unconsecrated ground.

15. That considering the difficulty of fixing the same date for the prohibition of Burials within the limits of different towns, or the same distance for the construction of the new Cemeteries, and the importance of having reference to various local circumstances, it does not appear desirable to observe in all cases an uniform rule in these respects, but that the time and manner of applying the principles set forth in the foregoing Resolutions should be entrusted either to some department of the Government, or to a Board of Superintendence, to be constituted by the Act of Parliament.

16. That the duty of framing and introducing a Bill on the principles set forth in the foregoing Resolutions, would be most efficiently discharged by Her Majesty's Government, and that it is earnestly recommended to them by the Committee.

NAME of WITNESS.	PROFESSION or CONDITION.	By what Member of Committee Motion made for Attendance of the Witness.	Date of Arrival.	Date of Discharge.	Total Number of Days in London.	Number of Days under Examination by Committee, or acting specially under their Orders.	Expenses of Journey to London and back.	Expenses in London.	TOTAL Expenses allowed to Witness.
Robert Baker	-- Town-clerk of Leeds.	Mr. Beckett	24 April -	26 April -	3 days -	2	£. s. d. 6 6 -	£. s. d. 3 3 -	£. s. d. 9 9 -

14 June 1842.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE COMMITTEE.

Mercurii, 16^o die Martii, 1842.

Present:

Mr. Evelyn Denison.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Colonel Fox.
Mr. Kemble.

Mr. Beckett.
Mr. Mackinnon.
Colonel Acton.

Mr. MACKINNON called to the Chair.

Committee deliberate respecting the course of proceedings, and agreed upon the following course of examination:—

1. Examination of witnesses to prove the nuisance and injury occasioned to the health of the community.
2. To suggest remedies to correct the evil, such as are adopted by other cemeteries or suggested by individuals.
3. To point out the manner in which these remedies may be applied without interfering with the vested rights of the clergy.

[Adjourned till To-morrow, at One o'clock.]

Lunæ, 9^o die Maii, 1842.

Present:

Mr. MACKINNON.

Mr. Redhead Yorke:
Colonel Acton.
Sir R. Inglis.
Mr. Cowper.
Mr. Vernon.
Lord Ashley.

Lord Mahon.
Mr. Kemble.
Mr. Beckett.
Sir W. Clay.
Colonel Fox.

Motion made and question proposed, "1. That the practice of interment within the precincts of large towns is injurious to the health of the inhabitants thereof, and frequently offensive to public decency."—(Sir *R. Inglis*.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, "2. That in order to prevent or to diminish the evil of this practice, it is expedient to pass an Act of Parliament."—(Sir *R. Inglis*.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, "That legislation upon the subject be in the first instance confined to the Metropolis, and to certain other towns or places, the population of which respectively at the last census exceeded 50,000."—(Lord *Mahon*.)

Amendment proposed, to substitute the following paragraph:—"That legislation upon the subject be in the first instance confined to the Metropolis and to populous places."—(Mr. *Vernon*.)

Question proposed, "That the original words proposed to be left out stand part of the question."

Ayes 9.
Lord Mahon.
Colonel Acton.
Mr. Kemble.
Sir R. Inglis.
Colonel Fox.
Lord Ashley.
Sir W. Clay.
Mr. Cowper.
Mr. Beckett.

Noes 1.
Mr. Vernon.

Agreed to.

Original

Original question again proposed, " 3. That legislation upon the subject be in the first instance confined to the Metropolis, and to certain other towns or places the population of which respectively, at the last census, exceeded 50,000."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 4. That burials be absolutely prohibited after a certain date within the limits of such towns or places, except in the case of family vaults already existing, the same partaking of the nature of private property, and being of limited extent."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 5. That certain exceptions, as applying to eminent public characters, be likewise admitted with regard to Westminster Abbey and to St. Paul's."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 6. That certain exceptions be likewise admitted with regard to some cemeteries of recent construction, according to special local circumstances to be hereafter determined."—(Col. Fox.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 7. That within the dates which may be specified, the parochial authorities in such towns or places be empowered and required to impose a rate for the purpose of forming cemeteries at a certain distance from the same."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

[Adjourned till 26th instant.]

Jovis, 26^o die Maii, 1842.

Present :

Mr. MACKINNON.

Lord Mahon.
Mr. Vernon.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Mr. Cowper.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Kemble.
Mr. Beckett.
Sir R. Inglis.

Committee deliberate.

Motion made and question proposed, " 8. That a power be given to the parochial authorities of two or more parishes or townships to combine, if they think proper, for the same cemetery."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 9. That a *minimum* of distance be fixed for such cemeteries, from the same motive that leads to their establishment—the public health; and that a *maximum* of distance be likewise fixed, so as to secure the lower classes, as far as possible, from the hardship of loss of time, or weariness in proceeding to a great distance to attend the funerals of their relatives."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 10. That the parochial authorities be responsible for the due and decent administration of each burial within the new cemeteries, in the same manner as they now are within the present churchyards; and that, on the other hand, they be entitled to the same amount of fees on each burial as they at present receive."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 11. That due provision be made for the perpetual possession by the parishes or townships of the ground on which the cemeteries shall be made."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 12. That due space be reserved, without consecration, and within the limits of the intended cemeteries, for the separate burials of such persons or classes of persons as may be desirous of such separation."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 13. That no fees from any such burials in unconsecrated ground be payable to any ministers of the Church of England."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, " 14. That, subject to the conditions expressed in the 10th and 13th Resolutions, arrangements be made to equalise as far as possible the total amount of fees payable on burials within the same cemetery, whether in the consecrated or the unconsecrated ground."—(Lord Mahon.)

Agreed to.

The following proposition was submitted as the basis of the Report, instead of the above Resolutions.

"That the present crowded condition of churchyards and other places of interment in populous places, produces results repugnant to the best feelings, and detrimental to the health of the community.

"That the parochial authorities, upon whom the law devolves the duty of providing for the decent interment of the dead, are frequently unable, and cannot be compelled, adequately to meet that exigency.

"That a central Board of Health should be constituted, for the purpose, among other things, of administering the whole matter of interments throughout the bills of mortality.

"That on application on behalf of any other district from any town council, or, where there be no town council, from any vestry meeting of any parish or parishes, the said Board may be empowered to extend its operations to such district.

"That the Committee recommend to the Government to undertake the conduct of such measure."—(Mr. *Vernon*.)

Which proposition was put and negatived.

Motion made and question proposed, "That the application of the principles contained in the previous resolutions be regulated and limited by a Board of Health, or other Board, to be constituted with powers for that purpose."—(Mr. *Cowper*.)

Ayes, 2.
Mr. *Cowper*.
Mr. *Vernon*.

Noes, 3.
Mr. *Ainsworth*.
Mr. *Kemble*.
Sir *Robert Inglis*.

Negatived.

[Adjourned till to-morrow.]

Veneris, 27^o die Maii, 1842.

Present:

Mr. MACKINNON.

Lord *Mahon*.
Mr. *Kemble*.
Mr. *Vernon*.
Sir *Robert Inglis*.

Colonel *Acton*.
Mr. *Cowper*.
Mr. *Ainsworth*.

Committee deliberate.

Motion made and question proposed, "That considering the difficulty of fixing the same date for the prohibition of burials within the limits of different towns, or the same distance for the construction of the new cemeteries, and the importance of having reference to various local circumstances, it does not appear desirable to observe in all cases a uniform rule in these respects, but that the time and manner of applying the principles set forth in the foregoing resolutions should be intrusted either to some department of the Government, or to a Board of Superintendence to be constituted by the Act of Parliament."—(Lord *Mahon*.)

Agreed to.

Motion made and question proposed, "That the duty of framing and introducing a Bill on the principles set forth in the foregoing resolutions would be most efficiently discharged by Her Majesty's Government, and that it is earnestly recommended to them by the Committee."—(Lord *Mahon*.)

Agreed to.

[Adjourned to Thursday next, at One o'clock, to consider Report.]

Jovis, 9^o die Junii, 1842.

Present:

Mr. MACKINNON.

Lord *Mahon*.
Mr. *Vernon*.
Sir *W. Clay*.
Mr. *Beckett*.
Mr. *Cowper*.

Sir *Robert Inglis*.
Mr. *Kemble*.
Mr. *Yorke*.
Mr. *Ainsworth*.

Committee considered the Draft of Report submitted by the Chairman.

I. Head of the Report amended and agreed to.

II. & III. Heads of the Report read.

Motion

Motion made and question proposed, "To leave out all the words of the 2d & 3d heads of the Report, for the purpose of inserting the following words:"

"In order to remedy the evil thus described, Your Committee recommend that such legislative enactments may be framed as may prevent the interment of the dead in spaces too confined, or dangerously contiguous to the habitations of the living. It has been found, however, impracticable to define specially the places which should be the subjects of this legislation, or the precise times or limits within which it should be applied, for the attainment of the proposed object; for the nuisance has been experienced not only in towns of the first class, but even in some where the population does not exceed 5,000, though the difficulty of obtaining a remedy is necessarily greater in proportion to the area covered by contiguous houses; but as the only resource afforded by law for supplying additional burying-ground to a parish is by the method of church-rate, objection is frequently taken from collateral motives to apply that measure to relieve the mischief. There are also some old towns which labour under the additional difficulty of comprising within their circuit of uninterrupted buildings several parishes without any vacant space contained within their parochial limits. It would evidently be desirable, both for the interest of the rate-payers and for the benefit of the entire community, that in such cases some central authority should be invested with the discretion of combining these parishes into unions for the purpose of a common cemetery.

"It does not appear indispensable for the public health that an unqualified prohibition should be enacted of interment within any defined distance from the circumference or the centre of such places as may be placed within the category of populous districts, for the purpose of legislation on this subject. It might tend to vexatious hardship on individuals, and to needless expense to parishes, if such prohibition should be resorted to, unless under the superintendence of some discretionary authority which might straiten or relax the rule according to the exigency ascertained in the respective cases. The irregular shape of towns, their tendency to spread in directions conformed to local circumstances, and the varying eligibility of ground in the neighbourhood for the purpose of cemeteries, preclude the adoption of any fixed minimum of distance. Moreover, on this head, Your Committee feel themselves bound to respect the case of Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's, of private vaults, of cemeteries such as the Necropolis, in the centre of Liverpool, and of the burial-grounds of the quakers, as described in the Appendix to this Report. Some unobjectionable cemeteries in the vicinity of the Metropolis, sanctioned by recent Acts of Parliament, would probably be found to come within the ban of any rigorous rule defining such a minimum of distance as would be desirable under any peremptory principle of restriction. Your Committee therefore do not consider themselves warranted in recommending any measure as imperative on the towns to be affected thereby, which should not be of so elastic a character as to be capable of adaptation in every instance to the right feelings, the well understood interests, nay, even the respectable prejudices of the population. Under this latter head they would class the prevalent aversion to any methods by which decomposition of the corpse would be attained more speedily and innocuously, and the desire to share with members of the same family a common place of sepulture. They would treat these dispositions towards the departed with all the tenderness compatible with the welfare of the living. Neither are they insensible to the consideration that removal of funerals to an increased distance would involve some augmentation of expense and inconvenience to the poorer classes, unless some additional facilities could be provided on their behalf through combined arrangements, which might be provided by Boards acting in the several districts, or from some central authority invested with adequate powers.

"The general scope, then, of the recommendations of Your Committee would be to furnish facilities to such towns or districts as may desire aid on this subject, and to enforce prohibition only where actual evil shall demand it. With this view they would suggest the propriety of establishing by Act of Parliament a Board to which should be entrusted the duty of providing and regulating cemeteries for the Bills of Mortality, and which should be enabled to exercise similar powers on behalf of any other town on application of any town council, or, where there be no town council, of any vestry meeting. Your Committee are of opinion, that the duty of framing and introducing a Bill for effectuating these objects would be most efficiently discharged by Her Majesty's Government, to whom they therefore earnestly recommend it."—(Mr. *Vernon*.)

Question put and negatived.

II. & III. Heads of the original Draft of Report amended and agreed to.

To Report, with Minutes of Evidence and Appendix.

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MINUTES OF EVIDENCE.

Jovis, 17^o die Martii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Lord Ashley.

Mr. Beckett.
Mr. Kemble.
Lord Mahon.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Henry Helsdon*, called in ; and Examined.

1. *Chairman.*] YOU are aware that this Committee is appointed for the purpose of investigating the necessity of an alteration in the present law with regard to interment in large towns or their precincts?—I am.

2. Have you turned your attention to the subject?—Somewhat.

3. Are you connected, directly or indirectly, with any of the cemeteries about this town?—Not at the present time.

4. What is your occupation?—I am collecting clerk of James Binyon Cooper, iron founder, of Drury-lane.

5. Have you in any manner been connected with burial-grounds?—Yes.

6. In what manner?—I have been employed as the assistant dissenting minister in a ground.

7. Have the goodness to state to the Committee what came under your observation when you were in that situation?—My employment has principally been in the City-road, Bunhill-fields, but more particularly at the New City Bunhill-fields, for, in consequence of the ground being of such very old standing, I believe 200 years or upwards, and the charge having been increased some five or six years since by the city corporation for the interment of bodies, a new ground was opened on speculation in Golden-lane, Barbican, a large space of ground, but situated in a densely-populated neighbourhood, and chiefly of the lower orders ; at that ground I have principally officiated as the assistant-minister of the Baptist persuasion.

8. How were the graves generally made?—The plan on which the grave was opened was quite in accordance with that generally observed or adopted throughout London ; that is, the opening, what is called a public grave, 30 feet deep, perhaps ; the first corpse interred was succeeded by another, and up to 16 or 18, and all the openings between the coffin boards were filled up with smaller coffins of children. When this grave was crammed as full as it could be, so that the topmost coffin was within two feet of the surface, that was banked up, and that piece of ground was considered as occupied.

9. What is the greatest number of interments which have taken place in one day?—The largest number of burials I have ever attended on one day was during the raging epidemic called the influenza, I think, in 1837. On one Sunday afternoon I buried 21 persons myself ; that was in Holywell Mount ground, situated about a quarter of a mile distant, in the Curtain-road.

10. Lord *Mahon.*] You said the greatest number you ever attended ; were there other burials on that day, that you did not attend?—No ; I officiated in the whole of the burials that Sunday ; the person who had officiated there occasionally being affected, as other parties were, with the influenza, I supplied his lack of service on that occasion.

11. *Chairman.*] To what chapel was that burying-ground attached?—It was
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attached to no place at the time, but it has been since attached to the church called St. James's New Church, in the Curtain-road; that is the ground I buried the greatest number in on one occasion, in Holywell-lane.

12. Is this plan of interment general, or was it only on that particular occasion?—I think it is pretty general; the printed statistics with which I was furnished by Mr. Walker will show it is a public and open acknowledgment, that in a certain portion of the burial-grounds for the lower orders, it is generally understood that a grave shall be opened, a public grave, covered with planks, but never filled up until it is covered almost to surfeiture with bodies.

13. Lord Mahon.] Do you apply that to other large towns as well as London?—No, to London; my knowledge is confined to London.

14. Mr. Kemble.] Do you mean it to confine to those large burying-places only, or to include parochial churchyards also?—I apply it to parochial churchyards also; the printed statistical accounts with reference to fees, and so on, give a statement to the public that the public graves are to be gradually filled up.

15. Do you know that of your own knowledge?—I know it from the printed statements submitted to Government.

16. Colonel Acton.] How long would it take before one was sufficiently filled to be covered over?—That would depend on the number of applications made on the average; in some instances it would take a fortnight, in other instances it would take a little longer.

17. Mr. Kemble.] You were understood to say you officiated at the New Bunhill-fields ground; does your knowledge extend to the general parochial churchyards connected with parish churches?—No, not personally.

18. Chairman.] Can you state whether you ever found any disagreeable smell or effluvia arising from those grounds with which you have been connected?—After the first year had passed away, for I officiated in that ground about four years during the heat of the summer, when those graves were re-opened on the Sunday afternoon, when most of the funerals take place, in consequence of their being chiefly among the Irish and the lower classes of society, by reason of their burying rather cheaper than at other grounds, they were exceedingly offensive; the swarms of some kind of black fly, which I am not able to explain the nature of, but I suppose generated in this house of corruption, were certainly so offensive, and the noisome stench arising from those deep graves was very unpleasant, so that it was difficult in the heat of the summer for any man of sensibility to discharge the duties necessarily devolving upon him.

19. Speaking from your own knowledge, what is the effect of such exhalations on the gravediggers or persons obliged to be in the immediate neighbourhood?—So far as my own personal knowledge goes, I can speak only to one, and that was a gravedigger in New Bunhill-fields; I have known him obliged to be drawn out of those very deep graves after being in half an hour or three quarters of an hour, in consequence of his being overpowered with the heat and the stench accumulated there, and more particularly in opening those graves where ten or twelve corpses had already been interred; and where they began to run, the offensive exhalation was dreadful.

20. You mention that there was a great number in each grave; what was the average number in each grave?—I should think in all those public graves, as they are called, they would average from 18 to 20.

21. Colonel Acton.] What depth is the grave?—They are generally dug from 25 to 30 feet deep. I wish to explain one matter, that the earth is thrown up on each side the grave two feet deep, so that the last coffin deposited in the grave looks tolerably deep; but when the whole of the earth, or sand or gravel is thrown aside and the works all removed, and the earth is again levelled with its common surface, I am quite certain, beyond all mistake, they have not been more than two feet below the surface of the ground; to all appearance it looks four or five feet, but when it is levelled by the removal of the earth, it is very thin; with the banks up it looks differently.

22. Mr. Kemble.] You were understood to speak of the effect the first year; what was the effect the subsequent years?—Every subsequent summer this offensive effluvia increased, and even the sight of the coffins, for the fact is that as the coffins lie one on another in succession from the bottom to the top, the next grave that is opened alongside of that, to make the very most of every inch of the speculation of any proprietor of such ground; nay, I have been witness, from

Sunday

Sunday to Sunday, to my certain knowledge, of from 16 to 18 coffins being placed all in succession, rising one above another, and the horrible stench arising from those, and the swarms of flies and insects accumulated, it is horrible to conceive; and I have gone away sometimes so loathing and disgusted as scarcely to be able to endure myself, and I know the tendency of these things is most immoral and injurious.

23. *Chairman.*] What is the general character of the gravediggers, and persons employed in that way?—I am sorry to say that the situation of life they are called to fill, and the nature of their avocation is such, that they are driven from extreme necessity to an almost unusual use of ardent spirits, sometimes to allay that which they conceive to be fearful in the effluvia, and to take off the effect from the system; and at other times, being a vitiated class of characters, I am sorry to say, from what I have seen from five or six years being connected with the undertakers, I have no good opinion I can give of them; they are initiated into a habit of drinking, but the gravediggers, particularly, I have observed to be a low, depraved, drunken class of men. I have seen the men that used to dig the graves of which I am speaking, on a Sunday afternoon, obliged to be turned out of the ground and sent away by the conductor of the ground, in a state of inebriation that was disgraceful to any man.

24. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] What wages are they able to earn?—They generally have some 15s. or 18s. a week; they pick up, perhaps, 4s. or 5s., or more, as gratuities from the persons attending.

25. *Mr. Kemble.*] When you speak of the immoral effect of it, do you mean that the exhalations from those graves compel them to drink?—Yes.

26. *Lord Mahon.*] You have stated the neighbourhood to have been thickly peopled; have you observed within your own knowledge any bad effects from those exhalations?—I can only say, that the most part of the causes of death, as far as my inquiries and knowledge have gone, has been from intermittent fevers; I can scarcely explain it in proper terms, but low intermittent fevers, carrying off persons, but more particularly children. I have buried, myself, 10 or 12, or 14 in the Sunday afternoon.

27. Have you ever been in the neighbouring houses, in which this effluvia prevailed?—No; I have nothing to do with any private portion of the neighbourhood; my duties were in the ground.

28. On what ground do you give your former answer, as to believing those houses to be affected with the exhalation, as you state that you have never been in one of them?—Because the party who conducted the ground was himself an undertaker, and whenever inquiries were made as to the causes of death, whether the body of a young man or a young woman, when I have asked the causes of those deaths, he has said, "Oh, fever, fever; influenza, influenza!"

29. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] How far does the intermittent fever extend; is it in the immediate neighbourhood?—Yes; I speak of the immediate neighbourhood.

30. What do you mean by the immediate neighbourhood?—I mean all the streets and lanes adjacent to the ground; but I do not attribute the intermittent fever to the effluvia of the ground, but that it may arise from the filthy state, the want of proper cleansing, and so on; I wish to confine myself to facts, but I have reason to believe that there were more cases of fever here than in general.

31. Do they arise from their being in the vicinity of this burial-ground?—I cannot speak to that.

32. *Chairman.*] As far as your observation goes, do you think it affects the morals of the people?—I am fully convinced it does, and that to a very serious extent.

33. On the same principle as you think it affects the morals of the gravediggers?—Those parties come in and witness the sort of carelessness in the discharge of duties; there is no difference made, the coffin is placed in the ground. I know on one occasion a body was, it might be perhaps from accident, but from what took place I am persuaded arising from drunkenness, a body was pitched into the grave, and it was two hours before it could be set to rights; it was very painful; I do not attribute it all to inebriation.

34. Where do you reside?—I reside now in Drury-lane, near to my office.

35. Can you state to the Committee any particulars respecting a burial-ground in that neighbourhood?—I verily believe it to be one of the very worst in London.

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36. Lord *Mahon*.] Have you any personal knowledge of it?—My sleeping-room commands a side view glance into the ground itself, and I have witnessed parties having on the Sunday to stand, or, to my knowledge, to wait for ten minutes or a quarter of an hour before the minister returns from church; they have no place to retreat to, but the plan adopted there has astonished me beyond anything, and no person passing or repassing in Drury-lane of respectable character would suppose that any such plan as that adopted, to my own knowledge, could take place. As soon as possible after the interment of a corpse it is banked up, frequently in the presence of the parties, who wait to see that everything in their judgment is safe and sound, and after two or three weeks it is all levelled and raked over as comfortable as a garden to look at; and, though that ground has been about a century opened, there is no trace of more than some 60 or 70 persons having been buried there at all, though I have no doubt there have been as many thousands.

37. *Chairman*.] What is the space?—It might be perhaps 200 feet square.

38. Viscount *Mahon*.] You say you have no doubt that sixty or seventy thousand have been buried there since it has been opened?—I have no doubt of it.

39. On what grounds do you make that calculation?—I made the calculation on the number that may be supposed to have been buried every week for the last century.

40. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] What is the name of that burial-ground?—I think it is called St. Martin-in-the-Fields; it is attached, I believe, to that parish; it is situated in the centre of Drury-lane, near Little Russell-street.

41. *Chairman*.] You mean to say that, in that densely-populated neighbourhood, sixty or seventy thousand bodies have been placed in a space 200 feet square?—Yes.

42. Mr. *Kemble*.] You say you sleep in a room which has a side view of that ground; can you state whether you yourself have experienced any injurious effect on your own health?—I have resided there only a few months, therefore I cannot for myself, individually, say anything upon that subject; I have never, to my knowledge, experienced any ill effects.

43. How many months have you resided there?—Seven months altogether; most part of the time I have been there I have been confined to my bed.

44. *Chairman*.] Since you came into that neighbourhood you have been confined by illness?—Yes; not arising from that cause.

45. How far is your house from that ground?—I should think not more than 30 yards, and scarcely that.

46. Mr. *Kemble*.] Have you heard any complaint from your neighbours who reside there, of the evil effects which have arisen from it?—Since I have been in the situation I am now filling, in the service of Mr. Cooper, I have heard different neighbours complain of that ground as being, as some have expressed, an infernal nuisance, and some one term and some another; but I never heard any express any but the strongest opinion that it was a notorious nuisance in such a neighbourhood, so surrounded with people, and in the immediate neighbourhood of the theatres, and with a cast-iron open gate, eight or ten feet high, for the effluvia to flow into the street.

47. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Have you yourself experienced any inconvenience from the effluvia?—I cannot say that I have, but I have been there but a very short period.

48. Have you been there during any part of the summer?—No, my windows have been closed; I was placed there not from choice, but necessity.

49. How many interments are there in the course of a week?—I should think, from what little I can say, they may average from 15 to 16 or 17.

50. Do you conceive there have been any depredations committed there, any bodies stolen?—I ought not to say what I have heard, because it would not be evidence; but if I were to say what I have heard, I am sure the detail would be disgusting in the extreme.

51. *Chairman*.] Have you anything further to say on the subject, bearing on these points?—I have merely to say that so far as my own personal knowledge is concerned, and conversant as I have been with several grounds in London, officiating here and there as circumstances and occasion might require, I have found the same evil prevails in every ground, and that which I abominate most of all is, that it is a monopoly of some one or two individuals, who are irresponsible to any party or parties or power; that there is no control exercised

over them; that it is a private piece of ground which they may devote to a burial-ground, or they may sacrifice every feeling of humanity and honour by appropriating that to building purposes, or any purposes in which it may be most profitable.

52. Lord *Mahon*.] Have you known any instances where they have done so?—I rather think the advantages arising from such monopoly are too great for the parties to appropriate them to any other purpose.

53. Then why do you express a fear that it might be so devoted?—I think it would not be worth their while so to devote them.

54. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Is the burial-ground in Drury-lane connected with any parish?—I believe it is connected with St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, but that is a part of the clerical domain.

55. Does not the clergyman see to the exercise of any control over it?—He simply discharges his duties when called upon to attend a funeral; I am not aware of any further interference on his part.

56. Mr. *Kemble*.] In officiating on those funerals, do you officiate for any particular denomination?—No, as a public character.

57. Do you use the funeral service of the Church of England?—That is matter of choice; sometimes a short address, with extemporary prayer, has been preferred by some parties.

58. You are a dissenting minister?—I am.

59. Were you appointed to this office at the New Bunhill-fields?—Yes.

60. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Are you connected with any congregation as a minister to any regular chapel?—No, I am not.

61. Where do you generally officiate; among the Methodist or the Independent connexion, or what?—I am more particularly connected with the Baptist denomination.

62. Mr. *Kemble*.] But you do not officiate now at all?—I do not, nor I have not for the last four years.

Mr. *John Irwin* called in; and Examined.

63. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your situation in life?—I am a house painter.

64. Are you connected in any way, directly or indirectly, with the cemeteries about this town?—Not in any.

65. Where do you reside?—I reside in the vicinity of Clare Market

66. How long have you resided there?—I have been in the vicinity nearly twenty-eight years; Clement's-lane is my place of abode.

67. Is your work chiefly in-doors, or out-of-doors?—Chiefly out-of-doors; sometimes I am in the country, sometimes round the neighbourhood.

68. In what state is your health?—At present it is pretty tolerable.

69. Have you been afflicted during your residence there?—I certainly have, very much so, at times, with a giddiness.

70. To what do you attribute that?—My house is situated in a burial-ground; I may say situated in it, for it looks over a burial-ground, called Portugal-street Burial-ground, belonging to the parish of St. Clement Danes.

71. Does your living there, in your opinion, affect your health?—I consider that it does affect my health, but not so much as it has done that of my family; generally, I attribute my health being better to my being out-of-doors; my wife has been ailing ever since we have been in that place.

72. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Have you been married twenty-eight years?—No; I have been married twenty-four, last October.

73. Lord *Mahon*.] Have your children suffered also in health?—Yes, I certainly have had children suffer.

74. *Chairman*.] You attribute that to your being in the neighbourhood of the graveyard?—I do; for this reason, we never ailed anything till I came to that house.

75. How long have you lived in the house?—I have been in that house only since October 1838, three years.

76. Ever since you have been in that house, yourself and family have been affected?—Yes; the whole of my family have been unwell.

77. What is your reason for attributing that to the neighbourhood of the churchyard?—I had a lodger of the name of Britt, a man who had a little income, and who resided there as a quiet place, and his wife was taken with typhus

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fever; he went to see his wife at the fever hospital; he came home in a state of stupor, and died I believe four or five days afterwards; I also had a lodger of the name of Rosamond, Mr. and Mrs. Rosamond; Mr. and Mrs. Rosamond had the typhus fever, both went to the fever hospital; Mrs. Rosamond recovered, the husband died in the fever hospital and was buried in Portugal-street burying-ground, in the poor ground.

78. Has the mortality in your neighbourhood been great?—Very great.

79. Have the symptoms of disease been similar to those you have experienced?—It has been generally said so, typhus fever.

80. State what you know yourself?—I have stated the whole of my family; I have stated with respect to Mr. and Mrs. Rosamond, they both went to the fever hospital.

81. Mr. Ainsworth.] How long had they been lodgers with you?—Not above three or four months.

82. Were they in a good state of health when they came to you?—They were, and he was a man employed in Farringdon Market, a porter.

83. In good health?—Yes, a ruddy complexioned looking man.

84. How soon after he became a lodger with you was he attacked with this fever?—I should say almost immediately.

85. Chairman.] How long was it after you went into that neighbourhood that you first began to imagine it originated in your vicinity to the graveyard?—Within six weeks after we went to that house the whole of my family were attacked. I had a child, a very fine boy about six years of age, who had the typhus fever, at least I rather thought it was the typhus fever; he was taken very ill indeed, and came home with a relaxed state of the bowels, the glands of his neck were swelled, speaking within compass, as big as a pigeon's egg on each side, and he died in six days afterwards.

86. You attribute his death to that cause?—I consider that typhus fever.

87. Do you conceive that that originated in the vicinity to the churchyard?—Yes, Mr. Carpenter, who attended the child, said it was.

88. Do you know any instances of persons who have attended funerals in that yard being injured in their health?—There is one thing comes to my mind; at the time that the alterations were going on of King's College Hospital; it was formerly a receptacle for the poor; the gate being open, I was going past the place, when I saw a gravedigger, and went up and said, "This is a deep grave;" he said, "Aye, it is indeed, and yesterday I was so very much affected I did not know how to contain myself." "Why, what was the matter?" He said, "I broke into a place, and if I had not made my escape I should have died instantly," for the effluvia was so strong, as he told me, that it knocked him down; he said, "I came on with such a staggering that I was obliged to go up and get something to drink."

89. What has come under your own knowledge to make you think that the effluvia arising from that churchyard is unwholesome; you have mentioned the health of your children and yourself, what have you seen in respect of your neighbours?—I have stated the case of my family; I have had the typhus fever myself.

90. Have you known any persons taken ill after they attended funerals there?—Yes, a brother-in-law of mine, Clark, an undertaker, attended a funeral at Spa-fields, and he told me he was very ill.

91. Was he ill?—I know he was ill, of course.

92. Do you believe it was owing to that?—I do think it was owing to that; the doctor who attended him said that that was the cause of his death, the effluvia that came from the coffin, and I think it was, because I had been affected myself in that way.

93. Lord Mahon.] Do you say that this brother-in-law of yours died?—Yes, he did, five days after he came home.

94. Chairman.] Have you yourself felt any bad smell or effluvia from that churchyard?—I have.

95. So as to be very offensive?—Yes; I have mentioned before the case of Mr. Britt, who was buried from my house; they kept him there in the house for 12 days, or nearly; he was buried within 10 feet of my wall; the grave was opened, and a fortnight after that there was another put a-top of him, but previous to that the smell from that grave was so nauseous I could hardly contain myself; I was obliged to keep my window down; I saw the grave opened a
fortnight

fortnight afterwards; I considered with myself, what an abominable shame this is to open the grave and bury another so soon afterwards; I went round and looked at the grave; I stopped till the funeral came; I saw the corpse deposited; I was rather curious, and took out my rule and measured the depth; I measured at the foot then, when the other coffin, which was laid upon it was put in, it was scarcely two feet from the surface; I made this reply to the gravedigger standing by, "If this be the case, well typhus fever may rage in the manner it does in this neighbourhood;" he made me no answer; I went across the churchyard; there, all the workhouse people on the right-hand side seemed to rejoice at such a proceeding. Considering the inclination of the coffin at the foot, there was not above one foot nine from the surface.

96. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You say the paupers seemed to rejoice at what?—They seemed to rejoice that there should be such interference; it appeared to them as if I interfered in their behalf.

97. *Chairman*.] Your opinion is, that the smell of the dead bodies as it were evaporates through the small depth of earth over the coffins?—Yes, I am satisfied of that by my own feelings; I was employed some time ago in St. Sepulchre's, at the time of the great alteration going on there; this was the first thing that excited my feeling in this business: I was at work there when there was what was called a clearing-out of the vault; I was at work in the north aisle, and there is a vault-door which may be seven feet by three and a half; I was at work about four feet from this vault-door; there were four men and a boy at the clearing-out, as it was called; they were taking baskets after baskets of, I may almost say, decomposed matter; but it does not come to that, it was arms and legs, and flesh, in a dried state, something like russet-leather; they were taken to a corner in the churchyard on the left-hand side, and deposited in a sort of bone-house, I think it was called; there were probably some pounds of tobacco burning during the conveyance of this decomposed matter.

98. Did it emit a bad smell?—I was taken so ill with the smell that I left work for three days; there were four men and a boy employed in that place, and one man, a particularly robust-looking man, spoke to me, as I was near, and said, "Dear me, I can hardly stand it;" every now and then they were missing for two or three hours; we remarked, they were gone to take their drops, "Aye, no wonder at it, for I think we shall make a drop of it if we do not mind;" however, I was ill for three days. One man of the name of Fergusson that worked there also, I cannot say that his illness was caused by it, but he left his work and was found dead in his bed.

99. How long after?—About a fortnight after my illness; I was away three days.

100. The impression on your mind is, that his death was the consequence of exposure to that smell?—No, it is not exactly, but I have no other reason to say but what it may be; the man had been very well ever since I knew him, and I had known the man up to that time for 15 years; it is, I should think, six years ago since the finishing of that church.

101. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You are a house-painter?—Yes.

102. Do you keep your paints in your house?—I am a journeyman painter, and merely job on my own account; I do not keep much paint.

103. You do not think your family have suffered from the smell of the paint in your house?—No, I do not; I do not think that is the case, because they did not suffer in my former house.

104. Had you paints in your former house?—Yes.

105. Your family was in good health at your former house?—Yes, I have been a house-painter all my life.

106. Mr. *Kemble*.] You came to reside in your present house, you say, in 1838; of what does your family consist?—My family consisted at that time of three girls and two boys, and myself and wife.

107. One of your children died?—Yes, at six years of age.

108. The others have all been attacked with fever?—Yes.

109. Do you find that their general health is injured by your residing in that place?—I can safely say I am sure of it.

110. They were very healthy before, and are now ill?—Yes, they are complaining continually of giddiness, and their health is bad: some are grown up. I have said, I cannot help it; I will get out of it as soon as I can; but my circumstances will not admit of it: my business lies round the neighbourhood, and the place is cheap-rented, or I would not stop in the place.

Mr. John Irwin.

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111. *Chairman.*] As far as your observation goes, have similar effects been experienced by persons residing about this churchyard to those which you state have occurred in your own family?—I cannot exactly answer that question, because I do not make myself much known among them; I have heard it rumoured that such a one has the typhus fever: all Lamb's family, for instance, went into the fever hospital; two of them died. I have been very curious in a sort of calculation. I have been very much excited by the disagreeable things I have seen in burying-grounds; I may say most revolting.

112. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Do you mean to say, in this burial-ground in Portugal-street?—Yes, that is the one I have particularly seen. This I have done from my own suggestion; the names of those who died of typhus fever in my house, Mr. and Mrs. Rosamond, the husband died in the fever hospital; Mr. and Mrs. Britt, the wife in the fever hospital, but Mr. Britt went to see his wife, was brought home in a state of stupor, and died about five days afterwards, as I have stated, and buried about 15 feet from the wall of my house. Mrs. Britt's sister attended at the house, taken ill, and died three weeks afterwards, she went to Clerkenwell, and died of the typhus fever. George Starks, another of my lodgers, had erysipelas, attended King's College Hospital, was told he never would get well unless he went into the country; he left, and is now about, and stout and hearty.

113. There are three individuals who have died, to your knowledge?—Yes; an account taken of deaths in November 1839, in the vicinity of Clare Market: Mr. Clark, Mrs. Hayes.

114. Do you know anything of those?—I have seen most of the funerals.

115. Did you know the whole of them?—Not all of them; I have seen most of the funerals go to and fro in the street.

116. You do not know the real cause of their deaths?—No.

117. In what state are the streets in your neighbourhood, as regards the drainage or sewage?—The sewage is very bad indeed.

118. Are there any regular drains?—The market is very badly drained indeed.

119. Are there any drains?—There is a grating, but I cannot say whether there is a drain; I have only to say there is one entrance into the market, the entrance is about 10 feet, and there is a cesspool about 14 feet deep, and the filth, which is plain to be seen, oozes out from between the stones.

120. The neighbouring streets are not quite in a fit state?—I consider the burial-ground side is the worst place I ever saw in my life; the smell I refer to in the houses that look into the burial-ground.

121. The question refers to the streets?—The drainage appears wholly stopped up.

122. The water does not pass away?—No, it does not; the whole of those houses are let to lodgers; there is one man that holds half the street; he lives away, and does not attend to the matter at all.

Mr. Samuel Pitts, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Samuel Pitts.

123. WHAT is your occupation?—I am a cabinet-maker by trade.

124. Are you connected in any way with the cemeteries which have been formed of late?—No, I am not.

125. Where do you reside?—At No. 14, Catherine-street, Strand.

126. Are you an attendant in Enon-chapel, Clement's-lane?—I was formerly.

127. What description of dissenters hold that chapel?—The Baptists held it.

128. Will you state to the Committee generally the state of the interments in the cemetery of that chapel?—At the time I attended it, which was from about the year 1828, for six or seven years, there were interments, and the place was in a very filthy state; the smell was most abominable and very injurious; I have frequently gone home myself with a severe headache, which I suppose to have been occasioned by the smell there, more particularly in the summer time; also there were some insects something similar to a bug in shape and appearance, only with wings; about the size of a small bug; I have seen in the summer time hundreds of them flying about the chapel; I have taken them home in my hat, and my wife has taken them home in her clothes; we always considered that they proceeded from the dead bodies underneath; there was nothing but the thin boards

boards between the depository and the chapel, and there were openings between owing to the shrinking of the boards.

129. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Do you mean to say there was nothing between the vaults and the chapel but the thin boards?—No, the thin boards and the joists; there was not the usual lath and plaster.

130. Were they buried in simple coffins?—Yes; I never heard that there was a leaden coffin in the place.

131. How long has this been allowed?—It was previous to my attending the chapel; I first went in the beginning of 1828.

132. Colonel *Acton*.] Is this in existence now?—Yes; the chapel, I believe, is not occupied now as a place of worship, but the burial-place still exists; and from what I hear the coffins are piled up now higher than ever.

133. *Chairman*.] What is the size of the chapel?—I suppose about 50 or 60 feet by 30 or 40.

134. That is the length of the vaults underneath?—Yes, it must be, but there is that which takes up a great part of the space; a sewer runs longways across; there is an arch built which reaches up nearly to the flooring.

135. What number of dead bodies are there in this place?—I should suppose ten or twelve thousand.

136. In a space of 50 or 60 feet by 40?—Yes.

137. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Was the effluvia so objectionable that the service ceased in consequence?—That was not the cause of my leaving; it was in consequence of the minister dying. It was anything but eligible.

138. *Chairman*.] What was the effect of burying this number of bodies in this space under these circumstances?—I felt the headache, and I considered that that was the cause of it; it was very injurious to the neighbourhood round.

139. Mr. *Kemble*.] Do you reside in the neighbourhood yourself?—I do not.

140. Lord *Mahon*.] How many hours were you there in a day?—About five hours; when I went twice to worship, four or five hours.

141. *Chairman*.] Has it come under your observation that the persons attending the chapel have experienced the same inconveniences which you did?—Yes, frequently persons have been taken out of the chapel fainting in the middle of the service.

142. Mr. *Kemble*.] Has that been in winter or summer?—Both winter and summer, more particularly in summer.

143. Was the congregation a crowded one?—Not latterly; it fell off.

144. Have you seen that occur when the congregation was not crowded?—Yes.

145. *Chairman*.] Is there any other mode by which the exhalation of the dead bodies can evaporate except through the chinks of the floor?—There is only one small place about four feet by five, that is the only outlet; the coffins are piled up nearly to the floor.

146. What is the depth of the vaults to the floor of the chapel?—About six feet.

147. In a space of 59 feet by 29, with a dept of 6 feet, how can there be 12,000 bodies?—A great number were buried, in the first instance, till it got too full.

148. Buried below that depth?—Yes.

149. Your statement is, that in the space of 59 feet by 29, they have buried as many as 12,000 bodies?—From what I have understood, a great many have been removed, to make room for others; I did hear, and it came through a woman who used to wash for Mrs. Howse, that they used to burn the coffins under the copper, and frequently in their own fire-place.

150. What became of the remains?—I do not know what became of them, unless they were shovelled all together, which I believe to be the case in this place.

151. Mr. *Kemble*.] Were the burial fees small here?—Yes, they were.

152. Who had them?—The minister had them.

153. It was part of his emolument?—Yes.

154. To what did they amount?—I do not know, but I have known as many as nine or ten buried on one Sunday afternoon; this I had from the minister's own mouth.

155. You stated that a drain passed into those cellars under the chapel; is there any possibility that when they took away the whole of the coffins they threw any remains into that drain?—It was open when I first attended, and the commissioners compelled Mr. Howse to build this arch over it.

Mr. Samuel Pitts.
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156. Previous to that being built was it possible anything could go into the sewer?—Previous to that, I believe, it was open; or covered over with building.

157. When the wood was taken away, could anything fall into the sewer?—Yes.

158. To the best of your belief, did anything fall in?—I cannot say, but I believe it to be possible; if it had been secure, why should the commissioners compel him to build an arch over?

159. Were any of the bodies deposited in leaden coffins?—Not one, that I know of.

160. Mr. *Kemble*.] Do you know whether they objected to their being in leaden coffins, or not?—I do not.

161. You say you have observed a black fly; does this arise from the putrefaction of the bodies?—I expect that.

162. Had you always that black fly, or was there any other description of insect previous?—Not in my time; I understand that, at the first, when they appeared, it was a different sort of insect; but that was previous to my attending there; during the time I attended there it was a small insect, similar to a bug.

163. Is Enon Chapel a place surrounded by houses?—Entirely, except on one side, which is open to Clement's Inn.

164. Lord *Mahon*.] Have you any reason to believe that the abduction of coffins has proceeded to any great extent?—Yes, I have.

165. Have they been removed by night?—I do not know at what time they were removed; but I understood it was a regular thing for them to burn the coffins in their own house, which was adjoining the chapel.

166. That they burnt the wood of the coffins in the house of the minister?—Yes.

167. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Had he the sole management of the chapel?—Yes, he built it.

168. *Chairman*.] As a speculation?—Yes.

169. Lord *Mahon*.] What is its present condition?—I believe the chapel is shut up.

170. *Chairman*.] Was it shut up in consequence of the smell of the place?—I suppose so, that they could get no person to take it; it is now in the possession of the widow, and her son, young Mr. Howse.

171. Are there any interments there now?—I cannot tell.

172. Have you ever, yourself, attended a burial in that chapel?—Yes.

173. Was there a trap-door to let down the coffins?—Yes, there is an entrance with steps attached; and there is another within, by a trap-door, out of the chapel; that is the way in which, I believe, large coffins were carried down; smaller ones were carried down the steps from the court.

174. Was the smell more offensive when that trap-door was open than when it was not open?—Yes, the smell was very offensive; enough, as it is said, to knock you down.

175. Do you think that the deposit of those bodies originated effluvia injurious to the neighbourhood?—I can have no doubt about that.

176. Is it true that this dissenting minister had a Sunday-school for children?—He had at that time.

177. Did they meet in the chapel?—Yes.

178. How long were they there?—They were there from nine in the morning till service began, at eleven; then during the whole of the service in the morning, and in the afternoon from two to four, or thereabouts.

179. How many hours would that make in the day?—About six hours.

180. So that those young children were kept six hours in this chapel and school over 12,000 dead bodies?—Yes.

181. Mr. *Kemble*.] Do you know how many children attended?—They varied; I have seen as many as 50 there.

182. Lord *Mahon*.] They did not return there any days in the week but Sundays?—No.

183. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Was the chapel made use of in the week days?—No, I believe not, except on two evenings in the week.

184. Have you any remark to make regarding the health of the children who attended?—I know nothing about the health of the children; I had nothing to do with the school; I can say this from my own wife, she has not been a healthy woman

woman since she attended there; she used frequently to come home ill, and was obliged ultimately almost to desist from going on that account.

Mr. Samuel Pitts.

185. You cannot state to the Committee the state of health in the immediate neighbourhood?—I cannot.

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186. Is it your opinion that it must be affected by this cemetery?—I think it must; it is an exceedingly close neighbourhood.

187. In how many years do you suppose those 12,000 bodies have been deposited, or how long is it since this chapel was opened?—It was first built, I believe, in the year 1823.

188. Were the vaults formed at the same time?—Yes.

189. It was made a speculation by the minister?—Yes.

190. In that period of time 12,000 human corpses have been buried?—Yes; it has been going on from that time to the last year or two.

191. Are all the persons of the Baptist persuasion in that neighbourhood buried there?—No; but it was so cheap, that the poorer classes in the neighbourhood, not, perhaps, religious persons, were buried there.

192. You account for the vast number of persons buried there from the cheapness of the fee?—Yes.

193. This gentleman, though a Dissenter, took in other persons to be buried there?—Yes; my wife remonstrated with Mr. Howse when she heard the report of the burning of the coffins; we buried a little boy there, and he said she need not make herself at all apprehensive about it, she might at any time see the corpse; in fact, it was at first put in a kind of private vault, a little stone place built, I believe, chiefly for his own children; I had at the time an impression that I should remove it to my own family grave in Bunhill-fields, but it has never been done; when she remonstrated with him about it, he said she might at any time see it after it had been buried a twelvemonth; that he had no objection to any person seeing coffins opened after the first twelvemonth, but he thought during the first twelvemonth it was not proper; but there would have been no possibility in nine cases out of ten of getting at the coffins or finding them at all, in consequence of the number placed there.

194. Mr. Kemble.] Do you attribute the death of the child in any way to attending this chapel?—I cannot state that; the child died from water on the brain.

195. Have you other children?—I have.

196. Do you find that the health of the other children is affected by it?—I have one child very much affected with scrofula.

197. Mr. Ainsworth.] What are the accustomed fees at this burying-place; what did you pay for your own child?—The child was about five years of age, and I paid, I think, 8s.; from 12s. to 15s., I think, were paid for a grown person.

198. What did that include?—That included every thing; the ground, and the minister of course did not expect anything; that is paid to him.

199. You are quite certain you have smelt yourself in this chapel the effluvia arising from those dead bodies?—Hundreds of times.

200. This is in a very densely populated neighbourhood?—The houses are close upon it.

201. Can you account for 12,000 bodies being placed there, except that the coffins must have been destroyed for the purpose of giving more room?—No, I cannot, for I do not think the space would hold them.

202. If this minister had not burnt the coffins he could not have had room to put in that number of bodies?—I think he could not.

203. Therefore there was a necessity for destroying the coffins?—Yes; I did not believe that he did so at the time, but I have every reason to believe so since his death.

204. If you had believed that at the time, you would not have allowed your child to be buried there?—I should not, nor should I have continued to attend the place.

205. Mr. Kemble.] You stated that persons, even in winter, were taken home fainting; did that often occur?—Yes, often; perhaps on an average every other Sunday.

206. One or more persons in a day?—Yes; there might be occasionally a Sunday pass without it, but that was, I think, the average.

Mr. *Moses Solomons*, called in; and Examined.

Mr. *M. Solomons*.

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207. WHAT is your occupation?—In a general line of business.
208. Where do you reside?—I reside No. 6, Vinegar-yard, Drury-lane.
209. How long have you resided there?—Fifty-seven years.
210. Are you connected in any way, directly or indirectly, with the cemeteries about this town?—Not at all.
211. You have no interest whatever in them?—No.
212. How is your house situated with regard to the burial-ground in that street?—My house is extremely narrow; our back staircase windows look into the churchyard.
213. State to the Committee what has occurred to your observation from being so near the churchyard?—I have seen the gravedigger take a coffin out, that coffin not being quite decayed, and take the body out, and he has taken the spade and chopped the head from the body so that he could take it out of the grave.
214. In what churchyard is this?—It belongs to the New Church in the Strand, St. Mary's.
215. Are the graves dug deep, or how are they dug?—They are sometimes twelve or fourteen feet deep, up to twenty sometimes; then they put in perhaps six or eight coffins, till it comes almost to the surface.
216. To within what distance of the surface?—I suppose three or four feet.
217. Is this the general practice in this churchyard?—Yes.
218. Does any exhalation or putrid smell arise from it?—Sometimes, in summer-time.
219. Is that very great?—Yes, very great.
220. Have you ever found it affect your health?—No.
221. Nor the health of your family?—No.
222. How long has this place been made use of as a graveyard?—I remember it ever since I have lived in the neighbourhood, fifty-seven years.
223. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Where is this burial-ground?—It is in Vinegar-yard; the gate goes from Russell-court, Drury-lane.
224. How far is it from the St. Martin's burial-ground?—I suppose about five or six minutes' walk.
225. *Chairman*.] Have you ever experienced any unpleasant smell arising?—In the summer.
226. Has that ever been so strong as to oblige you to close your windows?—Yes, at times.
227. Is it very offensive?—Not so much as in other places; it is a very small ground.
228. What is the size of it?—I suppose better than half an acre.
229. How many bodies are placed there?—I have seen three or four on a Sunday; I have seen three burials very lately in it.
230. What would you take the average at in the course of a year?—I dare say we might reckon from six to seven a week.
231. About one a day?—Yes.
232. How many years has it been opened?—I cannot tell; I can remember it ever since I have been in the neighbourhood.
233. Are you aware that that would make 20,000 bodies in half an acre of ground?—Yes.
234. Are you of opinion that there are 20,000 bodies in that space?—Yes; there are three or four buried in a day sometimes.
235. At the lowest computation, you think there are 20,000 human bodies placed in that ground?—I have not the least doubt of it.
236. Lord *Mahon*.] Have you reason to believe that any large number of coffins are abstracted?—I have seen a great many broken up.
237. What persons have broken them up?—The grave-digger.
238. What does he do with them?—I suppose he puts them in the bone-house, and the bones too.
239. What does he do with the coffins?—I suppose they sell them, and take the nails out.
240. Have you reason to believe that practice prevails to a great extent?—No, I cannot say that it does, but I have seen him break them up.

241. In that churchyard?—Yes.
242. Have you seen him break them up more than once?—Yes.
243. Is that done with secrecy?—It is done so that anybody can see it out of the back windows.
244. *Chairman.*] It can be seen only by those who have windows looking into the churchyard?—Yes, from their back windows.
245. *Lord Mahon.*] Have you known those broken-up coffins to be burnt as firewood?—I suppose it is done, but they have been taken away.
246. Your impression is that they have been taken away to be burnt?—Yes.
247. *Chairman.*] Is that a healthy neighbourhood?—Where I live is very healthy, because I live opposite to the theatre; Russell-court is much narrower.
248. You attribute your being more healthy than your neighbours to being in a more healthy space?—Yes.
249. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Is this considered a parochial burial-ground belonging to St. Mary's parish?—Yes.
250. Who has the superintendence and care of the ground?—I cannot say; I have seen the churchwardens there.
251. What is the fee for burial in that churchyard?—That I cannot say; at the time the cholera morbus was about, the gravedigger would put two or three into one grave; he was taken very ill, and I believe he died two days afterwards; his name was Jackson.
252. *Chairman.*] Had you any very severe cases of cholera in your immediate neighbourhood?—A son of mine died with it.
253. You were not acquainted sufficiently with the other houses to inform the Committee particularly?—No.
254. *Lord Mahon.*] Do your house windows look on to this churchyard?—Yes, the back of my house was near the bone-house.
255. Did your son's room look into the churchyard?—No we have no windows from our rooms into this yard; we have a staircase window from which I could see what was passing in the ground.
256. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] You do not know what is the expense of interment in this ground?—I do not.

Mr. William Burn, called in; and Examined.

257. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation are you in?—A master carman.
258. Where do you reside?—I reside in King's Head-yard, Duke-street, Lincoln's Inn-Fields.
259. Are you in any way connected with cemeteries?—Not in any way whatever.
260. Will you have the kindness to state anything which comes under your knowledge with regard to interments in the precincts of this town?—With regard to Enon Chapel, at the time of the sewer being built, I was employed to remove with my carts the rubbish which was dug up, and I think, to the best of my recollection, I took about 60 loads away from the place.
261. Of what?—Of rubbish, earth, and whatever it consisted of; I think I received 7*l.* 15*s.*, at 2*s.* 6*d.* per load. In the alteration of the sewer, they were obliged to dig deeper and wider to enlarge; there was a sewer there, but it was obliged to be enlarged.
262. It was a barrel sewer?—Yes.
263. Were there any human bodies removed?—There were a great many bones taken out of the vault; the whole came out of the vault.
264. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Where did you remove them to?—We used to shoot our rubbish then near Waterloo-bridge, where they were making a pathway opposite the pathway in the Waterloo-road, and in the back streets.
265. *Chairman.*] You filled up the streets with this rubbish, consisting of bones?—Yes.
266. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] By whose permission did you do this?—The place was open for the depositing of rubbish to raise the causeway in forming the new streets on the right.
267. *Mr. Kemble.*] You were employed by the minister of the chapel?—I was employed by the bricklayer who had the job; he paid me.

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268. *Chairman.*] Was the whole of this vault under Enon Chapel entirely cleared out?—No, there was a space; I do not know how they got it out, for the coffins were piled up as high as the floor on one side, just to get a space to take them out. There were some curtains of canvass drawn to hide them from the gaze of the workmen that were there. They told me that the person that was then employed as sexton or gravedigger was a very drunken sort of man; he did not mind, if a coffin came in his way, putting his pickaxe through it, any more than putting it into the earth. I did the whole of it with my own hands; I used to execute the work myself. There were some men repairing Clement's-lane; they asked me to give them a few baskets of rubbish, which I did, and they picked up a human hand, and were looking at it, and there were crowds collected; it did not appear to have been buried probably a month; it was as perfect as my hand. The sexton, when he found there was likely to be a piece of work, ran out and snatched it away, and blew me up for letting them have it. I told him I did not think I was doing any mischief in giving a basket of rubbish to the men. When I was shooting out the rubbish, I recollect some gentlemen looking at the bones; I believe some of them were medical men, and they asked me where I got them from. The subject was most repulsive to me; I never saw such a sight with coffins broken about.

269. What is the depth of this vault from the flooring of the chapel to the bottom?—I should suppose, from what is called the bottom, not more than two yards.

270. How was it possible for it to hold so many coffins?—I took, I suppose, 60 loads at 2s. 6d. a load; the amount I took away making 7l. 15s. or 7l. 17s. 6d., so that that must have been in the place.

271. Those consisted partly of earth, partly of human bones, and partly of coffins?—Yes; I have had some practice in other places. There is a peculiarity in earth out of a burying-place which I can describe best by a "nauseous smell," for I have been taken ill myself lately by removing this sort of earth, a sort of clammy earth. There is something very offensive both to the smell and the feel, and it makes one feel ill at the stomach. A great portion of this earth was of that description. I have no doubt that the greatest portion of what I removed was human bodies in a state of putrefaction.

272. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Did you make no remark about it to the minister?—It was not my business.

273. What was the minister's name?—His name was Howse. I was only employed as a labourer, as I may say; I got paid for what I did. The bricklayer who employed me was Griffiths; he lives in Crown-court.

274. *Chairman.*] How long were you about this job?—Several days. It was a very near shoot; I went over Waterloo bridge, and paid the toll out of what I got, because I could do so many more loads; I did six or seven loads in a day.

275. How many persons do you suppose have been buried under this chapel within your knowledge?—I really cannot say with regard to the number; I had been in the chapel at funerals previously to this job; I heard what Mr. Pitts said with regard to the quantity, and I believe what he said to be correct, though I cannot account for the disappearance; I know it cannot hold the amount buried, but I know on the Sunday the lane was crowded with funerals; it was so remarked that they were continually burying; they buried cheaply; there are plenty die in Clement's-lane.

276. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] How many do you think have been buried there in a week?—I cannot say; I have had nothing to do with undertaking.

277. *Chairman.*] The substance of how many bodies do you suppose you may have removed in that earth?—I cannot say. I cannot see how the quantity of real earth could come out of that little place, a yard and a half wide and a yard deep; and there was a sewer there of a certain description before, so that it was not entirely like digging for a fresh one.

278. Could any substance in those vaults fall into the sewer?—I cannot say that, but I have heard very strong hints that they made use of it for that purpose before, and that that was the reason the sewer people superintended the concern during the alteration. I have heard Mr. Pitts, who is a member of that church, say that the sewer company put Mr. Howse to the very extent of what the law would allow them to do to make the thing perfect.

279. So afraid were they of bodies being slipped down that sewer?—I believe that

that was the impression of the neighbourhood, that it was made use of for that purpose.

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280. Is it your belief that bodies were slipped down that sewer previously?—I have no doubt of it whatever.

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281. You think the reason why the persons superintending the drains were so strict was, that they apprehended there had been the habit of slipping decomposed bodies down the sewer?—That is my impression.

282. Your impression is, that considering the number of bodies interred there, unless something of that kind had occurred, it could not have held them?—It could not.

283. Mr. Ainsworth.] Have you heard the evidence of Mr. Pitts?—I have.

284. Do you believe the statement he has made of there being nine or 10 interments on a Sunday afternoon to be correct?—I think that is under the mark; I should say 20 in a week.

285. Chairman.] When the soil was mixed up with the putrefaction of those removed by you, and the sewer was closed, that gave a good deal of space to put in more coffins?—I am not aware of that.

286. When you had done your work, for how many coffins was there space left?—The place appeared to me to be full, with the exception of that they cleared away to do this, and to be built up to the very ceiling.

287. And yet they continued to bury there?—Yes; they continued to bury there for years after that.

288. How could they dispose of the fresh coffins?—That I cannot say.

289. You, as a working man, had cleared away this mould; you say, they piled up the coffins on the other side, but that when the coffins were replaced there was no space left under the chapel, and yet you say they continued to bury there at the rate of 20 in a week?—Yes.

290. What do you suppose was done with the coffins or the bodies?—I do not know from my own knowledge, for I had no connexion with the place; I never used that as a place of worship, but I know, with regard to the neighbourhood, every house in the place.

291. Do you consider that a very healthy neighbourhood?—I consider it the most stinking, unhealthy place probably near London; I had an instance of it last week: I removed a wretched family into this place in St. Clement's, near the piece of ground which attaches to King's College Hospital; coming up to St. Clement's-lane, there is a piece of ground where the wet oozes into the kitchens and cellars, and the windows look over this burying-ground; the parlour windows are pretty nearly level with the ground; the woman had occasion to call at my place, and she said that she was so ill she did not know what to do; there was a peculiar smell; she thought it was from the blacksmith's shop underneath; my wife said, "You do not where you have come to; poor thing, you will be soon carried away if you remain there." I have particular friends that have lived there; it is one of the most filthy places which can be found anywhere: here is Enon burying ground on one side, and this spot in Portugal-street on the other, and the stinking market in the centre.

292. You have no doubt the unhealthiness of that place arises from that burial-ground?—I have no doubt of it.

293. Colonel Acton.] You do not think that it arises partly from the market?—No, it is the bad, confined, close drainage of the houses.

294. Mr. Ainsworth.] Who takes care of the paving and lighting of that part of the town?—It is in St. Clement Danes; but it is a fact with the back streets, that the Board do not pay much attention to those poor neighbourhoods.

295. Mr. Kemble.] Is not there a third burial-ground in this lane, at the bottom of it?—I am not aware of any other; I had a job a few months back with the Savoy burial-ground; I had several loads to take away of this description of earth; that is a very small burying-ground, but I look upon it as the same sort; I was taken very ill with sickness at the stomach from the smell; that was the description of feeling I wish to describe as applying to the other case.

296. You felt the same symptoms?—I did.

297. Have you any doubt that it arose from the same cause?—No, I have not; I do all sorts of work, sometimes night-emptying, and that is beautiful in comparison to this.

298. Mr. Ainsworth.] Have you been called upon to remove rubbish from other

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other burying-grounds?—Yes, I have, from St. Mary's, in the Strand, and St. Clement's; they are more careful of the bones, but there is the same smell.

299. There is the same system of removing as in other burying-grounds?—There is.

300. *Chairman.*] Have you yourself been in Enon Chapel during service?—I have not; I have been in in one instance while they performed the service over a person who was buried.

301. Did you find it unpleasant at that time?—I did not observe it at the time.

302. You have no doubt that the state of the atmosphere is such, the observation applies to that place?—Yes, I have no doubt that three times the number die in that street to what die in any other part of the parish.

303. There are none buried in leaden coffins?—No; a family who could buy a leaden coffin would never bury there.

304. How long were you before you recovered from the feeling you have described?—I suppose it was three days before I recovered my feeling and smell.

305. Did your spirits suffer at all?—No.

306. It has been remarked to-day that this effluvium produces a desire for ardent spirits?—I have never felt it operate in that way. There is a Baptist chapel near to where I am, in Little Wild-street, Lincoln's-Inn-fields, close behind my house; they are more select in burying there, but there is a bad smell there; the people cannot bear it in the summer time; I suppose the living of the minister there is chiefly from the burials, only they cement them; they brick them round, and put a little cement over. The burials there are more respectable, but the chapel is very unhealthy.

307. Do you think that spreads to the neighbourhood?—Yes, I have no doubt of it; but, by the cement, it is kept more in the building.

308. What is the size of this chapel?—It is something larger than Enon Chapel.

309. Is the depth of the vault the same?—No; I think the depth of the vault is greater than the other; I should say it is a more respectable place altogether; there is a ceiling; but after all, the smell, and especially in summer time, overcomes the people, and there is nothing thrives there at all. It is a very poor congregation, and it always will be.

310. Are the fees very low in that chapel?—No; what makes me think they are not so low is, that there are a great many funerals with hearses, so that I think it is of a more respectable grade.

311. You are not aware what number of persons have been buried there?—No.

312. Suppose the burials were to cease altogether, do you think that would benefit the neighbourhood?—I should say it would, and it would rob the clergyman of all he gets, for his living depends principally on what he gets from the burials.

313. Is he a Baptist minister?—Yes, he is.

314. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] You say you have occasionally removed earth from other burial-grounds; do you know the burial-ground in Drury-lane, attached to St. Martin's-in-the-Fields?—I do.

315. Have you been employed to take away earth from that ground?—I have not; I have done jobs about that once, but not in taking away earth.

316. *Chairman.*] In your opinion, is the burying in both Enon Chapel and this chapel in Wild-street, injurious to the health of the neighbourhood?—That is my opinion, and has been for some years.

317. *Mr. Kemble.*] Do you think that the existence of those burying-places occasions an increased drinking of spirits among the lower orders?—I cannot speak to that; but more generally, the poor people when they are poorly, run to gin for a remedy.

318. Is Enon Chapel open now?—I cannot speak to that; the teetotallers have had it for some time for lectures.

319. Do you know whether funerals take place there now?—I cannot say.

320. Do you know what the ground-rent paid for Enon Chapel is?—No, I do not.

Mr. *John Irwin*, called in; and further Examined.

321. *Chairman.*] IS there another burial-ground in Clement's-lane, besides those which you referred to in your evidence?—Yes, at the bottom of Clement's-lane, on the right-hand side, about 150 yards from Enon Chapel.

322. To whom does that belong?—To the parish of St. Clement Danes.

Mr. John Irwin.

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John Eyles, called in; and Examined.

323. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation are you in?—I am a Bricklayer and Plasterer by trade.

324. Do you ever attend churchyards?—I do not now; I have worked at them a little while.

325. At what did you work?—I took the place of grave-digger.

326. For what grave-yard?—St. Clement's churchyard, in Portugal-street.

327. How long have you done that work?—About a twelvemonth, or a little more.

328. How long ago?—About two years ago.

329. What was your duty there?—To see that the work was done properly; shoring-up, and such as that.

330. Not to work at the grave?—I did sometimes work at it when there was an occasion for it.

331. Did anything come under your observation as to putting in the bodies; were they put in tolerably well?—Yes, they were put tolerably well, as far as I saw.

332. Did you see any coffins broken open?—No, not improperly; where the coffins were decayed, and the coffins were rotten, then they have not wanted breaking.

333. Have you cut through them?—No, they did not want any cutting where they were decayed.

334. What did you do with them?—They came up with the ground.

335. What was the depth they put the coffins?—At different depths.

336. What was the deepest?—Twenty feet deep; five feet was the common depth.

337. You never put them up higher than five feet?—Yes, the grave was five feet before the coffin was put in; they would put 12 or 14 coffins in a deep grave.

338. Suppose a grave five feet deep, how many would it hold?—That would hold one grown person and three children.

339. Within what space of the surface would that come?—Within two feet six; that was the regular depth.

340. What is the size of the churchyard?—I have never measured it.

341. Is it half an acre?—No, I think not.

342. A quarter of an acre?—I dare say it is.

343. About one-third of an acre?—I cannot say without measuring it; it is a good size.

344. How many are there buried there in the course of a week?—Sometimes only one, sometimes seven or eight; sometimes we have not buried one in the course of the week.

345. Is it for the whole parish?—It is for anybody who likes to bury there.

346. Is there any unpleasant smell in the church-yard?—In the summer there may be, but it is not anything to speak of.

347. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Do you know anything as to the amount of the fees?—14 s. 8 d. for a poor grown-up person, and I believe 8 s. 2 d. or 8 s. 4 d. for a child.

348. Were you, during the time you were employed to superintend the operations of that yard, ever unwell?—I was a little at one time, not anything to speak of.

349. What was the matter with you?—I had a little ailing, but not any great deal.

350. What was the nature of it?—I felt a little sick.

351. Since that you have been well?—I am not thorough well now; but sometimes better.

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352. Were you obliged to take any spirits when you were connected with that yard?—I am always fond of that.

353. What age are you?—Twenty-five.

354. How many gravediggers are there in that yard?—There are two now.

355. Are they men in good health?—Yes.

356. What wages do they get?—It is according to what they do; it is all piece-work, so much a grave.

357. Are those men fond of a little drop now and then?—You can hardly find a man of that sort who is not fond of it.

358. *Mr. Kemble.*] Do you know whether any of those coffins are taken and put into the bone-house?—I do not know; I have not been in the ground a long while.

359. When you were in the ground, was that done?—There are little bits come up sometimes.

360. *Mr. Beckett.*] But nothing in the shape of a coffin?—No.

361. *Mr. Kemble.*] Do you know of those pieces of wood being used as fire-wood?—Yes, I did at that time give a poor woman some; and I have burnt it myself.

362. *Mr. Beckett.*] Have you ever found the wood come up in the shape of a coffin, or a coffin lid, or a coffin side?—There are pieces of coffin which will decay, but the body will decay; in some parts of the ground coffins will hold twice the time of the body; I have seen some coffins upwards of 100 years old, which were as sound as when they were put in.

363. *Chairman.*] You say you have felt unwell when you were there?—Some times I did, and sometimes I was better.

364. Have you ever known a coffin buried so shallow as to be near the surface of the ground?—I have not known of that in my time.

365. You say you have seen parts of coffins, but not entire coffins, taken up; were there any cut through in digging?—Sometimes; if they are decayed or soft, they must be.

366. When you were digging there, do you mean to say that you do not throw up the wood of three or four coffins every time?—If they have been rotten, and in the way, they have been thrown up; if they have been of no use at all.

367. You could not throw up the coffins without throwing up bones?—Where do you see a grave-yard where there are not bones thrown up? The flesh leaves the bones, and there is a bone-house to keep those bones together; there is a large hole twelve or fourteen feet square, a piece of ground rather full, and the bones are put in there.

368. And the coffins burnt?—The coffins have decayed.

369. Have you given them to persons to burn?—Yes, I gave some to a poor woman once.

370. As this is a small churchyard, and so many persons have been buried there, is it possible, suppose you were to go there and dig a grave, to dig that grave six feet deep without interfering with bodies previously buried?—We must try for it; there is a searcher to bore into the ground and see; we must do the best we can; some persons will want a particular part of the ground, then they must have it whether shallow or deep.

371. *Mr. Kemble.*] Do you know how long coffins are there before they decay?—I have seen some that have been in the ground 100 years pretty nearly as good as when first put in, and others have perished in a much shorter time.

372. Was the bone-house removed while you were there?—No; there is one where the watch-house was.

373. Have you assisted in taking bones from one part of the ground to another?—Yes.

374. What portion of time did that occupy?—Three days.

375. How many were employed?—Three or four of us.

376. Did you remove them in baskets?—Yes.

377. Do you know the number of baskets you took away?—No; we did not keep an account of the number of baskets; if we had been paid by the basket, we should have done so; we put them so that they might not be disturbed again for 200 or 300 years.

378. *Chairman.*] You have no idea how long that churchyard has been used as a grave-yard?—No.

379. Could you point out any spot in that yard where you could dig down without coming to a coffin?—Yes, I could.

380. Is it a fact that you ever took out of coffins the bodies of children?—No.

381. Have you never taken any bodies home?—I have had enough to do to take myself home.

382. Will you answer the question?—I never did.

383. Did you never open the coffins of children?—No.

384. Have you ever taken any part of a human body of any sort or kind?—No.

385. Have you ever broken open any coffins?—By accident I might; thin coffins.

386. When you have done that, have you ever taken any of the remains out?—No, not any.

387. Have you ever said that you did?—No.

388. What was the depth of the coffin of Thomas Beale, a child?—I suppose, if it was put at the top, it would be about two feet six inches from the surface.

389. Was that ever taken up?—Not that I know of. When I was away I could not answer for what my men did.

390. Do you remember the place where Mr. Dorrell planted trees there?—I remember there were trees being planted there.

391. What occurred on that occasion?—I do not know; it was not in my time.

392. Do you remember a man of the name of Irwin taking the measure from the surface of the coffin in any grave?—Yes, I remember he came in there; there are places where old wood is put in, where I could go blindfolded to the place and take a knife and feel the wood almost myself. I do not know whether it may be a coffin or other wood he felt; there is wood buried all over the ground; there may be a still-born child; sometimes there is not time to dig a hole there, and we just dig a hole to get it out of sight, then when a grave is opened, if we think of it, we put that child down in the grave, in its deal box, about half an inch thick; that box will last longer than the child.

393. Did you never put any coffins within two feet of the surface of the ground?—Not in my time.

394. Have you never been asked to do so by the sexton?—That depends upon the wish of the person who orders it. If they come and ask, "Are you going to open a grave?" and they wish to pick it out in such a spot, they will say, "It does not matter to me whether it is quite the depth of a grave." I dig the grave according to my orders, and the corpse is put in.

Veneris, 18^o die Martii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Lord Ashley.

Mr. Beckett.
Colonel Fox.
Mr. Kemble.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *George Whittaker*, called in; and Examined.

395. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your station in life?—An Undertaker.

396. How long have you been in that business?—I have followed that business for about 16 years.

397. Have you any interest in the cemeteries which have been established about this town?—None whatever.

398. You are not connected with them?—Not at all.

399. As an undertaker, you know something about the different burial-places with which you are connected; will you state to the Committee what you know

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George Whittaker.

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about them?—They are all in a very dreadful state; they are exceedingly full, and the scenes which I have met with in them would shock any person.

400. Just specify to what scenes you allude?—I have seen coffins broken in the graves, and shovelled away to make room for fresh comers.

401. And the bodies cut to pieces?—Decidedly so.

402. How do you mean?—Cut with the spade.

403. Were those very old coffins, or had they been placed in the grave only a short time?—I have seen both old and nearly new coffins destroyed.

404. To make room in the grave-yard?—In the places where funerals were to take place.

405. Has this often occurred?—Yes, it is a case of almost every-day occurrence.

406. To what grave-yards are you particularly alluding?—The one I particularly allude to, is that of Enon Chapel.

407. You mean the vault under Enon Chapel?—Yes; it is more like a cellar.

408. Have the kindness to describe to the Committee the state of that vault?—It is dreadfully full. On one occasion when I went there, a covered coffin was brought up to the surface; the body seemed as though it had been scarcely buried a week; the hair was on the head; the flesh was fresh, and the inside of the coffin was strewed with quick lime apparently; it looked like white dust.

409. Colonel *Acton.*] When was that?—Some time ago.

410. Can you mention the year?—It is within these two years.

411. *Chairman.*] It has been stated by a former witness that 12,000 people were buried there in a space not above 59 feet by 29 feet; do you confirm that evidence, or do you dispute it?—I should consider that there had been fully that amount.

412. How do you account for so many bodies being placed in so small a space?—I cannot account for it.

413. Did you find an effluvia, or unpleasant smell arising from it?—Very much so; it has affected my health very materially indeed.

414. Colonel *Fox.*] Is it part of your business to attend every funeral that you undertake?—It is my business and my duty to do so.

415. *Chairman.*] You say the effluvia arising from it has affected your health?—Yes.

416. In that and other places as well, I suppose?—Yes.

417. Do you consider the stench arising from this mass of putridity to be very unwholesome?—I am certain of it.

418. Do you consider that it affects the neighbouring houses, as well as the parties who go there?—I should consider it did, particularly from the vaults.

419. Colonel *Fox.*] Do you know that it does?—From my own health I should say so; it has affected me very seriously, and has laid me on a bed of sickness.

420. How many funerals do you generally attend in the course of a day or a week?—I have gone to two or three in the course of one day.

421. Colonel *Acton.*] When was the last funeral at this chapel?—That I cannot tell you; the time that I attended there is not in my memory.

422. Perhaps you can state somewhere within a period of six months; I mean, is the place given up now as a burial-ground?—It is locked up.

423. There are no burials there?—There are no burials there now; but I believe the place is left in the same dreadful state in which I saw it.

424. *Chairman.*] What is the practice employed in walking funerals?—There are men underneath; the pall covers them, and they convey the body to the ground.

425. Is not that likely to be unhealthy to the men who convey the bodies?—Yes; I have been affected very much myself by a walking funeral before now.

426. Is not the gaseous matter that escapes from the coffin, being shut up under the pall, likely to affect the coffin-bearers?—Yes, particularly the men at the shoulders; they are closely covered by the pall, consequently they inhale more of it than the men at the feet.

427. Have you found that affect their health?—It has affected mine.

428. Colonel *Fox.*] In what way has your health been affected; what have been the symptoms?—I have lost my appetite, in the first place, with severe sickness; I have not been able to follow my work. In some cases, where I endeavoured to get some gas at one time from one of the vaults, I was laid up then for a week, or nearly a fortnight, and was not able to follow my business.

429. Did

429. Did you consult any medical man on that subject?—I consulted Mr. Walker.

430. Did the medical gentleman that attended you attribute your complaint to that occupation?—Yes; and I am certain it was that.

431. *Chairman.*] According to your impression, is that gas exhaling also injurious to the houses in the vicinity of the grave-yard?—I should certainly think so.

432. You judge so from the effect which it has had on yourself?—I do.

433. *Colonel Acton.*] Were you employed to collect the gas?—Yes, I was requested by Dr. Walker to do so. Having named it to him, he said he should like, if possible, to have some of this gas obtained. I offered my services, and I went to get it; I had to go very many times, and at last succeeded in getting one India-rubber bottle full of this gas; and I believe it contained four of the most deadly gases that can be produced.

434. *Chairman.*] How did you proceed to get those gases?—I got them from the vaults under the church; I took an instrument, with which I bored a hole from the outside through the lid of a leaden coffin.

435. Then did you apply the India-rubber bottle to it?—Yes; and by that means the bottle was filled, which I gave to Dr. Walker.

436. Did any of the gas escape, so as to injure you?—Yes; I tried also at another time, and in another vessel, and I was very nearly killed.

437. By this gas?—Yes. According to the date on the coffin, the body had laid there eight years. I was at the top of a pile of coffins, and had I not jumped down, I am certain I could not have lived.

438. *Colonel Fox.*] After you had bored the hole?—Yes; it was so powerful, that I had not time to get the instrument into the coffin.

439. *Chairman.*] What were the effects on your feelings at first, and upon your health afterwards?—My limbs seemed to fail me. A medical man, who was with me at the time, was also affected, and stumbled and fell; but he received nothing of it compared to me.

440. Then, from your experience, you are satisfied that the gas which is exhaled from the coffin is of the most deadly quality?—It is.

441. At what distance would you say that that gas affects the health?—I cannot pretend to answer that question.

442. But as to the fact, you know it from your own experience?—I do.

443. Is this chapel entirely surrounded by houses?—It is, and in a very dense neighbourhood.

444. *Colonel Fox.*] Where is Enon Chapel?—Clement's-lane.

444*. *Chairman.*] You stated that Enon Chapel is surrounded by houses on every side, and that the gas arising from these 12,000 bodies must therefore be spread in the atmosphere, and get into those houses?—Yes.

445. Can you state to the Committee by what possible means so large a number of bodies could be placed in so small a space?—I can only state that it must have been from removal; and of course the lowness of the expense of burying there induces people to go.

445*. Is it shut up now, in consequence of the death of the dissenting minister?—It is shut up, but in consequence of what I cannot say exactly.

446. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Are you aware what the fees were at that burial-ground?—I think about 12s. for a grown person.

447. *Chairman.*] You speak, therefore, entirely in what you say from your own knowledge?—Yes.

448. You stated that when you took this gas out for the medical gentleman who employed you, you found yourself struck down in the way you stated?—I did.

449. Is it your opinion, that in every coffin gas is generated in the same manner?—Yes.

450. You have no doubt of it?—No doubt of it at all; but it depends on circumstances, in a great measure, whether it could be obtained from the coffin. If the plumber solders the inside lid round perfectly, and leaves no hole, you can obtain it; but if he leaves any vacant space whatever, as it forms it mixes itself with the atmospheric air.

451. The intensity of the gas is in proportion to the time it is confined?—It is so powerful that it will raise all the lids together, and burst them.

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452. Then you mean to say that the gas generated in leaden coffins must, sooner or later, escape in the atmosphere?—Yes.

453. Then a leaden coffin is no security against the evil effects of the gas?—Not the slightest. I have made a little inquiry among some of the grave-diggers, and I have been informed by one or two that they are in the habit of burning the gases. When they observe the upper lid of the coffin getting convex, they make a hole, and put a pipe in, and set it alight; and I have been informed that it will burn for 20 minutes.

454. Colonel Acton.] Do you mean to say that that takes place in a lead coffin?—Yes.

455. Do you mean to say that if that were not done the coffin itself would burst?—The gas would escape into the vault.

456. Would the lead crack?—It would force an open space in the lead, so that the gas would escape into the air; but it would not appear that the coffin had burst to a casual looker-on. It does not make a rent in it; it merely requires a small space.

457. Chairman.] Then, in every point of view, the escape of the gas must be injurious to the health of the people in the houses in the neighbourhood?—I should say so.

458. Has there not been a grave-yard opened as a private speculation by Messrs. Hoole & Martin, in the New Kent Road?—It is still in existence.

459. Will you state to the Committee what you know about that?—I should say there were at the present moment from 1,600 to, perhaps, 2,000 bodies under there. They are above ground, piled one above the other; and I do not think there are a dozen of them in lead at all.

459*. Colonel Acton.] How do you mean, when you say they are above ground?—In the vaults, they are placed one above the other.

460. They are in the vaults?—Yes. They are open every Sunday afternoon; so that any person having friends buried there can go in.

461. Is it consecrated ground?—Yes.

462. Is it a dissenting chapel?—Yes; it belongs to the Methodist connexion.

463. Chairman.] What do you suppose is about the size of the place of interment?—I should say, nearly 40 yards in length.

464. How much in breadth?—Twenty or 25 yards wide. At a rough calculation, I should say that.

465. Is this under the chapel?—It is.

466. It is of the size of the chapel, then?—Yes.

467. Are they burying now daily?—Yes.

468. Are there any houses about this chapel?—Very many.

469. Colonel Fox.] What should you suppose is the height of the vault?—I should think not more than 20 feet.

470. Mr. Ainsworth.] Is it sunk in the ground?—You go down steps under the chapel to the vault.

471. It is 20 feet under the chapel?—From the flooring of the chapel to the base of the vault, I should calculate it to be about that.

472. Is there service in this chapel every Sunday?—Yes.

473. Of the Methodist connexion?—Yes.

474. Are they Wesleyans?—I believe they are.

475. Then there is no ground for vaults except that which is under the chapel?—The chapel is surrounded also with a piece of ground which is very full.

476. Chairman.] Is the smell offensive in the chapel?—I do not know as to the chapel, but in the vaults it is very offensive.

477. Mr. Ainsworth.] What is the flooring?—It is bricked, as far as my memory goes.

478. Bricks and boards, or regularly bricked?—Bricked.

479. Chairman.] Is it likely that when it is open on a Sunday, the smell will come out of this vault?—Yes.

480. And spread itself in the atmosphere?—Yes.

481. At what distance are the houses from it?—There are houses closely adjoining to it in one part, and the yards of some of the houses come to the wall of the ground.

482. There are now, you say, from 1,500 to 2,000 bodies under the chapel?—Yes.

—Yes. There were better than 1,600 when I was there; that is about 10 or 12 months ago, and they have been continually burying since that time.

483. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You say that this is Hoole & Martin's private burial-ground, and yet it belongs to the Methodist connexion; does the Methodist connexion rent it from Hoole & Martin?—I believe it is Hoole & Martin's property altogether.

484. Then they allow the Methodist connexion to preach there?—I cannot answer as to that, but I believe that to be the case.

485. Colonel *Fox*.] Is not the whole thing a speculation, the chapel, burial-ground and all?—Yes.

486. *Chairman*.] Is it the custom of dissenting ministers to establish speculations of that sort in this town?—Yes. It has been remarked to me that they gain more money by the dead than the living.

487. Colonel *Fox*.] It is Hoole & Martin's speculation?—Yes.

488. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Who pays the dissenting minister?—I do not know.

489. Who inter the body?—The dissenting minister.

490. Can any one go?—The person who inter the body and reads the service, I believe, is a shoemaker in the Kent-road.

491. The person who inter the body and the person who officiates in the chapel are distinct parties, are they not?—I believe so.

492. It belongs to the Methodist connexion, and one of their ministers officiates at the chapel?—Yes.

493. But for the interment of the dead Hoole & Martin appoint some other person?—Yes.

494. Who is that?—I have seen a person officiating there who I know keeps a shoemaker's shop in the Kent-road.

495. *Chairman*.] Now, turning your attention from the vaults under the chapel to the ground about it, has it ever come under your observation to see any coffins put in that ground nearly close to the surface of the ground?—I have seen them within two feet and less than that from the surface.

496. Why were they buried so high up?—I should say, because they had not sufficient room to go deeper.

497. Do you think that the gases arising from these coffins would escape through two feet of earth?—Decidedly.

498. And would it be injurious to the persons who inhale it?—Yes.

499. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You have said it was remarked that the dissenting ministers got more from the dead than from the living?—Yes, it was so remarked to me.

500. To what did that apply?—It related particularly to Enon Chapel. Mr. Howse was then the minister; and from the stench that arose from the dead bodies the congregation in a great measure left the chapel; and the remark which was made was, that more money was made from the dead than the living.

501. It was a remark which referred to Enon Chapel chiefly?—Yes.

502. Do you know of any other?—I have never heard the remark applied to any other.

503. Colonel *Fox*.] Have they ceased to bury in the burial-ground of Hoole & Martin?—No.

504. They are still going on with the churchyard and the vault?—Yes.

505. *Chairman*.] Can you give the Committee any account of the state of St. Giles-in-the-Fields?—That is in a very awful state of fullness.

506. Give the Committee an account of its state, as far as it has come under your knowledge?—The ground of St. Giles-in-the-Fields, as far as I have observed, is dreadfully full of bodies.

507. State to the Committee the circumstances of the churchyard?—The bodies are buried very near indeed to the surface.

508. What is the nearest point to the surface that they are buried, do you suppose?—I have seen them within 18 inches of the surface.

509. How many bodies should you suppose were interred in that piece of ground?—I cannot form the slightest idea.

510. Is it customary also to bury in the vaults under the church?—They only bury in leaden coffins in the vaults there.

511. You have stated that the gas evaporates from a leaden coffin?—It does.

512. Then the mass of human bodies in the vaults of the church, and interred in

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in the churchyard, must exhale a vast quantity of gas?—It must throw off a great deal.

513. Which evaporates in the air?—Certainly.

514. And mixes with the atmosphere?—Certainly.

515. In your opinion, must this be injurious to the health of the inhabitants in the houses about the churchyard of St. Giles-in-the-Fields?—I should say, very much so.

516. You are quite clear of what you say, that in St. Giles-in-the-Fields coffins are put within two feet of the surface?—I have seen them.

517. From your own observation?—From my own observation; but it is the same, indeed, in most grounds, for most grounds are so very full, that they have scarcely any room.

518. Most grounds, you mean, in London?—Yes.

519. You say, most grounds in London about the churches and chapels are so full, that occasionally bodies are buried within 18 inches of the surface?—Yes.

520. Can you state to the Committee any further information that has come under your notice of other churches or churchyards or chapels in this town?—No, I am not aware of anything else.

521. Mr. Ainsworth.] As regards St. Giles-in-the-Fields particularly, have you ever heard of any removal to make room for the interment of the dead?—The fact is, that they are, I believe, compelled to make removals everywhere.

522. In what way are they made?—That I cannot tell.

523. Colonel Fox.] Where do they take the bodies which are removed?—I have been given to understand they are put into a pit with quick-lime; but I cannot speak from positive knowledge.

524. Do you know any one who is likely to be able to speak to that from positive knowledge?—I should think some of the grave-diggers would be the best persons to speak to that, for they are the men who are obliged to do it.

525. The churchyard there is under the jurisdiction of the rector, I suppose?—The churchwardens.

526. Who receives the fees?—They are paid, I believe, to the churchwardens, and the minister receives his fees from them.

527. Which do you consider the most crowded and the worst of the grounds you are acquainted with?—Upon my word, I can scarcely pick out the worst.

528. Chairman.] Do you know anything of the ground at Spa Fields?—Yes.

529. State to the Committee what that is?—I have been in the habit of burying there for a considerable time; but you can always get a grave there.

530. Is there more space?—No.

531. What do you mean when you say, “you can always get a grave there”?—I do not know how they do it, but they manage so that there is always a grave to be got there.

532. Have you smelt the effluvia coming out in the same manner from the graves there as at other places?—Not so bad there; I have counted as many as 30 or 35 funerals on a Sunday in that ground, and they are burying every day in the week also.

533. What is the size of the ground?—Really I do not know.

534. Mr. Ainsworth.] Is Spa Fields burial-ground attached to any church?—There is a chapel.

535. Is it a church burial-ground?—No, it is a chapel.

536. A dissenting chapel?—Yes.

537. Chairman.] Are they burying there in vast numbers?—Yes.

538. Is it in consequence of the owner letting the ground at a lower rate?—Yes.

539. On the same principle as Enon Chapel?—Similar to that. They have got a small bricked place, I observed the last time I was there, in the ground, similar to a wash-house, or an outhouse of that description, and I saw a fire and smoke coming out. I cannot tell what was burning.

540. Do you suspect it was coffins?—I cannot say, because the window was blocked up and the door fastened, and I could not see.

541. Mr. Ainsworth.] Does Spa Fields burial-ground belong to any particular body, or can any dissenters be interred there?—I cannot answer that question; I have never made the inquiry.

542. Who inters the bodies?—I forget the minister's name; Mr. Green is the person who has the care of the ground.

543. Does he officiate?—No, he only has the care of the ground.

544. Who

544. Who inters the bodies?—There is a dissenting minister who officiates.
545. To what sect does he belong?—I do not know; I have never asked the question.
546. Colonel Fox.] Is this crowded state confined to the dissenting burial-grounds?—No.
547. Are the burial-grounds of the Church of England also in a crowded state?—Equally so.
548. Chairman.] How long has Spa Fields burial-ground been open?—I have known it for some years; I should say 12 or 14 years.
549. Are there houses in the immediate neighbourhood?—Yes, quite surrounding it.
550. Are you at all acquainted with Hoole & Martin's burial-ground?—I have been describing Hoole & Martin's burial-ground.
551. Is not the land about it to be let on building leases now?—I believe it is all taken now.
552. For building leases?—I believe it is all nearly built on.
553. So that Hoole & Martin's is now surrounded, or will be surrounded, entirely by houses?—Yes.
554. How many bodies are interred in Spa Fields on an average in the year?—I really cannot calculate at the moment; I have counted from 30 to 35 on a Sunday frequently, and they are burying every day in the week.
555. Then that would be about 40 in the week?—Yes.
556. Colonel Fox.] What is the acreage of Spa Fields; it is a large space, is it not?—It is not very large.
557. Chairman.] About how large is it?—About two acres.
558. Colonel Fox.] Are you acquainted with the vaults of St. Clement's, in the Strand, and St. Martin's?—I have never been under St. Martin's; I have been under St. Clement's.
559. How are they?—It was from St. Clement's that I got the gas, by permission of the churchwardens.
560. Chairman.] Then your impression is, that the state of all the burial-grounds in this town is much alike?—Yes.
561. Dissenting chapels and churches?—Yes.
562. In short, that the whole of them are crammed with bodies, and that gases very injurious to the health of the inhabitants must exhale from them?—Yes, that is my firm opinion.
563. Colonel Fox.] Can you suggest any remedy for this; supposing you were consulted, how would you proceed in order to have a more wholesome mode of burying?—It would be advisable to take out all a considerable way from town, I should say.
564. Chairman.] Would there be an additional expense in so doing?—Yes, unless the Government were to form some plan whereby a poor person should be able to have the body taken at a low expense; at present the working order of society would not be able to meet the expense.
565. Colonel Fox.] Do you think there might be some method of burying, and, at the same time, strewing a portion of quick-lime in the grave, by which the whole would be destroyed in a short space of time?—I do not know. They use quick-lime, I believe, very greatly in those grounds.
566. Mr. Ainsworth.] In Spa Fields?—I should say in all grounds.
567. Colonel Fox.] Would there be any prejudice against it if it was made legal?—I do not know.
568. Mr. Ainsworth.] How is the lime put in?—It is merely strewed on, or intermixed with the ground, or the sides of the coffin taken out and strewn over the body.
569. Colonel Fox.] I mean that into the grave there should be put a portion of quick-lime, so as to destroy the coffin and the whole thing in a short space of time?—There is ample space, I think, without anything of the sort, if they were taken out of town. The public, I believe, certainly would not like their relatives to be treated in that way.

Mr. Thomas Munns, called in; and Examined.

570. Chairman.] WHAT is your occupation?—Plane-maker, or mechanical tool-maker.

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571. Where do you reside?—131, Drury-lane, opposite to the burial-ground.
572. Are you in any way connected with the cemeteries out of this town?—Not in any way whatever.
573. You say your house is situate near the burial-ground?—It is exactly opposite.
574. Are there a great number of persons interred in that grave-yard?—Yes.
575. Colonel Acton.] Opposite what burial-ground?—St. Martin-in-the-Fields.
576. Chairman.] What is the usual mode of burying there?—Similar to all other churchyards which I have noticed in town; I believe they are nearly all alike. Sometimes they dig a grave, and sometimes you might almost call it making a grave instead of digging one.
577. How do you mean making a grave?—I will explain it to you. When they dig a grave they lay pieces of board about two feet wide, and instead of digging they put the earth up on each side; so that it is almost, as you may say, making a grave instead of digging it, so as to make the friends of the deceased think it is a grave, when it is only an artificial one.
578. Colonel Fox.] You mean to say they hardly dig at all?—It is nearly that.
579. Mr. Ainsworth.] What depth is that?—About two feet; sometimes more, sometimes less.
580. Chairman.] Have you noticed any particular system of management in digging these graves?—Not more particularly than any other way; but whilst sitting at my window I have noticed that when they have dug a deep grave they have thrown up coffins which did not seem in any way decayed. At one time I saw them bring up intestines in a bucket and put them out on the earth, and bones were thrown up, which were put in a barrow and wheeled away.
581. Mr. Ainsworth.] Where did they wheel them to?—To what they call the parson's house; they lifted up a flap and threw them down. It is a little house which the parson goes into in bad weather to wait until the people come with the corpse. There is a flap which lifts up.
582. Colonel Fox.] You are speaking of St. Martin-in-the-Fields?—Yes.
583. Chairman.] You say you have seen intestines thrown up?—Yes, brought up in a bucket, and it turned out like dirty size. That was laid on the earth to be filled in again. It is only the bones which they throw down the flap which they lift up.
584. How do the grave-diggers behave themselves?—I never saw anything particular; I have seen them a little tipsy at times; but from what I have understood, a man who does that work is obliged to have some extra drink.
585. Is that from the nauseous effluvia?—No doubt of it.
586. Do you yourself experience any effluvia or unpleasant smell from the churchyard?—Not that I could take on my oath to swear came from the burial-ground.
587. Do you enjoy your health pretty well?—I cannot say that I have not good health.
588. Colonel Fox.] Is your family in good health?—Middling.
589. Chairman.] Do you consider it is a healthy neighbourhood?—No; I do not think that any churchyard can be healthy; but we are obliged to live close by on account of our work.
590. Therefore if your means permitted it, you would not live in that neighbourhood?—Certainly not.
591. Have you ever seen any other instances of indecency towards the dead bodies?—One thing I should like to name. They dug a hole in the left hand corner of the ground, and as the coffins came they kept it open and would not fill it up with dirt; and several altercations I have seen take place with the friends or relatives of the deceased because they would not fill it up. They threw in a little dirt, and afterwards I have seen the grave-digger come with many pails of water and throw it over the coffins, to destroy them, I suppose, as soon as possible; it could not be for anything else.
592. To make them sink down?—Yes, or to make them sweat, which, I suppose, would make them rot quicker.
593. Then it appears that this system of interment is an act of gross indecency towards the dead?—I can only speak for myself. When I broke a blood-vessel, I expected

I expected to die every day, and it was a very unpleasant sight for a sick person to see the remains of the dead mangled in that way. I think it would affect persons of weak nerves, and hasten their complaint, and have a great effect on their disorder.

594. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] I suppose you conceive this throwing in of the water is intended for the purpose of destroying the bodies?—It could not be for anything else.

595. Did you see whether there was anything mixed with the water?—No; I saw them draw it from the cock.

596. *Chairman.*] Do you suppose there is any practice of burning the coffins?—I have seen the man and his wife burn them; it is quite a common thing.

597. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Where does he burn them?—In his own little house; he has got a little house which he lives in.

598. *Colonel Fox.*] Do you mean that he burns them for his own use?—Yes.

599. *Chairman.*] This has been a constant practice?—Yes.

600. For years?—Yes.

601. *Colonel Fox.*] Is the neighbourhood, as far as you know, healthy?—In the lane it is pretty fair; but there are so many small courts behind, that fevers and other things are continually occurring.

602. *Chairman.*] Now give us some idea of what is going on; how many bodies have you seen thrown up in one day?—When they dig a deep grave, I think I could swear I have seen them throw up three.

602*. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] In St. Martin-in-the-Fields?—Yes.

603. Three out of one grave?—Yes, I should say so, from the quantity of coffins that were broken up, and the bones that I have seen. The old gentleman, as we call him, did not take the trouble to put the three skulls in the barrow, but I have seen him hit them with the back of his spade, and put them underneath; I have seen him do it several times.

604. You mean that he smashes the skulls?—Yes.

605. In short, they must do something of that sort, as they have not space, I suppose, to bury the bodies?—Yes; they have been so for many years, and the ground I am sure is full five feet from the surface.

606. Five feet above the surface of the street?—Yes; and it cannot be from the quantity of ground which has been brought in, for all the time I have been here I have never seen any rubbish brought in, but I have seen rubbish taken away.

607. *Colonel Fox.*] How long have you lived there?—Six years opposite the burial-ground; but I lived on the other side before that.

608. *Chairman.*] Did you ever experience a smell in summer from the churchyard?—There is so much smell behind, that you cannot tell the one from the other.

609. The parson's house which you have mentioned is the bone-house, I suppose?—Yes; but a little while ago they dug a hole in nearly the middle of the ground very deep, and they took all the bones and skulls out from the hole in the parson's house, and changed them from one place to the other, and carried them away in barrows-full.

610. Generally speaking, do you consider that these fellows are obliged to drink, in consequence of this work?—In my opinion it is impossible they could do it without; the smell is so great, they are obliged to do it.

611. Are they obliged to have recourse to spirits?—That is my opinion.

612. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Do you mean to say that spirituous liquors would carry away the smell?—It is what all working men fly to if they have a nasty job to do.

613. *Chairman.*] Is your observation confined to this churchyard in Drury-lane, or can you tell the Committee anything about other grave-yards?—I have not been in any other, so as to notice it, in my life.

614. In this grave-yard, within what distance do they bury from the surface of the ground?—In my opinion it could not be above a foot from the surface, but that is not the general run. I do not mean to say they would always do that, because they are sometimes obliged to dig deep.

615. Have you got a well in your house, or do you get water from pipes?—Our water comes from the main into a cistern, and from the cistern into the cock which we draw it from.

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616. Are there any wells in your neighbourhood?—Not that I know of.

617. Are there any pumps?—I do not know of any one nearer than Bow-street, and there is one at the top of Wild-street. There may be others, but I don't know them.

618. Do you not think that the rain soaking through this mass of corruption, which is above the level of the ground, would filter into the wells?—If there were any wells there I have no doubt that it would, because water will always find its level.

619. Colonel Fox.] Should you have any objection, if there was a law made that there should be so much lime put in with the body, so as to destroy it in a certain time?—Answering that question as regards myself, I should have no objection to such a thing as that.

620. Do you think that, generally, people would dislike that?—The lower order of people are against such a thing as that, particularly among the Irish.

621. Chairman.] You stated that a grave was kept open; how long did you know one of those graves kept open?—I think I could say it was kept open from two to three months.

622. What object could they have in so doing?—To save the trouble of opening it every time for a new tenant.

623. Was that immediately under the window of the dwelling-house?—Under his own window, and under the side window of the cap shop in Drury-lane.

624. So that all the smell and putrefaction of the coffins has risen up?—Yes; a wall is on one side of the grave.

625. How long was it kept open?—From two to three months.

626. Mr. Ainsworth.] With no covering?—Only boards and a bit of earth thrown over the boards.

627. Chairman.] Still the effluvia must have risen up?—Yes.

628. Colonel Fox.] Was there no complaint made of that?—There was no complaint that I heard of; I could see from the window that altercations took place between the friends of the deceased and the grave-digger, and sometimes they did not like to go away without seeing the grave filled up; however, he would not do it.

629. Chairman.] Nobody could know it except yourself, and those who looked immediately into the grave-yard?—And the man himself.

630. Is there anything further which you can state to the Committee on the subject of what you have seen?—I do not know that I have seen anything more than what I have stated.

Mr. Robert Carr, called in; and Examined.

Mr. Robert Carr.

631. Chairman.] WHAT is your occupation?—Carpenter and Undertaker.

632. How long have you been in that occupation?—I have been in the undertaking business about 18 years.

633. Mr. Ainsworth.] Where do you live?—13, Duke-court, Bow-street.

634. From your occupation you are pretty well acquainted with the different church and grave-yards in the city?—Yes.

635. Will you state to the Committee generally, what you have observed in them?—All the burial-grounds that I have been in the habit of going to are very full, and the coffins are generally within a little of the surface.

636. At what distance generally?—The general distance would average about four feet or four feet six inches.

637. Are some nearer than that?—Yes, some are nearer.

638. How near?—I have seen some interred not above two feet from the surface.

639. From your occupation obliging you to go often to these grave-yards, have you found any unpleasant effluvia or smell arising from them?—Yes, I have sometimes, but not very frequently; the most that I have felt has been when I have buried in places under chapels.

640. There you have felt the effluvia?—There I have felt, at times, very ill for several days afterwards; I have had a bad taste in my mouth, and been sick.

641. Want of appetite?—Yes. I could drink.

642. What are the burial-grounds with which you are best acquainted?—Spa Fields, St. Clement Danes, and the Savoy.

643. Mention

643. Mention to the Committee the general state of Spa Fields; first, the size?—I should fancy, at a guess, that there is full two square acres of ground.

644. How many people have been buried there do you think?—I should say that they bring there 20 a week on an average, in the year round, at least; I have known several times, when I have been there, 25 and 30 to be buried on a Sunday.

645. For how many years have you known Spa Fields burial-ground?—I do not know how long it has been a burial-ground, but I have known it for 16 years, having myself gone backwards and forwards there.

646. Then, at the average of 1,000 a year, that would be from 16,000 to 20,000 people?—Yes.

647. Do you consider it to be very full now?—We never see any coffins hardly there; when a grave is open we do not see many coffins.

648. How do you account for that?—I cannot account for that.

649. What is your suspicion?—I cannot say anything on suspicion, unless I know the positive fact.

650. You surmise something?—That which I think I may think wrong, and therefore it would not be right to state it.

651. Colonel Fox.] Still, if you think anything wrong, and by giving your opinion the public might benefit by inquiring into the matter, it would be right that you should state it?—Unless I know a thing positively I cannot speak to it; in whatever I may think I may be wrong; but if there was anything that I knew I would speak plainly and openly.

652. Mr. Ainsworth.] If you knew it as a fact it would not be a surmise; the only question is, what do you suspect; do you suspect the removal of the coffins?—With respect to the removal of the coffins, it is certain they are removed, because we see coffin-boards used to put on the sides of the graves.

653. Then they are removed?—Yes, and the coffin-boards could not have been decayed, or they could not have been used in that way; they had not remained in the ground as they ought to have done, because when a coffin is deposited in the ground with the body, I should fancy myself it ought to remain there for ever, and never ought to be disturbed; and when we see coffin-boards and the sides of coffins put against the sides of the graves to prevent the earth going in, we have a suspicion that the boards of the coffins are taken wrongly.

654. Colonel Fox.] Is there any doubt that there is burning sometimes?—I never saw any.

655. Is there a bone-house there?—There is a little hut where they keep their tools, but I do not know that they have a place where they deposit bones, as they have in some churchyards.

656. Is this place surrounded by houses?—Yes.

657. Entirely?—Now it is; it was not always; there have been a few houses built within the last two years.

658. Do you consider that the vicinity of these houses to this grave-yard is injurious to the health of the people who occupy them?—I should not think so myself, because it is a wide space; a very large field; but I am not competent to decide that question.

659. You do not like to speak without being sure?—Certainly not.

660. Would you prefer burying in Spa Fields to any other place?—I should myself.

661. Why?—I consider it to be a better burial-ground than many of the parochial burial-grounds.

662. Do you think it better than St. Clement Danes?—Yes.

663. Mr. Ainsworth.] Do you mean with reference to its being so full?—I consider it is more clear, though they bury so many people.

664. Colonel Fox.] Is it a more open space?—It is a more open space, and the graves which are opened there are better to the eye; you do not see so many bones lying about; the ground is not so filthy.

665. Chairman.] In St. Clement Danes, or in any of the church-yards you have been in, have you, in hot weather, smelt an effluvia?—I cannot smell.

666. Although you have not the sense of smelling, have you any means, to your knowledge, of telling us whether it has affected other people?—I do not know that it has, for undertakers meet with so many disagreeable things, that you seldom hear them complain at all.

667. Your not smelling is rather a benefit to you than a disadvantage in that profession?

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profession?—It is a benefit to me, inasmuch as I am not sensible of what I inhale; but I have had a very bad taste in the throat.

668. When you have attended those funerals?—Yes.

669. Mr. Ainsworth.] After you have been at one of the interments have you had an unpleasant taste in the throat?—Yes, if the body happened to be very bad, which is too frequently the case among poor people. If a person dies, we will say, on Wednesday, the following Sunday is the convenient day. The first Sunday is too soon for them; they keep it till the Sunday following, when you can hardly go near the body, it is so bad.

670. Chairman.] Have your children been afflicted with illness?—My little boy was ill some time ago, in consequence of a body that I had in the house; and it made me ill also.

671. Why did you have a body in your house?—A man died at the King's College Hospital, and I removed the body to my house, the people not having convenience to take it to their own home; then it was not convenient for them to bury it in a reasonable time, and at last it became so offensive that we could hardly bear the place. The body was placed on a bench in the shop. My little boy works a little in his way, and this body was on his bench; it was very much in his way; he kept puddling about at his little bench, and I really believe that his illness was occasioned by that, in consequence of being myself so ill; he was more about the coffin than I was.

672. What was his disorder?—He was taken ill very suddenly; he breathed very quickly, and I supposed that he would not live long. I went to Mr. Walker; he came, and he said he was very bad, and if something was not done very quickly he would have a most severe illness, but he would do what he could.

673. Did he cure him?—Yes, to my astonishment, and of every person who saw the child.

674. I suppose that has been a lesson to you, never to have a dead body in your house again?—Yes; and if ever I should have another, if it is not buried within a reasonable time, I will go to the overseer and insist on its being done.

675. Mr. Ainsworth.] To whom does this Spa Fields burial-ground belong?—I think it is private property; I do not know how many individuals it belongs to. I believe it is freehold ground. It does not belong to the chapel; it is distinct from the chapel.

676. Then you think it belongs to some individuals or company?—Yes; the person who is called the manager is Mr. Green.

677. Does he receive the fees?—Yes.

678. Do you know to whom he gives them?—I do not.

679. Chairman.] Now you, as an undertaker, have great opportunities of seeing the customs of the poor; have the kindness to state to the Committee your opinion as to the custom they have of keeping bodies so long before interment?—In many instances persons say, "We cannot bury under a week;" that is from custom. Others have not the means of getting a black gown, and they cannot follow in a coloured one; that is their bit of pride; then it is put off, it may be, two or three days on that account. They will not have their relatives buried by the parish; they would rather do anything than that, saying they wish them to be buried respectably; and then the end of it is, that myself, and other people like me, often bury for nothing, not intending to do it. They cheat us; and if they would do away with their little pride, and let the parish do it, the bodies would be removed in a reasonable time, and such men as myself would not be imposed on as we frequently are.

680. Mr. Ainsworth.] Does any drinking go on?—It is generally a drunken job; it is too frequently so.

681. Chairman.] From what you have stated, as to this dead body being in your house, making you and your boy sick, your impression is that it is very injurious to the health of people keeping bodies in that way?—I am sure of it.

682. And you attribute it to the two causes you have mentioned?—Yes, keeping bodies above ground too long; and it would be a very good thing if it could be altered, so that a body should be compelled to be buried within six days.

683. Colonel Fox.] Do you think there would be any objection to burying bodies with a certain quantity of quick-lime, sufficient to destroy the coffin and the whole thing in a given time?—There would be a general objection amongst poor people, because you cannot bring poor people to understand that which is really

really beneficial for themselves. I have seen a child which has died with the small-pox, which, perhaps, had been dead eight or ten days, and the face completely black, and all I could do would not keep the mother from kissing that child.

684. You yourself would not have any objection to it?—No.

685. *Chairman.*] Could not this prejudice of the poor people be overcome?—In time; nothing but time would overcome it. During the time of the prevalence of the cholera morbus, I buried the poor in the parish; I lived in St. Mary-le-Strand; I used to put lime into the coffins, and there was an objection to it even at that time by persons who were in no way interested, poor people round the neighbourhood. We brought a body from Greville-street, and put it in a shell, and the next day I put it in a coffin and put lime in it; I nailed it down and put it in the ground, and the people around seemed not at all to approve of the lime being put in the coffin.

686. Assuming that people were obliged to be buried without the precincts of any town, would the expense of interment be very much increased, or could any measure be devised to save the additional expense, if any?—Some years ago St. James's burial-ground was out of town, and taking up from St. James's parish, from Piccadilly we will say, to the Hampstead Road, it required two more men, except it was a very heavy person, and then it would require four. If there were two additional men it made the expense 6s. 6d.; and if there were four extra men it was double that, namely, 13s., and then the people had to walk there and back. St. Giles and St. Martin's have grounds, the one at Camden Town, and the other just by St. Pancras Church. Persons who cannot afford a hearse and coach are obliged to have two extra men or four extra men, according to the weight of the body which is to be carried. It increases the expense on an average about 12s. or 13s.

687. You have attended chiefly, you say, Spa Fields, St. Clement Danes, and the Savoy?—And St. Mary-le-Strand.

688. Which of those is the worst?—St. Mary-le-Strand and Portugal-street; I do not know which is the worst of the two; I think they are both so bad you can hardly tell the difference.

689. Are they both of them surrounded with houses?—Yes.

690. Entirely?—St. Mary-le-Strand more so than Portugal-street.

691. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] What is the Savoy?—The Savoy is a very old burial-ground, where soldiers used to be buried some years ago; but now it is the finest little burying-place in London.

692. Why so?—It is made into a little garden.

693. Whereabout is it?—Very near the Savoy Chapel.

694. You have no remarks to make as to anything that has happened in the Savoy?—No.

695. *Chairman.*] You are acquainted with St. Mary-le-Strand burial-ground?—Yes.

696. To what height has the ground got above the level of the circumjacent ground?—About three feet, or nearly four feet.

697. Does it rise up any distance towards the houses; is it as high as the window of the houses that look towards it?—No; it is nearly up to the parlour window, within a couple of feet.

698. How much is that above the street?—I think about four feet.

699. That is surrounded with houses, you say, in every direction?—Yes.

700. And so is the Savoy, is it not?—The Savoy is much more open; Portugal-street is not so confined, because a current of air passes through the street.

701. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] I suppose your business is chiefly confined to this portion of London?—To that neighbourhood more especially.

702. You are not employed, perhaps, in other directions?—I have been in the city.

703. Can you speak of any of the burial-grounds in the city, or in Southwark?—There is Bow Church, in the city, that has no burial-ground.

704. I mean the burial-grounds in the city?—The burial-grounds in the city are very small, and the burials are not very frequent, because most of the citizens manage to accumulate money, which enables them to bury out of town.

705. *Colonel Fox.*] Do you know St. Andrew's, Holborn, burial-ground?—Yes; that is very full.

706. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Can you speak to it?—From having been there several times, I know they have no room to spare.

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Mr. James Michael Lane, called in; and Examined.

707. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—No. 30, Clement's-lane.

708. How long have you lived there?—Between three and four years in the house I live in, and next door to it.

709. In what part of the lane is your house situated?—The top end of it, towards Clare-market.

710. How far from the burial-ground?—My window is not more than three feet from it.

711. What is your business?—Cane-worker in chairs.

712. Are you connected in any way with the cemeteries about this town?—Not in the least.

713. As you live near this churchyard, state generally to the Committee what you have observed to take place there?—I have observed them bury there very frequently; it is almost every day in the week they are burying.

714. How many bodies in the course of the day?—Sometimes one, sometimes two, sometimes three, more or less; but I never observed more than four, I think.

715. *Colonel Fox.*] Not on a Sunday?—On a Sunday and week-day too. Sometimes they dig a grave without burying at all on the day they dig it.

716. *Chairman.*] Do you not have more on a Sunday than on other days?—At times; one day with the other it is pretty nearly on an average.

717. What is the mode of interment practised?—Digging a shallow grave at times, and then a few weeks afterwards they will go a good depth. There was one occasion when my wife noticed it more than at any other time; there was a corpse buried on a Sunday, from the hospital; there were two females following it; what made us take particular notice of it was, that they came from the hospital, and went out at the gate across the ground towards Clare-market, and then came back again to the hospital. In the course of about a month afterwards they opened this grave again, and when they opened it they brought the coffin up in pieces, not split, but the sides were taken from the head and foot-board; they brought it up without splitting, just as you might take a case to pieces, or the lid off a box. After they had brought up the lid, and laid it on the ground, they brought up the bones with the flesh hanging in tatters upon it, then about four shovels full of soft substance came up, and my wife called to the person in the next room to witness the thing; they called out to the men; the men made them no answer, but turned their backs towards the houses to try to avoid the people seeing it, but the window being high, we could see every thing that came out of the grave as plainly almost as if we had been close to them; they were not far off. At another time a body was brought out of King's College Hospital, and it was put down without any service over it. I do not know what was the reason of that.

718. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Was it in a coffin?—Yes. It was in the summer that was buried, and I think it is, as near as I can calculate it, between two or three months since they brought the coffin up, and the wood was as fresh as when it went down, except being wet, and that they brought up in whole pieces, without being split.

719. How came it to be wet?—The wood looked soddened with wet. They took the wood, and put it in one corner, behind a sort of shed which used to be kept for putting bodies in for which there might not be owners.

720. Did they burn it occasionally?—I never saw them burn any of it.

721. *Colonel Fox.*] Did you ever see any burning of any sort?—I have never seen them burning anything; I have seen them take it away in sacks.

722. *Lord Ashley.*] Have you known that wood offered for sale?—I never took notice of that; I never buy wood myself to burn. I have heard of people buying it in the neighbourhood.

723. *Colonel Fox.*] You do not know that?—I do not know it myself.

724. Is there any bad smell?—In the summer.

725. *Chairman.*] Very bad?—Very bad in the hot weather.

726. Is this grave surrounded with houses?—The hospital is on one side, Portugal-street on another, the house I live in on another, and a slaughter-house on the other; it is surrounded on three sides out of four.

727. Do you find your own health and that of your family pretty good?—I cannot say I have good health. Last summer I was affected more than I ever was

was before in my life; I was attacked by violent pains in my head for some weeks, and then it came on to fits, and I have been attacked several times with them. My wife is not in a very good state of health in general.

728. Have you any family?—I have two children.

729. How are they?—One is middling, and the other, a little girl, has a sort of breaking-out continually; if you physic her, she gets bad again. I had one child which was ill when it was about three weeks old; it died at the month. It was ill a week, and the doctor it was taken to said, "Take the child home; it will not live; it is the air of that quarter which is poisoning it." A stench arises there in hot weather.

730. What months in the year do you smell it most?—June, July, and August.

731. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] There has been no hot weather in London for the last two or three years?—Last summer it was very offensive. There is very little air attached to that quarter. You may go across the street in about a stride and a half; the houses are quite close.

732. Lord *Ashley*.] There is no free passage of air?—No; there is only what comes from the burial-ground on one side. The street is narrower than this room, I should suspect.

733. *Chairman*.] What is the size of the grave-yard?—It is not a very large one.

734. On a rough guess, what should you say?—I should say about an acre and a half. It has been enlarged since the hospital was erected; they have taken away a great deal of the fence.

735. Colonel *Fox*.] Is there much sickness in the neighbourhood?—Very much at times, especially in the summer months; there is a great deal in the summer. A number of persons have died of fever since I have lived in that neighbourhood. There were no less than four or five persons attacked with it.

736. *Chairman*.] Have you ever yourself smelt any thing?—I have. I have been sitting at the window and been obliged to go away frequently when I have been eating my meals.

737. Are the walls of the houses in good condition?—They are very damp. The houses do not go quite close to the burial-ground; a wall intervenes between the burial-ground and the houses.

738. Have you ever observed a little black fly, something like a bug, rising out of that ground?—No; I have observed a sort of longish thin fly.

739. Coming out of the grave-yard?—Yes.

740. Colonel *Fox*.] You do not mean a common gnat?—No; a long thin fly; not a natural house fly.

741. *Chairman*.] Would you live in that neighbourhood if your occupation did not oblige you, or if you had the means of living elsewhere?—If I had the means of paying a higher rent, I would not live there.

742. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Are the rents low there?—Yes; I pay 1s. 9d. a week for the room I reside in, and that is at the top of the house.

743. What size room is it?—About two thirds the size of this room, I should say, or not quite so large.

744. Colonel *Fox*.] Do you think there would be any objection on the part of the people generally, or should you have any objection yourself to have a law that every body should be buried with a certain quantity of quick-lime in the coffin, so as to destroy it in a certain time, instead of its being destroyed by worms?—I should have no objection to it; it does not matter to me how my body decays; but I like to see a body in a proper state of decay before it is chopped to pieces and exposed to people round about.

745. Would you object when a person is dead that quick-lime should be put into a coffin, so as to destroy it quickly?—I should not object in the least.

746. Do you think there would be a feeling against that?—I have never heard it talked of; I have known it in some instances where people have applied it themselves.

747. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] In what station of life were those persons who employed this mode?—Poor persons.

748. From what cause do you conceive?—To prevent them, as they thought, from being taken up; that was the idea they had. They considered it would render the body unfit for the use of the surgeons.

749. *Chairman*.] Does the little long fly you have mentioned rise from the churchyard?—I cannot tell from what cause it arises.

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750. Is it a fly you never saw anywhere else?—It is a fly I never saw in houses away from a grave-yard.

751. You never saw it in the country?—I never saw a fly of the description in the country.

752. Are there any about now?—My little boy caught one on Monday or Tuesday. It is a long thin fly; he showed it to me.

753. Are your neighbours in good health or not?—I do not know anybody who is particularly in bad health at present; but I associate very little with any persons in the neighbourhood, and I am sometimes not out of the house once in a day; I may not be out all day, according as business runs with me.

754. Lord Ashley.] Do you think the children running about the streets, in your neighbourhood, look as healthy and rosy as those living further off, not near a churchyard?—Some look pretty well and some do not; but I do not think you can judge of the health of a child from that. I have a little girl who has as great a colour in her face as any person, and she sometimes experiences a bad state of health. A number of children about the neighbourhood, within the last four or five months, have had the small-pox in a very bad state. Several of them have lost their lives by it, and a very bad sort indeed it was considered to be. Whether it was caused by the grave-yard, I cannot state.

755. Chairman.] Have you, in the early part of the morning, heard a knocking in the churchyard?—Yes.

756. What did you attribute that noise to?—I know what it was.

757. What was it?—They were destroying the coffins.

758. In the morning they destroy the coffins?—Before daylight, and as soon as I have got up at daylight, I have looked, and I have seen them at work with handkerchiefs tied over their noses and mouths.

759. Breaking in the coffins?—Yes.

760. Is that to make room?—Yes.

761. And to make fire-wood, I suppose?—I should say so, for they carry it away in sacks. The men do it as carefully as they can, to prevent people seeing it; but the people who live there, whose windows overlook the place, cannot help observing it. But what made me look more particular than anything was, that I had a child buried there; and if they had broken that grave open, I should have gone and given them in charge to a policeman.

762. In passing by there, have you ever seen a tarpauling put up when they were opening a grave?—Some time ago there was.

763. Why did they put that tarpauling up?—They did that on Tuesday last, when they opened a grave for the reception of the policeman who was killed in Holborn; he was buried there on Tuesday; the grave was open all night, and they had a tarpauling over that.

764. What was that for?—I suppose to keep out the wet.

765. Not to prevent the public from looking in and seeing the bodies?—They cannot get there; there is a railing, and the houses surround it; there is no way for them to get in but over the railing; if they were curious enough to get over the railing, they might see it. Two or three years ago there was a tarpauling fixed up along the railing; that was when the chief of the bodies were disturbed.

766. And did you hear this knocking or breaking open of the coffins every morning before daylight, or how often?—I have seen it very frequently; they do not use a pick-axe, but they have got a tool, like the face of a hammer at one end, with a sharp point, which comes down tapering at the other end; it is about nine pounds in weight; that is what they use to break the coffins.

767. That is a more handy instrument?—It is so.

768. Who is it does this work?—The grave-diggers; there are generally two of them work together.

769. Did they do this to make more space in this yard, which is already full, or merely for the wood of the coffins?—To make space to put the dead in I should suspect; because many times I have witnessed it, and so has my wife at the same time. We have remarked a particular spot, and we have said, "We will see whether that is disturbed;" we have looked out of window, and when they have dug the grave, it has been the top coffin; and in the course of a fortnight or three weeks we have seen them dig a deep grave. What could have become of that coffin, if they did not disturb the bodies?

770. Colonel Fox.] What became of the contents of the coffin do you suppose?—It is mixed with the mould. This body, which was brought up piece-meal, with the flesh hanging to the bones, and stuff brought up in shovels without bones, was let down in a solid lump again on the top of the coffin; and the women called out to the men, and told them they had better take people's money out of their pockets, and not bury the dead at all, or bury them without a coffin. It is a shocking place for disturbing the dead.

771. Mr. Ainsworth.] That is Portugal-street?—Yes; I think since I have lived in that neighbourhood there is one part of the ground which has not had above one grave dug in it.

772. What is the reason of that?—Because Mr. Fitch will not allow it.

773. Who is Mr. Fitch?—The sexton.

774. What was the reason of that?—I cannot tell you.

775. Mr. Beckett.] What should you think was the reason?—I cannot form an opinion; he has had a lot of shrubs planted there, and perhaps he wishes to preserve them.

776. Lord Ashley.] Do any of the houses look into that part of the ground?—Mine does.

777. What is the situation of that ground in which interments are not allowed; is it close under any houses?—It is toward the railings.

778. Chairman.] Do you experience a more unpleasant smell when they have been breaking open these coffins and throwing out the masses of flesh, than you did before?—I cannot say that I smell anything more particularly, but it is because it has been in the cold weather that this has happened; in the summer-time there is a stench arising from it.

779. Is there not a greater stench when they work at the coffins in this way, and break them open and throw the masses of flesh about?—We sometimes are in bed when they are doing it.

780. Do they always do it before daylight?—Not always.

780*. Do they sometimes do it in daylight?—Very frequently; I have seen them break coffins to pieces in the daytime, and carry the wood to one part of the ground; they have got a sort of vault under the watch-house where they carry the bones to, and they put some hundreds of bushels of human bones in that place.

781. And the flesh is brought up with the mould?—Yes.

Mr. Edwin Eddison, called in; and Examined.

782. Chairman.] YOU are Town-clerk of Leeds?—Yes.

783. What is the state of the churchyards in the borough of Leeds?—The position of the parochial burying-grounds in the borough of Leeds is such at present, that if during the next four months the whole of the dead were to demand, as they have a right to do, interment in that ground, there could be no interment, except within three feet of the surface. The importance of remedying this evil is so strongly felt, that at the present moment we are preparing a petition to induce the House of Commons to embody provisions in a local improvement Bill for providing a burial-ground for the township of Leeds. A short time ago a complaint was made to the then mayor, who is one of our aldermen, that a body had been disinterred, for the purpose of making room for some other interments. A complaint was also at the same time made of an offensive smell, which no doubt arose from the dead bodies in the burial-ground. This ended in a charge being brought before the mayor against the sexton; for it is, in fact, an indictable offence, the indecent exposure of the bodies of the dead by taking up the coffins in that way. On investigation, although the vicar felt so indignant at the conduct of the sexton, that, in a conversation with the mayor, he stated that he should certainly dismiss him, yet the justification arising from the peculiar circumstances of the case was such as to convince him that the man was not much to blame, though he was unquestionably to blame, as it was an indecent offence, but he was not otherwise culpable. In consequence of that, a representation was made to the churchwardens. Many inquiries were made; but we are unfortunately there, as they are in many other places, at variance on the point of the church-rate question, which is very materially involved in this question. Ours is a borough comprising about 22,000 acres of land, with about 163,000 inhabitants. It is divided into eleven townships, the town-

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ship of Leeds containing about two-thirds of the population. In all those townships, with the exception of one, they have sufficient burial-ground for themselves, provided by voluntary contribution, or in some instances by a local ecclesiastical church or chapel rate. Therefore this makes a twofold difficulty; we have first the church-rate question, and then these parties say, "You shall not tax us for your parochial rate" (for the borough and the parish are not co-extensive); "you must provide your own grounds." A suggestion was made to the vicar that a burial-ground should be had on a principle similar to that one which is at present in existence at York, namely that one-half of it should be appropriated to the Church, and the other half should be appropriated to dissenters of all denominations; that, I understand, at present is agreed to. I for one, as an inhabitant, feel an awful responsibility, because I am satisfied, that if this goes on in the condition it at present is, some very serious disease must arise. Dr. Hook's proposal (I have it not from the Doctor himself, but I believe his proposal was) that he was perfectly willing, not only to do that, but I think also to forego the fees as far as he was concerned, and use his endeavours that no church-rate of any kind should be applied for. I only mention this to show you the great anxiety of all parties to have some redress.

Mercurii, 6^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Mr. Beckett.
Sir William Clay.

Mr. E. Denison.
Colonel Fox.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. Vernon.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

George Alfred Walker, Esq. called in; and Examined.

G. A. Walker, Esq.
6 April 1842.

784. *Chairman.*] YOU are a Medical Practitioner?—I am.
785. In what part of the town do you reside?—In Drury-lane.
786. Do you practise to any great extent in that neighbourhood?—Yes, to a considerable extent.
787. To as great an extent as any one in the neighbourhood?—I think so.
788. Are you connected with any of the cemeteries lately established near London?—No; neither remotely nor directly.
789. Have you turned your attention to the subject of interments in towns?—I have.
790. Will you have the goodness to state to the Committee your opinion with regard to what has come under your observation as to the injurious effect of interments in your vicinity?—My attention was first directed to the subject, or rather, I commenced my examination in my own neighbourhood. I had a thorough conviction in my own mind that something must be done, and that the sooner it was done the better. It is about five years ago since I commenced the investigation. I have had a good deal to do among my patients, and my time has been fully occupied; still the conviction has never left me, that the mode in which the dead were disposed of was a considerable source of disease; I have no doubt of that. I have frequently attended patients in Clement's-lane, which I always considered as an infected district. I have resided in that neighbourhood about seven years. I have seen cases of disease in which there has been activity without power, involving perhaps no particular organ or tissue; instances of sudden death; and there has been a fearful mortality in that neighbourhood.
791. Do you attribute those instances of sudden death, and this great mortality, to the neighbourhood?—Not exclusively; there are other causes, and some operating extensively; that lane is in a very filthy state; I think it a disgrace to the metropolis.

792. Do

792. Do you consider that a principal cause?—I do; but more especially the mode in which the dead are disposed of. *G. A. Walker, Esq*

793. Will you state in what way that operates?—Reasoning from particular instances to general results, I should say that if one man can be affected by exhalations from the dead (and I know that men are frequently so affected) another may. There is no doubt at all that from the surface of a grave-yard, as the bodies are disposed of in the metropolis and other crowded places, noxious emanations must constantly arise; and even leaden coffins placed in vaults cannot retain the destructive exhalations. In some localities we find bodies placed within six inches of the surface; that occurs in my neighbourhood.

794. You say it is quite useless to enclose the bodies in lead?—Yes.

795. On what do you found that opinion?—The expansive force of the gas.

796. Do you mean that the gas escapes through the lead?—It will either do that or burst the coffin; but the sexton occasionally orders his men to tap the coffin. I never knew an instance of a sexton doing it himself. I have an apparatus to draw up gas into a bladder; I never obtained but one bladder full; it escaped so rapidly when brought into my house, that in one minute afterwards my sister and cousin, who lived with me, smelt it on the third story, and were obliged to leave the house. It was quickly absorbed by water, and I lost my chance of analyzing it.

797. Have you observed sickness to be more prevalent in those houses which overhang or are situated near church-yards?—Yes, I am quite certain of that; and in my particular locality there are sunk areas on the side of the grave-yards, and during the action of heat and moisture, gases must evolve; the heavy gases fall on the surface, and flow over, though invisible to the eye, into those sunk areas, and become part and parcel of the atmospheric air which is breathed.

798. Lord *Mahon*.] Are the effluvia very offensive in passing the grave-yards?—They may be distinctly smelt, and they are very unlike any other smell. I was passing with my friend, Dr. Peter Ennis Green; we had examined a body in Clement's-lane, and were coming down in the direction of the Strand; he exclaimed, "Good God! what a horrible stench; there must be a dissecting-room." I said, "No, I will show you where they dissect;" and I took him up a narrow passage to the burial-ground, and he smelt it in an instant: there the bodies are, I will not say interred, but placed within a few inches from the surface, in a damp soil, which, conjoined with heat, rapidly promotes putrefaction.

799. What is that burial-ground?—It is called the poor ground, at the bottom of Clement's-lane. Starting from the upper end of the lane, there is the burial-ground in Portugal-street; on the other side, about the middle, entirely surrounded by houses, that abominable place Enon Chapel; a little further down are deposited a number of bodies not six inches from the surface.

800. Do you observe that the grave-diggers themselves are more liable to sickness than other persons under like circumstances?—I think there is a peculiar expression about a grave-digger that no one can mistake; there is a sallowness of face, a want of expression or of energy in the countenance; but, generally speaking, those men stimulate greatly; it is only the bold and forward men who suffer.

801. Why so?—Because the old ones, being very knowing, very well informed in their avocation, have passed through the ordeal the young man is expected to be engaged in; they will generally stand at the side of the grave, allowing the young man to do the work; the very shaking of a coffin, the digging amongst a tier of coffins, which must be done and is done in many grave-yards in London, throws out noxious effluvia.

802. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Do you think the occupation of a grave-digger leads to much intemperance?—I have no doubt of it; with scarcely an exception they are drinking men; stimulation will be of course temporary strength.

803. Lord *Mahon*.] What do you consider to be the average length of time that a human body buried in a coffin of the common kind will take to be consumed?—I think at least seven years ought to be allowed.

804. How long will they take if buried in leaden coffins?—I think the old form of coffin, which weighs eight or nine pounds to the foot, will retain it much longer than milled lead. I will mention a circumstance which occurred a short time ago in the Strand: a portion of the old grave-yard was dug up to make a sewer, which was much needed in that neighbourhood; one of the men

G. A. Walker, Esq. employed struck his pickaxe into a coffin; that body had been buried in the year 1789; the gas was clearly perceptible—it issued from the coffin like the steam from a teapot spout, and the stench was insufferable.

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805. At what depth was that coffin from the surface?—About five feet; but no judgment can be formed as to the present depth, because that neighbourhood has undergone considerable changes.

806. *Chairman.*] Will you state to the Committee what are the particular places whence you have derived the observations which you have made?—Most of those I am about to name I have personally examined; they are, the burying-ground in Portugal-street; Enon Chapel, Clement's-lane; St. Clement's Church, Strand; and the vaults of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; Drury-lane; Russell-court, Drury-lane; St. Paul's, Covent Garden; St. Giles's Burying Ground; Aldgate Churchyard; Whitechapel Church and Vaults; St. Mary's Catholic Chapel, Moorfields; Spitalfields Ground; Bethnal Green old Ground; Stepney Burial Ground; Mulberry Chapel, St. George's-in-the-East, Ellinore Swedish Protestant Church; St. George's Church, Cannon-street East; Ebenezer Chapel, Ratcliff Highway; Sheen's Ground; Shadwell Churchyard and Vaults; Trinity Episcopal Chapel, Cannon-street Road; The Mariners' Church, Welleclose-square; Bunhill-fields, City Road; St. Luke's, Old-street; Clerkenwell Church, four burial-grounds and vaults; Spa Fields; St. James's Burying Ground, Clerkenwell; St. Ann's, Soho; Elim Chapel, Fetter-lane; St. Saviour's Church, Southwark; the Cross Bones, belonging to the same parish; All Saints, Poplar; St. Andrew's, Holborn; St. Anne's, Limehouse; Bermondsey; Christchurch, Surrey; St. George's, Hanover-square; St. George's, Middlesex; St. George's, Southwark; St. James's, Westminster; St. John's, Hackney; St. John's, Westminster; St. Leonard, Shoreditch; St. Luke's, Chelsea; St. Margaret's, Westminster; Kensington; Islington; Lambeth; Newington; Rotherhithe; Paddington; Pancras; and many others.

807. Speaking from your personal knowledge, in every one of those places you have enumerated, your opinion is, as a medical man, that the burial of the dead has been injurious to the persons living in the neighbourhood?—I am sure of it. It cannot be otherwise.

808. You have no doubt it affects their health?—I have no doubt it does.

809. Have you found that, independently of the injury to health, the inhaling of this noxious gas has any moral influence?—I should say, that if a man was depressed from any cause, he would most likely take stimulants. I have no doubt that grave-diggers are compelled to drink; and that they could not execute their office without it. I know that a grave-digger cannot execute his office without drinking, and drinking to excess.

810. You state, from your own knowledge, as a medical man, that it affects the health of persons living in the vicinity?—There is no doubt of that.

811. Would you say, as a medical man, that the gases escaping from the grave-yards and mixing with the general air, affect the health of the persons living round?—Yes.

812. *Mr. Denison.*] Will you state whether you have seen disease arising from that cause?—I have; but it is sufficient to state, that the neighbourhood to which my attention has been especially directed is surrounded with grave-yards; and that there are hundreds of tons weight of human bodies resting temporarily in the earth until displaced to make room for a succeeding tenant. Bodies, in many situations, are placed within six inches of the surface. Martin's ground, in the Borough, measures 295 feet in width and 379 in length. If we multiply these together, we shall make 111,805 superficial feet. If we allow 27 feet for the burial of an adult body, and divide this (the product) by that number, we shall obtain a quotient of 4,140 and a fraction. The vault is 118 feet long and 41 feet wide. If we take the main width of a coffin, or the space it will occupy, I think, speaking of adults, we shall be able to place on the surface 403 bodies. According to the best information I can obtain from a man that has worked there ten years, it appears that 14,000 dead bodies have been deposited in this ground and vaults during the time he has been there.

813. Can you say whether in your immediate neighbourhood there is any disease traceable to this cause?—Yes; and I shall prove, by a very intelligent witness, that he has known persons affected by this cause. They prepare graves in many grave-yards in London for 10 or 12 funerals on a Sunday, the day on which

which funerals mostly take place; there is the most unseemly haste during the time of the burying; I have seen a clergyman go hastily from one to another, reading the service at each; a number of mourners come depressed with grief; their power of resistance is weakened; they may not have eaten for some time previously; they breathe the gases given off, and have been seen to stagger both in the vaults and on the edge of the grave, and in many instances have, within a week, been deposited in the grave themselves.

814. You have mentioned the circumstance of burials taking place only six inches from the surface; from what cause is that; is it to save trouble?—It is frequently done to save trouble; but in many instances they cannot go lower.

815. Can you give any explanation of the reasons why the objectionable practice of burying only six inches deep is pursued?—I think it is adopted for two reasons; the first, in the instance I have referred to, that they cannot go deeper on account of the water; and the second, that it is done to save trouble. There is an utter disregard of consequences; and I know the working clergy are so careful not to breathe this air, that a direction has been given to the sexton to place the box at a considerable distance from the grave, so as to avoid it.

816. *Chairman.*] You have mentioned two sorts of gases, one sinking to the bottom, and the other rising up, and you stated that you considered that there was some animal matter floating in the gas?—In the compound mixture I have no doubt there is.

817. How do you distinguish the two gases?—There are several gases intermixed with an oleaginous compound; and I am quite certain there is an animal matter floating in that mixture; having passed a quantity of this through water, on one occasion, a pellicle arose; there is no doubt a very large portion of animal matter is present in a suspended form.

818. You form your conclusion from the greasy sort of matter found in the water?—Yes; the gas will be absorbed, to a certain degree, by the water, and this fatty matter will be found on the surface.

819. What is it that sinks to the bottom?—The carbonic acid and other gas; these are the gases which destroyed the men in Aldgate churchyard. If the man had been upon his guard, and held his breath during the time he endeavoured to render assistance, I do not think he would have died; but he unfortunately leant over the body of the dead man, inspired the gas, and fell down lifeless.

820. When was that circumstance?—In 1838.

821. Was not there a man who died at St. Margaret's church?—There was. I have had no communication with the surgeon who published the case; but I obtained the particulars from the *Lancet* of the 13th June 1840. They are the following: "William Green, a grave-digger, while employed in his vocation in the churchyard of St. Margaret's, Westminster, was suddenly seized with faintness, excessive chilliness, giddiness, and inability to move his limbs. He was seen to fall, removed home, and his usual medical attendant was sent for. The poor fellow's impression was, that 'he should never leave his bed alive; he was struck with death.' He was subsequently removed to the hospital, where he died in a few days. No hope was entertained, from the first, of his recovery. Mr. B., the medical attendant, was seized with precisely the same symptoms. He was attended by me; I apprehended from the first a fatal result; he died four days after the decease of the grave-digger. The fatal effects of this miasm did not end here; the servant was seized on the day after the death of her master, and she sank in a few days. There can be no doubt of the fact, that the effluvium from the grave was the cause of the death of these three individuals. The total inefficiency, in the three cases, of all remedial means, showed the great power of the virus, or miasm, over the animal economy, from the commencement of the attack. (signed) *J. C. Atkinson*, Surgeon, Romney-terrace, Westminster." It is well known that the Commissioners for the Improvement of Westminster, in the year 1814, reported to Parliament that the place could not be long used as a burying-ground, and yet they have continued to bury there ever since.

822. Is it only that gas which evaporates in air which you consider to be noxious to the population?—Undoubtedly the heavy gases also become diffused, are mixed with the atmosphere, and breathed by the dwellers in the locality or those passing by. In very many grave-yards they are obliged, when they dig deep graves (and in most instances they are compelled to do that), to throw

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down lighted straw, or paper, or shavings, or water to absorb the gases before they descend. Thus these gases are rarefied, driven up, and diffused in the atmosphere, and the next current of air may pass them into the street or into a house. There are many places I am acquainted with, in the vicinity of a grave-yard, where they cannot keep their windows open in warm weather.

823. Mr. *Denison*.] Can you give any instance of that?—Yes; in the neighbourhood of Portugal-street burying-ground, in the neighbourhood of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, the Drury-lane burying-ground, and the one in Russell-court. I know an instance of a very respectable gentleman refusing to take a house in the neighbourhood of Bishopsgate churchyard, on account of its proximity to the grave-yard.

824. Can you state what effect the vicinity of the grave-yard has had on those who have lived near it?—There is no doubt it has had a great effect upon their health.

825. You state that in some instances they cannot open their windows; where does that circumstance occur?—In the neighbourhood of Portugal-street ground, and Drury-lane, and others.

826. Lord *Mahon*.] Have you attended patients living in those situations?—Yes.

827. Do you ascribe their illness to this circumstance?—The practice of medicine is not demonstrative. I attended an Irishman some few years ago; the action of his heart was accelerated, and his breathing short and laborious. I found he had been at a burial, and “had got a stink,” as he called it. If the gases given off do not destroy life immediately, they act as a mechanical irritant to the lungs or the skin.

828. Mr. *Denison*.] How far from a burying-ground do you think these ill effects are felt?—It would be difficult if not impossible to state how far.

829. Viscount *Mahon*.] There is a different effect probably in summer and in winter?—Yes; it is worst in a moist atmosphere and an increased temperature; and there are several places used for burial which are very moist.

830. *Chairman*.] You consider that that is a great source of illness in the metropolis?—I do.

831. Do you think it is a leading cause?—It is difficult to say; that would require a great deal of statistical information.

832. Lord *Mahon*.] How many miles from a large town might a cemetery be placed with safety?—I think if a cemetery were on an elevation it might be placed at a small distance; but one thing should be attended to, that of placing the bodies sufficiently deep in the earth. With regard to the burials of the poor, it will be difficult to say how they should be provided for; but if we go upon the old system of putting 18 or 20 bodies in a grave, we shall leave a source of disease which may be acting for a long period. In Paris they have an excellent plan for the interment of the poor. The “fosses communes” of a cemetery are dug to a depth of four feet, the earth being thrown up on either side of the fosse for a considerable distance. The bodies are deposited side by side, but not one upon the other. The mortality of the day being received, the earth is thrown on the coffins thus deposited until the fosse is filled, when another place is dug and occupied in the same manner. This ground, if required, may with safety be again employed for burial after a period of five or seven years.

833. *Chairman*.] Your impression is, that wherever they open a grave in the grave-yards in this town, the opening it opens a volcano for the emission of those gases?—Unquestionably, I think that is one of the most injurious practices which can be followed. A most respectable gentleman with whom I was conversing the other day, a barrister, told me he had been affected for several days after attending a funeral, in consequence of the gas he inhaled.

834. Where was that funeral?—In the grave-yard in the Waterloo-road; it is a most improper place for a grave-yard, owing to the humidity of the soil.

835. Colonel *Fox*.] Do you believe the Neapolitan plan would answer; the having a vault for every day in the year?—No, I do not think the public would submit to that; I think the old Roman plan of burning would be preferable.

836. Mr. *Denison*.] Do you say that the plan of burying deep is objectionable?—I think the mode of burying in deep graves is highly objectionable on many points. I visited the grave-yard of St. Ann's, Soho, the other day, and I found they had a practice of keeping open graves; the coffins were covered with a little earth and a plank; there is thus a funnel for the gas to escape.

837. *Chairman*.]

837. *Chairman.*] Is that the reason you object to one coffin being placed on another, that you think the earth ought never to be opened where one coffin has been placed?—I think it ought not to be opened for some years. In the case of the poor, who must come under the protection of the Government or the parish, it would be desirable to make the most of the land, as I have before explained. I have examined upwards of 90 grave-yards, and am decidedly of opinion that coffins should be placed side by side, even as a matter of economy, and not as they are in Barbican and other places, where they have 20 or 25 bodies in one grave. We have had the old grave-yard of St. Clement's turned up within these few days, and given to the street; this was necessary, for the purpose of a sewer; the stench was abominable, though it is 40 years since that was used as a grave-yard; if that place had been opened in the summer, it might have produced an epidemic.

838. *Colonel Fox.*] Your objection to the Neapolitan plan would be that the feeling, you think, would be against it?—I think it would.

839. Might not that be obviated by doing it in a much more decent manner than it is done at Naples?—I think it might; the English are a very sensible people, and they might be brought to anything reasonable.

840. *Chairman.*] Can you explain the evidence of one of the witnesses, that in many of the dissenting chapels the speculators have made more by the dead than the living?—He is perfectly correct in that; there is no doubt many of those chapels have been established as speculations; I believe that many of them would not have been established, but for their being enabled to bury the dead.

841. Will you state how the profit is greater on the dead than the living?—I will take an instance of a chapel in my own neighbourhood, Enon Chapel; the number who have been buried there is very great, and many pounds a week taken for interment.

842. *Mr. Denison.*] You have stated that it would take seven years for a body in an ordinary coffin to be decomposed in the earth; do you mean that a common elm coffin takes that time to be destroyed?—No, if an elm coffin were to be placed in a moist ground it would last very many years. A French physician (Dr. Navier) has stated that, upon examining three bodies, one at seven, another 11, and another at 20 years after interment, he found them all in a state of active putrefaction. In vaults which are dry, in churches built in a dry sandy soil, and where abundance of ventilation is allowed, the bodies are like mummies.

843. *Chairman.*] Your impression is, that sites ought to be provided for grave-yards at a distance from London?—Unquestionably.

844. There has been mention made of a speculation by a man of the name of Martin, of a burying-place for the poor?—That is the place in the Borough of which I have given the measurement; I measured it the last Monday but one.

845. *Sir William Clay.*] Have you published any pamphlet on the subject of interments?—I have recently; and I published a book about two years ago.

846. *Chairman.*] You stated that you had attempted to get some of this gas, but was not able to analyze it to your wish?—I was obliged, in consequence of the intolerable stench, to pass it through water instead of through mercury, not having my process ready; I lost a great deal of it in consequence of that.

847. You say it differs from ordinary gases, inasmuch as there is animal matter suspended?—Yes, I believe that, because a pellicle floated on the surface; the first bubble which passed through water left a pellicle on the surface, and I was very glad to get rid of it. I was very ill, and kept my bed a week afterwards.

848. Can you form an idea how soon this gas generates after the burial?—I think it generates as soon as decomposition takes place, which will vary according to the disease.

849. You state that the whole of the churchyards in the metropolis are constantly generating this sort of gas, and that whenever a grave is opened it is the means of circulating this nauseous gas; how far do you imagine any injury may arise from the rain water filtering through those graves, and finding its way in that mode to the different wells which supply water to the population in this great town?—There is not a doubt the atmospheric pressure upon a grave-yard, which is equal to a weight of 2,160lbs. on every square foot of its surface, must affect it, and that the percolation will go on, and that, as water will find its level, the springs must be affected by that. You get rid of the suspended impurities in water by filtering, but you cannot of the dissolved ones.

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850. Assuming that this gas got mixed up with rain water, do you think it would go into the wells, and make the wells round grave-yards unhealthy?—I think it would.

851. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Have you analyzed the water near any of those grave-yards?—No; but I am aware the pumps of some are not used.

852. Mr. *Denison*.] Do you know whether the water in the vicinity of grave-yards is unwholesome?—Water is a very powerful absorbent, and I think the wells near the grave-yards will be affected.

853. Do you know whether the pump-water near any grave-yard is affected?—I know that many of the pumps in the grave-yards are not used; that at St. Clement's, for instance, is not now used; that was dug close to the churchyard.

854. Do you know that the water from that pump near St. Clement's is not used because of its being affected?—I cannot say; I think it likely.

855. On a general principle, your opinion is that the rain water running into a grave-yard may be affected with those gases, and may pass into the wells used by the population?—I think there is no doubt of that, the gas and the animal compounds together.

856. Do you imagine that the water passing through the ground may imbibe some of the gas you have referred to?—Yes.

857. Colonel *Fox*.] Are you aware whether the grave-yards in the villages round London are equally bad?—There are some I have visited which are; I think they are too near, at any rate. As a general principle, I should say there has not been the slightest care taken or attention paid as to the nature of the soil for the purposes of inhumation.

858. *Chairman*.] According to your opinion, the grave-yards ought to be in a dry situation, rather on a hill?—Yes, as elevated as possible. A clayey soil I should think most unfit for the purposes of burial.

859. May there not be another objection to burying in damp low places, that if there is water, the water, in finding its level, might be found affected at the distance of half a mile?—I have no doubt of that.

860. Colonel *Fox*.] Are you acquainted with any other medical gentleman who has given the same attention to this subject as yourself?—I am not aware of any who have given the same attention to it as I have; I know that some gentlemen have paid great attention to it, particularly Mr. Baker of Leeds.

861. *Chairman*.] Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee what remedies may be suggested to remove those evils to which you have adverted?—I think that where health balances in one scale and interest in the other, it would be difficult to give an opinion. If I knew what course was proposed to be taken, I would give my opinion. The working clergy are entitled to their fees, and the question is how they are to be paid.

862. Mr. *Denison*.] You have given your opinion as a medical man of the mischiefs of the present plan; what in your opinion would be the remedy, as far as public health is concerned?—The remedy would be to take the bodies away to a considerable distance.

863. Mr. *Vernon*.] Are you acquainted with the rules established in foreign countries on these subjects?—There is not a body allowed to be buried in Paris, nor in the villages in many instances.

864. Are you aware of the law of the Pas-de-Vaud in Switzerland?—No.

865. *Chairman*.] What is your impression with regard to the distance of interments from inhabited places?—I think they ought to be placed at a considerable distance, and that there should be a law prohibiting houses being built in the neighbourhood of cemeteries. The great difficulty I see is the transmission of the poor; they cannot pay for it; they are frequently obliged to keep a body several days, in order to get the money to make a decent appearance at the funeral.

866. Where would you suggest that grave-yards ought to be placed?—I think they ought to be placed at a considerable distance, and certainly on elevated ground. I think the Tower Hamlets Cemetery is considerably too low and too near the river; that was recently consecrated by the Bishop of London.

867. Sir *William Clay*.] Do you know how near it is to the Thames?—Perhaps it is within three-quarters of a mile; it is very low, quite a flat; it is down by Mile End.

868. Are there not provisions in the Act for draining it?—I should think so; but contrasting that with Pere La Chaise, near Paris, there is no comparison.

869. Colonel

869. Colonel *Fox*.] The Kensall-Green Cemetery is well placed?—It is flanked by a canal, and here they follow the very objectionable practice of placing several bodies in one grave. The Highgate Cemetery is well situated. G. A. Walker, Esq.

870. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Have you reason to suppose that the coffins would be buried in water at the Cemetery at Mile End, if they went to a considerable depth?—No, I am not aware that that would be the case; I know that the soil itself is not particularly moist; but it is not on an elevated situation.

871. *Chairman*.] Your opinion is that the site ought to be elevated?—Certainly; the gases ought to pass off with the currents of air.

872. Mr. *Vernon*.] What is your opinion as to the coffins employed?—I think there is a great deal of unnecessary expense as to coffins; that the French are wiser than we are; they seldom pay more than five or seven francs for a coffin. The public will perhaps think that they do a very clever thing in putting the body of their friend in a leaden coffin, but it is not the least protection.

873. An iron coffin would be a great protection from decomposition, but then it occupies the ground?—Yes; I think it would be very easy to provide for the middle and higher classes; but the difficulty is with respect to the poor. It must be done by parishes, unions of parishes, or by Government; then bodies might be conveyed by some mode.

874. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Bodies are frequently conveyed two and three miles in country parishes?—Yes; but in London they can scarcely be prevailed on to bury a body for several days, and they make a point of attending the funeral.

875. Colonel *Fox*.] Would it be advantageous, in your opinion, to enact a law, by which a certain quantity of quicklime should be put into every coffin?—There is no doubt of the advantage of that to the health of the population; but I fear it would be objected to.

876. Mr. *Vernon*.] Is it on account of cheapness that elm is preferred for coffins?—No; the difference in price is so little between elm and deal, it is little more than a farthing a foot.

877. The elm is more durable, when in the ground, than deal?—Yes.

878. Therefore it would be desirable that deal should be substituted for the elm?—Yes; as light a coffin as possible, and on no account should they be placed in pits. Suppose a case where it is necessary to exhume a body for a judicial investigation, as happened at Chelsea in 1840: “A poor man died at a wretched hovel in Paradise-row, Chelsea, and was buried in the usual way by the parish. A judicial inquiry was instituted, and it was necessary to exhume the body; the grave-digger opened the hole, and after searching for some time, he declared his inability to find it. The coroner, Mr. Wakley, inquired of the summoning officer the precise number of bodies interred in the same pit. The officer replied, ‘to the best of his recollection, there were 26 bodies.’ The coroner wished to be informed if they rammed them in with a rammer. The officer said he ‘was not aware that they resorted to such a process, but the bodies of paupers were packed together as closely as possible, in order to make the most of the space!’ The coroner observed, that such a system of burial was revolting to humanity, and reflected the highest disgrace on a Christian country.”

879. Mr. *Denison*.] What wood is the cheap French coffin made of?—I think it is made of the pine. It is exceedingly similar to an orange-chest, in the form of a roof at the top. The city mark is placed upon it. I think there are from five to seven francs paid for the common coffins there.

880. *Chairman*.] From what you have stated of the generation of gas, must not great injury arise from keeping the bodies so long before burial?—Yes, I have known many instances; one I will mention. I attended a lady and her two daughters. A woman died of typhus fever; the lady, who was short-sighted, went up stairs and put her head down to read the inscription on the plate. Her daughters did the same, and the whole of them were affected; the two daughters had typhoid fever, and she was herself delirious.

881. How could the gas escape?—There might be a hole made to tap the coffin. I have known a leaden coffin burst before it was taken out; they bore a hole in the coffin, and call “look out,” and they go away while it is tapped; but it is a most injurious practice to keep bodies so long in a confined neighbourhood.

882. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] The moment decomposition takes place gaseous matter escapes?—Yes. I think a body ought, in many instances, to be buried within 36 hours of the death; but we have no power of enforcing that. I have seen

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883. *Sir William Clay.*] You find a strong feeling against interment shortly after death?—Yes. I do not think that a rapid change could be effected in that; it may be necessary in particular disorders.

884. Does not that feeling arise, in some instances, from a fear that by early interment after death, a person might be buried before he was actually dead?—Yes, there is a mixed feeling; there is a great deal of profession, and there is great deal of reality.

885. *Mr. Denison.*] If a person dies by an infectious disorder, how soon after death do you think mischievous consequences might arise?—It is very difficult to say. A very talented man, Dr. Armstrong, states that a “medical man came from Scotland labouring under consumption, and consulted my friend Dr. James Johnson and myself. The history of his case was this: he made a dissection of the body of a lady who died consumptive, and being short-sighted he held his eyes, and consequently his mouth, near the lungs during the examination. He felt a disagreeable stench, which he could not get rid of; and that very night a cough arose, which never left him from that time till he came to London, and then he was certainly in a state of confirmed consumption. One solitary case would not be sufficient proof, but I have seen others bearing upon the same point, which incline me to conceive that the odour of matter in the lungs of an individual who is consumptive operates either as a specific poison, or as a local irritant, I do not know which, and excites consumption in those who are pre-disposed to it.”—Practice of Physic, p. 779.

886. How long had that body been kept?—That I cannot answer.

887. *Sir William Clay.*] What length of time, after apparent death, would be sufficient to render impossible the chance of a person being buried before death had really taken place?—I think a surgeon would be the best person to determine that. There ought to be a medical police.

888. For what period of time do you think it might be doubtful whether a person was really dead?—I cannot state; circumstances are so different.

889. Unless a time could be defined, how could an enactment be made?—I think a general enactment might be made.

890. *Mr. Vernon.*] Do you think it desirable that some public functionary should visit every corpse before the funeral takes place?—Yes. In France, and in other parts of the Continent, a medical man visits and gives a certificate. I think there might be a central Board; prevention would be better than cure.

891. *Sir William Clay.*] Supposing there were some legislative enactment, limiting the time within which a body should be buried, is it not still desirable there should be a provision for a medical man seeing every body before it is buried?—Yes.

892. *Chairman.*] You cannot exactly determine when the gases will be injurious?—That is very difficult.

893. Are the gases arising from a human being more injurious to human life than those arising from other animal decomposition?—I do not know whether I am prepared to state an opinion upon that subject. I think it is extremely probable that the specific disease of which the person may have died may produce a specific effect, in some instances, on the living. We find the bodies of persons who have died of scarlet fever and small-pox, and so on, are sometimes kept a considerable time, and afterwards buried within a few inches of the surface. I cannot say whether the effluvia of those bodies might not be more injurious than from any others.

894. *Mr. Vernon.*] Independent of the gases, which are the immediate cause of the extinction of life, will there not remain other gases which may be equally the cause of dangerous disease?—I have no doubt of it, highly irritant to the lungs or the skin; the 800th part of sulphuretted hydrogen is sufficient to kill a dog. I have no doubt of the evil effects of the mode in which the dead are disposed of all over the country, for it is the same in all the principal towns; there are annually burials of large quantities of bodies placed in one grave, some in lead. They are diffusing their products night and day, and I have no doubt this is a very exciting cause of consumption in this country.

895. It is, in your opinion, a popular error, that when a test is applied of a candle which burns, or when an individual can continue for a space of time to breathe the gas, injurious consequences will not ensue?—Certainly, that is the

test

test of the grave-digger; but if they were not accustomed to their office they could not get on; there is not a single man I have examined who has not been affected more or less.

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896. Mr. *Vernon*.] The quicklime will neutralize the carbonic acid gas; for the purpose of neutralizing other gases, the chloride of lime would be best, would it not?—It would.

897. Is there any possibility of suggesting the introduction into the coffins of either of those; might it not be introduced without appearing offensive to the lower orders, under the guise of its being a valuable antidote to the putrefying gas; and might it not at the same time accelerate decomposition, and render it less pernicious?—There is no doubt that it would have a good effect; but I think the accomplishing of it must be a work of time.

898. You are aware the Legislature ordered that all bodies shall be buried in woollen; if an enactment were made for a certain portion of chloride of lime to be introduced, do you see any reasonable objection to that?—I see no objection to it, except that arising from the feeling of the people, which I believe would be against it. I can see nothing that can be done but a compulsory power of burying early, and taking them out of town; it would not be worth the while of some parishes, such as St. Mary-le-Strand, to make a distinct cemetery. If land of little value were bought there might be branch railways made to the ground.

899. You are understood to be of opinion that all funerals indiscriminately, from the highest to the lowest, should be taken under the authority of Government?—Yes; I would not allow the parish authorities to have anything to do with it.

900. Do the Irish in your neighbourhood continue the wakes?—Yes, and they get exceedingly intoxicated frequently.

901. Perhaps the delay in the burial may arise frequently from their being destitute of the funds for the wakes?—There is no doubt of that.

902. Sir *William Clay*.] What is the form of disease which you consider the gas to which you have referred most likely to produce?—I think it is difficult to specify the disease. I have seen typhoid fever produced by that exhalation; the pulse rapid, breathing exceedingly hurried. The boy to whom I refer had been working in the neighbourhood of a person who had died of putrid fever.

903. Do you conceive the gas generated by putrid bodies may become the source of disease, which disease may spread independently of the first cause?—There is no doubt of that.

904. You mean to say that the gas arising from putrid bodies may generate typhoid fever, which under certain circumstances might spread naturally, and continue that disease, independently of the cause to which death owed its first existence?—Yes, by contagion; but that is a disputed point. It becomes the centre of a fresh disease.

905. You conceive that a very widely spread and fatal epidemic might owe its origin to a single instance of the exposure of a putrid body?—Yes; there must be some predisposing cause. I have collected a number of cases. Dr. Prout states that previous to the invasion of the cholera, the atmosphere was specifically heavier. He noticed ordinary diseases disappear, and there was an unusual deposit of urine; and he was of opinion there was a species of gas floating in the air.

The Reverend *Henry John Knapp*, D. D. called in; and Examined.

906. *Chairman*.] DO you reside in London?—I occupy part of a house in London, but I am Vicar of Willesden.

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907. Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee your impressions with regard to the interment in towns?—Perhaps, in order to give a regular and clear idea on the subject, I may be permitted to enter a little more into detail. I happened to be for 27 years the curate of a parish in the City, which was St. Andrew Undershaft in St. Mary Axe, and from the commencement of my being the curate to the very last period when I ceased to be so, my attention was constantly drawn to the distressing state of the churchyard of St. Andrew Undershaft. I have had, of course, very many opportunities of observing the accumulated mass of bodies and matter decomposed and in a putrescent state, with abominable exhalations, to the annoyance frequently of myself performing the duty, and of those attending the funeral.

908. Has it come under your observation that those exhalations have been injurious

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rious to the health of individuals?—I have no doubt that they have been. I occupied the rectory-house during the latter part of the time I held the curacy, and my health was always indifferent, so much so, that having an opportunity of asking the Dean and Chapter of St. Paul's, of which I am sub-dean, to exchange the living, my friends, the faculty, recommended me to leave town if I wished to save my life, for that I could not, with any regard to safety and prudence, continue in that neighbourhood. Some of the windows of the rectory-house looked over the churchyard, and, especially in the summer time, we could not bear them open. The exhalations were disagreeable, and the lower part of the house was filled by them; and frequently when performing a funeral, I was obliged to stand at a distance from the grave, the exhalation was so very disagreeable. I may be permitted to enter into another circumstance; there is a vault now under the vestry; the opening to that vault was from the church. When first I was there, and whenever that vault was opened, the greatest stench pervaded the whole of the church. Frequently on Sunday when service was performed, several persons left the church attacked by sickness; and when I have gone down into that vault, it was most oppressive. Now they have an opening from the churchyard, but still I have often observed, that notwithstanding that, when I have been in the vestry, the exhalation from underneath came up so as to be very disagreeable.

909. This occasioned you to give up the situation you held there?—Yes; I gave up a curacy of 200*l.* a year to take a small living which is very inferior to it.

910. As far as your observation goes, you are of opinion this exhalation arising from dead bodies is most injurious to health?—Yes; I have been often told by persons having houses contiguous to the churchyard, that at times they could not open their windows or doors that looked into the churchyard.

911. Do you consider that the houses of the inhabitants in the vicinity of the churchyard were more unhealthy than others?—I apprehend they were more or less affected; I can speak more specially with regard to myself. I was there in the time of the cholera; and, I would observe, it prevailed very much in St. Mary Axe. I recollect on one occasion, when I had to bury two children, and the husband and wife, the uppermost coffin was only a foot or a foot and a half from the surface.

912. What was the reason of placing it so near the surface?—There was no room in the churchyard; wherever they probed, they probed through coffins; and you cannot dig anywhere without digging up bones.

913. They could scarcely make a grave without digging up some coffins?—No. You go up steps to the churchyard; it stands three or four feet above the level of the church, raised by the bodies; they have been obliged to dig holes behind the church, to deposit the bones which are perpetually thrown up on the surface, to put them out of sight.

914. What was the description of disorder which you consider as occasioned in your case by this effluvia?—I was subject to colds and cough, and in the winter very much so, and in the summer to a feverish feeling and a pleurisy in my side; and at one time was in very great danger of my life.

915. Mr. *Beckett.*] Had you any sickness?—Yes, very frequently. The bishop having given me the rectory-house, I was obliged to reside there, and I was very glad of an opportunity to get out of town.

916. Mr. *Vernon.*] Have you known of instances in your congregation, of ladies who have been indisposed during the performance of Divine service?—Yes, especially immediately after the opening of the vault from the church.

917. Was it a common thing to occur during the performance of Divine service that ladies have been ill?—I have observed several instances of it. I recollect some instances where they have had brick graves in the church, fresh vaults made; and I have observed some disagreeable exhalations arise, and prevail for several days.

918. Sir *William Clay.*] Where excavations were made in the ground under the church?—Yes. In the church itself there is a vault underneath the vestry, and the rector's vault underneath the altar. I have known a great quantity of the contents of that vault taken away; I have heard that 10 tons of lead have been taken out of that vault.

919. *Chairman.*] Do you mean that the bodies were left naked?—The bones, I understand, were removed to the charnel-house. Another instance I recollect, which I observed myself when performing a funeral for a friend of mine, the curate

curate of Bishopsgate church; I recollect it was in a hot summer's day, the body was placed within a very short space of the surface, I perceived a most disagreeable stench.

920. Mr. *Vernon*.] Do you know the reason the churchyard was not extended commensurately to the wants of the parish?—On account of the buildings near it.

921. Was there any application made to purchase fresh land for the purpose?—Not that I am aware of; they have but a very small churchyard.

922. There was no proposition in the vestry to enlarge the churchyard during the period of your curacy?—No, not that I am aware of.

923. Is there any other information you can give to the Committee?—I can communicate the ideas which have occurred to me on the subject of a remedy. The advantages which have already accrued from the cemeteries have been materially felt about London, especially the crowded parts of London. Mr. Walker has very properly said, the further you get the cemeteries the better; and I am of opinion that the cemeteries now so very near London, and which are beginning to be built round, will soon become too near, and I should consider the distance should not be less than four or five miles.

924. How would you defray the expense?—The circumstance of the removal of the poor calls on the principal Members of the Legislature, and different individuals who turn their thoughts to the subject, to consider and point out the best remedy. The parishes themselves pay for the expense of the burial of the poor; therefore, it appears to me that a small rate, even a penny in the pound on the rental, would amply provide for the additional expense; and there is in almost all parishes parish property, parish houses, sometimes parish lands, devised to the support or comfort of the poor; if those were converted, or a portion of their produce were devoted to the purchase of land, there would not be a material addition to the expense. Some of them make a very fair profit from property in lands both in and out of town.

925. Would not the principal objection arise from the difficulty of the relatives attending the funeral rites?—I think that is probably the case; but a light carriage might be provided, to take the body as well as the mourners, at a comparatively small expense, especially if they contract for it.

926. Which might be done, if the public administration were to take the conduct of it?—Yes, that would afford increased opportunities for doing it.

927. Colonel *Acton*.] Would the friends be satisfied, if they were subjected to the increased expense?—There might be some demur on their part; but almost all with whom I have conversed on the subject admit the existence of the nuisance, and express their extreme anxiety and most earnest wish that the evil should be remedied and the nuisance removed; and if there was a legislative enactment to compel burying out of the cities, they must provide means to bury the poor in more distant places. With regard to another subject, if I might touch upon it, that is, the remuneration of the clergy, I am sure many of them would be very glad to give up some of their rights for the sake of the health of the metropolis. In some instances they form the principal income of the clergyman; but it would be for Parliament to consider how far they would allow the whole of them to be provided for, or to make some remuneration, considering that if the funerals were removed out of town, the duties of course of the assistant clergy in the parishes would be lessened.

928. The clergy are now paid so much for each interment?—Yes.

929. If a remote place were fixed upon for the funerals, might not the clergy still perform the duty?—Yes; and in the cemeteries which have been established they receive a payment. At Kensal Green cemetery there is 5*s.* for a vault funeral to the clergyman of the parish, and 18*d.* for a common grave funeral.

930. Has it occurred under your observation that any graves have been disturbed shortly after interment for the sake of the lead or the wood of the coffins?—I cannot speak to that point in the parish with which I was conversant.

931. To your certain knowledge that quantity of lead you have mentioned was taken out?—Yes; I had it from good authority.

932. From whose authority?—By the clerk himself.

933. To whose use was the money applied?—It was paid over to the churchwardens.

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934. You think the clergy would be rather favourable to getting rid of burials in London?—I think they would, for they are all aware of the nuisance.

935. *Chairman.*] There is a probability in some parishes of their incomes being materially diminished?—Very materially in some parishes.

936. Take a central parish in the metropolis; how would you suggest that compensation should be made to the clergy for the loss of fees?—Compensation, it appears to me, might be made from a small rate on the rental; it has been suggested to me that a penny in the pound on the rental would pay all the extra expense; the clergy of course would expect compensation out of that.

937. Would this penny in the pound be sufficient to pay the extra expenses of burying the poor elsewhere, and of remunerating the clergyman?—I think it would in many instances.

938. Do you think that an assessment for such a purpose would be unpopular?—I cannot say what might be the feeling of the parishes; it would be a very great object in some small parishes; a penny in the pound would barely remunerate the clergy in large parishes; it would be immensely productive if the larger parishes were put with the smaller ones; a very good average might be obtained.

939. Are there any other facts that have fallen within your notice?—In St. Martin's, Ludgate, they have no churchyard, only a vault, and last summer they carted away ten cart loads of decomposed earth to make room for others.

940. Human matter, in fact?—Yes, I apprehend so, and the clerk himself was so fearful that his wife and her father and mother should be taken out of their coffins, that he was at an expense I believe of ten pounds in putting additional coffins to prevent them being removed.

941. This mode of burying in churchyards must be a great temptation to breaking the laws of the country by thefts?—I am afraid it is.

942. Is it your impression, from your extensive knowledge of the metropolis, that the custom of taking away the coffins and lead is general?—I have had no opportunities of judging generally; I can only speak as to parishes where I have been an eye-witness of the evils of the present state of things.

Jovis, 7^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Lord Ashley.

Sir R. H. Inglis.
Mr. Vernon.

W. A. MACKINNON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Valentine Haycock called in; and Examined.

Valentine Haycock.
7 April 1842.

943. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—No. 4, County Terrace-street, New Kent Road.

944. What is your occupation?—I am a grave-digger at present.

945. Are you connected in any way with any of the new cemeteries which have been established about London?—Not at all.

946. Where are you grave-digger now?—At the New Bunhill Fields burial-ground, in Devereux-street, Great Dover-road.

947. How long have you been employed in that situation?—Ten years.

948. During that period what number of persons have been interred to your knowledge?—During the time I have been there I understand from the minister about 14,000.

949. What may be the extent of the ground?—Certainly it is a small place, but I have not noticed the size.

950. Is it an acre or half an acre?—I might perhaps ascertain, but I have not taken notice of that; it is certainly a small ground, but there is more to take in when it is full, they tell me.

951. As

951. As far as you can judge, what may be the size of it?—It might be about an acre; I should think it was, or it might be a trifle more or less. *Valentine Haycock.*
952. What number may you have buried in one day?—The most I ever buried in one day was 46. *7 April 1842.*
953. Is this burial-ground full, or is it capable of receiving any more, or what is the state of it?—I should say very full, except a little bit of new ground there is yet to fill, but what is filled is quite full.
954. Do you say that 14,000 have been buried there?—So I understood from the minister; I asked him how many I had buried there myself, and he told me about 14,000.
955. Is that your own belief?—I should say that is about it.
956. Were there many buried there before those ten years?—It had been a burial-ground about eight years before I came there.
957. That would be about 18 years altogether?—Yes.
958. As far as you can form an estimate, what is the number that have been buried there before you came?—I should say about half the quantity that I have buried; I should think it amounts altogether to about 20,000 or 21,000.
959. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] The burial-ground you are speaking of is the burial-ground called Martin's Burial-ground?—Yes.
960. *Chairman.*] What has been the yearly average of burials?—About 1,400.
961. To the best of your belief there may be now about 20,000 to 21,000 buried there?—Yes, according to what I understand from the minister.
962. Will you explain how you can place 20,000 or 21,000 coffins in an acre of ground?—First of all we dig 10 feet, and if we can go 12 we do, and then we pile them one upon the other, as many as the grave will hold, perhaps six or eight or nine in it; then when that is full we dig another grave close by the side of it, and put another nine or ten.
963. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] It is regularly walled up?—Yes, as if you were piling up brick; that is the way I understand that all grounds in London are done.
964. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] Does the evidence which you have just been giving to the Committee refer to the grave-yard opened as a private speculation by Messrs. Hoole & Martin in the New Kent-road (Answer 458)?—That is the same one I am now speaking of.
965. *Chairman.*] When you dig deep, does the ground improve, or how is it; is it wet or is it dry?—Very wet; when we get to the bottom, clay and water gets in, and stuff that runs from the coffins.
966. When you dig to what depth?—About nine or ten feet.
967. Have you ever found an unpleasant smell?—Dreadful beyond all smells; there is nothing to exceed it.
968. Do you consider that smell to be injurious to health?—I should think very much so; it is to mine, I am satisfied.
969. Have you yourself enjoyed good health?—Not while I have been there, but I never knew what it was to have a day's illness before I came there; I had always been used to the country, but I lived two years with a gentleman in London before I came to this employment.
970. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] What was the state of your health then?—Very good indeed.
971. You have been 10 years a grave-digger?—Yes; I have been laid up at different times.
972. How soon did you find after you commenced the business of grave-digging that your health was affected?—When I first came there, for several weeks I could scarcely eat anything; I fancied it was very offensive, which I know it was; I had no taste for my food.
973. Has that continued?—I have certainly got the better of it a little; I have got more hardened into it, but I am never so well as I used to be.
974. *Chairman.*] What has been the health of your family; has it been good since they came to that neighbourhood?—My family now live further away from the burial-ground.
975. But when they lived in the neighbourhood, was their health good?—No; not at all; we were always having one room which we called our hospital, one or other always ill.
976. Were they in good health before?—Yes, they were.
977. Do you attribute their illness to the effluvia from the grave-yard?—Yes, I do.

Valentine Haycock.

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978. Then you consider that to be very unhealthy?—I do; very unhealthy.

979. To what extent round the grave-yard do you suppose the unhealthiness extends; that is to say, at what distance from the grave-yard would it injure people living there?—I can only say that in houses round the burial-ground they seldom stop long; they seem to say that it affects their health, and they are generally going away; the houses are always being to let, and there are complaints being made.

980. And in your own experience you found your family and yourself in a bad state of health when you lived there?—Yes; at different times I felt it very much.

981. Have you known any instances of persons affected in their health who attended funerals of their relations?—I have known them follow their friends on one Sunday, and brought themselves the next, which I expect was through there being so many graves opened. From seeing the way in which they were taken, I supposed it was through the gas from the graves and the stench.

982. From what you have observed, did this cause any particular disease, or was it merely inhaling of the gas?—Almost sudden death to them: I have known a cab to be sent for to take them home, and the undertakers have said, "Dear me, the poor creature followed a friend here last Sunday, and I am come to bury them this, and they followed as well as I followed myself;" and therefore I thought it must be from their having so many graves opened; sometimes 40 graves opened, and some very disagreeable, some better and some worse; I thought the ground must affect them.

983. Has this often happened?—I do not say that it has happened very lately; it happened at the time of the influenza and the cholera, when we used to have such a quantity of graves opened at once.

984. In this observation of yours, do you refer to the bodies interred under the chapel or in the burying-ground?—I should say from both of them; one was as bad as the other at times; but the vault now is much sweeter than it used to be; we bury so few there now, they are all in the ground.

985. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] What is the cause of their burying so few in the vault; is it full?—No, it is not full, it will hold a great many more.

986. *Chairman.*] When you have been digging yourself, have you felt yourself affected immediately?—Yes; I have been obliged to get up in the best way I could, and I have been in a tremble that I did not know whether I was going to die myself or not; I have gone in-doors and have sat a little time to recover myself; I have had something from the doctor to bring me round again.

987. Have you ever found it induce you to have recourse to spirits?—Yes; I have been obliged to get a little drop of brandy; I am no great drinker, a very poor drinker, but I have been obliged to do that.

988. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Have you received relief from that?—I cannot say but what I have; it has brought me round; I have been so in my throat, that I could not speak; no moisture through the stench.

989. Do you find your throat much affected?—Yes; when we got down deep, there the runnings from the other coffins are sometimes the colour of blood itself, and the stench is beyond anything. When people come into the ground, (I do not speak of our own particularly, but I speak of others, because the church-grounds are fuller than this), I have known people come in and stand over a grave, and put their handkerchiefs to their mouths, and they have gone away, I have seen no more of them; it has completely sent them away.

990. *Chairman.*] In what way have you felt yourself affected; did you feel a pain in your throat or in your limbs?—I was all of a tremble all over, as if I was going to be knocked down at once; in fact, if I had not got up to the fresh air, and got away, I have been so that I could not have got up at all.

991. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] You have referred in your evidence to your ground, and you have said that other grounds were as bad as yours; will you specify to the Committee what other grounds are those to which you refer?—I should say the ground of St. Mary, Newington, and of Bermondsey Old Church, which is by Tooley-street, are much worse than ours. I have been there as bearer, and I have seen things there much worse.

992. *Chairman.*] You speak from your own knowledge?—Yes.

993. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] The churchyards of those parishes are in a condition as bad as that as to which you have been examined?—Much worse than ours I am satisfied, because they are a great deal fuller.

994. Have

994. Have you ever attended any funeral in either of those churchyards?—*Valentine Haycock*
Yes, several times.

995. You have stated that you have attended as bearer; have you ever attended as grave-digger?—Not as grave-digger. I have worked at no other ground than this as grave-digger, but I have been there and seen the grave-diggers, and we all know one another.

996. *Chairman.*] You speak from your own experience?—Yes, I do.

997. With regard to the sensations you have experienced when you were opening a grave, did you feel a taste in your mouth or a sensation in your throat?—In my throat, it was completely dried up with the stench, it is so sharp upon you, so that I have got up and heaved, and actually brought blood up before anything else would come, and I have been obliged to go in-doors and get a little brandy.

998. Some of the witnesses have said that they have felt an unpleasant taste in their mouths a considerable time after; have you felt that?—Yes, I have.

999. Have you known other grave-diggers or other persons affected in the same way?—I do not know that I have; I am not with them much, only when we meet; I merely see them sometimes as I go along and look round amongst them.

1000. Can you say whether, generally speaking, their occupation induces them to have recourse to spirituous liquors; are they generally a sober set?—It is very seldom they are; but if it wasn't for the drink I do not believe they would live so long as they do; I think the drink overcomes it.

1001. Does the sensation, after this effluvia has been inhaled, affect the stomach?—Yes, it makes you so that you cannot eat; it makes you ill, sometimes sickly.

1002. Does it affect the bowels like medicine?—After you take a little drop of brandy, it comes from you the very same smell as you get into your throat, so that you cannot bear yourself.

1003. Then you think that what you inhale goes through you?—I am satisfied it does.

1004. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] In reference to what you have called your own ground, namely, Hoole & Martin's ground, do you know anything of the pecuniary concerns of the place; who has paid you?—Mr. Martin has paid me.

1005. Who inters the body?—Mr. Thomas Jenner is the minister.

1006. Of what persuasion?—I think he is a Dissenter.

1007. Of what denomination of Dissenters?—I cannot say.

1008. Is the ground, or are the vaults, open to persons of all persuasions?—Yes, there is the Church service read over.

1009. By whom?—By Thomas Jenner, the person that always attends; ever since I have been there he has been there.

1010. Has he anything to do with the service on the Sundays?—No; he only reads the service on the ground.

1011. By whom is he employed?—Mr. Martin employs him.

1012. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Is he a minister of the Church of England?—No.

1013. Do you know what his fees are?—He has 20*l.* a year.

1014. Has he a salary?—Nothing but that; he lives close by; he is a patten-maker, so it suits him very well.

1015. The fees go to Hoole & Martin?—Yes.

1016. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] Do you know what the fees are?—Eleven shillings for a grown person, and 6*s.* for a child; and, in a vault, 1*l.* 10*s.* for a grown person, and 12*s.* for a child.

1017. *Chairman.*] Has the ground risen in that yard since you have been there?—I rose it myself, about six inches; all over the place.

1018. Above the level of the circumjacent ground?—Yes.

1019. In what state is the vault?—It is a great deal better than it used to be; it is so well ventilated for the air to get out, we bury so few now, and what are in have been in so long that they have got dry.

1020. Who established this ground?—Mr. Hoole.

1021. Did he assist in cleansing the place?—I understand he did at one time assist a little in that way, because at one time bodies used to be put in for 1*l.*, to stop in six months; then there were a great many that would have to be taken out all at once, to be buried in a hole, and I believe Mr. Hoole assisted in getting them out.

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1022. Did he experience any bad effects from that?—I understood from one of the neighbours, that she thought that that carried him off quicker than he would have gone.

1023. Did he die shortly after he assisted in that?—So I understood, but I was not in town at that time; I lived in the country.

1024. Did he try to guard himself by putting anything over his face?—He was asthmatical, and had been so for some years.

1025. What age was he when he died?—I think 55.

1026. If this employment is so unhealthy, what is the reason you remain in it?—I am going to leave it, and if I could have got any other employment, I should have wished to leave it long before this; my wife has said to me, "You are always ill, why do not you leave it?"

1027. What salary do you get?—Eighteen shillings a-week, and then of course there is a little what we call pickings-up, perquisites.

1028. Still you would give up the situation if you could get anything else?—If I could get anything with half the money; my wife has been making home-baked bread, and we now find that we have got enough, so that by persevering a little we shall be able to get our living, so that I am about to leave in a fortnight or so.

1029. From a conviction in your mind of the unhealthiness of the occupation?—Yes; I am never well.

1030. Besides your salary, have you any objection to state what perquisites there may be?—Perhaps it may be 10s. a week.

1031. Making altogether 28s.?—Yes.

1032. In what way do they arise?—The undertaker when he comes gives the grave-digger sixpence; some will give a shilling; that is what we call a drop of beer.

1033. The average pay of your situation you state to be about 28s. a week?—Yes, the year round.

1034. And yet you are so convinced of the insalubrity of the employment, that you would give it up for half the amount?—Yes, I would gladly do so.

1035. Colonel *Acton*.] Your perquisites consist of money?—Yes; there are no other perquisites but what the undertakers give you; sixpence or a shilling for all that come; it is looked for among the grave-diggers.

1036. *Chairman*.] You consider that your health has been a good deal injured by this employment?—People that knew me when I first came, say, "Why do not you leave it? it is killing you an inch at a time;" but I never used to complain more than I could help, but I never was well.

1037. You do not think that any constitution can be seasoned to it?—No; it is impossible.

1038. In what way do you think it affects your health; is it chiefly by inhaling this gas?—Yes; I should say it was the bad smell; you have never got the same appetite to eat as others have at other employments.

1039. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Have you found that for the last two or three years your health has materially changed for the worse?—Yes; I do not feel well at all.

1040. Do you feel worse from having continued so long, or are you much the same?—I am much the same; sometimes worse and sometimes a little better; when we are very busy and have got a great deal to do, we have more of the gas.

1041. *Chairman*.] The Committee have been informed that a grave-digger cut his finger with a spade in some churchyard; can you state the circumstances of that to the Committee?—He cut his finger with a knife, in eating a bit of pork for his breakfast; he merely broke the skin; he had occasion to dig a 10-foot child's grave on that day; he did not bind this cut up, and he got some of the dirt and stuff in from the grave, and it poisoned his finger; from that it swelled, and his arm ached to that degree, I believe, that it caused his death; he died of running abscesses all over him.

1042. And you think that it was this poisoned earth which did it?—It is but two days ago that I spoke to a stonemason about it, who took in a stone the very afternoon of the day that he dug that grave, and he said that he believed it was the last shilling he had upon the ground; he said that he had cut his finger, and he had got some stuff in from the ground, and his arm ached so that he did not know what to do with it; he went home that evening and went to bed, and I believe he did not get up again to go to work.

1043. Sir

1043. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Was this in the grave-yard to which you are immediately attached?—No, it was in S. George's churchyard. *Valentine Haycock.*

1044. *Chairman*.] Have you anything more to state to the Committee upon the subject upon which you have been examined?—I have not had time to look round, or perhaps I might get more information. 7 April 1842.

1045. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Do you know of any grave-diggers who have died prematurely in consequence of their employment?—No, I cannot say that I do, except this one I have mentioned.

Bartholomew Lyons, called in; and Examined.

1046. *Chairman*.] WHAT are you?—A Grave-digger at St. Ann's, Soho. *B. Lyons.*

1047. How long have you been there?—This last time I have been two years.

1048. What situation were you in before?—I began at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; I was there off and on about 24 years.

1049. During the time you had been employed in St. Martin's, have you removed a great number of bodies?—I have; I have moved the whole from beginning to end with help.

1050. Where have you removed them to?—Those that could not be moved anywhere else we moved to the catacombs.

1051. Where are the catacombs?—On the left-hand side of the church.

1052. At the time you made those removals did you feel yourself at all affected in health?—I did twice; what we term a little of the foul air.

1053. How did it affect you?—I felt in the way just as a person that is intoxicated with liquor, when you first feel anything of it; it comes by degrees; the further you go down, the more it catches hold of you, and it comes with a bitter twang, a kind of a coppery taste in your mouth, and if you go too far it will catch hold of you, so that you will have no power at all, and it has made me sick two or three times.

1054. It has made you sick to vomit?—Yes, that is what I mean.

1055. What did you take to cure you?—I have had for the present, till I got home, a little drop of brandy, which has revived me so far as to be able to continue the work.

1056. Does this always occur to you when you go deep?—Yes; I have had graves 21 feet deep where I now work; I have got one grave now with three bodies in it; it is 21 feet from the commencement of it, and after I have got out a few hours and leave it open, the foul air will get in; it is 17 feet deep now.

1057. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Is the grave kept open?—It is not exactly open, there is about three feet of earth on the top of the coffins, and then it is covered over by boards, and then so much earth on the top of the boards.

1058. So that every time a body comes you open the three feet and deposit the coffin?—Yes, according to the size of the coffin, if it will go down.

1059. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Whereabout is this burial-place?—The best way to go from here is to cross Seven Dials and through Church-street, and the church faces you; it is a very large church.

1060. *Chairman*.] What is the custom that you adopt in digging graves?—These 20-foot graves are allowed by the board of vestry, and on purpose to make the ground last the longer, every fresh grave is to be sunk 20 or 21 feet, if we can get 21; we get it till we come to water, and then we cannot get any further. If we meet with any other coffin that cannot be removed, we never touch it; but otherwise timber that has been down from 40 to 50 years, with nothing in it except the bones, we remove.

1061. You remove everything that is not sound?—It is all decayed, the bones and all, they have nothing on them, and we sometimes break up the old coffins.

1062. What do you do with the mass?—The bones we put in a bone-hole.

1063. What do you do with the coffins?—We take that to the place where they steam the church, and burn the wood.

1064. Who burns it?—The beadle burns it, I believe, what we do have.

1065. What quantity do you get up in a week?—Where we dig one of these graves, we may have three or four barrow-fulls; that is where we have to dig a 20-foot grave; but there may be some graves where the coffins are decayed, and nothing in them but the bones, and then we may have had a dozen barrows-full, and that is chucked down to where the steaming place is, and the beadle burns them.

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1066. How do you manage, when you descend one of these deep graves, to avoid what you have stated affects you so much?—First we put down a long ladder, 20 feet 6 inches long, and I go down first myself; I go down as far as I can to see if I feel anything of the effect of the foul air; and if I go down and feel it coming, and I have got a funeral to bury, I burn it out, so that I can go down.

1067. What do you mean by burning it out?—We have got something similar to a plumber's stove, what the plumbers have in the street, and I make that full of shavings and wood, and make a strong fire, and gradually lower it down into the grave by degrees till the foul air catches hold. The foul air, when it is strong, will put it out, and I pull it up again till I get it a-light again, and so I go on till I get it under, and when I get it under, I chuck a lot of shavings in and set fire to it, and there let it burn till it burns out, and then I go down myself and get the earth out as quick as possible.

1068. Do you usually find this gas and foul air coming to you from other coffins on each side of you?—At times very soon after I have burnt it out, I shall have to burn it out again.

1069. And if you were to stay there, what would be the effect?—It would kill me, or any one else.

1070. In digging this depth and taking away the wood of these coffins, has it ever occurred to you that any bodies have fallen upon you?—I never had one in a deep grave, but I had one once; before I was there a man of the name of Fox had the ground; I succeeded him; he is now dead; he was a bad character; he is dead about three weeks. I dug a grave on a Sunday evening on purpose to get ready for Monday; that Sunday evening, and it rained, I was strange in the ground at that time; and when I went to work on Monday morning I finished my work, and I was trying the length of the grave to see if it was long enough and wide enough, so that I should not have to go down again, and while I was in there the ground gave way and a body turned right over, and the two arms came and clasped me round the neck; she had gloves on and stockings and white flannel inside, and what we call a shift, but no head.

1071. The body came tumbling upon you?—Yes, just as I was kneeling down; it was a very stout body, and the force that she came with knocked my head against a body underneath, and I was very much frightened at the time.

1072. You were at the bottom of the grave, and as you were digging at the bottom, the body of this woman without a head fell upon you?—Yes.

1073. From the side?—Yes, from the side.

1074. Out of the coffin?—It had never been in a coffin; it is supposed that they took the head off for the purpose of sale.

1075. *Mr. Vernon.*] What depth were you down when this body fell upon you?—About nine feet.

1076. Might they not have cut through the head as they dug down?—No, this body was taken out of the coffin before; she only lay just on the top of the earth, a little covered over; if she had been buried any depth at all, three or four feet, she could not have fell on me, the shoring of the earth would have kept it up.

1077. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] You did not find the head anywhere?—No.

1078. *Chairman.*] You say that this body fell upon you; do you suppose that this body had been put in a leaden coffin, and that both the leaden coffin and the other had been stolen, and that the body was left there?—I cannot say that.

1079. What do you suppose?—I suppose that she was buried in wood, in the green ground, and that something affected the head; and the man that I mention as dead, is the very man that did the deed, after the other men left the ground.

1080. He took away the wood of the coffin?—He took away the wood of the coffin, and took away the head, it appears, and then covered the body over as well as he could.

1081. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] Do you suppose that he took away the head for the purpose of conveying it to some surgeon?—I think so.

1082. *Chairman.*] How many wheelbarrows-full of coffin wood do you say you take away every week?—Not every week, but when we are digging these deep graves I may take away a dozen barrows-full; taking it upon the average, I should say, that for every deep grave I should take a dozen large barrows-full of wood out of the grave.

1083. How

1083. How long had this body been intefred?—Not long; because the clothes upon her appeared to be quite fresh.

1084. Then the man whom you succeeded took away the wood of the coffins almost as soon as they were buried?—He must have done that; he had such power; he had more power than ever I had.

1085. Could the body have fallen upon you if the wood of the coffin had not been removed?—It could not have fallen upon me if she had been in the coffin, or if she had been a little way in the earth; but I should say, that he took away the wood work so that he should not be found out; but there was no coffin, or anything else, further than what I have said.

1086. Do you believe that the lead of the coffins has been taken away?—That which they do with it is the same that I have said; they take them down to that place and break them up and burn them.

1087. The question refers to the lead?—I cannot say anything as to myself, as I never did anything of the sort myself; but the man that is dead has done most wonderful things in the vaults; he stripped the lead off the coffins in the vaults; he has been the biggest brute of any grave-digger in this earth, and he suffered for it at last; he died in the Strand Union Workhouse at last; he died actually rotten.

1088. Lord *Ashley*.] Did he drink a great deal?—He could not get it to drink latterly; somebody turned against him.

1089. With reference to what has been done by your predecessor, so far as you believe, how many bodies have had their leaden coffins taken away out of the vaults?—That is a difficult thing for me to answer, for I never worked with the man, but I have heard the housekeeper say, and I have heard some gentlemen say, that he used to be there stripping coffins of a night; and at this place in King-street, St. Ann's, he had a little bit of a wall where he could chuck things over, and he used to have the keys of the vault, so that he used to do as he thought proper, till at last he was found out.

1090. By whom?—By Mr. Chittenden, the undertaker in Dean-street, the old gentleman who is dead.

1091. Are you of opinion that he was in the practice of taking away the lead from the coffins?—It is well known that he used to do it, and he was found out in it, he and his man.

1092. Used they to go and break open the coffins?—He used to get the key of the vaults, and he used to strip the coffins of the lead.

1093. Is it a common practice, to your knowledge, to take away the wooden coffins and the leaden ones?—I am doing it by orders of the board of vestry; when I dig a 20-foot grave, when we find an old coffin that has nothing in it except the bones, and it is all decayed, we take it away; it is not my own wish, it is by the board of vestry I am ordered to do so.

1094. If you come to anything of lead, how do you manage then?—I never found a bit of lead in the two years I have been there.

1095. What becomes of it all?—I do not know; there was a grave-digger after Fox of the name of Collison, and I believe that he was as bad as the other, for I do not think he has left a bit of lead in the ground; he was turned away for thieving and other things that he was found out in, and I succeeded him.

1096. Can this be done in a vault as well as in the churchyard?—No, the churchwardens keep the keys; the keys are not given up unless a funeral is going to be, and then I have the keys to go down and clean it, and get the place ready.

1097. When you cleanse out a vault, and when a great deal of that smell or gas comes into it, what becomes of the gas that you drive out?—In St. Martin's vault, when we were moving there, the gas in the leaden coffin had actually blown the wood-work off, it was so bulged; but the lead being good, it did not burst; I have had eight or nine plumbers there at a time when the coffins have been soldering, but we could not work there unless somebody had got lime-water sprinkled round us.

1098. To your knowledge, was it ever the practice to take the bones of the dead and play at nine-pins with them?—I have heard it from several people, but I never saw it myself.

1099. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Do you believe it to be true?—I think the parties that were there at the time would have been guilty of anything; they did not care what they did.

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1100. *Chairman.*] Do you find yourself in a bad state of health, or how?—am not very well; I caught a violent cold through being wet, and being out in all weathers, and I have had a strain.

1101. You do not find the smell so much now; you are seasoned?—I have not got any smell particular; I had my nose broken by a fall, but I feel sometimes the stench that comes, and tastes in my mouth a bit of a twang; but I cannot say exactly what it is; and then I leave it for a little bit.

1102. What is your salary or perquisites?—I have no wages unless I do work, except that I have 18 s. a quarter for doing the church bells; this week I have not earned a farthing yet; I have half-a-crown for every grown person I bury, and I have half the extra digging, if there is any extra depth, and my master has the other half.

1103. What may you gain a week?—Some weeks I may gain 14 s. or 15 s., and some weeks I may gain nothing; I have been three weeks without earning anything.

1104. On the average, you get sufficient to induce you to continue in the employment?—Sometimes the ladies are very good to me for keeping up their banks, putting little flowers on them.

1105. Would you stay there if you could get the same elsewhere?—If I could get the same as I get there, taking one week with another, I should like it very well.

1106. Do you mean that you would like to change?—I cannot stop there long; I suppose the grounds will be shut up; I have been there now some years, and if I should happen to want anything, the gentlemen give it to me.

1107. Have you been in a bad state of health generally or pretty good?—Yes, till within the last six weeks; I have buried all sorts of diseases, all sorts of complaints; where parsons would not go near them I must go and take the ropes from under them and take them and put them on one side, but the parson would not come near them within 40 or 50 yards.

1108. Were you ever asked to work in the Portugal-street grave-yard?—I was once, but not by the sexton.

1109. Did you go?—No; I would not work in the place on any account.

1110. Why not?—Because it bore such a bad character.

1111. What do you mean by a bad character?—For cutting up the coffins; they do not bury there above two feet deep, or hardly that.

1112. *Lord Ashley.*] Do you mean that it was reckoned particularly unhealthy to dig graves there?—I should not like to dig in a place unless I could get what is regularly allowed by law, five feet; five feet is what I am obliged to dig.

1113. You mean that the graves were not sufficiently deep?—Yes.

1114. Do you mean that the digging of graves was unwholesome there?—No, it cannot be unwholesome when it is within five feet; where it is unwholesome is where you come down 20 feet.

1115. *Mr. Vernon.*] If they go down five feet, that you consider legal?—Yes, that is regular.

1116. But in this Portugal-street grave-yard they have not that practice?—No, they cannot do it, by all accounts.

1117. *Chairman.*] Is it the custom ever to dig through coffins in that grave-yard?—By all account they cannot dig a grave at all without digging through coffins.

1118. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] Do you speak here from your own knowledge and observation?—I only go by what they tell me, and I have seen the graves there where I could put my arm against the bottom.

1119. *Chairman.*] What is the state of the grave-yard in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields?—I do not think they can bury many there now.

1120. Have you worked there?—I worked there off and on about 24 or 25 years altogether.

1121. What is the state of it now?—It is very full.

1122. Can you dig a grave there without cutting through coffins?—Yes, at some parts where they have been making new areas, where the Duke of Bedford had new areas to dig, the navigators dug through a great many coffins that had been buried 100 years there.

1123. Have you seen them dig graves and cut through other coffins in that ground?—Not latterly.

1124. Have you ever?—Yes, I have, years ago.

1125. Have

1125. Have you ever yourself dug a grave through coffins?—No, I have not.
 1126. But you have seen it done?—I have seen some old coffins dug up there, but nothing in them but bones.

1127. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] Is this burial-ground in Drury-lane?—Yes, it is.

1128. *Chairman.*] Is there any room in that churchyard for any more persons to be interred?—Where these new areas have been dug, and where there are family graves, where there are head and foot-stones, there is room; the new areas have been made on purpose to give the housekeepers light.

1129. With regard to your health, you look upon yourself now as seasoned, and you do not mind how deep you go?—No, I do not mind how deep I go; I go as deep as I can; in the grave that I have now got open, I and the man that is with me went down 20 and 21 feet with only one pair of shoes, and I do not think any other man would have ventured to go down.

1130. From your knowledge, do you know whether the people that follow these occupations do generally become unhealthy or are given to drink?—When I am digging these graves I cannot do without having something to drink, because the deeper I go it gets so warm that it is enough to melt one; it is just the same as if you were in a fire when you go down so far; on the coldest day it will be warmer there than on a fine summer's day; even if you go down to the water, the water will be as warm as possible in cold weather, and in warm weather it will be quite as cold; in a frosty morning you can see the steam come up, just as you would out of a dung-hole.

1131. Is there water in this grave-yard beyond 10 feet?—No; you go down 21 feet and then you see the water springing up.

1132. Are the coffins in the water?—We take the water out, and when you put the coffin down there may be a little water afterwards; there is one gentleman's family grave in the yard, I took 120 pails of water out of it, and his place is beautifully combed; the water must come in some way or another; it is about 16 or 17 feet deep, and about eight feet square; I took out 120 pails at the last funeral we had.

1133. You have seen smoke issuing out to a great extent?—Yes, in cold weather when you take the boards off; then we leave the boards off for a certain time.

1134. How many graves are left open at a time?—Only one.

1135. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] When you speak of a grave, you mean a depth of 20 or 21 feet?—Yes.

1136. *Chairman.*] What quantity of shavings have you ever been obliged to burn in order to get rid of the effluvia?—I have been obliged to burn half a sack of shavings in the summer time; it is more in the summer time than in the winter; it is very strong in the summer time; in the grave that I burnt so many shavings in I burnt them there about twelve, and I came back again at one, and then the foul air was just as bad as if I had never touched it, and I had to burn the shavings again; where there is a tier of coffins on the side there must be gas coming from it, because when I fill one grave up, I go alongside of it, and then there must be some gas come from the tier of coffins on the side; but where there is a fresh grave there is not much danger of having it.

1137. Did you ever find any smell in new ground where no one has ever been buried?—No; I buried a gentleman last Sunday in a new piece of ground which had been neglected; it is what is called the best ground (there are two prices for the ground), and I dug a ten-foot grave there and did not find a bit of wood or a bone or anything else; there was nothing but the maiden earth all the way right down, and at the bottom was all beautiful solid clay: the ground has been neglected in different parts.

John Eyles, called in; and further Examined.

1138. YOU were unwilling the other day, when you were examined, to say much to the Committee. Are you now prepared to state what you know upon this subject?—First of all, I should like to know whether Mr. Fitch can do my mother any harm, because I should not like to see my mother hurt, or to see my brothers turned out of the school. It would be hurting him a great deal, and perhaps for spite against me he would injure my brothers.

1139. Where are your brothers?—In the parish school. Mr. Fitch has a great deal of authority in the parish, and he might say something to get them

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turned out of the school, and till I am satisfied of that I should not like to say anything to hurt him.

1140. Mr. *Ainsworth.*] Were you sober the last time you were here?—I wasn't; I had had a little drop of drink; of course I should not like to see my mother suffer through my speaking the sentiments of my mind.

1141. Mr. *Vernon.*] By whom is the school paid for?—A lot of gentlemen subscribe, and my mother has a shilling a week and two loaves. My father died through saving the life of another man, and they allow her a shilling a week and two loaves.

1142. But the school is supported by private subscription?—Yes, and Mr. Fitch knows a great many gentlemen, and he might for spite cause them to be turned out of the school; I should not like to see my mother suffer anything through me.

1143. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Has Mr. Fitch said anything to you that makes you afraid?—No, he has not, but I know what sort of a man he is, and I should not like to see my brothers turned out.

1144. *Chairman.*] You say that this school is maintained by voluntary subscription of some gentlemen?—Yes.

1145. And you are afraid that Mr. Fitch will make to those gentlemen some representation respecting you that will induce them to turn your brothers out?—Yes.

1146. If I were to tell those gentlemen that you had only done your duty, there would be no risk that they would be influenced by Mr. Fitch?—It might not, but he has been the cause of other people getting their allowance stopped under the board.

1147. Perhaps that is by their misconduct?—No, by their asking for their rights.

1148. *Chairman.*] It seems to be the opinion of the Committee, that instead of doing yourself any harm by stating what you know, you will be more likely to do yourself good, because the gentlemen here will take your part, and if Mr. Fitch should attempt to do you any harm I should make it a point to write a letter to the persons that subscribe to the school, and I am satisfied that if Mr. Fitch wished to oppress you on account of your evidence here, if you have only stated the truth and done your duty, those gentlemen would be rather inclined to support you and do you more good than if you kept back and said nothing; therefore depend upon it it will be more likely to be for your good and that of your family to sit down and state the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, in answer to the questions that shall be asked of you?—I should say nothing else but what I can swear to.

1149. Do you remember a person going to the ground in Portugal-street and measuring the depth of a grave?—Yes, Mr. Irving.

1150. What did he do?—He measured the depth of a grave at the back of a tomb-stone against the tool-house. I believe it was six or seven inches. He said it was a coffin; I believe six inches; he did mention the name that it belonged to, but I do not recollect it.

1151. What is the shallowest depth at which you have known a coffin placed?—Since I have been there they have had a tremendous deal of ground brought in when the college was being built, and they took it on from one part of the ground and put it on another. There was a pauper buried out of the house which I remember quite well; nobody followed it; it was buried out of the bone-house, what they call the dead-house, and it was put down where the carpet-ground was, and I believe if the earth was at the same height then that it is now it would be under a foot, but I will say a foot; I would rather say more than less.

1152. Have you ever, in passing over there, smelt any offensive smell?—I cannot say that I have ever noticed it particularly, but there must be a smell, because neither lead nor wood will keep the stench of the body in; it will fly out of lead as well as out of wood; a great many coffins are made now of mill-lead.

1153. Has it affected you in health?—It has a great deal; I nearly at one time lost my life through it.

1154. How did it affect you?—When I went down the grave I went down a little way, and it smelt as if it was brimstone or some sulphury stuff, and when I reached the bottom my sensation was taken away altogether and I could hardly make my way up to the top, and when I got to the top I dropped on the boards,

boards, and then I went home and got some shavings and an old bed-tick and burnt it down the grave to get the foul air out.

1155. How were you affected; did it make you vomit?—It did a great deal; it was a trembling sensation over me, and a nasty coppery taste in my mouth.

1156. Did you lose your appetite?—I did not lose my appetite, but in the afternoon I was taken again at the same grave; I went down in the afternoon; a child was buried, and the webbing that checked the coffin, had turned the coffin over, and it was my duty to unfasten the webbing. When I reached the bottom, I could not make any body hear, and I grasped hold of the webbing, and they pulled me up; and when I got out of the grave I walked to the side of the church, and there I lay for half an hour.

1157. What church was it?—St. Clement Danes, in the Strand.

1158. Have you seen coffins cut through?—If you have orders for it you are compelled to do it; if you are to dig a grave in a certain place, it is your duty to do it, and if not you are told directly, “I will get somebody else to do it.”

1159. Then you have cut through coffins?—I have.

1160. Have you ever cut up the lead of a coffin?—Yes, I have once.

1161. By orders?—By orders.

1162. What became of the lead?—I do not know; it was not in my time; I went away soon after I cut it up.

1163. What did you do with the lead when it was cut?—I left it there.

1164. What burial-ground was that?—In St. Clement's church.

1165. Is it a matter of common occurrence to do so?—I do not know; but, if I must speak my mind, I think there is a tremendous deal of lead taken away, both in the churchyard and in the vaults; but I think it is a common thing for the old original coffins to be taken and chopped up; and I think it to be nothing else but the duty of any gentleman that has got any authority, to go into every church vault, and to have the books brought forward to prove how many coffins there ought to be, and to make them account for how many coffins are missing.

1166. Is the wooden coffin within the leaden one?—There are three coffins, the wooden case inside, the lead case outside that, and then the wooden case outside that.

1167. Then when the lead is removed there is still a wooden coffin inside?—Yes, but the gas comes through it; that penetrates through everything. There is a coffin which I have taken down to tap it; that is one of the ornaments that came off the foot of it, (*producing a brass ornament*).

1168. How many coffins do you suppose in St. Clement Danes churchyard have been cut up?—It is impossible for any one to say that; there is but one man that can tell, that is a man of the name of Watkins; he has been there for a number of years.

1169. From what has come under your observation, how many should you say have been cut up?—There are two that I have known; I had my little brother Tom, a child of 12 years of age, to hold the coffin while I did it, by the orders of the sexton, by the orders of Mr. Fitch; they were two old coffins that were smashed by the weight of those above.

1170. Did you find bones in the coffin?—There were bones in it; a body will last a number of years in lead, and still there is a nasty deadly smell in it.

1171. How did you cut it up?—With an axe.

1172. And left the lead there?—Left the lead there under a tarpaulin.

1173. What might the lead be worth of each coffin?—The lead I believe is a hundred and a half or two hundred in each coffin; I should say there were about two hundred and a half, and it would fetch $1\frac{1}{2}d.$ a pound.

1174. What quantity of wood have you seen taken away, or do you know has been taken away from this churchyard?—The old wood they used to take and put on one side, and then they used to take it home and burn it; they used to give it to anybody that would like to have it; any poor person that could not afford to buy firing would be glad to have it.

1175. How many wheelbarrows full in a week?—I could not say, sometimes more, sometimes less, sometimes none; it all depends upon the work; sometimes we get as much out of one grave as you may out of six or seven others; sometimes you may have a bag full in a week.

1176. What do you mean by “a grave,” what depth do you mean?—Five feet is the common depth for a grown person, and three feet for a child; when it is

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five feet that leaves four feet from the surface of the earth, but I do not think four feet is enough to keep the effluvia out.

1177. You think the gas gets out of the ground at that distance?—I am sure it does, because the gas will penetrate through anything, it will penetrate through the strongest man; if he happens to hold his head over the place where the gas is flying, it will make him ill; and I think that people going by at the time when a grave is open, must breathe some of the gas, as well as persons working in the grave, for when the gas is out, you can smell it quite strong up above.

1178. How far from the grave will the smell of the gas extend?—It depends upon the wind.

1179. Supposing the wind is blowing towards you, how far will it take it?—If the corpse is about five or six feet below the ground you may smell it six or seven yards from you, but you do not smell it if you are standing by the side and continually in it.

1180. The vaults in St. Clement Danes are close to the street?—Yes, the gas escapes from the vaults into the church through a grating cullett, and many persons who go to the church on Sunday when they come home are taken ill and are dead soon afterwards through the gas in the church; I do not think the lead is of any use to keep the gas in.

1181. You would not like to go to a leaden coffin and tap it?—Yes, I should not object to it; if you keep underneath the coffin, you would not have so much of the gas then; if you keep underneath, the gas flies up; if you tap it underneath, if there is any dead water, or any "soup," as it is called, it runs into a pail, and then it is taken and thrown into some place or another, perhaps down a gullyhole. I have been, before now, compelled to put my clothes out of the window, because the stench has been so great that they could not bear the place.

1182. Has it ever occurred to you to go into a public-house, and to find the smell of your clothes offensive to people there?—Yes, many a time; when I have been doing rather dirty work, when I have come in, I have noticed the people smell and get away on the other side of the place; there is sure to be plenty of room when we come in; they are sure to say, "These chaps have been emptying some cesspool."

1183. Is the smell of these graves more offensive than that of a common cesspool?—I emptied a cesspool, and the smell of it was rose-water compared with the smell of these graves.

1184. Has it ever happened, to your knowledge, that the men have declined digging through the coffins, and that they have been induced to do so by the sexton?—Yes; that is the word, "If you do not like to do it I will get somebody else."

1185. You, or some of the men, have felt a repugnance to cutting through coffins?—It is not a pleasant thing to chop away when it is not fit to chop away; when the body is decayed it does not matter taking that away.

1186. And you have found yourself, and other workmen with you, obliged to cut through, whether you liked it or not?—If you are paid for doing it you must do it, whether you like it or no; if you do not like it, you must go.

1187. Is your father interred there?—Yes, he is; I did not want him to be buried there.

1188. Did anything occur to his remains?—I saw them chopping the head of his coffin away; I should not have known it if I had not seen the head with the teeth; I knew him by his teeth; one tooth was knocked out and the other was splintered; I knew it was my father's head, and I told them to stop, and they laughed, and I would not let them go any further, and they had to cover it over. It is time that something was done to stop it; and there is a slaughter-house close by, in St. Clement's-lane, which is enough to breed any fever.

1189. How many coffins were cut when Mr. Clark, of Gilbert's-passage, was interred?—I think it was either two or three; but there is a person outside the room that kept more account of it than I did; he could tell how many it was.

1190. Do you remember any difficulty occurring when you opened a grave sometime ago, where a person of the name of Beasley was interred?—The orders were to bury him any where; to make room for him, I had to take two children away, to dig another hole and to put them down; I opened a hole close by the side of the grave and put them out of the grave they were in, and put them about four or five feet further in another hole.

1191. Has

John Eyles.

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1191. Has there been any earth removed of late from St. Clement Danes?—There has been no earth; there has been rubbish and stones from the leavings on the top of the earth after they have been doing it up again.

1192. Where was all this shot?—In St. Clement Danes, opposite Mr. Sharp's; Mr. Sharp moved it.

1193. Is it there now?—There is some of it now.

1194. Is the smell bad?—There is a nasty smell from it, and if you were going along the Strand, you can see some opposite to Exeter-street; they are fresh paving the street; there are railings at the bottom of the street looking into the water.

1195. Is this earth saturated with grave substance?—Yes, it is the rubbish after you have raked the ground all over; this is the rubbish that is skimmed off the top of it; there were two loads of it shot down; they took away a load of it yesterday.

1196. To the best of your belief, it is the common custom to cut through coffins whenever they want to make a grave?—It will not do to cut them away when they have been too fresh put down, but those that have been down a few years are cut away.

1197. After what length of time after it was placed in the ground would you feel yourself justified in cutting through a coffin?—I cannot tell how long they have been put there, and I do not know how long they will be before they decay; some will decay as quick again as others.

1198. Have you ever hesitated when ordered to dig a grave in cutting down through coffins?—Yes, I have said, "There is not room to put down;" but it is said, "You must make room:" but the sexton will not stop over the grave while that is being done; our sexton I know is fonder of pastry than standing over the top of a grave; he goes and has a shilling's worth of pastry while it is being done.

1199. Then when the sexton orders you to dig a grave, he goes away himself?—Yes, and leaves you to do the rest.

1200. Do you know anything of the burial-ground under the windows of the almshouse in St. Clement Danes?—I know that the bodies ought to be removed from there; it is not fit for anybody to live in the adjoining houses; I could go there and take a carving knife, and almost take some of the lids off. They are in a deal box half-an-inch thick; there is a great heap, and if that heap was taken away within nine inches from the top of the earth, you would have to take half of the sides of some of the coffins away.

1201. Do you find a great smell when you pass by?—No, it does not make any odds to me, because I have not been into the ground once since I left the ground.

1202. Is it a wet or a dry place?—It is a damp clayey ground.

1203. Do you know anything about the health of the people in the neighbourhood?—Some are ill, some are better than others; I do not know how the people in the almshouses feel; if it was a hot summer you would see the ground smoke the same as if there was boiling water put over it.

1204. Have you seen that yourself?—I have not noticed it particularly myself, but I know those that have, and if you take the ground up in your hands it is the same as taking ink into your hands.

1205. The ground is so saturated with the remains of dead bodies?—Yes, it is.

1206. Is this in Portugal-street?—No, it is in St. Clement Danes: it is what they call the pauper ground, where the people that are buried by the workhouse are put.

1207. Have you ever observed anything of the same kind in the burial-ground in Portugal-street?—Yes, I have seen the ground smoke and reek on a summer's morning; about five o'clock you will see it smoke the same as if there had been hot water poured down.

1208. Is that in going along to Searle-street?—Yes.

1209. Is a grave ever left open at night?—If you are going to dig a deep grave, you cannot do it all in one day; perhaps you may be four or five days over it, and then it is left open; sometimes we put a tarpauling over it.

1210. Then the smell must come up?—It does.

1211. Have you seen any steam rising up in such cases?—I have never noticed it particularly; I never paid any attention to such a thing as that, but I know it is not right for so many to be buried on a small space like that.

John Eyles.

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1212. You begin to be more seasoned to it than you were at first?—Yes, it did not matter to me; I had a mother and two brothers to provide for, and I thought I had better take anything than to see them go headlong into the workhouse.

1213. You were driven to it from that circumstance?—Yes, I thought it was my duty to try to keep my mother out of the workhouse as long as I could.

1214. And you have kept her out of it by working at this employment?—I have kept her out of it as well as I can.

1215. Is she now out of the workhouse?—Yes, she is at home.

1216. Have you any reason to believe that among the lower class there would be any objection to the use of lime being applied to the bodies?—I do not know; I do not see that any person could make any objection to it.

1217. You have no reason to think that any objection would be felt to it?—No.

1218. Do you think that in dry ground it would be useful?—In dry ground the lime would be of great use, but in wet ground it would be of no use.

Michael Pye, called in; and Examined.

Michael Pye.

1219. WHAT is your situation in life?—I have been a grave-digger formerly.

1220. For how long?—For about two years and upwards.

1221. Where have you worked?—I worked in St. Clement Danes.

1222. Will you state what is the state of the ground in Portugal-street?—The ground in Portugal-street is full, and frequently in getting a grave I have been compelled to cut away coffins about five feet under ground: in some part of the ground I can positively say that there is not above three feet to the outside extremity but what it is full up to three feet from the surface.

1223. Do you mean to say that whether they were fresh coffins or not, you have cut through?—Yes, we have been ordered by the sexton so to do to make room, and when we have been at work and said that we could not get a grave, the expression has been, "Damn your bloody lazy eyes, you shall get it and make it;" that is an expression he has frequently used to me.

1224. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] Has he any money interest in the graves?—I cannot say.

1225. *Mr. Vernon.*] It is his duty?—It is his duty.

1226. *Chairman.*] What is the state of the vaults under the church?—There is plenty of room at present; I suppose there are about 200 or 300 there, but there is room for about 400 or 500 more without any occasion to cut.

1227. Is there a smell arising from it?—Sometimes there is; sometimes there is a coffin burst, then there is a great smell there.

1228. Whereabouts are the rector's vaults?—On the right hand of the communion.

1229. Is there a smell issuing from that?—There is no smell till it is opened, and then there is a great smell.

1230. Does it open into the church?—No, it opens into a vault under the church; there is a way down to it from the church by moving the communion table.

1231. Would you venture into that vault as soon as it was opened?—No, I would not under two or three days.

1232. Do you remember a man of the name of Irving visiting Portugal-street?—I do, perfectly well.

1233. What did he visit it for?—He was probing the ground and trying the depth of a grave; he tried one, a child's grave at the back of a tombstone; it was not above five or six inches; Mr. Fitch was upon the ground, and he told me and my mate that was at work with me, that if he ever came into the ground again to run the man through with a searcher, or to knock him down.

1234. He did not like to have intruders?—No; I suppose he was aware of what the man was after.

1235. Have you been affected in your health by this employment?—I have. I have been taken with sickness and spitting, and with a nasty taste in my mouth. In one grave in particular I struck a coffin accidentally with a pickaxe. As soon as I struck it it came out the same as the froth from a barrel of beer and threw me backwards, and I was obliged to stand some minutes before I could

could recover. Upon another occasion I was served just in the same way, when our sexton took and walked himself away from the grave, and as soon as he got up he gave me twopence and told me to go and get a drop of brandy, which I did.

1236. Do you find it necessary to have recourse to spirits?—Yes, I do. In my opinion no man can do the work without it.

1237. It has been asserted that it is the practice to remove leaden coffins and to cut them up in the vaults?—That has been the case.

1238. To your knowledge?—To my knowledge the coffins are cut up in the vaults and removed. In one case that I can speak to, the sexton, Mr. Fitch, told me to select two coffins out, which I brought him out into the middle of the vault, and after they were brought out there another man was sent for and I was sent out of the way. I suppose that I was not trusted to perform this duty; another man cut them up. But I thought it a curious thing that I should be sent away, being the regular man there at the time, and I crossed over to the Fore-gate, that is, the pillars opposite the church, and I stood there some considerable time, and about five o'clock in the afternoon I saw a stonemason's truck come down Clement's-lane and go inside the church, and the lead was loaded on the truck, and two men drew the lead away of those two coffins that I had selected out, and some lots of lead and copper remaining in a large chest at the bottom of the vault went away at the same time on the truck. They went down Fleet-street, through Temple-bar.

1239. What might be the value of that lead?—I cannot say.

1240. Do you know whether much wood is taken away from the churchyard?—Wood has been frequently taken away and given to different people to burn; and, to get rid of the wood, one day we built a privy with it, in one corner of the churchyard.

1241. Mr. *Vernon*.] When the lead was taken away, do you know what became of the wooden coffins and the bodies?—The remains were put into a basket, and next morning there was a hole dug on the south side of the churchyard, and the body was put down there without anything on it.

1242. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] You have stated that the sexton, meaning Mr. Fitch, selected two coffins; will you state why he selected those particular coffins, as far as you know?—I cannot say why he did so; I should suppose it to be to his own advantage; I do not think any one else had anything to do with it; I have every reason to believe it to be his own interest.

1243. Were they coffins in which there was more lead than in any others?—They were very heavy ones.

1244. Do you know the names of the parties buried there?—No, I do not; when the wood was decayed the name and everything was gone.

1245. Do you recognize anything on this table as having belonged to either of these coffins?—Yes, I know that, (*the brass ornament produced by the last Witness*); that came off one of the coffins.

1246. *Chairman*.] Is it the common practice to break up the wooden coffins?—Yes, it is the common practice of late; because the ground has been so full, that in fact you cannot get a grave without doing it.

1247. If you come to a coffin lately put in, how do you cut through it?—If we come to one that is very fresh we can tell by a searcher; but frequently we come to one that feels very soft with the searcher, but when we get on it the coffin is full, and then we are compelled to cut through it to make way for the coffin that is coming.

1248. What do you do with the remains?—The remains are put down at the bottom of the grave, and the coffin that is coming is put on it.

1249. The remains are put at the bottom without any coffin?—Yes; there is just a small piece of ground put over it to hide it.

1250. And that is the common practice when you dig a grave in that way?—Yes.

1251. You take away the wood, and let the remains go to the bottom of the grave?—Yes.

1252. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Do you know any particular case that you would wish more immediately to call to the notice of the Committee?—Yes; one day, at the time when Admiral Sykes's vault was being built, I was at work in the vault, and I was standing alongside a tier of coffins, and the coffin that that brass came off was standing amongst them; and I stood close alongside, and one of them burst.

Michael Pyc.

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1253. You mean that one of the coffins burst by the force of the gas within?—Yes; and it came out with such a smell that I was turned sick, and Admiral Sykes gave us 5s., me and the other man at work down there, to get something to eat and drink, and when we had got it we could not touch it; we were down there about four hours at work, and we took the bread and cheese away, because we could not eat it there.

1254. *Chairman.*] When those leaden coffins were removed, why were they removed; was there sufficient room?—There was sufficient room for 500 more coffins.

1255. Then they were only removed for the value of the lead?—That was all.

1256. Was that in the rector's vault?—No, in the large vault.

1257. Have you in the course of your occupation been in the habit of constantly removing bodies when they were in your way?—Yes.

1258. You say when you dig down in the churchyard you cut through?—Cut through every coffin as we come to them till we get the depth we are going, and then the wood is thrown up; and if there are any remains in any of them we let that go to the bottom, barring the bones; if there is nothing but bones they are thrown up too.

1259. *Mr. Vernon.*] What wages are you paid for this sort of labour?—It is all piece-work, so much for every grave, according to the depth we go; the deeper we go the more we get; the first five feet is 1s., and after that it is 1s. a foot.

1260. Then you are interested in digging deep, and the person that employs you has an interest that you should not dig very deep?—It appears like it; but I think the sexton gets a greater profit off a deep grave.

1261. Do you know in what manner he is paid?—I cannot say that; I know that he gets 6d. off of every foot of ground that we throw out.

1262. And how much is your proportion of it?—Our proportion is 1s. for every foot; 1s. 6d. it ought to be; but he gets 6d. of it, and we get 1s.

1263. In respect to the time and labour employed, should you earn more wages by digging deep, or by digging shallow?—By digging deep; the deeper we go the better it is for ourselves.

1264. Have you ever been able to dig below the lowest point at which there are any bodies buried?—Yes; we have gone as far as 21 feet.

1265. And that is below the lowest point at which you find any bodies interred?—Yes.

1266. In case of a person having occasion to pay for an interment, when you have dug so deep as that, the charge must have come very heavy upon the party?—Yes.

1267. Have they the option whether they have a deep grave or a shallow grave?—If they choose to have a deep grave they can have it by paying for it; and if there is a deep grave cut out and the parties cannot afford to pay for it, the parish pay for it.

1268. When you have several funerals at the same time, and all the bodies are placed in a deep grave at the same time, do all pay that same heavy fee?—Yes, they do.

1269. Then if you have several bodies expected to be interred at the same time, it is a very beneficial thing for you and for the sexton to dig a deep grave?—Yes.

1270. And you would be tempted to do so, however former coffins might interfere?—Yes; if they are ordered to dig a deep grave, whatever comes in the way, they must do it.

1271. After such deep interment, what is the course; do you cover it up with a tarpauling, and wait till there is another customer?—No, we fill it; we keep the shoring boards in, and fill the ground in.

1272. For what purpose do you keep the shoring boards in?—To be able to open it more easily again, because if we took the shoring boards away, and went to open that grave again, the ground would be so loose that it would fall in upon you; you cannot make it stand a second time.

1273. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Do you invariably fill up the grave?—Yes.

1274. *Chairman.*] Would you choose any other employment in preference to this?—I would, if it was not half the money.

1275. *Lord Ashley.*] Do you find it a very unhealthy employment?—A very unhealthy employment.

1276. Have

1276. Have your family been affected by your clothes being impregnated with this gas?—My children have been frequently ill, but I did not blame it to that till I found out lately that that was the cause of it; as soon as I have got to the fire they have found fault with the smell terribly; and as soon as I took my clothes of I put them outside the door or outside the window.

Michael Pye.
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1277. Are you in this employment now?—No, I am a jobbing bricklayer and plasterer now.

1278. How long have you ceased to be a grave-digger?—Last Christmas twelvemonth.

1279. Do you find your health materially better since you have given up this employment?—Yes, very greatly better.

1280. And you would not return to the same occupation?—I would return if I were in the same condition as I have been the last few months, for the sake of my family; I have been out of employment the last four months.

1281. But calculating upon employment shortly in your present occupation, you would not undertake a situation of that sort?—No, I would not, and particularly in the grave-yards in London; I would not object to take a place in a cemetery in new ground.

Lunæ, 11^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Sir William Clay.
Mr. Cowper.

Mr. E. Denison.
Mr. Kemble.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. Scarlett.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Colonel Acton, a Member of the Committee, Examined.

1282. *Chairman.*] AS a Member of this Committee, have you given your attention to the evidence which has come before it?—I have.

Col. Acton, M. P.

1283. In consequence of that evidence, you thought it advisable yourself to visit some of the places mentioned in the evidence before the Committee?—I did.

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1284. Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee what places you visited?—Enon Chapel, Clement's-lane; Portugal-street burial-ground; St. Clement Danes burial-ground; and a small ground near the bottom of St. Clement's-lane, where they informed us they had ceased to bury.

1285. Were you prevented from seeing any of the places?—They refused to admit us at Enon Chapel.

1286. Did you apply to go into the vaults under St. Clement Danes Church?—Yes.

1287. Did you gain admittance?—They refused us admittance.

1288. Having heard the evidence which has been adduced before this Committee on the last two days of their sitting, will you state whether or not that evidence is confirmed or contradicted by the evidence you yourself obtained?—I think, as far as we could form an opinion from what we saw, it is most fully borne out. There were several points that we did not take any note of, such as the leaden coffins swelling, from the internal gas; but we saw enough to convince me that the statement as to the general injury done to the town by the grave-yards was perfectly borne out.

1289. As far as your observation goes, you think the evidence was correct?—Perfectly, as far as my observation went.

1290. *Lord Mahon.*] Did you perceive any effluvia in the chapel?—No; the day happened to be remarkably favourable for carrying off effluvia, there was a fine brisk air; and another reason was, some of our party were smoking, and that had a tendency to prevent our observing it.

Col. Acton, M. P.

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1291. *Chairman.*] Did you see any of the bones in either of the grounds?—We saw the bones lying exposed throughout all of them; and when the ground was a little disturbed, it was full of bones.

1292. Was there anything that struck you particularly at Enon Chapel?—I had no opportunity of ascertaining anything at that chapel, in consequence of the refusal, except that I perceived that the boards were very loose from the floor; and so far it was confirmatory of the evidence we had received, as to there being no ceiling.

1293. You were not allowed to go into the vault underneath?—We were not.

1294. Judging from your own observation, do you think that what you saw is likely to be injurious to the health of the neighbourhood?—It must be extremely injurious to the health of the district. I think it is impossible that the state of the yards can exist as they do without its being prejudicial to the health of all the immediate neighbourhood; and I must add, that I think the evidence that we have received is fully borne out. I did not in any one case observe that they had mis-stated or exaggerated in any part of the evidence which they have brought forward.

1295. *Lord Mahon.*] You were informed that this chapel is henceforth to be used as a school-room for Roman-catholic children?—Yes, that was stated, and to be used for a temperance society; they were fitting it up with benches; the man I asked about it said it was intended for a temperance society; there was some conversation afterwards about a school being held there.

1296. *Chairman.*] Did the evidence turn out to be correct that that chapel was near a sewer?—We examined the vicinity of it, and we saw the flag over the main sewers immediately attached to the vault of the chapel; I imagine the vault of the chapel is connected directly with the sewer, as was stated in the evidence given to us.

1297. As you have mentioned already, as far as you can judge, that part of the evidence is fully borne out by your observation?—I believe so; I did not observe any one particular in which they had exaggerated or mis-stated: there was a great deal of evidence we had not an opportunity of obtaining confirmation of. If an interment had been taking place, we should have been able to see more, but I ascertained fully to my satisfaction, so far as I was able to do, that the evidence was borne out.

1298. Have you anything further to say, as to what came under your notice?—One of the pumps at St. Clement Danes, which had been sunk for the benefit of the public, they were obliged to shut up, in consequence of its being too near the foundation.

1299. *Lord Mahon.*] From whom did you receive that information with respect to the pump?—We saw that the pump is shut up, and we heard from a man who has charge of the fountain that it had been built up in consequence of the water being found improper for use.

1300. *Chairman.*] Does anything else occur to you?—I judge from the extreme unwillingness, and violence indeed, of the keeper of Enon Chapel, that there must be a very great body of injurious matter concealed. I think it clearly proved that, in his opinion, it was very improper it should continue; he was about striking one of the boys who accompanied us; he would not suffer it to be inspected.

1301. Independently of the evidence which has come before the Committee, is it your opinion that it would be desirable to have interments out of town?—I am decidedly of that opinion; what I saw on Friday very much confirms my previous opinion.

Peter Ainsworth, Esq., a Member of the Committee, Examined.

P. Ainsworth, Esq.
M. P.

1302. *Chairman.*] AS a Member of this Committee, you have attended to the evidence that has come before it?—I have.

1303. Did you some short time back think it right to visit certain places in this metropolis, for the purpose of ascertaining the facts which have been spoken to?—I did.

1304. Have the goodness to state what places you principally visited?—The first we visited was St. Martin's-in-the-Fields burial-ground, in Drury-lane; we then

then visited the small burying-ground in Russell-court, for St. Mary's in the Strand; we then visited St. Clement Danes and Enon Chapel, and the ground in Portugal-street.

1305. Were you refused admittance at any one of those places?—We were refused admittance into Russell-court burying-ground.

1306. Did you visit Enon Chapel?—I did.

1307. Did you go into the vaults there?—No; we were refused admittance into the vaults.

1308. As far as your observation went, what struck you particularly?—As far as we could ascertain from those who resided in the neighbourhood of Portugal-street burying-ground, the odour arising from that ground, as well as others, when the weather was warm, or when much rain had fallen, was extremely offensive, and consequently prejudicial to the health of those residing in the neighbourhood. The smallness of the surface, and the situation in which it is placed in the midst of so dense a population, struck me as objectionable, and particularly the ground in Russell-court. I perceived a hole in the ground, and I was informed that the hole had been bored into a coffin in order to allow the gaseous matter to escape, and that that was very frequently done in St. Martin's.

1309. Mr. Cowper.] Who informed you of that?—One of the grave-diggers in attendance.

1310–11. Chairman.] Did anything else come under your observation?—I think the evidence of a former witness was confirmed with reference to the alteration in St. Martin's burial-ground, when the witness stated the Duke of Bedford had thought necessary to make an excavation in a portion of the south side of the burying-ground to cause better ventilation in the houses; and the bricking up the cemetery six or eight feet deep, showed evidently what had been originally the base of the ground, and the large quantity of earth, bones, &c. which had been removed.

1312. Were there any grave-diggers at work when you reached the ground in Portugal-street; and did they continue?—There were grave-diggers at work, but it appeared to me that as soon as we began to make inquiries they ceased their operations.

1313. Can you imagine for what reason they ceased their operations?—No, it is impossible for me to say.

1314. Do you conceive, from your own observations, that the houses overlooking the churchyard must be unhealthy?—Very unhealthy, I conceive.

1315. Had you any opportunity of seeing what was below Enon Chapel?—No.

The Rev. J. C. Abdy, called in; and Examined.

1316. Chairman.] WERE you formerly curate of St. George's, Southwark?—I was.

1317. Will you state what took place with regard to the interments in that parish?—I will freely give certain information connected with St. George's parish, if I may be allowed to make this previous remark: that my opinion decidedly is, that funerals in certain churchyards in the metropolis should not be, without qualification, prohibited. I can imagine very serious evil to arise if there be any law which shall, without certain restrictions and qualifications, prohibit funerals in certain churchyards; and I do sincerely hope and trust such a stringent law may not pass.

1318. Have the goodness to give your reason for that opinion?—In my own parish we have a very large spacious churchyard, and we have no inconvenience arising from the interment of the dead; we have a number of vaults; there are many of them with scarcely more than one or two tenants, and they may hold from 10 to 20 more. The descendants of the persons who are there interred expect to lie there themselves; and it would be a great source of regret to them to be forbidden to lie with their fathers and relatives, when no possible inconvenience can arise from their so lying. I have a strong feeling on the moral and religious influence of burials round a church. The living go up to worship God every Sabbath-day, and it appears to me to be very likely that passing by the grave or tomb of their departed relatives, a serious thought may strike them, confirmatory of that which they hear in the church.

1319. Do you not think there is more disgust with the feeling or smell which they experience?—Oh dear, no! there is no smell in St. John's.

Rev. J. C. Abdy.

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1320. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Your burial-ground is large, and not fully tenanted?—Just so; and the vaults are large and commodious. Having made that statement to free myself from the imputation of being an opposer of burials in churchyards, I will state that I conceive there are many vaults and many churchyards which are a disgrace to the clergy and to all parties concerned. I have no difficulty in saying that; and I may be permitted to say, that many years ago there were two facts existing in the parish of St. George's, which were disgraceful to all parties concerned, namely, that they permitted burials to take place in the vault underneath the church, without being in lead; and the consequence of that arrangement, together with the immense numbers which were there interred, was, that the vault was so offensive that the clergyman never went into it. During the whole number of years I was curate of that parish, I never went into the vault, but I stood at the top of the stairs, and there read the service. I was told it was offensive, and that the clergyman never did go down. The other fact is, we had a burial-ground for what we call the paupers; it was called the Lock burial-ground, in the Dover-road. I regret that I was obliged, as curate, to see coffins heaped one upon another, and bones lying about; and the graves come so near the surface of the earth, that nothing but the fact of my being curate, having no authority, the rector being resident, would have induced me to perform the service.

1321. Lord *Mahon*.] Why was that called the Lock burial-ground?—Was it connected with the Lock Hospital?—Possibly it may have been some centuries ago.

1322. *Chairman*.] Did you yourself smell the effluvia arising from those bodies in the vault when you were in the church?—I cannot say that I did.

1323. But you are certain that they were interred there without leaden coffins?—Yes.

1324. Mr. *Cowper*.] Did the persons suffer who went down?—I cannot say. The undertaker took the mourners down to cast their eye into the place, and instantly to return.

1325. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Is it arched?—I cannot say.

1326. *Chairman*.] What is the size of the Lock burying-ground?—I cannot say; I have no idea of measurement.

1327. Mr. *Denison*.] You have stated that one of the great objections was the burial of corpses not enclosed in lead in a vault in the church; are you not able to say that any bad consequences arose from that, that any disagreeable effluvia ever made its way into the church?—I am not aware of any instance.

1328. Where is the entrance to the vault?—By a lobby which leads to the gallery; when I have stood at the top of the stairs there was a very close, uncomfortable smell.

1329. What sort of a door was it?—A wooden door; when the door was open there was a very close, disagreeable smell.

1330. Mr. *Kemble*.] Is the Lock ground used as a burying-ground now?—I believe so.

1331. It must of course be much more crowded now than formerly?—Certainly it is; I have no hesitation in saying that that ground is a nuisance.

1332. *Chairman*.] This grave-yard called the Lock ground is completely full?—In my time, 19 years ago, I thought it was scandalous to go on burying there.

1333. Lord *Mahon*.] Yet they still go on burying to the present time?—Yes.

1334. Mr. *Kemble*.] Did you often attend funerals there?—Twice a week.

1335. Did you feel inconvenience in doing so?—I never thought about it; when I had the duty to perform there were unpleasant smells, but I think I am bound to say that they arose generally from the state of the corpe which was being buried rather than the grave-yard.

1336. Mr. *Cowper*.] Should you wish that the custom of burying on Sundays should be discontinued?—Very much indeed, in a religious point of view; but I have a great doubt how, in populous places, it would be possible for the poor to lose another day; great evils do arise from Sunday funerals; it is a gross desecration of the Sabbath.

1337. Is it confined to the poorer classes?—No; in London shopkeepers bury a good deal on Sundays.

1338. Lord *Mahon*.] From what does the desecration arise?—In the first place,

place, there is a great deal of manual labour performed, which is contrary to the fourth Commandment; there is a great deal of mercantile work, all the dressing out the feathers and so on; it is a regular business; the Church service itself can only be said to be religious, all the other parts must be termed worldly. There is another serious evil arises from Sunday burials; the bearers go into public-houses; they necessarily must, as they have to wait for the precise time of the funeral starting; and there is drinking afterwards. At Clapham, I believe, there are not any funerals on the Sunday.

1339. Would they refuse to bury on a Sunday at Clapham?—I believe so.

1340. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You do not think the clergy could refuse to bury the dead in London?—No, it would be attended with so much inconvenience and positive loss to the poor population.

1341. Lord *Mahon*.] Do you find funerals on Sundays common, besides those of the labouring population?—Certainly not; there are some persons of the middling classes; it is not confined to the poorer classes, but shopkeepers in many instances; what is called a genteel funeral certainly does not take place on a Sunday.

1342. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Do you know any other interment ground in the neighbourhood of London which is objectionable on the ground of its being over-filled?—We hear of such things; and I can very well suppose in the larger parishes that the evil must exist; if it were possible to have a regulation that every grave in the first instance shall be dug as deep as possible, and on no pretence to disturb the body therein interred, but merely place one on another till they come within a certain distance of the surface of the ground, I apprehend no evil will arise. There is a regulation in our parish which positively interdicts the sexton digging a grave of less than six feet from the surface.

1343. Sir *William Clay*.] Is that for a common coffin?—Yes; if he cannot find room at six feet he is forbidden to dig.

1344. Supposing the grave to be opened to this depth of six feet, is he prohibited from putting more than one coffin into that grave?—The practice unquestionably is that he is not prohibited; and a very bad practice exists, which is contrary to all church government, and for which every person concerned is liable to ecclesiastical censure, but where a grave has one coffin, or I may say two, at that depth, the coffin or coffins are taken up, and the grave lowered, the fresh coffin first put in, and then those that have been taken out placed upon it.

1345. Supposing that were to be done, there being no prohibition as to putting more than one coffin into a six-foot grave, how near to the surface would the last coffin be?—Merely the depth of the coffin; when he has placed the coffin five feet, or nearly so, would remain.

1346. He would not be permitted to put another coffin on that without deepening the grave?—No.

1347. Is it the rule in your parish that there shall be at least five feet over every coffin?—Yes.

1348. Is that regulation adhered to?—I believe so.

1349. So that there is no corpse interred in St. John's churchyard with less than five feet of ground over the coffin?—I believe that is so.

1350. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Do you mean to say that they positively disinter the dead to make room for a fresh coffin?—Yes, I am sorry to be compelled to say that that is the practice; that occasionally, when it is supposed there is not more than one coffin six or seven feet deep, the practice exists of taking up that coffin or coffins, digging down to 20 feet possibly, then putting in the new coffin, and then reintering the original ones.

1351. Sir *William Clay*.] You say the sexton is forbidden to dig any grave unless he can find room for a grave six feet deep; is he the sole judge whether he can find room for a grave six feet deep?—Yes.

1352. Then, if he should be tempted, for the sake of finding room, to disturb bodies already in possession of the ground, he is the sole judge of the propriety or impropriety of so doing?—Yes, he is; it ought not to be so.

1353. You do not speak confidently to there being five feet above each coffin?—That is the rule in St. John's parish, and I believe it to be uniformly attended to; but the parish of St. Olave have a right of burial in our ground, and we have a reciprocal right of burial in St. Olave's ground; what takes place under the St. Olave's parish is different.

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1354. Mr. Cowper.] By what authority was the rule you allude to imposed on the sexton?—An order of vestry, made with the concurrence, of course, of the rector and churchwardens and persons assembled in vestry.

1355. Sir William Clay.] Has there been any negotiation between the parish authorities of St. John's and St. Olave's and any of the railroad companies that come into Southwark, for the purpose of providing a burying-ground in lieu of one which is to be destroyed in the course of forming the termini of those railways?—Yes, there has been a very long communication between the two parishes and the Greenwich Railway Company, in consequence of an Act of Parliament which passed three or four years ago, authorizing them to take possession of the Flemish burying-ground, the railroad company undertaking to provide a suitable ground in or near the said parish of St. Olave or St. John, into which are to be interred the dead now lying in the Flemish ground.

1356. Was the use of the ground so to be provided to be limited to receiving the remains at present in the Flemish burying-ground, or was it to be used for the future also as a place of interment?—It was to be used as a place of future interment in lieu of the ground given up.

1357. What is the character of the burying-ground you call the Flemish burying-ground?—A very respectable ground.

1358. Was it a general place of interment for the parishes of St. Olave's and St. John's, in addition to the churchyards of those two parishes?—Yes.

1359. Was it much used for the purpose of interment?—Yes, particularly by St. Olave's.

1360. It was the intention to apply the ground to be provided by the companies to the same purposes to which the Flemish burying-ground had been previously applied?—Yes.

1361. What is the state of this negotiation between the parish authorities and the railroad company?—The railroad company have from time to time proposed various pieces of ground to us, for the most part closely abutting on the railroad. I may take the liberty of saying I have been rather opposed to our consenting to take any one of the pieces of ground they have offered, because I did not deem them eligible; in fact, it is impossible, without an immense sacrifice of money, to get ground in either of the two parishes, unless it be ground closely abutting on the railroad, which we do not deem suitable. They have found it impossible to get a piece of ground which will meet our views, and they are about to apply to Parliament for an Act to pay us a certain sum of money, and not be bound to find the ground.

1362. What is intended to be done with that money?—The application of that money will very much depend upon the measures this Committee may propose.

1363. Have they not proceeded so far as to serve notices on the inhabitants of some other portion, either within the parish of St. Olave's or St. John's, or some parish close adjoining?—Yes.

1364. Where was that ground?—It was in the parish of St. Olave, adjoining what is called Snow's Field.

1365. Was this a densely-peopled neighbourhood?—Very densely populated.

1366. The Committee understand you to say that for the present that intention is relinquished, and those notices will not be acted on?—Just so.

1367. Mr. Kemble.] Had not the Greenwich Railroad Company power to take the ground?—They had no power to get hold of that ground; they simply gave notice that they intended to apply to Parliament to give them that power.

1368. Does it rest with the two clergymen to approve of the ground; is not the bishop called in in some way?—The rector and churchwardens of the two parishes were to approve the ground, and then the dead in the Flemish ground were, with the concurrence of the bishop, to be interred. The bishop must approve of the ground, for we could not make any use of it before it was consecrated; therefore that would involve his approval.

Edward Charles Copeland, called in; and Examined.

E. C. Copeland.

1369. Chairman.] WHAT is your situation?—Formerly I was in the habit of digging graves in St. Ann's, Soho.

1370. You were a grave-digger of that parish?—Yes.

1371. Have you ever been affected in your health by your occupation?—I was made

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made very ill with something—typhus fever, I presume, that came from the scent of the earth; and, as I was digging about a ten-foot grave, a part of the earth fell in upon me to my loins; and Fox the grave-digger gave me some wood to take home to burn, which was not half decayed. I took a little home, and put a bit on the fire, and it caused such an extraordinary smell in the place that it made my brother and me ill of the typhus fever.

1372. Did it affect any other persons in the house?—No; I took it off and threw it out, and would not have any more burnt.

1373. Have you smelt any unpleasant smell when you have been digging graves?—Yes; and I have felt a sort of stoppage in my throat, like chewing a penny-piece.

1374. How did it affect you?—It made me queer for some time after; when I was digging, I was obliged to go out and get a drop of spirits now and then.

1375. Have you enjoyed better health since you left that occupation?—Yes, for the last ten years, when I left off that occupation.

1376. Do you think the occupation of grave-digging is very unhealthy?—I am sure it is; and I have seen them play at what is called skittles; put up bones, and take skulls and knock them down; stick up bones in the ground and throw a skull at them as you would a skittle-ball.

1377. Who has done that?—Fox and a party who used to go there to assist him in digging.

1378. Have you known of the handles and nails of coffins being taken away?—Yes, there have been a great many taken away off the coffins.

1379. Who took them away?—Fox, the grave-digger; he died lately in Drury-lane.

1380. Could the inhabitants, in looking out, see all this?—Yes, they could not be off it; for it is surrounded with back premises all round.

1381. Have you heard of any leaden coffins being cut up?—I do not know that I have there; but I have known Fox take off the handles and take out the nails with a sort of crow-bar.

1382. Did he keep them for his own use?—Yes, he sold them.

1383. What do they do with the bodies when they cut away the coffin wood?—They emaciate them; the flesh they leave in the ground, and take the bones to the bone-house. I have seen them chopped up before they were a quarter decayed. About nine years this month, my father was laid there. I cannot answer whether he lies there now, or whether he is one taken up and knocked about.

1384. What is the reason for the taking them up; is it merely want of space?—Want of space I should say; the ground is over-full now.

1385. Suppose they came to quite a fresh coffin, what would they do?—If it has been in three weeks, they would not mind cutting it in two. I have seen them not a quarter decayed before they have been cut to pieces with the pick-axes. I have not been in the ground since my father was buried; that is nine years ago.

1386. Do you think there is a smell or evaporation arising from this graveyard?—I am sure there is; I smelt it myself when I have been in the grave; I have had something come in my throat just like copperas, as if I had been chewing a copper penny.

1387. How high is the ground above the street?—I should say it was level with the pavement.

1388. Is the churchyard level with the street, or is it above it?—It is level.

1389. It is not above it?—No.

1390. Is there a pump near it?—There is a pump facing the watch-house.

1391. How far from the churchyard?—I should say about six feet.

1392. Have you ever drunk of that water?—Yes, many times.

1393. Is that water good?—I do not find any fault with it; it stands in Dean-street.

1394. Can you speak as to the health of the people who live in that neighbourhood?—No, not now; there were two or three people died there when I lived in King-street.

1395. Since you have given up your occupation of grave-digger, you say, your health has been improved?—Yes, it has.

1396. What is your occupation now?—I am a carpenter by trade; I was apprentice at that time, only I was out of work; my master failed, and I could not follow on my business.

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1397. You have given that up and become a carpenter again?—Yes.

1398. Do you think the remains of the dead are much mutilated in the churchyards of this town?—Yes.

1399. Have you any doubt of that?—No.

1400. Are you sure of your statement, that after a coffin has lain in the ground only three weeks it has been cut to pieces?—Yes.

1401. Do you think that is a common occurrence?—Yes; it was in that ground, by Fox the grave-digger.

1402. Have you heard of other grave-diggers who were employed being in bad health?—There was one named Brown who used to work for Fox at the same time, who sometimes works, I believe, in St. Giles's; but I never go into any of the grounds now.

Jovis, 14^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Ainsworth.
Sir William Clay.
Mr. Cowper.Colonel Fox.
Lord Mahon.

W. A. MACKINNON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

Colonel Fox, a Member of the Committee, Examined.

Colonel Fox, M. P.

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1403. *Chairman.*] AS a member of this Committee, have you attended to the evidence which has come before them?—I have.

1404. Have you taken an opportunity of visiting some of the places to which that evidence referred?—Three of them.

1405. Have the kindness to state what they are?—The churchyard of St. Clement Danes, the outside of Enon Chapel, and Portugal-street grave-yard, and one other in Russell-court.

1406. As far as your observation went from what you yourself saw, does it confirm the evidence brought before the Committee?—Most decidedly.

1407. Your opinion concurs in respect to the evidence which has been given?—As far as my observation went, certainly.

1408. Is there anything you wish to state to the Committee from your own observation?—I wish to state my extreme disgust at almost everything I saw; the basement stones of several houses adjoining different churchyards being far below the surface of the earth, in which innumerable bodies, it appears, are placed.

1409. In your opinion, a change of the system is necessary?—Decidedly so. With regard to Enon Chapel, we were prevented going down into the vault; but I thought, through the crevices, I could perceive bones; there was nothing at all events but the planking.

1410. Did you ascertain that it was near the common sewer?—Yes.

1411. Did anything else occur to your observation while you were there?—On going by the side of Portugal-street grave-yard, we observed a man in a grave digging, and another superintending; we all agreed to go to the back of the premises of a house looking down on where they were, to see what might occur, but before we got to the third story of that house, both those persons were gone, which we considered as a proof that they had observed us. We had also observed that one was throwing bits of bones into a basket; I was struck also with the holes made by crowbars—searchers as they are called—in several places into the grave-yards, which of course must let out foul air.

1412. Is it your opinion that the present state of things is injurious to the health of the inhabitants?—Yes.

The Rev. James Endell Tyler, called in; and Examined.

*Rev. J. E. Tyler.*1413. *Chairman.*] YOU are rector of St. Giles-in-the-Fields?—I am.

1414. Have you been there any time?—Nearly 16 years.

1415. You

1415. You are aware of the object of this Committee; have you anything to state to them with regard to the state of the grave-yard?—I am not aware of anything in particular. I ought to state we have two grave-yards, one called the churchyard, and the other the cemetery; the churchyard has been consecrated a great number of years, I believe as far as legal memory can go back, at least the greater part of it; some parts have been added; the cemetery was consecrated nearly 40 years ago.

1416. Where is that situated?—It is between King's Cross and Kentish Town, in Pancras-road, close to the old parish church of St. Pancras. When that cemetery was consecrated it appeared right to the authorities of the parish to shut up the old burial-ground entirely, excepting in the case of persons whose relatives were buried there before. When I succeeded Mr. Benson, now the master of the Temple, I found it had been recently re-opened, having been shut up for 20 years, so that most part of it was nearly like new ground; there was scarcely any human matter at all in it except dry bones. The cemetery in the St. Pancras-road is in a very admirable state; a large body of the whole square has never been used.

1417. At what distance is that from the church?—Nearly two miles. On receiving the Chairman's letter I sent to ascertain the number buried in each, and I found that between the 31st of December 1840 and the 31st of December 1841, there were buried 1,391 in St. Giles's cemetery (more than the half of whom would be children); and in the old churchyard there were only 469 buried.

1418. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] What size is the burial-ground in St. Pancras-road?—I have not ascertained exactly, but I think it is between five and six acres.

1419. If you have so good a grave-yard two miles out of town, why do you bury at all in the churchyard next the church?—There is no objection to our doing so, unless from the general objection to burying in towns. But there is a very great reason why we should continue to bury there: we have no right to refuse it, in the first place; and then from the mere circumstance that that burial-ground was consecrated by a Roman-catholic bishop, and our new cemetery was consecrated by a Protestant bishop, the Roman-catholic Irish are desirous of burying their relatives in the old ground, and in consequence of that ground having been shut up for 20 years, there is no objection on the ground either of health or decency.

1420. Lord *Mahon*.] Do you gratify the Irish in this desire?—Always. During the cholera, indeed, when we determined, at all hazards, not to bury the corpses of those who died of cholera there (and many died in my parish), I was obliged to go to Dr. Bramston, the vicar apostolic at the time, to request that he and I should act together. He behaved with the greatest possible politeness, and we sent out a circular with our joint names, which satisfied the Irish that they might be buried in the new cemetery; they had at first a great objection, but the bishop told them from the altar that they ought to submit, and it was done.

1421. This cemetery was acquired about 40 years ago?—I think it was in 1804.

1422. At whose expense?—The parish raised a sum of money on annuities to purchase it.

1423. On mortgage of the lands?—Of the rates; under an Act of Parliament exclusively for that purpose, which enabled them to raise the money, and to levy a rate on the parishioners every year until it was liquidated.

1424. Has it been so liquidated?—Yes, since I became rector; I think about 10 years ago.

1425. Are the burial fees in this cemetery the same as in the churchyard?—They are not exactly the same; the Act of Parliament provides that they shall be the same, unless it shall appear to the rector, churchwardens, and vestrymen that different fees would be desirable; and different fees were originally fixed. There could not be the same fees, because the new cemetery was divided into three different grounds, first ground, second ground, and third ground; one considered more desirable than the others, and the fees were much larger in the first ground than the second, and in the second than in the third.

1426. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] The fees were influenced by the locality?—Yes.

1427. Lord *Mahon*.] Which was the highest of any of these; the various

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1428. What are the fees in the cemetery and in the churchyard?—Churchyard: Grown persons, 18s. 8d.; children, 10s. 6d.; and one half more for non-parishioners.

CEMETERY :

	Catacombs.			1st Ground.			2d Ground.			3d Ground.		
	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.	s.	d.	
Parishioners :												
Grown - - -	4	4	-	2	-	-	1	5	-	Grown	12	6
Children - -	3	3	-	1	9	-	-	14	-			
Non-parishioners :										Children	7	-
Grown - - -	6	6	-	3	3	-	1	11	6			
Children - -	4	4	-	1	15	-	1	1	-			

I ought to mention that, I think about 10 years ago, or more, we found, before the Bill which is called the Anatomy Bill passed, there was a great desire of persons to be buried in front of my church, because, from the lights, every motion could be seen, and no person could come to disturb a body without being seen by the watchman. I found it absolutely necessary, in consequence, to raise the fees for burial there, so as to diminish the large number. I was afraid of the consequences of some effluvia, but we have never found it in any one instance.

1429. Can you state the sum expended in the purchase and construction of the cemetery?—It was a large sum. As far as my judgment goes, it was very injudiciously expended.

1430. You think the same object might have been attained at a less expense?—I think so; but it is a very fine ground.

1431. Colonel Fox.] Have you an endowment?—No, there is no endowment; the Duchess Dudley, in Charles II.'s time, left her house and stables for a rectory-house, but the Lord Chancellor determined that its locality entirely unfitted it for that, and therefore, under a decree of the Court of Chancery, it has been let out on building leases.

1432. Sir William Clay.] There are still, on an average, from 400 to 500 burials take place in the old churchyard?—Yes.

1433. What is the extent of the old churchyard?—I should think nearly two acres.

1434. Does that include the site of the church?—I should think it does.

1435. You have stated that there is a portion of the ground considered nearly equal to fresh ground, not having been disturbed for nearly 20 years?—Yes, except for the bones, which will remain for centuries. A portion has not been disturbed for nearly 40 years.

1436. What arrangement is followed in interments? Do you proceed regularly through the ground, allotting a certain portion to the burials of each year?—No; we have, as nearly as possible, begun from the church on the side the furthest from the street, and gone on gradually; but the sexton, I believe, has allowed persons to fix on any spots which they prefer.

1437. Is there any regulation as to the depth of a grave?—Yes; we insist on a grave, in the first instance, being at least from 12 to 14 feet deep.

1438. Is there any regulation as to the distance from an old grave?—No; I believe the general rule is to go as near as possible.

1439. You are not able to state to the Committee how near they go?—I take it they go as near as they can.

1440. The Committee have had evidence before them rendering it exceeding probable that where the graves are very near, the wall of earth between is not sufficient to prevent effluvia from the old grave?—I have never heard of anything of that sort having been felt.

1441. You are not aware of any regulation as to the intervening space between an old grave and a new one?—No; I think they put them, as near as possible, side by side.

1442. The general depth you say is 14 feet; is there any regulation as to the number of corpses which may be put into a grave of that depth?—No; the only circumstance

circumstance required is that there shall be a certain quantity of earth above the coffin.

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1443. What depth of earth is required?—Never to have less than three feet; the grave-digger would be subject to reprimand and dismissal, if it was found to be less.

1444. Are there directions given him to that effect?—Yes.

1445. Are they given by the vestry?—No, they have nothing to do with it.

1446. By yourself?—Yes; and the churchwardens.

1447. Colonel Fox.] Have you ever had occasion to reprimand or dismiss a grave-digger in consequence of a breach of duty in that respect?—I have often remonstrated as to carelessness with regard to those bones; I have spoken of it more because it is decidedly an impropriety that the least remains should be seen.

1448. Have you ever had to find fault with or dismiss any grave-digger in consequence of disobedience to orders with regard to the depth of earth on the grave?—No; a man who appeared before this Committee last week has been there 12 years, and has been always in very good, stout health; I have every reason to believe he has obeyed the orders I have given him with regard to any effluvia escaping. Having been there sixteen years, I never have heard of a complaint from the neighbours. We have three schools, the windows of which open into the churchyard, and we all think it a great advantage to have that free circulation of air; we have never in any one instance found any effluvia from the churchyard. On the contrary, it is a decidedly healthy spot.

1449. Sir William Clay.] It was from the apprehension that the churchyard was not large enough for the burials occurring in the parish that the new ground was provided?—It was not large enough; it was quite full 40 years ago.

1450. Was there any regulation in the new burying-ground as to the depth of graves?—I believe, in the new burying-ground, in consequence of its being a very heavy, thick clay, the same order does not prevail; but I think they never allow a new grave to be less than 12 feet deep.

1450*. Is there an absence of regulation in that ground as to the distance between a new grave and an old one?—I believe, in consequence of there being more spare ground, they never approach so near; but there is no order.

1451. You cannot state what is the fact?—I believe six inches are allowed between the graves.

1452. Is there any regulation as to the number of coffins which may be put into the grave in the new yard?—No; but there must be a certain depth of earth above the uppermost; I believe that is three feet.

1453. Is there any express plan laid down for proceeding with interments in the new ground, so that the whole may be occupied before the remains are disturbed?—Yes, much more than in the old ground; a clergyman lives there, who is the sexton, and who takes a great interest in it, and makes it as acceptable as he can. I have considered all his arrangements very judicious.

1454. Is that burial-ground equally under your direction, as rector of the parish of St. Giles's, as the old ground?—I think not; because the Act of Parliament put it under the direction of the rector, churchwardens, and certain trustees, who are elected by the vestry.

1455. That cemetery is under the control of a board specially created by the Act of Parliament under which the burial-ground is formed?—Yes.

1456. Have they laid down any plan for interments in that ground?—They have so far laid down a plan as to divide the ground into first, second, and third; I know they have not done what the sexton has done, namely, dividing it; putting against the wall certain marks and numbers. There were some rules printed 40 years ago, but they are totally inapplicable to the present times; the committee meet twice a year or oftener, and visit the ground sometimes, and always examine the state of it; I believe there are no rules except those given *vis à voce* by the rector, churchwardens, and trustees.

1457. Have any rules been given as to depths of graves, and distance of graves, and so on?—I think I can undertake to say none have been given.

1458. What proportion of this ground is already occupied?—Not nearly half.

1459. How many years has it been used?—Nearly 40 years, but for 30 years out of that period the new burial-ground was comparatively very little used indeed; the objection arose from different circumstances; one was, the facility with which in that district it was supposed the persons called body-snatchers could steal the bodies; and though there were dogs kept on purpose to give

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notice, I believe at that time there was some ground to suspect that the bodies were removed, and till about 12 years ago.

1460. At what period did that feeling cease to operate?—It has ceased to operate about 12 years. Attention had been paid to that before the Anatomy Bill, and the ground was growing in popularity before that time; it has been growing in popularity ever since the present sexton was there.

1461. The present average annual amount of burials there is nearly 1,400?—Yes.

1462. Have you any means of forming an estimate as to the rate at which that number of interments is occupying the ground; what space of ground it occupies in the course of the year?—Much will depend upon the judicious management of the ground, and the number of old graves re-opened. If conducted as it has lately been, it would not be fully occupied, as I have been informed, for 50 years.

1463. Lord *Mahon*.] From the evidence you have given, the Committee may conclude that a passage, quoted at page 165 of Mr. Walker's work, and extracted from a weekly newspaper in the month of September 1838, is altogether ill-founded; the passage is this: "What a horrible place is St. Giles's churchyard; it is full of coffins up to the surface; coffins are broken up before they are decayed, and bodies are removed to the bone-house before they are sufficiently decayed to make their removal decent"?—What appeared in the newspaper excited a great deal of anxiety on the part of the churchwardens, who were in town; I was absent for my summer vacation, and they sent to me that paper and another. I thought it of such great importance, that I urged them to spare neither time nor trouble in ascertaining the real truth. The person who wrote that letter signed a name to it, and I think he dated it somewhere near Penton-street, Pentonville; he mentioned also the number of the house. We took the greatest pains possible to ascertain who this person was, and if he was there, that we might have his evidence. We found there was no person known in the whole street of that name; that it was entirely a forgery from beginning to end. We said, We will not rest upon this, if the fact is true we ought to put an end to such practices; and we examined every person who was able to give facts; the undertakers, grave-digger, and sexton, and the vestry-keeper, who could see what occurred, were examined, and there was not a shadow of truth in it; the evidence went point blank to the contrary. A very respectable person of the name of Andrews, one of the most employed of all the undertakers, declared he had never seen anything of the sort, no indecency, nothing improper, and no removal of any body or any coffin. The same sort of attack had been made seven years before, and there was another last year, under the signature of "Anti-Pestilence." It was a mixture, of history, facts, and deductions, all of which were equally false.

1464. Has it ever come before you to receive complaints or to hear information with regard to the abstraction of coffins?—No, I have heard no complaints.

1465. So far as your information goes you have had no reason to believe that in the night coffins have been abstracted from St. Giles's churchyard?—No; I know that some years ago, I believe seven years ago, there were a great many broken pieces which had accumulated, and they were taken away by order of the churchwardens,

1466. Colonel *Fox*.] You never heard of any leaden coffins being abstracted?—No, never.

1467. Do you think there would be any superstitious objection to quicklime being placed in the coffins?—I do not know; it is done on the Continent very much; but I should be afraid there would be objections here.

1468. You are probably of opinion that it would be better to remove grave-yards from the interior of large towns?—Unless they are under very good management; I have often thought, there being very few interments in the course of the year in the city of London, that those grave-yards are beneficial rather than not, because they allow more open space and more circulation of air. I do not object to grave-yards in large towns, if under good management; and should certainly think any compulsory and indiscriminate legislative enactment uncalled for.

1469. Sir *William Clay*.] Have you any vaults under St. Giles's church?—Both under the church, and under the chapel, at the new burying-ground.

1470. Do many interments take place in those under St. Giles's church?—Very few; I should say not above six or eight in a year.

1471. Are

1471. Are those vaults arched?—Yes.

1472. Is the entrance to them within the church?—No, from the churchyard, in the very centre of the side of the church; not near the entrance of the church.

1473. Colonel *Fox*.] Are they ventilated?—Yes; very fairly, I think.

1474. Do not you apprehend that the ventilation is a bad thing for the public?—No; I have not found that. In the course of 16 years I have not heard of anything unpleasant arising more than twice, and that was immediately stopped.

1475. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Have you many vaults in the new burying-ground?—Not many.

1476. How do you reconcile the statement made in Pennant's History of London with reference to the condition of St. Giles's churchyard?—I have not the least doubt it was so in former times; it would be ten times worse in that time than it is now; in those days the whole of St. George's Bloomsbury belonged to St. Giles's; the very preamble to our Act of Parliament establishes the fact of the crowded state of the churchyard.

1477. Lord *Mahon*.] Have you any observation to make with reference to the remarks of Pennant, in his account of London, in page 157: "I have," says he, "in the churchyard of St. Giles's, seen with horror a great square pit, with many rows of coffins piled one upon the other, all exposed to sight and smell; some of the piles were incomplete, expecting the mortality of the night. I turned away disgusted at the view, and scandalized at the want of police, which so little regards the health of the living as to permit so many putrid corpses, tacked between some slight boards, dispersing their dangerous effluvia over the capital, to remain unburied?"—What took place in Pennant's time I have no means of ascertaining, but a total change had taken place, I believe, long before I came to London.

1478. *Chairman*.] You state that the churchyard of St. Giles's is not full; how do you account for its being so much raised above the level of the street?—Because interments have been going on for centuries. In the preamble to our Act of Parliament it was stated that they had, at a very great expense, brought in a great quantity of new earth to cover the ground.

1479. Assuming that by any legislative enactment you were prevented interring in the churchyard adjoining the church, would any pecuniary loss be incurred by you, or any inconvenience suffered?—A very great pecuniary loss. Our diocesan, the Bishop of London, sent a circular round to all his clergy, previously to this present Session of Parliament, requesting them to state the average amount of the fees for the last three years, which I took great pains to send accurately to him; I understood that it was with a view of submitting it to Parliament.

1480. If no pecuniary loss has been incurred by you by the new burying-ground, why should you fear that you will sustain a loss from carrying it further?—The new burying-ground has been of great service to me; it is the only thing which has kept up the living, for our burials round the church have fallen off; I do not say that I should lose all derived from that source now, but nearly all; for when the old burial-ground was shut up, (as it was for 20 years, except in the case of those who could prove that their families had been buried there before,) they did not go during these 20 years to the new burying-ground, but they went to other places. The Roman-catholics liked the old ground, because it was consecrated by a Roman-catholic bishop; now they would not go to the new ground, they would go elsewhere.

1481. You think that in case of interments in the old burying-ground being prevented, they would not go to the new burial-ground?—Some, perhaps, might, but most would not; I should certainly be a considerable loser.

1482. Lord *Mahon*.] You say you would suffer a great pecuniary loss from persons being debarred of the churchyard; but supposing the same Act were to prohibit interments in other churchyards as well, would you not be quite free from pecuniary loss?—I must say, that if the bodies were sent out from London, and were buried in my cemetery, in all probability that would compensate for more than I should lose; but this is not at all probable.

1483. *Chairman*.] If there was a general enactment, instead of a local one, do you think there would be no loss to you?—Provided the new cemetery was not included in the general enactment; but that is now in the midst of houses, though it was not originally.

Rev. J. E. Tyler.

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1484. Mr. Ainsworth.] Do you allow interments of bodies not of your parish?

—Yes, a great many.

1485. It is open to all?—Yes.

1486. Chairman.] The letter of the Bishop of London to the clergy of his diocese, merely put a particular case to them of interments not taking place in their churchyards, without putting the general position?—The question of the Bishop of London was merely as to the amount of fees received for burials during the last three years, specifying those that were for burials in the churchyards and in vaults, and also from mural tablets, and so on.

1487. Sir William Clay.] Do you find that the poorer classes of your parishioners are in the habit of attending the burials of their friends in the new burying-ground?—Yes, to a very considerable extent.

1488. Do you think the distance from the parish church operates to prevent their doing so, or that it is attended with inconvenience?—I should think so, from the numbers; the numbers that attend an Irish funeral in the churchyard are sometimes very inconveniently large indeed.

1489. The Irish burials principally take place in the old churchyard?—Yes.

1490. As far as you know, is the distance of the new churchyard from the principal part of the parish felt to be a hardship or inconvenience?—No, certainly not; because they have now the option of coming to the old burial-ground; but were they deprived of that option, they would think it a hardship.

1491. It is perfectly at the option of all classes of your inhabitants to have their friends interred in the old or in the new?—Yes.

1492. Colonel Fox.] The majority prefer the new?—No, I believe a great number of those not to be parishioners, but from St. Pancras parish, from Islington, and from the neighbouring parishes round.

1493. Sir William Clay.] Has St. Pancras any burying-ground?—I am not aware they have any except that round the old church, and under the new church, and district chapels.

1494. You think that with respect to your own parish the majority of burials in humble life takes place in the old churchyard?—Yes, I should think so, with the exception of the paupers from the workhouse, who are buried in the cemetery.

1495. You would infer from that perhaps that the distance of the new churchyard was felt to be an inconvenience by the poorer classes?—I can scarcely say that. We must take into account the other motives I have mentioned, such as their wish to be buried in a ground consecrated by a Roman-catholic bishop, and long custom.

1496. Lord Mahon.] May there not be another motive, that the fees for interment are much lower in the churchyard than in the cemetery?—The fees in the cemetery are very various; but in what is called the public ground in the cemetery, they are lower than in the churchyard.

1497. At page 232 of Mr. Walker's work, there is this statement; is it correct, as far as your observation and experience goes: "It has for a long period been, and now is, the custom in a majority of the burying-grounds belonging to the establishment, to impose double burial fees upon extra-parochial dead"?—Yes, generally we do that in the old burial ground; but we do not now in the cemetery, in the third or common ground.

1498. How many years has the old ground been re-opened?—It was re-opened about 1824, or 1825; it was very shortly before I came into the parish.

1499. What is the average of interments in that ground?—It would not be fair to go through those years, for they came back gradually; they had been in the habit of going to other grounds.

1500. Do you suppose there have been 300 buried each year?—Yes, I should think the average would be hardly less than 400; there may have been 500; seven or eight years ago we buried a great many more than we do now.

1501. That would make 6,800 in two acres of ground; how can that number be put within that time into two acres of ground?—I cannot reckon so; the majority of those were children, and four children would go where one grown person was buried; there are also six or eight in one grave; besides, the bodies buried there in 1827 and 1828 would have been decomposed, and the coffins entirely rotted before this time; it is entirely on gravel.

1502. It would be dug up again?—Yes; I am informed that, in the new burial-ground, it would not be in so short a time, because that is clay, and the decomposition of the human frame does not go on so rapidly.

1503. Sir

1503. *Sir William Clay.*] Do you think it is at all generally known that the remains of persons interred in London churchyards are not left undisturbed for so long a time as 12 years?—Twelve years was, I think, a shorter time than the fact; but I believe it is very generally understood that they are decomposed within 14 years; still I think it very undesirable that they should be removed.

1504. *Chairman.*] You account for 6,800 bodies being placed in 17 years, from the circumstance that those bodies which have been interred in the early part of that time have decayed?—Yes, such is the fact.

1505. *Sir William Clay.*] It would appear, from the estimate you have given to the Committee, the annual amount of burials in St. Giles's old churchyard is more than you would consider proper and decent?—No, I do not see that inference at all, for a great portion of the soil has never been touched for nearly the last 40 years; there was a great anxiety to deposit the bodies in the front of the churchyard; I have no doubt the bodies having decayed that ground was made use of again, whereas ground which had not been made use of during 30 years behind the church was not touched, and is still quite free for proper interments.

1506. You do not know in what period of time, on the average rate of burying in the old churchyard, the ground would be again occupied?—No; but I have been in the habit of asking, "If we go on at this rate, will not the ground be soon full?" and I have been answered, "No, the ground will never be full."

1507. *Mr. Cowper.*] Do you believe it is generally known by the relatives that the bodies do not remain longer?—Yes. The bodies are never disturbed; only, when decomposition has entirely taken place, the bones which are found when the ground is dug again for a new interment, are re-interred.

1508. Within the period of 20 years the coffins are broken up?—No; they are entirely rotted, and disappear in that time.

1509. How is it with regard to the leaden coffins?—We never allow leaden coffins to be buried in the churchyard.

James Anderton, Esq. called in; and Examined.

1510. *Chairman.*] WHAT situation do you fill in the City?—I am one of the Common Council.

J. Anderton, Esq.

1511. Have you turned your attention to the state of the churchyards in the metropolis?—I have, but more from report than from personal inspection of them, perhaps.

1512. Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee what has come under your observation?—With regard to St. Martin's, Ludgate, they have no churchyard attached to that, and they have been obliged to bury under the church, and paupers I believe have been buried there in common wooden coffins; a very short time ago the church was under repair, and I observed them carting away pieces of the decayed coffins, and bones and ashes by cartloads.

1513. Were the bones quite dry?—Yes, quite dry; I have no doubt they had been under the church a great many years; that is in the very heart of the city, on Ludgate Hill; I believe that the attention of the Bishop of London was called to it, and that he directed that no further interment should take place under the church.

1514. At what period was this?—Within the last few months.

1515. Was there any offensive effluvia?—Yes; so bad that I was going down into the vaults and I returned again.

1516. Do you consider that effluvia injurious to health?—I have no doubt of it.

1517. What is your opinion of the general state of the churchyards in the metropolis?—My opinion is that they ought not to be permitted to exist any longer, that they are disgraceful to us as a civilized country.

1518. Is there a strong feeling against the interment of bodies in the city?—I think it is general.

1519. As being unhealthy and injurious?—Yes; the churchyards not being sufficient to contain the bodies.

Mr. George Starkins Wallace, called in; and Examined.

1520. *Chairman.*] IN what profession are you?—I am a livery-stable keeper, in Whitechapel.

Mr. G. S. Wallace.

Mr. G. S. Wallace.

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1521. Sir *William Clay*.] Will you have the kindness to state anything which comes within your knowledge on the subject of the investigation before this Committee?—The custom of burying in open graves in the parish of Whitechapel we consider to be a great nuisance; within these two months four pews have been disturbed, and bodies placed under the pews at about four feet from the flooring. In removing the ground, I saw several other bodies lying within three feet of the flooring of the pews, without any arch or any covering, further than the coffin.

1522. You speak now of the area of the church itself?—Yes.

1523. Were those graves under the pews or under the aisle?—Under the pews, and dug so close to some of the columns that support the roof, I consider it very likely to endanger the building.

1524. How long is it since those interments took place?—The last I am speaking of took place about six weeks back; the two others, which lie near the same spot, were buried in the year 1825.

1525. There was nothing, in short, between the persons occupying the pews in the church and the dead bodies, but from three to four feet of earth, and the boarding of the floors of the pews?—Just so.

1526. Can you state to the Committee how many interments take place on the average of years, or in a given time?—I understand about three a year in the church.

1527. How happens it that there are so few; are the fees higher?—The fees are considerably higher.

1528. What is the size of Whitechapel churchyard?—Whitechapel churchyard should be divided into three parts: there are two parts leasehold and one part freehold; one part of the churchyard was leased for 56 years, granted in 1791, so that it has but five years before the lease is out; the other part is leasehold for 300 years from Midsummer 1728, so that there are about 186 years of that remaining; the third part is freehold.

1529. Can you state the respective proportions of each of those?—Yes; the part which was leased in 1728, is about 160 feet by 79; the freehold part is about 260 feet by 63; but then the dimensions of the church are included in that, which is 77 by 60; the remaining part, which was granted in 1791, I have not the dimensions of, but I should say it is about one-fourth of the other part of the leasehold; that is considerably the smallest portion.

1530. Have burials gone on, and are they now going on in the last-named portion of the leasehold?—No, they have ceased for some few years.

1531. For how long?—I should think for the last 12 years.

1532. From the impression that the remains will be liable to be disturbed, from the ground falling in on the termination of the lease?—Yes, and the doubt whether we can purchase it; we have the power of purchasing it by a Local Act of Parliament at any period, but it is in Chancery, and there is some difficulty as to arranging the purchase.

1533. Supposing the purchase not to be effected, the ground would revert to the proprietor for any purpose to which he chose to employ it?—Yes.

1534. Do you know the extent of the churchyard?—I think in the freehold there is about 11,760 square feet; I think the other is rather larger.

1535. What are the number of burials in the course of a year in the churchyard?—I understand from our parish clerk he considers the average about 200.

1536. Are you aware of any regulations as to the number of coffins to be put into graves, and the depth to which the graves must be dug?—Of late years graves have been dug much deeper than formerly; I cannot state the depth.

1537. Are you aware of any regulation as to the depth of earth on the last coffin?—I am not aware of any whatever.

1538. The Committee presume that, as in other burial-grounds, more than one coffin is put into each grave?—Yes, a great many; you cannot open a grave without opening it by the side of other coffins; I should say as much as 10 years ago the parishioners considered the churchyard full, and were in treaty for an adjoining piece of ground, which is now a timber yard, but the purchase of it went off, for two reasons, one was their wanting a larger sum of money than we thought it was worth, and another cause was that we considered we were contributing to the interests of Brazenose College, without their contributing to the burial-ground.

1539. Are the Committee to understand that new graves are opened so near to

to the old graves as to discover the coffins in the old graves?—Most certainly; *Mr. G. S. Wallace.*
we see the sides of them almost in every grave I have seen opened.

1540. How near to the surface is the last coffin placed in one of those graves before it is considered full?—That will depend on circumstances; but I should say the ground seldom covers them more than three feet. *14 April 1842.*

1541. You have stated that the inhabitants of the parish considered 10 or 12 years ago, that the grave-yard was full; that impression since is more strong, probably?—Certainly.

1542. Do you consider that there would be a desire on the part of persons residing in the parish to concur in the providing of a fresh burial-ground?—I can hardly answer that question; as to their feeling 10 years ago, they were anxious to get this piece of ground; they would have given a liberal price for it; but they considered that as Brazenose College would partake of the benefit, they ought to contribute a portion of the expense.

1543. Do you think there is a strong feeling on their part that a new grave-yard should be provided, and that it would be beneficial?—I have no doubt of it; they are relieved in a great measure lately by the provision of two new cemeteries within two miles of us.

1544. Supposing any legislative facilities were given to the parish to procure a burying-ground elsewhere, do you think the feeling of advantage of the inhabitants of Whitechapel parish is such that they would be disposed to raise money, and go to the expense of providing a fresh ground?—I think they would; a short time ago they were all well disposed to it, but they have now other cemeteries in their neighbourhood.

1545. Are the charges in these cemeteries greater or smaller than in your parish?—I cannot say.

1546. Is the new cemetery in the Tower Hamlets opened?—Yes, that is the cemetery near Bow: that was opened about a year and a half ago for interments.

1547. Do many interments from the parish of Whitechapel take place in that cemetery?—That I cannot say.

1548. You do not know whether the circumstance of opening that cemetery has decreased the number of burials in Whitechapel ground?—I am not aware that it has; there is another burying-ground, called Sheen's burying-ground opened some years ago; that I understand from the rector reduced the number of burials considerably.

1549. Do you live near the church?—Yes, close by.

1550. Have you been aware of any unpleasant effluvia from bodies buried in the churchyard?—I am not aware of any; our churchyard is rather open.

1551. Have you heard of any such complaints being made by your neighbours?—I have not.

The Rev. *John Channing Abdy*, called in; and further Examined.

1552. *Chairman.*] WILL you have the goodness to state to the Committee what has come under your personal knowledge as to any burial-ground in the parish of St. John's, Southwark?—There is a ground, called Butler's-ground, in the parish of St. John's. What I have to state in reference to that ground is this, that it is the property of a private individual, who is an undertaker, not belonging, of course, to the church, nor to any sect, but a private speculation, and, as such, I cannot but deem it subversive of all order and propriety with regard to the burial of the dead; and further, I conceive that the mode of interment in one part of this place is decidedly objectionable, on the ground of health; he has what he terms a vault, which runs under four houses; in that place which he calls a vault, he places the bodies of the dead, which are simply in coffins without lead. *Rev. J. C. Abdy.*

1553. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Were those vaults originally the cellars of the buildings or houses?—I am not prepared to say whether they were originally cellars, or were built at the same time that the houses were, for the purpose of vaults.

1554. *Mr. Cowper.*] Do you know whether the houses have any cellars?—They have no cellars.

1555. At what distance from the floor of the houses are the vaults?—Immediately under the flooring.

1556. Do you know what depth of ground intervenes?—I do not; but I am given

Rev. J. C. Abdy. given to understand that there is a brick-work between the flooring and the building of the vaults.

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1557. Are you aware whether the inhabitants of those houses perceive any effect from the burying of those corpses underneath their houses?—I am not.

1558. Is the vault under all the four houses?—Yes.

1559. Mr. Ainsworth.] Is there any mould, or does the arch of the vault come up to the floors of the rooms?—I do not know.

1560. How long has this burial ground been made?—I should apprehend 20 years, more or less.

1561. Who is the officiating minister?—Of course there is no minister; the person improperly called a minister is only the undertaker's man, who acts on other occasions as a porter.

1562. Does he read the service of the Church of England?—He reads the service, but I think profanely, because not being a clergyman, he has not any official authority to read such service; he also wears a surplice, and there is a house in this same building called the minister's house, deceiving the people under the idea that they are going to be buried in a consecrated ground.

1563. Chairman.] Do you suppose that those whose friends are to be buried imagine him to be a clergyman of the Church of England?—Many of them do, I have no doubt.

1564. Sir Wm. Clay.] Do you know the charges which are made for burial in this cemetery?—The ostensible charge for fees is somewhat lower than those demanded by the church.

1565. Is there any other circumstance you would wish to state?—When I had the honour of appearing before the Committee last I made a statement, which I have read over, and which is perfectly correct; but I thought it my duty, after having given the evidence I did, as late curate of the parish of St. George's, to see the rector, who is now present, and the remark I have to make in consequence of having seen that gentleman is, that though I stand completely firm as to the accuracy of what I stated of things existing when I was curate, I am given to understand that things are very different now.

The Rev. John Houghton, called in; and Examined.

Rev. J. Houghton.

1566. Chairman.] YOU are Rector of St. George's, Southwark?—I am.

1567. Will you have the kindness to state any information you are able to give on the subject now before the Committee?—With reference to the vaults under the church, I have been frequently into the vaults and I never perceived any unpleasant effluvia to arise from what had been interred there; I have one of my own children buried there; had there been anything of the kind, I certainly should not have done that.

1568. Does the opening into these vaults go from the church, or is it from any aperture outside?—In the inside of the church.

1569. Mr. Ainsworth.] How is it closed up?—By a door.

1570. Is the vault ventilated, outside?—Yes, very well ventilated by apertures on both sides.

1571. Is the vault bricked and arched?—I believe it is.

1572. Chairman.] Have you never perceived any smell in the church?—No.

1573. How many dead bodies may there be?—I am really unable to answer with accuracy; there are a great number.

1574. Does it not appear remarkable that that large number should be there without any smell?—There is not the least smell; they are all interred in lead; none are allowed to be interred there without lead.

1575. Mr. Ainsworth.] What size is your churchyard?—We have within a few years had it very much increased in size, in consequence of the old churchyard being supposed to be full.

1576. How have you enlarged it?—By pulling down houses.

1577. Have you purchased land?—Yes.

1578. How has that been purchased?—By the parish.

1579. Chairman.] Out of what fund?—By annuities; we have sunk a certain sum of money, and they were allowed a certain interest, according to the age of the individual; it was met by a rate on the parish at large.

1580. Was

1580. Was it a special rate for that purpose, or taken out of the poor's rate?—A special rate for that purpose.

1581. To what amount in the pound?—Many of the annuitants have died off; it is comparatively small now; the church rate and that together do not amount to 2*d.* or 2½*d.* in the pound.

1582. Mr. *Ainsworth.*] Was there any objection to levying this rate?—It was levied under a local Act of Parliament.

1583. *Chairman.*] What is the date of that Act?—I cannot at the moment answer that question.

1584. How many years has the new churchyard been made?—From 25 to 30, probably.

1585. What is the size of your burial-ground, including this new ground?—I have never measured it, but I should think about an acre and a half.

1586. Is it very full?—The old ground was supposed to be full when the new ground was purchased, but no one has been interred in the old ground for the last 16 years, excepting here and there where their friends had been buried, and the graves have not been full.

1587. Assuming an Act of Parliament was passed prohibiting the burial of the dead within the precincts of this town, is it your impression that a rate of 1*d.* in the pound would be sufficient to make compensation to the clergy for any loss of dues, and the purchase by the parish?—I should think not; for, in the first place, my stipend, which is 480*l.* a year, is also paid out of that rate which I have alluded to of 2½*d.* in the pound.

1588. That is sanctioned by an Act of Parliament?—Yes, in lieu of tithes and Easter offering; the 80*l.* is instead of a house; the parish have the option of building me a house if they think proper; if that house should be built, I should relinquish the 80*l.* a year.

1589. Is there any particular thickness of lead required by custom for the coffins?—It is not lead alone; it is always deposited in a wooden coffin; I do not know the thickness of any except that of my own child, which I should think was about a quarter of an inch thick; I do not know whether the coffins of grown persons are made thicker.

1590. Is it milled or cast lead?—That I am not able to say.

1591. Do you know whether the gas generates and finds a vent?—I do not think it is possible for any vent to exist in those which have been interred in my own vault; I have gone down repeatedly and never found any inconvenience.

1592. Mr. *Ainsworth.*] How many interments have you in the vaults in the course of a year?—Perhaps not more than 40 in a year.

1593. You charge extra price for interment in the vault?—Yes; there is only one part belongs to myself, the greater part belongs to the parish.

1594. Do the parish charge the same fees as you do?—More.

1595. What is the state of the new burial-ground?—There is a considerable portion of that where no individual has been buried.

1596. What is the average number of interments in your ground in the course of a year?—The last year there were 535, but that includes the number in the churchyard adjoining the church, in the vault, and also what have been interred at a burial-ground called the Lock burying-ground, which is in the Dover Road.

1597. Can you state the number interred in your ground adjoining the church?—I should think not above one-half.

1598. Is the Lock burying-ground under your control?—Yes.

1599. Was the land of the Lock burial-ground purchased in the same manner as the addition to the churchyard, by a rate?—I have heard that the ground was left to the parish.

1600. *Chairman.*] What should you say is the whole number of coffins which have been laid in your churchyard?—I am unable to answer that.

1601. Taking the number at 250 per annum, for how many years has that been the number?—I should think not more than two years.

1602. How many were interred previous to that time?—During the time of the cholera there were as many as 1,260.

1603. For how many years has this grave-yard been opened?—From 25 to 30.

1604. What should you say was the average?—I should think it might be more than 700.

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1605. Taking 700 for 20 years, that would be 14,000 bodies; how can that number be placed in a space such as you mention?—We are enabled to go very deep in that ground, as much as from 18 to 20 feet deep.

1606. Is it dry?—Yes.

1607. The Committee hear that the Lock burying-ground has been in a very bad state?—It is in a much better state than it was, in consequence of a sewer having been carried up the road, that enables them to go much deeper than they could formerly.

1608. What was its state formerly?—They could not go more than six or seven feet before they came to water; the sewer has drained it, and they are enabled to go as much as 14 or 15 feet.

1609. How many coffins have been placed in that ground?—I should think about half the number I have mentioned.

1610. What is the size of it?—It is not so large as the other ground; I should think about a quarter of an acre.

1611. About 7,000 bodies have been buried in that?—Yes, probably.

1612. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You say you have a great deal of room still left?—Yes.

1613. Can you say how much; have you a third?—I should think more than that.

1614. Two-thirds?—Yes, nearly so.

William Miller, called in; and Examined.

William Miller.

1615. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your occupation?—A jobbing, labouring man, when I can get anything to do.

1616. Have you been a grave-digger in Globe-fields, Mile End?—Yes.

1617. Is that a private burying-ground?—Yes.

1618. To whom does it belong?—Mr. Thomas Tagg.

1619. Whereabouts is it situated?—On the left-hand side of Mile End, going up Globe-road.

1620. Have many pits been dug in it for the depositing of bodies previously interred?—Yes.

1621. Where did they come from?—Out of coffins which were emptied for others to go into the graves.

1622. Where did they come from?—From Globe-fields.

1623. Were the coffins chucked in with them?—No; they were broken up and burnt.

1624. Were they bones, or bodies, that were interred?—Yes; the bones and bodies as well.

1625. Were they entire, or in a state of decomposition?—Some were dry bones, and some were perfect.

1626. Were they bodies?—Yes.

1627. What did you do with them?—Chucked them into the pit.

1628. What sort of pit?—A deep square pit, about four feet wide, and seven or eight feet deep.

1629. How many bodies did you chuck in?—I cannot say, they were so numerous; each pit would hold about a dozen.

1630. How many of those pits did you dig?—I suppose I dug a matter of 20 myself.

1631. Do you mean to say you filled them all with dead bodies?—Yes; with dead bodies and bones.

1632. How near to the surface of the earth did those dead bodies or bones come?—Within about two feet.

1633. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] With what did you cover them?—With earth.

1634. With nothing else?—No.

1635. Mr. *Cowper*.] You did not put in any quick-lime?—No.

1636. Sir *William Clay*.] Those bodies were taken out of the graves in this burying-ground?—Yes.

1637. That was to make room for other corpses?—Yes.

1638. What is the size of this ground?—It is rather better than half an acre.

1639. *Chairman*.]

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1639. *Chairman.*] How many bodies are buried in that ground within a year?—I cannot say; I suppose there are 14,000 have been buried in that ground.

1640. How long has it been open?—Since the year 1820.

1641. Do you recollect any circumstance which occurred there about the month of October 1839?—Yes.

1642. Will you state it to the Committee?—Some boys were at work there; a policeman on the railroad happened to see them in the act of taking some bones out of baskets, and got a policeman in the police force of the metropolis, and sent him in and seized the boys with a bag of nails and plates off the coffins, going away to sell them, and going to sell the bones.

1643. To what purpose are the bones applied?—I do not know.

1644. What is done with the wood of the coffins?—Burnt for their own private use.

1645. By whom?—By the sexton.

1646. *Sir William Clay.*] Supposing it is a lead coffin, what is done with the lead?—They never come athwart any of them there.

1647. *Mr. Couper.*] When this wood is burnt, do you observe any peculiarity about it?—Yes; I have seen the smoke come out of the chimney, and it has smelt like a piece of meat roasting.

1648. Is it burnt in the sexton's house?—Yes.

1649. *Sir William Clay.*] What was done with the iron or metal handles of the coffins?—They were burnt on the coffins when I was there, and were thrown out among the ashes about the ground anywhere.

1650. Within how recent a period after the interment have you known a coffin to be disturbed?—About 14 years.

1651. Never less than that?—No.

1652. How does that agree with what you have stated, that you have known a body come up quite whole; do you think a body will last 14 years?—Yes, where it is quite damp.

1653. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Who performs the burial-service over the dead?—A gentleman of the name of Cauch.

1654. Does he reside there?—No, he resides opposite.

1655. What is he?—I do not know that he is anything; he has formerly been a shoemaker.

1656. Does he put on a gown when he buries the dead?—Yes, a surplice.

1657. What service does he read?—The regular church service.

1658. *Chairman.*] Have you been through Stepney churchyard?—I have been through the churchyard, and have seen scull-bones and arm-bones and teeth lying on the surface of the earth.

1659. Are there sheep feeding in the yard?—Yes, I have seen sheep in the yard.

1660. Have you ever seen children playing with the bones?—Yes, I have.

1661. Do you know Bethnal Green churchyard?—Yes; I have been there, and have been horrified with what I have seen; I have seen them cut through coffins, and blood and corruption on the surface of the earth.

1662. What is the condition of the earth?—It is half human ashes and coffin dust, and the like of that.

1663. Do you know Limehouse churchyard?—Yes; I have been through there, and have seen them take the pieces of coffin away into a sort of square door at the side of the church.

1664. Have you seen any particular sort of maggot creeping about those churchyards?—Yes, I have seen nasty great black things as big as my finger crawling about, and when the sheep are grazing they are in the habit of picking them up and chewing them as well as the grass.

1665. Were you in the habit of performing this grave-digging without the use of spirits?—No; we were obliged to be half groggy to do it, and we cheered one another and sung to one another.

1666. You found the work so disgusting you were obliged to be half drunk?—Yes.

1667. Has it been a regular practice to chop up the bodies?—Yes; in several places, where they come athwart of them, they cut through what comes before them, and turn it all out.

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1668. When you come to a coffin, when you find a difficulty, do you cut the body through?—I have known them cut a body through, leave half in the coffin, and chuck the other half out.

1669. Have you been affected in your health at all?—Yes, with sickness and dizziness in the head, in this sort of work, and a failing in the knees.

1670. Do you remember anything of a grave-digger, a fellow-workman of yours, called Michael Cormack?—Yes; he was digging a grave one Sunday afternoon, a very small one; I was there myself; he had not been above three minutes before he came scrambling up; I had laid down on my belly to pull him up; he was some minutes before he came to; he was quite black in the face in consequence of the foul air; I got half way down, but I could not venture any further; we opened that several times, but it was the same again.

1671. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Can this bad odour be removed, or should you fill up the grave again?—We fill them up and open them again, and run all chances.

1672. Do you take any means to burn them out?—No; we take them as they come.

1673. *Chairman.*] What is the size of Limehouse churchyard?—I cannot exactly say; I suppose, take it altogether, it is nearly an acre.

1674. How many bodies do you think have been interred there?—I am sure I cannot tell; there are a great many headstones and bodystones.

1675. Is there a vault under the sexton's house in the Globe Fields?—Yes.

1676. Did the sexton die suddenly?—He was bad a few days; about three or four days.

1677. Do you remember any other persons being affected with the smell?—Yes; a young man from Stepney went there; he had rather a phthisicky cough when he went there, but nothing to speak of; but after he had worked there some time it increased upon him; he was there about 12 months, and he got so bad, he went off like the snuff of a candle.

1678. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Was he a grave-digger?—Yes.

1679. How many years was he employed there?—About 12 months; but he was formerly a grave-digger at Stepney; they carried on a horrid system there.

1680. *Chairman.*] How near to the surface of the ground are there any coffins?—There are some within six inches; I could find many within the breadth of a spade.

1681. *Mr. Cowper.*] What were the fees?—Ten shillings for a grown person is the cheapest, and five for a child.

1682. What pay did you receive for this work?—My work was day-work; I was paid 2s. a-day, and as much beer as I could drink.

1683. *Chairman.*] How did you get acquainted with this sort of work?—I was out of work, and a young man there asked me if I wanted a job; I said yes, and he said the sexton could give me a job, and he set me to work.

1684. *Mr. Cowper.*] Have you worked at it every day in the week?—No; I have been off and on five years.

1685. *Chairman.*] What quantity of spirits do you take before you begin this work?—A quarter of gin and a pot of beer and a pipe of tobacco, and then my blood begins to flow.

1686. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] You say you received 2s. a day; has that been your pay since?—No, I was quite a youth then.

1687. Do you receive more now?—Yes; I receive now sometimes 8s. a day, but I am not on that work now.

1688. What did you receive at other grounds?—In some places I had the pay of 1s. a foot, and in some others 3s. a day.

1689. *Chairman.*] Did you not feel rather awkward at this kind of work at the beginning?—Yes, I used to stand and tremble; I could not stomach it at all.

1690. *Mr. Cowper.*] Did you ever use a rope in removing the bodies from one part of the ground to another?—Yes; we used to get a rope, and put it round the bodies' necks, having first taken off the lid of the coffin, and then we dragged them by the rope, and sometimes the head would come off, and the trunk would fall down again, then we used to go down and fix it round the body and haul it up that way; and sometimes it was so tight we could not get it off again.

1691-4. *Chairman.*] Has it ever occurred to you, when a man has been digging

ging a grave, to have seen him up to his knees in slush and bloody matter?—Yes; I have seen an old sexton up to his knees in blood and slush, and so on, and I have come down and said, for God's sake get out, it will kill you; this was in Globe-fields. There was another man, of the name of Michael Dormer; I suppose that was the occasion of his death; he died in the prime of life; he used to dig graves, the bloody corruption used to run down by the sides of the graves; on a sunshiny day when he came up the stench was horrid.

1695. Sir *William Clay*.] When you were digging a new grave, what you call corruption used to run from the old grave very near it?—Yes.

1696. How near did you use to dig the new grave?—Close by the side of the old one; I have been down, and have had six or seven and thirty coffins round me, all bare and all fresh.

1697. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] How could you bear the smell?—I could not bear it at all, but I was obligated to it; there were sides, and head, and foot, one a top of the other, and buried, I suppose, within about 12 months.

1698. Mr. *Cowper*.] In what churchyards have you seen the maggots?—In Globe-fields.

1699. Any other?—Yes, in Stepney; and I have seen the sheep grazing among them.

1700. Have you seen them in the winter as well as the summer?—No, the winter kills them; they are coming on now as the warm weather comes on.

1701. Are they in any number?—Yes, in numbers; sometimes according to the soil, and the stuff they have turned out.

1702. Do you mean that the sheep have swallowed them?—They have, no doubt, chewed them and swallowed them.

1703. Is there any other circumstance you have to state?—There was a man who used to have the liberty of cutting grass in Globe-fields; he took the grass to his cow, about two arms full of this grass; in the morning she was very bad, and in a few hours she was dead, and it was supposed it was in consequence of the matter in that she had eaten.

William Ford, called in; and Examined.

1704. *Chairman*.] WHAT is your situation?—I am beadle of the parish of St. Martin's, Ludgate.

1705. You are aware that this Committee is appointed for the purpose of inquiring into the expediency of altering the system of interments in large towns?—I understand so.

1706. Will you state to the Committee what you know upon the subject generally?—The burials of our dead are all in vaults, we have no burying-ground whatever.

1707. How long have you been employed in your present capacity?—As beadle I have been only since Christmas, but I have been connected with the parish, and have had to do with the vaults for 20 years past.

1708. What is the size of the parish vaults?—We have various vaults; there is one about 41 feet long, another about 30 feet, another 25, and another about 13; I think there are five in all; the measure of them all is about 123 feet.

1709. How many bodies do they contain?—I should think they may contain 400 or 500.

1710. Have you ever observed any smell or effluvia arising from them?—We have frequently had smells arising from the vaults; more especially, I think, in damp weather or warm weather.

1711. Did you ever clear a vault from its contents in order to place other bodies in it?—I have on two occasions; the mode of doing it was to bury the bones and put the wood that was not entirely rotten between the other coffins, or make a place and throw them behind, and then to carry away what was entirely decayed, or what was reduced to that state.

1712. Is this a common practice?—It is the practice I have been directed to follow on two occasions.

1713. You remove the decayed bodies and the coffins for the purpose of making room for more?—Yes.

1714. If that was not done you could not place more in?—They have considered

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William Ford.

William Ford.

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dered some of the vaults sometimes full ; we have been getting full latterly, but not so much but that we could have gone on two or three years, but it became necessary to remove the corrupt matter that had accumulated, the coffins tumbling one on another.

1715. You stated just now that it was only dust, but now you state that you remove the corrupt matter; how do you reconcile those two answers?—The latter vault I had to clear was very damp and wet, it was nothing more than its being wetted by damp getting in.

1716. How many cart-loads did you carry away when you cleared out the vault?—I think there were about 10.

1717. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Where did you take it to?—I am not aware where it was taken; it was taken away during the repairs of the church by the contractor who repaired the church.

1718. *Chairman.*] Have you many crowded courts and a poor population in your immediate neighbourhood?—No, not to say close; there are numerous inhabitants, certainly.

1719. Do you consider that this smell you have mentioned is injurious to their health?—It did not affect any one that I am aware of out of the church, we have a passage leading from our church to the vestry; we have no communication from the vaults to the church; it is in the passage leading from the church to the vestry where the opening is.

1720. When that is opened, does any effluvia arise?—Sometimes.

1721. Are the vaults dry?—One or two are very dry; there are flues like chimneys in the vaults.

1722. Have you confined your attention to St. Martin's, Ludgate, or does your information of the City lead you to state that there are other churchyards you know which are over-crowded with bodies?—I know nothing of any other that I can speak to.

1723. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] How long is it since the vaults were cleared?—The last clearing was last Autumn—last October; I think at that time there were 10 cart-loads taken away, to the best of my remembrance.

1724. Do you allow any interments in wood, or do you require them to be in lead?—Having no other burying-place we are obliged to permit interments from our parish in wood, but we require, that if we receive any stranger, to be buried in lead.

1725. Supposing they are interred in lead, do you remove the coffins at any time?—No.

1726. Has the Bishop of London made any remark on the interments in the church of late?—I have heard so; it has come to my knowledge that he has made a remark.

1727. Have you continued to bury in your vaults since that remark?—Yes, we have no other place to bury in.

1728. Have you buried there within the last month?—Yes; we have no other place for burying but that.

1729. Do you still take in bodies in wood?—Yes, it has been held by our parish authorities that we cannot avoid it.

1730. By what parish authorities?—By the churchwardens.

1731. Has that been communicated to the Bishop?—I cannot say; our orders are not to receive any, not inhabitants, unless in lead.

1732. The congregation have never complained of any effluvia from the vaults?—I am not aware that they have.

1733. Who is the clergyman who performs the duty there?—The Rev. Mr. White, one of the Masters of Christ's Hospital, he is the curate.

1734. *Chairman.*] Has your clerk any connections buried in the vault?—His father and mother, and late wife lie buried there.

1735. Did he take any precautions in consequence of the fear that their leaden coffins might be carried away?—They were not buried in lead, but he has had fresh shells put in, with a view to preserve their remains when they begin to decay.

1736. Were they taken out of the earth?—They are not in the earth, they are piled on one another.

1737. Supposing a greater decomposition takes place in one than in another, what is done?—The other ones are generally sufficiently firm to support all behind them.

1738. Supposing

1738. Supposing the bodies, interred a longer time than the others, give way, what is done?—The top ones will necessarily follow.

Mr. Charles Ford.

1739. *Chairman.*] How is your church warmed?—By two stoves, one a patent Nott's stove, and another.

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1740. Have you ever smelled a particular smell, after the stoves have been fully warmed?—Not latterly, that relates to something a few years ago.

1741. What is that?—The stove was so fixed that I believe they drew the air to supply the stove from the vault; that has been done away with entirely.

1742. There was a smell at that time?—Yes; it could be perceived if a person stood close by the stove, and endeavoured to smell it.

1743. Do you consider leaden coffins a protection to persons entering the vault?—I conceive so, they are very close; no effluvia can arise from them if they are properly soldered; some of them are not sometimes.

1744. How do you account for the smell which you say arose at one time?—The whole of the coffins are not lead; it was from the others, and some of those that were lead are not soldered tight; when we find the outside wood fall off, we find the lead has not been soldered, consequently the effluvia can escape.

1745. Is that in consequence of the gas raising it?—No, they never have been soldered in that case.

Mr. Joseph Harvey, called in; and Examined.

1746. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your occupation?—A general builder.

Mr. Joseph Harvey.

1747. Are you parish clerk of St. Andrew Undershaft?—Yes.

1748. How long have you been in that situation?—Eighteen or nineteen years.

1749. What is the size of the churchyard?—A little above 20,000 superficial feet.

1750. Does the churchyard go all round the church?—No.

1751. Is it enclosed from the street?—Yes.

1752. Is it higher than the level of the pavement?—Yes.

1753. How much?—I should say something above two feet.

1754. What is the cause of that?—The number of bodies that have been buried there from time to time.

1755. What is the distance between the churchyard and the adjoining houses?—The greatest distance is about 23 feet.

1756. What is the nearest?—There is a warehouse close at the back of the church; that is about seven feet, I should think.

1757. How many burials, on an average, take place in the course of a year?—About a dozen is the average, I should say.

1758. Were there a great number during the cholera?—Yes.

1759. How many did you have?—Sometimes four in the course of a day; that is a very unusual thing with us; one day we buried four, and the next day four.

1760. What distance is the highest coffin from the surface of the earth?—Four feet; a little above four feet.

1761. You have none nearer the surface than four feet?—I have not seen any.

1762. Whenever a grave is dug, is there much obstruction found?—There has been a great deal.

1763. From what?—From bodies having been buried so thickly.

1764. What is the result; do they cut through?—Yes; I have seen them cut through.

1765. What do they do with the bodies or the coffins they cut through?—A great deal of wood has been consumed in the fire-places.

1766. What fire-places?—In the church, and the lead has been taken away and sold.

1767. For whose profit?—The parish; the money has been paid over to the churchwardens; in one instance they sold three tons, and that went to defray the expenses of clearing out all this old lead.

1768. What is done with the bones and bodies dug up?—I have seldom seen anything which could be called a body; nothing but bones; we have a bone-house, which is arched over.

1769. Mr. Ainsworth.] Is the churchyard completely full?—No; we can bury in it for ten or a dozen years to come, considering the population.

Mr. Joseph Harvey.

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1770. Do you mean to say that in certain portions of the burial-ground the bodies have undergone such decomposition it is merely earth?—No, not merely earth, but bones; they would be put into the bone-house.

1771. You would find nothing but bones if you went down, the bodies have been so long interred?—I should say so; I never saw but in one instance anything to the contrary, that was part of a body, but very much decomposed.

1772. *Chairman.*] Is the receptacle for the bones sufficiently large to contain them?—It would not contain all which might be collected in ten or a dozen years.

1773. Do you bury close to the walls of the church?—Yes, as close as the foundation will let us go,

1774. Do the church windows look upon that part of the churchyard?—Yes, the sill of the window is up from the ground, it is under the windows.

1775. When any graves are opened, do you experience any bad smell?—Frequently.

1776. Is your residence in the vicinity of the churchyard?—It is alongside of it, occupying 60 feet in length.

1777. When a grave is opened, do you experience any bad smell in your house?—Yes, we have, in one of the rooms of our house.

1778. Are your neighbours affected by this smell?—No, they cannot be; they are not near enough.

1779. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Do you consider that smell prejudicial to health?—We do not find it agreeable.

1780. Have you suffered from it at all?—No; it has been only from the opening of a grave, and when the body is interred, it is filled up again.

1781. *Chairman.*] Is there a free circulation of air there?—Not a very free circulation of air; there is an opening at the back, but it is very confined.

1782. Are there some flag-stones between the steps and the street?—Yes, that is from the churchyard.

1783. Have any bodies been deposited there?—Yes.

1784. What depth are they buried there?—We should not bury any there less than six feet.

1785. Did anything occur when a body was buried there?—Yes; there are some leaden coffins which had been buried, according to the latest date, 102 years before our removing them.

1786. They were removed?—Yes, they were.

1787. How many coffins were there?—Three.

1788. What was done with them?—The lead was laid in the bone-house for some time, and a hole dug for a receptacle of the bones; but the whole was completely crushed, the wood was entirely gone, and the lead lying together.

1789. Have you any vaults in the church?—Yes, there is one, the entrance to which is outside.

1790. Was not there an entrance formerly from the vestry-room into that vault?—Yes, but that was many years back.

1791. That is closed?—Yes.

1792. Is there any way of ventilating this vault?—Yes, there is an air-pipe to afford ventilation.

1793. Was there any reason why the alteration was made in the entrance from the vestry?—They found it offensive.

1794. You are a member of the vestry, of course?—Yes.

1795. Have you ever smelt in the vestry anything offensive.—Yes, but not from the bodies, but from raw hides being in a very bad state.

1796. How have you discovered that that smell arises from raw hides rather than putrid bodies?—That is very perceptible; they are in a warehouse close to the vestry window.

1797. Burials have taken place in the vault by the vestry since you have officiated, have they not?—No, it has been closed upwards of 20 years; but we did open it expressly once to bury one individual, Mr. Brunton.

1798. Was it full?—It is full, excepting room for one in a little recess.

1799. Has it come under your knowledge that in St. Mary-Axe there is in one of the cellars a place full of bones?—I have heard of such a thing, but I never witnessed it; but bones have been found in the cellars of houses near Leaden-hall-street.

1800. How do you account for that?—That it all formed a part of the church-yard formerly. Mr. Joseph Harvey.

1801. Are those near to the parish school?—No; that is on the other side of the street, at the other end; if we have anything like excavation to make, we find many bodies. 14 April 1842.

1802. When the windows of the school-house have been open in hot weather, do you ever experience any offensive smell?—No, I do not think it is possible.

1803. Are the poor healthy in your immediate neighbourhood?—Yes; I never heard to the contrary. I have been in the habit of seeing them constantly, and I do not think them otherwise till they become very aged.

1804. Did they suffer much from the cholera?—Yes, very much in the neighbourhood of St. Mary-Axe; in the neighbourhood of which there were eight houses out of nine where five men lay dead one day, and one died about 12 hours afterwards, and two others, as I believe.

1805. You are an undertaker, are you not?—I am.

1806. Has it come under your observation in the course of your profession to attend burials in any of the churchyards in the city?—Yes.

1807. What is your opinion of them?—Some are far better than others; some are not as they ought to be.

1808. Have you found any difficulty from the state of any of the grave-yards?—Yes, in Aldgate particularly, from the crowded state of the churchyard.

1809. Is it your opinion that the churchyards in the city are nearly filled?—I should say generally that is the case.

1810. Mr. Ainsworth.] Is Aldgate churchyard, in your opinion, one of the worst?—Yes; that has always been considered one of the worst.

1811. Chairman.] Do you know anything of the churchyard of St. Katharine Cree, in Leadenhall-street?—Yes.

1812. What is its state; is it full?—It is not so full as Aldgate, but it is getting very full.

1813. Is the ground of that churchyard above the ground floor of the surrounding houses?—I do not recollect.

1814. Do you know St. Dionis' Back Church?—Yes.

1815. What is the state of that?—A very small confined narrow place indeed; that is getting very full.

1816. What is the state of St. Peter's, Cornhill?—That is getting full, but they can have a grave of any depth; that is in St. Peter's Alley.

1817. What is the state of St. Helen's, Bishopsgate?—That is in a better state; that is taken a great deal of care of.

1818. Is that nearly full?—I do not think that is so full as many others; there are very few funerals there.

1819. Have they raised the fees in that burial-ground?—I am not aware whether they have or not.

1820. What is the state of Allhallows Staining?—I do not know it.

1821. What is the state of St. Benedict's?—I do not know it; part of that parish is pulled down.

1822. What is the state of St. Olave's, Hart-street?—I have never buried there; my father has attended there.

1823. You have already spoken of St. Botolph, Aldgate?—Yes; I have had great difficulty in getting four feet for a grave there.

1824. Did any persons lose their lives there?—Yes; the grave was dug of a certain depth; it was never filled in, because it was preserved for the poor.

1825. The effluvia arising from that took away the lives of those men?—Yes.

1826. What is the state of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate?—It is getting rather full, but they have enlarged it latterly by pulling down the rectory-house.

1827. What is the state of St. Leonard, Shoreditch?—That is very bad; they have enlarged it, but there is a part where they cannot put any corpse without its floating; I have seen men working at a pump for four hours before they could put a corpse there.

1828. What is the state of Christchurch, Spitalfields?—I am not able to speak to that.

1829. In what part of the city is unhealthiness most prevalent?—In the neighbourhood of Spitalfields and Bethnal-green.

1830. Mr. Ainsworth.] How do you account for that?—They have very little room, and there is a very crowded population, and there is very bad drainage.

Mr. Joseph Harvey.

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1831. *Chairman.*] From your general observations on the state of those churchyards with which you are acquainted in your profession as an undertaker, you are of opinion that they are in a very crowded state, and that from what occurred in Aldgate they cannot be sometimes opened without danger to the parties engaged in the operation?—In many cases they cannot; and I was told to-day that they adopt the same plan now at Bishopsgate as they did at Aldgate, notwithstanding what happened there, digging a grave of a certain depth, and then only covering it over with a few boards and strewing a little earth over it and leaving it in that state; and if it is not exposed a little time, and the atmospheric air allowed to get in, it is impossible for a man to go down without risk of his life.

Lunæ, 18^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Sir William Clay.
Mr. Cowper.
Mr. Denison.

Colonel Fox.
Sir R. H. Inglis.
Mr. Kemble.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. Vernon.

W. A. MACKINNON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

John Bowring, Esq. LL.D. a Member of The House; Examined.

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1832. *Chairman.*] YOU are aware of the object of this Committee; the investigations which it has conducted are divided into three points; the first is to consider the necessity of removing the nuisance arising from interments in large towns or populous places; the next point of inquiry is, the remedies to be applied to correct that evil; and the third point, how those remedies may be applied so as not to interfere with vested rights. The Committee will be gratified to hear any information which you have to give upon any of these heads?—The subject upon which the Committee has been so worthily occupied, is one which is now exciting great attention throughout the whole of Europe; and I think all travellers must have been struck with the fact, that within the last 25 or 30 years, there is a very great augmentation of cemeteries in the neighbourhood of towns, and that the burying the dead within towns is daily less in practice. My observations have been excited by the evidence of that fact in many parts of Europe. In some countries by the influence of public opinion, and in others, by legislative measures, the same results have been produced; and I would state, as a general fact, that in the present generation the conviction of the inconveniences, and even the danger to public health from accumulating corpses within towns, has been leading to a very general and desirable result, namely, the creation of a great variety of burying places out of towns. In Spain, for example, when I was there as a youth, I recollect it was the almost universal practice to bury the dead within the cities; I believe the subject was taken up by the Cortes after the year 1812, and Acts were passed which compelled the burying the dead beyond the limits of towns. When I was last in Spain, I observed a great number of new burying places beyond the great seats of population; and the result had been, I think, generally satisfactory; satisfactory to the public health in two ways; first, from the removal of the dead bodies from the cities; and secondly, that cemeteries had become in Spain, as well as in other countries where they are now employed beyond the circles of the cities, places for public walks. It is well known that in the East the Mahomedans almost invariably bury their dead out of the towns, and that the Mahomedan cemeteries are the places where the inhabitants congregate for public health and public enjoyment. I have heard it stated, and I believe it is the fact, that the burial of the dead out of towns has had an excellent effect in the improvement of public taste. The funeral monuments which have been erected in many parts of Europe, and which are very superior in character to those which had existed before the present generation

generation, are evidence of this. The cemeteries in the neighbourhood of Paris are, many of them, agreeable and healthy walks; some of them adorned with very interesting architectural structures, and that is the case in many other capitals. I remember being struck with the variety and tastefulness of the erections in a large cemetery, in the neighbourhood of Copenhagen, at a short distance from the town. It contained a great number of very interesting monuments; it is a place of great public resort; and I cannot but think that the moral influence of a well-arranged burial place is important and valuable; that the habit of visiting the places of repose of the dead, as it is generally practised at even-tide, has a very beneficial effect on the moral and religious affections. I would, respectfully, suggest to the Committee, that it would be very desirable that, in their Report, they should gather together the different acts of legislation by which their object has been accomplished in other countries; for, of course, there have been, elsewhere as here, difficulties to be overcome, rights to be recognised, and interests to be respected; and, probably, the labours of the Committee would be very much facilitated if they obtained from those countries where those objects have been brought about by legislative interference, those acts or decrees by which the end has been obtained.

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1833. You state, that in Spain the practice has been done away; what was the immediate cause; was it the effect on the health of the inhabitants?—I take for granted that the immediate cause was the success that had attended the experiment in the adjacent country, France; and, as a first step, one of the acts of the Cortes was to declare that burials within towns should be prohibited. The French legislation is exceedingly interesting, as exhibiting the progress of opinion, and the ultimate removal of all impediments. There are many reports and discussions emanating from both the legislative and executive authorities, which are full of instruction.

1834. You stated that, with regard to public taste, you thought the alteration would improve public taste, and that monuments of late had been improved; looking to the monuments in Westminster Abbey, are there any monuments of late years which surpass these which were formerly erected?—It is quite clear that the multitude cannot have costly monuments erected, but in an extensive burial-place there is a great theatre for public taste; the churchyard, in a town, is very much confined, from the value of land; the same money directed to the purchase of land in the neighbourhood of a town would realize a larger quantity, and the field of taste would be extended, and become accessible to the comparatively unopulent.

1835. Assuming that legislative enactments have been formed in France and in Spain, what would suggest itself to your mind as the best remedy to apply in this country, assuming that nuisance ought to be removed?—First recognise the rights possessed; recognising those rights, I think there should be a Parliamentary interference, that there should be an Act absolutely prohibiting burials in towns; for no other interference can accomplish the end. I cannot, however, but think that public opinion in this country would very soon come in aid of such an alteration, and that there would be little difficulty in giving effect to it.

1836. Do you think it would be possible to prevent putrid smell by requiring quick-lime to be introduced into coffins?—I doubt it. In Portugal, where, generally speaking, quick-lime is used for the purpose of destroying the corpses of the dead, I recollect some of the churchyards in the city were exceedingly offensive; nor do I see that the authorities would have sufficient means of interference to carry into effect the destruction of the offensive matter.

1837. You think that the only effectual mode of preventing evil effect is the removal of the bodies out of large towns?—Yes, at all events the most effectual.

1838. Lord Mahon.] Is quick-lime ever employed among the Eastern nations for the purpose of hastening decomposition?—Not that I am aware of.

1839. Sir R. H. Inglis.] From the attention you have paid to the subject in different countries, particularly in civilized Europe, can you state to the Committee any measure adopted by the executive government to relieve the poorer classes, whom they compel to bury their dead beyond the city, in respect of the extra expense of removal which such compulsion necessarily involves?—I am not aware that in any case the distance from the city is such as to add very considerably to the expense. The bearers who convey the corpse to the grave, having to proceed a somewhat greater distance, cannot add very considerably to the expense; the expense can only be from the demand for a little more time.

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1840. Lord *Mahon*.] Is it not the case in the East, that the cemeteries begin where the town ends?—Very frequently: the new cemeteries at Alexandria are a considerable distance from the city; at Constantinople there are some which are quite adjacent, but there are others which are remote; I think many difficulties will be met by the circumstance, that the poor would almost invariably be deposited in the more adjacent burying-ground, while the more opulent would frequently be removed to a greater distance.

1841. *Chairman*.] Has the vicinity of the grave-yards to Constantinople arisen from the buildings approximated to them, or their being placed immediately at the end of the town?—It is not easy to trace the immediate cause; the limits of Constantinople have not been much changed for a long period.

1842. Mr. *Vernon*.] The burying-place at Pompeii was immediately without the walls?—Yes; that was the general habit of the ancients.

1843. Lord *Mahon*.] Are you aware of any measures taken in the European countries with which you are acquainted for giving compensation to the clergy in respect of the burials in the old churchyards?—No, I am not.

1844. What measures would you recommend in this country for that object?—I am of opinion that the better way would be to buy out existing interests; that that is the simplest way to get rid of a permanent difficulty; and it is very important to remove all grounds of future discussion, that there should be no contest in a matter so interesting and so solemn as the interment of the dead, which might involve a clergyman in a misunderstanding with his parishioners.

1845. You would propose to give compensation to the existing incumbents?—I should concur in that very cheerfully, to get rid of so enormous an evil. It occurred to me some time ago in Glasgow, to see corpses absolutely visible on the surface of the churchyard.

1846. Suppose a case extending beyond the life of the present incumbent, where the income of a future incumbent might depend on the burial of the dead?—The best regulation would appear to be that which would estimate the value, and purchase it out and out. I should make a sacrifice willingly to get rid of so great an evil.

1847. *Chairman*.] From your observation, having travelled a great deal, you consider interments out of large towns as general in all civilized places?—I think that is the progress of things, and that such progress has been vastly accelerated within the last 30 years; that one nation has influenced another, and that in this country, even without legislation, that tendency is generally obvious; there are new cemeteries for the dead in the neighbourhood of many large towns.

1848. Mr. *Denison*.] Are you acquainted with the arrangements and details sufficiently to inform the Committee in what country these matters are best conducted, so as to guide the deliberations of the Committee?—No, not in sufficient detail; and for that reason I recommended that the acts and decrees under which those changes had been effected in other countries, should be laid before the Committee. I have no doubt that they would give much valuable information. With regard to the result on the arts, no one can have seen the Italian churchyards, even those connected with the English churches in Italy, without being struck with the beauty and variety of the monuments.

1849. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] From an expression you used in the earlier part of your examination, in which you referred to parties congregating for the sake of public health and public enjoyment in the cemeteries in the environs of some cities, are the Committee to understand that you do not consider those cemeteries a cause or receptacle of malaria or ill-health?—The great advantage of burial places beyond towns is the free circulation of air in those places; but burial places in towns have a tendency to cause disease, from their confinement and crowded state: inasmuch as there is not any necessary accumulation of bodies in the burial places out of towns, and every arrangement may be made for interring them at a certain depth and at a certain distance, I am not aware that any evil has arisen from burying in public cemeteries out of towns, or taking recreation in them.

1850. Colonel *Acton*.] Has the Campo Santo burying-ground at Naples been observed particularly by you?—It has not. As to the arrangement for individuals in extreme poverty, I have frequently observed in Catholic countries there is a receptacle where bodies are deposited, and have seen bodies deposited and left for interment, and buried with the one solitary religious ceremony. That is not an unusual state of things in the south of Europe.

1851. Mr.

1851. Mr. *Vernon*.] Are you aware that there exist in those countries fraternities which undertake the charge of the dead of their respective bodies?—Yes.

1852. And that the whole are buried, as an act of charity, by the fraternity?—Yes; and with those burial fraternities sometimes people of very high rank are connected.

1853. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Have you heard that the Grand Duke of Tuscany attends that confraternity of the dead?—Yes, princes of royal houses not unfrequently do so; it is well known that they wear garments which prevent their features being discovered, and there is not any distinction between the meanest and the mightiest. That assistance given to burying the dead by fraternities is a very interesting fact.

1854. Lord *Mahon*.] The system also prevails in Spain?—Yes.

1855. Mr. *Vernon*.] Are you aware of the existence in Switzerland of sump-tuary laws which regulate the time and all the arrangements with respect to the burial of all classes indiscriminately?—I believe that is the case in some of the cantons, but in Switzerland there is no general regulation, every canton having its separate laws. No man can have been in Switzerland without being very much interested with the character of the cemeteries. One feature connected with the removal of burial places from towns, is, that beautiful and interesting places may be chosen, and in Syria, for example, the site of some of the ancient sepulchres is exceedingly striking. I remember, when in Palestine, taking a meal on the borders of the lake of Galilee, and, looking behind me, observed the ancient sepulchres of the town of Magdala, which is still known by the name of Migdal, in an exceedingly romantic situation, hewn out of a rock which towered above the lake.

1856. *Chairman*.] Does not the dryness of the climate in Palestine and Egypt enable you, with impunity, to be in the grave-yards when you could not in this country?—Palestine is not a dry country, it is frequently a very humid one; so much rain is there in Syria for many months, that travelling is almost impossible without the greatest inconvenience. Not so in Egypt, where, in many parts, rain does not fall from year to year.

1857. Still, though rain may fall, there is a great distinction between rain falling and a damp season; do you not think that it is much safer to health to resort to the grave-yards in those countries than in this?—I think the climate of Syria cannot be considered a healthy one; the whole of the coast is certainly very unhealthy.

1858. There is one difficulty which has been obviated abroad, which would exist in this country, that in many places religious feeling enables the poor to be buried at the expense of certain societies, or persons who combine together for that purpose; as that feeling or peculiar sentiment does not exist in England, you must be aware there would be more difficulty in making an arrangement here than there?—If the additional expense of removing the body out of the town were considerable, I conceive the difficulty would be great; but as the additional expense would be small, I do not think that the difficulty would be at all serious.

Colonel *Patrick Campbell*, called in; and Examined.

1859. *Chairman*.] WHAT situation have you held abroad?—In Egypt I was Her Majesty's agent and consul-general from the beginning of the year 1833 to the end of December 1839, and at the same time agent for the East India Company.

1860. You are aware of the object of this Committee; will you have the kindness to state generally to them what has come under your observation with reference to the interments in those countries you have been in?—Dr. Bowring having mentioned Spain, recalls to my recollection that between the years 1817 and 1820 I was an officer in the Spanish service, serving with leave from the Duke of Wellington. I was aide-de-camp to General Castanos, who was then captain-general of Catalonia; and in Barcelona one of the churchyards was exceedingly offensive from the accumulation of dead: and there was a general order given by General Castanos, (whether he did it connexion with any of the clerical bodies or the government of Madrid I do not know,) but the burial-place was then removed to a place called Gracie, about three miles out of Barcelona, and from that time no more dead were interred within the walls.

1861. Did you find that benefit the health of the town?—I do not know; I had not an opportunity of knowing exactly the fact of the utility, but I know that the

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churchyard which first gave rise to the removing of the cemetery out of the town was exceedingly offensive; therefore I have no doubt it must have materially affected the health of the town.

1862. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] Do you happen to know by what means the expense was defrayed of removing the bodies of the poor to a distance of three miles from the town?—I do not know; but in Spain there are co-fraternities, and some of the rich monasteries have contributed to that object; in what proportion or how exactly, I am not aware.

1863. Lord *Mahon.*] It has been stated by Dr. Bowring in evidence, that according to a decree of the Cortes in 1812, burying in large towns in Spain was absolutely prohibited; how came it then that so late as the year 1818 the burying in the city of Barcelona still continued?—I do not know whether that order was merely optional, or whether it was compulsory, as to burying out of towns; but I know that until that period no persons were buried out of Barcelona, and that they buried in the different churchyards until the formation of that cemetery at Gracie.

1864. Practically there was no attention paid to that order, if it had been made?—Practically there was not.

1865. *Chairman.*] Has your observation extended to other places as well?—I was resident at Alexandria at the time the different burial places were removed out of the town. For each religion there was a separate burial place; a Protestant burying place, a Roman-catholic burying place, a Greek church burying place, a Jewish burying place, a Mohammedan burying place, and an Armenian burying place; in fact, every sect in the country had a burying place within the walls of Alexandria; and indeed the Turks had several burial places, which were easily known by the marble pillars; they generally put up a different kind of turban, according to the profession of the person buried. And in the year 1835, after the severe plague, or towards the early part of 1836, I was talking to Mahomet Ali one day about it; he asked, whether any means could be adopted to remove the burial places; whether I thought it would be advantageous. At that time the Roman-catholic burying ground was completely burthened with dead inside the walls of the town, exceedingly offensive. I told the Pacha I thought there was plenty of space out of the town, one or two miles from the town, and that it would be easily arranged with the consent of the heads of the different religions, to remove the burying places, or prevent further burials going on in Alexandria; and immediately he sent the chief of police to me. I was at that time president of what was called the Board of Ornament, which Mahomet Ali begged me to take charge of, for the improvement of the streets. Some of the streets were very narrow, very many buildings irregularly placed. I was perpetual president. Mr. Thurburn, who was British consul at Alexandria; Mr. Harris, the principal British merchant; and the Greek consul-general, and another consul-general; the Turkish head of police; the Turkish president of the Tribunal of Commerce, and the Turkish military engineer. There was the chief civil engineer, an Italian; and we took everything of that kind into our own hands. The Pacha sent the chief of police to me; I told him to take the civil engineer, who was paid by the Pacha for attending on the board, and go to the chiefs of the different religions, and arrange with them about having their burials out of the town. The Turkish burying ground was taken to Pompey's Pillar, and the others were towards the Rosetta Gate, about a mile off the road, and a mile and a half or two miles out of the town: each company fixed on their own burying ground, and the ground was given up to them, and since that no bodies have been interred within the walls of Alexandria; and many of the numerous Turkish burying places have been lately built on, so that the town has been very much improved.

1866. How could they build on the old burying places, without turning up the bones, and having the chance of effluvia?—Many of those burying places had been so long without having been used, that they were only remains; it was known by the monuments that they were burying places, but perhaps they had not been used for 40 or 50 years.

1867. Mr. *Denison.*] Can you state the plan they adopted for the burial of the dead in those new cemeteries?—In the Protestant burying places they buried as we do in England; the Greeks buried in a sort of vault, which was but very partially closed, and the smell was very offensive: the head of the Turkish police came to report to me, one day, a very offensive smell arising from the Greek cemetery; I immediately sent him to the head of the Greek convent, with a request

request that means might be adopted to prevent that, and that they would bury them under ground, in the usual manner: it was immediately complied with, and the bodies then beginning to be offensive in the new Greek cemetery out of town, were removed, and buried in the usual manner; and up to the period of my departure that system had been adopted in that ground as well as the other.

1868. By those measures you improved very much the appearance of the town?—Yes, and the health of it; for after that series of years, in 1835, the smell from some of the burying grounds was exceedingly offensive.

1869. Are you of opinion with Sir Joseph de Courcy Laffan that the plague has in some instances arisen from the putrefaction of bodies in towns?—No, I do not think it has, for the plague has originated in many places where that could not have given rise to it. I have had conversation with him upon the subject, but I do not agree with him in that view; my opinion is, that the plague is contagious.

1870. With regard to any system of preventing the nuisance in this country, is there any remedy you have to suggest?—Nothing whatever; it is a subject I have never considered; those are merely facts falling within my knowledge, in my official situation.

The Reverend *Frank Hewson*, called in; and Examined.

1871. *Chairman.*] YOU are aware of the objects of investigation of this Committee; will you have the kindness to state whatever occurs to you upon the subject?—It occurred to me, having been engaged as the curate of a very populous parish in Birmingham for some years past, that I might give some information. At the parish of St. Mary's, in Birmingham, which is situated in the very heart of the town, in the centre of a square, there is a large burying-place, and, in consequence of the lowness of the fees, it is used very much by the poor. The consequence of this is, that the average number of burials in the course of a year is about 1,200. I have myself buried between 1,100 and 1,200 in the course of a year there. On Sundays there are from 20 to 30 buried; all those corpses are brought within the church between the services, and I can safely say that the smell and effluvia is most abominable and disgusting, and very much calculated to keep away a great many persons from the afternoon service, which immediately followed the burials.

1872. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] At what time were the bodies brought in?—They were brought on Sunday, I should think, at two o'clock; on week days they were brought at four. There were three services in the church, morning service, afternoon, and evening service; the bodies were interred just before the afternoon service, and the smell remained in the church during the time of service; perhaps two or three hours; there was a continued succession, in fact, of corpses, till three o'clock.

1873. *Chairman.*] Could not you alter that regulation?—It was quite impossible; there were three services in the church; they must have taken place at some time or other, and this was the most convenient part of the day to have them.

1874. Did the interments take place in the churchyard which surrounds the church?—Yes; the churchyard is so very full that in digging for a fresh grave they frequently turn up bones and pieces of human flesh; and I am convinced that the health of the square in which this stands, which is a very important square in Birmingham, cannot be improved by that.

1875. What is the square?—St. Mary's-square.

1876. *Colonel Fox.*] You say there were pieces of human flesh; would not the coffin protect them?—They were sometimes obliged to go very deep, and to try every possible means of finding room for fresh coffins.

1877. *Lord Mahon.*] Have you any reason to believe that at Birmingham coffins were taken away by night?—I never heard that they were.

1878. *Mr. Vernon.*] They do not usually in that class of society employ lead?—No; I do not suppose there was a single leaden coffin in the whole churchyard.

1879. *Colonel Fox.*] Have you ever had any complaint against the grave-diggers of improper conduct?—I have heard persons constantly complain of their friends' coffins being disturbed, coming and crying and lamenting to me and other clergymen, that the bodies of their children and their friends were constantly knocked about by seeking for fresh ground; but, as far as my information goes, this extends to all other large towns, and not only to other large towns, but to many

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country parishes. I am now incumbent at the parish of Norwood, in Middlesex, and I may say we have scarcely found room to bury a fresh corpse; there is room at the north side, but there is a great prejudice with many persons against being buried on the north side.

1880. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Are the interment fees less at the north side than the south?—I am not aware of that fact: at Birmingham they bury all round the church.

1881. Mr. *Denison*.] Did they bury much in the vaults?—I do not believe there are many vaults.

1882. Lord *Mahon*.] What was the wish of the inhabitants, did they wish for a cemetery?—I should say they were compelled to bury there; and the inducement to bury there was, that the fees were lower than in the other churchyards; but I believe that the people were very much injured by it.

1883. *Chairman*.] What is the size of the churchyard at Birmingham?—I should say it was an acre.

1884. You buried 1,200 a year there?—Yes.

1885. How long had it been open?—Many years.

1886. Should you say 50 years?—Yes.

1887. Mr. *Denison*.] Has the ground been much raised?—Yes; very much.

1888. *Chairman*.] Do you believe that 60,000 have been buried in that ground?—I cannot speak to the number, but I am sure it is very large.

1889. Who is the rector of St. Mary's?—The clergyman is Mr. Barrett; the former clergyman, for whom I believe it was built, was Mr. Burne.

1890. Who receives the fees?—The incumbent; it is a chapel rather than a church; Mr. Barrett lives in the square in which the church stands.

1891. Mr. *Kemble*.] Do you say that bringing the corpses into the church kept away many of the congregation?—I think it kept away many persons in the afternoon, because the smell was worse in the afternoon while the coffins were there, or immediately after the coffins were removed, than at other times.

1892. Have you found your own health affected?—I cannot say that I have; but if I had had my choice I should not have gone to that church myself.

1893. Did you feel any personal inconvenience yourself from that nuisance?—I am uncertain; I am not very delicate; I felt it very disagreeable; but whether it had an effect upon my health, I cannot say.

1894. You are not conscious of it?—No.

1895. Mr. *Vernon*.] Do you know of any feeling among the lower orders as to the long preservation of the remains of their departed friends?—They are very anxious for the bodies of their friends to be preserved.

1896. Therefore they would object to any means to hasten decomposition?—Nothing would annoy them more than destroying the body, or throwing in quicklime; it would be a very unenglish mode. At a church near Bolton, in Lancashire, with which I was connected, where they bury 400 in a year, the parish of Dean, parties like to bury their dead relatives, because they call it a dry lying ground; but some say that the drier it is, the more rapidly it decomposes.

1897. *Chairman*.] You are decidedly of opinion that it is injurious to the health of the inhabitants of large towns that burials should take place within them?—I have no doubt in my own mind that it is, though I cannot speak to any facts. I object to churches being used at all for burial purposes; I believe it was never intended. I would have them removed, especially where there are grounds that are crowded.

1898. You state, that in the village in which you now reside there is inconvenience from the churchyard being in the neighbourhood of the village?—It is so crowded, and I presume there would be a difficulty in getting fresh ground in the neighbourhood; it is only nine miles from London. The Asylum at Hanwell stands in the parish, and the dead used to be taken and buried in that ground until the ground became too full; but there is now a burial-ground provided for the Asylum, and that without any attention to the vested rights of the incumbent; he did not interfere to prevent it.

1899. As a clergyman, what do you suppose would be the additional expense to a populous parish of obtaining a burial-ground out of its precincts, and conveying the bodies of the poor?—I should say, to a populous parish it would be very trifling, if it was so much a family; two or three acres of ground to each parish, or a less quantity, could not be a very expensive thing. I do not see why many

many of our commons, which are being enclosed in various parishes, might not be appropriated to burial-grounds, and ornamented.

1900. What would you say would make a sufficient compensation to the incumbent for the loss of the fees in your parish, and would enable the parishioners to provide other places?—I do not see how you can compensate the incumbent; for if you compensate the present incumbent, it must be carried on to every succeeding incumbent, or the value of the living will be lowered; but at Liverpool they have got a cemetery in which members of the Church of England are sometimes buried, and then the services of the clergymen of the Church of England are used. I should say, it would be very possible to have a cemetery on the verge of every large town, and a chaplain appointed in connexion with the Church of England where all persons dying belonging to that church might be buried; and this chaplain might give an account of the fees he received to the different incumbents from whose parishes the corpses came, and he might receive a certain salary, paid by them all. Nothing is more distressing to clergymen in large towns than the number of funerals they have to attend, it confines them so closely to the church.

1901. Sir R. H. Inglis.] In the case to which you have referred the funerals were almost entirely on the Sunday?—There were three or four every day, and about 20 on the Sunday.

1902. You state that you buried between 1,100 and 1,200 in the course of the year. At a subsequent period of your examination the Committee understood that the aggregate number buried in that churchyard in the course of the year was 1200, and taking the lowest estimate of those buried by yourself, they must have amounted to 1040?—I was absent some weeks during the year. I have said that I buried about 1100; the whole number buried was 1200.

1903. Mr. Vernon.] You buried indiscriminately members of the Church of England and Dissenters?—I never made inquiries; they were brought to the church.

1904. There was no such distinction ever made in that parish?—I suppose not.

1905. Sir R. H. Inglis.] What was the population of that parish?—I cannot say that I am quite aware whether it had a district attached to it; it was not a parish church.

1906. Chairman.] You have found that a nuisance may exist both in the large and populous town of Birmingham and in your rural parish?—Yes, I think it is generally felt as a nuisance to have over-crowded burying-grounds in country places; it is very annoying to have bodies disturbed by digging fresh graves. The Jews buried, as the Committee are aware, without the cities; and it was supposed the Temple was profaned by any approach of a dead body. Why Christian churches should be considered proper places for burials I cannot tell.

Mr. Robert Baldock, called in; and Examined.

1907. Chairman.] WHAT situation in life do you fill?—I am a bookseller in Holborn; I am churchwarden of the parish of St. Andrew, Holborn. We have felt uneasy at hearing that evidence had been given here of circumstances which it was discreditable to us, as officers, to permit to take place in our burying-place in Shoe-lane. I have to request that evidence may be given to show the fact, that there is not the nuisance which we have heard has been complained of. I have been in office two years; I can state, as far as recollection goes; I do not, of course, register every grave, having only to do with the fees arising out of the ground. I am quite certain there have not been more than half a dozen bodies buried next to the wall adjoining Shoe-lane; there are certain apertures made in that wall for the purpose of draining the water; we had formerly a very good wholesome spring running out of that ground; that spring was stopped up in consequence of its being made a receptacle by fish-people, and to clear the water away it was necessary to insert holes in the wall; therefore if anything has been seen we are quite sure it must have been simply water arising out of the ground. London lies on a bed of clay; this parish of St. Andrew, Holborn, is situated in this way; we dug six wells, passing through a loamy clay of about four or five feet; that is the arrangement of the soil in the street of Holborn at Middle-row, where there is a pump, in Brooks-market, in Queen-square, and the end of Bedford-row. I mention this to show that this drainage was necessary. We found about five feet of what is usually termed loamy clay, brick clay; then we came to rough gravel and drift sand, and at about 20 feet we came to the large blue clay,

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which runs all under London. Our wells were 25 feet deep. It appears that the gravel crops out at the wall. We dug a well opposite the almshouses in Gray's-inn-lane; there we found no water; but in this ground at St. Andrew's, Holborn, it seems there is gravel running through the ground to admit the percolation of the water from the higher parts of the parish; therefore we were obliged to insert those apertures to let off the water from the gravel of the hill. I state that to account for the apertures, and that nothing but water, or water partly coloured by the soil, can have come from those apertures. I witnessed a fortnight ago a grave dug at 16 feet; we then came into a mixture of clay and gravel, which would admit of the free percolation of the water; there was perhaps lower down a loose bed of gravel. But one of the reasons we have not buried along those walls is, that in 1839 we consecrated about half an acre of new ground, which had never had any interments; the bodies of the poor have been buried in that new ground.

1908. Mr. Ainsworth.] Does the new ground adjoin the old ground?—It joins the old ground, and is below the ground on the south; it is behind the church; it was by arrangement with the Farringdon-market committee we got that additional ground. One of the reasons why we do not bury in this ground which has been the subject of evidence here, is, that it is subject to a very high charge, and none but persons of opulence can afford to be buried there.

1909. You stated that you had enlarged the burying-ground in St. Andrew's, Holborn, a few years back; from whence did the funds arise which enabled you to do that?—I think some arrangement occurred with the proprietors of Farringdon-market on exchange of ground, and that there was a small portion of ground which was free for interment; I believe the cost of that came out of an estate belonging to the parish; we did not purchase it; we have a very large ground.

1910. Sir William Clay.] Do the Committee rightly understand you to say, that you believe the water which comes through the holes of the churchyard wall, in Shoe-lane, which has been alluded to, proceeds from a spring which formerly supplied the well which has been stopped up?—I have been given to understand that those holes were made after that spring was stopped; but the holes were made more particularly to clear the ground of water, the fact of this spring being stopped would necessarily throw the water back on the ground; therefore, there must be some means of drainage adopted to clear it off.

1911. You say that the churchyard bounded by the wall has not been used for burials recently?—It is used; but the portion now in question has been very sparingly used; it is an expensive ground. I am told by the sexton, in four years he has put only two bodies near the wall; it is supposed there was an issuing of offensive matter, but it was impossible that anything offensive should have come out of those apertures in consequence of burials which had taken place there.

1912. How long is it since the practice of burying in that ground has been continued only to the limited extent you now mention?—In 1839 we obtained this new ground, and that took away all the common burials; but we have a ground, consisting of somewhere about three acres, in Gray's-inn-road, near Cubitt's, and many of the better funerals go there.

1913. Can you state what was the number of burials in the churchyard of St. Andrew's, Holborn, previous to 1839?—I do not think I can.

1914. What is the size of the churchyard?—I think the yard consisted of about an acre of ground, and the new portion about half an acre; but the ground in Gray's-inn-road is about three acres.

1915. Does the acre and a half include the site of the church?—No; independently of the site of the church, the yard appropriated to burials is about an acre and a half.

1916. Have you any suggestion to make to the Committee as to the relief of the expense to poor persons?—We have thought for some time, taking an interest in this matter, that in forming the Poor Law Bill there was an omission in not making provision that pauper funerals should be carried out of the town. I think the amount of pauper funerals in our ground in Gray's-inn-lane is about 100. We bury 100 annually of the poor, free; but the poor are very reluctant to go to the parishes to bury. It is the practice in our parish, that all persons claiming to be paupers can be buried without any cost; they can claim a shell of the parish authorities, and that carries with it all fees, both for ground and clergyman's fees, and all other officers, but they very seldom claim that; it is only in cases of extreme poverty they claim it, but the parties who die in the union houses are buried

buried in that way; and I have no hesitation in saying it is one of the most objectionable things I know existing in London. To save our ground, we are obliged to dig very large pits; I believe they contain about 70 or 80 bodies in the course of a year; they are filled up; this is done with as much care as can be; no coffin is put in without six inches over it, and I do not believe there is any very immediate danger; but I should say that 80 bodies should not be put together in one place in one year, and I should hope provision would be made to bury a large number of poor out of the parishes, and that the rich in this case, as in others, should bear the cost; and that if cemeteries are formed, they should be called upon at a very low rate to take those bodies. We have built churches at the cost of those who pay for the pews, and I cannot conceive why something of that sort should not be done for the benefit of the poor; the poor have represented to the churchwardens that they are very unwilling to have their friends buried as paupers, and the objection is, that they cannot follow them, and we have felt a respect for their feelings. I should hope that provision would be made to enable the poor to bury their friends without great cost.

1917. Mr. *Denison*.] You say the poor do not like to accept gratuitous burial; what is the expense to a poor man in that parish now?—I think the entire fees are 12 s.; the churchwarden claims for the ground only 18 d.

1918. Can you tell what the rest of the expense to a poor man would probably be?—About 3 l.

1919. Lord *Mahon*.] Has there been any change in the amount of those fees of late years?—I think there has not in pauper fees; I think there is in the higher fee.

1920. Mr. *Denison*.] Do you think the poor would object to their friends being buried in cemeteries out of town, at a reasonable cost?—No, I think not. With respect to the churchwardens' fees, they clear their present expenses during the year of office by those fees, so that the question of church rates would, perhaps, be mixed up with this. The churchwardens could not do certain things which they do, unless some means were put into their power of levying a small rate to pay for those necessary charges.

1921. As you have half an acre of new land, you do not find any immediate inconvenience as to burials; but before this ground was obtained was not great inconvenience experienced, and a great nuisance in the churchyard?—I think there was a difficulty in getting graves.

1922. Mr. *Vernon*.] Had you a rate for purchasing that new land?—No; we had some other property in the parish, and took that in exchange.

1923. Can you state in detail how the 12 s. is divided?—I think the fee to the clergyman is 5 s. 6 d., to the sexton 2 s., the clerk 18 d., the grave-digger 18 d.

1924. Does the fee of the grave-digger depend upon the depth?—Yes; but it is about 18 d.

1925. Colonel *Fox*.] Do you think there would be any prejudice on the part of the population in your neighbourhood if by law a certain quantity of quick-lime was put into every coffin to destroy the body in a less time?—I think every party would object to it; it would outrage the feelings of the poor.

1926. Mr. *Kemble*.] You say the paupers object to their friends being buried by the parish, because they are not allowed to attend the funeral?—I think they are allowed to attend; but in the case of a pauper funeral they put several together, and they must attend at the time appointed, which will frequently be inconvenient to their friends; they do not like to attend funerals *en masse*, which is like attending the funerals of other persons.

1927. They are not prevented attending?—No; the ground with which I have to do is in the country; my colleague has to do with the churchyard in the city of London; they attend if they wish it, but they are not allowed hoods and scarfs.

1928. The reason why the scarfs and hoods are not allowed to be worn by the paupers is presumed to be, that the parties who could afford hoods and scarfs could also afford to pay the fees in respect of the funerals of their relatives?—I believe it is.

1929. There is, therefore, no actual prohibition to any party paying any mark of respect to the remains of his deceased friend if he does it at his own expense?—Precisely so; that is the case in the country.

1930. Colonel *Fox*.] Is that the case in other parishes?—I cannot say.

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Sir James Fellowes, called in; and Examined.

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1931. *Chairman.*] WILL you have the goodness to state the Committee the situation you held abroad?—I was physician to the army. I was sent out to Gibraltar at the time of the pestilential fever there in 1804, and I was afterwards employed as Inspector-general of the military hospitals during the whole siege of Cadiz, the whole four years.

1932. Have the kindness to state what are your impressions with regard to the common practice in this country of interring in large towns?—I can only judge from what I saw abroad in those Catholic countries in consequence of the pestilential fever. I saw while there, and I had an opportunity of seeing several; it was the practice formerly to bury all their dead in the churches, in what we should call vaults; the bodies were always mixed with lime that decomposition might take place immediately; but in consequence of that pestilential fever which destroyed so many thousand people, the Government came to the determination to bury all the people who died, out of the towns: there were large places appropriated to the dead, and there was no person whatever allowed to be buried in the churches or in the towns; and that practice now prevails and has continued ever since. They were the most bigotted people, they always wished to have the people buried in their churches; but in consequence of these fevers which were so destructive, they adopted that system which prevails, and which I believe to be the best. I should say that the practice of burying in towns is extremely prejudicial and must be productive of great mischief, and it is highly probable it is productive very often of disease.

1933. Colonel Fox.] Do you consider that there has been less pestilence since that in the south of Europe?—I should say there has been less pestilence since that period; I was there in 1805. I went afterwards to Seville and Malaga, where nearly 100,000 persons had been carried off; and in 1812 we had it at Cadiz; the same practice was adopted; they were not allowed to bury in the churches.

1934. *Chairman.*] Do you think it is more necessary to prevent interment in towns in this country from the damp climate, than in climates such as those of Spain and Portugal?—I think it is equally objectionable. I cannot see why bodies should be suffered in this country to be buried in towns or in churches; and I am quite satisfied every physician would give the same opinion, that it is extremely prejudicial to health.

1935. When the alteration to which you allude was made, to prevent the pestilential fevers in Spain, how was the expense supplied?—It was supplied by the Government. The first fevers which took place in Spain were in 1800; they begun at Seville, and then at Malaga. I went after they had occurred to Gibraltar, in 1804; we were then at war with Spain, but I had a passport from General Castanos to go where I pleased. The authorities gave me all the facilities for seeing everything. It was at that time they came to the determination; this was before the election of the Cortes, and after the Cortes were established they confirmed this. A tax was levied, and I know there was a general understanding throughout the country.

1936. The Cortes was elected in 1810, was it not?—I believe it was. I was there at the first installation of the Cortes.

1937. Sir William Clay.] You are clearly of opinion that even in this climate the effluvia arising from the decomposition of dead bodies might become a generating cause of pestilence?—That is my opinion, and has always been so. When I returned from Spain I saw some account of the fever in Andalusia, and I mentioned my opinion of the extreme danger of burying in towns, and that it was high time that we should give up that system in our own country.

1938. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Have you ever been able to ascertain professionally the origin of any disease, either in the case of an individual or in masses, as connected with the neighbourhood of places of interment?—No, I am not prepared with any cases; but I should say, as a general principle, it is extremely prejudicial to health.

1939. You are not able to state any specific instance in which disease has been generated?—No, I am not prepared to state any particular case.

1940. *Chairman.*] It is your conviction generally that the decomposition of corpses is capable of generating disease in the human frame, which disease may in its turn become an epidemic?—Yes, it might be so, from the extrication of gases; that was the opinion in Spain.

1941. Do

1941. Do you coincide in opinion with Sir Joseph De Courcy Laffan, who states that in his opinion the plague has originated from that cause?—How the plague or any of those pestilential fevers originate it is difficult to say; but from reading on this point, one would say that the accumulation of bodies in that state would be extremely prejudicial, and one would avoid as much as possible placing persons near them.

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1942. Have you any circumstance which enable you to say that any one of those fevers has arisen from the immediate contact of the living subject with the effluvia arising from the dead?—No, I am not prepared with any case.

1943. *Chairman.*] As a magistrate of Hampshire, and having resided in the county, has any remedy occurred to you for this evil?—I have lived 25 years in Hampshire; but that I do not think is applicable in the same way, because there is a large open space, and there are not many buried in a country churchyard, and very few in the churches.

1944. You do not think the evil exists so much in the country as in populous towns?—No.

1945. Have you ever given your attention to the means by which, if interments were directed to take place out of towns, that could be effected in the easiest manner with regard to the clergy, and so on?—I cannot give an opinion upon those points.

Mr. Daniel Richard Harker, called in; and Examined.

1946. *Chairman.*] IN what situation are you?—I am parish clerk of St. Stephen's, Coleman-street, in the City of London.

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1947. What have you to state to the Committee upon this subject?—As to our accommodation for burials, and the manner in which the vaults have been cleared. We have three burial places: we have a churchyard, which is on the north side of the church; it is surrounded by houses; there are two taverns on one side of it, and houses at each end: we have a vault, called the common vault, where the lower classes are buried; and another that is called the best vault, which is under the belfry: we have also certain vaults called the chancel vaults, in the church; and one called the vicar's vault. We have buried in the common vault a great many bodies since I have been there, and I have been astonished at the circumstance of there not being any effluvia when we go into the vault. I have been down at all times, and have never discovered any unpleasantness more than an earthy smell; it is a large vault.

1948. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Is it ventilated?—Yes, there are holes in the stones: it is where the parishioners have to come up to the church. The house on that side belongs to a cloth-factor; I believe they are in the habit of working over those vaults in brushing cloth with the windows open.

1949. *Sir William Clay.*] Where are the holes you speak of?—In the stones: they are arched vaults.

1950. They are not in the body of the church?—No, in the open air. Some of the parties at those taverns are in the habit of sitting there with the windows open all the day in fine weather; and there is one of the inhabitants who has a meat-safe put out near the ground floor, and I think they would hardly put that there if they felt any inconvenience.

1951. What is the number of burials that takes place in your parish annually?—Between 40 and 50.

1952. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] What is the size of your vaults?—From 30 to 40 yards long; they go the whole length of the church, and so does the churchyard.

1953. *Mr. Kemble.*] Your churchyard is only on one side, the north side?—Yes.

1954. *Colonel Fox.*] In what way do the parish clerks derive their incomes, and how are they appointed?—They are appointed some by the rector or vicar of the parish, others by the parishioners; they are licensed and are elected for life. They derive their emoluments from the fees on marriages, baptisms, and burials; some have small salaries, others no salary, but are paid entirely by fees. Since the Register Act came into force, that has made a great difference: they used to have from 3,000 to 4,000 baptisms a year; they have now little more than 1,000, in consequence of there being nothing to pay; they have nothing to depend upon but the burials; parties go to district chapels to be married; and if they have nothing but the burials to depend on, or a compensation, their bread is entirely taken away.

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Many of them have been in business, and in consequence of being elected parish clerks have given up their business; others have paid for their situations.

1955. Mr. Kemble.] What fees do they derive out of the burials in your parish?—In the common vault the fee is 1 s. 8 d.; in the best vault it is 6 s.: by the Bill of Mortality it appears that the number buried in our parish is four.

1956. What proportion do the best bear to the common ones?—I have seen few in the churchyard that would be called best funerals, only that some persons prefer the ground to the vaults.

1957. What is the average profit in your parish?—I should think the more common funerals are rather more than half, nearly two-thirds.

1958. On nearly two-thirds you get 1 s. 8 d.?—Yes.

1959. And on the remaining one-third from 5 s. to 6 s.?—Yes.

1960. Sir R. H. Inglis.] The parish clerks form a company of the city of London?—They do.

1961. Have they met recently, with reference to the proceedings of this Committee?—They have.

1962. Have they passed any resolutions in reference to desiring to be heard?—They have not yet; there is a meeting fixed for next Monday evening to discuss the matter, and to decide on the measures which it may be proper for them to adopt; they are a very ancient chartered company; they have their own estates; we have eight almshouses at Brixton, which are occupied by the widows of parish clerks; they make a return each week to the Queen; one is forwarded to Her Majesty, one to the Secretary of State, and the other to the Lord Mayor; each parish clerk within the Bills of Mortality becomes a member of the company.

1963. Colonel Fox.] Do you consider that the population in your parish would object to quick-lime being placed in the coffins?—I think they would; I recollect in one particular instance where it was done, where the party died of cholera; it had such an effect on the body that the men could scarcely carry it; it was almost in a liquid state; it was taken into the church; they were obliged to take it out immediately and put it into the grave; there was a discharge from the coffin.

1964. Chairman.] It was not in lead?—No; it was talked of a great deal at the time that they should not like to have quick-lime put into the coffin.

1965. Sir R. H. Inglis.] You have reference in your answer, not to the effect in that one instance, but generally speaking, to taking any mode to destroy the remains sooner than in the course of nature it would take place?—Just so.

1966. Colonel Fox.] Those of the middling classes would not perhaps have the same objection?—Perhaps they might not.

1967. Do not you think that the effect of others allowing their relations to be buried in that way might have an effect in doing away the impression?—That is possible.

1968. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Your impression is, at present, that there is a strong feeling against hastening the decomposition?—I am certain of it; for those who died of cholera in my parish, I buried myself, being their undertaker; I was in the habit of going into the houses, and that was proposed to be done; it was mentioned in two or three instances, and they uniformly objected to it; and the undertaker's men would object to carry it, it would be so bad for them; I cannot describe how that coffin smelt.

1969. Colonel Fox.] Might not this be remedied by placing quick-lime in the grave?—We did invariably put quick-lime over the coffins of those in our parish who died of cholera.

1970. Would there be a prejudice against placing quick-lime upon the coffins?—I think not at all; we did that invariably in those cases; we threw in quick-lime, and then filled up with common earth.

1971. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Do you wish the Committee to understand that the parties attending the interments to which you refer, were cognisant of the fact that over the coffin, or around the coffin, had been placed quick-lime, which you say they would have objected to have had placed within the coffin?—Yes, that is the case; that in several instances the friends of the deceased persons stopped and saw the grave filled up, and saw what was done, and they made no objection.

1972. Were they aware there was quick-lime placed on the coffin for the purpose of procuring an early decomposition of the body within the coffin?—I believe they were.

1973. Still you retain your opinion that they would object as much now as at any former time to the insertion of quick-lime within the coffin?—Yes, certainly.

1974. Mr.

1974. Mr. *Vernon*.] Is a considerable expenditure resorted to generally to adorn the body within the coffin?—That depends upon the wishes of the friends; it varies very much according to circumstances.

1975. As far as the means of the parties are concerned, do they generally incur expense in dressing the body?—Yes, they do.

1976. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] You consider it is part of the sanctity of the burial service that the body should remain, so far as the feelings of the friends are concerned, in the state in which it is deposited within the coffin?—Certainly; I have known in many instances where the parties have objected to an inner lid in the coffin; there is pitch put in to make it air-tight, many will have that and others will not.

1977. *Chairman*.] How can you reconcile that with their having leaden coffins, and those soldered?—I cannot reconcile that; those are the feelings of different persons.

1978. Colonel *Fox*.] What is the expense of the cheapest coffin made for a grown person?—About 14 s.

1979. Do you think, supposing there was an agreement for the general burying the poorest people, they could be made much cheaper than that?—Yes, if they were made of deal; but in my parish they have them made of elm, the same as those made for the most wealthy person, but not covered; if they were made of deal, they would not cost more than 9 s. or 10 s., but they are so slight they give way in a very short time. We bury paupers in our parish for less than 2 l.

1980. *Chairman*.] Do you think the system of keeping bodies so long before they are interred could be prevented without interfering with the feelings of the people?—I believe there are many would keep them much longer if they could.

1981. Colonel *Fox*.] Supposing the burial-ground at a distance of two or three miles; what would be the additional expense of the funeral of a person of the lower class?—For a walking funeral it would require two or three sets of men; there would be only the expense of their pay in addition.

1982. What would be the additional expense?—If for the men only, it would be only about 1 l. additional.

1983. That would be the only addition?—Yes.

1984. If a contract were made by a parish for the interment of the parish poor, the additional expense would depend on how many funerals took place on the same day?—Certainly, that would have to do with it.

1985. If there were several on the same day, the additional expense would be less?—Yes; but that would depend on whether there should be more than one corpse put into one hearse.

1986. Would there be an objection to that on the part of the poor?—I cannot say, not having had the case before me.

1987. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Would there not be an objection on the part of the friends, that the parties would not be able to tell that they were attending the funeral of their own friends?—Certainly, in my opinion, there would.

1988. Mr. *Vernon*.] When you arrive at the churchyard, when there are several funerals, does it ever occur to you that the corpses are all deposited in the same grave?—Not under my own knowledge. I can give an instance of what I saw in St. Giles's cemetery, near St. Pancras church. I was there attending a funeral, and observed a one-horse hearse; they brought eight or ten pauper funerals in one hearse. Some of the friends of the deceased parties were in attendance, but very few; they were put into two graves, and the service read over them all at once.

1989. The respective mourners, when the coffins were removed, would not feel as if they were attending the funeral of their respective friends in that case?—They all stood round the two graves; they did not appear to know any particular coffin.

1990. Was no separate service read over each coffin?—No, one service was read over the whole; there was a children's grave and a grown person's grave, and the friends of those that attended stood round the graves; I think there were not more than five or six persons attended for the eight or ten coffins. It was stated to the Committee by the rector that the distance is great from the St. Giles's cemetery to the parish.

1991. Mr. *Denison*.] The hearse you saw would be much less expensive in conveying several coffins than if bodies were carried by men, and you were obliged to change the men?—Yes.

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1992. Colonel Fox.] Can you suggest any system by which paupers can be buried at a cemetery several miles out of town, supposing land obtained that would not be expensive, and yet not hurt the feelings of the relatives?—No, I cannot; other parties than paupers, labouring persons, who do not receive parochial relief, have made application to the parish; they have begged to be excused the vault dues, which are 4s.; they had a difficulty in raising the 12s. 2d. which includes the bearers; they would be put to great inconvenience if the cemetery were at a distance.

1993. Mr. Ainsworth.] The Committee have been informed that Mr. Shillibeer has invented a carriage to take the corpse and the mourners, have you seen that?—I have not; I have heard it described; it will contain only one body, and then after the body is taken to the place of deposit, turn the part which was used for the coffin into a seat for the bearers and the persons attending the funeral.

Mr. George Yarrow, called in; and Examined.

Mr. G. Yarrow.

1994. Sir R. H. Inglis.] YOU are the parish clerk of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch?—Yes.

1995. The Committee understand you are desirous of giving evidence before them with reference to the state of the churchyard of that parish, having understood that certain evidence had been taken on Thursday last with respect to that churchyard?—I am.

1996. The evidence taken last Thursday is in answer to question 1827; that describes the grave-yard of St. Leonard, Shoreditch, as very bad; what is the state of that churchyard?—It is far from being very bad; we have frequently graves as deep as 17 or 18 feet, without water; there was one opened only a few weeks ago without water.

1997. It is said, "There is a part where they cannot put in a corpse without its floating; I have seen a person working at the pump four hours before they could put a corpse in." Is there any part to which this applies?—Certainly not, unless they go down 14 or 15 feet; if they go down that distance or more, they would then come to water.

1998. Chairman.] Has it occurred that they have been obliged to pump the water out?—It has occurred, if they go that depth in one part.

1999. How long would it be before you could get the water out?—Perhaps a couple of hours, or less than that; it has generally been got out while the minister has been reading the service in the church: when the undertaker goes into the church, the grave-digger is in attendance, watching the funeral coming down; and if there is any water in the grave, while the minister is reading service in the church, the water has been baled out during that time, which could not be more than half an hour; but when there has been water in the grave, it has been in consequence of the parties wishing to go to that extreme depth. In ordinary interments there is no water, where we bury the paupers; I have seen them go 12 or 14 feet; that is a very clayey soil.

2000. Mr. Ainsworth.] The part of the yard where there is water at 14 feet is lower perhaps?—It is in a great part of the ground, a part recently purchased and added within the last few years; there were a great many houses pulled down to enlarge it.

2001. Colonel Fox.] What is the appearance of the water which comes up?—Muddy, from the soil.

2002. Is there anything offensive in the smell?—I have been there 15 years, and there never has been anything offensive.

2003. Chairman.] How often has it occurred that you have had to pump the water out?—Very rarely indeed; it is so expensive that they do not like to dig so deep; it is only the respectable families.

2004. Sir William Clay.] Is there any pump near the churchyard?—There is a pump in Orme's-row, between the Kingsland-road and the Hackney-road.

2005. Mr. Cowper.] What is the nature of the soil?—It is clay and gravel when we get down a considerable depth.

2006. Chairman.] What is the greatest length of time you have known them pump at any one period?—It might have been two hours; they might have been longer when they have been building a family vault; they require pumping to clear the ground.

2007. What

2007. What is the size of your ground?—I should think about three acres and a half or four acres.
2008. What is the size of that part of it which is subject to be flooded?—About one-third.
2009. Mr. *Vernon*.] It is not water which springs there, but what percolates through the loose soil?—I apprehend so.
2010. Colonel *Fox*.] Have you not another burying-ground for the paupers?—Yes.
2011. What is the state of that ground?—It is rather inferior than otherwise.
2012. Where is that?—In the Hackney-road.
2013. Is that more crowded than the other ground?—I think it is; but the paupers are generally buried now at the mother church.
2014. Have there been complaints from the neighbourhood of that ground?—Yes; but that originated from a plan of the churchwardens for the time being, to clear the churchyard; they took up the bodies and excavated the ground, and then buried them afresh, and packed them up close to make room during the time that work was going on: there were complaints, not from the effluvia, but the sight of the thing.
2015. When was that done?—I think it might be about four years ago.
2016. Are you aware that that was an illegal proceeding?—I am aware of it.
2017. Mr. *Kemble*.] The complaint was only as to the sight?—That was all the complaint I heard.
2018. Colonel *Fox*.] What were the names of the churchwardens?—I cannot say.
2019. Were they the same who are now churchwardens?—Certainly not; they change every year.
2020. Sir *William Clay*.] When you state that the churchyard contains three acres and a half, do you refer to the churchyard attached to Shoreditch church?—Yes; but the evil of interment is very much removed now, because we have so many district churches to which they are taken.
2021. What is the annual number of the interments in the churchyard of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch?—I think from six to seven hundred.
2022. How many are there in the pauper ground in the Hackney-road?—I should think from 100 to 150, at a rough guess.
2023. When was burying in that ground discontinued?—We bury there occasionally now, but not so many.
2024. Have you any regulation as to the depth below the surface which the last coffin must be put into a grave, in your churchyard?—We generally consider about three feet; we consider the grave full if there is only three feet; or if it is within four feet, we do not allow another to be put in.
2025. When a grave is full, how near do you permit a fresh grave to be opened?—As close as they can get it; sometimes adjoining.
2026. Colonel *Fox*.] So as to expose the coffins, do you mean?—I mean within a few inches; I never saw the coffins exposed.
2027. *Chairman*.] How can they prevent the mould tumbling down?—They shore it up with shoring boards; they cannot dig without that.
2028. With reference to the bodies that were dug up illegally by the churchwardens, what was done with those?—They were all buried again; the only object of that was, that the grave-digger, in order to save his labour, had dug shallow graves, four feet or five feet deep, whereas they could go 12 feet or 14 feet deep, so that that ground was lost, and they had not room for interments; they therefore disinterred the bodies out of the ground, and buried them again, availing themselves of the increased depth.

Mr. G. Yarrow.

18 April 1842.

Mercurii, 20^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Ainsworth.
Colonel Fox.
Mr. Kemble.

Lord Mahon.
Mr. Vernon.
Mr. Yorke.

W. A. MACKINNON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

George Thomas White, Esq. called in; and Examined.

G. T. White, Esq.
20 April 1842.

2029. *Chairman.*] YOU are a practising barrister?—I am.

2030. The object of this Committee is to ascertain whether it is necessary to legislate for the purpose of preventing interments within large towns or populous places. The Committee have divided the subject of their inquiry into three points: one, as to the necessity of removing the nuisance of interring within large towns; the second subject of inquiry is, a suggestion of the remedies for the nuisance; and the third point of inquiry will be, the way in which those remedies may be best applied, so as not to interfere with vested rights: the Committee will be happy to have any information you are enabled to give on those points. Have the kindness, in the first place, to state what is your opinion as to the expediency of removing the interment of bodies from large towns?—I only know of one case in which I received any inconvenience or injury myself, but on one occasion I have sustained that. In November 1838, I attended the funeral of a deceased friend, Mr. Wigg, in the churchyard of St. John's, Waterloo-road; the grave was a deep one, I believe nine feet. Before I attended that funeral we were in the church a considerable time, and then went out to the funeral, and I stood very near the grave. I went after that, on that same day, out to dinner, and I was immediately on leaving, indeed before I had left the churchyard, affected by a distressing sensation, far above what I could attribute to the death, though I regretted it, of my friend. I felt still worse during the whole evening at dinner, and after dinner; I returned home that night, and I kept my bed and my room, and had a medical attendant for upwards of a week. I revealed to him what I had done, and he attributed it to some miasma I had been affected by, from the decomposition of matter in the grave; and my opinion is that that was the cause of my illness. I was perfectly well when I attended the funeral.

2031. *Colonel Fox.*] Did you observe any bones or coffins in the grave?—No, I did not look into the grave.

2032. *Mr. Kemble.*] This is not an old ground, is it?—No; it has existed about 20 years, I should think.

2033. *Colonel Fox.*] Is it a damp locality?—It is.

2034. *Mr. Kemble.*] It is not a densely populated district, is it?—There are a good many houses round it; there is the Commercial-road immediately behind it; the population is very dense just round it. I know the district well; I lived in Stamford-street for seven years; I kept my house above a week, and took medicine for some time after that.

2035. *Chairman.*] Did you entirely recover at the end of the week?—No, I did not recover for many weeks afterwards, entirely; I was able to go about in my profession in about a week or ten days, but I was depressed for some weeks.

2036. *Colonel Fox.*] Did you feel any unpleasant taste in your mouth?—Yes, I was conscious of that, as I stated to Mr. Green, then of Essex-street, and now of Pimlico, who attended me; and to whom I stated the fact.

2037. *Mr. Kemble.*] Do you know whether any other of the attendants were affected in the same manner?—I cannot say; there were only the children and a sister of the deceased.

2038. *Mr. Yorke.*] Was the first visitation of the illness sufficiently distinct to enable you to trace it to that cause?—So much so that it was before I left the churchyard I felt sensible of the affection, by the temporary depression.

2039. You

2039. You were sufficiently well to go out to dinner that same day?—Yes; but I was perfectly miserable the whole of the evening; I was quite ill, certainly.

2040. *Chairman.*] Do you conceive this miasma would have affected you as much as it did, had you not been in low spirits in consequence of the loss of your friend?—I was not in low spirits at all in consequence of the loss of my friend; it was no blood relationship; it was merely a friend.

2041. You have no doubt of the injurious effect of that exhalation arising from the grave?—I have no doubt whatever of it.

2042. *Mr. Kemble.*] Had you been suffering previous illness?—No; I was in perfect health.

2043. *Mr. Yorke.*] Is your general health good?—It is perfectly good.

2044. *Colonel Fox.*] Have you heard of any similar instances of persons whom you have known?—No, I have not talked about it; but I have read a good deal on the matter.

2045. *Chairman.*] Is it your impression that, generally speaking, it would have the same effect on others as it had on you?—Yes. I can mention that, on another occasion, I attended the funeral of the wife of another friend, Mrs. Binns, the wife of Mr. Thomas Binns; that was in the vault of St. Clement's Church, about 15 years ago; I perceived an unpleasant smell and dampness in that vault, but it did not affect my health at all.

2046. *Colonel Fox.*] Was that in a large vault or a small one?—A large vault under the church.

2047. Have you anything further to state on the subject of the nuisance?—They are now excavating the Strand, I suppose, with reference to the sewers, and I have been affected with a very unpleasant sensation and smell, in going to my chambers in the Temple, to which I go every day; so much so that I get out of the Strand now, and go the back way generally.

2048. May that have arisen from the sewer?—I cannot say.

2049. Are you aware that there was no sewer previously in that place, and that they have been making a new one?—I really do not know what they are doing.

2050. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] The smell arose from the opening of the ground for the purpose of making a new sewer?—I do not know for what purpose they opened the ground, but it was open about 30 yards, near Cowdry's brush manufactory, the corner house in the Strand; there was a very noxious smell.

2051. You did not perceive any smell there before that ground was opened?—No.

2052. It did not proceed from the churchyard?—No; I did not notice it until the opening of the ground. I ceased to pass that way while the opening continued.

2053. *Chairman.*] Have you anything further to state on the subject of the nuisance?—No; I do not recollect anything further.

2054. With regard to the remedies to be suggested, as a professional man is there anything you would suggest?—I would have all the dead bodies removed from the towns if I could, and from places where people live.

2055. Are you of opinion a legislative enactment should be made to prohibit their being interred in towns?—I cannot venture to suggest what measures should be taken; I should be very happy if it was done.

2056. You think it ought to be done?—I did not like to say that I think it ought to be done; that is a matter for the Committee. I wish to state that with reference to the burying-ground in Portugal-street, in the year 1819, when I was a pupil with Mr. Tidd, I resided in Lincoln's-inn-fields, and I daily went down from Lincoln's-inn-fields, the north side of them, along Portugal-street, and passed that burying-ground, and whilst graves were being dug there; I was constantly annoyed by the stench of the ground.

2057. *Lord Mahon.*] Have you any knowledge of the ground later than 23 years ago?—Yes, I have very often passed it since that.

2058. With the same result?—When there have been graves opened I have smelt the same offensive odour.

2059. *Colonel Fox.*] This was long previous to the erection of the hospital?—The building used as a hospital was then the parish workhouse.

2060. Are you aware that it was denounced as being unfit for a hospital?—I have seen something of that sort in the newspaper. There is another bury-

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ing-ground near the top of Drury-lane, between Russell-street and Long-acre; it belongs to one of the parishes, I rather think St. Martin's-in-the-fields; I have perceived the same offensive smells from that burying-ground.

2061. *Chairman.*] From what you have experienced, it would appear that every burying-ground in London, when opened, has an offensive smell?—I have no doubt of it.

2062. Your attention was not turned to that subject so much, perhaps, until you had an illness arising from the effluvia?—I beg to say I always felt it a great nuisance, but I have had no sensible illness except in the instance I have referred to in my evidence.

George Alfred Walker, Esq. called in; and further Examined.

G. A. Walker, Esq.

2063. *Colonel Fox.*] YOU have heard the evidence given by Mr. White?—I have.

2064. Will you state what you know regarding the opening in the street at present going on in the Strand?—I think I stated in my evidence, when I had the honour of being examined before a former Committee of the House of Commons, that this neighbourhood was exceedingly ill drained; perhaps in consequence of that inquiry, or some other cause, the Commissioners of Sewers have bestirred themselves, and this sewer has been brought through the Strand; it was necessary to excavate round the church, near the pathway Mr. White describes, to bring the sewer between that and the church, and a number of bodies and bones have been disturbed. A friend of mine, Mr. Plum, living on the north side of the church, was annoyed by the stench, more particularly during the time they were burying the human bones exhumed from this place; the whole were thrown upon the arch of the sewer and buried.

2065. Is it your opinion that the stench arises from human bodies, and not the opening of any former sewer?—There was no sewer there. It will be in the recollection of the Members of this Committee who did me the honour to accompany me on Friday the 8th of April, for the purpose of inspecting some of the burial-places in my district, that a quantity of human bones, covered slightly with earth, were turned up in the poor ground near the almshouses, St. Clement's-lane, Strand, where they had been deposited a very considerable time. Although these bones were denuded of their flesh, the smell was exceedingly offensive. I believe that bones, independently of their tegumentary appendages, may prove injurious to health; and this opinion is fully corroborated by the following facts: M. Ollivier, a well-known French physician, whilst visiting a cellar where old bones were stored, was seized with giddiness, nausea, tendency to vomit, and general uneasiness; subsequently he suffered from violent colic, with profuse diarrhoea, which put on the dysenteric character, and lasted for three days. M. Chevallier, in noticing this accident, mentions his having been affected somewhat in the same way when exposed to the emanations of dead bodies.

2066. *Mr. Kemble.*] This sewer is in the middle of the street?—Yes, it was part of the grave-yard formerly. I should think it was about five or six and thirty years ago when the last body was buried there.

2067. *Mr. Yorke.*] Do you know positively when this ceased to be a church-yard?—I do not.

2068. Can you state positively that it was a churchyard within five and thirty years ago?—I know that there was a body exhumed, in a leaden coffin, and the date was 1789, and the man who struck his pickaxe into this coffin was affected by the stench; that was the statement he himself made to me.

2069. *Colonel Fox.*] With regard to the burial-place in Portugal-street, is there any public hospital to the east of it?—There is.

2070. Do you not consider that a very improper locality for a hospital?—I do.

2071. What hospital is that, and under whose sanction is it?—I remember seeing the late Sir Astley Cooper, and hearing his opinion on the subject; having occasion to go to him with a patient of mine, I mentioned the circumstance to Sir Astley, and said "I was sorry to be obliged to say it was an improper site;" he said, "Well, Mr. Walker, I agree with you; but had not you better see the Bishop of London on the subject?" I said, "I had no acquaintance with his lordship, and that my time was so very limited I should not be able to go;" subsequently

I brought

I brought out my book. The Council of the College of Surgeons, I have been informed, have expressed their disapproval of the site of the hospital. G. A. Walker, Esq.

2072. Do you know whether this opinion has reached the Bishop of London? —I had two interviews with his lordship upon the subject of interment generally; he received me most courteously, and expressed his conviction that a change must and should be made in the present localities and modes of interment. I mentioned to him the circumstance of shocking desecrations having been perpetrated in my neighbourhood, and that while in Paris I read in a London newspaper that his lordship had been present at an interment in the city, and had seen 13 skulls thrown up; he said, "Yes, it was so." I told his lordship that they were thrown up wholesale in my neighbourhood; that I was informed that upwards of 500 skulls had been thrown up in one day and deposited in another part of the grave-yard, and that the grave-digger had amused himself by chalking the number on the wall.

2073. Have you reason to believe that there are a larger number of patients die in that hospital than in others?—I have no connexion with that hospital.

2074. Who are the medical officers?—Dr. Fergusson, Mr. Partridge, and some others, whom I do not know.

2075. Are you acquainted with any of the individuals who have been treated in that hospital?—Many patients I dare say go there; I believe they receive very kind treatment.

2076. Mr. *Yorke*.] What is the number of patients it will contain?—I should think it might hold from 300 to 400.

2077. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You do not know who were the individuals particularly concerned in the erection of this hospital?—It was an old house, for the reception of the poor; it has been taken as an appendage hospital to King's College, it being thought necessary that every medical school should have a hospital.

2078. Colonel *Fox*.] Was there any objection made to this hospital being used before it was completed?—I believe there were protests made in the public papers; I made none, for my conduct in the matter has been very passive; I am sorry to see that such a place is used as a hospital, for I think it is very improper.

2079. Mr. *Vernon*.] A statement was made within your hearing on a former day, that the carriers of a coffin were exceedingly annoyed when some lime was put into that coffin; would there be any deleterious effect likely to arise to the carriers of a coffin from that circumstance?—I think that would depend very greatly on the condition of the body.

2080. What would be the direct effect on the body, supposing the body to be already in a state of putrefaction by the introduction of lime?—I am scarcely prepared to answer that question.

2081. If lime is laid on the exterior of the coffins the effect on the corpse would be nothing?—Nothing.

2082. Would there be any beneficial effect arising in respect of the gases which issue from the coffin?—The lime on the coffin, if put in in the slacked state, would be an absorbent; there can be no doubt of that; that is, in the form of powder.

2083. In an unslacked state the effect would be still greater, inasmuch as it had not received its portion of carbonic acid gas?—Precisely so.

2084. A good deal having been said on the subject of the rapid decomposition of bodies, and there appearing some confusion on the part of the witnesses with regard to the effect of such decomposition, will you state your opinion whether the purposes of interment are not best fulfilled where rapid decomposition does take place?—There is no question, supposing there is a sufficient quantity of atmospheric air to dissipate the products of corruption. About $\frac{1}{13}$ ths of the human body must dissipate, and either mix with the earth or pass off in a gaseous form.

2085. The more rapid the decomposition of each individual body, the less the object in which the corruption would reside, and from which injury would emanate?—Unquestionably.

2086. Lord *Mahon*.] Supposing quick-lime to be put into a coffin at the same time with the dead body, what would be the period, under common circumstances, to elapse before the entire decomposition of that body?—That question I cannot answer; it would depend very much on circumstances, on the condition of the body before death, and so on.

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2087. What would be the average length of time?—That I cannot answer. I know lime has been very extensively used in some places, particularly in Enon Chapel. I have no doubt if the Committee had obtained admission the other day, they would have been struck with the stinking odour. I know that lime has been inserted in enormous quantities, and that the bodies have been consumed in less than a twelvemonth.

2088. Mr. Vernon.] You object to a damp ground?—No.

2089. What is your objection to interment in a damp ground?—That heat conjoined with moisture rapidly assists putrefaction. With regard to my objection of placing bodies in a damp soil, I think it is a very proper one, for we have the authority of several eminent and learned medical men in France, who invariably have chosen, so far as they have had an opportunity, high and dry soils; for a clayey soil will retain the gas for ever. If any epidemic were to visit us in consequence possibly of the over-gorged state of our churchyards, I would say, break down the tombstones and cover the surface with clay a foot deep, and then you will be safe.

2090. By confining it?—Yes.

2091. Would it not be still better than confining it that you should furnish the utmost facilities, by access to the open air, for rapid decomposition?—Most undoubtedly, that is the whole secret of cemeterial interment:—sufficient space, and high ground.

2092. Chairman.] You are aware that when the gas companies occasionally open the public streets, there is an effusion of very strong odour; are you certain that the effluvia in the Strand was not from that cause?—Yes; they are perfectly distinct. The one is carbureted hydrogen. The gases given off from dead bodies are of a compound nature, and are readily distinguished by their peculiar odour, and cannot be mistaken by any one who has attended to the subject.

Jovis, 21^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Ainsworth.
Sir William Clay.
Mr. Evelyn Denison.
Sir R. H. Inglis.

Mr. Kemble.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. Redhead Yorke.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. George Frederic Collier, called in; and Examined.

G. F. Collier, Esq.
21 April 1842.

2093. Chairman.] WHERE do you reside?—No. 32, Spring-gardens.

2094. Do you practise as a medical man at present?—Yes, as a physician.

2095. Are you concerned in any way with the cemeteries as a physician.
Not in the least.

2096. You are aware of the object of the investigation pursued by this Committee; will you have the kindness to state generally to the Committee your impression with regard to the interment of persons within large towns?—My impression is that it must necessarily be injurious, not as the cause, but as one cause *inter alias*. I believe that no single cause produces fever, but that the effluvia given off from the human body tends to depress, impair, and enervate the human frame, and I look to that as one cause *inter alias* of fevers; for my experience of 23 or 24 years tells me it is so.

2097. Do you consider it to be amongst the leading causes, or a secondary cause?—It is a difficult matter to answer that question, there being so many links in the chain; it is, at all events, what I should denominate a common cause, animal effluvia.

2098. Are you prepared to state what description of fevers that is most likely to produce?—Yes; I speak from experience when I say, that animal effluvia would be likely to produce fevers of the low typhoid kind, with the fluids impaired.

2099. Are

2099. Are such fevers very prevalent in this town?—I am not aware that they are at the present time. I am not attached to any fever hospital, therefore I am not aware whether at this present moment they are particularly prevalent. I do not practise much among the lower classes. G. F. Collier, Esq.
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2100. Lord Mahon.] Have you ever observed cases where the health of the patient seemed injuriously affected by the close neighbourhood of a grave-yard?—Yes; I have reason to think so.

2101. And you have traced the illness, or its aggravation, to arise from the neighbourhood of that grave-yard?—As one of the causes; but I would speak generally of animal effluvia having that effect.

2102. Chairman.] Do you consider that the effluvia arising from putrefied human bodies is more injurious than that arising from other animal matter?—I should doubt that; I should conceive that the effluvia arising from living animal matter is more deleterious than that which arises from the dead; with respect to the doctrine of fevers I have found it so.

2103. You think that that is one perhaps of the causes of the greater mortality in town than in the country?—No, I am not prepared to say that; I think that the causes of fever are extremely various; that would be a question of statistics, and I could not answer it; I could only answer to the point generally, that it is one of the causes; that animal effluvia will act as a depressing poison in any way in which you disturb the innervation, whether by impressions made on the system *ab externo*, or by the absorption of animal effluvia, other causes conspiring, for there is no such thing as one cause of fever; but too commonly that is assumed to be the cause which has produced the effect, because it is the easiest mode of jumping to a conclusion.

2104. The gaseous matter or effluvia arising from such a vast number of bodies being interred within the precincts of this town must be very considerable?—In all probability; it would depend entirely on how far precautions are taken to prevent it; in burials in the earth it would depend entirely on how far the elements which are thrown off from the putrescent matter from the body itself are neutralized and rendered innocent by due admixture with the earth.

2105. In the course of your practice you have not been able to ascertain clearly the fact at what distance this gaseous matter or effluvia arising from the putrefied animal matter becomes innocuous?—I should imagine it would be injurious at any distance at which it is inhaled; that is to say, our senses are given to us for the purpose of warning us of danger; and I should say that in any atmosphere where it is appreciable by the sense (that is, by the sense of smell) it would be injurious; if it were so largely diluted as to escape being appreciated by the smell, I should doubt its being injurious.

2106. But the moment it is smelt you think it injurious to health?—I should think that in all probability it would be so, and that it would become one of the causes of fever. I can illustrate this by what I have seen when occasionally attending funerals, whether public or private funerals; I have observed that where persons from great curiosity, or from tenderness to the memory of the dead, have descended into the vaults, they have been within a few days afterwards affected with fever and cold, and that the depression is greater on account of the circumstance of such individuals having been under the operation of the poison, that is, under the operation of the effluvia of the vault. I think it has been commonly noticed with regard to attendance at royal funerals, for instance, in this country; it seldom happens where parties descend too curiously into the tomb, but what some person or other is affected apparently with cold or with fever, but other causes are co-operating. There is, perhaps, some depression of spirits; there is the cold of the vault, and in addition to that the effluvia of the vault. I have observed that that is pretty generally to be detected in all vaults, however careful they may be, not excepting cemeteries. I have detected it in cemeteries. I am speaking of catacombs, where the undertakers have not been careful in sealing the coffins.

2107. You are aware that with regard to the churches along the Strand, there are openings from the vaults under those churches to the public streets?—Yes.

2108. Do you consider the gaseous matter, or the effluvia, arising from those vaults, mixing with the atmosphere in the streets injurious to the people who are passing by?—Scarcely; I think that there the transition is too rapid; persons merely passing would escape the effect.

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2109. It cannot be beneficial to the air of London to have that effluvium mixing with it?—No; quite the contrary, because it becomes one of the depressing causes inducing fever.

2110. Mr. E. Denison.] You said that in attending royal funerals it commonly happened that people were injuriously affected?—I think it has been so noticed, and I have noticed it myself.

2111. Considering the circumstances of the vault where royal funerals take place, it can hardly be that cause of illness which would arise from the offensive matter which would be exhaled in crowded churchyards?—I think the greatest care does not always succeed in preventing the exhalations; I am aware that they take great care. I presume, that supposing there is exhalation there, it would so act.

2112. Is not that a supposition which is not borne out by the fact?—So far as regards my view of the matter it is borne out by this circumstance, that whether it were simple effluvium from the bodies, or whether it was any disagreeable effluvium from the close confined air in the tombs, it will be quite sufficient, because what I take my stand upon is, that anything which tends to depress the powers of life tends to produce fever.

2113. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Is there any given quantity of gaseous matter in a human body, which evaporates, where a leaden coffin is first burst open by the expansive force of such gaseous matter, or does it generate such gas after the leaden coffin has been burst open?—There is no doubt in the first place you will have large quantities of gas given off, and then the decomposition will be more gradual, but the exhalation will go on gradually. There will be first an immediate exhalation, then a rapid exhalation, then subsequently a slow exhalation, which is a work of considerable time.

2114. It is not then a sudden development and expansion of a particular gas once for all which passes from the coffin into the air, but it is a continued series of gases to which you refer as proceeding from the human body in a state of decomposition?—If you are speaking of a single body, I should say that the elimination of a large quantity of gas is the more dangerous, and then that the gradual exhalation from a single body would be very much less dangerous; but if you have a number of bodies together, the gradual exhalation becomes an accumulated dose.

2115. Mr. R. Yorke.] You said that persons attending royal funerals commonly caught colds?—I have said no such thing. I would illustrate what I have already said, by telling you that, if I am compelled by circumstances to attend a funeral, I make it a rule never to go down into the vault. I attended the funeral of a friend a short time ago at Christchurch; I did not descend into the vault, and I think it is imprudent to do so, because I think the circumstance of persons being depressed in spirits at the time, the circumstance of the effluvium pervading the vault, (which, as far as my observation goes, it does,) and other circumstances concurring, may develope fever, but I do not think that singly it has the power to do so.

2116. Chairman.] Can you state any particulars regarding Elim Chapel?—Yes; in the year 1827, I think it was, I attended some cases of fever in the neighbourhood, and my attention was directed by the family to the stench in the neighbourhood, and it became disagreeable to me. It was a duty which I had to perform, but it was disagreeable to me to attend these cases: they were cases of fever, and I advised them to apply to the authorities about it. It seemed to me at the time that the stench in the court was produced by the decomposition of animal matter in the vaults; and the impression in my mind is, that water had got into the vaults, that part of it had been pumped out, and the other part allowed gradually to exhale. I speak of this as an occurrence 15 or 16 years ago. I never examined the vault, and I cannot speak of my own knowledge, except that the odour in the court was extremely disagreeable.

2117. Was there much typhus fever in the court?—I had three cases in the house opposite the chapel; but my attention was first directed by the family to the circumstance, and I advised them to get out of the court as soon as they could.

2118. Whereabouts is this Elim Chapel?—It is about half way up Fetter-lane.

2119. Is the water now at the bottom of this vault of Elim Chapel?—I have not the slightest knowledge of that circumstance; I have not applied myself at all to the investigation of this matter, not having had five minutes notice of giving my

my evidence, nor did I require it, for it appears to me that the doctrine of fever is contained in a nut-shell.

2120. To your knowledge, in this court the smell was offensive arising from the bodies deposited under the chapel, and that fever broke out?—The smell in the court was extremely offensive, but of my own knowledge I could not prove that it arose from the decomposition of animal matter within that chapel. My attention was directed to the circumstance by the report in the neighbourhood and the statement of my own patients.

2121. Are the bodies under Elim Chapel put into leaden coffins or common coffins?—I have not the slightest knowledge of that circumstance.

2122. Is there anything further you wish to say to the Committee?—Nothing whatever; all I wish to say may be embraced in one sentence, it is simply this: that there is no such thing as the one cause of fever; various causes must conspire to produce it, and one of these, in my opinion, is the depressing effect of the effluvium of human bodies.

Thomas Tagg, called in; and Examined.

2123. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] YOU attended this Committee on Monday last?—I did.

2124. You stated that you had heard that evidence affecting you, and the burial-ground belonging to you, had been taken on the 14th instant, and that you considered such evidence to be incorrect, and requested an opportunity of rebutting it?—Just so.

2125. The Committee granted that request, and desired at the same time that you would bring with you the register books of your burial-ground. Do you attend accordingly for the purpose of rebutting the evidence which you understand to have been given against you and your burial-ground; and have you brought with you the register books of such burial-ground, according to such direction of the Committee?—Yes, I have.

2126. Will you produce those books to the Chairman?—Yes.

[Two register books were handed in accordingly.]

2127. Are those books which you have now delivered to the Chairman the original books of your burial-ground?—The original books were given up to the proper registry office appointed by Government under an Act of Parliament, and we have preserved a copy of them.

2128. For a part of the time, probably, the books now delivered to the Chairman are original books?—Yes.

2129. For what period are they original books?—About seven years.

2130. Have you read the evidence to which you refer as affecting the character of yourself and your burial-ground?—No, I have not read the evidence; I was informed of it by a person who was present.

2131. By whom do you apprehend such evidence to have been given?—I consider that it was given by a man of the name of Miller.

2132. Can you state to the Committee the purport of the evidence which you regard as injurious to yourself?—The evidence which he gave with regard to removing a great number of bodies from the graves, and throwing them into pits which had been dug in other parts of the ground. I think I was told that he said he had dug about twenty of these pits and thrown bodies into them, which I consider to be altogether false.

2133. What evidence do you propose to produce to the Committee to prove the correctness of your present assertion, and the falsehood of the evidence given by the said William Miller on the 14th instant; are you perfectly cognizant of the facts of the case yourself, or do you desire to produce witnesses in corroboration of your present assertion?—I believe no such circumstance could have occurred without my observing it, as I am in the habit of going to the ground sometimes once a week, and sometimes twice or thrice a week.

2134. Was William Miller ever in your employment?—He was never in my employment; he was employed by the sexton; I never employ the grave-diggers.

2135. Do you state to this Committee that there were or were not 20 pits, or any number of pits, dug in your burying-ground?—I do not believe that such a

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circumstance could have taken place without my knowledge, and I never saw any pit or pits dug for any such purpose.

2136. If your sexton had ordered such pits to be dug, must you, in the course of your business in superintending your burying-ground, have observed the fact?—I think I must have known it.

2137. Then, any witness who has stated that such pits were dug, must, in your judgment, have given incorrect evidence?—Mr. Caugh, who is present, and who is on the ground more frequently than myself, he being the person who reads the service, and resides very near there, can, no doubt, speak to that fact more directly than I can; but, as I observed before, in all my attendances at the ground I never observed any irregularities of that kind.

2138. And you state to the Committee, that at least once a week you visit that ground?—In a general way, except on account of ill health, distance, or circumstances of that kind. I go there once a week, and sometimes twice or thrice a week.

2139. Is the ground forming the subject of these questions consecrated or not?—It was not consecrated by an ordained clergyman of the Church of England, but it was religiously and solemnly set apart for the purpose of burials by one of the Wesleyan ministers.

2140. In what year?—In the year 1820.

2141. Do the volumes which you have handed in to the Chairman contain a full and true account of all the burials which have taken place since the year 1820?—Every one of them, to the best of my knowledge.

2142. Do they form a consecutive series of number, or, if not, can you state to the Committee what is the aggregate number of bodies so buried in your ground?—9,500 since it was first opened.

2143. What is the area of the ground in question?—I never had it correctly measured, but I understand it is about three quarters of an acre, or from that to an acre.

2144. What is the greatest depth to which a grave is dug?—We can go about 14 or 15 feet deep.

2145. Without finding water?—Before we get to water; sometimes in the autumn, after a rainy season, we cannot, perhaps, go more than 12 or 13 feet, but in a dry season we can go 15 or 16 feet.

2146. Do you propose to produce Mr. Caugh as a witness to negative the assertions made, as you understand, by William Miller?—Yes, I believe he can contradict them better than I can.

2147. *Chairman.*] How many graves have you with stones over them as mementoes of the dead?—I am not sure of the exact amount; I have never counted them, so as to take the exact number; but I think about fifty.

2148. What unoccupied ground have you?—I should consider that not one half of the ground is now occupied.

2149. Not one half occupied of three quarters of an acre, with 9,500 bodies?—I think, according to the plan on which we inter them, you will find that that space of ground will contain more than that number.

2150. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] Is the ground to which these questions have referred freehold?—It is freehold; I purchased the freehold.

2151. Is it attached to any chapel?—There is a Wesleyan chapel adjoining, but it is not connected with the chapel.

2152. *Chairman.*] What is the plan which you say was adopted to put this number in the ground?—By laying it out in regular rows, and measuring off the ground, so that each grave will be dug in its proper place. I think the sexton has drawn out a rough sketch at the commencement of one of the register books, which perhaps will illustrate my meaning.

2153. Explain to the Committee for their satisfaction how you account that you can by any management, or by your management, such as it is, in three quarters of an acre of ground, not occupy one half of it, and yet deposit in it 9,500 bodies?—I think if that plan is referred to it will explain the mode of doing it.

2154. How many do you put in each grave?—We consider that at least eight bodies may be put in each grave.

2155. What is the depth?—Supposing we go fifteen feet deep, reckoning one foot as the depth of each coffin, it will leave four or five feet, I think, above the last coffin which is put in.

2156. Mr.

2156. Mr. *E. Denison*.] How many superficial feet do you reckon for a grave?—About ten feet.

2157. Mr. *R. Yorke*.] Up to how near the surface of the ground do you continue to put in coffins?—To about three or four feet.

2158. Each coffin would occupy how much space of ground in height?—About 12 inches, I consider, on the average.

2159. Lord *Mahon*.] What fee do you ask for each funeral?—10*s.* for a grown person, and 5*s.* for a child, in one part of the ground.

2160. It has been stated in the evidence to this Committee that the wood of the coffins is burnt in the house of your sexton; is that the case, so far as your own personal knowledge extends?—When a corpse has been completely decomposed I have understood that the coffin, being completely decayed or rotted, has been taken out, and I believe in one or two cases it may have been burnt; I have never seen any burnt; I have seen wood which has been thrown out, but it has been in a state of decay and rottenness.

2161. Am I to understand from the answer you have just given, that the wood of coffins has, with your sanction, been burnt in the house of your sexton?—Not with my sanction.

2162. To your knowledge?—Not to my knowledge; I have never seen it burnt.

2163. If it has not been burnt to your knowledge, how is it that you have stated in a recent answer that you were aware of the circumstance?—I have seen pieces of decayed wood left in the shed where the tools were kept, but I never sanctioned any proceeding of that kind; my instructions always have been that if a body is completely decomposed, the remains should be carried down to the depth of the grave, if that grave has been opened after the decomposition of the body.

2164. Am I to gather from your previous answer that you did or did not know of the fact that the wood of the coffins was burnt in the house of your sexton?—No; I cannot say that I knew it.

2165. And yet, in a previous answer, you stated you were aware of it?—I was aware that it was taken, and left in the yard adjoining the sexton's house.

2166. For what purpose did you suppose it to be left?—I supposed it was taken there for the purpose of burning, and that the sexton probably might have taken it there.

2167. And yet you state that you did not know of it being burned?—I had no proof that it was burned; but I supposed, from its being taken there, that it was taken there for that purpose.

2168. Did you interpose or remonstrate?—I have frequently given orders to the sexton that nothing of the kind should be thrown out of a grave, but that it should be laid at the bottom of the grave, if any grave had been opened where the bodies were decomposed.

2169. Was it after you had repeatedly given these orders, or after you had given any one of them, that you saw this wood piled in the sexton's yard for burning?—I believe I have given such orders both before and since that time.

2170. When you found your orders disregarded, what course did you take?—I expostulated; and I have not observed anything of the kind for a great length of time, which I suppose has been in consequence of the orders I gave.

2171. When was it you last observed this?—I have not seen anything like it for the last year or two, I think.

2172. Colonel *Fox*.] Have you ever received any complaints with regard to these subjects from relations of the people who have been buried?—No relations have come to me to make any complaints; I have heard that there were complaints some time ago by some parties, who saw the sexton remove a corpse out of a purchased grave, which he did not expect to find. A person purchased a grave in a particular spot, and in digging that family grave, a coffin was taken out and put into one adjoining; and there were complaints made at the time respecting the circumstance.

2173. Lord *Mahon*.] Was the wood of the coffins ever burnt in your own house?—Oh dear no.

2174. Colonel *Fox*.] Have you ever observed any effluvia or bad smell yourself?—No.

2175. Have you had complaints on that subject?—No; not at all.

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2176. *Chairman.*] You inter in this grave-yard persons of all religious denominations?—We do.

2177. You inter persons belonging to the Church of England?—We do.

2178. Are those persons aware that the individual who reads the funeral service is not an ordained clergyman of the Church of England?—I should think they must be aware of it.

2179. In what manner?—The person who has officiated there for the last 14 or 15 years is well known in the neighbourhood, and most of the persons reside in the neighbourhood who bury there; we have never been asked the question whether he is an ordained clergyman of the Church of England or not, and there never was any objection made on that ground.

2180. Have you ever been threatened with an action for misdemeanor in removing any dead bodies?—No; I never was threatened with an action on that ground.

2181. You have never been accused by any of the relations of any person?—Not to my knowledge; I have no recollection of anything of the kind.

2182. Are you in the habit of interring persons who have been dissected?—Yes; we have received a good many.

2183. What number in one year?—Last year there were 16, but there were more the year before.

2184. Have you had altogether as many as 300?—The register-books will show it.

2185. *Lord Mahon.*] Have you, directly or indirectly, received any profit or emolument whatever from the wood of the coffins?—None whatever; the fact is, it could be of no value in that state of decay.

2186. *Chairman.*] Is there any one whom you can bring forward to deny the statement of William Miller?—If the sexton had been living, I have no doubt he would; but, unfortunately, he is dead.

2187. *Mr. Kemble.*] I think you said the fee on a burial was 10s.; does that include the service of the minister?—Yes, in the lower part of the ground; in the middle part of it it is 14s. for a grown person and 7s. for a child; but the front part of it is a guinea for a grown person and half-a-guinea for a child.

2188. *Chairman.*] Are you at all connected with the corporation of the city?—I am.

2189. Are you aware that the common council has presented a petition to the House of Commons complaining of burials in your ground?—I am quite aware of it; and I would beg leave to observe, that it is not my wish at all to throw any difficulties in the way of the establishment of cemeteries. My object in coming forward here has been simply to vindicate the character of the ground, as well as my own character.

2190. How do you explain that the ground is in a proper state, if the city of London have presented a petition to the House of Commons against you?—I do not apprehend that it applies particularly to me. My ground is a long distance from the city of London.

2191. You do not apprehend it applies to your ground more than to others?—No.

2192. *Mr. R. Yorke.*] What time do you consider to be necessary for the decomposition of a body?—That depends entirely upon the state of the ground. If it is put into a shallow grave with a light earth, I should say that it would decompose in 10 or 12 years. If it was put a great depth in the ground, and the ground was in a wet state, it would be much longer, especially the coffin.

2193. *Chairman.*] Is your ground surrounded by a wall?—It is surrounded by a wall.

2194. On every side?—On every side except the part of the ground where the chapel and Sunday-school stand.

2195. Can anybody passing see what is going on in your burying-ground?—Yes; the front iron work is open, and the gates are standing open all day long.

2196. Is there not a railway which passes very near it?—The railway comes very near it; it comes within a few yards of one corner of it.

2197. Did Mr. Poole, a clerk of the railway company, ever make any observation, or say anything to you upon the subject?—I do not know such a person; no person made any complaint to me respecting it.

2198. *Mr. Kemble.*] You spoke of the chapel and school; are they built on the ground?—No; they are quite a different property.

2199. They

2199. They are not built on your freehold ground?—No; it is a chapel in the Wesleyan connexion, and it is held in trust for the Wesleyan connexion.

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Henry John Parker, called in; and Examined.

2200. *Chairman.*] YOU belong to the police force?—I do.

2201. What division?—No. 10, K. Division.

Henry John Parker.

2202. We have sent for you in order to ascertain whether the evidence of William Miller was correct about a certain grave-yard, in Globe-road; state to the Committee what you know about that?—On the 11th October, in the year 1839, information was brought to the station, that a most disgusting scene had been observed by a person from the Eastern Counties Railway; in consequence of that I was directed by my inspector to go down there. On my road I met sergeant Shaw and inspector M'Craw. We went into the burial-ground, and in a kind of pit there were a number of coffins which had apparently been just removed; there were two lads and a man there. I asked one of the lads how that had happened, and he said they had been removed there to make room for more bodies; the ground is getting very full. I observed the lid of one of the coffins partially off; and I said to him, "This is very disgraceful." The coffin was about two feet, it might be, from the surface of the earth. He got down; and it appeared to be the body either of a male or a female; but it was in such a decomposed state I could hardly tell, and the stench arising from it was horrid; I could scarcely breathe afterwards. At that time there was a boy coming out of the burial-ground, and he had a basket with him; the basket contained bones and nails; some of the nails apparently had come from the coffins, from their description; but the bones were not human bones, I should say.

2203. Was he coming out of the churchyard?—Yes; that was when I was going in.

2204. Were these bodies all thrown into one pit?—There were coffins; I saw no bodies.

2205. *Mr. E. Denison.*] What size was this pit?—I should say the pit might be somewhere about 10 feet by 6 feet.

2206. How deep?—We could not see how deep it was, because there was a number of coffins which appeared to have been removed from some other part of the ground.

2207. Was what you saw that the coffins were all brought and put close together, without any earth or anything, and that the coffins were packed as close together as they could be in a pit?—Yes.

2208. That is what you saw?—Yes.

2209. Evidently coffins; some old, and some less old, brought into this pit?—I cannot say whether they were brought; I saw them there.

2210. How many might there be in the pit, do you think?—I should say about four or five, I saw; how many more there might be under it is impossible to say.

2211. *Chairman.*] How near the surface of the ground?—I should say about two feet; or perhaps not quite so much.

2212. You could only see four or five?—No.

2213. You could not tell how deep the pit was?—No.

2214. *Lord Mahon.*] Was that the only pit you saw on the ground?—Yes.

2215. *Chairman.*] Have you ever observed anything else in that grave-yard?—I never observed anything particular; certainly the ground, I should say, from its appearance, is very full, because the greater portion of it is new made ground.

2216. How do you mean new made ground?—I should say there is new earth about two feet from the level of the footpath; that is to give it a greater depth, it having become full. New made earth was brought in, I should say, from somewhere, to make the ground higher.

2217. Is there anything else you wish to state to the Committee?—I am not aware of anything else.

William Shaw, called in; and Examined.

2218. *Chairman.*] WHAT are you?—Sergeant of police.

2219. What division?—K. division, No. 2.

William Shaw.

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2220. Will you state to the Committee what has come under your knowledge with regard to the grave-yard in Globe-road?—A circumstance that happened in October 1839. I went with sergeant Parker to the burial-ground in Globe-lane. Some complaint had been made by Mr. Poole, who was a clerk on the Eastern Counties Railway, stating that some coffins had been removed. When I got near the gate, I saw a boy coming out with a basket, and I asked him what he had got, and he said, "Some bones." I took him back into the burial-ground, and opened the basket; there were a number of bones and nails in it; I cannot say they were human bones.

2221. You do not know whether they were or not?—I do not know; I thought they were not at the time.

2222. Have you ever seen, from your own observation, anything disgraceful in that churchyard?—I have not, except on this occasion. Whilst I was talking with the wife of the grave-digger, and telling her how improper it was that whatever bones they were they should be brought out in that way, some of the porters of the railway called out to us that we were standing near the hole where they had been burying the bodies. I turned round to a boy who was there, and asked him what it was; the boy stooped down into the hole and removed a coffin lid; the whole appeared to be full of coffins, and there was no plate or nails on the coffins.

2223. Was the coffin empty?—The body was in the coffin, in the last stage of decomposition.

2224. Colonel Fox.] Was it a common coffin, or covered with cloth?—It was not covered with cloth; it was very dirty, and I think the mark of the plate was on it.

2225. Your idea was that it was a coffin that had been mutilated?—My idea was so at the time.

2226. And the nails drawn out?—I should have thought so. The body appeared to me to be that of a male from the size.

2227. Was any part of the dress remaining?—I think not; I knew nothing of coming here until yesterday, so that I am quite unprepared, and I speak merely from memory.

2228. In the course of your service, have you ever had occasion to know, or have you heard of burial-grounds being in an improper state?—From my own knowledge I cannot speak of it; I believe that ground to be very full.

James Anderton, Esq. called in; and Examined.

J. Anderton, Esq.

2229. Chairman.] WHAT situation do you hold?—I am a Solicitor, and also a member of the Common Council of the City.

2230. Have you given your attention at all to the state of the churchyards and the grave-yards in the city of London; and knowing what the object of this Committee is, will you have the kindness to state to the Committee what you know upon the subject?—My attention has been drawn to the subject generally; I recollect that my attention was first directed to it in passing through St. Margaret's churchyard.

2231. Lord Mahon.] How many years ago are you speaking of?—It is some years ago; my attention was then drawn to it. I went afterwards to Paris, and saw a marked distinction between the burying of the dead in that place and interments in our own country. I observed at that time to a friend who was with me, that if I lived I would endeavour to get rid of the mode of interment of the dead in this country, in order to establish something like the mode pursued there. I should state, with regard to St. Margaret's churchyard, that when I was passing through it a grave was being opened, and there were several skulls and bones thrown out, and putrid flesh. I always considered that the churchyards in this country being made thoroughfares, boys playing at marbles and such things, was quite disgraceful.

2232. Are any of the churchyards in London or Westminster thoroughfares?—St. Margaret's is.

2233. Besides St. Margaret's?—Yes, several; St. Clement Danes; I consider we are there burying within our town streets; I consider it very little better; I consider St. Paul's churchyard also burying in our town streets. I consider that all the churchyards within the city of London are in the same situation. They are most of them very small; they are all of them in very crowded neighbourhoods,

bourhoods, and in the very heart of the city of London, and in the streets. It is very true they are separated from the main streets by iron railings, but that is all that can be said of them.

2234. Have you ever found any bad effects arising from that to the health of the inhabitants?—I cannot say I have myself, but I have heard innumerable complaints, hundreds I may say, of the state of the churchyards, and the effluvium, and the bad effects arising from them to persons residing near them.

2235. *Chairman.*] The disgraceful state of the churchyards?—Yes.

2236. Do you consider St. Paul's churchyard very full?—It always appears to me so. I happened to be present at the time of the funeral of Sir Thomas Lawrence under St. Paul's; I went down, and I was surprised to see that the flag-stone placed on the coffin was not more than four or five inches above the coffin. I consider also that the vaults under the churches are highly objectionable. I have always considered that churches were made for the living, and not for the dead. A short time ago my attention was drawn to the church of St. Martin's, on Ludgate-hill, which is in the very heart of the city. There is no churchyard attached to the church, and therefore they are obliged to put in the vaults not only the paupers, but of course any other inhabitant who may die there. A short time ago the church was under repair, and I saw them carting away bones and decayed coffins, and I inquired about it. They were mixing them up with the rubbish, in order that the passengers might not see what they were doing. I attempted to go down into the vaults, but I was so disgusted that I returned. I know that the attention of the Bishop of London was called to the putting coffins into the vaults without lead. I was speaking of it to the curate of the parish, and he told me he was going to see the bishop on the subject, for that they had no other means of burying.

2237. Then as far as your observation goes, you think that all the parish burial-grounds within the bills of mortality are in a bad state?—I think them a disgrace to the country; I think them a disgrace to civilized society, and a discredit to the country; I think nothing can be worse; and if any gentleman would go round the city and look at the state of the churchyards, the places in which they are situated, and the size of them, (for some of them are very little larger, I think, than this room,) I do not think they would want any other opinions than their own.

2238. *Mr. Kemble.*] Some of those small parishes have very few interments in the course of a year?—Perhaps from five to seven in a year, or from 14 to 20 in a year.

2239. *Chairman.*] With regard to any legislative enactments that might be framed, as you are a man of considerable observation and in the legal profession, perhaps you will state to the Committee what, in your opinion, would be proper legislative enactments?—I should think that the first thing to be done would be to ascertain what has been the emolument of the clergy of the different parishes, taking the aggregate for the last five or seven years, arising from interments, and I think then, that that ought to be made up to them by a rate on the parish, so as not at all to lessen their incomes. It might be a question whether for persons removed from the parish to cemeteries to be buried, something should not be paid to the parish, for registration in the parish, as well as at the cemetery. I think also that, adopting the plan of the Poor Law Unions, parishes might be consolidated in a similar way for the purpose of forming a general burying-ground.

2240. Adopting the plan of the parish unions?—Yes; so that each parish would have to contribute in the same proportion, in the same way as they contribute there.

2241. Having a good deal considered the subject, can you state to the Committee what amount of rate you think would suffice to answer that expenditure?—That would depend a good deal on the nature of the parish; some parishes would be more and some less, in the same way as it is with regard to the contribution to the poor law.

2242. *Mr. Kemble.*] If I understand you, your recommendation would be that the parishes should be formed into unions for the purpose of having a union cemetery?—Just so.

2243. Of course the rate must mainly depend on the price at which the land is purchased for the purpose of a cemetery, and London being so thickly populated as it is, you must go some distance?—Yes; burying-grounds of that descrip-

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tion would be more applicable to the poor than the rich, for I think the rich now would provide for themselves in the public cemeteries which have been established; the great difficulty is that of burying the poor, and the expense of burying them.

2244. *Mr. E. Denison.*] Can you suggest any means by which that can be got over?—That can only be done, I think, in the way I have suggested, namely, by classifying the parishes on the principle of the Poor Law Unions; because if you take the city of London, for instance, some of the parishes are very small, and perhaps they do not bury more than two or three paupers in a year; I would class them with other parishes.

2245. *Chairman.*] Would you make this union of parishes exactly the same as the pauper unions, or would you leave no discretion to the authorities in each parish to be out of the union, or would you compel them to belong to the union? I do not know that I am prepared to answer that.

2246. *Mr. Kemble.*] Do you not think that to appropriate a burying-ground merely to paupers would be revolting to the feelings of the lower order of the people?—I would not appropriate it exclusively to them, but I think it would be very little used by the other classes of society, who, if they went there, should pay for it.

2247. *Mr. E. Denison.*] You would prohibit the burial of all classes, either rich or poor, in the present churchyards?—Most decidedly, and in churches too, if I could.

2248. *Colonel Fox.*] Do you think there would be any prejudice among the middling and lower classes to a law that there should be a quantity of quick-lime put in the coffin?—I think there would be something revolting to a person standing by and seeing quick-lime thrown on the body of a relation; I think a father or a mother would not like to see quick-lime thrown on a child, and I think a widow would not like to see it thrown on a husband, nor would a husband like to see it thrown on a wife; that would not be my feeling, but I believe it would be the feeling of 19 persons out of 20.

Veneris, 22^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Ainsworth.
Mr. Beckett.
Sir William Clay.
Mr. Cowper.
Mr. E. Denison.

Mr. Kemble.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. Vernon.
Mr. R. Yorke.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. John Charles Atkinson, called in; and Examined.

Mr. J. C. Atkinson.

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2249. *Chairman.*] WHAT is your occupation?—A Surgeon.

2250. Where do you reside?—At Romney-terrace, Westminster.

2251. Will you state to the Committee, so far as your experience goes, your opinion with regard to the expediency of removing interments from large towns?—I have not investigated the subject anything like so far as Mr. Walker, but I have been long convinced of the fact, that were burials to take place without the precincts of the city, it is possible that the health of the metropolis generally would be very much improved, especially during seasons of moisture and rains. I believe at those periods there would be no opinion against that which I am giving now. The attacks of influenza are very much increased when the air is in a state of vitiation, and that result I believe is considerably increased if bodies are interred near to the surface. During the operation of moisture, and the electric action, this gas, which is detrimental to life, would take place in considerable quantities, and would pass out into different localities by that means, and very much deteriorate the health of the inhabitants of that quarter. I was more particularly struck with the fact of the case of William Green, a grave-digger

digger at St. Margaret's, close by the Houses of Parliament. That man, during the early part of May 1840, was engaged in preparing a grave for a person; he had been engaged in the occupation many years, but when he was engaged in thus digging this grave he had penetrated, by means of his pickaxe, a coffin which was close adjoining; he was immediately seized with faintness and lowness; he was observed to fall, and was then removed, for he had shown very little signs of life. He was taken to a public-house, where he had brandy administered to him, and then removed home, when a medical man attended him, who gave him the ordinary stimuli, but with no effect. He continued to grow worse, and the medical man, finding about that period, the third or fourth day after the attack, that he himself was getting very much indisposed, ordered the man to be taken to the Westminster Hospital, where he died two days after his admission. I was called in to attend the medical man; he had symptoms very peculiar, not symptoms that any person in ordinary life would be affected with under a pure atmosphere; he appeared to be affected in a way that I would say nothing could counteract, but that death must inevitably take place, and the effect was as potent, I am sure, as if some deadly poison had been given to him; he continued, although medicines were administered to him at different periods, to grow worse, and died about the fifth or sixth day after the attack. The symptoms, of course, were in some measure dissimilar to those of ordinary typhus, acquired where it is constitutional. They were peculiar, because the attack seemed to be entirely an annihilation of the nervous system. The circulating system went on irregularly and uncontrollably, till death removed the patient. A servant who had attended upon him very closely was also attacked two days prior to his death. She was attacked in a similar way; the pulse precisely in the same condition as that of her master, and she died three or four days after her master. These cases appeared to me to be marked by such symptoms as I considered were not to be accounted for in any of the different diseases with which we are at present acquainted.

2252. Do you consider that all the three deaths you have mentioned were similar in their causes?—The prostrating influence which this poison seemed to have had was the same throughout the whole.

2253. Do you consider that the gas which emanated from that coffin, which the man struck with his pickaxe, was more noxious than the gases usually emanating from coffins from the person having died of any putrid disease, or do you suppose that it was of the ordinary description?—I believe that the effluvia confined within coffins is condensed in proportion to the length of time that the decomposition has been going on, and that in proportion to the intensity so equally is the violence of the action upon the system.

2254. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] How long do you think this coffin could have been in the grave which was broken into?—That would be a question I could not answer.

2255. *Chairman*.] Your impression is, that in proportion as the gas finds a difficulty in escaping, in that proportion, like condensed air, or anything condensed, it becomes more virulent in its effects?—I believe so.

2256. Then, upon that principle, the gas emanating from a leaden coffin by any hole accidentally or purposely made in it, must be more injurious, generally speaking, than the gas emanating from a wooden one, because it is more confined?—That which is confined within a leaden coffin is probably more injurious; that which is escaping gradually, passing through the ground, is less injurious.

2257. The more concentrated it is, the more virulent are its effects?—Yes.

2258. Do you imagine that it was the original gas that occasioned the death of those parties, transmitted from one to the other?—Most certainly; it was the original gas which seemed to have affected the grave-digger, and which affected the rest.

2259. If, instead of being caused by the gas, it had been anything of a contagious distemper, should not you have been liable to take the disease?—Certainly, I was liable; but it is in proportion to the strength of the individual how he is capable of resisting any description of contagious matter. I myself at that period was in very excellent health, and I believe that that circumstance, as well as the exposure that I generally have during the day-time, and a great deal of exercise out of doors, were the reasons in that case of my escaping.

2260. Mr. *Vernon*.] The atmosphere you were breathing in the presence of your patient was probably more diluted and wholesome air than the atmosphere

Mr. J. C. Atkinson. he was breathing when he was attending upon his patient?—It might be so; but I believe it possible that any person in an infirm state of health by the bedside of that patient might have imbibed it, however attenuated the state of the atmosphere might be, while I might have escaped.

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2261. But the chance of escaping increases in proportion as the noxious matter is diluted?—The subject has been spoken of by writers with regard to the effects of contagious matter in the small-pox; we know perfectly well, that even if a person has been inoculated, and he enters into a room which has not been ventilated in any degree, he is liable to a second attack.

2262. Is not the effluvia from a human body more liable to be noxious to a human being than the effluvia from any other animal?—I believe that all animals are the same, with reference to animal substance; I believe the muscles of a dog or of a cat are equal in point of construction, and liable to the same description of decomposition; and if dogs and cats were buried on the surface of the ground, they would be liable to taint the air just as human bodies do.

2263. *Chairman.*] Do you imagine that the carcase of an animal would be as injurious in its effluvia as the body of a man who died of small-pox?—Of course that would be a specific description of disease; I am speaking of the effect of miasma or effluvia generally. I believe all effluvia arising from decomposed animal matter would affect the system in the same way.

2264. Whether the animal itself feeds on vegetable substances or upon animal substances?—I believe that makes no difference; because you find, in the East particularly, that many of the diseases originate from the decomposition of matter from the bodies of the natives who have been cast into the river Hooghly.

2265. Mr. *Vernon.*] Animals do not catch the scarlet fever, nor do human beings catch those diseases peculiar to animals, such as the strangles?—I am not prepared to answer that question, as I have never devoted my attention to animals. It might be that they do not suffer from cutaneous diseases, and they might suffer from other diseases; but I am not prepared to answer.

2266. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that the injurious effects of the gas do not depend entirely upon the state of health of the person affected, but more upon their being concentrated for a certain time?—The more concentrated, the more, I think, the effect would be certain; and the more diluted, of course, it would be less.

2267. Directing your attention to the various vaults under the churches in this town, for example, the churches in the Strand, is it your impression that the gas emanating from the coffins in those vaults, must be injurious to the health of the inhabitants?—I believe if the gases escape, they tend materially to affect the health of the inhabitants, perhaps not immediately, for a person might imbibe the impure air, and, after a week or two, suffer the effects of it; and it is more at particular seasons, especially on the approach of the rainy season. Of late you will find that influenza has hardly ever left this country from the year 1833, and it has attacked individuals even two or three times in the course of a year; and I believe those attacks would not be anything like so severe, were those individuals in a purer atmosphere. I believe the grave-yards are, in a great measure, calculated to deteriorate the state of the atmosphere.

2268. Therefore they increase the epidemic?—Certainly.

2269. Lord *Mahon.*] Do you mean that the complaint, known by the name of influenza, was never known in this country previously to the year 1833?—It has been known 50 or 60 years before, but, according to medical authorities, I do not believe the attacks had been so frequent as of late years.

2270. Upon what ground do you fix the precise year 1833?—Because it has been universally observed, that there were peculiar symptoms characterising it at that period, and from that year those symptoms have more or less been acting upon individuals labouring under that disease.

2271. *Chairman.*] Then it is your impression that it is most injurious to have those gases mixing with the air?—Most assuredly.

2272. You have not directed your attention to ascertain to what extent they may be injurious when mixed with the air?—I have not made any experiments with regard to the gas. It is an experiment that I should be loth to undertake.

2273. Their injurious effects depend much upon the state of body of the person who may inhale them, and the various causes which may produce epidemics in general; but your impression is, that they tend to perpetuate epidemics and

and to increase them?—Yes, and then attacks are necessarily made longer. If the air were perfectly pure, I believe, that under an attack of any disease we stand a better chance of recovery.

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2274. Is that the reason by which you account for a change of air being so beneficial in those complaints?—Certainly, the change of air is merely to a purer atmosphere.

2275. Do you imagine that the health of this metropolis would be improved, and that fewer deaths would take place, if you were to remove the grave-yards from its precincts?—Most assuredly, I should say so.

2276. To a considerable extent?—To a considerable extent. I believe that at the present time if we had not been provided with a cheap mode by which persons can be taken in and out of London by omnibuses, railroads, and steamers, if we either had not that advantage, or if it was expensive, I consider that the amount of deaths would be increased, two or three fold.

2277. Mr. Yorke.] What do you say as to the time when there were no steamers?—At that time the population of London was nothing like so great; the deaths, in proportion, were less; the houses were not built so lofty, and the ventilation was purer.

2278. Lord Mahon.] Do you mean to say that the houses were not so lofty as at present, at the time when steam-boats were introduced?—No; that I do not mean to say, but I mean in former times. I am not speaking of a period within 50 or 100 years.

2279. You are aware that steam-boats have been introduced within 50 years?—Yes, but we have not the statistics of that period particularly.

2280. Mr. Ainsworth.] You mean to say that as London has been completely built up, there is less circulation of air, and that consequently, unless the inhabitants went more out of town and breathed a purer air, it would be more fatal to the health of the metropolis?—I have very little doubt of it; I have myself gone out of London with a tongue perfectly coated, and I had hardly been five miles out of it when the tongue has absolutely got clear by the atmosphere alone. If a person continue under a depressing atmosphere for a series of weeks and months, and the power of absorption cannot go on, on account of this coating, I believe the consequences would be very serious.

2281. Lord Mahon.] Might not the beneficial change in your health when you found yourself five or ten miles out of town, be ascribed to the exercise which took you five or ten miles out of London?—No, the exercise was incapable of doing it in London; it is the air which acts, and that alone.

2282. Chairman.] In proportion as fine clear pure air is beneficial to the human frame, in the same proportion is bad foul foetid air, mixed up with gas, injurious?—Certainly.

2283. Mr. Yorke.] You spoke of three individuals who died; can you undertake to say that they died from the same disease, whatever that disease was?—The same disease, or infection of any kind, will not produce exactly the same symptoms in different individuals; for instance, I have observed that matter introduced into the system, even solid matter, without making it into a gaseous product, would not produce the same symptoms in all. The great characteristic symptom was, that the heart was disordered by it, and it is upon that, that I more particularly wish to dwell; and therefore I should say, without the slightest doubt, that the whole of them died from the same cause.

2284. Chairman.] Are you aware of any similar occurrence taking place, to what you have already mentioned in St. Margaret's churchyard, in any other churchyard in the metropolis?—I have heard of a case in which two deaths occurred from the opening of a grave in Aldgate churchyard.

2285. What were the particulars of those two cases?—To the best of my knowledge, for it is now two years since I read the account, and before the case I have mentioned now was known, I believe two deaths ensued in consequence of the effluvia arising from the dead bodies placed in and near a deep pit for the interment of the poor; that, I believe, was the fact, so far as I can remember.

2286. The instances you have mentioned were such, that the individuals suffered directly from the operation of the gas; but it may act indirectly in a thousand different ways, may it not, upon the human frame, and produce diseases which, perhaps, in the first instance, are not attributed to that gas?—Certainly; that is quite true.

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2287. At what distance would you say it would be perfectly safe to the health of the inhabitants to have the grave-yards; from what distance of inhabited houses would you conceive that the site of a burial ground should be?—I would not have any burial-ground within half a mile of the metropolis.

2288. You think half a mile distance is quite sufficient to prevent the possibility of any injury arising?—If we take into account the winds which prevail, you will find that near and about the metropolis, south-westerly winds generally prevail, at least seven months out of the 12, and in consequence, I should be inclined to place the burial-grounds in a situation and in a direction by which the metropolis would not be affected by the effluvia which would be rising from the graves; in that way I believe the inhabitants of the capital would be protected to a much greater extent.

2289. Lord Mahon.] When you say “half a mile from the metropolis,” do you mean half a mile from the last building?—Exactly so; half a mile at least from any inhabited quarter.

2290. Extending your remark to any long line of suburbs?—Yes.

2291. Mr. Ainsworth.] Whereabouts would you think it advisable to place the burial-ground in the neighbourhood of London. Would you place it in the north?—I should place it in the north-east; the winds blow generally from south-west; but this is a matter of individual opinion.

2292. Do not you think there is a great deal of east wind in the spring?—Of late years we have had it, and I believe the last year or two we have had a continuation of it for a much longer period than may be calculated upon, even referring back for many years to the meteorological tables.

Mr. George Dorkin Lane, called in; and Examined.

Mr. G. D. Lane.

2293. Chairman.] WHAT is your profession?—I am a member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and a licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries.

2294. Where do you reside?—In Wilson-street, Drury-lane.

2295. You are aware of the object of this investigation. Will you state, generally, to the Committee, your sentiments with regard to the healthiness or unhealthiness of interring in large towns?—I have been residing in the neighbourhood where I am upwards of 17 years, abutting on the burial-ground in Drury-lane; and I attended a case not six weeks ago, a servant to Mr. F——, a linendraper in Little Russell-street. It was a young girl who had just come up from Wales, and was affected with violent pain in the forehead, giddiness of the head, sickness of the stomach, and general pains in her limbs. She slept in the back attic; the back of the house opened upon the burial-ground; this house forms the corner where there are two houses forming the angle, so that the effluvia is shut in this corner, where it ascends, and there is no doubt the girl was affected by the effluvia from the burial-ground.

2296. Where is the burial-ground?—In Drury-lane; St. Martin's burial-ground in Drury-lane; I have no doubt that this girl was affected by the effluvia from that burial-ground; she had good health when she came from the country; she was ill a fortnight, and I had some difficulty in managing the case. She is now well.

2297. And you have no doubt that her illness arose from those effluvia?—None. The back of the house is in a corner, close by it; I have often myself perceived the effluvia, and often tasted it in the summer season; and I have often taken lodgings at Brompton, when I was ill, when the indisposition could not be attributed to any cause but fatigue, and the atmosphere in which I am living, and the people I was attending.

2298. Have any other circumstances of a similar nature come under your notice?—The neighbourhood is very low, and the people about there are extremely dirty; gentlemen who live in the country leave the houses to people in the town to let them out for them; those houses are never whitewashed or cleaned for years, the stairs are broken, and the panes of glass in the windows are knocked out, so that if you are called to a house in the night, the rain pelts upon you as you go up stairs. People who sell oysters, and fish, and those things live in those places, and they throw their oyster shells and their fish guts in the yard, till you see two or three cart loads piled up.

2299. Then, in some measure, the unhealthiness may arise from the dirt?—Yes, I would not confine it to the burial-ground; it is of little use to remove the burial-

burial-grounds unless you make them clean out the houses. It is not only the poor people that sell those things who live there, but each of the apartments are let out to one or two girls, and they have their men, many of whom are thieves; they have fights sometimes, and then I am called in, and I have a great deal to do among those unfortunates, for which there is no return.

2300. Will you confine your attention chiefly to the subject of this investigation, which is how far the health of your immediate neighbourhood is affected by the miasma arising from the burial-ground?—I have stated one case that happened the other day; I am satisfied that the people generally suffer from it more than they are conscious of; I was at the burial of a friend about six weeks ago in Saint Giles's churchyard; the corpse was not in the ground more than three feet down; the clergyman who officiated was a sensible man; he was as far off as that window, so far that there being a little wind up, you could not well hear him, and he got partly under the lee of the church; but there was a very strong effluvia from the grave; I tasted it, and when I saw him keeping so far off that I could scarcely hear him, I thought he was a sensible man, but out of respect to my friend, I stood near, and I bore it; I would not leave my post out of respect to the deceased, but if I could have been alongside the clergyman I should have been glad of it.

2301. Did you experience any ill effect?—It was very unpleasant to swallow the effluvia.

2302. Then you consider it to be unhealthy?—I am sure of it; when I go into a room where there is fever, not being in strong health, if I am there five or ten minutes, I feel a depression and a loss of power in the knees, and I am obliged to hold by the stairs as I go down. When I say that I have tasted it, the effluvia was so strong that you could not be insensible to it, for the atmosphere was strongly impregnated with human decomposition; that is what I tasted, and that is pernicious; if we were kept there all day in that sort of atmosphere we should be ill, no doubt of it.

2303. Do you consider that that effluvia rising up in the atmosphere of this town is likely to generate complaints?—It will generate low fevers.

2304. Lord Mahon.] In the course of your professional practice, have you found numerous cases in which you considered the vicinity of grave-yards, and the effluvia from them, to be either the sole or one of the principal causes of the illness?—I think it is only people who live as near as I did to a grave-yard that feel ill from it, and even then you get used to it. People who are continually exposed to nasty effluvia can bear it better than other people. I have caught typhus fever and scarlet fever by attending on people that were ill, and it has nearly killed me. If bodies dying in a state of disease are buried near the surface, and then pulled up again in two or three weeks, it must have a pernicious influence, more than if they were deeply interred, and kept in the ground a proper time.

2305. Do you consider the practice of keeping open the graves injurious to the health of the inhabitants?—Certainly; and the practice of opening them frequently.

2306. Mr. Cowper.] Have you observed that the inhabitants of houses within the vicinity of a churchyard are more unhealthy than the inhabitants of other houses?—I have had a great deal of practice in those courts for 17 years, and there is a great deal of illness there; the back of Crown-court incloses the burial-ground.

2307. You cannot trace the illness of those persons directly to the grave-yard?—No; but those diseases are generally of a low character.

2308. Lord Mahon.] Do you consider the vicinity of the grave-yard as one main cause of the illness?—It is a main cause of illness; I have stated the case of the girl who came from Wales, where it was a place shut in, and the effluvia ascends.

2309. Mr. Yorke.] Can you undertake to say that persons living in the immediate neighbourhood of a grave-yard are more frequently ill than persons living at a distance?—No, I have not been able to make that observation.

2310. Chairman.] You have sunk areas round that grave-yard, have not you?—Yes, there are, and you cannot pump the water off. The water gets up in the kitchens, and floats them, and that is adjoining the burial-ground.

2311. Water from the grave-yard?—Yes; I have had that in the cellar of my own house.

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2312. The water must be very injurious to health?—Very offensive; black, like the bilge water of a ship, from the burial-ground, and the drains of those houses altogether.

2313. At what distance from inhabited houses would you say that the graveyards would be innoxious to the population?—I cannot state the precise distance. There are several places built about town, which are princely, and I do not see why the poor of the parish should not be buried at those distances as well as those that can afford to pay.

2314. Would there not be great additional expense?—It might be done by contract. The city of London has a farm-house for its poor; the men are sent out to Peckham, and different parishes, and they have their children out as far as Norwood, and they take excellent care of them; and in the same way in burying the dead, they might as easily bury them out of town. But in St. Giles's, if a person dies in the workhouse, it is no distance to make the paupers carry them to St. Giles's and bury them there; and the same at St. Martin's, they send their poor to this burial-ground in Drury-lane.

2315. Are not the relatives of the person of the deceased generally very anxious to follow him to his last home, and would not it be annoying to their feelings if the person was buried at a distance; how could they follow him?—Very few people who die in the workhouse are buried in that way; you see the paupers carrying them.

2316. Would not the relatives of a poor man who is taken out some distance from the parish feel a difficulty in following him to his last home, and would not they feel annoyance at being prevented from so doing?—Certainly; there might be cases here and there where friends would like to follow the deceased, but if they are buried at that distance, it might still be done; the expense would be nothing in that respect.

2317. Have you at all attended to the general effect of this putrid gas?—No.

2318. Have you attempted to analyze it?—No.

2319. Do you consider that the gas emanating from the human body is more injurious or less so than that of an animal?—I consider that gas from a human being dying under disease, is more pernicious than of animals, who do not generally die from disease; if a horse is suffering from disease, you kill it at once; but we have the most horrible diseases, under which we labour till we die under the disease, and in that way it must be more pernicious.

2320. Do you think that adds to the injurious effects of the effluvia?—No doubt.

2321. A former witness has expressed an opinion that the effluvia might be injurious in proportion to its density or concentration, but you think that independently of that, there is a difference between the effluvia arising from a human being who is buried, and the dead body of an animal?—Yes, the difference between a man who dies of disease, and an animal who does not.

2322. Mr. *Vernon*.] The effluvia is imbibed through the mucous membrane of the stomach, as well as inhaled into the lungs?—It is imbibed in that way.

2323. It may descend through the saliva into the stomach, or it may be inhaled through the mouth or the nose into the lungs?—Yes; the great mischief is, by its being inhaled into the lungs, and thus entering into the circulation.

2324. *Chairman*.] May it not be absorbed by the pores of the skin?—More likely by the air you breathe it in, and it goes down and enters into the circulation immediately.

2325. Mr. *Yorke*.] Do you happen to know, in your parish, which is a populous parish, whether, when the poor die, it does or does not happen that several bodies are buried at the same time; in other words, that the bodies of deceased persons are kept waiting until there are a certain number to be buried at specific times appointed by the clergyman?—I have never known the clergyman to interfere in a case of that kind; but I have known instances where one person has died in a house, and another has been dying, and they have stopped till the second has died; so that one has been dead near a fortnight in the house, and the other only a few days, and then they have been buried together.

2326. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Would you think it desirable to have a compulsory law to require the burial of the dead at a stated period after the decease?—I do; there could not be a greater kindness to society than that.

2327. Mr. *Yorke*.] You say that you have known a body to be kept as long as a fortnight

a fortnight in a house, where another person was seriously ill, in order that the two bodies should be interred together?—Yes, I have.

2328. Mr. *Vernon*.] In the event of a person being affected by that species of illness which is consequent upon this effluvia, is it a prudent thing to drink spirituous liquors as a remedy?—It excites the stomach, it produces thirst and dryness of the mouth, and they naturally look for something to rinse their mouth.

2329. Is it a prudent thing to indulge in the use of spirituous liquor as a remedy?—No; it would be more prudent to drink water, but beer is at hand.

2330. Would you give them sal volatile upon such an occasion as that?—Yes, I would give a stimulant when labouring under its influence.

2331. A stimulant, but not spirituous liquor?—I do not see why spirituous liquor would not answer the purpose.

2332. Mr. *Cowper*.] Do you mean that water, or spirituous liquor, would be the best?—Water would carry off the taste of the effluvia, and clear the stomach as well as spirituous liquor; but it will not give a stimulus and enable the man to go on with the work.

2333. What would you recommend to a person suffering under the effluvia of a grave?—There is a man suffering effluvia; a medical man is called in to treat him. The man is knocked down by a dose of poison; he is a grave-digger, at work, and the effluvia gets down his throat, and he has recourse to spirits. That man would not be satisfied with water while he is at work. When the labour is over that would answer, but when they are obliged to keep at this sort of work, having dose after dose; when they feel themselves ill with the effluvia they must have a stimulant; but it entirely depends upon the duration of the work, whether a glass of water would answer the purpose, or whether they must have a stimulant.

2334. Mr. *Vernon*.] To enable them to continue their work, they must have recourse to spirits; but the evil is further increased by the continuance of the work and the use of spirits together?—By taking the spirits in excess, and the nature of their work.

2335. *Chairman*.] Is the effect of the miasma to lower the pulse?—It quickens the pulse, but it makes it small and weak.

2336. Do you consider the practice, which is so prevalent in this country, of keeping bodies a considerable number of days before they are interred, injurious to public health?—Very injurious.

2337. From what circumstance?—The generality of bodies die from disease; many of the diseases are catching, and they will infect those about them; and keeping such bodies in a house, sometimes in a room, with half a dozen living in the same apartment, it cannot but be pernicious. I was in a room the other day where 13 people were with a corpse in it, and that corpse was there for some days.

2338. Is it your impression, that the gases emanating from the vaults underneath the churches in the Strand, or in any other part of London, must be injurious to the health of the people?—I am quite satisfied it is.

2339. Although a man may escape, from being in a strong state of health, yet, upon the whole, you think the effect of the gases mixing with the atmospheric air is most injurious?—It is depressing. The grave-diggers are depressed over their work, and they carry off their depression by drink. If they could drink water, it is refreshing and cleansing and sweetening to the mouth; but they want something to keep up their spirits. It is their habit, and they must have it, and they look for it naturally.

2340. Do you consider that inhaling this gas is very depressing to the spirits?—It is depressing to the bodily powers more than the mind.

William Chamberlain, called in; and Examined.

2341. WHERE do you live?—26, Great Wyld-street, Lincoln's-Inn-fields.

2342. Are you at all connected with the cemetery companies around the metropolis?—No.

2343. Will you state to the Committee what has come under your observation with regard to the state of the churchyards?—In the year 1831 I was first employed by Mr. Watkins, the head grave-digger of St. Clement's churchyard; from that time till the year 1838 I never opened a grave without coming into other coffins of children, grown persons, and what we term odd sizes, which we have

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been obliged to cut away, to cut through those coffins, the ground being so excessively full that we could not make a grave without doing it; it was done by the orders of Mr. Watkins, and Mr. Fitch, the sexton of the parish, that those coffins should be chopped up, and the wood placed against the walls and the palings of the ground. We have come to bodies quite perfect, and we have cut part away with choppers and pickaxes. We have opened the lids of the coffins, and the bodies have been so perfect that we could distinguish males from females, and all of those have been chopped and cut up. The ground has been my destruction and my ruin, through the stench, and the dampness, and the work I have undergone; since I have been at the work, I have lost the use of my limbs; I have been in the hospitals, and not able to move a limb; I have come out upon crutches; I have been in Middlesex Hospital, and St. George's Hospital next; I have been in King's College Hospital since. During that time I was at this work, the flesh has been cut up in pieces and thrown up behind the boards which are placed to keep the ground up where the mourners are standing; the four corners of the board support the platform for the mourners to stand upon, and when the mourners are gone, this flesh has been thrown in and jammed down, and the coffins have been taken away and burnt; I myself have burnt some of them.

2344. You say that you could not open any grave without coming to these coffins?—Not one single grave, not even at three feet from the surface, without coming upon coffins. I filled up one side, all along the houses in Clement's-lane, during my time; and along by the palings, in the middle of the ground, was so full that we could not get a grave without coming round the sides. During my time, I can, with positive facts, say that above a thousand has been cut away.

2345. If they were quite fresh, what did you do with the bodies?—They have been cut up in pieces. The strings, what we term the leaders of the knees and the joints, have been so tough and so strong that we have been obliged to chop them away with a sharp instrument, a hatchet, and the coffin wood we have been obliged to saw in different parts of it, unless we came to a nail, and then we beat it away with a sledge hammer. The skulls and bones, there have been holes dug for them, and they have been placed in those holes and beat up just as you would crack nuts, and the marrow bones the same, and buried.

2346. Have you often come to coffins of people who have lately been interred?—Yes; we could not dig a grave without coming upon coffins that have not been buried 12 months, and some not six months. I was very sorry that ever I was out of a situation, to be compelled to go to such work, but I did it for the sake of my wife and family.

2347. Were you in good health before you began this work?—Yes, I never had a day's illness; but since that I have never had one day free from pain.

2348. *Mr. Cowper.*] How long did you work there before you were taken ill?—I worked there between five and six years before I was taken ill; I was once taken; I got up one Sunday morning and went into the ground in Portugal-street; we had a grave to open; I believe it was 10 feet; I went in and completed the work, and I cut four or five coffins through in that piece of ground, and the bodies of some; I placed the flesh behind, and I went home to my breakfast; it was our church time; we did not dare do any more till the people were in church, for the sound of cutting away the wood was so terrible that mobs used to be round the railings and looking; we could not throw a piece of wood or a piece of a body up without being seen; the people actually cried "shame," out of the windows at the backs of the houses on account of it.

2349. *Chairman.*] Had you any particular tools for chopping up these bodies?—Yes, a hatchet and a saw and a pickaxe.

2350. Did not you find it hard work to cut through a solid coffin?—Very hard; I have been an hour and a half or two hours over them, breaking the lead and taking the sides of the coffins up, and I have spoken to the head gravedigger about it, and said, "We shall never get this grave done on account of this wood; the wood is so fresh that you cannot move it;" not even the cloth hardly soiled, or the nails rusted.

2351. How many coffins have you dug through, and bodies cut through, to get a depth of 10 feet?—To get 10 feet of ground you must cut through at least five or six; in the almshouses I could uncover, at least, and expose a dozen coffins within one hour.

2352. *Mr.*

2352. Mr. Yorke.] How long is it since you first took to this vocation?—In the year 1831 was my first commencement; but before that I was a single man, and was in the workhouse; I was then an inmate of the house, and the head grave-digger used to have the privilege of fetching in any man if he wanted any assistance, and by that means I had been called upon several times to assist in digging these graves before that.

2353. You are not in the workhouse now?—No; my children are there, but my wife and I are out.

2354. Have you given up this occupation in consequence of its injury to your health?—Yes; it was in the year 1836, in April, that I was first seized, and laid upon my bed; and I lay there six weeks, without knowing what was the matter with me; then I was taken to a hospital in a cab; I was taken first to Bartholomew's Hospital.

2355. Chairman.] Did not you feel a degree of compunction when you first began cutting through those bodies which had just been interred?—Yes; I felt very timid, and a great dread of doing so; but having nothing else to do, I did not know what to do.

2356. Under whose orders did you do it?—Mr. Fitch and Mr. Watkins's orders. Mr. Fitch is the sexton, and Mr. Watkins is the man that employed me first; I have heard Mr. Watkins say to Mr. Fitch, "Sir," says he, "What shall we do with this?" I have heard him swear, and say, "You must do it; you must remove this wood away."

2357. Do you repeat the statement, that it is impossible for you to make a grave in that grave-yard now without cutting through the bodies?—Without cutting through the bodies, and many of them perfectly fresh, you cannot get even three feet of grave, nor yet two.

2358. How near is the wood of the coffins to the surface?—There are coffins now within a foot of the surface.

2359. Mr. Yorke.] Can you not go so deep as three feet without finding a coffin?—No, you cannot, without moving children, or something; the children have been taken out and placed in a grave that is not above a foot and a half deep. Those bodies have been buried on the Sunday before, and then there has been a grave ordered, and those children have been taken out, and if they could not find a grave sufficiently deep just to cover the coffin, a child has been taken out, and the coffin broken up, and the flesh buried. The child has been buried on a Sunday, and then the child has been moved and turned out of the coffin, and sometimes they have been placed nowhere; I have done it by orders.

2360. How soon after the Sunday?—I have taken children up and moved them within a week after they were buried, and placed them in a different part of the ground, not above six or eight inches under ground.

2361. Sometimes you say you have placed them nowhere?—I have done away with them.

2362. What do you mean by "doing away with them"?—Breaking the coffins up, and cutting the flesh in bits, and burying it.

2363. This is done with the perfect cognizance and approbation of the sexton?—Yes.

2364. In fact, by his order and instruction?—Yes, I have heard him order it. There are instruments kept for the purpose of cutting away coffins; a chopper and a saw. There is no use for those in regard of digging a grave in the middle of the ground.

2365. Do you suppose that there is no place in that burial-ground in which it would be possible to find a place where three feet of depth could be given to a body about to be interred, without interfering with coffins?—There is not, except it is in family graves.

2366. Have you ever been there late at night?—Yes.

2367. Are you ever sensible of any unpleasant smell?—There has been a dreadful sensation of smell, and likewise my clothes and things, when I have gone home; and I have been obliged to put them out upon the landing all night; I could not bear them in the room. I have not been able to bear myself after I have gone home.

2368. You said that you began this occupation in 1831?—Yes.

2369. But that in 1836 you became ill?—Yes.

2370. How long were you ill?—I have been ill now going on for six years.

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2371. Do you date your illness from 1836?—From 1836. I have never been free from pain during that time.

2372. After you were first taken ill and sent to the hospital, did you, upon your recovery, return to this occupation?—No, I was unfit for it; they would have been glad for me to have come, because they said there was not a better grave-digger in London than I was, for expedition and getting the things according to order.

2373. But with all that they said to you, you still refused, because you felt that your illness was the consequence of your occupation, and that if you returned to your occupation you would probably be ill again?—I may say it would have caused my death if I had kept on with it.

2374. How many hours in the day were you usually occupied?—Sometimes we have been there the whole of the day; sometimes I have not been an hour; sometimes I have been two and three.

2375. When you had a great deal to do, what was the earliest period of the day at which you began?—At five o'clock in the morning.

2376. And the latest period of the night at which you finished?—The latest period of the night has been at ten o'clock at night.

2377. Have you ever worked from five to ten?—Not the whole of the time; part of the time I have.

2378. About how many consecutive hours at most have you worked?—I have worked at least six hours, keeping on without stopping.

2379. That was only occasionally?—That was only occasionally; upon deep graves, and things that were in a hurry.

2380. What do you think, taking one day with another, was the average period of time that you passed in the grave-yard at work?—Taking one day with another, I cannot say more than three hours a day.

2381. Did you drink much when there?—I was compelled by the head grave-digger; he used to take me out sometimes and give me a pennyworth, and indeed I was obliged now and then to get a pennyworth, and sometimes at night I have gone home intoxicated.

2382. Do you like drink?—No, I do not; and I never was a regular drunkard till I took to this business.

2383. And you have almost made yourself a drunkard by force in attending to the business?—Yes, by force; the stench, and the work I had to do, caused me to get the drink.

2384. Did you, when you took the drink, imagine that you were relieved?—Yes, I was relieved for the time, but the stench and the work that I had to go to actually took the strength of the drink from me; and sometimes I went to refresh myself again with fresh drink, the ground was so strong. The ground is a complete body of putrefaction.

2385. After you became positively ill, so ill as to be unable to work, had you any symptoms gradually coming on?—It first came on in my feet.

2386. What came on?—Violent pain through the dampness of the ground, and in my knees from kneeling on the wet coffins; open coffins, which have been full of water and of pieces of flesh; and we have had to bucket this water and pieces of flesh, and we made holes in the ground and poured it out.

2387. Do not you think the illness in your knees might be consequent upon the wet of the damp coffins, not the effluvia?—Yes, that is partly the occasion of it.

2388. In what other part of your body were you affected?—In my arms and hands.

2389. What was the nature of the attack?—It is called the rheumatic gout.

2390. Is the illness under which you labour distinctly rheumatic gout?—I have heard the gentlemen in the hospital call it rheumatic gout.

2391. Did they state to you from what cause it arose?—They have asked me what occupation I have been under, and I have told them, and they have told me that it has been occasioned through the dampness of the ground and the work I had done, which has brought it on. They asked me if ever I was a drunkard; I told them never. They asked me if ever I was troubled with other complaints; I was never troubled with any complaints before I was seized with this. They asked me if I was a married man; I told them I was a married man. I never had anything the matter with me before, neither me nor my wife, till now; lately my wife has been afflicted with the same complaint.

2392. Your

2392. Your wife is now afflicted with the same complaint that you have?—Yes; the doctors told one another that they termed this complaint to be catching.

2393. Does the sexton derive any emolument from the interments?—Yes.

2394. Do you know what those emoluments are?—In the first place he receives his own fee upon each interment; then again he stops 6*d.* out of the first digging; and then he stops 6*d.* out of each foot after the first digging; the regular money is 18*d.* a foot, and he gives 6*d.*, and that allows the head grave-digger 1*s.*; and I never received myself more than 4*d.* a foot after the first digging.

2395. You were second grave-digger?—Yes.

2396. And that is why you received 4*d.*?—That is why I received only 4*d.*, but it was ordered by the churchwardens.

2397. It is then a fact that the sexton is interested in the burying of as many bodies as possible in the churchyard?—Yes, he is; the more bodies he can bury, the more it is to his profit.

2398. But the churchwardens have no advantage from it?—No advantage at all.

2399. But is not it the duty of the sexton to communicate with the churchwardens as to every interment?—I believe they do, so far as I know; but I cannot say whether they do or not: but I believe they have to make their books up, and to show them to the churchwardens.

2400. Is it or is it not the duty of the sexton to communicate to the churchwardens as to what is the state of the burial-ground?—Yes, it is his duty to do so.

2401. Do you believe the sexton was in the habit of doing so?—I cannot say that he was in the habit of doing so; I know that there have been many still-borns, and that like, which has never been entered in the books, and which he has buried, and received the money for them.

2402. Have they been buried with the Church service performed over them?—No, the still-borns have not; they have been put in after the mourners have gone, in other funerals; they have been put in on the tops of other coffins, and at the heads and feet.

2403. Was the tool with which you were in the habit of cutting up coffins a common ordinary tool, or one made for the special purpose?—It was a tool which was brought into the ground; whether it was made for that purpose I cannot say, but it was brought into the ground for the purpose, and the saw likewise.

2404. Had you any especial means of sharpening it?—Yes; the head grave-digger used to take it to get it sharpened often.

2405. From your frequent use of it, it was frequently necessary to have it sharpened?—Yes; sometimes we would have as many as 8 or 10 coffins to cut away at a time.

Lunæ, 25^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Mr. Ainsworth.
Mr. Beckett.
Hon. W. Cowper.
Colonel Fox.

Sir R. H. Inglis.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. Redhead Yorke.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. Robert Bentley Todd, called in; and Examined.

2406. Sir R. H. Inglis.] YOU are a Fellow of the College of Physicians? —Yes, and of the Royal Society.

2407. Are you cognizant of the evidence which has been taken before this Committee in reference to the burial-ground adjoining King's College Hospital, in Portugal-street?—I cannot undertake to say I know the whole of the evidence; I have seen part of it.

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Wm. Chamberlain.

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Dr. R. B. Todd.

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Dr. R. B. Todd.

25 April 1842.

2408. Are you prepared to state to the Committee, that any allegations which may have been made as to the inconvenience to the health of the patients in King's College Hospital, from the vicinity of the grave-yard in question, are accurately stated or not?—I can state to the Committee that no inconvenience whatever has been felt from the contiguity of the grave-yard.

2409. By the words, "No inconvenience," do you wish the Committee to understand no sensible inconvenience to the health of the patients within the hospital?—Precisely so.

2410. Have you reason to think that any disease has originated, or has been aggravated within that hospital in consequence of the contiguity of the grave-yard in question?—I am quite certain that nothing of the kind has happened. That hospital is remarkably free from fever. I obtained a statement from the secretary as regards the number of cases of fever; and it appears that out of 2,369 in-patients who had been admitted into the hospital since the 15th of April 1840, there have been only 70 cases of fever. Not one of these cases, I can positively state, of my own knowledge, originated in the hospital.

2411. They were all cases of patients brought into the hospital?—Yes, brought into the hospital from other places, and in no case has the disease been communicated to another inmate. This is remarkably the case as regards the officers resident in the hospital. We have two medical officers resident in the hospital, besides the dispenser. The dispenser has nothing to do with the patients. The two resident medical officers are continually in the wards attending to the patients. Not one of our medical officers has, during the last two years, experienced fever, and (although I cannot speak so positively on that subject), I do not believe that any one of our pupils, there being a good many who attend, has caught fever during the last two years.

2412. You have stated that no case has originated within the hospital; are you able to state to the Committee, as the result of your own professional experience, that no case of fever has been aggravated, so far as you can trace the result, by the contiguity of the grave-yard and the effluvia thence arising?—I feel quite satisfied that no case has been aggravated from its being in that hospital; it is remarkably well ventilated.

2413. It has been stated to this Committee that the exhalation of the effluvia from grave-yards furnishes one of the most powerful causes of disease and mortality in this metropolis. As a medical practitioner, and a physician, of considerable experience, are you able to state to the Committee any opinion upon that subject?—I think that some rather erroneous opinions have been put forward on that question.

2414. Mr. Ainsworth.] Do you allude to the evidence which has been given before this Committee?—I do not wish to comment on the evidence which has been given here; I allude to statements in the public papers. The state of the case appears to be this: when a great number of bodies are collected together in a burial-ground undergoing decomposition, if graves are being frequently opened, there must be a considerable escape of gases; when these are brought in a concentrated form to act on the human system, they are productive of very serious results. The gases that are generated in grave-yards are generally sulphuretted hydrogen and carburetted hydrogen with ammonia. If these gases be generated in the laboratory of the chemist, and brought to act on the animal frame, they will produce the same effects. These effects are very different from the ordinary symptoms of typhoid fever. As to typhoid fever, I think it will be found that the great majority of medical men, who have turned their attention to the subject, will agree in saying, that typhoid fever is propagated by a poison which is generated in the living body, and not in the dead body.

2415. Lord Mahon.] Is there a distinction between typhoid fever and typhus fever?—The same terms are used very much synonymously; some writers do make a distinction; typhoid fever is generally a milder form of typhus fever.

2416. You use those terms pretty nearly as synonymous?—When I use the term typhoid fever, I mean typhus fever, either the more severe form or the milder form; they are both propagated in the same way.

2417. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Do you believe there is a specific disease in the human frame traceable to the exhalation of the effluvia from animal matter decomposed?—I think I can scarcely say there is a specific disease; there are certain peculiar symptoms produced from the exhalation of gas, when brought to act on the system in a concentrated form.

2418. Do

2418. Do you believe that that disease or the typhus fever with those additional symptoms may be communicated by a party suffering to a party in health, whether by contagion or inhalation?—I think the typhus fever may be communicated, but I do not think that the symptoms that are produced by the influence of the gases can be communicated.

2419. Then if it be stated that the original introduction of this deleterious gas into the human frame in one subject caused disease in another, and in the medical man who attended the second, you do not think that such opinion is founded on an accurate survey of the facts, so far as your own experience would enable you to judge?—Certainly not.

2420. *Chairman.*] Have you turned your attention particularly to the evidence which we have had or to the statements in the papers?—I have read some letters which have been published in the papers, and I have read the evidence contained in a Report of a Committee on Health in Towns, which sat, I think, about two years ago.

2421. As we are not aware exactly what you have read, will you have the kindness to state to the Committee what it is you allude to that you have read, or that you understand?—What I have gathered from what I have read, has been this; it has been put forward (I have thought rather too prominently,) that the exhalations from grave-yards are the cause of typhus fever. Now to that I object; typhus fever I believe to be propagated from a poison generated in the human body, in the living body, which is communicated by immediate contact with, or close contiguity to, the parties affected, or by communication with their clothes or any ordinary articles of clothing or covering that may have come in contact with the bodies of the diseased.

2422. As a medical man, is it your impression that the gases to which you have already alluded, emanating from putrid animal matter and mixing with the atmosphere, may or may not have a tendency, with other combining causes, to increase the evils of the typhoid fever?—I think so; I think the way in which that operates is this, the exhalations of these gases, combining with other causes, produce considerable deterioration in the general health.

2423. Then your opinion is that these gases, mixing with the atmospheric air, are likely to injure the health of the community?—Certainly, but not to produce typhus fever; if the parties who are breathing this deteriorated atmosphere are brought in contact with the poison of typhus fever, they are more likely to imbibe that poison, to suffer from that poison, than others.

2424. Your evidence, if I understand it correctly, comes nearly to this point, that your opinion is, that this gas alone emanating from putrid bodies, will not of itself generate typhus fever?—Precisely.

2425. But if mixed with the atmosphere, and acting with other combined causes, will accelerate or will increase the evil?—Precisely; that is my opinion.

2426. What is the state of disease which is prevalent at the King's College Hospital?—Pretty much the same as at all hospitals; the ordinary chronic diseases, pulmonary diseases, and diseases of the heart; diseases of the abdominal viscera, of the brain, and so on.

2427. Is it your opinion that that situation is as healthy as one which is more in the open air?—I think that situation might be improved by getting rid of a great number of the little courts and alleys that are in the neighbourhood; but I do think there is a good large volume of air which the hospital enjoys in consequence of the existence of that burial-ground; I should be very sorry indeed to see the burial-ground removed.

2428. Your impression is, that the burial-ground being an open space, enables you to have some air?—Certainly; it enables us to ventilate.

2429. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] And that the freedom of the air thereby circulated is a greater advantage to your patients in the hospital than the presence of any effluvia is an evil?—Certainly.

2430. *Lord Mahon.*] Have you ever had an opportunity of comparing together the various rates of mortality in your hospital and St. George's?—Yes, I have.

2431. State that to the Committee?—I can state that the mortality is precisely the same.

2432. Do you recollect what it is per cent.?—I obtained a note of it. The rate of mortality at most hospitals is one in twelve.

2433. *Chairman.*] And the number of patients discharged?—Pretty much the

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the same. I should say that our returns show a remarkable number of patients admitted into the hospital during the year, who do not appear to reside in the hospital very long; who do not appear to take a long time for cure.

2434. What is the average time they remain?—I should think about three weeks or a month.

2435. Do you suppose that in that time if there were injurious effluvia arising they would suffer from it?—I should think that if there was anything of a considerable effluvia likely to injure, that that injury would manifest itself in the course of a week or ten days.

2436. In less than three weeks?—Certainly.

2437. Mr. Ainsworth.] Have you never heard of any complaints as to the unpleasantness of the effluvia arising from that burial-ground?—Not in our building.

2438. At no period of the year?—When the hospital was first opened I heard some vague complaints, but I apprehend that that was more arising from fancy, arising from persons resident in the hospital, than anything else.

2439. What was the nature of those complaints?—They complained of smells which they perceived in the lower part of the building; for the last year and a half I have not heard of any such complaints.

2440. Chairman.] Have you any knowledge of the state of health in the houses immediately adjoining?—I should say little or none.

2441. Mr. Ainsworth.] As I understand, as a medical man, you have no objection to the state of King's College Hospital?—No objection.

2442. And you have experienced no fever arising from it?—None. Perhaps I might state to the Committee that this question was brought before the medical officers of the hospital in June, last year, by Mr. Baron Gurney, who is a warm friend of the hospital. Having read a book published by Mr. Walker on grave-yards, and having observed that some allusion was made in that book to the situation of the King's College Hospital, he requested the attention of the medical committee of the hospital to it, and we then drew up a statement on the subject for Mr. Baron Gurney, which, if the Committee will allow me, I should be glad to put in evidence. I should be glad if the Committee would allow me to state another circumstance connected with the building. Before it was taken for a hospital it was used as the workhouse of St. Clement Danes; it then frequently contained 500 persons at one time; now we never admit more than 120; it has frequently contained at one time as many as 500 persons; and Mr. Cosgreave, the late surgeon of the institution, assured me, at the time the negotiations were going on for the purchase of the building, that it was a remarkably healthy workhouse.

2443. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Are the windows in this hospital so placed in respect of each other that you can maintain a free current of air from one extremity of the building to the other?—Certainly; we can ventilate the building exceedingly well.

(The Witness delivered in the following document.)

COPY of a LETTER from the Medical Committee of King's College Hospital to the Honourable Mr. Baron Gurney, dated 21 June 1841.

THE Medical Committee of King's College Hospital beg to acknowledge the receipt of the letter addressed to them by Mr. Baron Gurney, referring to the work of Mr. Walker on grave-yards.

They quite agree with Mr. Walker that the metropolitan grave-yards are, in general, far too small for districts so densely peopled as those in which they are situate, and that, in consequence, graves are often prematurely disturbed; this gives rise to revolting scenes, such as Mr. Walker describes, and renders the grave-yards a great public nuisance.

The Committee also agree with Mr. Walker, that the untimely disturbance of graves gives escape to gases of a deleterious nature, which are developed in certain stages of the decomposition of animal matter; that the gases thus formed may and often do prove suddenly fatal to those who, like the grave-diggers, are exposed to them in a highly concentrated state; and that when diffused through the atmosphere they may prove injurious to the general health of persons frequently subjected to their influence. It is well known that these gases, when produced by the ordinary process of the chemist, give rise to similar effects in animals exposed to their influence.

But the Committee must express their decided dissent from the opinion advanced by Mr. Walker, and also set forth in some reports recently made to the Legislature, that typhus fever originates from the decomposition of animal or vegetable matter. They consider that typhus

typhus fever, like small-pox, is a disease propagated by contagion, or in other words, is produced by a specific poison generated in the body of a person affected with the disease, and nowhere else, and that consequently, the primary sources of infection are the living and not the dead.

If the concentration of the poison be secured by permitting its abundant emanation from the bodies of the infected, in a close and stagnant atmosphere of small rooms, its effects multiplied by exposing a great number of persons to its operation, and its accumulation in articles of dress and furniture provided for by neglect of the common practices of cleanliness, the most favourable conditions for the spread of the disease are obtained; and few persons who have observed the lamentable extent in which all these conditions are fulfilled, in many parts of the metropolis, inhabited by the poor, will deem it necessary to have recourse to any other supposition than contagion, in order to explain the occasional prevalence of fever in them.

The Committee have, however, much pleasure in stating, that during the past year, there has been very little fever in the neighbourhood of King's College Hospital; only 23 cases of fever have been received into the hospital, and the disease has not in a single instance been communicated to any inmate of it, whether officer or patient. The latter circumstance, the Committee are inclined to attribute in great measure to the care taken in ventilating the wards, and to the practice strictly enforced in the hospital, of removing the clothes and frequently cleansing and renewing the bedding of the patients, more especially of those labouring under any infectious disease.

In submitting the foregoing considerations to the notice of Mr. Baron Gurney, the medical committee cannot refrain from expressing their conviction that what might seem at first sight an objection to the hospital, its being situated in the midst of a poor and crowded district, is in reality the main cause of its usefulness, and its best title to support. No better proof of this can be given than the great number of persons (upwards of 7,700) who, during the first year of the establishment of the hospital, have applied there for relief.

The Committee have only to add their best acknowledgments to Mr. Baron Gurney for the interest he has so kindly manifested in King's College Hospital, by bringing this subject under their notice."

Rev. *John Russell*, D. D. Rector of Bishopgate, was called in; and Examined.

2444. *Chairman.*] YOU have been requested to attend this Committee in consequence of your name being mentioned with some others by the Bishop of London, expressing a desire that your testimony should be taken before us. The object of this Committee is to ascertain how far it is injurious to the health of the community to tolerate the interment of the dead within the precincts of towns. The object of our inquiry, therefore, is to ascertain whether a nuisance exists, and afterwards to suggest remedies for the nuisance. Will you have the kindness to state to the Committee generally, what your sentiments are, or what you may wish to mention, and then the Committee will put any particular questions which they think proper?—I confess my own opinion is, that it is very inconvenient that there should be any burials in churches. The first place where I had any duty in London was St. Michael's, Wood-street. In St. Michael's, Wood-street, they had no burial-ground for that parish; but there was another parish united with it, of St. Mary S , which had a small burial-ground. Whilst I was curate there, on one occasion a body was buried in the church, and certainly for three weeks afterwards it was the most sickening in the world to go into that church. The burial-ground of St. Mary S is much too small under any circumstances even for the population as it was at that time, which was in the year 1809. I was afterwards at another living in the city from Canterbury, St. Michael, Queenhithe, with Holy Trinity the Less. When Mr. Strong was rector, I believe they came to a determination that no bodies whatever should be buried in the church, unless on a joint agreement on the part of the rector and the churchwardens. I uniformly resisted it, except in cases of families who had previously had burials within the church. I think, upon one occasion, I insisted on a large payment; I forget the exact sum, but I think as much as 40*l.*, the intent being absolutely to prevent the thing; and the churchwardens said, "If you ask that, we shall ask the same sum." I believe it was paid in that instance, but that is the only case in which a burial took place there. There certainly a great deal of evil would arise if burials were allowed, and in that case there can be no question that it would be as well at once to say there should be no burials there at all. The parishioners at that time were friendly to that view of the case. Since I have been at Bishopgate I am not aware that the ground has been attended with any real inconvenience to the inhabitants. There have been complaints, but I do not know that they have been really well founded. The extent of ground I cannot

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speak accurately upon, but there was in the year 1833 an application from Lord Melbourne, who was then at the Home Office, for a return to be made of the extent of burying ground there was. I do not know that it was accurately taken, but it was stated to be 27,306 square yards when the return was made; I have a copy of the return here, which will state it to you and giving the number which have been buried within 10 years, and you would ascertain how far the ground was sufficient for the purpose; this is the return which was made to Lord Melbourne. I am not aware that the vaults under the church in Bishopgate are such as to create any inconvenience, but certainly I cannot speak so favourably of the great vault, as they call it, and I should certainly wish that as few burials as possible should take place there. Now it has struck me, in making inquiry into the matter, that it may be worth the consideration of this Committee to ascertain, with regard to persons who die, where they are buried. I sent to the Registry-office to inquire how many persons have been returned as dead in the parish for the last four years; in the year 1838, 360 deaths were registered, but we only find 261 burials, and 101 therefore are not at all accounted for; in the year 1839, 356 deaths were registered, but only 202 were buried in the parish, leaving 154; in the year 1840, there were 288 deaths registered, and 138 only were buried, leaving 150; in the year 1841 there were 340 deaths registered, but only 194 buried. This has raised in my mind a great inquiry as to what has become of all these bodies; it has created considerable doubts in my own mind as to the way in which the bodies have been disposed of.

2445. Have you any surmise on the subject?—I have nothing to go on. There are very few Jews in the parish; there are some few Roman-catholics. In three years there are no less than 450 bodies, of which I can find no account. It struck me it would be advisable that when the undertaker made his report of the death, he should at the same time make a report of the place where the burial should be made; and I think that ought to be suggested to this Committee.

2446. Do you suppose that these were persons who were buried in dissenting-grounds in order to avoid expense?—I have nothing to ground an opinion upon; I only give you these facts; I am not sure that they may not have been removed unfairly.

2447. Should you think so great a number could have been removed unfairly?—Not so great a number.

2448. You state the facts without giving an opinion?—I give you the facts.

2449. Lord Mahon.] When you say removed unfairly, you allude to purposes of dissection, probably?—It may have been for other purposes also, but I do not know.

2450. Mr. R. Yorke.] What other purposes than those of dissection could they have been removed for?—I can give no opinion on the subject; I am not able to speak to that point particularly.

2451. May I ask you if there are any other purposes of convenience or advantage for which they can be removed than those of dissection?—I am not able to speak on the point.

2452. Chairman.] Not knowing, you do not wish to say anything about it?—No; I might be throwing out suspicions which are not warranted, and I have no authority for throwing suspicion upon any one.

2453. Mr. Ainsworth.] You do not take into consideration the number of dissenters?—No, I merely give you the facts; I do not think the number of dissenters would at all account for the discrepancy between the return of deaths and the number returned as buried; it is considerably more than a third.

2454. Lord Mahon.] Have you any means of knowing whether there would be a similar disproportion in other London parishes?—I do not know; when I received the summons to come here, I sent to the Registry-office for an account of the deaths, and I compared them with my own burials that I might be prepared to answer any question on that subject.

2455. Chairman.] As far as your observation goes, you state that you are adverse to burying in churches?—Unquestionably; I would never have a burial in a church at all, and my feeling has always been against it.

2456. What is your impression with regard to the policy of interment in large towns?—I should say it is very inconvenient. In those two parishes which I mentioned before, it was very bad indeed; they had not space enough, and if the burying was to go on they must have got other ground.

2457. In

2457. In your opinion it is a desecration towards the dead as well as the living?—Yes.

2458. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] It appears, that taking the last year of the returns, which you have delivered in, the number registered as dying in your parish was 340, and the number buried, 194; do you conceive that a certain proportion of those who have not been buried within the parish in which they died may have been buried in the cemeteries?—No; I have all the returns of the burials in the cemeteries. The total burials from the beginning in the cemeteries are nine, from the year 1837 to the present time, in consecrated ground; there may be others in unconsecrated ground.

2459. Mr. *Ainsworth.*] Where is the church or the parish situate in London of which you speak?—In Bishopgate-street.

2460. How far is that from Globe-field?—Two miles.

2461. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] That is not in your parish?—No.

2462. Mr. *Ainsworth.*] Knowing the distance to be only two miles, do you think there is any chance, from the great discrepancy in the number, that the bodies not buried may have been removed?—The impression on my mind was, that the number was far too great to allow for the ordinary burial of those who might be sent.

2463. We have been led to believe that the burial fees in this ground are much less than the church, and that consequently there has been an inducement to the poorer class to bury elsewhere?—I cannot speak with certainty on the subject.

2464. Lord *Mahon.*] Is it possible that, of this large number who have died within the parish, but who were not buried, a large proportion may have been buried by the grave-digger in the grave-yard, but omitted to be registered, for the purpose of saving the fees, or for some other fraudulent purpose?—I will not answer as to what may or may not have been done.

2465. Could such a thing happen?—They have access, unquestionably, to the ground.

2466. Would there have been a considerable saving in the fees by such a fraud?—They would have no claim to any fee at all. It certainly has not been done by the sexton. The persons engaged by the sexton in grave-digging were in custody a fortnight ago for improper proceedings in the grave-yard. They have been in custody so very lately that they may have been guilty; I cannot answer for them.

2467. Consequently you would not be disposed to place unlimited confidence in their trustworthiness?—No, they are not at all trustworthy. I have no reason to think that the responsible person has at all been guilty of the slightest impropriety. Whether his servants and persons employed under him may have been guilty, I will not venture to assert; I only state that their dishonesty has been proved, because they were in custody on a charge of robbing the ground within the last three weeks. They were charged, and were remanded for examination on a charge of having stolen lead.

2468. Sir *R. H. Inglis.*] The men being in custody is not proof, unless you have the conviction?—No; I state simply this, that I acquit the sexton completely of the slightest charge of anything wrong; and if I am asked whether the persons under him may or may not have done it, I can only say there is a possibility, but I do not believe that they have.

2469. Lord *Mahon.*] What is the fee on each interment?—The fee varies very considerably. I can hardly speak of the fees; I can only speak of my fees, which vary. Generally speaking, my fee on an average, in one case, is 3*s.*, and in the other case 2*s.*; and for a child it is somewhat less, except for those buried in the great vault.

2470. And there is the fee of the parish clerk?—The parish clerk has some fee; but I have never heeded much about the fees at all. The curate has generally entered the fees, and I have received them from time to time.

2471. Has not the sexton a fee also?—The sexton at Bishopgate receives a general payment from the parish; I forget what the sum is; and I do not think he has a particular fee for each case. Originally he had a right to a certain fee for each grave that he dug, but I rather think the whole was commuted on the appointment of the present sexton for an annual payment.

2472. The present sexton having held the office for what length of time?—For the last ten years.

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2473. Then might it not have been an object with the grave-digger or other subordinate persons to evade the payment of the fee jointly due to the rector and the clerk?—I do not think it at all likely.

2474. Mr. *R. Yorke*.] In allusion to the questions which Lord Mahon was putting just now as touching the discrepancy between the number buried and the number that should be buried, the number buried being about 194; allow me to ask you, what is your impression with regard to the disposition of the remainder?—I know nothing.

2475. Have you any objection to give your impression?—I really have no impression on the subject.

2476. I meant that from a person like yourself, an impression would be important if you felt justified in giving it?—I do not feel justified in giving it.

2477. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] It has been stated to this Committee, putting it generally, that the fees in dissenting burial-grounds are so much lower than those of churches, that it operates as an inducement to the poorer class; the fees which you state have been received appear to be extremely small, namely, 3s. and 2s. on the interment of a body?—That is all I received except for those buried in the vault of the church.

2478. What do you conceive will be the additional expense of those fees?—The additional expense will be very trifling, and I would state that the paupers in Bishopgate parish have been buried without any charge at all for years.

2479. Then there appears to be something different from other parishes?—I believe we have a legal claim to receive fees for every pauper that is buried, but at Bishopgate they have not been received, and they were not in the time of my predecessor, and of Dr. Conybeare, for 50 years, in which there is a list of pauper funerals with a blank. The question came before me in another capacity, namely, as the chairman of a board of guardians. The clerk made his demand, and I had to sit and adjudicate upon it. I said, "Show me an instance for 50 years in which such a fee has been paid to the clerk, sexton, or rector, for pauper funerals, and we will admit the question." He could not produce an instance, and we said that we could not establish the thing at Bishopgate; it has not been taken during the time of three or four rectors.

2480. Have you any idea what the sexton, or the clerk, has been paid?—I can give you no opinion upon it; it must be a very trifling payment; I know there is something like fourpence additional per grave to the sexton for digging, but they are wretchedly paid; it is grievous work.

2481. Then you consider that the sexton and the clerk and the clergyman would not suffer by an alteration in the interment of the dead?—I am quite sure that if the cemeteries were to pay me the smallest sum I should be a gainer on the average, if I received for all the bodies, as far as I am individually concerned; but I do not think that is the case with the parish clerk.

2482. I ask you individually?—I believe, individually, I should be a gainer; in the London Cemetery it is 5s. for a brick grave, and 1s. 6d. for the others, and putting the average together I should be rather a gainer if the cemeteries were to take all the bodies; in short, I should receive more than I do now if I was to receive for all the bodies buried.

2483. Are you aware that in the Westminster Cemetery there is a payment made for the clergyman from whose parish the body comes, and that that is from 10s. to 11s.?—Yes, there is a payment in all the cemeteries, to a certain extent; it varies; the emolument at Bishopgate has been very slight indeed, the emolument I have received for the last four years from the burials.

2484. *Chairman*.] The next point I wish to direct your attention to is this; assuming that it is injurious to the health of the community that interment of the dead should take place in towns, are you prepared to suggest the remedy, which probably would be interments out of towns, but how that can be done so as not to interfere with vested rights, or put the community to great additional expense or inconvenience?—If you give to the clergyman of the parish the fee he has now for a burial, clearly it would make no difference to him whether the burial was in one place or the other; and if you removed that from him, and put the charge under another person, you ought to make him a compensation for that which you withdraw from him; but that would be very easily done by a little arrangement which you might make on the principle on which the cemeteries offer their payment to the incumbent; and if the 5s. in the one case is not enough, and 1s. 6d. in the other, I think that would be very easily met. The parish

parish you must enable to move the bodies; the great difficulty will be with respect to the pauper bodies.

2485. What, in your opinion, would be the increase in expense to the parish from the removals?—The increase would depend on the distance.

2486. Mr. *R. Yorke*.] I wish to ask you whether you think, in any remedial measures, the clergy would be likely to meet those who wish to propose remedial measures?—I can answer for myself; but I do not think the character of the clergy has ever been not to do that; I think the character of the clergy would rather lead them to it.

2487. May I ask whether you think the clergy, like yourself, are sufficiently alive to the inconvenience?—It will entirely depend on whether they have felt it.

2488. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Have you ever considered the question of different parishes joining and purchasing under a legislative Act, ground for a cemetery common to them all?—No; but the parish of St. Olave and St. John's, on the borough side of the river, are at the present moment in treaty; they have a sum of money which they are going to lay out for a joint burial-ground.

2489. As in the case supposed in the question?—As in the case supposed in the question.

2490. *Chairman*.] Assuming that a legislative enactment was to be made prohibiting interments within the precincts of towns, under certain regulations, so as not to interfere with the vested rights of the clergy, is it your impression that an additional rate of a penny in the pound would enable the different parishes to defray the additional expense of transporting the bodies, of purchasing the ground, and of remunerating the clergy?—I have not gone into that question at all in a general way.

2491. Take the case now of your parish?—In my parish there would be a very great inconvenience, because they would say, "We have had hitherto for a number of years the power of burying our paupers without paying anything except the expense merely of digging the ground." If you put on them the expense of the removal of the bodies, they must purchase other ground for those bodies, and there would be a great inconvenience to them.

2492. Do you think a sum under a penny in the pound of additional rate would defray the expense of removing the bodies, or of making some such arrangement as the honourable Member has mentioned, of union with other parishes or with cemeteries, so as to enable them to find a decent place of interment of the dead out of the precincts of the town?—I have not gone into the calculation at all; but at the present time I rather think the city of London Union do bury their dead by an agreement with the new cemetery at the east end of the town, and that there would be no difficulty whatever in a parish which requires new ground taking the ground belonging to a cemetery company, and entering into an agreement for the interment of the bodies.

2493. Assuming that such a legislative enactment was formed, do you think that it would be desirable to vest the authority for purchasing lands or for conducting the interments of the parish paupers in the minister for the time being and churchwardens, or in any authority you can mention?—Those are questions on which I have not thought.

2494. My reason for putting the question to you is, that there are other Acts of Parliament which have been passed on the subject of purchasing lands, and the parochial authority has by the local Acts been vested in the minister and churchwardens for the time being?—I should think it would be a very good way of doing it generally.

2495. As far as you can at present form an idea, that would be a very good remedy?—I should think that would be as good a way as you could have it.

2496. Lord *Mahon*.] Have you found much ill-feeling or any differences prevail, in consequence of the present system of interment?—Yes, there have been constant disputes; I have had over and over again complaints of the grave-diggers; the grave-diggers will not fill in the grave unless they get 4*d.* paid; there have been many disputes, and appeals have been made to me on the subject constantly.

2497. *Chairman*.] It would be a source of great satisfaction to you if all that was removed?—Yes. It is sickening; it is horrible.

2498. Lord *Mahon*.] Supposing the same income could be secured from other sources, would it be a source of satisfaction to the clergy in general if the

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present mode of interment could be avoided?—I am quite sure it would; I have no question about it; I can only speak from my own experience; I have no scruple in stating that it has been a constant source of quarrelling.

2499. And there have been painful disputes as to the amount of fees?—Yes; very frequently parties have come who conceived that the whole money had been paid; and then comes the question, whether the grave-digger was to fill in the graves, he having refused to do it till he had the 4*d.* paid for each grave, and there are constant quarrellings on the subject.

2500. Mr. R. Yorke.] Allow me to ask, if you individually, from your long experience, would be glad to see a remedial measure on the present system?—Unquestionably I should; it is sickening, in a great measure.

2501. Mr. Ainsworth.] Do you think the clergy would have any objection to make some concession as regards the fees, if this evil which you speak of could be removed?—The clergy are differently circumstanced in different places; some of them have nothing but the fees to live upon. The paper I have in my hand is a paper which was given to me by a surveyor, having been one of a committee who went round to report to the Bishop of London the state of the different rectory-houses in the city of London. Allhallows-on-the-Wall was one; we examined the rectory, and found that it was a perfectly good house, perfectly fit in number of rooms and so on. When Mr. Lacey, who is the present incumbent, was appointed, he came and begged that we would review our report and declare it to be unfit. The Bishop of London then appointed a new committee, and on going over the house we said there was no reason for pronouncing it an unfit house, and after we had come to this report the surveyor sent us this report, and begged that we would send this specially to the Bishop of London. The paper is as follows: “Minutes of observations as to the rectory house of the parish of Allhallows-on-the-Wall, in the city of London. That the rectory house of this parish is situate on the north side of London Wall, with an aspect towards the south, light and air being afforded only in this direction; that it is a single house, *i. e.* without back rooms, a staircase in the centre, and one room on each side; that ventilation cannot be obtained on the north sides; that the rooms are narrow, not exceeding 14 feet in width on the upper floors, and not exceeding 12 feet 6 on the basement story; and that this arrangement renders the premises very inconvenient for a family consisting of 11 persons, of whom nine are females and children; that the premises are deficient in the convenience of water-closets and privies, and that considerable difficulty would arise in constructing a water-closet with access to the external air; that the house is extremely unhealthy; that persons sleeping in the chambers of the house find, on descending in the morning to the ground and basement stories, these parts of the house are extremely offensive, in consequence of the noisome vapours with which the air is loaded; that the health of the occupiers is seriously affected by this circumstance, and that the residents have been compelled perpetually to change their servants, the servants not being able to remain in consequence of illness; that, of the last two curates (being the only curates who have resided), the one, Mr. Davies, died of fever (although it is not in evidence that the fever was caused by the house), and the other, Mr. Andrews, left much out of health, after a few months’ residence); that the only femaleservant in Mr. A.’s employ states that she could not have continued to reside, as her health was much injured. The cause of the insalubrity of the house may be readily given, *viz.*, that the house has been built on land which for centuries previously had formed a part of the churchyard; that the soil is charged with animal matter in a state of decomposition; that in consequence of the basement story being sunk below the surface of the ground, the pavement and floor of the story are in actual contact with the soil so charged; that the walls of the house have settled and cracked in consequence of the building having been constructed on this description of soil; that in underpinning a main wall, a few months since, in consequence of its having settled, and of its fractured and damaged condition, it was necessary to remove a quantity of human bones and coffins, not only under the wall, but extending under the kitchen floor; that in excavating a few years since at the eastern extremity of these premises similar remains were found and removed; that the heat arising from the use of the kitchen, even for a very small family (*i. e.* two persons, the family of the last curate) the evaporation from the soil charged with this animal matter was greatly increased, and the effluvium extremely offensive and pernicious; the evidence of the person now using the premises for offices, between the hours of ten and four, is, that no consideration

deration should induce him to bring a family to reside, as, even in the daytime, and with ventilation, the noisome vapour is sometimes perceptible; that the rector, although not dissatisfied with the apartments of the house as to number and size, with this information as to the insalubrity of the premises, obtained from positive experience and evidence of persons well acquainted with them, feels very greatly alarmed at the prospect of being required to bring a family, comprising nine females and young children, to reside therein, and considers that their insalubrity must render them quite unfit for his residence.

Note.—The rector has been informed that the premises, a few years since, were inspected by commissioners, and were then reported to be ‘a fit residence;’ but it does not appear that the commissioners had any knowledge that the premises were so extremely unwholesome as they actually are, or had any knowledge of the condition of the basement being so close to the deposit of bodies and coffins. The premises might be deemed fit in reference to appropriation and number of apartments, but are unfit in consequence of unwholesomeness. Joseph Cox, the present sexton, No. 75, London Wall, and Mrs. Wilmot, formerly servant to Mr. Davis, the late curate, and now residing in Bevis Marks, can attest the truth of the above-mentioned statement.” This paper was sent to me officially, and a copy of it was sent to the Bishop of London; and in consequence of this special report of the state of the house, Mr. Lacey has not come into the residence, but has taken a house in Finsbury Circus.

2502. *Chairman.*] Generally speaking, then, you think any legislative enactments that did not interfere with the vested rights of the clergy, would be agreeable to the clergy?—I have no doubt of it; I am quite sure they would be to myself, and I think I might answer for all my brethren; but, of course, they must be protected in their property.

2503. *The Hon. Mr. Cowper.*] When you examined the house, and decided on its fitness, did you take into consideration any alleged insalubrity?—We went over it; we had then no statement of its insalubrity, but we had afterwards. I said, “If you will prove to us that it is insalubrious, we must make another question.” This was three or four years ago, before this question had arisen. I said, “With regard to the rooms there are plenty of them, but if you show me any ground, you must state it;” and the document I have read was sent in on the occasion.

Mr. Robert Baker, called in; and Examined.

2504. *Mr. Beckett.*] YOU are a resident in the township of Leeds?—Yes.

2505. What is your profession?—Surgeon.

2506. How long have you lived in Leeds?—16 or 17 years.

2507. How near to the parish burial-ground have you resided?—For some part of that time close upon it.

2508. Has your attention been called to the state of the burial-ground, as to its sufficiency for the deaths that take place?—Frequently.

2509. Will you state to the Committee any peculiar case of interment which has come within your knowledge as to the sufficiency of the ground?—The ground itself is thoroughly full. I can state one particular case which occurred last Wednesday, but I speak generally of the ground as being extraordinarily full. I have prepared a document of the number of bodies interred within the area of the parochial ground.

2510. State the case to which you allude?—I was in the ground last Wednesday collecting information, and the sexton took me to a grave which they were then digging for the interment of a female; two feet below the surface they took out the body of a child which was said to be an illegitimate child, and it had been buried five years; below that, and two feet six inches from the surface, were two coffins side by side, the father and the brother of the person who was then going to have the interment; the father was buried in 1831; the coffins were opened, the bones were in a state of freshness; the matter had been putrefied off the bones, but they were perfectly fresh; they were thrown on the surface, and at that time the person came in who was going to have the interment; he spoke to me about it, and made use of this expression, “Look! these are the skulls of my father and my brother, and the bones of my relations, is not this a bad business? It cannot, I suppose, however, be helped; I must have a family grave.” He was very much shocked; he stayed there a short time, and then went away a little distance.

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2511. Mr. R. Yorke.] How did he know they were the skulls of his father and brother?—Because it was a family grave; the bottom part of the coffin was chopped up and thrown on the surface, and I examined it; the residue was in an effervescent, putrescent state; after the bottom part of the coffin had been taken out, a little soil was taken out again, and there were two other coffins side by side, containing the mother and the grandmother of the same person. These coffins were broken up in my presence and thrown out, and then there was gravel underneath; all these bodies had been buried at the short distance of two feet six inches; and then, at a depth of one foot six inches more, lay other coffins below them on gravel, and they were thrown on to the grave side in the way I have described to the Committee. I asked the sexton whether it was absolutely necessary that this should be, and his answer was that it was quite impossible it should be otherwise; that it was not a single occurrence, but was an everyday occurrence when they had to inter in that grave-yard; he mentioned two or three other cases of an exactly similar nature, which it is not needful to repeat, but which had occurred within the last ten days. I have prepared a map of the town of Leeds, and upon this map, which I will lay before the Committee, there are certain things put down which will show exactly the state of the yard. That is a map of the town, not of the parish. (*The Witness handed in the map above referred to.*)

2512. Chairman.] Will you have the kindness to state generally to the Committee, with reference to the plan of Leeds, what is the state of the different churchyards there; how far they are placed relatively to the population; and how far the fever or the cholera which took place there, to your knowledge, have occurred in this town?—The grave-yards of Leeds are divided into classes; the parochial ground, other church ground, and the ground for dissenters. The parochial ground is in three portions, one portion surrounding the church; another portion at a little distance from the church, divided by one of the main streets. The third portion is at a considerable distance from the parish church, round another church which is under the same parish; and then the rest, with the exception of one or two small yards of recent date, where not many interments are; the rest are dissenting grounds. The parochial grounds are in the centre of the largest population of the town of Leeds, and peculiarly the residences of the working classes; so much so, that they are situated in the north and north-east districts, of which the proportion of the population is in the following ratio: in the north-east district, 16,000 in round numbers of the population, 15,000 are of the working class; in the east, of 14,000 of the population, 13,000 are of the working class; in the north, of 12,000 of the population, 9,000 are of the working class. These numbers have increased a little since the census, but they are of the same ratio still.

2513. They keep the same proportions?—Yes; and these grave-yards are situated in the centre of this population. Now the parochial burial-ground has, through time, been filled up at thrice. In the first instance, the burial-ground around the church, comprising 1 acre and 18 perches, was first filled up many years ago. The first entry I know of an interment there is in 1572. I would observe, the first ground is capable of holding 1,978 graves, measuring seven feet by three feet six inches, which is the usual proportion of graves. The second ground, which consists of 2 acres and 12 perches, was filled up in 1830; it was capable of holding 3,689 graves. The third ground, which was bought in 1830 or 1831, consisting of 2 acres and 34 perches, was capable of holding 3,933 graves; the total aggregate being 5 acres, 1 rood, and 24 perches; and the total number of graves in that measurement being 9,600. Now, in that space for 9,600 graves, multiplied by three, as it used to be when these churchyards were first established, there have been buried, instead of 28,800 interments, which there ought to have been, no less than 142,293 bodies. I have here a paper of all the interments monthly since 1572, with the aggregate annually.

2514. Sir R. H. Inglis.] That is the date of the first register?—Yes; it is interesting to show, with regard to this ground, the increase which has taken place within the last 50 years, in periods of 10 years, and at a time when the churchyards were already full. In 1791 the number was 5,727; in 1801 the number was 7,807. In 1811, the number was 8,095; in 1821, the number was 8,057; in 1831, the number was 12,938; and in 1841, the number was 15,285.

2515. Mr. R. Yorke.] And the burial-ground is now no larger than it was in 1791?—

1791?—Yes; some addition has been made since then, but this includes the entire ground. Now, the last new ground was purchased in 1830, and the old ground was shut up, excepting for family graves; and it has since been a great privilege for persons to be buried there at all. Of the average number of parochial interments, namely, 13,032, the average number being 1,500 for the last 10 years buried in the parish ground, 1,100 have been put in that last new ground; and if you will allow me to read a statement of Mr. Alderman Tottie in the town council of Leeds, on an application for fresh ground, it will give you an idea of that ground, and it is very important. In 1841, a charge was made against the sexton and grave-digger for removing bodies, and that was brought before Alderman Tottie, as a magistrate. On bringing the matter before the town council, for the purpose of getting the remedy, he mentioned the circumstance, and as I have not his evidence directly to prove the condition of the ground, I will give you his words: “A charge was made against John Wild, the sexton, Thomas Jackson, the grave-digger at St. Mary’s Church, and Joseph Beam, an apprentice of Wild’s, respecting the opening of a grave in the burial-ground of that church, and the removal of a dead body, and the coffin in which it had been interred; the facts were clearly established, and it appeared from the evidence, and it was admitted by Wild, that not only in this case, but in many others, in consequence of there not being a space for a new grave in the whole burial-ground, at St. Mary’s (except upon the hill, which is a rock, where it would require two or three days to dig a grave), it is the practice at every funeral there to open one or more of the old graves until a sufficient number are opened to receive the coffins waiting for interment; and that it is often necessary, for that purpose, to remove, for a time, the coffins previously interred, which was the case in this instance. The vicar’s reply was, that St. Mary’s burial-ground was made capable of holding only 2,400 bodies, and that there had then been 14,000 interments therein, which showed that some of these bodies must be occasionally removed into an adjoining grave. It appears from the statement of the present churchwardens that, up to the year 1830, the parochial burial-ground consisted of the churchyard and the ground between Kirk-gate and York-street; these were so full, that in 1830 the parishoners, at the recommendation of the churchwardens, purchased the burial-ground at Quarry-hill, containing about four acres; there nearly all the interments have since taken place, in number 17,471, including about 3,000 still-born children. The average number of interments is 1,420 per annum, of which 1,100 are interred in that burial-ground, and the ground is so filled with dead bodies, that there will not be a possibility of finding room for the decent interment of more in six months from this time, if so long; of the numbers so buried, there are about 400 paupers annually, for whose interment the overseers of the poor pay the usual fee of 2*s.* each, which is the charge for a grave three feet deep, and about 400 per annum more are paid for at 4*s.* each, for a grave five feet deep. These facts render the conclusion palpable, that unless additional burial-ground is provided, not only will the health of the inhabitants of a considerable portion of the district around be in imminent danger, but their feelings, and especially of the poor, be most dangerously excited by the revolting exhibition of dead bodies without decent interment.”

2516. *Chairman.*] You found it necessary to take steps to purchase other land?—Yes.

2517. *Mr. Beckett.*] Has any attempt been made by the inhabitants of Leeds to relieve themselves from the nuisance of the burial-ground?—Yes; there was an attempt within this year to raise a church-rate and obtain a burial-ground, which was refused by one of the largest parish meetings that has taken place for a long time.

2518. *Chairman.*] What amount of church-rate?—Very small; and the rate was refused.

2519. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] Was it stated at the time for what purpose?—Yes; it was specifically stated to be for a churchyard, and the then condition of the churchyard was stated.

2520. *Mr. R. Yorke.*] Was it stated on what ground the rate was refused?—A church-rate has lately been refused on all occasions.

2521. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] You stated that at different periods you have added to your burial-grounds?—Yes.

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2522. How have you purchased the land?—By a church-rate. Finding the church-rate was refused, a second attempt was made through the instrumentality of the corporation. We wished to see if we could take part of the borough-rate to buy a burial-ground; and it was said, as we had no funds of the corporation excepting what was raised by rate, we could not do so.

2522.* Mr. Beckett.] A case was stated to the Attorney-general, and his opinion was taken?—Yes.

2523. Chairman.] You stated that all persons in Leeds almost, high and low, are agreed as to the necessity of some alteration taking place in your mode of interment?—The general opinion is that the churchyards are very full.

2524. And that it was desirable that some change should take place?—Certainly.

2525. For that purpose you say a large meeting was held of the rate-payers, and a shilling rate proposed?—Yes.

2526. But that rate was refused by the meeting?—Yes.

2527. In consequence of that result, you have stated that the opinion of the Attorney-general was taken?—In consequence of that, the town council were moved to see if they could buy a ground with their rate, and they were advised that the rate could not be so applied; but they were to take the opinion of the Attorney-general. The answer of the Attorney-general was, that they could not appropriate the borough-rate for any such purpose, as it was a borough-fund raised from the inhabitants for another purpose.

2528. And in consequence your grievance remains unredressed?—Yes.

2529. The Hon. Mr. Cowper.] Was the rate of 1s. which was proposed, intended to be devoted exclusively to a churchyard?—I believe not; but I cannot positively speak to that.

2530. Mr. Beckett.] I should imagine it must have been for other purposes, because, if I understand right, one penny in the pound would have been sufficient?—One penny in the pound, in the township of Leeds, would raise 1,200*l.*, and we could get six acres for that.

2531. Therefore you conceive that the rate of 1s. in the pound contemplated other objects?—Yes.

2532. Chairman.] Then for the purpose of getting a good cemetery for the population, do you think a penny in the pound quite sufficient?—Yes.

2533. Mr. Beckett.] State what your calculation is on the penny in the pound?—Here is a valuation in the borough by which it is clearly shown that a penny in the pound would raise about 1,200*l.* from the new valuation which has been made, and I think, within two miles of Leeds, we can get land at 200*l.* an acre, for this purpose. I calculate that a rate of two-pence in the pound would buy twelve acres of land; and it would very easily be got at in that form. The remedy is very simple with us.

2534. If you can once get an assessment?—Yes.

2535. Chairman.] Coming back to the map of Leeds, to which allusion has been made, you were stating, that the part in blue, which is marked in the centre of the town, was most affected with the cholera?—All the cholera streets are there marked blue.

2536. And that part of the town was affected with fever?—Yes.

2537. When does the fever take place?—Every year; it is singular that through successive years the fever shows itself in the same streets. I have a return of the cases of fever for several years, and also of the cholera streets marked on it, and the fever and the cholera are, through these successive years, in the same streets.

2538. Do you mean to say the progress of the fever has been in the same places where the cholera was?—It occupies the same position.

2539. You have alluded to the churchyard by a small stream, which is now so full that the wall has been thrown down?—Yes.

2540. Will you state the particulars of that?—The snow collected in the churchyard, and the ground was loose, in consequence of that portion of the churchyard having been used for the purpose of interring bones and pieces of coffins which were turned out of graves reopened, to make room for fresh interments; the ground was therefore light, being full of bones and pieces of wood, and when the snow came and stayed a considerable time afterwards, it broke down the wall. Having no rate, the wall could not be rebuilt, and last Wednesday I

saw

saw bones and pieces of coffins sticking out of the ground in the face of those poor inhabitants who are living in that neighbourhood

2541. Is that near the blue line?—Yes.

2542. Is it in the centre of the map?—Not in the centre, but all round.

2543. *Mr. R. Yorke.*] It is called St. Peter's new burial-ground?—Yes.

2544. *Chairman.*] It is close to where the cholera broke out, and also where the fever followed?—It is about 100 yards; but I should mislead the Committee if I induced them to believe that I thought that was the reason of the cholera breaking out, but it is in the neighbourhood.

2545. How far situated is that unhealthy part of the town to which you have alluded from some churchyard in the town of Leeds?—The churchyards are in the centre of the inhabitants.

2546. Are there any churchyards besides?—All the churchyards and the chapelyards also are among the houses in all directions.

2547. *Mr. R. Yorke.*] Is St. Peter's the chief church in Leeds?—Yes.

2548. Who is the vicar?—Dr. Hook.

2549. *Chairman.*] Is the other part of the town of Leeds, except that particular spot in the centre marked on the map blue, is that healthy?—There is a very singular circumstance with regard to the town of Leeds, if you will allow me to refer to it. In the north and the north-east registration districts, where the population is, as I have described it, more than nine-tenths of the working classes (there are three districts), the deaths are 1 to 29, 1 to 30, and 1 to 36. In all the healthy parts of the town, the upper parts, where the streets are wide and the sewerage and ventilation is good, the deaths are 1 to 36, although the population is in the same ratio, namely, four and a half to a house.

2550. *Mr. R. Yorke.*] Have you ever observed, or heard it observed, that there has been an inconvenience from effluvium from the crowded state of that churchyard?—Yes; I have heard the inhabitants among whom I live in the neighbourhood complain of the churchyard being offensive.

2551. *Colonel Fox.*] Have you known people suffer in their health in any way?—No, I do not refer directly to any case of that sort; cases of fever are perpetually occurring among the inhabitants, which may arise from that cause or from want of drainage, which is equally as bad as the churchyard.

2552. *Chairman.*] Then your impression is, that the miasma arising from these churchyards may not be the leading cause, but an assisting cause?—Very materially, I think.

2553. But mixed with other causes; although not the original cause, it is a very strong assisting cause?—I think it would be an original cause in particular cases, but not as extensively. I think if the sexton was opening a grave it would be an original cause, but not an original cause over a large extent of surface.

2554. *Mr. R. Yorke.*] If I recollect Leeds rightly, I do not think you would say that the position of St. Peter's burial-ground is the very worst part of the town?—Nearly so.

2555. *Chairman.*] Is it your opinion that a legislative enactment, prohibiting the interment of the dead within the precincts of the town, would be beneficial to the health and acceptable to the inhabitants?—Absolutely essential to health, and most acceptable indeed.

2556. *Colonel Fox.*] Do you think there would be any prejudice among the middling and lower classes, to an enactment, by which quick-lime or other destroying matter should be placed in the coffins as they were buried?—My impression is, that there would be a strong prejudice against it.

2557. *Chairman.*] Would there be any inconvenience incurred by the poor people, if they were taken away for a mile or two miles, in following relatives to the graves?—None whatever, if the body was carried by an appointed hearse, as it ought to be. As I have said, we could obtain a grave-yard for Leeds at a very small cost, and by a very small rate, which would not only in the course of a very short time repay itself back again to the rate-payers, but would also form a fund for the purchase of other ground at a future period, and it would have also a still greater advantage, it would buy out the rights of the clergy for the interment of the dead.

2558. *Mr. R. Yorke.*] How would it repay you?—My mode of doing it is this: I would lay a rate on all the inhabitants, of 2 *d.* in the pound, in the township of Leeds, and that would raise 2,400 *l.*; with that I would buy 12 acres of

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land, at 200 *l.* an acre, about two miles from the town; I would divide that land fairly between the two classes of persons, churchmen and dissenters.

2559. *Chairman.*] In proportion to their numbers?—Yes; I would vest the freehold in neither, but in the town council, giving them the power to lay the rate; if there were no town council, in the commissioners; if there were no commissioners, in the magistrates of the division, because the magistrates do divide all parts of the country into divisions. I would give those parties the power of burying their dead in any form they please, in their respective parts, so as not to interfere with their rites in any way whatever. In 1840 there were 2,600 interments in the township of Leeds; of those 2,600 interments, 1,332 in 1840 were buried in parochial ground; then that left the residue to be buried in the remaining churchyards, and in the grounds of the dissenters. Now of the remaining number of 1,281, which is left out of the total number of interments, the burials would be in the following proportion or thereabouts: In the churchyard of St. John's there would be 400, that being the annual amount of bodies buried there. At the church of Woodhouse probably about 250. At St. George's, St. Paul's, and Trinity, which are only, one or two of them, recent churches, and having catacombs underneath, these latter have about 40 each, which would be 720, leaving 551 for the cemetery, and the other places of interment. You will therefore see that the church would have 1,330 for the parish ground; and adding 480 for the other churches, not parish ground, and the rest for dissenters, it would give them about 700 or 800 interments annually.

2560. Mr. R. Yorke.] What is about the amount of the population of the township of Leeds?—Eighty-seven thousand; I speak all through, of the township.

2561. The average deaths are 2,600 a year?—They were 2,614 in 1840.

2562. Mr. Ainsworth.] Do you think that a proportionate arrangement, giving to the Church a certain portion of the new burial-ground, and to the dissenters a certain portion, and a rate being levied for such a purpose, would be satisfactory to the dissenters?—My impression is, that it would be very satisfactory.

2563. Mr. Beckett.] And to the Church?—Yes.

2564. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Does the proportion represent the property as well as the population?—I think it does.

2565. Mr. Ainsworth.] Is Dr. Hook favourable to your view?—He is very favourable. I was going on to say, that according to the measurement which I had made of the acreage of the churchyard, 5 acres 1 rood and 24 perches, would give 9,600 graves, allowing 7 feet by 3 feet 6 inches; six acres would give room for about 11,000 interments; which, multiplied by 5, being the number of bodies now in all cemeteries interred in one grave, would give 55,000 interments in one half, and 110,000 interments, therefore, in the whole space of 12 acres. Taking 2,000 as the average number of interments there for a series of years (it now only being 2,600 altogether in one year), taking these 2,600 interments, it may very easily be seen what period of time would elapse before the 11,000 interments would take place: the total amount of interments allowed for would be 110,000, and at 2,600 a year, allowing for some increase, you get exactly the number of years.

2566. *Chairman.*] You would have an increase in the ratio of five per cent., or ten per cent.?—Instead of saying 2,600, I would say 3,000 now, or more than that; and calculating it to take the average through succeeding years.

2567. In reference to what you stated just now, that you would recommend the freehold to be vested in the town council, or in the local magistrates; why should it not be vested in the officiating clergyman and the churchwardens?—If you put the freehold in neither party, neither in the Church nor Dissent, you accomplish two objects; you take from both sides the power of cavil, because they are allowed to bury according to their own rites, in any form they please, and you would sell the graves back again so as to pay, in three years, the rate which was levied. I have made the calculation in that way. There are 600 poor interred annually, which of course I count as nothing, because the graves are given; we will take the interments as calculated, at 2,000, there being 600 poor; then, as three-fourths of the population of Leeds are of the working classes, I calculate three-fourths of the interments to be at the lowest rate of interments for the working class, namely, 10*s.*; now there will be 900 interments at 10*s.*, which will be 450*l.*, one-third of the interments being of the best class; these interments, at 3*l.* each, would give 900*l.*, and make a total receipt of 1,350*l.*

2568. Mr.

2568. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You do not, in that, take in the expense?—No; then I come to the expense of the yard-keeper, about 100*l.* a year, diggers, at 150*l.* a year, the fees at 60*l.* a year, incidental expenses at 200*l.*; I made it large for calculating it. Taking 500*l.* a year, for the expense of the keeping of the grave-yard, you would have a nett income for the first year, according to the interments of 1840, of 850*l.* In three years, therefore, you would pay off the rate, and it would be acceptable to the inhabitants to see that the rate was going to be brought back again in that way.

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2569. *Chairman*.] Therefore your impression is, that it would be better to vest in the town council, or in the local magistrates, than in the clergy and churchwardens?—I do.

2570. Assuming that in some cases it was necessary to make a compensation out of the rate to the clergy, for the loss they incurred, would you think that having officiating ministers, the churchwardens would insure them that compensation better than the town council?—The enactment might be so that the clergy would be protected out of the receipts of the burial-ground, which would be far less objectionable than to leave it either with the town council or any other body.

2571. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] You only put down 60*l.* for the fees?—The rector tells me that all the fees in one year would not amount to more, and that he would be glad to take a composition of 40*l.*

2572. There are other churches; there is St. John's church, for instance; have you reckoned them?—No; but the proportion is small; 400 buried in St. John's; it would not amount to much.

2573. *Chairman*.] The compensation then to the clergy in Leeds, as far as Leeds is concerned, will be a very trifling sum?—It would not exceed 100*l.* a year.

2574. Mr. *Beckett*.] Taking it at 100*l.* a year, do you think that would provide for it?—Yes.

2575. *Chairman*.] Would 100*l.* a year cover it?—Yes; because if the fees for the burial of 1,300 persons are covered by 60*l.*, the number of church interments beyond that, where fees only are secured, is very small.

2576. Mr. *R. Yorke*.] You said it was desirable to keep such a ground as that you have spoken of from party distinction. Does it not strike you that in giving the ground to the town council you would essentially be making party property of it, since the town council will of course be composed of persons of every kind of religious persuasion?—That was the very reason I thought it would not be party property, because they are completely mixed, and they seem to be the best sort of guardians.

2577. That, in fact, there being a community of religious interests, the whole would coalesce for the same purpose?—I think so; and more particularly so, as lately we have had a local Act under which commissioners were chosen, and the commissioners have been chosen by the violence of party from the lowest of the working classes, and there is no security therefore in commissioners so chosen. But in the way I have stated I feel convinced that in three years the ground would be paid for, and in the next seven years sufficient would be raised for the future interment, and after that there would still be more than an abundance to buy out all the fees of the clergy and to do something for the town itself.

2578. *Chairman*.] Even assuming that calculation of yours to be a little sanguine, your impression is that a rate of two-pence in the pound would suffice?—Yes, I feel satisfied of that; I have taken everything at the very lowest possible calculation I could. I have not put in the profit of stones or graves, or anything which would be additional.

2579. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] In this calculation of fees which you say has, in some degree, received the sanction of Dr. Hook, was there any allowance made for the clerk and the sexton?—I think not; I will read exactly the fees that they have: for a common grave, three feet deep, the dues to the rector are 8*d.*, to the clerk in orders 4*d.*, and to the sexton and digger 1*s.*; that is 2*s.* Supposing it a double grave, five feet deep, the rector still gets only 8*d.*, the clerk in orders 4*d.*, and the diggers 3*s.*, making up the sum of 4*s.*, and 1*s.* 6*d.* a foot is added for every foot afterwards, until ten feet, and then 2*s.* a foot, which is counted labour, and the sexton gets it. The rector gets an additional fee of 10*s.* for every stone put down.

2580. Mr. *R. Yorke*.] Allow me to ask if it is common in Leeds to bury at only a depth of three feet?—Of late they have been burying at two feet six inches.

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2581. Then it was more common to bury at three feet?—Yes.

2582. And inasmuch as burying at three feet was cheaper than at a greater depth, it is more common?—Yes.

2583. Colonel Fox.] With reference to the question I asked you about quick-lime, do you think the people would have any objection to quick-lime being put all round the outside of the coffin?—I think the general impression of the people as to any interference with the dead, for their immediate destruction, would be rather a prejudice against it than otherwise.

2584. If quick-lime were thrown in with the earth?—I cannot say.

2585. Mr. R. Yorke.] You stated that there was a churchyard where the wall had fallen, and where human bones are now projecting?—Yes.

2586. Yet that has no offensive character to the people, but they look on it as a matter of course?—The whole thing has a demoralizing effect.

2587. I think with you it has a demoralizing effect; but do the people speak of it as a grievance?—It has been so recent that I have not had an opportunity of hearing.

2588. Chairman.] Have you examined the vaults under the churches in the town of Leeds?—Yes; I was once in the catacombs of St. Paul's church; that is a place where they bury the dead in small squares. I was looking about me to see the interments, and there was one grave which had been filled with a flag against it, and the moisture had exuded from the body through that flag in all directions, and there were millions of black fleas covering it over in all directions.

2589. You do not mean the ordinary flea?—I did not examine it closely. The whole square was covered with these things in all directions, where the moisture had exuded from the body.

2590. Mr. R. Yorke.] You speak of St. Paul's, Leeds?—Yes.

2591. Mr. Beckett.] Can you state to the Committee the situation of other great towns near Leeds, as to their burying-grounds?—I am familiar with Bradford, Halifax, Keithley, Hull, and York.

2592. Chairman.] All in the same state?—Yes; there is a small burial-ground in the Pavement Church of York, which I remember for 35 years, perfectly well; and I remember 30 years ago a conversation I had with the sexton; it is not larger than a large building site; the sexton said he had not room to put an iron rod into the ground without disturbing human remains.

2593. Mr. Beckett.] Alluding to the present state of these towns, do you know whether any of them are in the same state of want of burying-ground?—They have got a cemetery at York, which is divided in the way I mentioned.

2594. I speak more of the manufacturing towns?—Halifax has got a cemetery; Bradford has not.

2595. The cemetery at Halifax is by private subscription?—Yes; I was in the yard at Bradford last Thursday, and spent some time with the clerk, and he gave me some evidence of the churchyard there.

2596. State it to the Committee?—The interments in the churchyard are divided in two by a number of posts, the chains of which have been taken away. Part of that churchyard belongs to commissioners, and is sold in the way I have been describing as at Leeds, and persons can have interments in that part of the churchyard on the payment of rather a larger sum, which the commissioners repay to the inhabitants in apportionment; the other half, being the yard of the church, is so full, that the grave-digger told me that it was quite impossible to dig a grave without disturbing human remains in all directions; in fact the yard is completely covered, as it is at Halifax; the whole yard is a complete flag.

2597. Have the inhabitants of Bradford taken measures to relieve themselves?—They have tried to get a little land opposite, on the other side of the street, but it is so high in price that they have not yet been able to purchase it.

2598. Chairman.] That is in the town, is it?—Yes; the number of interments annually is very large, as is the case in all other towns, and the churchyard is very full.

2599. Do you think that interment in the churches is likely to be injurious to the health of the inhabitants?—I have no doubt of it; I was in a church in Lincoln not long ago (and the observation applies to other churches) on a Saturday, when they were opening both doors of the church to allow thorough ventilation previous to Sunday, and a door had been put across to prevent dogs and people from getting in; I wanted to go in to look at the tombstones; the woman

who

who was cleaning the church let me in, and I asked her why the doors were opened with the partition I have alluded to; her answer was, that the church was in such a state during the week, that unless they had Saturday for ventilation, they could not well carry on the service on the Sunday.

2600. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] In consequence of the vault being so full?—That was the interpretation I put on it.

2601. *Chairman*.] Do you suppose interment in leaden coffins to be a safeguard against the effluvia?—Not unless of a certain thickness; I had some conversation with Mr. Sinclair, the incumbent of St. George's church; he is much opposed to burying in the catacombs of churches. He stated to me that he was against it. In these churches many persons are buried in lead; but unless the lead is of a given thickness, no doubt frequent eruptions of gas take place.

2602. If the lead is of sufficient thickness, will not the evaporation of gas take place?—If it was of a sufficient thickness, it might prevent that.

2603. Mr. *Beckett*.] The usual thickness?—Certainly not; I will explain another mode of interment which we adopt in large towns in Yorkshire lately, which is admirably adapted to the purpose; I was present when a man was making a coffin for a friend, and he made it with very thick wood, and then put in a shell with interstices of wood with the space probably of three shillings put together; small circles all over the interior at the bottom, and the end which kept the shell from the coffin, and then the interstices were filled up with boiling pitch; in fact it was a coffin with boiling pitch put in of the thickness of half an inch.

2604. What was the object of that?—To act as a leaden coffin.

2605. Colonel *Fox*.] Is it your opinion, medically, that a damp locality is worse for a burial-ground than a dry one, in the effect on the population?—I do not exactly know how to give an answer to that question. The escape of gas would be more perfect in a dry soil than a damp one.

2605*. Is the ground, within a distance of two miles round Leeds, generally dry, or is it swampy?—It is not swampy, nor is it particularly dry; it is neither the one nor the other.

2606. Mr. *R. Yorke*.] Is there any other burial-ground besides that in the Pavement in York which you think objectionable?—I do not know one which is not objectionable.

William Beckett, Esq. a Member of the Committee, Examined.

2607. *Chairman*.] YOU have heard the evidence given by Mr. Baker?—*Wm. Beckett, Esq.*
Yes. *M. P.*

2608. Do you coincide with it?—Yes, in every respect.

2609. A question was put to Mr. Baker with regard to what took place respecting the intention of the new cemetery to supply the deficiency. Will you have the kindness to give an answer to the question, which he was unable to do, as to what took place on that occasion?—Some years ago a great want of burial-grounds was felt, and a number of the inhabitants of Leeds, of all religious persuasions, subscribed a certain sum, and when the ground was bought and finished, that portion of the subscribers who were attached to the church, proposed that it should be consecrated. A meeting was held, a vote was taken, and that proposal was negatived by the dissenters from the church saying they did not intend to attach the ground to a church. The consequence is, that it is now entirely at the disposal of the dissenters.

2610. Your opinion is, that a general legislative enactment would prevent the recurrence of that?—Yes.

2611. Colonel *Fox*.] Was the money which was subscribed by the church party returned?—No.

2612. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Do you conceive that an objection would be raised by the dissenters if the church party were to propose the taking a certain portion of the ground?—I am not able to answer that.

Sir James Fellowes, M. D. called in; and Examined.

2613. *Chairman*.] WE understand you are present desiring to explain a part of your evidence?—The few remarks I have submitted to the Committee refer
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M. D.

Sir James Fellows,
M.D.

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to the custom of burying the dead in warm climates, and especially in Spain, where, as head of the medical department of the army at Cadiz, and a member of the Junta de Sanidad, I had opportunities of knowing the practice of burying in churches was general throughout the country, in defiance of the prohibitory decrees of the Council of Castile. The influence of the Roman-catholic priests and the fear of purgatory had hitherto operated so powerfully on the minds of a bigoted people, that the custom of keeping the bodies of the dead in their churches would have been continued had not the fatal pestilential disorder broken out in 1800, and spread terror and devastation at Cadiz, Seville, Malaga, and other towns of Andalusia and at Gibraltar, during the years 1804, 1810, and 1813. Although it is not inferred that this epidemic would be traced to this supposed source of mischief, viz. the accumulation of numerous dead bodies in the bovedar or vaults, it was considered so injurious to the public health, that the laws, so long dormant, were put in force without delay by the juntas established in every district. Orders were issued for the laying out extensive burial-grounds at proper distances outside the towns, whither all the dead were conveyed, and deposited with due observance of the rites and ceremonies of the Roman-catholic church. In reply to a question of the honourable baronet, Sir R. Inglis, the expenses of removing the dead to those places of sepulture were defrayed by municipal regulations and sanctioned by the general codes; and from that period to the present time (1842), I believe the barbarous practice of burying in churches and in the towns throughout Spain, and in most Roman-catholic churches, has been discontinued. Although there may have been no apparent evil arising from the custom still prevailing amongst us of burying our dead under the churches, and in burial-grounds adjoining them, of this vast metropolis, and in the very centre of our large and crowded towns, yet it becomes a serious question, with an increased and increasing population, upon what rational grounds such an objectionable feature can be longer continued without danger to the public health.

2614. Colonel Fox.] Do you consider that the middling and lower classes in this country would have any prejudice with regard to having lime?—I do not think it would be necessary to apply lime, provided the bodies were buried outside the town.

Mr. Charles Ewens Deacon, called in; and Examined.

Mr.
Charles E. Deacon.

2615. Chairman.] WHAT situation do you hold at Southampton?—Town Clerk.

2616. Will you state generally to the Committee what has come under your knowledge in reference to your district?—In the town of Southampton there is a great want of accommodation for the burial of the dead.

2617. Will you state the particulars to the Committee?—The common burial-ground for the town consists only of about two acres and two roods of land.

2618. Colonel Fox.] Is it in the heart of the town?—In a very densely populated part of the town.

2619. Chairman.] How long has this been used as a burying-ground?—Upwards of 500 years.

2620. What is the average number of persons buried in the town?—Within the last four or five years the average has been about 500.

2621. Five hundred every year?—Yes; I should state that the population of Southampton has greatly increased during the present century. The population of Southampton as taken in the year 1801, was 7,700 persons, and in the year 1841 it was between 27,000 and 28,000. It may be as well that I should state the evil as it now exists: the churchyard is so full, that they are obliged to dig up an old path which crosses the churchyard, in order to find even room for the interments at the present time, and whether there will be sufficient room, even taking that, for the present year, is very doubtful. Oftentimes coffins are obliged to be placed on the ground, being removed from their situations to make room for others, and some most disgusting scenes have occasionally taken place there. In the year 1827, the borough council, feeling that this evil increased, and the epidemic prevailing at that time to a very considerable extent, took the matter up. It prevailed particularly in this part of the town. They appointed a committee from their body to take the matter into consideration, and from that time to the present they have been unable to obtain ground for the purpose; but at the fall of the last year it was determined by the borough council

council to apply to Parliament to establish a cemetery on the common, and a petition was presented and a bill prepared accordingly; but in consequence of the general measure which has been introduced, the council have determined that it shall stand over for another year.

2622. *Chairman.*] Had you not some difficulty with regard to the arrangement between Churchmen and Dissenters?—I think there would have been some difficulty. It became necessary, as the land proposed to be taken was common land, over which the inhabitant rate-payers exercised a right of common, to call a vestry meeting to get their consent. There was considerable cabal at the meeting, and it was rejected.

2623. *Colonel Fox.*] What was the ostensible reason which they gave for rejecting it?—It was from some political feeling embarked in it. Great difficulty has been experienced in obtaining land hitherto without success, and the town is in this distressing state.

2624. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] At what distance from the town was it contemplated to take the land?—About two miles. It was necessary to obtain the consent of the rate-payers of the town, who exercised a right of common over it, and a difference of opinion prevailed amongst them; some of the vestry objected to the measure.

2625. *Chairman.*] Do you consider this place of interment, being in the centre of Southampton, which you took notice of during the epidemic, is unhealthy to the place?—Decidedly; and the medical men of the town have brought the subject forward on several occasions.

2626. Stating that it was injurious in its result?—Certainly.

2627. Can you form an idea of the number of persons interred in these two acres and three roods which you mention?—I cannot; it has been the common burial-place of the inhabitants of Southampton for centuries.

2628. Five hundred taking place every year as the average you mentioned, you cannot suppose that less than 30,000 people have been buried?—The town has increased very rapidly during the last few years.

2629. You cannot form an estimate of the number?—No, but it is as full as it can possibly be, and most disgusting scenes are occasionally witnessed there.

2630. *Mr. R. Yorke.*] Is it the only burial-place in the town of Southampton?—It is the common burial-place; there are two others for separate parishes, one in St. John's, which is 10 perches; and there is also a burial-ground in the parish of All Saints, which is 1 rood 22 perches.

2631. Is this common burial-ground, which you say has existed for 500 years, no larger at present than it is supposed to have been 500 years ago?—It is no larger.

2632. It is attached to which church?—The church of St. Mary.

2633. You stated that occasionally very disgusting scenes are witnessed there; could you more immediately specify what character of scenes?—Parts of bodies have been taken out, skulls with the hair remaining on them.

2634. Then that proves that the bodies must have been recently interred?—No doubt.

2635. Are the bodies interred very near the surface of the earth?—It is crammed full.

2636. *Chairman.*] Do you know anything of the circumstance of a body being exposed there?—No; I have been told that coffins have been occasionally taken out and put on the ground while making room for others to be placed in the ground.

2637. Do you know of the circumstance of a female being exposed?—A case appeared in the papers three or four months ago; a man of the name of Targit, whose wife had been buried twelve months previously, complained that not only was the coffin in which his wife was buried exposed, but it had broken in and a portion of the drapery was exposed; he seemed much offended, and there was some correspondence published in the newspaper in consequence.

2638. What description of epidemic is this to which you allude?—It prevailed about the year 1827, generally throughout various towns of England; I do not know exactly its character. I did not at that time fill the office of town clerk, but I find in the proceedings of the committee, they set forth a letter, written by the mayor of the town, to Earl Guildford, as follows:—"Southampton, March 22, 1837. My Lord,—Enclosed, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship a copy of the proceedings of a committee, appointed by the council of this borough

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to consider what course should be taken with a view of providing additional accommodation for the burial of the dead in this borough, and to request your Lordship's assistance in enabling the council to provide for the necessity of the case. For some years past, the great inadequacy of the present burial-grounds, in Southampton, for the numerous and increasing population of the town, has been a subject of constant complaint amongst all classes, and the state of the churchyard of the parish of which your Lordship is the rector, particularly attracted public attention. During the prevalence of the late epidemic, the evil was felt in an unprecedented degree; and the scenes that were, in consequence, daily exhibited in St. Mary's churchyard, were of the most painful and even disgusting description. Under these circumstances, the subject was brought under the notice of the council, and they, impressed with a strong conviction of the necessity of applying a speedy remedy to this increasing evil, appointed a committee for the purpose of devising some plan for carrying the proposed object into effect. This committee have met twice, and, at their second meeting, conferred with the clergymen of the different parishes in the town, and they unite with the committee in their views of the entire insufficiency of the present burial accommodation, and in their anxiety to provide some effectual remedy; but before deciding on the adoption of any definite line of proceeding, they are desirous of laying the case before your Lordship, as the rector of the parish in which the common burial-ground of the town is. In compliance, therefore, with the last resolution of the committee, I have to request your Lordship's sanction to, and co-operation with, their exertions to provide additional accommodation for burial commensurate with the wants of the large and increasing population of the town. They request your Lordship's consideration of the possibility of accommodating the public with the piece of land mentioned in their resolution, part of the glebe belonging to your Lordship, which appears the most eligible and convenient for the purpose, upon such terms as may hereafter be agreed on. From the great increase of buildings land is become very scarce, which has induced the council to apply to your Lordship to accommodate the town with some of the glebe, and the council trust your Lordship will see the difficulty they are under in procuring any land which, from its distance from the town, would not be most harassing and distressing to the clergy officiating, and to all parties attending the burials, and especially the poor. I have the honour to be, my Lord, your Lordship's most obedient humble servant, *C. Du Cane*, Mayor."

2639. Mr. R. Yorke.] You had the cholera, I think, in Southampton?—I think that was the time.

2640. Is that the epidemic to which you refer?—Yes.

2641. Chairman.] Did you find the epidemic to which you alluded follow nearly in the same steps as the cholera?—Yes.

2642. In nearly the same vicinity?—Yes.

2643. Was that in the vicinity of the churchyard?—I do not know that it was to a greater extent there than in other parts of the town.

2644. Is the part of the town which is unhealthy in the vicinity of the churchyard?—It is in a low part of the town, and densely peopled.

2645. Have you persons interred in the vaults of the church?—Yes, there are, in the catacombs under two churches; but the cost of interment is so great that it is only the rich who can be interred there. The average number of deaths in Southampton is 700; of that number nearly 500 are buried in St. Mary's churchyard, where the fees are very low, the only fee being 2s. 6d.

2646. Do you consider there is any probability of effluvia arising from the vaults under the churches?—I am not competent to give a decided answer.

2647. But your general impression is, that interment in the town is injurious to the health of the inhabitants?—Most decidedly.

2648. Mr. R. Yorke.] Were the persons who died of cholera buried in this churchyard?—It is the general burying place.

Mercurii, 27^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Lord Ashley.
Sir W. Clay.
Mr. Cowper.
Mr. Denison.

Colonel Fox.
Sir R. H. Inglis.
Mr. Kemble.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. Vernon.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. *Charles Ewens Deacon*, called in; and further Examined.

2649. *Chairman.*] WILL you state to the Committee any further observations you would wish to make?—I wish to add to one or two of the answers I have given. Question 2622 was, “Had you not some difficulty with regard to the arrangement between Churchmen and Dissenters?” The answer was, “I think there would have been some difficulty.” The difficulty with regard to the arrangement between Churchmen and Dissenters would apply as to the consecration of the land proposed to be taken for a cemetery, whether the whole or a part should be consecrated.

2650. Do you mean to state that it was difficult to get land on account of that?—No; land is extremely valuable in the neighbourhood of Southampton, and there were no funds with which that land could be purchased. Negotiations were entered into, and parties asked as much as 3,000*l.* an acre; the council therefore determined to take a portion of their own land, Southampton Common, 20 acres of it, the fee being vested in the corporation, but over which the inhabitant householders, rate-payers, exercised a right of common. It was necessary to call vestry meetings, and I called vestry meetings of several of the parishes in the town, and I found at those vestry meetings a difference of opinion existing, some objecting to the plan being carried into effect by the borough council, as not being within their province, and the others thought the spot selected was rather too distant from the town; and I think also there was some political feeling mixed up in it.

2651. In fact, you found it difficult to carry on the business as a private matter?—We found this difficulty: In the five vestry meetings they all passed resolutions of the absolute necessity of additional burying-grounds, but three out of the five objected to its being carried into effect by the borough council. A poll was not demanded at those vestry meetings, and the consequence was, that those who happened to be there, a very few, comparatively speaking, of the inhabitants, carried resolutions against the measure being carried into effect by the council.

2652. All that difficulty would have been got rid of by a general measure?—Yes; the council would not have abandoned the measure, notwithstanding the three vestry meetings, so strongly do they feel its absolute necessity, had it not been for the subject being brought before Parliament by the Chairman of this Committee.

2653. If there were a general measure of legislation on the subject, all those difficulties which have arisen between the town council and other parties in the town would have been got rid of?—Exactly so. I have only further to say, that the authorities of the town have made every attempt since 1837, but without success, to provide additional accommodation for the burial of the dead in that large and increasing town.

2654. In consequence of the difficulty of making any local arrangement on the subject?—Yes.

2655. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] There is some land which it has been thought advisable to retain for the purposes of a burial-ground, two miles distant from the town?—Yes.

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2656. That is not considered too great a distance by the town council?—They thought not; they thought it was the most eligible spot they could get, inasmuch as they would not have to pay for it, it being their own.

2657. The distance was not considered objectionable?—They would have preferred its being rather nearer, but they thought that objection not sufficient to prevent their looking to it.

2658. Colonel Acton.] How did they propose removing the bodies to that distance of two miles; did they propose any particular mode of raising funds for the purpose?—The council calculated that the fees they should receive from the rich would enable them to convey the poorer classes at a very inconsiderable expense.

James Copland, Esquire, M.D., Censor of the Royal College of Physicians, and F.R.S. called in; and Examined.

Dr. J. Copland,
M. D.

2659. Chairman.] YOU are aware of the object of this Committee; will you have the kindness to state your sentiments on the subject of interment in large towns?—I believe that the health of large towns is influenced by four or five particular circumstances; the first, and probably one of the most important, is the burial of the dead in large towns; the confined air; the general closeness of buildings, and the consequent want of ventilation; the circumstances connected with drainage and sewerage, and the contamination thereby occasioned of the water which is drunk by the inhabitants; so that in considering the burial of the dead in large towns we have to consider not only the exhalation of the gases and emanations of the dead into the air, but also the effect that such burial has on the sub-soil or the water drunk by the inhabitants. This is a circumstance which has not been so much attended to as it ought till recent times, but which has, in fact, occupied the minds of the thinking part of the medical profession ever since the days of Hippocrates, who has a long chapter on the influence of air, water, and localities on the health of communities,—the chief agencies which vitiate or affect the health of the inhabitants of large towns.

2660. Is it your opinion that water which runs through a churchyard will imbibe gases and putrefy the water in the wells?—It is fully ascertained and well recognized that the alluvial soil, or whatever soil that receives the exuviae of animal matter, or the bodies of dead animals, will become remarkably rich in general; it will abound in animal matter, and the water that percolates through the soil thus enriched will thus become injurious to the health of individuals using it; that has been proved on many occasions, and especially in warm climates, and several very remarkable facts illustrative of it occurred in the Peninsula campaigns. It was found, for instance, at Ciudad Rodrigo, where, as Sir James Macgregor states, in his account of the health of the army, there were 20,000 dead bodies put into the ground within the space of two or three months, that this circumstance appeared to influence the health of the troops, inasmuch as for some months afterwards all those exposed to the emanations from the soil, as well as obliged to drink the water from the sunk wells, were affected by malignant and low fevers and by dysenteries, or fevers frequently putting on a dysenteric character. In proportion as the water which the inhabitants drink abounds with animal matter so will they be subject to dysentery and fevers presenting what is called an enteric or a dysenteric character. The digestive operations are affected by water abounding with putrid animal matter; so that burying in large towns affects the health of individuals, in the first place, by emanations into the atmosphere, and in the second place, by poisoning the water percolating through that soil.

2661. The filtration of water will take away all substances, but will not take away the gases which such water has incorporated with it?—If the filtration is supposed to go through a new soil, it will, to a certain extent, purify the water, and deprive it of its grosser materials, but still there will be a certain degree of contamination remaining in the water; but the consequence of burying in towns, for instance in old cities, is that the soil is contaminated to a great depth, and the water, in percolating through that soil, is affected by the morbid matter. This was one cause, probably, of the diseases in Paris, until some means had been used to purify the Seine water. The water in the River Seine is principally used for the drink of the inhabitants, and there are certain wells sunk from

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from which other parts of the community are supplied; but, in consequence of this cause, fevers prevail in Paris, at certain times especially, generally presenting this particular enteric or dysenteric character; for, in connexion with the febrile condition, there is a predominant morbid action produced in the alimentary canal. I have had an opportunity lately of referring to the accounts of the epidemic fever that prevailed in Ireland at different times, and especially during the years 1817, 1818, 1819, and 1820; I speak from recollection, but my recollection on the matter is tolerably strong. In the physicians' reports on that fever, it appears that the fever assumed a malignant form, associated with this morbid condition of the alimentary canal, and that, for instance in the city of Cork, and several other towns, the water that was used for the drink of the inhabitants received the sewers, and consequently the exuvia of those who drank the water; and hence the reason why the disease appeared of a malignant form, affecting, as it were, the vital cohesion of the tissues, the mucus surfaces of the stomach and the bowels, and at the same time contaminating the blood itself.

2662. Do you consider that the water which has been filtered through a churchyard in that way would acquire any taste, or would it be injurious, assuming that there was no taste and no smell?—I believe it would; the water might not betray its impurity to the senses, though constantly using it, or using it without any substance to counteract its effect, would be injurious. A remarkable fact occurred to me about two years ago: I was called in the course of my profession to see a gentleman, advanced in life, well known to many Members of this House, and intimately known to the Speaker. This gentleman one Sunday went into a dissenting chapel, where the principal part of the hearers as they died were buried in the ground or vaults underneath; I was called to him on Tuesday evening, and I found him labouring under symptoms of malignant fever; either on that visit or the visit immediately following, on questioning him on the circumstances which could have given rise to this very malignant form of fever, for it was then so malignant that its fatal issue was evident, he said that he had gone on the Sunday before (this being on the Tuesday afternoon) to this dissenting chapel, and on going up the steps to the chapel he felt a rush of foul air issuing from the grated openings existing on each side of the steps; the effect upon him was instantaneous; it produced a feeling of sinking, with nausea, and so great debility, that he scarcely could get into the chapel; he remained a short time, and finding this feeling increase he went out, went home, was obliged to go to bed, and there he remained. When I saw him he had, up to the time of my ascertaining the origin of his complaint, slept with his wife; he died eight days afterwards: his wife caught the disease and died in eight days also, having experienced the same symptoms. Those two instances, illustrated the form of fever arising from those particular causes. Means of counteraction were used, and the fever did not extend to any other members of the family.

2663. Assuming that that individual had gone into a crowded hospital with that fever, it probably would have become a contagious fever?—The disease would have propagated itself most likely to others, provided those others exposed to the infection were predisposed to the infection, or if the apartments where they were confined were not fully ventilated; but in most cases where the emanations from the sick are duly diluted by fresh air, they are rendered innocuous. It is rarely that I have found the effects from dead animal matter so very decisive as in this case, because in the usual circumstances of burying in towns, the fetid or foul air exhaled from the dead is generally so diluted and scattered by the wind as to produce only a general ill effect upon those predisposed; it affects the health of the community by lowering the vital powers, weakening the digestive processes, but without producing any prominent or specific disease.

2664. Sir Robert Inglis.] Can you state to the Committee the locality of the chapel to which your former answer applied?—To that I would beg leave to say, that not being very positive, and speaking from recollection, my recollection bears me out only in saying that it was within the bounds of the city, and to the eastward of Chancery-lane.

2665. Mr. Kemble.] Had you attended this gentleman before?—I had attended members of his family before, but he had been in good health previously; I believe he had scarcely ever ailed anything during his life.

2666. Do you know his age?—He was upwards of 70, I think, and his wife about

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about 70, probably, but a very active man; he lived out of town, and walked into town and returned daily.

2667. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that those gases emanating from persons interred in the ground are more injurious at any particular season of the year than at others?—I think that they will be more injurious in certain seasons. The Committee have all probably heard of Dr. Sydenham, and his works regarding the state of health in London, for several years of epidemics prevailing from the year 1660, and long subsequently to the plague. In looking into his works, I have particularly remarked that though he touches upon the subject of epidemics, and the particular form they assumed in London, he never made any mention of the causes of those epidemics or their origin. One can scarcely read his accounts of the epidemics that prevailed after the great plague in 1665 and 1666, without being struck by the circumstance of the fevers, and in fact of the diseases, generally epidemic, for some years afterwards, having been chiefly caused by the emanations proceeding from the number of bodies put into the earth during the plague. I should conclude from *a priori* reasoning, with the light which science has bestowed upon us, that after 100,000 bodies had been put into the earth, during the latter part of 1665 and the beginning of 1666, the emanations from those bodies would operate to a great extent upon the health of the community, especially when the soil was to a certain extent acted on by the rays of the sun, for in many instances the dead were not covered by many feet of earth; and Dr. Sydenham informs us that in the following three years after the season of the plague there was prevalent in London a putrid or malignant fever, just what might have been expected; first, there was a morbid influence produced through the medium of the atmosphere, affecting through the medium of the lungs and circulating fluids those predisposed and less able to bear this mode of contamination; then the three years again following that period, the fever changed its character, and presented an enteric or dysenteric form, showing that by that time the water that had percolated, as it were, through the soil and been used by the greater portion of the inhabitants, had become so contaminated, as to occasion a disease varying in its character with the particular causes in which it originated. These facts are illustrative of principles which men of science would recognize in the present day, though not sufficiently adverted to when medical men viewed disease rather empirically than scientifically. There is one circumstance that may be noticed in connexion with burying in open ground in large cities, namely, that if the number of interments were few, the injury might not, perhaps, be very appreciable; it would be a lesser evil than building up and crowding together; for the deprivation of ventilation consequent on the crowded state of a city is almost as great an evil as the emanations proceeding from the dead. In the exercise of my profession during the rather more than 20 years I have been in practice in London, I have always made it a principle, if I was called to a person labouring under disease in the neighbourhood of a burying-ground, to advert to the circumstance, and to advise removal into the country as soon as was consistent with the power of the individual to remove. In some cases I have been convinced of the injurious effect of this cause on the general health, and this without reference to the particular disease under which the individual was labouring; for whatever depresses the powers of life will render the constitution disposed to disease of various kinds; and the emanations from the dead remarkably depress the powers of life.

2668. *Sir R. H. Inglis.*] Do you consider that typhus fever originates from the decomposition of animal or vegetable matter?—Fever presents a great variety of forms, and those forms generally ought to be connected with the causes from which they originate; typhus fever more particularly arises from a seminum proceeding from individuals already labouring under disease, and from a number of individuals shut up in a close or confined atmosphere; the disease which we call the true typhus presents a general uniform character, a certain specific form, as small-pox or measles; but the malignant or putrid fever caused by the emanations from animal matter, sometimes mixed with vegetable matter in a state of decomposition, varies in its characters with the causes producing it; as in the instances to which I have adverted. If the emanation from the dead proceeds in a very concentrated form, and is inhaled by a healthy person, it will affect the frame through the medium of the lungs and the circulating fluids, and the person may die in a very short period; this very malignant form of fever

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not materially perverting at the same time the mental faculties; but even in an early stage in typhus the mental manifestations are overpowered, and are entirely annihilated long before dissolution. Again, if in connexion with emanations into the atmosphere, the individual drinks water that is imbued with animal matter, the character of the fever will be then changed; it will then present, in connexion with more or less disposition to putridity, or, in other words, to dissolution of the fluids and the soft solids of the body, marked disorders at the same time of the stomach and bowels, giving an enteric or a dysenteric character, or a gastric form to the malady. We say that the fever possesses an enteric, dysenteric, or gastric character, when, in connexion with a general disturbance of the functions of the body, those organs are particularly affected; and this morbid matter taken into the first passages, will affect those more prominently than others.

2669. The question first put to you was suggested by the Report of the Medical Committee of King's College Hospital, received by the Committee on the 25th of April. It proceeds to state that that committee expressed their decided dissent from the opinion to which your attention was last called. "They consider that typhus fever, like small-pox, is a disease propagated by contagion, or, in other words, is produced by a specific poison generated in the body of a person affected with the disease, and nowhere else; and that, consequently, the primary sources of infection are the living, and not the dead." Do you concur in that opinion?—I concur in it to a certain extent; I believe we all have the opinion that true typhus fever is a disease arising from emanation from a number of individuals shut up in an ill-ventilated room, labouring under disease. When once there is an individual labouring under that disease, it will affect others if they are predisposed to it, or a substance such as woollen clothes, capable of imbibing the emanations and retaining them, will convey the affection to others; but the malignant or putrid fever, which has been called typhoid by some writers, in consequence of the close resemblance to typhus fever, in many of its features, varies from it in one particular, and resembles it in another particular. It has been supposed that, in reference to malignant fever, arising from emanations from the dead, if a number of individuals so infected were put into a close or ill-ventilated ward or room, the fever that would be propagated from those individuals might assume the character of typhus; but that is a *questio vexata* among medical men. Some think that the fever thus propagated will not present the true typhus character; others believe that it will. There have been facts, however, that have occurred, and facts on record, and which I could refer to, in which individuals have been, as it were, almost struck down by the effluvia proceeding from opening the graves of individuals in a certain stage of decomposition; and foul air let out suddenly—a gush of foul air may produce a fatal effect within eight-and-forty hours.

2670. *Chairman.*] Are you aware of the circumstance that drinking the water of the River Hooghly, which is impregnated by the dead bodies thrown into the Ganges, produces the fevers to which you have alluded?—I have read of the circumstance that the waters which have been thus contaminated in the Rivers Ganges and Hooghly, have been productive of dysentery and putrid fever.

2671. *Colonel Fox.*] Has any such fact come under your knowledge in the rivers you have known abroad?—The circumstances that have come under my observation have been of a mixed cause, the admixture of animal and vegetable matter, in river water and marsh water, and tank water; I have met with numerous instances of the injurious effects of these. The substance of what I have stated here has been published some years ago in a work treating of endemic and epidemic diseases; I only state what has been known to the profession for some years.

2672. Has not intermittent fever latterly disappeared from London, and have not typhoid fever or other low fevers occupied its place?—Agues have disappeared from London very generally; still there are occasionally cases of ague in the vicinity of London, more especially towards Blackwall and the banks of the river, and on the other side of the river, where there are the exhalations from the low grounds, from the foul air arising from the decomposition of vegetable matter, and probably from an admixture also of animal matter. This matter is well recognised in the profession: if you have vegetable matter in a state of

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decay even when concentrated, it will produce only a remittent or intermittent fever; but if the vegetable matter contain an admixture of animal matter in a state of decay, the fever becomes more virulent, it assumes a more malignant and putrid character, and the danger is greatly heightened. The fever changes its character—it changes from a remittent to a continued form; or if it still possesses the remittent character, it possesses it in connexion with very decided symptoms of malignity or putridity; as in the Tropics I have seen individuals thus affected with their mental faculties perfectly serene, yet the body almost in a state of dissolution before life had departed from it.

2673. Lord *Mahon*.] In the event of cemeteries being established in London to replace the present grave-yards, within what distance would you think they might safely place them from any inhabited quarter?—I think that three or four miles is quite near enough; there should be none nearer than two miles; but the members of the Committee will judge of this better when they recollect how rapidly London is walking out of town; we may have a hundred years hence some of those cemeteries almost in London. I have always thought of Sir Hugh Myddleton as the greatest benefactor to the City of London and humanity in general from his spirit and humanity and perseverance in conveying water from so great a distance to supply the inhabitants of London; that has been a great cause of diminishing disease in the metropolis.

2674. Should you consider a regulation advisable prescribing the depth at which interments should take place?—I think that would be advisable to a certain extent.

2675. Have you considered what depth would be advisable as diminishing the effect of the effluvia?—I have not considered that; it would depend in a great measure on the depth to which the soil is at present loaded with animal matter; in proportion as the soil becomes richer in animal matter, the depth should increase.

2676. Colonel *Fox*.] Do you think it advisable to make any legislative enactment, that a certain quantity of quick-lime should be put into the coffin, or if not into the coffin, around the coffin?—That would be beneficial, I think; I think that would be advisable to certain extent.

2677. Are you aware whether there would be among the poorer and middle classes a great repugnance to that practice?—I do not think that would be material; the use of chloride of lime would be of service.

2678. Would there be any prejudice, do you think, among the middle and lower classes to the use of any substance to decompose the body?—I can scarcely give an opinion upon that subject, but I think the opposition would be slight.

2679. Near Naples, there are 365 vaults, one open each day of the year, and the paupers that die that day are placed there, with a quantity of quick-lime; that same vault is again opened on the same day of the year following; do you think such a system, having four large grave-yards on such a system, on the four sides of London, at some distance, would be advisable?—I think it would, to a certain extent; it would diminish the evil.

2680. Lord *Mahon*.] Are you aware that the bodies of individuals who have died on the same day are tossed in together into the same vault, without any clothing?—I am not aware of that circumstance.

2681. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Do you think it would be desirable to prevent dead bodies being interred within a certain distance of the surface?—They ought not to be interred within six or seven feet of the surface.

Jordan Roche Lynch, Esquire, M. D., Member of the College of Surgeons,
Examined.

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2682. *Chairman*.] YOU are aware of the object of this Committee; will you have the kindness to state generally your sentiments on the injury to the community arising from interments in large towns?—I have heard the evidence of Dr. Copland with great pleasure; as far as my experience goes, as well as reading, I perfectly agree with him in all he has said. Of the primary operating causes of my own locality, I can speak more particularly.

2683. Where do you reside?—King-street, Snow-hill; I am medical officer to the West London Union. There are a great number of poor, and a great number of courts and alleys, *cul de sacs*; the poor are always suffering under typhus fever;
I have

I have made out the history of hundreds; I have their names, ages, and every particular connected with them. We have a refuge to which the casual poor of the metropolis resort at night; we see them under all circumstances, the very humblest classes; they are in a state of terrible misery; I have had a great number of those labouring under typhus fever. Having directed my attention the last 10 or 12 years to that, I have taken the trouble to trace it to its fountain head, and have always been able to trace it to a precise origin, namely, the decomposition of vegetable and animal matter. I suppose it is well known that terrestrial miasma, or marsh miasma, can produce ague; I believe, from the evidence Dr. Copland has given, it is equally clear that the decomposition of animal and vegetable matter will produce typhus fever. A great number of my patients reside on the banks of old Fleet-ditch, that is a locality from which fever is never absent, and it is always of a malignant typhoid character; cholera showed itself there during its visit to London more particularly than in any other locality. There is a churchyard in St. Bartholomew's (I attend both parishes), you might visit the neighbourhood 500 times and not be aware of this churchyard; it runs parallel with a narrow court; the churchyard is not more than 10 feet wide by about 45 or 50 feet long; it is impacted or stuffed, crammed with dead bodies. One of the parochial authorities complained that it had been three times filled, to his own recollection; it is the receptacle of the pauper part of the population. I should also mention that there are two other burial-grounds in this parish, Bartholomew-the-Great and Bartholomew-the-Less; the better part of society are buried there, but there is not room, nor has there been for some time, as the same parochial authority told me, for a single body. I remarked to him that I had recently received orders from the relieving officer to go to those courts approximating or abutting on this pauper burial-ground. I wished to go over it; I have been over it, and I find all the back rooms jutting over this ground having the cesspools, and the ash-holes, and privies floating over in this court. I should state, as was given in evidence by our relieving officer, when we go up to see a patient we have to pick our steps through the excrementitious matter flowing down; the persons living in this part of the metropolis are in the habit of emptying their chamber pots into this churchyard, and the smell is horrible. I have found that disease showing itself in that locality, as well as on the banks of the Fleet-ditch, which is always surcharged with excrementitious soil; it is always of a malignant character, and if a person is attacked with mild disease originally, it assumes a more malignant form, and we have a greater difficulty in curing it; and if a patient is attacked there with typhus, I have no hope of curing it unless I have the patient removed into the work-house to get the benefit of good ventilation. I have seen on the banks of this Fleet-ditch, young ruddy-complexioned persons fresh from the country, you would fancy they had strength of constitution to set this infectious agency at defiance; but let them be a short time in this locality, they become the victims of this disease, and eventually they become burdens upon our parish; the gradually inhaling this atmosphere affects them, undermines a sound constitution, and though they have at first a power of conservatism of constitution to resist the contagion, they become predisposed to it and affected by it, and in many instances destroyed. The water draining through a churchyard becomes imbued with animal matter, and is so far deleterious, I have no question about that; practical chemists have satisfied us that the water of the marshes, when they have analyzed it, has been found to contain putrescive matter, and it is beyond supposition, it has been proved by experiments by Monsieur Gaspard, and by Monsieur Guerin and M. Majendie; I should state that though this as a general principle is correct throughout the country, as far as my own knowledge goes, the supply of the water is good to our localities, and that cannot be complained of. The great primary cause is, that the privies are in general under the staircase of the wretched hovels of the poor, and the sulphureted hydrogen, and the carbonated hydrogen, and the noxious gases there generated, are the same gases as are generated from the dead bodies in a state of decomposition, for the evacuations from the body is decomposed animal and vegetable matter, and a dead body is the same, it is decomposition of the dead body, or a general state of disorganization, and that produces exactly the same kind of gases. There have been instances mentioned, where people have fallen down dead from a rush of those gases in a concentrated form. I have not witnessed a case of that, but in those localities minor diseases have become

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aggravated in their intensity; I have known them complain of head-ache, and sickness at the stomach, and a coppery taste in the mouth and throat, and I and my assistant know it very well, from our noses, the stench instantly felt is very repugnant, and instinct tells us it cannot be wholesome. I think that when the air is impregnated with this nauseous effluvium, which is invisible, it is well that we are furnished with the organ of smelling, the brain, the heart, and the lungs, being all in the same neighbourhood, and we should attend to its monitions; the same remark has been made by my colleague, as myself and my assistant; we know the symptoms of the dead damp; it is a peculiar, indescribable smell, and any gentleman coming up Parliament-street may have remarked it; we had the same smell yesterday, and the same to-day; and when I had got a quarter of a mile from this place, coming along Parliament-street, a certain state of the wind will bring it palpable to the nose; I experienced that yesterday, and to-day.

2684. *Lord Ashley.*] From whence did the stench come?—From the churchyards. A gentleman walking five or six yards may not perceive it; but if he walks the whole distance, he will become conscious of it, and he will never forget it. I have heard it stated that typhus fever can only arise from a living body, or from animal exhalations arising from a living body. In the many instances I have alluded to it, it arose from the putrid emanations of decaying animal or vegetable matter.

2685. *Colonel Fox.*] Is this noxious smell worse at night or in the daytime?—I think at this hour of the day, when the heat of the sun is most strong, and when the gases or emanations are attracted by its power, it is stronger than any other time. I can state as a fact, that I have been consulted by, and I can mention the name of the wife of a distinguished anatomist, within these last three months. She has, within the last six years, had typhus fever six successive times. The reason that I assign for it is this: in the two parlours of the house in which she resides there are always one or two bodies; it is an anatomical theatre, and in the front or back parlour there are always dead bodies; and though I have been used to smells of all descriptions, and have acquired a kind of disregard of them, I have been obliged, on going into that house, to hold my nose. I have been once or twice invited to dinner; I run off as fast as possible; I have got my dinner, or rather I could not eat from the stench. The professor has himself told me that no servant will ever remain in his house more than a fortnight; it is an extraordinary thing if he keeps them more than a fortnight. I think it shows their good sense.

2686. How is his own health?—He has been on the verge of the tomb; he was last summer obliged to go down to Margate and remain there for months.

2687. *Lord Mahon.*] What is the health of his family?—He has no children; his wife has been affected with typhus fever six times. In dissecting myself at La Pitié, at Paris, I had the same complaint that young students often complain of, viz. diarrhoea in the first instance, and after I got better I had typhus fever itself, which I attribute to the noxious exhalations of the dead bodies. I had a cousin, a member of the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, three times he was attacked with typhus fever, and by repeated attacks the system was so altered, he had a malignant carbuncle, and with the greatest difficulty his life was saved. Putrescent animal matter will produce typhus fever, as has been mentioned by Dr. Copland; not only has Hippocrates stated that, but every great medical authority from before the birth of Christ to the present time. The celebrated Dr. Cheyne, Dr. Percival, Dr. Armstrong of the present day, Dr. Southwood Smith, Dr. Roupell, Dr. Elliotson, Dr. Lewis, Dr. Tweedie, Dr. Stephens, Dr. Clanny, of Sunderland, and 30 medical practitioners in daily attendance on those affected with disease, were examined before the former Committee on the Health of Towns; they all agreed on the origin of this disease, referring it distinctly to putrid animal matter. I have noticed, having specially directed my attention to it, that the way they become affected is, that they breathe or inhale an atmosphere surcharged or impregnated with those deleterious matters, which are not visible by the eye, into the lungs; they mix with the blood and affect the whole frame. Proceeding on that opinion, I have opened the arms of all those people supposed to have typhus fever, or subject to it, and have invariably found that the circulation of the blood and its chemical composition is altered, and becomes quite dark and carbonaceous, and if you preserve it in a glass for any length of time, and let it remain quiescent, putrid and foul smell gases will be developed from

from the chemical change which goes on, the same gases as proceed from a grave.

2688. Colonel Fox.] Will not that be the case with any blood preserved in a glass?—No, not in so short a space of time. I should state that at the church in my own neighbourhood, St. Sepulchre's for instance, the parish church, the side vaults in that church are all well constructed, there is a good ventilation to them, and the consequence is that they are free from any taint or atmospheric impurity, but the centre vault, over which the congregation meet at divine service, is full of bodies. The reason I dwell upon this circumstance is, that though there are hundreds of bodies in this vault, and though it is excavated to a considerable depth, having on the western side an opening, and on the east another, which admit of a thorough ventilation, that has so neutralized the effluvia, when I was there yesterday evening it was as sweet as any gentleman's wine cellar. When effluvia escapes into the atmosphere it becomes diluted, and is almost deprived of its power of contamination. There is a church on Ludgate Hill where they have departed from a very proper regulation, of requiring the bodies to be buried in lead, and admit wooden coffins; the consequence is there is no impediment to the evaporation of the noxious emanation, and the smell on the Sabbath-day at times is awful; it is quite perceptible to any one who enters the church; the consequence is that the church is very little attended.

2689. What is the church to which you refer?—I refer to St. Martin's, Ludgate Hill. There is another church, St. Andrew's, Holborn, on the acclivity of the hill; from the surface of the ground it is about 14 feet, and that elevation is formed, I may say safely, of the bodies and bones and skeletons, with a surface of four or five feet. It is built up, quite an artificial construction, a catacomb above the earth. It is so full, they have lately provided very spacious burying-grounds in Gray's Inn Road. The vaults under that church are very well ventilated; they are formed on arches.

2690. Still the miasma escapes?—Yes. I can give the name of the place where this gentleman went to whom Dr. Copland referred, in Fetter-lane, a Baptist meeting-house, a very small building, and the bodies are close under the floor in which the people are sitting; they are crowded there, and it is in a most disgusting state. Being in my neighbourhood, I have attended many of the flock; I have forewarned them not to go there. I have gone there myself, and felt the effluvia, and have known females who are very attentive to their duties there suffer from the effects of it; and not only they suffer, but in the courts in the neighbourhood they have been labouring under a character of disease that I believe to arise from malarious influence.

2691. Chairman.] You confirm Dr. Copland's observation, that ague is produced by vegetable decomposition, and typhus fever by an admixture of vegetable and animal substance together?—Yes.

2692. Ague has diminished in the town, but typhus has increased?—Yes.

2693. Is it a fair conclusion, that a greater quantity of animal matter has been mixed with the atmosphere than formerly?—The population has increased and accommodation has not increased; in the same proportion animal evacuations must have been augmented; the liability to the living is manifest. I believe that if those crowded churchyards were removed, if better tenements, more airy and better ventilated, were provided for the poor, and if the privies were attended to, typhus fever might be as rare as a case of plague is now. With sanitary regulations like these it might be unknown in the metropolis.

2694. And an immense loss of life prevented?—Yes, and the poor-rates greatly diminished. When a poor man dies his wife and family come into the workhouse, and become burdensome for years. Those are the results of my own individual experience. Baron Humboldt, who came over with the King of Prussia, mentions in his work on South America, that at Porto Bello and Carthage they indiscriminately bury the dead, and here and there trees are felled and allowed to remain with a vegetable decomposition going on; the consequence is, in a warm climate, the rays of the sun falling on this decomposition produce disease, and great numbers die; but at some seasons, when the sea flows over this marshy ground, and there is a saline deposit, it counteracts the effect: it exercises an antiseptic property over those animal and vegetable exhalations.

2695. You consider that bringing the water by pipes from the country into the town, and preventing individuals drinking the water which has percolated through the churchyards, has been beneficial to the health of the country?—As

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another proof of that, I was at Paris when the cholera broke out there, and thousands fell victims to it. I recollect that the carriers of water were affected, the water being foul, and it always exhibited the malignant dysenteric character to which I have referred; and that may explain the reason why so many more thousands died at Paris of that disease, though with a smaller population, than in London.

2696. *Colonel Fox.*] With regard to the water, have you a knowledge of any wells that you consider decidedly unwholesome?—No; I do not know more than one or two wells; those wells are wholesome; they are on the principle of Artesian wells; in the carriers' offices, Pickford's, and so on, the large waggon offices.

2697. *Chairman.*] They are not in the vicinity of churchyards?—No.

2698. *Colonel Fox.*] Have you seen the insects which are said to generate in the churchyards?—Yes; a black insect something like a flea; that is from decomposed animal and vegetable matter.

2699. Have you seen those in St. Bartholomew's churchyard?—I have; they are generally found outside the tombs. In conversing with the grave-diggers, they have acknowledged to me that they have all been more or less affected by the miasma of the grave; and in our own parish the two preceding grave-diggers were very seriously affected; the present is a very hale, strong man, and is able to resist its influence.

2700. *Mr. Vernon.*] You do not consider that any mischief arises to the community from the existence of that black fly to which you have referred?—I am not aware of any.

The Rev. *Evan James*, called in; and Examined.

Rev. Evan James.

2701. *Chairman.*] WHERE do you reside?—I am Curate of St. Dunstan's, Stepney.

2702. You are aware of the object of the Committee; will you have the goodness to make any statement bearing on the question before them?—I am perfectly unprepared; I really had forgotten that there was such a Committee in existence; I make no pretensions to any theory, based on any supposed principles of science; I can only answer such questions as may be put to me, I having been for many years the curate of a very populous parish, and such things as may have occurred during that time I am ready to state, if the Committee shall be pleased to state to what facts they wish me to refer.

2703. *Lord Mahon.*] It has been stated to this Committee, in reference to the general effect on the health of large towns, that injurious consequences result from interments in grave-yards in very populous places; is that in conformity with your own observation and experience?—I can give no opinion except as regards my own parish. The neighbourhood in which I live is not very populous, but I reside near a churchyard where more dead bodies have been interred probably than in any other churchyard.

2704. Is it St. Dunstan's, Stepney, to which you refer?—Yes; perhaps more dead bodies have been buried in that churchyard than in any other in the kingdom. During the plague, in 1665, there were upwards of 150 buried in a day. There are fewer persons interred in Stepney churchyard now than there have been for the last 200 years.

2705. What is now the average number of burials?—They have diminished very much within the last six or seven years; the number last year did not exceed 400, whereas they used to average 700 a year for many years after I was at Stepney.

2706. Probably the circumstances of the parish of Stepney are not such as would exemplify, in any strong degree, the evils supposed to result from interments?—There have been many private cemeteries established of late years in that neighbourhood. Mr. Barber Beaumont established a cemetery at Stepney about five or six years ago, and I believe they bury there to the number of 1,000 a year.

2707. *Sir William Clay.*] Since what time is it that the average number of burials in Stepney burial-ground has decreased?—They have gradually decreased since I have been there; when I first came there, they averaged 700 a year; they have been diminishing gradually from 1825. There have been
three

three or four extensive burial-grounds opened in the parish during that time, one of which is in Globe-lane, and in the hands of an undertaker, I believe.

2708. How many years since is it that you commenced your duties as curate of that parish?—I commenced my duties in the month of July 1815.

2709. For how many years did the average number of burials per year amount to 700?—They continued till about the end of the year 1825; since the opening of the Globe-lane burial-ground they have gradually diminished.

2710. Was the number of 700 burials per year, in your opinion, much greater than the churchyard of Stepney could properly or decently admit?—I should say that Stepney churchyard contains perhaps upwards of three acres of ground; it is a very extensive ground, and there are some parts of that burial-ground which have not yet been touched.

2711. During the period you have been referring to, when there were 700 bodies buried in the course of a year, were there any circumstances you can state to the Committee, either as affecting public decency or public health, arising from the circumstance of that number of burials?—I can safely state that I have never found anything of the kind.

2712. How many coffins were placed in one grave, to your knowledge?—I have never known more than two.

2713. What is the general depth of the graves?—Generally they cannot dig deep there; they would come to water. There is an improvement in the drainage of late years, which makes it something dryer, but they could not dig more than seven or eight feet.

2714. Have you never known more than two coffins put into one grave?—No, not at one time; they have been filled over and over again, I dare say; but then the original bodies have been decomposed, and mixed with their kindred dust.

2715. Was there any regulation as to the proximity of a new grave to an old one?—No.

2716. Are you aware whether in digging a new grave they have disinterred any coffins and bodies?—I have known when a person has been exceedingly desirous of interring his friend in the same grave with another friend or kinsman, that a child which had been buried has been taken up to make room for the father and mother. I never allowed them to do that, unless it was done very decently; that is to say, they would take it up and put it on one side and cover it, not to make it offensive to the public in any way.

2717. You have never been aware when you have been attending funerals of any offensive smell?—No.

2718. No circumstances occur to your recollection connected with burials in that churchyard which you consider offensive, on the ground of public health or decency?—No, certainly not; it is not long since I buried a man at Stepney who had been upwards of 70 years the grave-digger; he died in the 103d year of his age.

2719. Colonel Fox.] Is there an endowment in St. Dunstan's?—There is.

2720. Have the fees, in consequence of the cemeteries you mention, been considerably diminished?—Most seriously.

2721. How much do you suppose the incumbent has lost by the opening of those cemeteries?—Speaking generally, quite unprepared, I should say he has lost by the opening of those cemeteries in the parish at least 300*l.* a year.

2722. Can you suggest any way by which, in the event of public cemeteries being made by law in the neighbourhood of London, compensation could be given to the different clergymen affected thereby?—I cannot.

2723. Do you yourself, though you never witnessed anything improper in this churchyard, think that large cemeteries on each of the four sides of London would be a great advantage?—If I am asked generally with regard to the city of London, I should say decidedly; but as regards the parish of Stepney, I think not. The college of Brazenose have offered the parish a piece of glebe of upwards of an acre, and if that were added to the churchyard, I conceive the churchyard at Stepney would still answer all the purposes of a churchyard for the parishioners.

2724. You have no feeling professionally that the interment of the dead should be near the church or under the church?—No, I have none, certainly.

2725. Mr. Ainsworth.] Is not there a pump in Stepney churchyard?—There is.

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2726. Is the water from that pump good?—That I cannot say, but I know it has been very much used by the inhabitants.

2727. Have you ever tasted it yourself?—They sometimes bring water into the vestry-room; I have requested them not to bring it from that pump; but I have reason to suppose I have tasted it, and if I have tasted it, I certainly did not discover anything exceedingly offensive in it.

Veneris, 29^o die Aprilis, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Mr. E. Denison.
Colonel Fox.

Mr. Kemble.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. H. Vernon.
Mr. Yorke.

W. A. MACKINNON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. *Henry H. Milman*, Rector of Saint Margaret's, Westminster, called in; and Examined.

*Rev.
H. H. Milman.*

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2728. *Chairman.*] YOU are aware of the object for which this Committee has been appointed; will you have the goodness to state your opinion; first, as regards the question of legislation; secondly, in what way the remedies can be applied so as not to interfere with vested rights; and, thirdly, as to how far the nuisance itself exists?—It appears to me that the only course that could be adopted would be to have a great number of large burying grounds in convenient situations, in which the different parishes might inter their poorer inhabitants; for I would consider the question as regards St. Margaret's and St. John's (which is connected with it), in the first instance, with reference to the interment of the poor. If it is determined by the Legislature to discontinue interments altogether within the towns, the plan then would be, I should conceive, to have public cemeteries to which all those interments may be removed; and I conceive that the principle which has generally been applied in the cemetery Bills which have hitherto passed, in which there has been a certain reservation of rights to the clergy and to persons interested, might be applied to these. Then the most important question, as appears to me, affecting the poor, is the expense of interment. It would be very undesirable for the Legislature, in my opinion, to adopt any measure that would increase that which in itself is, to a certain degree, a heavy expense upon the poor inhabitants of the metropolis. I cannot but think that by some well-regulated scheme, by a conveyance being provided under parochial regulations, or some regulation laid down generally for the metropolis, the bodies might be conveyed to a certain distance, say two or three miles, with very little more expense by horses and carriages, than upon men's shoulders, as they usually are at present, for a distance of two or three streets. It seems to me, that conveyed as living persons are at so small an expense from one part of the town to another, the bodies of the dead and mourners might, provided there were some general system adopted by the parishes, be conveyed to that distance without any increased expense; but then that would require a scheme well considered and well digested, and it would require of course that there should be a certain number of cemeteries conveniently situated as respects each parish, one or more parishes might agree in having a common cemetery, or if parishes are very large, they might have their own; that would certainly involve parishes in the first instance in very considerable expense.

2729. It appears that there are three sources of expense which would be incurred by any change, one would be the expense of purchasing land; the next would be the fees to the clergy and to the parties who belong to the Church; and the third would be the additional expense of conveying the paupers to their last home. How would you suggest that that expense should

be

be covered?—I conceive that if there is any general legislative measure, prohibiting interments in large towns, there are only two sources from which the first expense could be provided, either from the national funds cemeteries must be procured by the public, or that tax must be laid upon the parishes, which in many cases I conceive might be unwelcome, and encounter considerable opposition.

2730. Do you suppose that an additional rate of a penny in the pound would cover the expense to which I have alluded?—That would depend upon the rental of the parishes and the price of the ground. I would rather give no opinion upon that.

2731. In the event of any legislative enactment taking place, in whom would you think it advisable to vest the authority, in the parishes, or the Unions of parishes, for carrying the purposes of the Act into execution?—I should conceive that the clergy, and the parochial authorities, would be the best parties.

2732. By the parochial authorities you mean the incumbents, rectors or vicars, the churchwardens, and some portion of the vestry?—I should conceive so, that which is conceived to be a fair representation of the parish.

2733. Do you consider, in the event of any legislative enactment taking place, it would be a desirable thing to have unions of parishes for the purpose of interment, as you have Unions now for the purpose of relieving the poor?—I should conceive, in the smaller parishes, particularly in the city, that would be the case; but as far as St. Margaret's or St. John's are concerned, which have above 50,000 inhabitants, either together or singly, if they retain their present union, which they do for all parochial purposes, they would be quite large enough for any ordinary cemetery.

2734. With regard to any legislative enactment for preventing interment under churches or chapels, do you think that would be desirable?—I am not aware of any evil being produced by that, because in general I believe the vaults are so well secured (with reference to St. Margaret's, I am sure that is the case), and that they occur so rarely on account of the fees being heavy, that I do not conceive that any evil arises from that.

2735. Generally speaking, do you conceive that there is any evil arising from it, so far as it comes within your knowledge?—I should say, none whatever.

2736. Mr. *Vernon*.] Are you not aware that a canon of the church was pointed against the practice?—There are some early canons of the church against it.

2737. An abuse having existed on that subject, and injury having been conceived to arise, a council directed some prohibition to the clergy upon that subject; is not that so?—I really must consider, it is a question of ecclesiastical antiquity.

2738. *Chairman*.] You are aware that in the early ages of Christianity burying in churches was not allowed; that it first began under Constantine?—Yes, no doubt of that.

2739. As a favour for his support of Christianity he was allowed to be buried in the church?—Yes; that was the first interment in a church, or rather the atrium or porch of the church; but there may have been other good reasons, viz. that the churches probably were, till a very short time previous to Constantine, so small that you could scarcely have so used them; and burial in cities was prohibited by the Roman law.

2740. You are aware that subsequently, in the dark and middle ages, the custom became very general, and that within the last century in most parts of civilised Europe, it has been prohibited?—Yes; in a great portion of the large capitals of Europe, I am aware that it has been prohibited.

2741. Mr. *Vernon*.] Do you not believe that the practice of burying within the church originated, and was promoted greatly by a superstitious opinion in respect to the security of the soul of the departed?—I have no doubt whatever of that.

2742. *Chairman*.] You are aware that many nations on the Continent, within the last 50 years, have had an impression that that was injurious, and that it has been prohibited by their legislative enactments?—Certainly; large catacombs, like those of Paris, have been formed in different large cities of Europe; it has strictly been prohibited, and those catacombs, or other cemeteries, have been provided. I should conceive, however, that the climate would have a great influence with regard to health. I should conceive that

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particularly in the mode of interment in southern countries, the effect upon health would be more likely to be noxious than it would be in our country.

2743. Are you not aware that it is not dry heat so much as damp, that causes putrefaction; for example, in Egypt, you are aware, that bodies do not putrify so rapidly as in some other countries?—Yes, that I am perfectly aware of.

2744. In reference to the churchyard of St. Margaret's, is that full or not?—It is very full.

2745. Can you with convenience inter there?—My own opinion is that interment ought to be discontinued there for several reasons; not because I have ever heard of any noxious effect upon the health of the neighbourhood, but on account of its public situation; it is a thoroughfare, and in point of fact it has been a cemetery so long, and it is so crowded, that interment cannot take place without interfering with previous interments.

2746. Then your opinion agrees with this statement: "The commissioners, for the improvements in Westminster, reported to Parliament in 1814, that St. Margaret's churchyard could not consistently, with the health of the neighbourhood, be used much longer as a burying-ground, for that it was with the greatest difficulty a vacant place could at any time be found for strangers. The family graves generally would not admit of more than one interment, and many of them were then, in the year 1814, too full for the reception of any member of the family to which they belonged?"—I confirm that; but I state that I have never been able to trace any noxious effect upon the neighbourhood; but I would remind the Committee of the peculiar situation of this churchyard, that it is at no great distance from the river; and it is perfectly well known, that in the neighbourhood of a tidal river, the air is changed twice a day, and it is probably a corrective of any kind of effluvia, and dissipates it before it becomes noxious to the neighbourhood.

2747. Mr. Ainsworth.] What is the number of your interments weekly?—They have diminished very considerably; the more opulent have in general removed their interments to the cemeteries; and there have been certain other reasons.

2748. Where are the poor in general interred?—They are generally interred in the Broadway churchyard.

2749. Is not that equally full?—It is not equally full, but it is certainly full; but the chapel in which the service usually took place having been removed, and it being rumoured that a new street was to go over the churchyard, there was an impression that it was likely to be desecrated and turned to other purposes, which created a feeling against it, and many persons, who would otherwise have interred their dead in that churchyard, have been induced to remove them to other places.

2750. That applies to the Broadway?—Yes; but the Broadway I consider a crowded churchyard.

2751. Lord Mahon.] In the event of a prohibition by the Legislature of any further interments within the present grave-yards in London, do you apprehend that great pain would result to the feelings of many persons who might wish to be interred by the side of their deceased relatives in those grave-yards?—I think, in some instances, that would be the case.

2752. Would not those cases be confined in a great measure to the more affluent classes?—I should say not; there is a very strong desire among the lower classes that their remains should repose near those of their relatives.

2753. Would the object be answered almost as effectually by prohibiting interment in the existing grave-yards, without the payment of a double or a treble burial fee, so as to admit of it only in cases where a strong feeling might exist?—I think it would be hard to extort as it were a larger payment from a feeling of that kind; it would be hard upon persons to tax them for entertaining that which is a natural feeling.

2754. But would you prefer a positive prohibition in all cases, or a permission, as has been alluded to, which probably would be very rare?—My own opinion would be strongly against a clause of that kind, as unfair.

2755. You would prefer a total prohibition?—I think, if there were a prohibition, the prohibition should be general.

2756. Mr. Vernon.] At the same time, you are in the habit of compelling
a much

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a much larger fee for specific appropriated burying-places, in the nature of vaults?—That proceeds upon the principle of a more permanent occupation.

2757. Does it not proceed upon the principle of securing to the parties the preference of being buried in the vicinity of their own kin?—Certainly.

2758. Then, that preference may be purchased at the present moment for a larger fee?—Certainly; but I am speaking very disinterestedly, for it so happens that the parish of St. Margaret's obtain the whole of those fees.

2759. Mr. *Kemble*.] You have held the living of St. Mary's, in Reading?—I have.

2760. How long were you incumbent of that parish?—About 17 years.

2761. Is not the churchyard there very large?—Not very large; but an additional churchyard has since been obtained for that parish.

2762. Are there not two or three footpaths across that churchyard?—Yes.

2763. Did not you reside near the churchyard?—Yes, the access to the house was through part of the churchyard.

2764. Did you yourself or your family experience any inconvenience from your residing so near the churchyard, during the 17 years you were there?—None whatever.

2765. Lord *Mahon*.] Did the rectory-house closely adjoin the churchyard?—It was in the churchyard; it was only approached by the carriage-way through the churchyard.

2766. *Chairman*.] Was the churchyard open for the dead?—Yes; it was the regular churchyard of the parish. But I may state, in answer to that question, that the churchyard being full, an additional churchyard has been provided.

2767. Mr. *Yorke*.] Was the new churchyard established while you were there?—No, it was established since.

2768. *Chairman*.] Was it established in consequence of the fullness of the churchyard?—Yes; but I would remark that the increase of the population of the parish would itself have required that additional churchyard. The population of the parish has doubled.

2769. Mr. *Vernon*.] Was the churchyard in a well-ventilated situation?—Certainly.

2770. *Chairman*.] It was very open?—There were streets all round it, but it was open, and rather high.

2771. Were there buildings all round it, so as to enclose it?—On one side there were houses actually with their backs in the churchyard; on the other side there was a railing, and the houses were the width of the street from the churchyard.

2772. Then it was an airy situation?—Yes.

2773. Lord *Mahon*.] Do you recollect what the amount of the population of Reading was?—At the last census, not that of 1841, it was between 15,000 and 16,000.

2774. Supposing cemeteries to be constructed at the distance of three or four miles from London, should you imagine that the expense of funerals to the poor would be increased?—I cannot but think, that by a well-regulated scheme, they might be conducted without any increased expense.

2775. Mr. *Kemble*.] When you resided at Reading did you find the water good?—Excellent.

2776. *Chairman*.] You did not find anything noxious in the water coming through the churchyard?—We had our own well; it was excellent water.

2776*. What was the sub-stratum?—Gravel.

2777. Lord *Mahon*.] Do you think it would be a desirable thing, in the event of cemeteries being constructed, that the parochial authorities should still be responsible for the decent performance of burial, and should receive the burial fees, as they do at present?—It would depend very much upon the number of the cemeteries, whether any delegated control from the different parishes which might occupy a single cemetery should exist; that is a question of detail.

2778. Has any better mode occurred to you in which the vested rights of the clergy and other parochial authorities as connected with the burials might be secured?—No; I can suggest no other.

2779. Does the mode I have suggested appear to you to be free from objection?—I think the question would be with regard to the size of the different parishes that might contribute; there might be conflicting views; and with

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regard to the small parishes that might contribute to one large cemetery, you would be obliged to delegate a certain number of persons.

2780. Would not the rule then be that the incumbent of each parish should receive the burial fees for the burials from his own parish?—Unquestionably; but I thought the question to be with regard to the maintenance of the ground and the due performance of the ceremony.

2781. The main object of the question was to obtain some information for the Committee as to the mode of securing, in any change that might be adopted, a due respect for the vested rights and incomes of existing authorities. In that point of view would there be any difficulty in the course I have stated?—I think an arrangement on that basis might be framed, but that it would vary very much according to the conditions of the different parishes; there is no uniform system of fees at present through the metropolis; it varies according to the custom of each parish.

2782. Could that variation still be introduced, if it were thought desirable, in those new cemeteries, as applying to the burials from each parish that took place in it?—I think it would materially depend upon the expenses laid upon the parishes; for instance, if the public (by the public meaning the nation) were to furnish those grounds for the metropolis, then there might be a question whether any fees should be reserved but those of the clergy.

2783. Supposing cemeteries to be opened without any such provision, do you apprehend that in many cases considerable loss to existing incomes would ensue?—I am convinced that the emoluments of the clergy of London would be half swept away.

2784. *Chairman.*] Would that be the case with the country parishes?—No, clearly not, for the surplice fees, as they are technically called, in country parishes usually form a very small item; but in London, except in certain cases of endowment, generally speaking the surplice fees, including the fees for ceremonies of all descriptions, form the sole emolument of the clergy.

2785. They have no glebe?—No, except in rare instances.

2786. If a legislative enactment was framed, preserving the existing rights, would the clergy as a body have any objection to it?—I am unwilling to consider myself as representing the sentiments of the clergy in general; but I should conceive that if the Legislature consider that the interment in towns is objectionable, they would be the last to interpose any objection to an alteration of the kind; provided always, that their vested rights, upon which their absolute existence, I may say, depends, were preserved; I do not conceive that there would be any objection on their part.

2787. *Mr. Ainsworth.*] You state that a tax upon the parish of Westminster, for the better interment of the dead, would be objectionable?—I did not state that it would be objectionable; I should state that in these parishes of St. Margaret's and St. John's, a church-rate is of rare occurrence; by some usage which, I confess myself, is questionable, but still a usage which has not recently been contested, the parochial authorities receive not only the whole of the emoluments of the pews of the church, but likewise receive a very large proportion of the fees upon interments, leaving a very small one for the rector. The consequence of that is, that a church-rate occasionally occurs, but is of such rare occurrence as might create something like objection.

2788. But is it not generally admitted that the two churchyards in St. Margaret's are so completely filled, that there is a necessity for something being done?—In my opinion that necessity exists.

2789. Do you think if that were made known to the people of Westminster, they would object?—I cannot say; I hope not; I can only advert to the general unpopularity of certain taxes.

2790. *Mr. Vernon.*] In reference to the emoluments of the clergy as derived from the ceremonies, are there not two classes of fees, the one legal or customary, the other honorary or gratuitous?—Yes; for instance a fee upon a marriage is of course a fee which is regulated according to the ordinary power of payment of the persons, the honorarium is when persons of a certain station are married, who in general give a larger fee than the legal fee.

2791. With respect to funerals, does that distinction occur?—In many parishes I believe it does occur, that is for funerals in vaults, and it occurs in St. Margaret's; but that additional fee is almost entirely taken by the parish.

2792. In

2792. In the event of any such change as has been suggested, in addition to that which might be met with compensation, would the clergy generally suffer any loss from the loss of such honorary fees?—I should be rather unwilling myself to answer that question, which would be answered better by some of the clergy in London, who have larger rights than I myself am at present in possession of; but I believe it to be the case, that what are called vault fees, constitute a large portion of the emoluments of many of the clergy in London.

2793. Generally speaking, in the event of an interment, the clergyman only receives a regular stated fee, whatever the means of the party for whom the funeral is performed?—In St. Margaret's he receives a larger fee for interment in the vaults beneath the church, he receives rather a larger fee for interment in the ground of St. Margaret's; that is, the churchyard of St. Margaret's itself; and a smaller one for interments in the Broadway chapel-yard; but there are many gradations which would only be understood by the printed scale of fees, which I should be happy to furnish to the Committee.

2794. Lord *Mahon*.] In the event of any legislative enactment with regard to the grave-yards of London, should you or not conceive it desirable that any change should be made in respect to Westminster Abbey?—I do not see any necessity whatever for it; it is quite impossible that any effect can be produced by the interments that take place in Westminster Abbey, which are very infrequent; they are merely marks of distinction to persons who have served their country honourably, or one or two noble families, for instance, the Duke of Northumberland, who has a vault in Westminster Abbey; and the families of the dignitaries of the church of Westminster Abbey.

2795. *Chairman*.] Do not you think that those parties would be equally satisfied if a monument was placed in the Abbey without the body?—I think not; if we look to Nelson's feeling about it we find that it was not so; besides, I cannot conceive that any possible injury can arise from it.

2796. Lord *Mahon*.] In the event, therefore, of any legislative enactment, you would suggest the exception of Westminster Abbey?—Yes, and St. Paul's.

2797. You do not conceive in either case any practical injurious results?—No.

2798. *Chairman*.] Are you aware that the body of Sir Thomas Lawrence is only one foot below the pavement?—I doubt the fact.

2799. Mr. *Yorke*.] Do not you think that the number of persons who obtain interment in Westminster Abbey might be restricted?—I hardly know; our great men are few; and I would state another point, that with regard to all interments, they are exceedingly expensive.

2800. *Chairman*.] What is the fee?—It depends upon circumstances, upon the rank of the person.

2801. Mr. *Yorke*.] Can persons obtain interment in Westminster Abbey by payment of money?—I have known one instance in which it was done by a person of great wealth and of rank, but that is the only one I recollect; and I do not think there have been, excepting some of the families of the dignitaries of the Church, within seven years, more than four or five interments.

2802. Are there not among the monuments in Westminster Abbey a vast number of persons who had no right, by public service or station, to be interred in Westminster Abbey?—There may be some who have monuments; but there are many monuments of persons who are not interred in Westminster Abbey.

2803. *Chairman*.] Is there a fee for the monument, as well as for the body?—Yes, there is a fee for the monument, which I should state, at the same time, is applied to the fabric.

2804. Lord *Mahon*.] Was not the former practice different; has there not been an improved system in that respect?—Certainly, but I should conceive that interments were always very rare; of course there were more interments during the war.

2805. *Chairman*.] The interment and the monument are totally distinct?—Yes.

2806. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Are there any vaults under the Abbey?—There is a royal vault, and there is a vault of the Duke of Northumberland; and I believe there are other vaults, but those are the only ones that I am aware of existing at present.

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2807. Mr. Yorke.] Are there no vaults below the nave?—There are no vaults, I believe; but there are a number of interments.

2808. That is the portion of the building under which the bodies of great commanders and persons of distinguished merit are interred?—Yes, the nave and the transepts.

The Rev. John Trevor Robinson, called in; and Examined.

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2809. Chairman.] YOU are aware of the object for which this Committee is assembled; will you have the goodness to state generally to the Committee what your sentiments are upon the subject?—I am not aware from my own experience of any nuisance having arisen, or any noxious effects having been produced upon the health of the population in the vicinity of the burial-grounds. In the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, with which I am connected, there seems to be a general approbation expressed of some measure which would put an end to interment in populous places. In the general principle I concur; and nothing better occurs to me as to the way in which it can be carried into effect, than what was stated by Mr. Milman, who preceded me; I mean as to providing cemeteries conveniently for such a purpose. And with regard to the poor, those means might be resorted to for the conveyance, I should think, at the same expense at which it is now done.

2810. You mean to say that the expense would not be much increased, except as regards the purchase of land?—No, I should think not.

2811. It has been imagined that three sources of expense would arise from a new legislative enactment, viz. the purchase of land, the conveyance of the parties, and the remuneration of the clergy. Do you consider that each of those would be a source of expense?—I think each would be a source of expense; but I was speaking of the conveyance of the bodies of the poor who are to be buried; I think that might be done with the same expense as at present.

2812. If new ground was to be purchased, in whom do you think the legal authority ought to be placed?—I think it might be very safely vested in the incumbent and churchwardens. There was a piece of ground purchased 100 years ago for the parish of St. Pancras, of which the churchwardens and the incumbent are the trustees; that is extra-parochial.

2813. Lord Mahon.] In the event of any cemeteries being constructed under the authority of an Act of Parliament, within a few miles of London, do you consider that the parochial authorities of each parish should be made responsible for the decent burials of persons from their own parish, and that they should then receive the burial fees upon the same scale as at present?—Then, as I understand the question, I apprehend that the rector would be responsible for the due performance of the religious ceremony, and the churchwardens for the decent interment; I myself, personally, should object to being responsible for any duty, except that which was performed by myself or my own curate. I only speak for myself.

2814. Has any better scheme occurred to you, by which the vested rights and the security of existing incomes might be preserved?—I think it would be better if a compensation was made for the loss which was sustained by the clergy in their incomes, and if they had no further responsibility with regard to the duties of interment.

2815. Would not that be in fact continuing to them the salary, but exempting them from the duty?—If you regard the compensation in the light of salary, certainly it would.

2816. Do you think it would be altogether just that the same salaries which are now very properly paid for the performance of the duty should still be continued, if the persons receiving the salary were relieved from the duty?—I think, if you put it out of their power to do the duty, you should compensate them for the loss of income.

2817. And at the same time make no further demand upon their time?—It would be very reasonable, certainly, to make a demand upon their time if they were compensated for the loss they would sustain in their income.

2818. Do you not think that it might be desirable, while continuing to them their vested rights, to require from them the superintendence and direction of the cemeteries in the case supposed?—Provided they had an efficient superintendence

tendance over those clergy who would officiate there. I am not at all objecting to our having the superintendance if you put it in our power to superintend, but I do not understand what control I could have, as rector of St. Andrew Holborn, over the minister of the cemetery.

2819. Might he not be one of your curates?—Then other rectors would be placed in the same situation. I do not see how he could be amenable to all the parties concerned.

2820. Take the case of a cemetery belonging to your own parish?—Then it would be quite clear that either myself or my curate would do the duty.

2821. Would the case be altered if two or three parishes by common consent combined?—I think that would answer the purpose, if the curates or the rectors of those parishes did the duty.

2822. Subject to that condition, you do not think there would be any inconvenience if the existing parties were required to perform those duties at those cemeteries, receiving emoluments for them?—There would be the hardship of imposing considerably more labour upon the parochial clergy, which I do not think they are in a situation to undertake; I mean on account of the occupation of time, and having to go a greater distance.

2823. Might not that be in some measure compensated by the larger number of burials that would ensue in a healthy situation; we have had evidence before us, that of the number who die within the limits of London, a considerable portion are not buried in the grave-yards or cemeteries now attached to those parishes; do not you conceive that, under the change which I am now supposing, that discrepancy in the number would diminish?—I should think it might.

2824. Might not that afford a larger amount of fees, and thereby compensate for the greater distance that your curate would have to go?—It would act in this way, that the incumbent in such a parish would keep another curate.

2825. *Mr. Vernon.*] In your last answer, you contemplate a churchyard out of London being appropriated to your own parish?—Yes.

2826. But if the same churchyard were appropriated to several parishes, you would object to the inconvenience that might arise from co-ordinate authorities?—If there was one clergyman who exclusively was to do the duty there, it is quite clear that that inconvenience would arise; if the curate of each parish were to do the duty there, that would not arise.

2827. With regard to other authorities, the churchwardens and other officers coming from a variety of parishes, would there not be an obvious inconvenience resulting from all of them acting independently in the same cemetery without any one distinct control?—I should think not, if they were all trustees, as I should apprehend they would be.

2828. In the choice, for instance, of the ground which each might select, might there not be a conflict with regard to what quantity of ground should be used by each party?—That might happen.

2829. Would it not be better that all that should be placed under some one central authority?—I think some one central authority would be very desirable.

2830. You stated that there would be additional expense in any such proposed scheme, arising from the purchase of land; would not that expense be less, provided we assumed the condition that land adequate to the purpose is to be provided, beyond the purlieu of the town, than it would be within the town?—I should think the expense would be less out of the town than in it.

2831. *Chairman.*] Do you consider that in the event of a parish, or union of parishes, obtaining land out of the town for the purpose of interment, there would be any difficulty in setting aside a portion of that ground for persons dissenting from the Church, or the various denominations of religious belief?—I think that would be an objectionable proceeding.

2832. Could not a certain portion be set apart?—It might be done, of course; but I do not think it would work well.

2833. From what circumstance?—I do not think that the juxta-position of parties, on occasions of that kind, the religious services on the interment of the dead, is at all desirable; it should rather, I think, be avoided.

2834. But assuming that there was a large space of ground, and that each persuasion had its peculiar entrance, and its separate ground, could any incon-

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venience arise?—They would in fact then be separate grounds, and no inconvenience would, I think, arise.

2835. Lord Mahon.] Do you find at present any difficulty or reluctance on the part of Dissenters being buried in the churchyards?—I have never met with any reluctance.

2836. Do you suppose then, that a greater reluctance would prevail in the case of those new cemeteries than in the present grave-yards?—I think that a great number of Dissenters would not take advantage of the opportunity which would be afforded them, of having their interments in their own peculiar ground.

2837. Chairman.] Where would they be interred?—In ours, I think.

2838. Do you suppose that it would be possible, by having fresh ground for interment belonging to parishes, or unions of parishes, that the parish authorities could, by disposing of part of the ground to wealthy persons as vaults, get a sufficiency to bury the poor without expense?—I really do not know exactly what answer to make to that; I think it is doubtful; I should rather think not.

2839. Colonel Fox.] Do you think that there would be any desire on the part of persons to be buried where their ancestors were buried, and that there would be a feeling of opposition to having the burying places out of town on that account?—I think, generally speaking, there is a very strong desire, on the part of all classes of society, to be buried where their families are interred.

2840. Lord Mahon.] Supposing it were the object of the Legislature to discourage burials in large towns, do you think that it would be wisest to attain that object by a total prohibition, or by imposing a much higher fee for burials in the churchyards, so as to allow of it in rare cases, where the feelings of the parties concerned might be strongly interested?—I think the imposition of a large fee would be viewed with feelings of strong distaste.

2841. As unjust to the poorer classes?—Unjust, I think, to all classes; in the first place, persons constructing a family vault pay very largely for the ground, and very large fees; and in this case they would have to pay large fees again, in order to carry into effect the object they had in view in the construction of the vault.

2842. But excluding for a moment the case of a family vault, how do you conceive the case would stand with regard to common graves?—I think that it would be a great hardship to persons to have to pay a larger fee in order to indulge their feelings in that respect.

2843. You think it would be a less hardship to prohibit it altogether?—No, I think not.

2844. The question was on the supposition of the Legislature wishing to discourage, as much as possible, burials in large towns; do you think that that object would be attained with the least degree of hardship by a total prohibition, or by imposing a very high burial fee, say double or treble the present amount, in cases where there might be a strong wish for those burials?—I should say the latter course would be preferable, leaving it open to those who thought proper to pay that fee to do so.

2845. Colonel Fox.] Do not you think that that would bear hard upon the poorer classes, who might have the same feelings as the rich, and not be able to gratify them?—I think it would; but I think of the two evils it would be the less.

2846. Lord Mahon.] Do you find that feeling to prevail among all classes?—Yes; quite as much among the poor as among the rich.

2847. Mr. Kemble.] Do not you conceive that the poor would think that that was establishing two laws, one for the rich, and another for the poor?—Yes.

2848. Mr. Yorke.] And it would practically have the effect of excluding the poor?—Yes.

2849. Mr. Kemble.] In the event of cemeteries being constructed by the union of parishes, and a chaplain being appointed to do the duty, by which you were relieved from the duty of those interments, should you not be content to take a compensation of much smaller amount than you are now in the habit of receiving?—I think the compensation should be in proportion to the average income.

2850. But supposing, for instance, that you now derive 100 *l.* a year in the way of fees, having to perform the interments, if you were relieved from that by the appointment

appointment of a chaplain by those parishes to do the duty, should you not be willing to take less than the 100 *l.* a year?—You take from me the opportunity of doing this duty, which I am quite ready to do, and also to receive the fee.

2851. Then you would object to receive less than you are in the habit of receiving?—I do not say so; I merely was replying as to the ground of the question, which seemed to be, that because we had not the duty to do, the compensation should be less; but you are not taking the duty from us to relieve us; you are taking away the duty to bring about a public benefit.

2852. But you would, in point of fact, be relieved?—Yes.

2853. Under those circumstances, would you not be content to take a less amount than you are now in the habit of receiving?—Certainly.

2854. Do not you think that that would be the feeling generally among the clergy?—I should think it would.

2855. Colonel *Fox*.] You would regret the duty being taken from you, but you would not wish that the compensation should be the same as the amount of fees, while you perform the duty?—Exactly.

2856. Lord *Mahon*.] Supposing a willingness to exist to perform the duty at the new cemeteries, no reduction, in your opinion, ought to be made in the present amount of the income?—No, I think not.

2857. Colonel *Fox*.] In the event of being unable to effect the object in view, do you think that there would exist a general feeling or prejudice amongst the middling or lower classes against putting quick-lime or any other material in the coffins, or over the coffins, that would destroy the bodies more rapidly than they otherwise would be destroyed?—I think it would excite a very strong feeling of disgust.

2858. You would not have any such feeling yourself?—Certainly not.

2859. Mr. *Kemble*.] Do you happen to know whether the parish-clerk in your parish derives much emolument from the fees on interments?—He derives considerable emolument; I am not prepared to say what.

The Reverend *William Weldon Champneys*, called in; and Examined.

2860. *Chairman*.] YOU are rector of Whitechapel parish?—Yes.

2861. Will you have the goodness to state generally to the Committee your sentiments on the subject of their inquiry?—On the first point I would say, with regard to the desirableness or the necessity of such a change, that I have had no personal experience of any injurious effects arising from interments in my own neighbourhood. The rectory-house is situated at the side of the churchyard, graves running close to the party-wall on one side, and within the distance of a few yards on the other, and I have been there resident five years, and I have never found the slightest inconvenience; nor, in fact, have I been able, though in the habit of visiting dying persons in the parish, to discern that peculiar smell; nor did my predecessor's family, who lived there before me for 30 years, find any inconvenience, though the churchyard is very closely filled.

2862. Lord *Mahon*.] How do you ascertain that fact?—By statements made to me by themselves. But as to the general feeling which I have observed in my parishioners, and as far as I have been able to ascertain, the feeling of the country generally, I have been struck with the conviction on their minds that it was desirable, for many reasons, chiefly the one I have mentioned, viz., that there was this deleterious smell in the air, as well as for decency, that interments should take place outside of large towns. On the ground of its being a prevailing feeling and desire, and wishing in every way to conform to that feeling, I have joined in a petition, as one of the trustees or select vestry of the parish, to Parliament that such alteration should take place; and though I have no personal experience of the evil or danger that is generally thought to prevail, I certainly feel it my duty to accede entirely to the wish of the parishioners generally, and I have therefore joined in this petition to the Legislature to remove interments. With regard to the state of my own churchyard, I should say decidedly that it is not in such a state as to allow of frequent interments. As to the possibility of interments taking place without any violation of decency, I mean without laying bare the rows of coffins, I know, from personal investigation, it is possible that such interments should take place, because there are vacant spots, which in consequence of want of manage-

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ment have been passed by, where bodies might be laid in earth which has not, as I believe, been disturbed at all; but the difficulty of doing that I am also convinced of; and, on the whole, I feel that it would be highly desirable, on the ground that I have mentioned, namely, the prevailing feeling of persons, and I have no reason to doubt that it is correct, that some legislative enactment should take place.

2863. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] What is the size of your burial-ground?—It is very inadequate to the size of the parish; I should think it might be an acre. The deaths in my parish I calculate to be about 1,200 in a year; I have not been able to ascertain it accurately, but I have taken the district of one of our registrars, which contains a third part of our parish, and by multiplying the amount of deaths in his district by three, I ascertain that that would be the number of deaths in the parish.

2864. *Chairman*.] Are all those interred in your burying-ground?—No; the average number of interments would be 360.

2865. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Where do you conceive the remainder of those are interred?—They are interred in some cemeteries in the neighbourhood; one of the cemeteries standing within a stone's throw of the church itself.

2866. What is the name of that?—Sheen's Burying-ground.

2867. *Chairman*.] What is the size of it?—I am not aware, but it is small; it is a long narrow strip, surrounded on all sides by houses.

2868. Colonel *Fox*.] What regulation have you as to the depth at which bodies should be buried?—Since I have been in the parish, I have given orders that the graves should be made as deep as possible; 16 feet I think is the depth; but they have gone much below that.

2869. Are none to be put higher than 16 feet from the surface?—Yes.

2870. What height from the surface is the nearest coffin to be?—That is a difficult question to answer, and I will state the reason; there are many family graves in which persons claim the right of burying over former graves, which is allowed to be a right, and in those they have buried far more nearly to the surface than they should be buried; I have expressly forbidden that for the future when it once came to my knowledge; but the coffins ought not to lie less than four or five feet from the surface.

2871. But there is no specific provision for that?—For the future I have prohibited it, having once seen the evil; the coffin that I saw could not be more than three feet from the surface.

2872. Have you had any complaints made to you of the sexton, or any of the grave-diggers, as to improper removals of bodies, or indecencies with bodies in breaking coffins open?—No, I have not.

2873. Lord *Mahon*.] From the feeling which you say prevails in the parish against interment in towns, do you imagine that a moderate rate for the construction and purchase of a new cemetery would be cheerfully borne?—In answer to that question, I would say that people very often make complaints when the complaints do not touch them; but when they come to be touched in their pockets, they object to it; and I apprehend that would be the case with regard to those; that many of those who are loudest in the complaint, would be the slowest to put their hands in their pockets.

2874. You think that though they now loudly complain of the grievance, the moment they heard of these provisions they would be less ready to apply themselves to the remedy?—I apprehend that there are many of that description; I should say that the feeling, though it is a general one, has arisen rather from the strong feelings of the few than from the question having been universally considered, and it being universally felt in the parish.

2875. *Chairman*.] You are speaking of your own parish?—Yes.

2876. You are desirous that there should be some legislative enactment to remove burials from the metropolis?—Yes, on the ground that the feeling is a prevailing one, and an increasingly prevailing one; and wishing to go even with the prejudices of my people, I have joined with them in a petition on that ground, but not from any personal conviction.

2877. Assuming that any legislative enactment took place, what have you to suggest upon the subject as to the mode of legislating?—There would be a difficulty from the different sizes of parishes. In my own parish, I apprehend we should have the means, if there was a willingness on the part of the parish to concur, to take a cemetery for ourselves, and bury in that cemetery.

2878. Assuming

2878. Assuming that you did that, you could only effect it by raising a sum of money from the parish; in the event of that, as the sum would be raised upon persons of all denominations and religious feelings, must you not allow them a part of the ground, in proportion to the size of the ground that you purchase?—I should feel that it was in perfect conformity with the spirit of the Church of England, that those who object to the Church service should not have it performed over them; while at the same time contributing to the expense of this, it would be fair and right that they should have a portion of the ground, and that if they objected to its being consecrated, it should be unconsecrated.

2879. In the event of a legislative enactment being made, and it being necessary to have a certain authority in parishes or unions, in whom would you vest that parochial authority, for the purpose of purchasing land and superintending all the necessary arrangements which must occur from the change in the system?—My impression would be, that it would not be desirable to vest it in the guardians of the union, but rather in the authorities of the parish; by that I mean the churchwardens chiefly, and the lay members of the parish, rather than the clergyman; and my reason for saying that it would be better not to vest it in the guardians of the unions would be, that I feel that, though it is a prejudice for persons to wish to be buried near the church, or near their own families, if we believe the great doctrine of our faith, the resurrection of the body, yet at the same time I feel that it is desirable that that feeling should be as much as possible cherished: and I conceive that that feeling of attachment of parishioners to their clergyman, and of the clergyman to those parishioners to whose relatives he has ministered on their death-bed, would be more likely to be maintained in this dissolution of the present system of interment by the individual connexion, as far as possible, subsisting still even after death between the minister and his people; and I conceive that the vesting it in a board of guardians would be at once creating a revolution in that feeling, and taking away one very powerful hold and influence which the minister now has over the families of the departed, to whom he has ministered in their trouble, and to whom he ministers still.

2880. You would allow part of the authority to exist in the clergyman?—The legislative part of the authority, that is to say, the conduct of the funerals, the arrangement of the cemeteries, I would rather put on the shoulders of the churchwardens and the lay authorities of the parish; I would reserve to the clergyman the right of burial, the spiritual part, if I may so call it, of the interment of the dead, and that part of the connexion which now subsists between the parties.

2881. Mr. *Kemble*.] If I understand you rightly, you would feel an objection to cemeteries being established, and chaplains appointed, distinct and different from the clergyman of the parish?—Yes.

2882. You think that it would be rather a dissevering of that connexion which ought to exist between the clergyman and his parishioners?—Yes.

2883. Mr. *Ainsworth*.] Then whatever cemeteries were erected in the neighbourhood of cities or towns, you think that the clergyman of the parish church and his assistant should have the jurisdiction?—Yes, in cases where the parish is sufficiently large to have a cemetery of its own.

2884. *Chairman*.] In the event of new ground being taken, assuming that a person of a different denomination from the Church of England wished to be interred in consecrated ground of the Church of England, would there be any objection made on the part of the clergyman?—If they consented that the burial service of the Church of England should be read over the body, I conceive not.

2885. Mr. *Vernon*.] At the present moment, with respect to three-quarters of your parishioners, that intercourse to which you have so feelingly adverted between yourself and your parishioners, is, in fact, dissevered by their interment elsewhere, and not under your auspices?—Yes.

2886. *Chairman*.] Does not that, in your opinion, show the necessity of some legislation on the subject?—It does.

2887. Mr. *Kemble*.] In the cemeteries which are established now by companies, part of the ground is consecrated, and part is not consecrated, and there are usually two chapels erected, one for the Dissenting ministers, and the other for the clergymen of the Church of England. In the case of parochial

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cemeteries, such as are contemplated, should you feel any objection to that system being carried out?—On the same principle being carried out, which allows the exercise of conscience on that matter, I scarcely apprehend that opposition could be offered to the erection of a dissenting chapel of interment; but it seems to me to be a different thing in the case of a private speculation permitting such a chapel to be erected, and by legislative enactment erecting the chapel of the Dissenter on a level by law with the Church.

2888. Mr. *Vernon.*] You object to a Dissenting chapel being erected out of funds provided parochially?—Yes, and by legislative enactment raised on a level with the chapel of the Church of England.

2889. Your objection, then, is not to the use of the ground so contributed to by Dissenters, because at the present moment Dissenters have a common right with all other parishioners to the use of the ground in the churchyard?—Precisely.

2890. Colonel *Fox.*] Have you ever given your mind to the subject of any mode by which these cemeteries could be furthered; have you any suggestions to make as to the way in which this could be carried out?—No, I have not. There was one observation which perhaps I may be allowed to make, it arose from a question put to Mr. Robinson to this effect, Whether, if compensation were given to him without his being called upon to do the duty, he should consider it right to take less than the amount now received? Now, if a question of that kind were put to me, my answer would be, that under the present circumstances of my parish, I personally, as the rector, do not do the general occasional duty, as it is called technically among the clergymen, that is, the duties of burial, and so on; but out of the income that comes in to me from those interments, I am enabled to have three curates in a parish of 34,000 to assist me in the discharge of my spiritual duties. I therefore feel that anything that would deprive me of the means of one spiritual helper in my parish, or take away the time of one spiritual helper by taking him away on certain days, or certain hours of the day, for interments at a distance, would be a serious loss to me and my parish spiritually.

2891. Is the church of Whitechapel endowed?—It is a rectory, and the income is raised partly from fees in the church, and partly from the tithe, or, more properly, the Easter offerings from the parishioners.

2892. Has your income suffered at all, owing to the formation of the cemeteries as yet?—It has not suffered perceptibly; the number of interments have decreased in the latter years, and that decrease is still going on.

2893. Mr. *Kemble.*] Does the parish clerk derive any great emolument from the burials in your parish?—The parish clerk's share of the fees in my parish is one fourth of my own.

2894. Does that constitute his principal emolument?—That constitutes, I think, his chief emolument. There was one more point which I had to mention with regard to interments in the church; those are very rare; during the time I have been in the living, five have taken place, two children, and three grown persons.

2895. *Chairman.*] Are the fees heavy for interment in the church?—Yes.

2895*. That prevents the frequency of interment?—Yes, they never occur in new cases; they are always cases of old families.

Dr. *Holt Yates*, called in; and Examined.

Dr. *Holt Yates.*

2896. Colonel *Fox.*] ARE you of opinion that the present system of burying in grave-yards is prejudicial to the population of large towns?—I think there can be no doubt of it.

2897. Have you considered what remedy could be brought to bear upon that important subject?—Only providing burial-grounds at a distance; I am decidedly of opinion, and I state that from facts, which if it is the wish of the Committee to enter upon them I would do so, that that is decidedly prejudicial to the public health.

2898. Do you think, in the event of public cemeteries not being made at the outside of the town, putting quicklime, or chlorate of lime, or any other substance in each coffin would remedy the evil?—It would go far towards it; it would hasten animal decomposition, and in that way do a great deal of good.

2899. Do

2899. Do you think that there would be a prejudice against it among the poorer classes of the community?—I have no hesitation in saying that that would be the case, particularly among the Irish.

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Mr. John Garland, called in; and Examined.

2900. *Chairman.*] YOU are one of the churchwardens of the parish of Leeds?—I am. *Mr. John Garland.*

2901. Have you any observations to make to the Committee?—I have read Mr. Baker's evidence, and I am ready to confirm it in all points except one; Mr. Baker could not say positively that the rate when it was asked for in Leeds, was strictly confined to a burial-ground, and not for any other purpose. Now I can say that that was the case; but I should say further that all the other churchwardens in Leeds were Dissenters; and I believe the sum of a shilling was asked as an exorbitant sum, rather to disgust the parish, than with a good intention to ask for a burial-ground.

2902. Who proposed the shilling rate in the first instance?—One of the Dissenting churchwardens.

2903. You think he did that for the purpose of disgusting the people?—I have no doubt of it; I suggested that a rate very considerably less than that would answer the purpose; but they being all Dissenters but myself, they suggested a shilling rate.

2904. You think it is necessary in Leeds to remove the burial-ground from the town?—Yes.

2905. *Colonel Fox.*] Do you consider that the great body of Dissenters at Leeds feel that it would be necessary to have grave-yards out of the town?—I believe they do.

2906. Was not that feeling expressed in the vestry in any way?—In our private meeting before going to the vestry, we agreed to put two resolutions to the meeting, the one was declaratory of the necessity of a burial-ground outside the town, and the other for a rate of a shilling in the pound. Now I must say, that one of the churchwardens, who was appointed to move this resolution, deceived us, because he combined both in one, and without asking the meeting to consent to the necessity of a new burial-ground, he stated the particulars of the situation we were in, and asked for the rate.

2907. Was there no amendment moved to that?—There was not.

Lunæ, 2^o die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Sir William Clay.
Mr. E. Denison.
Colonel Fox.

Sir R. H. Inglis.
Mr. Kemble.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. R. Yorke.

W. A. MACKINNON, ESQ. IN THE CHAIR.

Sir Benjamin Brodie, Bart., called in; and Examined.

2908. *Chairman.*] THE Committee are very desirous of having your sentiments upon the subject which is now under their consideration; their object, you are aware, is to ascertain how far the practice of interments in large towns and their precincts is or is not injurious to the health of the community?—I cannot doubt that the effluvia of putrid bodies are always injurious to human health, and if the interment in the middle of large towns be so managed as that any putrid effluvia escape, it must, of course, be injurious to the health of the town.

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2909. Do you consider that it is possible to inter in a large town without those putrid effluvia arising?—Not to such an extent as is necessary in so great
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a town as this: the interments in the interior of this town must be injurious to the health of the town.

2910. Have you at all directed your attention at what distance from inhabited places the effluvium would cease to be injurious?—No; I have no practical knowledge upon the subject; I have heard of effluvia being carried a considerable distance when the wind was in a certain direction, at particular seasons of the year; hot weather, especially after rain, brings out effluvia.

2911. Mr. Ainsworth.] Can you state at what distance?—I have no particular recollection; what I have merely heard cannot, of course, be evidence.

2912. Chairman.] When you state that it would be injurious, do you mean by generating particular diseases in the human frame, or a predisposition to illness in general?—In the first place, the gas which is evolved from putrid bodies is chiefly sulphuretted hydrogen, which is so noxious a gas that the admixture of one part of it with 500 of atmospheric air is almost immediately fatal. The admixture of this gas alone must be, of course, injurious to health; but I apprehend something escapes from the bodies besides the sulphuretted hydrogen, for the gas has a peculiar odour, as if it carried some kind of animal matter or poison with it. Sulphuretted hydrogen, if mixed with atmospheric air in the proportion which I have mentioned, destroys life immediately, by acting on the nervous system; but if it be more diluted the effect is not immediate, and it produces some kind of fever, what is generally called typhus, or putrid fever. Some years ago I recollect there were some sewers opened near Manchester-square, I think in very hot weather in summer, and the stench from those sewers was smelt by persons going by for a considerable time, and I understood that the result was a fever, which destroyed a good many lives in that district. I recollect once when I had a patient on whom I performed an operation, it so happened that the night after the operation some sewer gave way, or some pipe gave way, and there was a horrible stench in the house; a young professional friend, whom I had left there, told me this in the morning, that the stench was such that he could hardly sleep; the nurse and housekeeper were both taken ill; one of them died, and the other very nearly died; the patient died also; and I was led to believe that he died partly in consequence of the effects produced by the escape of this noxious effluvium.

2913. From what you have stated, you are of opinion that this effluvium arising from putrid matter or decomposed bodies, where there is any predisposition in the subjects, is certain to produce disease; but in cases where a person is in perfect health, he may pass over it with impunity?—Yes; it is with those injuries as it is with mechanical injuries; the effect depends partly on the cause that operates, and partly on the subject on which it operates. One man may get a scratch in the leg, and it may be nothing at all; but let a dram-drinker get such a scratch and it may kill him. So a man in strength and health may be exposed to a poison and not suffer, while a man in very weak health will be killed; that is, persons in one condition of the system resist the poison, while in another condition of the system they do not resist it at all. So when the cholera came here it killed the old and infirm persons, and not the strong and healthy.

2914. Under the statement you have made, do you entertain any doubt that the effluvia issuing from vaults under different churches in this town, for instance, those churches in the Strand, must be injurious to persons of delicate health?—I cannot doubt that if the effluvium escapes it must be injurious.

2915. Mr. Yorke.] Is the escape of that effluvium a necessary and inevitable consequence of interment?—I should think, as they inter in this town, the effluvia must always escape; if you can bury 20 or 30 feet deep, I should apprehend it would not escape, or so little or so slowly that persons would not suffer.

2916. Sir R. H. Inglis.] Must not the same quantity of this noisome gas escape under all circumstances of interment, though at a more gradual rate, and consequently more diluted; but still, if a body be buried at 30 feet, must not the specific gravity of the gas eventually rise up?—I am not chemist enough to answer that question, for I do not know what would be the effect of its passing through the soil, and I suppose there may be substances in the soil which would destroy the gas; for instance, chloride of lime in the soil would extinguish the gas.

2917. Do you conceive that putting chloride of lime on the surface of coffins, or distributing it sufficiently largely in the soil of a churchyard, would neutralize the gas arising from the decomposition of the body interred, so as to render

render interment practically innocuous, whether in towns or elsewhere?—I have not chemical knowledge enough to answer that question. I suppose it is a question which can be answered only by experiment. I know that chloride of lime will remove the most noxious smells in sick rooms.

2918. The case to which you refer as occurring in the neighbourhood of Manchester-square, is the only case you have mentioned as occurring in your own practice; in that instance, are the Committee to understand that the noxious smell and its consequences arose from the decomposition of putrid animal matter, forming the subject of the present inquiry?—Of what occurred in Manchester-square I have only general knowledge; I know that for some time the sewers were open, and that I smelt a considerable stench as I went by, and then I was informed by different persons, whom I believed, that there had been fever in the neighbourhood just afterwards, which had destroyed many people, but I know nothing more.

2919. In the course of your own immense professional practice, can you state to the Committee any instance in which you have traced fatal effects from the escape of gases from the decomposition of human bodies in churchyards or elsewhere?—No, I do not know that I could point to a particular case; my attention has not been particularly directed to these subjects. Dr. Chambers, Dr. Latham, and persons in that part of the profession whose business it is to inquire more into them, would be able to give more information upon these subjects. If so small an admixture of sulphuretted hydrogen as I have stated will produce instant death, there is no doubt that if more largely diluted it must produce disease of some kind.

2920. Mr. *Denison*.] Has it occurred to you generally, in considering the causes of disease in the metropolis, to consider the crowded state of the churchyards as one cause of fever or disease?—I have always considered that as one cause, and the crowded state of the population in alleys and courts another cause.

2921. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] And the want of sewerage another cause probably?—Certainly.

2922-6. Sir *William Clay*.] Is it your opinion that the effluvia generated by the gases evolved from the decomposition of dead bodies is the means of generating any particular form of disease; typhus fever, for instance?—I have been led to believe that it does generate what is termed typhus fever. In the case I mentioned where the nurse and another woman in the house died, after—I do not say it was *propter hoc*, but it was *post hoc*—the stench had been prevalent in the house during the night, they died of what is commonly called typhus fever.

2927. Colonel *Fox*.] Are you acquainted with the locality of King's College Hospital?—I know where it is.

2928. Do not you conceive the site must affect the patients, having the grave-yard immediately under the windows?—I do not know anything of the grave-yard there, but I do not think it a good locality; I think it would be very desirable there should be no more bodies buried there.

2929. You are not aware that it is considered unwholesome as an hospital?—No. I was a subscriber to the hospital originally, but I do not know much about it.

2930. Sir *R. H. Inglis*.] Would you consider that an area for ventilation, unobstructed by buildings, was a compensating advantage, as contrasted with the purpose to which that area was applied?—Certainly, that is a compensation, as far as it goes.

2931. Are you aware of the purposes to which the building now used as King's College Hospital was applied previously to that appropriation?—It was a workhouse.

2932. Are you aware of any complaint made at any time with respect to the mortality in that workhouse, or have you heard anything of the mortality in King's College Hospital?—No, I have heard nothing on the subject.

2933. You are not personally acquainted with the locality itself?—Yes, I know the locality; I have been at the hospital.

2934. *Chairman*.] As a general principle, you think it an unhealthy site to habit so near a grave-yard?—Yes; I think a grave-yard of that description should not be there, nor anywhere else in London.

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2935. Colonel Fox.] Have you read the evidence respecting that hospital?— I have read it over.

2936. Do you conceive it desirable that an hospital should be placed in such a site?—I think it is too near to the grave-yard; but the books of the hospital would show whether the diseases we might expect had prevailed there or not.

2937. Sir R. H. Inglis.] If the books of the hospital do not show that the diseases which might be expected have prevailed there, you think the inference drawn from the proximity to a grave-yard would be repudiated?—Yes, whatever the books of the hospital show is good evidence still; if the ground is so full as it is stated in the evidence, it ought to be used for burials no longer.

2938. Colonel Fox.] Do you consider that a portion of quicklime put into each coffin would have the effect of destroying the body and of preventing any of those noxious effluvia?—I suppose it would, to a great extent. Upon many of these points you may have better evidence than mine: that of Dr. Prout, for example, who is not only a physician but a chemist, and whose attention has been very much directed to these subjects.

The Rev. Evan James was again called in, and made the following Statement :

Rev. E. James.

2939. I WAS asked on my former examination whether I had experienced anything offensive issuing from the tombs in attending Stepney churchyard, in answer to which, I said, no. I beg to repeat that; but though I say that, at the same time I have suffered dreadfully from effluvia issuing from bodies interred, where parties have kept their friends till they were in such a state of decomposition as literally to render it impossible for any person to approach near the coffin. I recollect on one occasion distinctly, where the corpse was brought into the church between the services on a Sunday, no language can describe the scene I witnessed; the undertaker's men all covered over with that which ran from the coffin, and such a scene in the middle aisle of the church it was enough to poison a person; and I was obliged to send for chloride of lime to disaffect the church to enable persons to come to afternoon service, which they could not have done unless I had taken that precaution.

2940. Lord Mahon.] What period of time after death had the corpse to which you allude been kept?—That I cannot answer; but that I presume depends very much upon the state of the weather.

2941. Chairman.] It is your impression that it is very injurious to the living to keep bodies too long uninterred?—Certainly.

2942. What time do you think they should be allowed to be kept unburied?— I should say generally five days.

2943. Lord Mahon.] In practice does it happen, except in very rare cases, that any body is kept from burial longer than one week?—In the summer time it very often happens.

2944. On what ground?—The feeling which poor people, and especially people in the middle ranks, exercise towards each other; they think that if they inter their friends before a certain time, they do not show proper respect to their friends, therefore they are induced to keep them longer on that account.

2945. Do you mean that a feeling prevails among certain parties that greater respect is paid to the dead by the delay of their funerals beyond one week?—I do not say anything about the length of time; but that if they bury their friends soon after decease it is considered by their friends and the public a want of respect to the deceased. I was asked the other day whether I had ever tasted the water from the pump in Stepney churchyard; I could not at the time answer, though I had given orders to the sexton not to bring that water into the vestry room; I have ascertained since that I have been in the habit of drinking it for years, and I have ascertained further that there are three medical men who live within 50 yards of this pump, and I find that they are all in the habit of drinking it constantly.

2946. Mr. Ainsworth.] Is it a very deep well?—That I cannot say; the reason they assign is that it is the best water they can get in the neighbourhood.

Jovis, 5^o die Maii, 1842.

MEMBERS PRESENT.

Colonel Acton.
Mr. Ainsworth.
Lord Ashley.
Sir William Clay.
Mr. Cowper.
Mr. Evelyn Denison.

Colonel Fox.
Sir Robert Harry Inglis.
Lord Mahon.
Mr. Vernon.
Mr. Redhead Yorke.

W. A. MACKINNON, Esq. IN THE CHAIR.

The Right Rev. Lord *Bishop of London*, Examined; as follows:

2947. *Chairman.*] THE Committee are highly gratified at having the pleasure of seeing your Lordship before them, and as you are aware of the subject at present under the consideration of the Committee, they are anxious to hear any observations you may have to offer relating to a matter of so much importance, with a view of guiding them in their determination. I feel it therefore, my duty to state to you, that we desire to have your sentiments on all the bearings of our investigation; and I should wish to leave it to your Lordship to state whether it would be more acceptable to you, in the first place, to give us your sentiments, to state your opinion upon the subject generally, and, after you have expressed that opinion, to answer any questions to elucidate whatever may not be clear to the Committee, which questions may be put to you by myself, or by other gentlemen, who are here as Members; or whether you would wish at once that questions should be put to you by myself, and afterwards by any gentlemen of the Committee, and then that you should state your sentiments: whichever of these two courses pleases you, or meets with your approbation, the Committee will be gratified to follow?—I think, perhaps, that the best course to pursue, will be that of my stating generally the view which I take of the question, and then answering such questions as any Member of the Committee may please to put to me upon any part of the subject. I am glad to have been invited to attend as a Witness before the Committee, and I shall have great pleasure in affording them all the assistance that may be derived from my experience and observation. The subject before them is one which has engaged my attention now for 10 or 12 years; indeed, I may say even longer than that, for I felt interested in it when an incumbent in the city of London, 20 years ago. I then made some observations which convinced me, that not a long time would elapse before it would become the duty of some person to take up the question, and to consider what remedy could be applied to an evil too notorious to admit of denial or of doubt. I do not know whether I am irregular in saying that I have seen some of the evidence that has been given before this Committee, because I do not know whether I ought to have seen it.

2948. The only object of the indorsement on the back of the printed evidence is with the view of keeping it from the public; independent of that the Committee have no wish to prevent your Lordship expressing any opinion that would tend to elucidate the subject before them?—I look upon the question as one which concerns not only the public health but public morality in a certain degree, and undoubtedly the interests of the Church; it is also one of decency and propriety, and respect ought to be shown to the feelings of Christians of every denomination. I resided myself for eight years in the parish of Saint Botolph, Bishopsgate, as rector; for the first five years of that time I inhabited the rectory-house, which was situated in the churchyard; the churchyard being very small, compared with the population of the parish, amounting at that time to about ten thousand; and I was told before I went into the house that I should be annoyed, particularly as having a family of young children, from its proximity to the churchyard. However, I must say that during a residence there of five years I suffered no inconvenience whatever; that I saw no remark-

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able violation of decency; and that my children's health was not affected. Then I went to live in another part, remote from the churchyard, and I was not sensible of any improvement taking place in the health of my children, or that any particular benefit was derived from the removal. I may state generally, that entertaining a very strong opinion of the necessity which has long existed for some change in the present system of interments in towns, especially in the metropolis, I still must think that the actual evils which have resulted from it have been considerably exaggerated; that in those churchyards in London, where due care is taken by the parochial officers to ensure regularity of interment on a certain system, which prevents the opening of graves within a given time after interment, there is no real detriment to the health of the inhabitants; but I think it extremely undesirable that a grave, having been once opened, and an interment made therein, should ever be again opened within the memory of the persons who witnessed the first interment, except for the burial of a near relation of the party deceased. Now it is notorious that in London the graves are made 15, 16 and 20 feet deep, and that repeated interments of persons, entirely unconnected with one another, take place in those graves till the uppermost coffin is within three feet of the surface, or perhaps even less, which is certainly less, from all the inquiries that I have made, than is necessary to prevent the percolation of, or the egress of gases. I believe, from all I have observed and heard, that if you can have four or five feet of earth over the corpses buried, there is no reason to apprehend any inconvenience from their decomposition. I would take the liberty of adverting to a conversation which one of the witnesses examined before this Committee, reports himself to have had with me upon the subject, which is, generally speaking, correct; but he says, I told him that I had, on one occasion, seen 13 skulls thrown out where a grave was dug. What I did say to him was, that I had been recently told by a rector of a small parish in the city, that on one occasion he had seen in his churchyard 13 skulls, which, in itself, is an indication of the indecent state into which his churchyard had been brought. With respect to the sanitary part of the question, although I think the actual evils, as far as relates to the churchyards of London, have been considerably exaggerated, I am quite ready to admit the necessity of making a change, preserving, if it be possible, a due regard for the interests and feelings of parties concerned in interments in cemeteries situated in crowded neighbourhoods; supposing those cemeteries to be already so occupied with graves as to make it impossible to inter other bodies without disturbing the graves; because I hold it to be quite immaterial where a person is buried, if you can bury him with about four or five feet of fresh earth over him. With respect to interments under churches, I consider it altogether an objectionable plan, and that in no case ought interments to be made, except of bodies buried in lead of a certain thickness, for I am persuaded that in 19 cases out of 20, a properly made leaden coffin effectually prevents the escape of any gases. Now and then a person dies in a peculiar state of body, which causes a rapid evolution of certain gases, which may in these cases, perhaps, burst the coffin, or render it necessary, as they call it, "to tap it;" but I have been in a great many vaults where bodies have been buried in lead without perceiving any unpleasant odour; and I do not believe that, generally speaking, any evil results from it. It has been the practice of the Church Building Commissioners, within the last 24 years, to sanction the construction of catacombs under churches, arched with brick or stone, and having no entrance from within the church, which, indeed, under no circumstances, ought to be permitted; and I have never heard from the clergymen or parish officers, in any case, that any inconvenience has been experienced from interments in such vaults. I am sorry to say there are some churches, some old parish churches, in which bodies have been interred in wooden coffins under the church; one of them I see is noticed in the evidence taken before this Committee, the church of St. Martin's, Ludgate-hill. The reason assigned to me by the churchwardens when I spoke to them on the subject was, that they had no other place where it was possible to inter the parishioners; but, notwithstanding that, I told them that they should not permit the interments of bodies under the church except in leaden coffins. I have been, of course, concerned, as bishop of the diocese, in the new cemeteries which have been formed under the Act of Parliament, and there are one or two cemeteries of considerable size in London, which are

open without the sanction of the Act of Parliament, and consequently without consecration. These cemeteries it is impossible to preserve exclusively for the purpose of interment, if the proprietors should choose to part with them for any other purpose, a state of things which I think ought not to be allowed; and, therefore, in any measure which may be adopted for remedying the existing evil, I am strongly of opinion that security ought to be given, that, except in very special circumstances where the Legislature may think proper to interfere, cemeteries set apart for the purpose of Christian burials should be secured in perpetuum for that purpose. I mention special instances in which the Legislature might think fit to interfere, knowing that there are cases where public improvements render it necessary to be done, as at Liverpool and in London, and I believe in some other large towns. Feeling, in common with other persons, the necessity of applying some remedy for the evil complained of, I am at the same time interested in the subject for another reason; looking to the interests of the parochial clergy of my own diocese and of others, but especially of my own, as being involved in the question. I am sure that the clergy, generally speaking, would be willing to make some sacrifice for the sake of effecting so great an improvement as is contemplated; but you cannot expect men, the principal part of whose subsistence in some cases depends upon the fees arising from a practice that has hitherto not been complained of, willingly to give up the whole source of that income without some compensation. In some of the parishes, as I will shortly prove by instances, a considerable proportion of the incumbent's income arises from burial fees; and whatever measure is adopted with a view to remove the interment of corpses from cities and crowded towns, to cemeteries placed in the neighbourhood, it will scarcely be possible to prevent considerable loss to the clergy; because, even if you can secure to them the fees to which they are now entitled by law, for every corpse which is carried out of their parish to be buried in a cemetery, they will mostly lose the complimentary fees, and what are called "the fittings," that is to say, scarves and hat-bands, which in some parishes amount to a very considerable sum annually; these are only given, of course, where the clergyman attends in person, and unless he himself performs the ceremony in person he cannot expect to receive what are called the complimentary fees. All I can say with reference to that part of the subject is, that I hope that in any legislative measure, some care will be taken to diminish the loss to the clergy, as far as consistent with the public interest; and that such a thing may be done, though I am afraid not without some difficulty. In the first cemetery established in the neighbourhood of London, that of Kensal Green, when the whole question was new, and the effects of the cemetery could hardly be calculated, a fee was reserved, I forget the amount, upon each funeral coming from certain parishes, to the incumbents of those parishes, which, however, proved to be an utterly inadequate compensation, and the incumbent of Paddington, whose income arises principally from fees and Easter offerings, informs me, that in consequence of the opening of that cemetery he considers himself to have lost at least 200*l.* a year; that from one parish; and the loss to the rector of St. Mary-le-bone, I am sure, cannot be less. The next cemetery opened was that at Highgate. That bill was passed at a time when I was prevented, by a severe illness, from attending to public business; and by the Act which was passed, a small fee was secured to the clergymen, and there again they are great losers. The third cemetery near London was that of the West London and Westminster cemetery. In that case the company are obliged by law to pay a fee of 10*s.* for every funeral to the clergyman from whose parish it comes. That sum was considered by the clergymen, whom I consulted upon that occasion, as being a fair compensation, taking an average, for the losses they were likely to sustain. I may here remark, with respect to that mode of compensating the clergy, that it makes it necessary for them from time to time to go round to the different cemetery offices to look over the books, and to see what funerals have been brought from their respective parishes, to calculate the amount, and then to demand it of the officers of the company, which is not a very agreeable, nor, at times, a very easy task for the clergyman to perform; and, upon the whole, I fear that it will not be possible to secure the interests of the clergy effectually, but still it may be done to a considerable extent. While I am on the subject of cemeteries, I would remark, that a provision ought to be made

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(and this will be one of the difficulties of the case) for the funerals of the poor; as it is, they are much too expensive for poor people, and if they are obliged to carry the bodies of their friends to a distance in the country, in the present mode, it will become more so. There is, however, no expense so little thought of by the poor as the expense of a funeral. I have known repeated instances where they would deprive themselves of the necessaries of life for the sake of paying respect to the bodies of their departed friends; and I should be sorry that that feeling should be interfered with beyond a certain extent. I think by means of a cheap and decent kind of conveyance, of a hearse, that the expense of a funeral may be reduced, and if the poor do not object to avail themselves of it, that it may be done as cheap as their funerals are performed at present, if they are willing to dispense with what is called "a walking funeral." I think that it is wholly impossible to pass any law, the provisions of which (unless there be a latitude of application provided) shall be applicable to all parts of populous towns in the kingdom; what may be a very wise provision for the metropolis, or for any given populous town, may be found not to be applicable to another town with an amount of population nearly as great. I would take the liberty of mentioning one instance, that of my native town, Bury St. Edmund's, where there is but one churchyard for the whole of the town, containing about 11,000 inhabitants; and if you were to go merely by the rule of population, you would say that no funeral should take place in the town; but then that churchyard is very large; it is open on one side to the country, and will serve the purposes of the town for many years to come, without the slightest chance of detriment to the health of the inhabitants; therefore I think it must be left to the local authorities, acting upon certain principles, and under certain regulations laid down by law, to determine in what cases funerals shall be prohibited, and what provision shall be made for the interment of the dead. I do not think anything else occurs to me at the present moment, which I think it necessary to state, unless the Committee should like to hear the amount of burial fees in some of the parishes of London for the last three years.

2949. Without troubling your Lordship to read it, this may be appended to your evidence, unless you would wish the Committee to hear it now?—I would just wish, by way of illustrating my statement, to say, that a very large part of the income of the clergy in some cases depends upon the burial fees. The amount of the burial fees in St. George's, Hanover-square, was, in 1838, 597*l.* 17*s.*; in 1839, 423*l.* 8*s.* 2*d.*; and in 1840, 488*l.* 11*s.* 2*d.* In St. Giles-in-the-Fields, for three years, the amounts were, 764*l.* 16*s.* 6*d.*, 608*l.* 19*s.* 6*d.*, and 635*l.* 13*s.* 1*d.* St. George's, Bloomsbury, 273*l.* 7*s.* 6*d.*, 159*l.* 4*s.* 6*d.*, and 235*l.* 2*s.* St. Andrew's, Holborn, 306*l.* 0*s.* 1*d.*, 324*l.* 14*s.* 1*d.*, and 223*l.* 15*s.* 2*d.* Paddington, 494*l.* 14*s.*, 408*l.* 18*s.* and 425*l.* 4*s.*, and the average amount of the seven years preceding 1838 was 589*l.* and steadily increasing, and in 1841, it had fallen down to 398*l.* 6*s.* 4*d.*, owing to the cemeteries, although the population during that time had been increased by somewhere about a thousand. That shows merely the effect of the cemeteries. There are other similar instances which it is not necessary perhaps to mention; however, I will take one more, St. Margaret's, Westminster, 160*l.* 14*s.*, 115*l.* 1*s.* 6*d.*, and 128*l.* 0*s.* 8*d.*

2950. Colonel Fox.] Does that include the complimentary fees, or all the fees by law?—This includes everything, monuments and tablets too. This reminds me that the clergy would lose the fees upon monuments, and grave-stones, and tablets.

2951. There it is all included?—Yes; my objection was, that a large part of the clergymen's income depends upon the result, in some shape or other, of the burials.

2952. Chairman.] Would your Lordship wish to add anything more to what you have already stated?—I would wish to add only one set of figures to what I have already stated, which is the case of Christchurch, Spitalfields, where the gross income in 1838 of the living, the whole income of the living, was 410*l.* 6*s.* 7*d.*, of which the burial fees amounted to 199*l.* 8*s.*, leaving the income from other sources only 220*l.* 18*s.* 7*d.* with a population of 18,000. In 1839 the gross income was 429*l.* 17*s.*, the burials 179*l.* 5*s.* 6*d.*, leaving only 250*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.* from other sources; and in 1840, the gross income was only 389*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*, the burial fees amounting to 174*l.* 2*s.* 6*d.*, leaving an income from other sources of 250*l.* 3*s.* 4*d.* I would take the liberty of adding one more instance to those I

have

have already given, as showing the effect of cemeteries upon the incomes of the clergy, and that is the case of St. James, Westminster. In 1838, which was after the cemeteries had begun to come into operation, the burial fees amounted to 128*l.*, in 1839 to 130*l.*, and in 1840 to 81*l.*, but in the six years preceding 1838, the yearly average was 405*l.* I have not at present anything more to say.

2953. You have nothing further to state to the Committee?—Not at present.

2954. When your Lordship observed, in the course of what you stated, that the clergy were ready to make some sacrifice for the purpose of bringing forward this desirable remedy of taking interments out of towns, did you apply that remark to the sacrifices of the present incumbents or to those who are to succeed?—I have no doubt that the present incumbents, when their incomes do not principally, or very materially, depend upon burial fees, would make some sacrifice, but I think it would be possible, at all events, to ensure it from those who succeed.

2955. Does your Lordship think it right for their successors to be called upon to make the sacrifice?—That would depend upon your leaving a sufficient amount to provide for the spiritual wants of the people; for instance, if by means of this change you cut down the income of the incumbent of a large parish so as to cripple his means of doing good, and so prevent him keeping up his charities, I should say that you would do more harm in one direction than you would do good in another. I have always very much lamented that any part of the income of the clergy depends upon fees of that kind, but it is impossible to prevent it, for we have no other source from which we can obtain it.

2956. These fees are the chief sources of the income of incumbents in large populous parishes?—In many cases.

2957. It is not so much so in country parishes to that extent?—Not unless they are populous parishes.

2958. You made an observation, that in some parishes a considerable source of profit arises from hat-bands and different little ornaments, scarves?—Yes.

2959. Supposing an union of parishes was made for the purpose of purchasing a piece of ground for the interment of their dead, and they had there a curate appointed with a certain stipend, for the express purpose of reading the funeral service over persons interred in that piece of ground, might it not be so arranged that still the incumbents of the several parishes from whence the deceased had been taken to be interred should possess the advantage of these fees, the curate reading the service having a stipend for that purpose?—It might be so arranged to a certain extent; but I am afraid that the fees would cease to be paid; that the complimentary fees which would be paid to the rector or the curate of the parish whose ministry the deceased had been in the habit of attending, would not be given to, or at least would not be so likely to be given for him to the officiating chaplain of the cemetery.

2960. The officiating chaplain would have the duty of reading the funeral service, and it would be still out of compliment, would it not, to the performance of that service that it would be given?—No; because, though it is a compliment for the performance of that duty, yet it is a personal compliment. There are cases in which it may be done as a matter of course, but by degrees the result would be a discontinuance of the practice altogether of giving those fees.

2961. I believe your lordship observed that one Bill could scarcely apply to the metropolis and to other large towns, and you mentioned as an instance, if a general enactment were made, that your native place would not want the application of that law; whereas other towns, perhaps with the same population, would require it?—Yes.

2962. Could not that be obviated by a local authority being placed in each town, or in each parish, for the purpose of administering the law in the event of it being called for?—I think I stated that there must be some persons on the spot to judge of the necessity of the case, and of the application of the remedy; but you must take care to guard their discretion, to confine it within tolerably strict limits, and the parties with whom the decision should rest, should be persons competent to judge of the whole question.

2963. Would your Lordship think that the incumbent of the parish with two churchwardens and three members of the vestry, would be a proper sort of local

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authority?—I think that the incumbent of the parish should be one party concerned, but I would not leave it in the breast of the incumbent to prevent a great improvement of that sort if he should think fit.

2964. But combined with the churchwardens?—I mean I would not leave it with the incumbent to prevent it; but in case of his refusal there should be an appeal, I should say to the bishop, to determine whether it was a case in which the remedy ought to be prevented, even though the incumbent might not think it fit.

2965. You have mentioned that monumental tablets, that the fees arising from them, would be lost to the incumbent?—Yes.

2966. Would it not be the same thing, assuming that burial-grounds were removed instead of being in the vicinity of a church, or near a church, to some distance; would not private vaults be made use of in burial-grounds over which monumental tablets would be erected, just in the same manner as in churchyards?—If cemeteries were parochial cemeteries, the rights of clergymen may be preserved; if that were the case, I think there should be a new arrangement altogether with respect to monumental fees, which in my opinion ought not to go into the pocket of the existing incumbent, but should form a fund for the benefit of the living. With respect to what you have said about a parochial union, it is a plan which I very strongly urged upon the clergy of London 10 years ago, and I desired them to consult their churchwardens about it, as being the best remedy that could be applied to the existing evil, and the most likely to secure them from loss, but the difficulty was too great at that time to be got over.

2967. Assuming that a piece of land for a cemetery was purchased by a parish, or by a parochial union of parishes, for the purpose of interment, and assuming that this piece of ground was purchased by a penny rate, or a rate to a certain amount raised upon the parish at large, would there be any objection to a portion of this ground being set apart for dissenters, or for people of any other religious denomination with this money so raised?—I do not see any objection to having a part unconsecrated, if any person should prefer being buried in such ground; of course it would not be for members of our Church; the clergy would be desirous that such persons should be buried in a different part. But it would be impossible to set apart one part of the ground for one sect, and another for another; you must have one part consecrated and one part unconsecrated in the cemetery for the interment of those who are, or are not in the communion of the Church of England.

2968. Your Lordship sees no objection to the principle, supposing the money to be obtained by a rate levied upon the parish, to its being applied in that manner?—I should say not; I see no objection in principle; at least no such objection as need interfere with a great public improvement. The Committee are aware, as the law now stands, that a parish may be required to purchase additional burial-ground where the churchyard is full; that the Church-building Commissioners may interfere, and may apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a mandamus to compel parishes to purchase additional ground, and to make a rate for defraying the expense of it; and that power has been acted upon in several instances where we have been directly called upon by the parishes to use our powers.

2969. Can your Lordship give the Committee any instances where such was the case?—There was a case at Watford, in Hertfordshire, and Bishop's Stortford, also in Hertfordshire.

2970. Probably your Lordship is not aware of the fact that the Committee, on investigating last week, found that that has been acted upon in two parishes in this metropolis; one is St. Giles-in-the-Fields, and the other is St. James, Westminster; but in both those a Local Act was obliged to be prepared to enable the churchwardens and the parish authorities to raise money, and to invest that money in the purchase of a burial-ground. Now, admitting what your Lordship states no doubt to be correct, it does not appear to the Committee what necessity there would have been, if the law existed, to have passed a Local Act for that purpose?—The law did not exist; the law is more recent than either of those cases; that is one reason; and the other is, that in both those cases the burial-grounds were out of the parishes.

2971. Then the law, as it now stands, does authorize the purchase of ground out of the parish?—To the best of my recollection the ground must be in the parish;

parish; but I cannot speak positively. At all events the law is not in such a state as to answer the purpose that the Committee have in view, because it is questionable whether the Commissioners could really exert their power if the parishes did not choose to obey. Those cases where we have exerted the power effectually, have been cases where the vestry have applied to us to empower them to raise a rate for this purpose; and where the parishes were willing to do it, charging the amount borrowed upon the rates as security.

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2972. Now with regard to a general Legislative Act taking place, I think, from the tenor of your Lordship's observations, it would appear that if such an Act took place, the execution of that Act must be left to different local authorities?—I really am not quite prepared to give a positive opinion to such a question. There are so many interests involved, that I see the difficulty of passing an Act which shall not leave it to the discretion of the local authorities to apply it or not, as they deem fit. At the same time I see great difficulty even in that; but upon the whole, I think some plan of the sort must be adopted. I must add my own conviction, that in the case of the metropolis, the most important of all the cases, it would be extremely desirable that Government should take it into its own hands; that Government should provide a cemetery, and make such regulations as may be necessary, as Government does not want to be a gainer by the transaction; and the expense of purchasing lands for the cemetery, and preparing them for the purpose of interment, would in the course of a few years be repaid to the public, while at the same time the interests of the clergy would be protected.

2973. Would there not be some difficulty in carrying the measure into execution from this circumstance, that if the Government interfered, they must either apply the public money for that purpose or they must apply the parochial funds; and if they apply the public money, some difficulty might arise with the Chancellor of the Exchequer, and if they had to raise it by a parish rate by their own fiat, probably a good deal of discontent would be raised?—I alluded not to their ordering rates to be raised, but to their providing cemeteries either with the monies now in the hands of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, or by a grant of public money to be repaid after a time: because if it answers the purpose of a cemetery company to buy and prepare ground, it would answer the purpose of Government to do it. The Government have lately purchased a considerable tract of land, a part of which, if it had not been designed for other purposes, would have been admirably adapted for a cemetery. The land situate to the north-east of Bethnal-green, which is to be called Victoria Park, and which the Government purchased with a large sum of money that happened to be in the hands of the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, would make a cemetery for the whole of the metropolis for the next hundred years; but I am glad to see it devoted to the benefit of the living rather than to the reception of the dead. I do not, however, think the two incompatible; I think you might form a cemetery and lay it out in such a manner as at Frankfort and other places, so as to make it a cheerful promenade. By cheerful, I mean an agreeable place.

2974. Does your Lordship think that cemetery would be sufficient for the whole of London?—No; for that part of London.

2975. Then your Lordship confines your attention to that district?—Yes; taking that end of the town, all the north and the east.

2976. Then your general opinion is, that some Legislative enactment is necessary?—Yes.

2977. Colonel Fox.] Would your Lordship think it improper to convey funerals by railway; and does your Lordship think there would be a feeling among the people against such a practice?—Oh, decidedly; and if you were to ask me why I consider it improper, perhaps I can say nothing more than that it is a matter of feeling; but I am sure a feeling would prevail among the middle and lower classes to a great extent; I myself should certainly have a strong feeling. At present we are not sufficiently habituated to that mode of travelling not to consider the hurry and bustle connected with it as inconsistent with the solemnity of a Christian funeral.

2978. Is your Lordship aware that very many instances, among persons of the middle classes, have occurred of their being sent by railway?—I have not heard of any. As far as the nature of the thing itself is concerned, there is no other objection than that which arises from the difference of going fast and

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going slow; but I am unwilling there should be any distinction between the rich and the poor.

2979. In the event of failing to obtain a large cemetery in the neighbourhood of the metropolis, does your Lordship think there would be any objection in placing quicklime with the bodies, so as to destroy the coffins within a certain space of time?—That again resolves itself entirely into a matter of feeling; for myself, I should not in the slightest degree object to being buried with quicklime.

2980. But does your Lordship think there would be any objection to it among the lower orders?—I can hardly say. It is impossible to judge of the feelings of persons, of the uneducated classes particularly: many persons are so extremely desirous that the bodies of their friends should be preserved to the latest possible day.

2981. Lord *Ashley*.] Your Lordship sees no other objection than as respects private feelings?—There can be no other objection, at least I do not apprehend there would be.

2982. Lord *Mahon*.] In the event of there being a cemetery, would your Lordship think it desirable to fix a maximum of distance, as well as a minimum, so as to guard the poor against loss of time and fatigue in attending distant funerals. The object of the question is to ascertain whether a great deal of fatigue might not arise from funerals taking place at too great a distance, and whether it would not be desirable to regulate the distance, so that it should not be too far as well as not too near the city?—The distance from what part?

2983. From the inhabited quarters?—Taking the case, London, one inhabited quarter will be three miles distant from another inhabited quarter. There must be some local authority as to where a cemetery should be.

2984. Your Lordship thinks some local authority?—Yes.

2985. It has been stated to the Committee that no increased expense to the poorer classes would take place from the cemeteries being placed at different distances; do you concur in that opinion?—If they will adopt the mode I mentioned some time ago, of a cheap conveyance of their friends, the expense probably would not be greater than that of a walking funeral in the town.

2986. What is your Lordship's opinion with regard to family vaults in towns under churches; would it be desirable, in the event of the formation of a cemetery of which we are speaking, to reserve family vaults, appropriating a number of vaults in the nature of family property, and bodies to be buried in leaden coffins, or do you think a general prohibition of interment in towns preferable?—I should be rather more inclined to preserve the right under certain limitations to family vaults; to members of a family within a certain degree of relationship, and with certain permissions.

2987. And an exception might be framed in the building of such vaults?—No; I would not fasten an exception to any general rule for making new vaults; I think there would always be interference with the feelings of some families; and sooner than an exception should interpose any difficulty to a general measure, I think it better to have no exceptions at all.

2988. Colonel *Far*.] Do you not think it would be hardly possible for persons to be in vaults; would it not be considered as bearing hard upon the poor, that they would consider they would be acting unfairly towards their relations, because they could not be allowed to be buried in vaults owing to the money it would cost?—I am not speaking to that; I would not permit the construction of a new vault.

2989. Lord *Mahon*.] Your Lordship's answer applies to family vaults now in existence?—Yes; existing family vaults.

2990. Mr. *Cowper*.] Would you extend the exception of family vaults to the graves in churchyards in which the members of families have been accustomed to be deposited?—I see no objection at all to that, provided there is a sufficient number of feet of earth over the uppermost coffin.

2991. I apprehend the poorer classes who have been accustomed to see members of their family placed in the same spot, would be just as anxious that they should continue to be so placed, as the upper classes would be to have vaults under the churches?—They would in the country, and there would be no difficulty; but I do not think the feeling exists in the same degree among the inhabitants of large towns, or in London among the lower orders.

2992. Sir *Robert Harry Inglis*.] In reference to the recent answer of your Lordship,

Lordship, as to the application of quicklime over and about the coffins, and in reference to your Lordship's observations in answer to a few questions before, as to your sense of duty, and paying the same regard to the funerals of the poor as to the funerals of the rich, so far as decency is concerned, do you consider that the upper classes of society would or would not, generally speaking, have the same objection which it has been represented to this Committee that persons uneducated generally would have to the application of the means of hastening the decomposition of the bodies of their relatives?—I believe the objection would be very general, and it is an objection connected, I must say, with some of the best feelings of our nature. It has always been characteristic of Christians to pay the utmost respect to the bodies of the deceased, as having been the tenement of the soul which is, we believe, to be re-united to it at the Judgment Day; and although after a time the tenement may be dispersed, and all must come to the same dust, yet there is a natural feeling of preserving that tenement as long as it can be, and I would avoid, as far as I could, any interference with feelings in any way connected with religion; at the same time I, myself, should not have the slightest objection.

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2993. Your Lordship has referred to a plan of removing the bodies of the poor in a hearse if they could be prevailed upon, although your Lordship is of opinion they would prefer a walking funeral; do you conceive that in such a case more than one coffin ought to be placed in the same hearse?—I think not, certainly.

2994. If not more than one coffin ought to be placed in one hearse, is there any special objection to the parties following the hearse as a walking funeral?—If the distance be not too great; but in any case I think the mourners must be conveyed with the coffin.

2995. The object of removing the body upon a hearse is of course to relieve the family, or the parish, or the union, as the case may hereafter be, of the expense of bearers?—Yes.

2996. Then it would not prevent the parties attending, as a walking funeral, with that exception?—Why, yes, it would, if the distance is considerable; and my notion of a funeral conveyance is one which should at the same time convey the corpse and the mourners.

2997. Sir *William Clay*.] Your Lordship has referred to an Act for establishing a cemetery in the neighbourhood of Westminster, called the Westminster Cemetery Company?—Yes.

2998. And in that Act your Lordship stated, there was a fee of 10s. payable to the clergyman of the parish, upon burials taking place of all persons dying within the parish?—Yes.

2999. It would appear by reference to the Act, that that provision is limited to bodies buried within the consecrated portion of the cemetery?—I do not recollect whether that was so or not.

3000. I would wish to ask whether your Lordship, in any general Act for burying bodies without the precincts of populous places, would wish to limit the fees to be given to clergymen as they are limited by that Act, namely, to bodies buried in a consecrated portion of the new burying-ground?—I do not wish fees to be paid to clergymen upon the funerals of Dissenters whose friends choose to bury them in unconsecrated ground, but what I wish to avoid is, holding out a premium to the middle and poorer classes to be buried, being members of the Church of England, in unconsecrated ground, where they would not pay the fees which are usually payable to the clergyman; and, therefore, I should wish, if it were possible, that some fees should be payable to the authorities who regulate the cemetery, for all funerals, but fees payable to the clergy should be only for those buried in consecrated ground.

3001. With reference to the sum that was fixed by the Act in question, of 10s., your Lordship is, perhaps, aware, that in Acts that have been passed since, for instance, that for establishing a cemetery within the Tower Hamlets, there were different fees, and of a smaller amount?—Yes; I think there are two classes of fees in the Tower Hamlets.

3002. In the Cemetery Bill which was passed in January 1841, for establishing a cemetery in the parishes of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, and St. Leonard's, Bromley, the fees to be received by the clergy are, for every corpse interred in a vault, catacomb, or brick grave, 7s. 6d.; and for every corpse, except a pauper burial, the sum of 2s. 6d.?—Yes.

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3003. Are the Committee to understand that, in your former suggestion of an indemnity to be provided for the clergy, your Lordship wished to suggest that 10s. was the proper sum?—No, I did not.

3004. You did not wish the Committee to understand that?—No; I only mentioned, that in the different cemeteries that different fees had been set apart. In the first instance, at Kensal-green there was quite an inadequate compensation. In the second, the Westminster and London Cemetery, it was considered by the clergy, on the whole, to be a reasonable compensation. But, in the third, to which you have just alluded, the Tower Hamlets Cemetery, it was settled by me, after a conference with the clergy; that being a part of London from which funerals would be, generally speaking, of a different class from those sent to Kensal-green and to the London and Westminster Cemetery.

3005. Then the Committee are not to understand your Lordship absolutely to say that it is a subject on which you have made up your mind, as to the specific sums and fees that it would be fair and proper for the clergy to receive?—No; I am not prepared to say that.

3006. On referring to one portion of your Lordship's evidence, I think you stated that the Committee were already probably aware of a compulsory power in the Commissioners for promoting the building of additional churches, to call upon parishes to provide ground for burial purposes?—I did not mean quite to state that there existed in the full sense a compulsory power, although the Commissioners have a power by law to call upon parishes; I stated afterwards, I believe, that we had exercised the power in cases where we have been called upon to do it by the parishes themselves.

3007. By the 59th Geo. 3, it would appear there is such a power in the Commissioners?—It was intended there should be.

3008. Upon what ground does your Lordship conceive that there is any defect or imperfection in such powers?—Because the mode of proceeding would be by an application for a mandamus to the parish, and we were advised by the best legal authority, that it was very doubtful, if the parish resisted, whether the court would grant the mandamus.

3009. There seems to be some doubt also, from what your Lordship has stated, whether the ground to be provided might be without the bounds of the parish to which the power was intended to refer?—Yes.

3010. The Committee understand your Lordship to state that that doubt also exists?—I think it also exists; I do not think it is alluded to by the Act; it does not say it must be within the parish.

3011. But then, by the 3 Geo. 4, the Committee perceive that the Commissioners have power to authorise the construction of new burial-grounds without the precincts of the parishes, upon application of the parish authorities?—Which Act is that?

3012. By the 3 Geo. 4, s. 26?—Yes, there is that Act, I had forgotten it; upon an application of the parish authorities.

3013. The Committee would probably be justified in inferring from what has fallen from your Lordship, that you would think it better that the evil into which the Committee are inquiring should be remedied by some general Act, rather than by an extension of the powers of the Church-building Commissioners?—I am not prepared to say that, and for a good reason; perhaps I may take the liberty of stating that we have been engaged now for some months in endeavouring to consolidate the eight Church-building Acts into one, and we certainly propose in that Act to take a more clearly defined power of calling upon parishes to provide additional burial-grounds, and my own opinion is, that if you should think it desirable to have the control or direction of anything like a central authority, you could not entrust it to better hands than those of the Church-building Commissioners.

3014. Supposing the recommendation of the Committee should go fully to the extent of forbidding, after a period to be named, any interment of bodies within the precincts of populous towns, would your Lordship conceive that in such a case the Commissioners would be willing to undertake, or that it would be convenient to them to undertake, so large an addition to their present functions as carrying a general Act of that kind into effect?—You cannot all at once prohibit all interments within the precincts of towns. There may be burial-grounds within the precincts of towns, as, for instance, the case to which I alluded of Bury St. Edmund's, where it happens that the churchyard is open

to the country on one side, and where there is sufficient room for continual burials, and where they could want no additional space for a long time to come; that is one point. You must have some authority appointed by the Act to determine; you cannot define in the Act all cases in which interments should be prohibited, and in which the Act should be applied. I think the Commissioners would be prepared to undertake that which probably, after all, will not be very onerous, and which I apprehend when done once is done for all, for each particular case; because, after all, the cases are not so numerous; it is only dealing with 10 or 12 large towns, some of which are already provided for sufficiently, such as Liverpool and Glasgow; therefore, as far as the Church-building Commissioners are concerned, although they have still a good deal of work to do, yet I think they would have no hesitation in undertaking that responsibility.

3015. Mr. *Vernon*.] Are complimentary fees to clergymen usual in the middle classes of society?—It is usual in London, where the residents are respectable tradesmen.

3016. Does the fee usually pass as between individual and individual, or does it pass through the undertaker, as a part of the funeral charge?—I think the practice is not, with regard to the class to which you have alluded, to give complimentary fees; they give fittings, but there is a good understanding between the undertaker and the clergyman, generally, as to the fittings. In some instances I have known them amount to pounds; the clergyman's complimentary fee is substituted for the fittings. It depends much upon the class of persons: if a vicar goes, he gets a hat-band and a scarf, and for that hat-band and scarf 10s. are placed in the hands of the clergyman, so that, in fact, complimentary fees is the real form in which it is received.

3017. When they give fittings, is not the expense to the party more than commensurate with the advantage to the clergymen?—Yes. An undertaker charges more than a clergyman receives, and there are very many flagrant cases of that.

3018. Then a smaller amount of payment by the individual, for the benefit of the clergyman, would be satisfactory to the individual, without injuring the clergyman?—I should think so.

3019. The churchyards of London being, as it is shown by the evidence, inconveniently full, is it not a natural and necessary result that a great proportion of the interments are driven elsewhere?—I should think so.

3020. To private burial-grounds, for example, as well within as without the metropolis?—Yes, of a certain class; the middle classes of society, I think, do not resort to those private burial-grounds, but the lower classes do.

3021. Is not the diminution of the fees which appear to have occurred in respect of the several parishes which your Lordship has adverted to in London, to be accounted for by the state of the churchyards being now inconveniently full?—I do not think a sufficient change has taken place in that respect within the last seven or eight years to account for that.

3022. If churchyards should be provided for the benefit of parishes out of the metropolis, would not the inconvenience to the clergyman of attending to the duties in those churchyards be considerable?—Undoubtedly, if they were to do it themselves.

3023. They are therefore subjected at present, by the nature of the thing, to inconvenience, and to a loss of income derived from the locality, and from the crowded state of their churchyards; would not, therefore, even a smaller compensation than the actual sum which they derive from the cemeteries, be a competent compensation under those circumstances?—We have proceeded upon that principle in fixing a certain compensation to be given to them under the different cemetery Acts; we have taken into account all those particulars.

3024. Supposing a general measure were to pass prohibiting interments within the churchyards of the metropolis, and compelling interments by the clergy to be in cemeteries outside the metropolis, would it not be right that all interments should be prohibited, private as well as public?—Undoubtedly, because you have some security that there shall be no impropriety in these public cemeteries, but not so in the case of private ones.

3025. Mr. *Evelyn Denison*.] In the event of a cemetery being established near this metropolis, it appears to be quite necessary that some conveyance should be employed other than bearers for carrying the bodies; do you think it would be

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possible, without offending the feelings of the people, under those circumstances that more than one coffin should be conveyed, at least as far as the cemetery, at the same time, in one and the same conveyance?—I can hardly give a positive opinion, without trying the experiment. It is impossible to say beforehand what the feelings of the poorer classes would be with regard to the particular mode.

3026. The question is asked your Lordship in consequence of the answer which you gave to a question put to you, wherein you stated that you thought they would object to be buried in that manner?—Certainly; my impression is, that they would object to such a mode. It might sometimes happen that persons of opposite characters might be carried in the same conveyance; for instance, the body of some profligate spendthrift might be placed in a conveyance with the body of some respectable member of the church, which would shock the feelings of his friends; and however poor they might be, I think they would feel a pride that their relations should not be conveyed to the place of interment in the same carriage with the body of such a man.

3027. Mr. *Henry Redhead Yorke*.] Has it fallen within your Lordship's knowledge to learn, that from the expense of burial, people have been otherwise disposed of; that is to say, they have not been buried at all?—I have had no opportunity of judging of that at all; I never have had reason to suppose that such a thing occurred in my own parish.

3028. Your Lordship said it was to be lamented, if I understood you rightly, that the clergy should derive their income from burial-fees, or from other sources?—I said, generally speaking, it was to be lamented that clergymen should derive their income from any precarious source, and particularly from any source that calls for payment in the shape of fees from the poor.

3029. Does your Lordship think that the principle of the proposed enactment will rectify that source of revenue, without diminishing the emoluments of the clergy?—I do not think it would be impossible. I am not prepared to say that; but I think it would diminish the evil. I believe, in all cases, they would be disposed to take a fair average compensation for those precarious fees.

3029*. Is your Lordship aware of the crowded state of the churchyard at Paddington?—The burial-ground at Paddington was enlarged by a considerable addition 10 or 12 years ago, and they have lately purchased an additional plot of ground for that purpose from an estate which belonged to the See of London—at least of part—which I would gladly have given them, but I was not at liberty to do so.

3030. Mr. *Evelyn Denison*.] It seems in the parish of St. Giles's the fees have been kept up in consequence of the churchwardens having purchased some land 40 years ago for a new burial-ground?—Yes.

3031. They have been enabled in consequence of that to keep up the amount of their fees?—Yes; there is one other remark that I would wish to be permitted to make: I do not know how far it is practicable; but in defending the interests of the clergy in this question, I think it right to put in a word for another class of men, that is, the existing order of parish clerks, and if it be possible to prevent them from being serious losers, I shall be glad, because they are a very respectable body of men in London, and their means are small. Of course their case is not quite the same as it is with regard to the clergy; I think a petition from that body has been referred to the Committee; and I should not like to leave without putting in a word, as Bishop of the diocese, for them, in case anything can be done: their rights have been protected to a certain extent in the different Church-building Acts. The case of the sexton is different; he is a labourer in the service of the parish, and has not the same claim as the clerk has; the sexton is paid for work done the same as any other labourer.

[The following List of Burial Fees was then handed in:]

	1838.	1839.	1840.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
St. James, Westminster - - -	329 - -	298 - -	246 - -*
St. Botolph, Bishopsgate - - -	36 1 2	42 7 2	23 9 10
St. George-the-Martyr - - -	70 12 6	59 5 10	59 - 8

* In the six preceding years the yearly average was £. 405.

	1838.	1839.	1840.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
St. John, Westminster	123 7 -	93 19 8	105 13 7
St. George-in-the East	101 15 -	101 8 6	74 8 6
St. Bride	51 6 8	51 2 -	81 2 4*
St. Margaret, Westminster	160 14 -	115 1 6	128 - 8
St. Giles-in-the-Fields	764 16 6	608 19 6	635 13 -
St. Dunstan, Westminster	39 9 2	24 - 8	35 5 10
St. Clement Danes	121 14 9	112 19 10	86 3 4
Bethnal Green	71 4 -	67 4 -	62 3 6
St. George, Bloomsbury	273 7 6	159 4 6	235 2 -
St. Botolph, Aldersgate	60 8 4	58 2 8	45 10 -
St. George, Hanover-square	597 17 -	423 8 2	488 11 2
St. Giles, Cripplegate	87 9 6	66 6 10	56 14 10
St. Sepulchre	80 16 6	66 8 -	72 6 -†
St. Andrew, Holborn	306 - 1	324 14 1	223 15 2
St. Catherine Cree	75 3 6	43 16 6	56 13 6
St. Olave, Hart-street	60 8 -	37 4 -	32 2 -
Allhallows, Barking	31 19 6	7 19 -	15 16 6
Paddington	494 14 -	404 18 -	425 4 -‡
Kensington	216 13 6	154 9 4	254 13 6
St. Marylebone	589 17 6	548 15 4	516 11 -

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* Increase of 1840, from two tablets.

† One hundred fewer interments than in the three preceding years.

‡ Average amount of seven years preceding 1838, was £.589, increasing; loss £.200. per annum.

N. B.—This list specifies only the clergyman's fees; not those paid to the churchwardens, clerk, or sexton.

The following list of burial fees has been handed in:

St. John, Westminster. 1838. £. 123 7 0. 1839. £. 93 19 8. 1840. £. 105 13 7.

St. George, Bloomsbury. 1838. £. 273 7 6. 1839. £. 159 4 6. 1840. £. 235 2 0.

St. George, Hanover-square. 1838. £. 597 17 0. 1839. £. 423 8 2. 1840. £. 488 11 2.

St. Giles, Cripplegate. 1838. £. 87 9 6. 1839. £. 66 6 10. 1840. £. 56 14 10.

St. Sepulchre. 1838. £. 80 16 6. 1839. £. 66 8 0. 1840. £. 72 6 0.

St. Andrew, Holborn. 1838. £. 306 0 1. 1839. £. 324 14 1. 1840. £. 223 15 2.

St. Catherine Cree. 1838. £. 75 3 6. 1839. £. 43 16 6. 1840. £. 56 13 6.

St. Olave, Hart-street. 1838. £. 60 8 0. 1839. £. 37 4 0. 1840. £. 32 2 0.

Allhallows, Barking. 1838. £. 31 19 6. 1839. £. 7 19 0. 1840. £. 15 16 6.

Paddington. 1838. £. 494 14 0. 1839. £. 404 18 0. 1840. £. 425 4 0.

Kensington. 1838. £. 216 13 6. 1839. £. 154 9 4. 1840. £. 254 13 6.

St. Marylebone. 1838. £. 589 17 6. 1839. £. 548 15 4. 1840. £. 516 11 0.

 A P P E N D I X.

 CORRESPONDENCE.

Rev. *H. J. Knapp*, D.D. to *W. A. Mackinnon*, Esq. M.P.

Correspondence.

Dear Sir,

Vicarage, Willesden, 4 May 1842.

As your distinguished and most assiduous Committee will, I apprehend, proceed with the other points of inquiry which you had proposed, permit me to state a few ideas which have occurred to me, and may be moulded in the shape of interrogatories as circumstances may arise.

Are the fees for funerals paid to the clergy and clerks authorized by the Church or by Acts of Parliament, or simply by usage or agreements between the clergy and their parishioners? Are the tables of fees drawn up from resolutions of vestry, and sanctioned by magistrates? Are the prices charged for vaults in churches or churchyards, for monuments and tablets, fixed and sanctioned by any authority, or left to the discretion of the incumbent? If a compensation is made to the present incumbents, should it be continued to their successors? What proportion of the fees for funerals should be allowed to the present incumbents and clerks; half or two-thirds, or the same allowances as are paid by the cemeteries to the incumbents of those parishes which the deceased are brought from? What allowance, if any, should be given to successive incumbents? When the funerals will cease, will not less ministerial assistance be required, consequently less expense fall on the incumbent?

In providing for the funerals of the poor, should an allowance be applied and hoped for from Government, or should the respective parishes provide for them? From what fund could that proceed; houses or lands bequeathed for the benefit of the poor, or by a rate on the rental? In the purchase of land for burials, should not several parishes, cordons, or districts, join and endeavour to buy it at a moderate price? Might not a cheap contract be entered into for the conveyance of the poor? Might not expense be saved by a suitable conveyance by canal or railroad? Might not the expenses of burying the poor be met and more than defrayed by the fees charged to others? Is there not Government land in different places out of town, which might be granted to the different parishes or unions of parishes, for their burial requirements? In carrying out the purposes of the Legislature, should not one general Act be passed, without putting each parish to the expenses of a separate local one, proper evidence being shown of the necessity for additional burial-ground?

I may presume that no more proofs need be adduced of the abominable nuisance to be removed; otherwise abundance in addition could be brought forward, as regards especially Cripplegate, Aldgate, Shoreditch, Spitalfields, &c. &c. I will only mention two which have lately come to my knowledge. The churchyard of Allhallows Staining is scarcely a rood in size; yet 60 bodies on an average are every year deposited in it: the church was built at least 300 years before the Fire of London. Allhallows Barking churchyard, likewise very small, has had, during the last 40 years, about 3,000 bodies buried in it. I conversed a few days ago with two French gentlemen, going to visit Kensal Green cemetery, and when I mentioned the state of, and proceedings in our metropolitan churches and churchyards, they exclaimed "*Oh! quelle horreur!*" They informed me that burials are not now permitted in Paris, and that no grave is opened under five years.

I am &c.

H. J. Knapp.

W. F. Chambers, M.D. to *W. A. Mackinnon*, Esq. M.P.

My dear Sir,

46, Brook-street, 2 May 1842.

PRACTICALLY I know nothing of the effect of burying-grounds or their vicinities. I have no doubt, however, that the fevers which are called typhus, even in this cleanly quarter of London, owe their origin to the escape of putrid miasmata from sewers, drains, and similar sources of pollution.

I should presume that overcrowded burying-grounds would supply such effluvia most abundantly.

Believe me, &c.

W. F. Chambers, M. D.

C. J. Sadler, Ald. and J.P., to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Correspondence.

Sir,

Oxford, 30 April 1842.

I SHALL feel obliged by your informing me if any Report has been made from the Committee (of which you are Chairman) appointed by the House of Commons to inquire into the practice of burying in cities and towns.

I have for some time past taken an interest in this subject, from the fact that eight out of 12 of our churchyards are inconveniently filled; and in 1837, when I served the office of chief magistrate, I called several meetings of the local clergy and parochial officers, to endeavour to establish a cemetery near our city; but petty jealousies prevailed, and the subject dropped.

I shall bring the matter forward at the next meeting of the town council (in about eight days), and should feel thankful to know the result of the labours of your Committee, if they have been reported to The House.

I am, &c.

C. J. Sadler, Ald. and J. P.

R. F. Forrester, M.D. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

Derby, 30 April 1842.

As senior physician and magistrate, I beg leave to make the following communication. The population of Derby having very greatly increased, it has for some time past been quite obvious that the old churchyards could no longer contain the number of bodies brought to them for interment, without disturbing the remains of those who had preceded them, before decomposition had taken place. This practice, both revolting to the good feelings, and injurious to the health of the inhabitants, having some years ago already attracted a good deal of attention, additions were made in three parishes to the existing churchyards, at a considerable expense. This, however, has proved a very inadequate remedy for the evils of which we have had to complain, and in consequence an attempt was made about two years ago to establish a cemetery in a spot adjacent to the town, which proved abortive, for reasons which it is immaterial to mention. A very important object may ere long be effected, conducive at once to the preservation of the general health, and of that decent respect for the ashes of the dead which is paid even by the least civilised people.

I have, &c.

R. F. Forrester.

Shewbridge Connor, M.D. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

Carlow, 29 April 1842.

OWING to absence on professional business, your letter was not received until the 24th. I hasten to reply, and beg to say that the same remarks are applicable to very many cities and towns in Ireland.

The churchyard of Carlow is in the centre of the town, and so closely surrounded by tenements, that in places the wall of the dwelling-house, often loosely built, alone divides the bed of the occupant from the (perhaps newly tenanted) grave; this, although rendering the air sufficiently insalubrious, is not the only cause of impurity, as the annual decay of noxious plants, luxuriant in a place so rank and untrodden as our graveyards, universally neglected, are, where vegetable decomposition above ground is as much a consequence as animal decay beneath, injures most seriously the surrounding atmosphere.

Many cases of consumption have been said to arise from breathing the air for years in those houses, (and there is justice in the expression,) as it is mixed with gases, a small addition of which renders the atmosphere insufficient to support animal life. There is no doubt, that the habitual respiration of, or even contact with air so impure, is a powerful means of augmenting the hereditary disposition to scrophula so prevalent in this country, or even of originating it, and though we have no proof of it, it is reasonable to suppose that the water supplied to the inhabitants, by the pumps sunk on premises in the precincts of the graveyards, has not long since percolated the ashes or washed the remains of departed relatives; the idea at least is not agreeable, though the water may be pretty good.

Allow me to show another consequence of having graveyards in or very near towns. An old graveyard near the one above described, of about one and a half or two acres in extent, in the memory of man was appropriately filled with tombstones, monuments, &c., but in consequence of the value of building ground it has been gradually encroached upon, and so covered by houses, stores, &c., that it has become the spot of greatest trade in Carlow. One spot, 12 feet square, from the watchful care of some interested persons, alone remains in its original state apparently, but even this has been excavated, and converted into a vault, it is believed for the purpose of illicit malting. The Ecclesiastical Commissioners have instituted a suit for the recovery of some of this ground. So far as the health of the town is concerned, the change is not to be lamented, but in this enlightened land some respect should be paid to the places of sepulture, as different from the superstitious reverence of the Indian, as from the carelessness observable in Ireland, where the state of the graveyards is generally disgusting.

Typhus fever in a severe form is constantly present in this town; though not the cause, I have no hesitation in stating the graveyard to be a cause, and not a minor cause, of the atmospheric impurity that tends to nourish and produce the disease, and that in no possible light can it be looked on as ornamental, useful, or in the least desirable in its present situation.

Correspondence.

Trusting that I have written satisfactorily, and not at too great length, and begging your attention to the other page about "health of towns" and preservation of life,

I remain, &c.

Shewbridge Connor, M. D.

Fellow, Col. Physician, &c. &c.

Physician to Carlow Fever Hospital, &c. &c.

W. M. Tartt, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Springfield, Lyme Regis, 28 April 1842.

IN reference to the subject of your inquiry, the statistics of Lyme Regis are as follows:

For a population of 2,757 inhabitants, the principal burial-ground is that of the parish church; its extent is rather more than half an acre, and it is so far crowded that persons employed in interments are of opinion that the bodies buried there are disturbed, to make room for others, in from seven to fourteen years. Interments are also made in the vaults of the church, though recently it is only permitted in leaden coffins, and checked as much as possible by high fees. Still, however, many are of opinion that prejudicial effluvia proceed occasionally from these vaults.

In addition to the above, there are also very small burial-grounds attached to the Wesleyan, Baptist, and Independent chapels; and another, I understand, is about to be consecrated for the Roman-catholics.

All these are within the precincts of the town; and the registrar's statement of the total number of burials is,

From July 1837 to 31 December	-	-	-	-	17
In 1838	-	-	-	-	62
In 1839	-	-	-	-	38
In 1840	-	-	-	-	45
In 1841	-	-	-	-	45
And to this date, 1842	-	-	-	-	12

being an average of about 45 per annum.

I have, &c.

W. M. Tartt, Mayor.

John Haviland, M. D. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Cambridge, 27 April 1842.

I HAVE nothing to add to Mr. Fisher's Report, but I may observe, that the position of many of the most crowded churchyards is the worst possible, they being situated in the very heart of the town, and surrounded by lofty buildings. The incumbent of one of the parishes has informed me that his sexton has been compelled to disinter half-decayed coffins, with their contents, in order to make room for other fresh burials, by digging deeper in the soil. The state of the burying-grounds in this town is most offensive, demoralizing, and injurious to the health of the inhabitants.

I have, &c.

John Haviland, M. D.

W. O. B. Adams, M. D. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Dear Sir,

Adelaide Street, Kingstown, 25 April 1842.

I REGRET not having more information to give you on the inexpediency of allowing interments within town or cities, on which subject I think there can be but one opinion. From the crowded state of the churchyards, when in making a new grave, bones, &c. are thrown up, it is customary to burn them, the smell from which is really most offensive, inasmuch that it renders the houses on one side of Blackhall-street (as the churchyard I allude to in particular is Paul's) most disagreeable, but to what exact extent it deteriorates their value I am unable to say, and it would take longer time to ascertain than I would like to occupy before answering your letter. I send you some reports, all I could procure, of the Dublin General Cemetery, situated at Harold's Cross, near Dublin; it is a very beautiful cemetery, and as a mercantile speculation promises to pay well; it was set on foot in the year 1837. I also inclose you a copy of a petition against the establishment of the foregoing cemetery, from the committee for conducting the two Roman-catholic cemeteries situated at Golden Bridge, and Prospect, and completely under the management and for the use of our Roman-catholic brethren. It might be difficult to point out the amount of injury done to the health of the inhabitants of cities or towns by allowing interments within their precincts, but of which I think there can be little doubt. Should I be able to procure information on this subject worthy of communicating, I shall have great pleasure in doing so.

Believe me, &c.

W. O. B. Adams, M. D.

Thomas Fitzpatrick, M. D. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Park Street, Dublin, 25 April 1842.

As in an investigation such as you are prosecuting, every authentic fact bears some value, I beg to bring under the notice of the Committee the following circumstances demonstrative of the abominations consequent on the frequent re-opening of graves. In

1835 I attended the funeral of a lady to St. Bride's churchyard, in this city: on arriving there I was surprised to see a coffin on the ground tied with ropes, and in so shattered a condition as to permit a partial view of the body which it contained. On making inquiry, I ascertained from one of the attendants, that owing to the crowded state of the churchyard, it was necessary to lift up this coffin in order to make room for that of the lady, and while they were removing it to a short distance it broke asunder, and the body, in an advanced stage of putrefaction, fell to the earth, creating so disgusting an effluvia as obliged the gravediggers to retire to a distance. On the occasion alluded to, a gentleman and I recognised the head of a friend who had been interred in the same grave two years previously; the muscles and the lower jaw were removed, but the scalp being perfect, the peculiarity of the hair and the formation of the skull satisfied us of its identity. Thus, Sir, independent of the question as to the influence of noxious emanations from decomposed bodies on the already loaded atmosphere of cities and large towns, some of the best feelings of human nature are outraged by such profanation of the grave, and by the indignities offered to the remains of those who during life were esteemed and loved. Every man of well-regulated mind must wish for the prevention of such abuses, and this object can only be attained by the establishment of extensive cemeteries, thereby removing the necessity of re-opening graves, until at least such changes were effected as would prevent identification of the body or the production of noxious effluvia.

I have, &c.

Thomas Fitzpatrick, M. D.

Henry Lonsdale, M. D. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Edinburgh, 24 April 1842.

Sir,

MEDICAL men, almost without exception, have assigned to the putrescent exhalations from crowded cemeteries one of the causes of disease amongst the population of large towns, especially when the disease, such as fever, assumes an epidemic form in the neighbourhood of these cemeteries. This seems to be well understood by the public in general, who invariably shun, if their circumstances permit, the dwellings adjacent to burial-grounds. At the same time, it is well to remember that this reluctance to live in such dwellings may depend on other circumstances beyond the physical objections of putrid effluvia.

The observations made in London, Glasgow, and Liverpool, would tend to the belief that disease is engendered by too close approximation to public cemeteries; but the statistical information which we possess is too scanty to guarantee our stating that the health of individuals is necessarily affected by living in the vicinity of burial-grounds.

That the effluvia arising from putrid human remains, as seen in our anatomical rooms, have an injurious effect on the health of many who are obliged to study in them, appears to me, from several years' experience, to be quite decided.

Few but the very zealous student will continue more than two or three hours at their labours. Disordered digestion, &c. &c. almost invariably attack those whose attendance is protracted beyond that time, unless where the person has become habituated by long practice.

We would naturally infer, that if the strictly professional, who look upon anatomy as a *sine qua non* in the study of medicine, are so affected, the influences would be more deteriorating to the non-professional, should they be exposed to a less vicious atmosphere.

It would appear to me that the physical circumstances ought not to form the sole object of inquiry, when the improvement of towns is under consideration, as the removal of cemeteries to some distance from towns where architectural taste, &c. &c. can be displayed, seems to have a happy moral effect on the inhabitants.

In conclusion, I beg to state my regret that time and other circumstances already alluded to, prevent me detailing many facts which might bear on the important subject which you and your honourable colleagues are engaged in elucidating. That your labours may be crowned with success is the fervent wish of, Sir,

Your's, &c.

Henry Lonsdale, M. D.

G. G. Mounsey, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Carlisle, 23 April 1842.

Sir,

I AM not aware of any particular circumstances here relative to the subject of your letter of the 7th.

In Carlisle there were, until within a very few years last past, only two burial-grounds, both in the heart of the city, the crowded state of which frequently caused most revolting exposures, and in hot weather very disagreeable effects. Two small additional burial-grounds were provided, eight or ten years since, in the suburbs; but they are filling very rapidly, and the town extending around them.

It is generally thought that, if powers were given for establishing cemeteries, they would speedily be provided in the vicinity of the town, and a great improvement in the health of the place thereby effected.

I have, &c.

G. G. Mounsey, Mayor.

Correspondence.

George Fisher, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

Cambridge, 23 April 1842.

I BEG to inclose you a return of the state and extent of the burial-grounds in this town, from which will be seen the pressing necessity of a public cemetery being provided.

It would be painful to state, in detail, the distressing scenes which frequently take place in many of the churchyards of this town, owing to the necessary exhumation of bodies (many comparatively but recently interred), for the purpose of making room for new interments.

It may be also remarked, that most of our churchyards are closely surrounded by dwelling-houses, from which the health and comfort of the persons inhabiting them cannot but be considered as seriously affected.

For several years past attempts have been made to remedy these evils, by endeavours to procure a place for a public cemetery; but, owing to the great difficulty of obtaining a piece of ground suitable for that purpose, and from other causes, as to the arrangement of the ground, even if it could have been procured, nothing effectual has hitherto been done.

Of late the corporation has taken the matter into consideration, and had appointed a committee to accomplish, if possible, this object; but, up to the present time, that committee has been unable to carry any plan into effect; and, indeed, I am fearful nothing can be done here (although there is no town which requires it more), except by a public measure originating in Parliament, owing to the difficulties regarding the arrangements.

You would have had an earlier answer from me, but the returns have only just been completed.

I shall be happy to give you any further information, should you require it.

I have, &c.

George Fisher, Mayor.

RETURNS made on the 21st April 1842, by the Clergy and Churchwardens of the several Parishes in the Borough of Cambridge, relative to the State and Extent of the CHURCHYARDS within the said Borough; together with a Return from the Dissenting Ministers officiating in the Town, relative to the Burial-Grounds attached to their Chapels.

PARISHES.	Population.	Extent of Churchyard in Square Yards.	Unoccupied Space in the Churchyard.	Probable Number of Interments for which the Unoccupied Space would serve.	Average Number of Burials per Annum, for Three Years, ending with the Year 1841.	Number of Interments within the Church during the same time.
All Saints - - -	1,231	638	nil.	nil.	23	3
St. Andrew the Great	1,983	790	nil.	nil.	45	2
St. Andrew the Less	9,238	Old Church, 1,872 New Church, 1,472	Old Church, 297 sq. yards. New Church, 1,344 ditto.	Old Church, 128 New Church, only 300, as none but brick graves are allowed in it.	132	nil.
St. Benedict* - - -	932	670	nil.	nil.	18 $\frac{1}{2}$	nil.*
St. Botolph - - -	723	1,666	230 sq. yards.	about 100	22 $\frac{1}{2}$	nil.
St. Clement - - -	1,039	1,200	nil.	nil.	34	nil.
St. Edward - - -	619	600	nil.	nil.	17 $\frac{3}{4}$	nil.
St. Giles - - -	2,087	1,360	nil.	nil.	58	nil.
St. Mary-the-Great -	1,013	1,040	A few yards	24	24	nil.
St. Mary-the-Less -	704	2,662	Ample space for interments	23	8	1
St. Michael - - -	432	968	About 24 $\frac{1}{2}$ square yards.	105	2	1
St. Peter - - -	627	1,150	nil.	nil.	18	nil.
Holy Sepulchre - -	638	1,534	nil.	nil.	15	2
Holy Trinity - - -	2,189	1,000	nil.	nil.	52	1

Ground attached to the Meeting-house } None. But in the chapel three persons have been interred within the last 22 years.

Burial-ground attached to the Meeting-house in St. Andrew's-street. } A small space probably sufficient for from 60 to 70 interments. The average number of burials three per annum.

Cambridge, 23 April 1842.

George Fisher,
Mayor of Cambridge.

* Addenbroke's Hospital being situate in this Parish, the patients who die there are generally buried in this churchyard.

J. Kidd, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Correspondence.

Sir,

Oxford, Friday, 22 April 1842.

I UNDERSTAND that, with a very few exceptions, the churchyards in Oxford are so occupied, that in the course of 15 or 20 years there will be a difficulty in finding room for burials. I also understand that, with the view of obviating this inconvenience, several meetings of the inhabitants of Oxford took place some years since; and that though they could not agree upon any plan, there was a strong desire, and that desire is still prevailing, to obtain a spot of ground in the vicinity, for the purposes of a public cemetery.

I shall bear it in mind to obtain further information, if in my power; but I am happy in adding, that several active members of the borough are engaged in obtaining information on the same subject; for they will be able to obtain it more readily than I could.

I beg leave to subscribe myself, Sir, &c.

J. Kidd.

Peter Dickson, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

York Buildings, Southampton, 20 April 1842.

YOUR letter, dated House of Commons, 7 April 1842, reached my residence by the post yesterday, being the 19th April 1842, on the subject of the Committee for the Improvement in the Health of Towns, and requiring information respecting Southampton. So far as respects the very crowded and disgraceful state of the general burial-ground in St. Mary's parish of this town, which is appropriated for the interment of the dead from all the united parishes of Southampton, I state the fact of its being quite full, and the unsuccessful attempt of our town council to apply to Parliament for a Cemetery Bill, the town council having offered 22 acres of Southampton Common (of which they are lords of the manor), with every advantage of its being a free gift, to the whole inhabitants of Southampton; and relying on the sale of vaults and graves to the rich, to be capable of paying the expenses of the Act of Parliament, and the enclosure of the land, and consecrating the same, it was calculated that the poor were to have every benefit that could result from such arrangement, the town council disclaiming all and every intention to make any profit whatever from the proposed cemetery. The Radicals at the vestry meetings refused this boon, and they are now at a loss for a burial-ground in or near our town. Our town clerk, Mr. Deacon, has also (by my desire) addressed a letter to you on the same subject.

I have, &c.

Peter Dickson, Mayor.

Rev. W. F. Hook to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Vicarage, Leeds, 19 April 1842.

IN replying to your letter, I may mention a remedy for the nuisance complained of, which has occurred to me, and upon which I had some intention of writing, last year, to the Bishop of London, when his lordship directed the attention of the House of Lords to some measures for the improvement of large towns. It appears to me that it would be easy to make it incumbent upon every town council to provide, out of the borough rate, a sufficient burial-ground, at a certain distance from the town, to be fixed by Act of Parliament; the ground to be divided into two parts, the one consecrated for church purposes, the other free to all classes of society.

To such an arrangement I do not think that any opposition would be raised, as all parties would be benefited.

Persons, not members of the church, would be gainers by the measure; because, whereas they are now compelled to inter according to the ceremonial of the church from which they dissent, they would, under the proposed arrangement, be left to the free use of their own ceremonies; and although the portion allotted to the church is large, they would consider this concession as due to the church, when the church recedes from an acknowledged legal right. I have conversed upon the subject with extreme Radicals and Chartists, and as I have not found them to object to such a plan, I conclude that no objection to it would be made by other parties.

But would there be any objection raised on the part of the church? I should hope and think not; certainly no objection would be raised by those who would postpone any civil rights of the establishment, to the spiritual advantages of the church, considered as a religious society; for, in this point of view, the church would be benefited. The clergyman is now compelled by law to inter every corpse brought to his churchyard, if the person died a parishioner; and he must inter according to the Office in our Prayer-book, however notorious the person may have been for immorality, or even for infidelity, if he were not legally excommunicated. This is felt by many of the clergy to be a great grievance. But under the proposed arrangement they will be relieved, and will be able to confine their offices to persons who died in the communion of the church. I feel sure that the majority of the clergy would be ready to make a great pecuniary sacrifice to be relieved from a duty which is the more unpleasant, since they are frequently exposed to insults in the discharge of it.

But then occurs the expense (which would be considerable to the poor) of conveying the dead to the proposed cemetery; but this difficulty would be overcome, if it should be made incumbent upon each town council to provide a public hearse, to be always in attendance at certain hours. The mourners would find means of conveying themselves. Each parish is at present obliged to provide a public bier.

Correspondence.

At the same time, we must consider and respect the very natural desire on the part of some persons to be interred in the same vault, or near the grave of their departed relatives. This sentiment is as strong among the poor as among the rich. It would be necessary, therefore, to permit interments in the old churchyards, under certain limitations. The degree of relationship might be fixed by law, and to prevent persons from acting merely from caprice, a double fee might be exacted. Such a plan as this was adopted some years ago at Coventry, when a new burial-ground was purchased, and it was determined to discourage interments in the old ground. The old churchyards would soon become ornamental to the towns.

On the third head of the Committee's inquiry, which relates to the vested rights of the clergy, I do not think the difficulty is so great as it may at first sight appear to be. At all events, if the temporal rights of the establishment interfere with the temporal welfare of the people, the former must yield to the latter. But we must bear in mind, that it is one of the misfortunes of the Church of England that her town parishes are generally the worst endowed, and that the clergy depend for a large portion of their income upon fees. I hope the time will come when pious individuals will purchase this right from the clergy, so that all the offices of the church may be performed gratuitously. In my own parish this has already been done, so far as Easter dues are concerned. A sum of money was subscribed and placed in the hands of trustees, who pay the interest to the vicar instead of Easter dues. And this might be done in the case of funerals. Every town council might be compelled, on purchasing a cemetery, to purchase also the rights of the incumbent, and then to appropriate the fees due upon the erection of headstones, &c. without demanding any for the interment. The incumbent would still be responsible for the performance of the duty in the consecrated ground. The sum required would not be large. In this parish the average number of funerals in the year is 15 hundred; and my fees, including headstones, &c., amount to less than 60*l.* a year. As I have to provide a salary of 100*l.* a year for a curate to do this duty, I should be a gainer by the proposed plan; but there are parishes in which these fees form the larger part of the income, and they could not be taken away without reducing the clergy to great distress. But as the fees are nearly the same in all places, you will perceive, from the statement I have made, that the sum required would not be great. Perhaps the fees might be purchased at two-thirds of their average value; I mention two-thirds, because the duties of the incumbent would be diminished, and he would gain by the certainty of his income.

The case of clerk and sexton would have to be considered in the next place; their incomes depend almost entirely upon fees; it would, therefore, be necessary to indemnify them, or to employ them in the churchyard with a fixed salary.

It would be important to prevent corporations from taking any fees, except for headstones, monuments, &c.

I have been induced, by the kind expressions of your letter, to offer these few suggestions. I am fully aware that there may be many objections urged against them; but I presume that you are desirous of receiving proposals, that you may adopt some measure, against which the fewest objections can be brought.

I have, &c.

W. F. Hook, Vicar.

William Brigg, Esq. to *W. A. Mackinnon*, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Bradford Court-house, 19 April 1842.

IN answer to yours of the 7th instant, I have to inform you that Bradford alone consists of about 30,000 inhabitants; and including the borough, which is very close, will contain a population of 70,000; and the only place of public interment is the churchyard (92 yards by 71; this includes the church, steeple, and vestry, &c.) There are a great many places of dissent that have burial-grounds, but they are all private, and admit none but members of the sect, family, or some very particular favourite. I should recommend a public cemetery.

I am, &c.

Wm. Brigg, Mayor.

Mr. John P. Brierly to *W. A. Mackinnon*, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Oldham, 19 April 1842.

IN reply to your letter respecting "Interments in Towns," I have to observe that we have in this township a parochial churchyard, which stands in an elevated situation, but on account of the great increase of the population in this borough (being 60,000 inhabitants, all of which can claim the right of burial there), there is not a grave to let; and the others being frequently opened, makes it unhealthy.

We have two district churches with yards, one of which is also full, and five small burial-grounds attached to dissenting chapels.

In the out-townships (although in the borough) there are three district churches, with burial-grounds connected with them.

I remain, &c.

John P. Brierly, Head Constable.

Thomas Stokes, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Correspondence.

Sir,

Leicester, 18 April 1842.

I RECEIVED your letter of the 7th instant on the 16th, in reference to interments within the precincts of towns, and shall be obliged if you will inform me when the information will be wanted. In my own opinion it is a matter of great importance; and if time be allowed, I will endeavour to interest the town council on the subject.

I am, &c.

Thomas Stokes, Mayor.

W. Morgan Meyler, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

Gloucester, 18 April 1842.

I SHOULD suppose that the object of your communication, addressed to me by yourself as Chairman of the Committee for the Improvement of the Health of Towns, is in some measure to ascertain the state of the burial-grounds in this city, and the necessity that would here seem to exist as to public cemeteries outside the place.

Several of our churchyards have been latterly enlarged, or additional ground for burials procured, at a distance from the churches, but still within the respective parishes. These additions, however, have never been made until forced upon the parishioners by absolute necessity, from the overcrowded state of the ground. The churchyard of the parish of St. Michael, in the centre of the city, and closely surrounded on all sides by houses, was offensive in the extreme, before additional ground was procured about two years since. Few burials take place in the cathedral church of this city, from the exorbitant charges demanded by the chapter; but burials are still frequent in the parish churches. I am not aware, however, that in the city of Gloucester any contagious disease has been traced to the opening of graves; but as a medical man, I should not take upon myself to deny the probability of such events occurring; nor would observation allow me to hazard more than a conjecture that the occurrence of small-pox, measles, scarlatina, and other contagious disease, may and do sometimes arise in towns therefr m. But with these surmises only on my mind, unsupported by facts, I should still say, that where burial-grounds are sufficiently extensive for the use of parishes, there would be no necessity for the removal to cemeteries out of towns. The burial of bodies in churches, where congregations are frequently or daily assembled together, I should be glad to see discontinued (and I here speak the sentiments of many with whom I have spoken, as well as my own). The effluvia perceptible in many churches would alone be sufficient, in my mind, to call for such an enactment. May I venture to add, that a government tax of 10*l.* or 20*l.* in addition to the church fees, would soon remedy this evil, without absolutely interdicting it.

I am, &c.

W. Morgan Meyler, Surgeon.

Nathaniel Sharpe, Esq. to Mr. Ridsdale (for Mr. Savery).

Sir,

Leeds, April 1842.

WITHOUT actually measuring the ground, but estimating the churchyards and sites of churches in Leeds from the map of the town, I consider the total quantity 11 A. 1 R. 39 P.

Nathaniel Sharpe, Surveyor.

Mr. Savery's compliments to Mr. Mackinnon with the above, showing the small extent of churchyards in the populous town of Leeds, where the average mortality must be many thousands per annum.

H. Hawkes, Esq. to W. H. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

Coventry, 15 April 1842.

IN answer to your favour of the 7th instant (only received yesterday), I beg to state for your information, that the population of Coventry is about 30,000 and the grave-yards very confined, and situate in the centre of the town. It has long been a subject of complaint that a greater space is not found for the purpose. Coventry is surrounded by lands called Lammas and Michaelmas lands, being open to the freemen and others to impasture their cattle from these periods to Candlemas, yearly. I would take the liberty to suggest that power should be given to take such lands or common lands for burying-ground, either with or without compensation, as may seem meet to the Committee.

Any further information you may require (if able) shall be happy to afford you.

I have, &c.

H. Hawkes, Mayor.

Mr. James Leach to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

Rochdale, 12 April 1842.

IN reply to your circular respecting interments within the precincts of towns, I may say that it is a subject which has often occurred to me as very well worthy serious attention. In Rochdale there are at least seven places of interment; viz. two, the parish church and St. Mary's; one, Lady Huntingdon's Chapel; one, Wesleyan Methodists; one, Baptist; one, Independents; one, Friends; two others belong to the Unitarians, which are very small. The parish churchyard has been long far too crowded. An additional yard, added some years ago, is now also full; and it has been under consideration how to provide for the reception of the dead in future. Fortunately the parish church is on high ground, at

Correspondence.

the extreme edge of the town, so that hitherto no harm has arisen; but now the town is spreading in that direction, and in a few years it is probable the now vacant land will be occupied with houses. The yard in St. Mary's is, I believe, crowded. The other places of interment are not so, but that of the Independents is more so than the others. A general cemetery would be an immense advantage to the public. I am not able to give any precise information beyond this at present; but if the Committee issue any circular of queries, I shall be glad to do all I can to procure proper replies to them, so far as this town will furnish them.

I am, &c.

James Leach, High Constable of Rochdale.

To the Worshipful the Mayor.

Oxford, 12 April 1842.

Dear Sir,

MY own inquiries, and those of other parties whose attention has been drawn to the necessity of a cemetery for this city, tend to prove that there are eight parishes whose respective burial-grounds are in an inconveniently crowded state, and that in some cases decency has been outraged by the revolting exposure of the remains of the dead ere yet the grave had fully done its task, as well as by the laying open to view the circumjacent coffins in digging fresh receptacles for the corpses of the parishioners.

Believing the subject to be one which the Oxford public desires to see regarded with serious attention,

I am, &c.

Thomas Randall, M.D.

A. J. Valpy, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Dear Sir,

University Club, 13 April 1842.

I ENCLOSE a paper which will supply you with a sufficient answer to any objections relative to the expense of cemeteries. In truth, walking funerals will be superseded, by which some expense will be saved. I hope you will carry your Bill during this Session. Should you desire much information, I would recommend you to apply to B. Hawes, esq., 36, Brunswick-square (deputy chairman of the London Cemetery); also to W. Kingdom, esq., 41, Westbourne-terrace, Hyde Park. They are very conversant in all particulars, in which I should fail.

Believe me, &c.

A. J. Valpy.

Peter Dickson, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

York Buildings, Southampton, 10 April 1842.

I HAVE laid your letter before our town clerk (Mr. Deacon), who will report to you the present deplorable state of our principal burial-ground of St. Mary's, for all the united parishes in Southampton. An attempt has lately been made by the town council of Southampton to obtain a Bill in Parliament for powers to appropriate 22 acres of Southampton Common (of which the corporation are lords of the manor) for a cemetery, it being distinctly declared and understood that the corporation were to derive no profit whatever from the cemetery, and that all profits arising therefrom were to be bestowed for the benefit of the poor, in procuring for them as cheap a mode of burial as at the present time, when the sanctity of the grave is unavoidably invaded by the present crowded state of St. Mary's churchyard.

It was necessary to obtain the consent of the different vestries of the parishes in the town; and I regret to state, that the noisy declamations of the Radical faction prevailed, and the proposed Cemetery Bill was thrown overboard. The vestry meetings in this town have assumed such a character, that few gentlemen will be found to expose themselves to insult, and thus the decision of the vestries has become anything but the decision of the majority of the rate-payers of Southampton.

I am, &c.

Peter Dickson, Mayor.

Charles E. Deacon, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

Southampton, 9 April 1842.

I AM directed by the mayor of this borough to acknowledge the receipt of your letter to him, dated the 7th instant, and to inform you, in reply, that the town of Southampton much requires an additional burial-place, and that the want of it has long been felt a most serious evil.

The subject has, for several years past, engaged the attention of the council of the borough, as well as the inhabitants at large; but hitherto they have not succeeded in remedying the existing evil, although several attempts have been made to accomplish this most desirable object.

I beg to state, for the information of the Committee, that the population of Southampton is about 28,000, according to the last census, and that the only general burial-place for the whole town (and it has been so for centuries) is the churchyard of the parish of St. Mary, situate in a very densely populated part of the town. It consists of barely two acres of land, and the average yearly number of burials is about 400. The consequence is, that the churchyard is thickly crowded with the remains of the dead, and its state, and the daily necessity

necessity of finding space for burials, renders the frequent exposure and disturbance of corpses recently interred a most painful alternative, productive of danger to the health of those living in the neighbourhood, lacerating to the feelings of surviving friends, and distressing to the inhabitants in general.

The council being anxious that some effectual provision should be made for securing an additional burial-place without the precincts of the town, and remedying the existing nuisance, appointed a committee from their own body, to consider what steps should, under the circumstances, be taken, and the result was, that a portion of the Southampton Common, about 20 acres (and of which the corporation are the owners in fee) was selected for the purposes of a cemetery or burial-ground. This plan met the approval of the Earl of Guilford, the rector of the parish of St. Mary, as well as the majority of the clergy of the town; and all admitted the necessity of some measure being adopted. A petition for the establishment of the proposed cemetery, with a copy of the Bill, was presented to the House of Commons during the present Session, and all the requisite notices given in conformity with the Standing Orders of The House; but upon an appeal to the several vestries, (the inhabitant householders, being rate-payers, having rights of common over the land in question,) differences of opinion arose as to the spot, the mode, and the parties through whom this most desirable object should be carried into effect, and ultimately, in consequence of the subject of the interment of the dead within precincts of towns having been brought forward by yourself in Parliament, the council determined to abandon their plan for the present Session. In every parish the feeling was unanimous that the present burial-place had long been inadequate to the wants of the town, and, from its crowded state, was likely to prove highly injurious, and that another cemetery was indispensable to the health and morals of the inhabitants.

Should the Committee require any further information, or the attendance of myself, or any other party to give evidence before them, I am directed by the mayor to acquaint you, that every facility shall be afforded for that purpose; but at the same time to mention, that there is no fund in the borough out of which the expenses of parties attending to give evidence could be defrayed.

I have, &c.

Charles E. Deacon, Town Clerk.

John Innocent, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Sheffield, 31 March 1842.

ALLOW a stranger to thank you for your success in the House of Commons, so far as to obtain the appointment of a Committee to inquire into the state of interments in large towns, and I trust you will ultimately succeed in giving to the country such a Report as will convince all of the diabolical and unhealthful system of burial in the midst of large towns.

Having paid some attention to the subject, I shall be happy to render you any assistance that I can with regard to this town, by obtaining any information you may think will be useful.

I am, &c.

John Innocent, Bookseller.

— Revel to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

11, Grosvenor-street, 28 March 1842.

IN reply to your note to Count Pollon, respecting the laws regulating, in Piedmont, the establishing of cemeteries, I am directed to apprise you that in his Sardinian Majesty's dominions the supreme court of law in each province, called the Senate, is invested with the uncontrolled power of granting or refusing the instituting new cemeteries, or regulating the conditions of their establishment. These courts always fix them at a distance from any town, village, or inhabited place. The cemeteries at Turin are at about one mile and a half or two miles from the town. Previous to granting a licence, the Senate deputed medical and other commissioners to inquire into the facts of the case, the spot intended for the new cemeteries, and decides upon their report.

I have, &c.

— Revel.

His Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Dear Sir,

Lambeth, 15 March 1842.

AS I understand the Bishop of London is in communication with you on this matter, I will not trouble you with any remarks, as his Lordship's connexion with the metropolis makes him completely acquainted with the inconvenience of the present system, and the degree in which the removal of the grave-yards will affect the interests and rights of the clergy.

I remain, &c.

W. Cantuar.

Charles Savery, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

King-square, Bristol, 18 March 1842.

HAVING for some time endeavoured to direct public attention to the disgraceful condition of city grave-yards, I have seen with much gratification your Parliamentary course upon

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this subject; and presuming you will not object to receiving information from any one respecting it, I trouble you with this note; first, to state that in Bristol, with more than 100,000 population, the churchyards, including sites of churches, only amount to about 14 acres, used for centuries, and crammed disgracefully with bodies; and secondly, to suggest to you the utility of moving for, and obtaining, a Parliamentary return from every city and town of above (say) 10,000 inhabitants, of the extent of churchyards; the time they have been used; and, if practicable, the average mortality; although this may be generally assumed from the statistical knowledge of average deaths in our population.

Such a return would, I think, put forcibly in juxtaposition the miserable condition of city grave-yards, and the number of corpses still added, corrupting in the midst of the living.

I am, &c.

*Charles Savery.**Hugh Reveley, Esq. J. P. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.*

Sir,

Bryn-y-gevin, Dolgelley, N. Wales, 17 March 1842.

OBSERVING that you are bringing in a Bill for improving the health of towns, by removing burials from their precincts, I have taken the liberty of troubling you with a few lines on a subject which is more immediately affecting the public health; namely, the baneful practice of burial within the body of the church.

There is a custom, which occasionally prevails in this parish, of burying corpses within a small distance of the pavement; and never within my memory (upwards of 40 years) even in a leaden coffin.

Now, surely, this is a practice that I trust you will see the propriety of putting down, by a clause in your very laudable Bill, as it is certainly most disgusting to the feelings of the congregation; and there can be no valid reason why it should be tolerated; and in truth I have heard it frequently complained of.

I have, &c.

*Hugh Reveley, J. P.**Charles Edward Blair, Esq. M. D. to William Sparling, Esq.*

Sir,

Colchester, 4 May 1842.

I AM directed by the Rev. Dr. Seaman to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 20th ult., and in reply, to say that the churchyard of this parish is in such a state as to render it exceedingly difficult to inter the dead. Large quantities of bones &c., are unavoidably disturbed on the occasion of every funeral.

I beg also to state as a medical man, that it is most desirable for the public health, that the dead should no longer be continued to be interred so immediately amongst the living.

I am &c.,

Charles Edward Blair, M. D.
Churchwarden of St. James.*W. Sparling, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.*

Sir,

Colchester, 25 May 1842.

THE mayor has caused inquiries to be made of the clergymen of the several parishes within this borough, but cannot ascertain that any inconvenience has arisen from want of sufficient room for interment except from the vicar of St. Peter's parish, which is very populous, and the parish of St. Runwald; those burying-grounds appear to be much crowded, and are considered by the incumbents of those respective parishes to be very unwholesome.

The parish of St. James, with a large population, is also similarly circumstanced. And as the report from that parish is signed by a physician, who is churchwarden, the mayor has requested me to inclose it for the information of the Committee.

I am, &c.

*W. Sparling, Town Clerk.**Thomas Verner, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.*

Sir,

Belfast, 17 May 1842.

IN answer to your letter of the 7th ult., relating to the health of towns and the preventing of interments within their precincts, I beg to state that for some years past no interments have been permitted to take place in this town.

I would however observe that the burial-grounds in the neighbourhood are totally insufficient for the mortality that must necessarily occur in a town such as Belfast. Its population, which already is of no inconsiderable amount, continues greatly to increase its numbers each succeeding year, and it is with the greatest difficulty, that although several of them have been much increased in size within a short space of time, the required accommodation can be found in any of the surrounding churchyards. That which is termed the new burial-ground, and is now bordering on the confines of the borough, will very shortly, from

from the great extension of the town in that direction, be brought within its limits, and already there is scarce a vacant spot for a grave to be found within its walls.

I should say there are few towns in Ireland so ill provided for in this respect as is Belfast.

I have, &c.

Thomas Verner, Sovereign.

H. C. Stenton, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Southwell, 10 March 1842.

IN "The Times" of this morning I perceive you have introduced the alarming and revolting condition of our churchyards to the attention of the House of Commons.

I send you herewith a notice of a pamphlet I have published on the subject. If you cannot procure a copy, and will let me know that you wish to see it, I will send you one.

I trust, in your proposed alteration, whatever it may be, you will not restrict it to the metropolis. The condition of the churchyards in large towns is dreadful. Our churchyard in Nottingham is so very full, the authorities have, I hear, been compelled to close it for the present.

My attention was in the first instance attracted to the subject in a very painful manner. I went to St. Margaret's, Westminster, to look at the place where a relative had been buried a short time before. I found the grave violated, the tablet removed. I therefore determined to do all I could to remove the horrid and revolting practice now adopted.

Though a perfect stranger to you, Sir, may I ask the favour of your forwarding a copy of the Bill when it is printed?

I shall be most happy to give you any information, or assistance, I am able; and I most sincerely hope your endeavours to abate the nuisance may be crowned with success. My direction is "Henry Cawdron Stenton, solicitor, Southwell, Notts."

I am, &c.

H. C. Stenton.

Thomas Gutteridge, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Birmingham, 6 May 1842.

If your inquiries in other quarters have not already elicited all the information you desire, I shall be happy to furnish you with whatever it may be in my power to collect, particularly the extent of burying-ground in this town, the number of interments, the influence on public health by vapour or contamination of the water springs, and, by inference from these, the considerations to be borne in mind in choosing new places for depositing the dead.

I beg leave to suggest, as a subject well worthy of inquiry, the extent to which chemistry may be made available in retarding decomposition and diminishing the noxious effluvia and the defilement of the wells.

I have, &c.

Thomas Gutteridge.

J. Innocent, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Sheffield, 6 May 1842.

I HAVE stated below the principal part of what I can state respecting Sheffield; and if you think it would be at all useful, it is of course at your service. It is not my wish to exaggerate, but you may rely on the statement. If you wish for the number of interments, or statistics of any kind, I will forward them.

It is my opinion that all grave-yards and burial-grounds in the midst of a large population ought to be closed, and I can assure you that in this town there is a very general feeling of the kind with respect to our parish churchyard; and one principal cause of interments being continued by the public, or rather I should say the poor people, is, they have not the means of purchasing new graves in the beautiful cemetery and out-churchyards, from the great depression in our trade at present.

I am, &c.

J. Innocent, Mayor.

That the parish churchyard, Sheffield, is in the centre of the town, surrounded by retail shops, offices, and respectable private dwellings; that graves are continually opened, from which offensive smells are emitted, especially in particular parts of the burial-ground; and at one corner resides a family who are so annoyed as to be under the necessity of keeping their windows constantly closed. I am myself often obliged to give orders for my windows to be shut when the grave-digger is at work, and the wind from the south. On the south side the land is very wet, and frequently buckets of black water of a most pernicious and unpleasant odour are emptied at or near to the principal street of the town. It is not unusual to see old coffins, in which bodies appear to be in a state of decomposition, taken out of graves, and secreted in what is termed the bone-hole, until a funeral has taken place, in order to make room for another interment, where scarcely it is possible to deposit another body, so crowded are many and most of the graves. I frequently see human skulls and bones strewn about the grave-yard in a most disgusting manner, and very often graves

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are opened only just deep enough to cover the coffins. I can only account for this, that either the parties were too poor to pay the full fee of interment or that the grave was full.

That St. Paul's churchyard is in a thickly populated part of the town of Sheffield, and the land there is also very wet, and when graves are opened much annoyance is experienced by the inhabitants. In the summer, after a heavy shower of rain, the nuisance of the drains into public street-channels is intolerable, so much so, that one of our most active and respectable magistrates has complained.

That St. George's churchyard is situated in one of the best parts of the town, but this grave-yard is a complete nuisance to the tenants of the respectable dwellings around it; and I have often heard one of our most respectable medical practitioners complain of having to pass this, as one of the greatest nuisances to the public health in the town of Sheffield.

C. Farran, M.D. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

44, York-street, Dublin, 30 April 1842.

I BEG to acknowledge the receipt, on the 21st instant, of your favour, dated the 7th, and shall as briefly as possible state to you the views I entertain on the subject of "interments within the precincts of towns." Without occupying your time by discussing the various grounds taken by different authors on the meaning of the words contagion and infection, it will be sufficient to state that the principle denoted by either of these terms is of such a very subtle nature that it has been found impossible to detect its presence in the atmosphere, even in those places well known to be generally fatal to any person who may be subjected to its influence.

The invasion of cholera, a disease highly aggravated by the neglect of those salutary precautions of ventilation, cleanliness, &c., and when neglect was superinduced by the dissemination of those dangerous doctrines. It was at this period that means of precaution were adopted to prevent its spreading; among others, that of interring the mass of victims in the burying-grounds outside the city, and these being speedily filled, were closed, and have so continued.

It has been vainly thought that when the body has been committed to the tomb all disease will moulder with it. We have many instances to prove the contrary to be the case: even when it has lain for years, and returned to its kindred dust, on being disturbed and exposed to the air, the disease springs up, renovated as it were by the rest it enjoyed in the grave, to recommence its havoc. We have the example which Eyam affords; in this place the plague broke out afresh from the inadvertent opening of a grave, after a repose of 91 years, and cut off to the extent of four-fifths of the inhabitants of a populous town. But I shall trespass on your time no further than by observing, that although, from the very subtle nature of miasm, it would be difficult to prove that a person received it at any one particular spot, still it would be presumptuous to deny its existence either in the abodes of wretchedness and want, or in the precincts of the grave; and on this ground I can have no hesitation in affirming as my conviction, that the atmosphere in the vicinity of our churches must be considerably vitiated by the constant turning up of decomposing animal matter, probably saturated with miasm, particularly when the grave-yards are walled in, and thus a free circulation of air prevented. I feel equally convinced that many disastrous terminations to life could be fairly attributed to the attendance on funerals in crowded churchyards. That this evil has greatly increased since population has made such rapid strides, is quite evident, and in my mind calls loudly for the intervention of the Legislature to put an end to such a pernicious practice as the interment of bodies within the precincts of towns. Wishing you every success in your philanthropic exertions,

I remain, &c.

C. Farran, M.D.

G. A. Walker, Esq. to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M.P.

Sir,

3 May 1842.

ALTHOUGH I feel convinced that I have established by abundant evidence every allegation contained in my petition, and am sensible that the investigation has been carried on with the strictest impartiality and most unwearied patience, I am yet anxious to draw your attention, and that of the other gentlemen forming the Committee, to some very interesting facts connected with the inquiry, which seem too important to be omitted; and to a few practical observations upon the evidence adduced.

Mr. Jones, undertaker, residing in Devereux-court, Essex-street, Strand, placed a body in a leaden coffin and the other usual cases, and deposited it in the catacombs of Kensall Green cemetery. It had remained there about three months, when he was informed by the secretary of the cemetery company that "the coffin leaked, and that he must see to it immediately." Mr. Jones, accompanied by his assistants, went to the cemetery, removed the body from the horizontal stone resting-place, which was sealed very carefully at the ends and round the sides. It was necessary to remove the lid of the outer coffin and turn out the body, enclosed, as is usual, in the shell and leaden coffin; these were reversed, when it was found that a small hole existed at the under part of the leaden coffin. This hole was enlarged with a gimblet by one of the assistants, Mr. Thomas Moxley; the gas which escaped extinguished a lighted candle three distinct times, and he was rendered incapable of following his occupation for several weeks.

Mr.

Mr. William Morgan, undertaker, 30, Russell-court, Drury-lane, was employed in making room in a brick vault, in the churchyard of —, for the reception of the remains of Admiral —. He was compelled to arrange several bodies, which had been deposited in lead, in this vault. During the operation he was obliged to stand upon the top of some coffins; these gave way, and the gas produced by the decomposition of the bodies enclosed within them escaped. He was instantly sensible of a coppery taste in his mouth, with dryness and huskiness of the throat. He had confusion of intellect, extreme pain in the head, giddiness, trembling, particularly of the lower extremities, and immediate sickness upon the first inspiration of the gas. His three assistants, who were nearer the mouth of the tomb, were affected in a similar manner, but in a less degree. Every man within the reach of the malaria was instantly seized with vomiting. They escaped as quickly as possible from the vault into the open air, supporting each other by the arms. Mr. Morgan was conveyed home, took to his bed, had what his medical man, Dr. Davis, termed "a malignant typhus fever," and was 13 weeks unable to follow his employment. He was previously to this exposure to the exhalations of the dead in excellent health, but is now, at the expiration of 12 years, and at the age of 45, completely shattered in constitution.

My pupil, Mr. J. H. Sutton, accompanied by an individual for many years occasionally employed in the office of burying the dead, entered the vaults of St. — Church, and a coffin "cruelly bloated," as one of the grave-diggers expressed it, was chosen for the purpose of obtaining a portion of its gaseous contents. The body, placed upon the top of an immense number of others, had, by the date of the inscription on the plate, been buried upwards of eight years. The instant the small instrument employed had entered the coffin, a most horribly offensive gas issued forth in large quantities. Mr. S., who unfortunately respired a portion of this vapour, would have fallen but for the support afforded by a pillar in the vault. He was instantly seized with a suffocating difficulty of breathing (as though he had respired an atmosphere impregnated with sulphur); he had giddiness, extreme trembling, and prostration of strength. In attempting to leave the vault he fell from debility; upon reaching the external air, he had nausea, subsequently vomiting, accompanied with frequent flatulent eructations, highly fetid, and having the same character as the gas inspired. He reached home with difficulty, and was confined to his bed during seven days. The pulse, which was scarcely to be recognized at the wrist, although the heart beat so tumultuously that its palpitations might be observed beneath the covering of the bed clothes, ranged between 110 and 125 per minute, during the first three days; for many days after this exposure his gait was very vacillating.

The man who accompanied Mr. Sutton was affected in a precisely similar way, and was incapacitated from work for some days. His symptoms were less in degree; prostration of strength, pains in the head, giddiness, and general involuntary action of the muscles, particularly of the upper limbs, continued for several days afterwards. These symptoms had been experienced, more or less, by this person on many previous occasions, but never to so great a degree. I have myself suffered from the same cause, and been compelled to keep my room upwards of a week.

Mr. Mason, a patient of mine, some years since, was exposed to a similar influence. A stout, muscular man died in his house, in the month of June, after a short illness; on bringing the body down stairs Mr. Mason was instantly affected with giddiness, prostration of strength, and extreme lassitude. He had a peculiar metallic taste in the mouth, which continued some days. He believes that his health has been deranged from this cause.

A grave-digger was employed to obtain a portion of gas from a body interred in lead, in the vaults of St. —. The man operated incautiously; he was struck to the earth, and found lying upon his back; he was recovered with considerable difficulty.

On the 10th of June 1839, I called to attend a widow named Adams, housekeeper to a gentleman residing in Gray's-Inn-square. Some days before my arrival she had been attacked with pain, which she referred to the region of the liver. The pulse, on my first visit, was weak and easily compressible, ranging between 120 and 130. She complained of no pain; her heart beat tumultuously; the tongue was brown and dry, and protruded with difficulty; her general symptoms were those of action without power. I carefully watched the case, but notwithstanding all my efforts, my patient sunk on the 22d of the same month. She had been a regular attendant at Enon Chapel. She died of typhus, accompanied with symptoms of extreme putrescency. Can the cause be problematical?

Four bodies had been placed in a tomb in the Eastern Cemetery, into which it was found water had penetrated; the first body had been interred in February 1836, the last in April 1839. Two grave-diggers, employed in the removal of the water and the dead bodies, were from the commencement of their labour struck with the fetid odour given off, yet they continued their work. They had removed a large quantity of water and two coffins, when in attempting to seize the third their feet slipped, and the water remaining in the tomb was violently agitated by their fall; one of the men fell instantly lifeless; his comrade made several efforts to raise him; at the third attempt he fell, deprived of consciousness, upon the body of his unfortunate companion; assistance being quickly rendered, the men were withdrawn from the tomb. The grave-digger who first fell was dead, the other, notwithstanding the extreme attentions of two medical men, remained unconscious during six hours; for a space of a month afterwards he suffered greatly from difficulty of breathing and weakness of the legs, which in the course of the same month were affected with a general desquamation.—*Annales d'Hygiène.*

In the month of August, in the year 1835, a vault was opened in the aisle of the church in Little Berkhamstead, Herts; the body of a child had been placed in this vault about

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15 months previously; upon removing the stone a peculiarly offensive smell was emitted; the vault was found nearly full of water, in which the coffin was floating. My informant, the then sexton, Benjamin Smith, now living No. 8, Princes-street, Drury-lane, was instantly affected with nausea, followed with diarrhœa, extensive trembling, prostration of strength, and loss of appetite, and these symptoms continued some weeks. He believes that his health has seriously suffered in consequence. The bricklayer and labourer employed in opening the vault and taking out the water were also affected; and Mrs. Smith, whilst cleaning the inside of the church, several days afterwards, was sensible of a very offensive odour, which was perceptible during Divine service on the Sunday following.

William Jackson, aged 29, a strong robust man, was employed in digging a grave in the Savoy; he struck his spade into a coffin, from which an extremely offensive odour arose; he reached his home, in Clement's-lane, with difficulty, complained to his wife that he had had a turn; the stream which issued from the coffin had made him very ill; he had pain in the head, heaviness, extreme debility, lachrymation, violent palpitation of the heart, universal trembling, with vomiting. His wife stated that the cadaverous smell proceeding from his clothes affected her with trembling, and produced headache; she mentioned that she had been before affected in a similar way, although more slightly, from the same cause. Jackson recovered in a few days, although considerably debilitated. Compelled by the poverty of his circumstances he attempted, seven days afterwards, to dig a grave in Russell-court, Drury-lane. In this ground, long saturated with dead, it was impossible, without disturbing previous occupants, to select a grave; a recently-buried coffin was struck into; the poor fellow was instantly rendered powerless, and dragged out of the grave by John Gray, to whom he was an assistant. Jackson died thirty-six hours afterwards. This case occurred during the visitation of the spasmodic cholera, and his death was attributed to that cause.

Mr. Paul Graham, residing in my immediate neighbourhood, had buried a child in Russell-court, Drury-lane. An acquaintance of his was buried in the same ground a few weeks subsequently, and as the survivors had a suspicion that his body had been exhumed, an undertaker was employed to ascertain the fact. Mr. G., accompanied by another person, was present during the time the lid of the coffin was partially removed; a most offensive effluvia was emitted; he was affected with instant vomiting, headache, confusion of intellect, prostration of strength, and trembling; the other person became unwell from the same cause; the undertaker had carefully averted his head during the partial removal of the lid of the coffin, and thus escaped its effects. Mr. G. stated to me, that no sensation of disgust could have occasioned these symptoms, as the body was not exposed. He has, to this day, a vivid recollection of the offensive odour.

A grave-digger was employed, a short time ago, in the ground of St. Clement Danes, Strand. He had excavated a family grave to the depth of 16 feet, and when the coffin was to have been lowered, he went down by the boards on the sides to the bottom of the grave, and had what is called a turn: he felt as if he had his mouth over brimstone (the taste was sulphury); he called out but was not heard; he then motioned with his hands, and a rope was lowered down; he seized hold of the rope, and was pulled up to the surface; he was "queer for a day or two."

Mr. Tumbleton, a highly respectable undertaker, of No. 4, Warwick-street, Golden-square, informed me that about 11 years ago, he attended the funeral of an Odd Fellow, on a Sunday, at Enon Chapel, Clement's-lane, Strand; he smelled a disgusting stench; he was seized, within 40 hours, with a violent pain in the back of the left hand, continuing about an hour; had cold chills within half an hour afterwards, took a glass of rum-and-water, and went to bed; he arose in the morning very ill, and consulted Dr. Burnett of Golden-square, who ordered him home, and told him that he would give him three weeks before he got up again. This prognostic was true to a certain extent, for the patient kept his bed nine weeks, with a malignant typhus and all its concomitant evils.

The following important fact was communicated to me by one of the parties immediately concerned:

A lady died on September 7th, 1832, and was buried in the rector's vault, in St. — Church, on the 14th. The undertaker had occasion to go down into the vault, near the communion table; he had done the work of the church nearly 30 years, and was well acquainted with the localities; the grave-digger had neglected to take up the slab which covered the vault; the undertaker being pressed for time, with the assistance of the son of the deceased, removed the stone. The two descended, taking with them a light, which was almost instantly extinguished upon reaching the lower step of the vault; both were simultaneously seized with sickness, giddiness, trembling, and confusion of intellect; the undertaker raised his friend, who had fallen on the floor, and with difficulty dragged him out of the vault; he himself, although a man previously in excellent health, was seized with vomiting the next day, and for 12 months rejected his food; at the end of this period, after having been under the care of many medical men, he consulted Dr. James Johnson, from whom he derived great benefit; the doctor pronounced his case to be one of poisoning from mephitic gases. The patient is convinced that his health has been completely ruined from this cause; he is now obliged, after a lapse of seven years, to live entirely by rule. The young gentleman who was with him was subsequently under the care of many medical men upwards of two years; his principal symptoms, those of a slow poison, developed themselves gradually, but surely: he was attacked with obstinate ulcerations of the throat, which were not removed until more than two years had elapsed, although he had frequent change of air, and the best medical assistance that could be obtained.

In the month of June, in the year 1835, a woman died of typhus fever, in the upper part of the house No. 17, White-Horse Yard, Drury-lane. The body, which was buried on the fourth day, was brought down a narrow staircase. Lewis Swalthey, shoemaker, then living with his family on the second floor of this house, and now residing at No. 5, Princes-street, Drury-lane, during the time the coffin was placed for a few minutes, in a transverse position, in the doorway of his room, in order that it might pass the more easily into the street, was sensible of a most disgusting odour which escaped from the coffin. He complained, almost immediately afterwards, of a peculiar coppery taste, which he described as being situated at the base of the tongue and posterior part of the throat; in a few hours afterwards he had, at irregular intervals, slight sensations of chilliness, which, before the next sunset, had merged into repeated shiverings of considerable intensity. That evening he was confined to his bed; he passed through a most severe form of typhus fever; at the expiration of the third week he was removed to the fever hospital, and recovered. He had been in excellent health up to the instant when he was exposed to this malaria.

During the demolition of the old church of St. Dunstan's, the dead in the vaults were removed. This was found to be a matter of some difficulty and much danger. Several of the labourers employed refused to continue the work; they were well supplied with brandy, and under the influence of a half-drunken excitement they effected their removal. William Mutton, a labourer employed, within a few hours after his exposure, complained of a nauseous taste in the mouth and throat, severe pain in the chest, accompanied with a cough; his skin subsequently became of a deep yellow tinge, and extremely harsh and dry. This man was at times so affected with the effluvia, that he was compelled to support himself against the wall of the vault. In removing the body of a man who had committed suicide, the gaseous exhalation was so powerful, that he was rendered unconscious for a considerable period. He invariably declared that this was the cause of his death.

Thomas Beale, 2, Cromwell-place, Little Shire-lane, a strong compactly-made man, aged 26, has been employed as grave-digger about four years. He was engaged, in the month of January 1840, in assisting William West, the beadle of St. Mary-le-Strand, to clean up the rector's vault, previous to the reception of the body of a deceased parishioner, who died 27th January 1840. The vault, a detached building, is entered by steps from the church-yard. Two of the men employed were sensible of a disgusting odour, which left a coppery taste in the throat. On the evening of the same day Beale had vomiting, cough, and considerable expectoration, and extreme lassitude during five or six days. Six days after this exposure he consulted me, in consequence of a peculiar eruption, which first attacked the breast, and subsequently (within two days) spread over the entire surface of the body. On the 14th day from the appearance of this eruption, a very painful enlargement of the glands in the left axilla, and the groin of the same side, occurred, both of which suppurated extensively during six weeks. He has now, May 5th, 1840, the remains of the eruption over large portions of both arms. I produce this case to show an example of the same poison producing the same results, for William West, who died of typhoid fever, was affected in precisely the same manner, excepting that he had no glandular enlargement. He imprudently entered the vault soon after it was opened for the purposes of ventilation. After his return home he complained to his wife that he had a peculiar, a coppery taste in his mouth. Within a few hours afterwards he complained of pain in the head, nausea, loss of appetite, and debility. In a few days he was attacked by an eruption, which first appeared over the chest, and in a few days had covered the entire body. He remained a considerable time in a very debilitated state; and it was the opinion of his widow that it was in consequence of his imprudent exposure to the exhalations passing off from the bodies in this vault.

The above facts fully demonstrate the insecurity and danger arising from inhumation, even in coffins lined with lead, and deposited in vaults.

The following observations are respectfully submitted as corroborative of the evidence furnished to the Committee during the investigation.

The gases given off during putrefaction distend the leaden coffins to such a degree that to prevent their bursting, it is necessary frequently to bore a hole in them, to allow the gases to escape. Sometimes the gas is burnt, and the combustion continues from 15 to 20 minutes, with a faint blue flame.

That carbonic acid is generated is rendered extremely probable by the fact that it instantly extinguishes light; that it falls to the bottom of the grave when dug; and that the grave-diggers are in the habit (as stated by the sexton at Aldgate) of letting down empty buckets into the grave, and thus drawing up the gas, which they state they pour out like water on the surface.

All the sudden deaths which have taken place appear to have been by asphyxia. When the gas does not immediately destroy life it produces first an alarming sense of depression, and loss of muscular power, to this succeeds a state of slight reaction; the first shock so paralyses the bodily powers, and deteriorates the circulating fluid, that neither are equal, the one to bear or the other to keep up the increased stimulation induced by the reaction of the system. This second stage corresponds to the febrile stage of typhus fever, which it closely resembles, and is attended by vomiting and purging, with sometimes flatulent eructations of a highly fetid character. Then comes the stage of exhaustion, which depends on the quantity and recency of the gas respired, and the powers of resistance of the person attacked. In a recent case the symptoms amounted merely to debility, loss of appetite,

Correspondence.

and supposed engorgement, with torpid action of the liver, conjoined with sickness, oppression of breathing, and a coppery disagreeable taste in the mouth, which continued some days.

In the cases mentioned in Cyclop. Pract. Medicine, p. 356, two men were instantly attacked from the effluvia of a grave, and died within a few days. The symptoms were those of plague, which Dr. Armstrong says is the typhus of this country; and indeed the analogy between the diseases of this class is so great that it is not unreasonable to suppose a similar cause for all, allowance being made for climate, habits of living, &c., which will often occasion some remarkable dissimilarity in diseases apparently the same.

Indisputable facts prove, that gaseous exhalations from dead bodies have in many instances seriously injured health, and in others immediately destroyed life. In warmer climates than our own many instances have occurred; in London within the last four years five lives have been openly sacrificed.

The more deeply a body is placed in the earth the more slowly will putrefaction proceed; yet layers of earth of several feet in depth can no more intercept the transmission of gas into the atmosphere than they can by their density prevent the infiltration of water; the one ascends, the other descends, through a permeable medium. Gases, indeed, are evolved with such force, and in such quantity from bodies placed in leaden coffins in vaults (under a medium temperature), that the lids of such coffins, notwithstanding the atmospheric pressure become convex, and sometimes are rent asunder, and the gases thus and otherwise evolved become diffused and mixed with the atmosphere, and enter the lungs in every inspiration.

A grave-yard presents an excellent absorbing surface, its dark colour and its loose texture affording the conditions most favourable for this process; hence during the day the superficial stratum of earth freely absorbing the heat emitted from the sun, will have its temperature thereby raised considerably above that of the superincumbent atmosphere. Now as heat is freely communicated from one body to another in contact with it (by conduction), until an equilibrium of temperature be established, the layer or stratum of atmospheric air lying immediately above or upon the surface of the earth, receives from the latter portions of the solar heat which it had previously absorbed, and being thus rendered specifically lighter, rises (as a balloon containing air rarefied by heat) to the higher regions of the atmosphere; its place being immediately occupied by another portion of cold air, which, in like manner, becomes heated and ascends, thus establishing a continual upward current.

The effects of such currents, most powerfully assisted by the atmospheric pressure of 2,160 lbs. upon every square foot of surface, and thus aided by heat and moisture, the absolute essentials in the putrefactive process, amalgamating the more solid compounds with the soil, and dissipating the gaseous products through the atmosphere, cannot be misunderstood, and ought to be fully appreciated; for it is difficult, if not impossible, to calculate the distance to which such emanations may extend: and on the dilution, quality, quantity, and, I believe, the age of the gas and the power of resistance of the individuals exposed to its influence, will depend the risk to the persons who inhale it.

During night the earth no longer receives heat from the sun, and since the conditions most favourable for absorption of heat are likewise those which confer the greatest radiating power, the heat previously absorbed is soon lost by radiation; the upward current ceases; gases eliminated from the grave-yards, vaults, &c. distributed in patches in the midst of human dwellings all over London, obey the impulse of gravity, that is, if lighter than the atmosphere, they ascend; if heavier, they remain diffused through its lower strata, and inflict especial injury upon the inhabitants living in houses in the immediate neighbourhood of grave-yards, more especially where sunk areas, as in my neighbourhood, abut upon the burial-places.

In certain states of the atmosphere, and early in the morning, the condensed gases given off from the grave-yards in my locality have been seen, and the peculiar putrefactive odour of the dead, easily recognizable. I have frequently reflected with mingled feelings of disgust and pity, upon the miserable, cautious, trimming policy of individuals, who, although ignorant and uninstructed in a matter of such vital import, yet refuse to be enlightened. We have a society for the prevention of cruelty to animals, societies for almost every other object than the protection of the health of the animal man. Yet it is not only cruel, but highly impolitic, to expose masses of human beings to influences that must injure their health, deteriorate their powers for industrious purposes, render them dependent upon their friends or the parish for pecuniary or other assistance, and thus—in consequence of primary neglect—the most unjustifiable experiments are made upon tissues or organs which may never recover their original tone or function.

The experience of the wisest men of all ages has gone far to prove that the mental and moral qualities of a people materially depend on their physical organization; that causes injuriously affecting the latter, must surely and inevitably blunt the susceptibility, and impair the energies of the former; and since the physical being can be modified and altered by varying the external influences acting on the population, the importance, nay, imperative necessity, of due sanitary regulations for the conservation of the public health must be a paramount and primary consideration in the projection of any scheme of social improvement.

It is my settled conviction that the subject of the burial of the dead, to which the Members of the Committee have paid such marked and close attention, is one great, if not the greatest, source of disease and death in crowded communities. Grave after grave is dug in soil frequently so overcharged with putrescent animal matter, that it is impossible to prevent

vent the corruption of the atmosphere from the exhalations unavoidably arising (more especially during the warm season) from the frequent upturning of the earth.

Correspondence.

In many instances bodies are placed one above another, and side by side, until the accumulated masses of corruption have reached a depth of 25 or 30 feet, the topmost coffin being but a few inches from the surface. The condition of the majority of the grave-yards and burying-places in London has been such for many years, that they have not been capable of receiving the annual mortality. There is scarcely a single grave-yard, vault, or receptacle for the dead in London that is not overcharged. The burial-places of the metropolis and of the provinces have been under no superintendence; public bodies or private individuals have been at liberty to allot grounds or to choose depositories for the reception of the dead, without limitation as to number, without control as to locality or the disposal of the charge with which they were intrusted, and it is proved that individuals have availed themselves to an alarming and most injurious extent of the ignorance or poverty of survivors.

In certain localities, the most shameful practices are pursued by individuals, who (in the absence of peremptory legal enactments to the contrary) mutilate and displace bodies in various stages of decomposition, to the certain deterioration and destruction of the health of the living, and it is worthy, Sir, the serious attention of your Committee that these acts are perpetrated in burying-places in densely populated districts; neighbourhoods, indeed, in which the filthy, ill-ventilated condition of the streets and houses is such, that any additional causes of the corruption of the atmosphere should not be permitted to exist.

I have, &c.

Geo. Alfred Walker.

Wm. Prout to W. A. Mackinnon, Esq. M. P.

Sir,

Sackville-street, 25th May 1842.

THE subject of putrid exhalations from churchyards has not particularly occupied my attention; but there can be no doubt that the effects of such exhalations on the health of individuals exposed to them, particularly in crowded localities, is most pernicious. I have no hesitation, therefore, in expressing my decided opinion, that the interment of the dead among the living should be no longer permitted; and that public cemeteries should be established in such situations, and at such distances from large towns, as to prevent the possibility of their becoming, at any future time, surrounded by dwellings.

I have, &c.

Wm. Prout.

To the Committee of the House of Commons, on the Interment of Bodies.

THE Society of Friends has always been very careful respecting the mode of interment in its burial-grounds. It possesses very sufficient accommodation; and on religious grounds, as well as a due regard to the comfort of relations and friends attending funerals, and that distinctness which has been freely accorded to its peculiar usage on such occasions, it desires to be excepted in any recommendation which the Committee on the "interment of bodies" may think necessary in furtherance of a more suitable public provision than at present exists. The Society, therefore, desires the opportunity of furnishing evidence on the state of its burial-grounds, in such places as may be selected for primary attention.

The Society's burial-grounds in the metropolis are all of them in districts which were suburban when they were first used. They are of that size and extent which leave a space for the beneficial circulation of air in the surrounding locality. In comparison with other burial-grounds, the interments are unfrequent, and are of an average clear depth of seven or eight feet from the coffin, which amply secures the public safety. Except the expense of digging the grave, no charge is permitted throughout the Society, consequently the inducement of pecuniary advantage for the use of the ground is unknown; but the Society is constantly liable to expense in its strict care of the walls, and in the oversight which is necessary for the neatness, decency, and order of the premises respectively.

With respect to other large places, it may be stated briefly, that at Bristol the Society has three burial-grounds; in Leeds one, recently much enlarged, at considerable expense; and in other large places adequate provision.

In any place or district to which the Committee of the House of Commons may desire to call attention, or concerning which the necessity with regard to the public safety can be demonstrated to be urgent and imperative, the Society cordially invites inquiry and the inspection of its burial-grounds, while it offers no opposition to what may be demanded by the necessity of the case; although it can but deprecate any expedient which, in its operation, interferes with religious liberty, or induces a valid objection on conscientious grounds.

Correspondence.

STATEMENT relating to INTERMENTS in the Metropolitan Burial Grounds of the SOCIETY of FRIENDS.

	Average Annual Number.	Capacity of the Ground for Graves.	Time required to fill.
			Years.
Bunhill-Fields - - - - -	26 $\frac{1}{2}$	3,429	129
Whitechapel - - - - -	9	1,993	221
Ratcliff - - - - -	3 $\frac{1}{2}$	364	104
Long-Lane, Bermondsey - - - - -	17 $\frac{1}{2}$	718	41
Stoke-Newington - - - - -	5	520	104

The capacity for the numbers above stated is on a computation of 18 square feet for each individual, including children, in the average. At Peckham, Croydon, Tottenham, and Winchmore-hill, there are also smaller burial-grounds, convenient as well for the Society in the metropolis as for those portions of it that are resident near those places.

The Society has also purchased several decayed houses near its ground at Bunhill-fields, with a view to improvement of the premises; but is discouraged near its proceeding: the houses were occupied by a very low class of persons.

Jacob Hagen, East Dulwich, Surrey.

Thomas Norton, Peckham Rye.

Sam. Cash, Peckham.

William Cash, Peckham Rye.

I N D E X.

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Modes of obviating the expense of burying in distant cemeteries described, *Knapp* 923-927—The expense to a populous parish of obtaining a burial-ground out of its precincts and conveying the bodies of the poor would be very trifling, *Hewson* 1899—There is no reason why the poor should not be buried in the cemeteries as well as those that can afford to pay; it might be done by contract, *Lane* 2313-2316—Arrangements might be made by parishes or unions with the cemeteries for the burial of paupers, *Russell* 2490-2492—A cheap and decent hearse might be provided for the use of the poor, *Bishop of London* 2948.

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5. *Evidence respecting Cemeteries in Foreign Countries :*

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See also *Beaumont, Barber. Burial Fees. Clergy, 1, 2, 3. Dissenters. Dunstan's, St. (Stepney.) Frankfort. Leonard's, St. (Bromley.) Mahomedans. Margaret, St. (Westminster.) Paris. Spain. Stepney. Victoria Park. Whitechapel.*

Chamberlain, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Gravedigger at St. Clement's; dreadful state of this churchyard; practice with regard to the destruction of coffins and bodies on the occasion of fresh burials, 2341-2346, 2349-2365, 2402-2405—Illness of witness from his employment as gravedigger, 2347, 2348, 2366-2380, 2385-2531—He has been driven to drinking by his employment, 2381-2384—His wife is afflicted with the same complaint that he is; the doctors term the complaint catching, 2392—Emolument derived by the sexton from the burials, 2393-2401.

Chambers, Dr. Letter from W. F. Chambers, M. D., to the Chairman of the Committee, dated 2 May 1842, respecting the effect of burying-grounds on their vicinities, *App.* 196.

Champneys, Rev. William Weldon. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Rector of Whitechapel, 2860. Although witness has had no personal experience of any injurious effect, nor felt any personal inconvenience from interments in his own neighbourhood, he has joined in a petition to Parliament, that interments should take place outside of large towns, 2861

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- Champneys*, Rev. *William Weldon*. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.
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- Probable objection of the ratepayers to a rate for the purchase of a new cemetery, 2873-2875—If a sum were so raised, a portion of the ground should be set apart for Dissenters, 2878. 2884-2889—In whom, in the event of a legislative enactment, the parochial authority for purchasing land and superintending all the necessary arrangements should be vested, 2879, 2880—Where the parish is sufficiently large to have a cemetery of its own, the clergyman of the parish church and his assistant should have the jurisdiction, 2881-2883—The church of Whitechapel is a rectory; the income is raised partly from fees, and partly from the tithe, 2891—The principal part of the parish clerk's emolument is derived from the burials, 2893, 2894—The fees are heavy for interment in the church, 2895, 2895*.
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- Chloride of Lime*. If chloride of lime could be introduced into all coffins it would be beneficial, but the feeling would be against it, *Walker* 896-898—Effect of chloride of lime in removing noxious smells in sick rooms, *Brodie* 2917.
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- Church of England Burial-grounds* (Metropolis). The Church of England burial-grounds are as crowded as those of Dissenters, *Whittaker* 546.
- Church Building Commissioners*. The Church Building Commissioners may apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a mandamus to compel parishes to purchase additional burial-ground; cases of Watford and Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire, *Bishop of London* 2968, 2969—Acts regulating the powers of the Church Building Commissioners in establishing new burial-grounds on the application of the parish authorities, *Ib.* 3006-3012—The consolidation of the Church Building Acts is in progress, and the Commissioners would willingly undertake the responsibility of determining in what town new burial-grounds should be provided, *Ib.* 3013, 3014.—See also *Catacombs*.
- Churches*. Opinion of the Bishop of London that interments under churches are objectionable, noticed, *Rep. v.*—Inconvenience of burying in churches; instances at St. Michael's, Wood-street, and St. Michael's, Queenhithe; at Bishopsgate no real inconvenience has been felt from burials, *Russell* 2444. 2455—Interment in churches is likely to be injurious to the health of the inhabitants, *Baker* 2599, 2600—Witness is not aware of any evil being produced by burying under churches and chapels; in what the burying in churches originated; within the last century it has been prohibited in a great portion of the large capitals of Europe, *Milman* 2734—No bodies should be allowed to be buried under churches, except in leaden coffins of a certain thickness, *Bishop of London* 2948.
- See also *Leaden Coffins*.
- Churchyards*. Moral and religious influence of burials round a church, *Abdy* 1318—It is generally felt as a nuisance to have overcrowded burying-grounds in country places, *Hewson* 1906.
- Grave-yards in large towns, under good management, are beneficial, as they leave large open spaces, *Tyler* 1468—If only a few bodies are buried in the open grounds of large cities, the space left prevents building and assists ventilation, *Copland* 2667—An area for ventilation, unobstructed by buildings, is a compensation, as far as it goes, for the purposes to which a churchyard is applied, *Brodie* 2930.—See also *City*.
- City of London*. The burial-grounds in the City are very small, and burials are not very frequent there, *Carr* 704—Some of the churchyards in the City are far better than others; some are not as they ought to be; state of several of them described, *Harvey* 1805-1831.
- Ciudad Rodrigo*. Effect observed by Sir J. Macgregor at Ciudad Rodrigo as produced upon the health of the troops by the burial of the dead, *Copland* 2660.
- Clapham*. There are no funerals at Clapham on the Sunday; they would refuse to bury, *Abdy* 1338.
- Clare Market*. Statement as to the numerous deaths near Clare-market, and the assumed causes, *Irwin* 111-116—Bad drainage of Clare-market and the streets adjoining, *Ib.* 117-122.
- Clark*, Mr. Circumstances attending the burial of persons named Clark and Beasley at St. Clement Danes, *Eyles* 1189, 1190.

Clement's-lane Burial-ground. There is a burial-ground at the bottom of Clement's-lane, belonging to St. Clement Danes, *Irwin* 321, 322—Number of burials there weekly, *Lane*, 713-716—Witness has frequently attended patients in Clement's-lane; he has always considered it as an infected district, *Walker* 790—Offensive effluvia arising from the burial-ground called the Poor-ground at the bottom of Clement's-lane, *Ib.* 799.

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CLERGY :

1. *Whether the Management and Superintendence of Cemeteries should be vested in them.*
2. *Compensation which should be made to them, in the event of a Legislative Enactment for Interments out of Towns.*
3. *Their willingness to make some Sacrifice for the sake of an Improvement.*

1. *Whether the Management and Superintendence of Cemeteries should be vested in them:*

The authority for purchasing land or conducting the interment of paupers might be well vested in the minister and churchwardens for the time being, *Russell* 2493-2495—The power should be vested in the clergy in the event of a legislative enactment, *Milman* 2731-2733—Whether, while continuing to them their vested rights, it would be desirable to require from them the superintendence and direction of the cemeteries, *Robinson* 2818-2829.

Where a parish is large enough to have a cemetery of its own, the clergyman of the parish and his assistant should have the jurisdiction, *Champneys* 2881-2883—If cemeteries were parochial, the rights of the clergy would be preserved; witness recommended unions of parishes for this purpose ten years ago, *Bishop of London* 2965.

2. *Compensation which should be made to them in the event of a Legislative Enactment for Interments out of Towns:*

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If an Act were passed, prohibiting the burial of the dead in the metropolis, a rate of 1*d.* in the pound would not be sufficient to remunerate the clergy for any loss of dues, *Houghton* 1587, 1588—Difficulty of making a sufficient compensation to incumbents for loss of fees, *Hewson* 1900—The clergy are differently circumstanced in regard to fees; some have nothing but fees to live upon, *Russell* 2501—Mode in which the vested rights of the clergy and other parochial authorities might be secured, *Milman* 2777-2786—If cemeteries were opened without some such provision, the emoluments of the clergy of London would be half swept away, *Ib.* 2783-2792, 2793.

3. *Their willingness to make some Sacrifice for the sake of an Improvement:*

Opinion of the Bishop of London cited, that the clergy would be willing to make some sacrifice for the sake of so great an improvement as the burial of the dead out of towns, *Rep.* v.—The present incumbents would make some sacrifice, and it might be ensured at all events from their successors; care must be taken to leave them enough for the spiritual wants of the parish, *Bishop of London* 2953-2957.

The clergy would be willing to take from the cemeteries a fair average compensation for their precarious fees, *Bishop of London* 3028, 3029—Individually witness (rector of Bishopsgate), would gain if all bodies were buried in the cemeteries, and fees allowed to the clergy of the parishes where the bodies come from, *Russell* 2481-2483—The clergy would be disposed to agree to such an arrangement, *Ib.* 2484-2487—Any legislative enactment which did not interfere with the vested rights of the clergy would be agreeable to them, *Ib.* 2502.

The clergy will be obliged to examine the books of cemetery companies, in order to secure their fees, *Bishop of London* 2948.

See also *Burial Fees.* *Cemeteries.* *Effluvia.* *Highgate Cemetery.* *Kensal-green Cemetery.* *Leeds.* *Leonard's, St. (Bromley.)* *Monuments.* *Prohibition of Interments in Town.*

Coffins. Unnecessary expense of coffins, *Walker* 872, 873; *Harker* 1978, 1979—Wood of which coffins should be made; description of French coffins, *Ib.* 876-879.

See also *Decomposition of Bodies.* *Destruction of Coffins.* *Leadens Coffins.* *Wooden Coffins.*

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- Colchester.** Letter from Mr. W. Sparling, town clerk of Colchester, dated 25th May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information respecting the state of the parochial burying-grounds of that town, *App.* 206.
- Collier, George Frederick.** (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Medical man about this town, 2093-2095—The effluvia given from off the dead human body may be considered as one cause *inter alia* of fevers; it is likely to produce fevers of the low typhoid kind, 2096-2106. 2113, 2114. 2122—Why the openings from the vaults under the churches in the Strand to the public streets can scarcely be considered to be injurious to those who are passing by, 2107-2109—It commonly happens that people are injuriously affected in attending royal funerals, 2110-2112. 2115—Circumstances connected with cases of fever attended by witness, in the neighbourhood of Elim chapel, Fetter-lane, 2116-2121.
- Compensation.** See *Clergy*, 2, 3.
- Complimentary Fees.** Some arrangement should be made to secure the clergy a compensation, not only for the burial fees, but also what are called complimentary fees, *Bishop of London* 2948—If a union of parishes had a cemetery, with an officiating chaplain, the complimentary fees would be gradually discontinued, *Ib.* 2958-2960—The complimentary fees usually pass through the undertaker's hands; a less sum paid directly would be more satisfactory to both parties, *Ib.* 3015-3018.
- Connor, Dr.** Letter from Shewbridge Connor, M.D., dated 29th April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the churchyards, and prevalence of typhus fever in the town of Carlow, *App.* 197, 198.
- Consumption.** The gases produced by churchyards are a very exciting cause of consumption in this country, *Walker* 894.
- Copland, Edward Charles.** (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was a grave-digger in St. Ann's, Soho, 1369, 1370—Unhealthiness of the occupation of grave-digging illustrated by witness's experience, 1371-1376. 1402—Has seen Fox, the grave-digger, and his assistants, play at skittles with the bones and skulls, 1376, 1377—Fox used to pull out the nails and handles of the coffins and sell them, 1378-1382—If a body had been buried no more than three weeks they did not mind cutting through it with pickaxes; the half-decayed flesh was left in the ground, and the bones taken to the bonehouse, 1383-1385—There is a smell arising from the churchyard, which leaves a taste as of copper in the mouth, 1386—The churchyard is level with the street, 1387-1389—There is a pump in Dean-street, close to the churchyard; the water is good, 1390-1393—Witness's health has been much better since he left off grave-digging, 1394, 1397—It was a common occurrence, under Fox, the grave-digger, to mutilate the remains of the dead, 1398-1401.
- Copland, James,** M.D., F.R.S., and Censor of the Royal College of Physicians. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Circumstances that influence the health of the inhabitants of large towns, 2659—Water percolating through soils enriched by animal matter is injurious to the health of those who use it, especially in warm climates, 2659, 2660—Effect observed by Sir J. Macgregor at Ciudad Rodrigo, as produced upon the health of the troops by the burials of the dead, 2660—Filtration through a new soil will purify the water from its grosser materials, but in towns the contamination extends to a great depth, and affects the water with morbid matter, 2661, 2662—Probable cause of the diseases at Paris previously to the purification of the Seine, 2661—Form of disease suffered in Cork and several other towns, from 1817 to 1820, when it was found that the water used by the people received the common sewers, 2661.
- Remarkable case that occurred in witness's practice two years since, of a gentleman who died of malignant fever caused by inhaling noxious air from the vault of a chapel; death of his wife from infection, 2662. 2664-2666—In a hospital his disease would have propagated itself to others predisposed, if the apartments were not properly ventilated, 2663—The foul air exhaled from the dead is generally so diluted and scattered by the wind as to produce no specific disease, but only a general ill effect on those predisposed, *Ib.*—Epidemics following the plague of London in 1660, caused first by the exhalation from the 100,000 bodies then buried, and secondly, by the bad water; different form of disease arising from these causes, 2667—If only a few bodies are buried in the open grounds of large cities, the space left prevents building and assists ventilation, *Ib.*—Witness has always advised persons labouring under any disease, if living near a churchyard, to move into the country, as emanations from the dead depress the powers of life, *Ib.*—Different forms of typhus fever, according to the causes from which it arises, 2668—*Vexata questio* as to the origin of typhus fever; whether infection arises from the dead as well as from the living, 2669.
- The water of the Ganges and Hooghly contaminated by dead bodies has produced dysentery and putrid fever, 2670—Injurious effects of the admixture of animal and vegetable matter with water, 2671—Ague less frequent in London than formerly; it arises chiefly near the river, 2672—Character of fever arising from decayed vegetable matter, and from vegetable and animal matter together, 2672—Cemeteries should not be less than two miles from London, as buildings are extending so rapidly, 2673—Great effect of Sir Hugh Myddleton's enterprise in bringing water from a distance, in diminishing

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diminishing disease in the metropolis, 2673—It would be to a certain extent advisable to prescribe the depth at which interments should take place, 2674, 2675—The use of quick lime and chloride of lime would be of service, and the opposition to it would be slight, 2676-2678—Practice near Naples of having 365 vaults, one for every day in the year, 2679, 2680—Nobody should be interred within six or seven feet of the surface, 2681.

Conveyance of Funerals. The conveyance of the bodies of the poor must be done by parishes, unions of parishes, or the Government, *Walker* 873, 874—If the poorer classes would use a cheap conveyance, the expense of a funeral out of town probably would not be greater than a walking funeral in town, *Bishop of London* 2985—The funeral conveyance should carry both the corpse and mourners, *Ib.* 2993-2996—The feelings of people would probably be against more than one body being carried to the cemetery by one conveyance, *Ib.* 3025, 3026.—See also *Cemeteries.* *Shillibeer, Mr.*

Cork. Form of disease suffered in Cork and several other towns from 1817 to 1820, when it was found that the water used by the people received the common sewers, *Copland* 2661.

Coventry. Letter from Mr. H. Hawkes, mayor of Coventry, date 15th April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the burial-grounds of that town, and suggesting a remedy, *App.* 203.

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Damp. Objections to a damp burial ground, *Walker* 2088-2091.

Deacon, Charles Evens. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Town clerk of Southampton, 2615—Great want of accommodation for the burial of the dead in that town, 2616—The common burial-ground for the town is only two acres two roods, in the heart of the town; has been used for 500 years, and in the last four or five the average number of burials has been 500, 2617-2621—The borough council determined to apply to Parliament for a cemetery on the common, but await a general measure, 2621—Difficulty in obtaining the consent of the rate-payers to take part of the common, 2622-2624—The medical men of the town have brought forward the subject of the burials as injurious to health, 2625, 2626—The burial-ground is crammed full, and the most disgusting scenes are witnessed there; skulls brought up with the hair on, &c., 2627-2635—Complaint made by a man of the name of Targit that his wife's coffin was exposed, 2636, 2637—Letter from the mayor to the Earl of Guildford, rector of St. Mary's, to which the common burial-ground belongs, on the subject of a new burial place, 2638—The part of the town near the burial-ground is low and densely peopled, 2639-2644—There are burials under the catacombs of two churches, 2645—It is witness's decided belief that interment in the town is injurious to the health of the inhabitants, 2647.

[Second Examination.]—The difficulty with regard to arrangements between churchmen and dissenters would arise as regards the consecration of the whole or part of the cemetery, 2649—Explanation of the difficulties experienced in the vestry meetings of rate-payers, as regards the proposal for a new burial-ground on the common, 2650-2654—The proposed spot was two miles from the town; it would have been better nearer, but the council could get it for nothing, 2655-2657—The council calculated that fees from the rich would enable them to convey the poor at a very inconsiderable expense, 2658.

Deacon, Mr. Letter from Mr. Charles E. Deacon, town-clerk of Southampton, dated 9th April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the churchyard of the parish of St. Mary, in that town, and detailing the measures taken by the corporation for the establishment of a cemetery, *App.* 204, 205.

Dead Bodies. Illness caused in witness's family by having a dead body in the house, *Carr* 670-674—Injurious practice of the poor in keeping bodies too long before they are buried; drunken character of their funerals, *Ib.* 675-682—Evil consequences of keeping bodies long before interment; cases stated, *Walker* 879-886—It would be desirable to have a compulsory law to require the burial of the dead at a stated period after the decease, *Lane* 2325-2327.

The system of keeping dead bodies so long before they are interred could not be dispensed with without interfering with the feelings of the people, *Harker* 1980—It is very injurious to keep bodies long, especially in hot weather; feeling of respect which influences the relations of the deceased to defer the funeral, *James* 2940-2945.

See also *Medical Police.* *Stepney.* *Wakes.*

Decomposition of Bodies. Seven years should be allowed for a body to be consumed in a common coffin, *Walker* 803—Time required to decompose bodies buried in different situations, *Ib.* 842—The bodies and coffins in St. Giles's churchyard become entirely decomposed in 14 years, and the ground is then fit for new interments, *Tyler* 1498-1508—Time necessary for the decomposition of a body, *Tagg* 2192.

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DEPTH OF GRAVES:1. *Generally.*2. *In particular Churchyards and Burial-grounds.*1. *Generally:*

The London burial-grounds are generally very full, and the coffins from four feet to two feet from the surface, *Carr* 634-638—Even as a matter of economy, coffins should be placed side by side instead of several in one grave, *Walker* 837—It would be to a certain extent advisable to prescribe the depth at which interments should take place, *Copland* 2674, 2675—No body should be interred within six or seven feet of the surface, *Ib.* 2681—If four or five feet of earth is over a coffin there is no reason to apprehend any evil from decomposition, *Bishop of London* 2948.

2. *In particular Churchyards and Burial-grounds:*

Martin's Burial Ground.—The graves in this ground are, as in other grounds in London, dug 30 feet deep, and filled with 16 or 18 coffins and children's coffins in all the openings, *Helsdon* 8. 20, 21—The same plan of interment is common in other burial-grounds, *Ib.* 12-17—Reasons for burying some of the coffins only six inches from the surface, *Walker* 814, 815—Mode of piling up coffins in deep graves till they are full, *Haycock* 962, 963.

Pancras Road Cemetery.—Regulation as to the depth of graves and the quantity of earth above the coffins, *Tyler* 1449-1452.

St. Andrew Undershaft.—There are no coffins nearer the surface of the earth than four feet, *Hawes* 1760, 1761.

St. Ann's (Soho).—Objectionable practice of burying several coffins in a deep grave; such a grave only partially covered at St. Ann's, Soho, *Walker* 836—Plan of digging deep graves at St. Ann's and placing coffins one over another, and only partially covering the graves till full, *Lyons* 1056-1060.

St. Clement's Churchyard (Portugal-street).—Depth of the graves; number of coffins placed therein, *Eyles* 335-339—Depth of graves and of earth over the upper coffins, *Ib.* 392-394—Shallowest depth at which witness has known a body to be buried in the Portugal-street burying-ground, *Ib.* 1149-1151—A deep grave takes some days to dig, and it is left open at night or only covered with a tarpaulin, *Ib.* 1209, 1210—Rules as to the digging of deep graves; payment per foot, *Pye* 1259-1270—Between each interment the grave is filled up with the shoring boards kept in, *Ib.* 1271-1273.

St. Giles-in-the-Fields.—At St. Giles's-in-the-Fields the ground is very full of bodies, some of which are not more than 18 inches from the surface, *Whittaker* 503-509—The graves are not less than 14 feet deep, and are put as close as possible side by side, *Tyler* 1436-1442—The orders are, that not less than three feet of earth shall be above the uppermost coffin, *Ib.* 1443-1448.

St. John's (Southwark).—Practice in St. John's, Southwark, of digging graves of a certain depth and removing coffins if in the way, and re-interring them, *Abdy* 1342-1354.

St. Leonard's (Shoreditch).—Regulation as to the depth below the surface which the last coffin must be put in the grave; graves are dug as close as possible to one another, *Yarrow* 2024-2027.

St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.—In the burial-ground of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields they scarcely dig graves, but make them with boards, *Munns* 573-578—Graves are sometimes two feet deep more or less, *Ib.* 579-614.

St. Mary's Churchyard (Vinegar-lane).—The graves are dug deep, and coffins placed one upon another nearly to the surface, *Solomons* 215-217.

Whitechapel.—Of late years the graves have been dug much deeper than formerly; a great many coffins are put into each grave; the ground seldom covers the top coffin more than three feet, *Wallace* 1536-1540—Regulation as to the depth at which bodies should be buried; difficulty of stating the distance between the highest coffin and the surface of the earth, *Champneys* 2868-2871.—See also *Dunstan's, St., Stepney.*

Derby. Letter from R. F. Forrester, M. D., to the Chairman of the Committee, dated 30th April 1842, respecting the state of the churchyards of Derby, and the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery, *App.* 197.

DESTRUCTION OF COFFINS:

Enon Chapel.—Witness believes that the abduction of coffins proceeded to a great extent, and that they were burned in the minister's house, *Pitts* 164-166—There could not have been room for the number of coffins unless many had been destroyed, *Ib.* 200-204—Witness has frequently seen coffins and bodies, old and new, cut to pieces with the spade to make room for fresh comers, *Whittaker* 399-405.

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DESTRUCTION OF COFFINS—continued.

Globe Fields Burial-ground.—Witness has never known coffins to be disturbed in less than 14 years after interment, *Miller* 1650-1652—It has been the regular practice to chop through coffins and bodies when they come in the way, in the Globe Fields ground, *Ib.* 1667, 1668—Evidence respecting the burying of decayed coffins, *Tagg* 2160-2173, 2185, 2186.

St. Andrew Undershaft.—Obstructions found in digging graves, from bodies being buried so thickly; the coffins and bodies are cut through; what is done with them, *Harvey* 1762-1768, 1770, 1772.

St. Ann's (Soho.)—If a body had been buried no more than three weeks, the grave-diggers did not mind cutting through it with pickaxes; the half-decayed flesh was left in the ground, and the bones taken to the bone-house, *Copeland* 1383-1385.

St. Clement's Churchyard (Portugal-street.)—The coffins were never improperly broken up, *Eyles* 329-334—Bits of coffins have sometimes come out of the earth, and have been used as fire-wood, *Ib.* 358-362—Witness (formerly gravedigger) has never taken bodies home, nor opened the coffins of children, *Ib.* 379-391—Case observed in which a coffin was taken up in pieces a month after it had been buried, with bones and flesh hanging to it, *Lane* 717—Another case in which a coffin was brought up quite fresh, *Ib.* 717-719—Witness never saw coffins burned, but has heard of their being bought for fire-wood, *Ib.* 721-723—Practice of breaking up coffins to make room for more; description of instrument used; by whom and when done, *Ib.* 749-780.

Constant practice of breaking up the coffins at that churchyard and taking the lead, *Eyles* 1158-1175—The sexton has often obliged men to dig through coffins when they have been reluctant to do so, *Ib.* 1184-1186—Witness saw them chopping the head off his father's coffin, and induced them to desist, *Ib.* 1187, 1188—Fulness of the ground in Portugal-street; coffins are constantly ordered to be cut through to make a grave, *Pye* 1222-1225.

St. Clement Danes.—To witness's knowledge coffins are cut up in the vaults, and the lead removed, and the wood, and bones, or bodies disposed of, *Pye* 1237-1245—The common practice in digging graves is to break through wooden coffins, remove the wood, and place the remains at the bottom of the grave, *Ib.* 1246-1251, 1257, 1258.

Dreadful state of this churchyard; practice with regard to the destruction of coffins and bodies on the occasion of fresh burials, *Chamberlain* 2341-2346, 2349-2365, 2402-2405.

St. Martin's-in-the-Fields.—Witness has seen many pails of water thrown over the coffins before the earth was filled in, to make them rot as soon as possible, *Munns* 591-595—Witness has constantly seen the gravedigger remove coffins for his own use; has seen him smash two or three skulls in digging a grave, *Ib.* 596-604.

St. Mary's Churchyard (Vinegar-lane.)—Witness has seen the gravedigger in the churchyard of St. Mary's take a coffin out of the ground, take out the body and chop the head off, so that he could take it out of the grave, *Solomons* 213—Witness has often seen coffins broken up by the gravedigger, *Ib.* 236-246.

Spa Fields Burial-ground.—At Spa Fields there are very numerous funerals, but coffins are rarely seen when graves are open; the sides of graves are seen boarded with part of coffins broken up, *Carr* 642-653.

Dickson, Mr. Letter from Mr. Peter Dickson, mayor of Southampton, dated 20 April 1842 to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information on the state of the burial-grounds of that town, and the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery, *App.* 201—Letter, dated 10 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, detailing the measures that have been taken by the town council for the establishment of a cemetery, *Ib.* 204.

Dionis, St., Backchurch.—The churchyard is a very small, confined narrow place indeed; it is getting very full, *Harvey* 1814, 1815.

Disease. The practice of burying in towns is extremely prejudicial, and it is highly probable that it is very often productive of disease, *Fellowes* 1932-1944.

Disinterment of Bodies. (St. Leonard's, Shoreditch.) Complaints from the neighbourhood when the bodies were taken up, the ground excavated, and then buried afresh, *Yarrow* 2014-2017, 2028.

Dissenters. In the event of cemeteries being established, a portion of the ground should be given to the Dissenters, *Baker* 2562, 2563—It would be an objectionable proceeding to set aside a portion of the ground for persons dissenting from the Church, *Robinson* 2832-2837—If a sum were raised by a rate for the purchase of a new cemetery, a portion of the ground should be set apart for Dissenters, *Champneys* 2878-2884, 2889—Assuming that ground were purchased by a rate upon the parish, there would be no objection to leaving a part unconsecrated for Dissenters, *Bishop of London* 2967, 2968.

Report, 1842—continued.

Dissenters—continued.

Southampton.—The difficulty with regard to arrangements between Churchmen and Dissenters would arise as regards the consecration of the whole or part of the cemetery, *Deacon* 2649.—See also *Church of England Burial-grounds*.

Dressing of Dead Bodies. As far as the means of parties are concerned, they generally incur expense in dressing the body, *Harker* 1974-1977.

Dunstan's, St. (Stepney). There have been more bodies buried in this churchyard than in any other in the kingdom; during the plague, in 1665, there were upwards of 150 buried in a day, *James* 2704—Average number of burials in a year; they have been diminishing gradually since, 1825, *Ib.* 2711—They cannot dig deep, they would come to water; they never put more than two coffins into one grave, *Ib.* 2712-2716—Witness has never been aware of any offensive smell when attending funerals, *Ib.* 2717, 2718—The fees have most seriously diminished in consequence of the cemeteries, *Ib.* 2722—There is a pump in the churchyard; the water is not offensive, *Ib.* 2725-2727—Cemetery established there; fees to be received by the clergy, *Bishop of London* 3002.

E.

Eddison, Edwin. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Town clerk of Leeds, 782—Crowded state of the parochial burial-grounds in Leeds; investigation into the conduct of the sexton; proposed remedy for the evil; difficulties arising out of the variance on the subject of church rates, 783.

EFFLUVIA:

I. Generally.

II. Whether Injurious to Health:

1. Generally.

2. In particular Localities.

1. Generally:

In some places, especially under chapels, witness has suffered from offensive effluvia, *Carr* 639-641—Offensive effluvia arising from churchyards, *Walker* 798—Distance at which effluvia from a grave may be smelt, and through what depth of ground they will penetrate, *Eyles* 1176-1179—Offensive smell adhering to witness's clothes after working in graves, *Ib.* 1181-1183—Witness has no doubt that every burial-ground in London when opened has an offensive smell, *White* 2061, 2062—The effluvia from a human body are not more injurious than those arising from any other animal, *Atkinson* 2262-2265.

II. Whether Injurious to Health:

1. Generally:

Erroneous opinions have been put forward respecting the exhalation of the effluvia from grave-yards furnishing one of the most powerful causes of disease and mortality in the metropolis, *Todd* 2413-2421—The effluvia of putrid bodies are always injurious to human health, and if allowed to escape in large towns, must injure the health of the inhabitants, *Brodie* 2908.

2. In particular Localities:

Clement's-lane Burial-ground.—The smell is very bad in hot weather; buildings by which the ground is surrounded, *Lane* 724-726.

Enon Chapel.—Offensive effluvia whenever the trap-door was opened for letting down coffins; it must have been injurious to the neighbourhood, *Pitts* 172-175—The stench arising from putrid bodies has affected witness's health, *Whittaker* 414-423—The stench drove away the people from Enon Chapel, and it was said the minister got more by the dead than by the living, *Ib.* 499-502.

Globe Fields Burial-ground.—Persons affected with the effluvia from the Globe Fields grounds; there are some coffins within six inches of the surface, *Miller* 1675-1680—Witness has never observed any effluvia or bad smell, *Tagg* 2174, 2175.

Martin's Burial-ground.—Effect of the dreadful smells upon witness's health, *Haycock* 974-980—Immediate effect sometimes produced upon witness by the stench from graves, *Ib.* 986-990.

Portugal-street Burial-ground.—Persons who live near Portugal-street burial-ground complain of the odours arising therefrom in hot or rainy weather, *Ainsworth* 1308.

St. Andrew Undershaft:—Effluvia issuing from the churchyard, *Harvey* 1773-1788. 1793-1796.

EFFLUVIA—continued.

II. Whether Injurious to Health.—2. In particular Localities—continued.

St. Ann's (Soho).—Quantity of shavings burned in a grave to get rid of the foul air, *Lyons* 1136—There is a smell arising from the churchyard, which leaves a taste as of copper in the mouth, *Copeland* 1386.

St. Martin's (Ludgate-hill).—The effluvia were most offensive, and must be injurious to health, *Anderton* 1515, 1516—The smell on the Sabbath-day at times at St. Martin's, Ludgate-hill, is awful; they allow them to bury in wooden coffins, *Lynch* 2688, 2689.

St. Mary's Churchyard (Vinegar-yard).—The smell is sometimes so strong as to oblige witness to close his windows, *Solomons* 218-222.

Whitechapel.—Witness has never experienced, nor has he heard any complaints of any unpleasant effluvia from this churchyard, *Wallace* 1549-1551.

See also *Exhalations. Fevers. Health, I. Leaden Coffins. Mary's, St. (Birmingham.) Quick-lime, I.*

Egypt. In Egypt bodies do not putrefy so rapidly as in some other countries; it is not dry heat so much as damp that causes putrefaction, *Milman* 2743.

Elim Chapel (Fetter-lane). Circumstances connected with cases of fever attended by witness in the neighbourhood of Elim Chapel, *Collier* 2116-2121.

Enon Chapel (Clement's-lane). Abominable state of that chapel from the interments; insects that infested it; smells arising, &c. *Pitts* 128-131. 199—It is surrounded by houses, except on one side, *Ib.* 163—The minister built the chapel himself as a speculation; it is now shut up, *Ib.* 167-171—The minister had a Sunday school, which attended the chapel for about six hours, *Ib.* 176-182—Witness's wife used frequently to come home ill from chapel, and has not since been a healthy woman, *Ib.* 184—Persons were taken home fainting nearly every Sunday, *Ib.* 205, 206.

The greater part of the earth removed from under Enon Chapel to the Waterloo Road was human bodies in a state of putrefaction, *Burn* 271-273—The burials were very numerous, *Ib.* 274-277—There must have been at least 20 interments a week, *Ib.* 282-284—The place appeared full, and yet the burials continued at the same rate for years afterwards, *Ib.* 285-290—There have been at least 12,000 persons buried there, *Whittaker* 411, 412—Description of the burial-ground belonging to the chapel, *Walker* 799.

Witness (a member of the Committee) was refused admittance at Enon Chapel when he went, as a member of the Committee, to visit the burial-ground there, *Acton* 1285—Witness has observed that the boards of Enon Chapel were very loose from the floor, *Ib.* 1292, 1293—Was stated to be intended to be used for a temperance society, and as a school-room for Roman-catholic children, *Ib.* 1295—The vault of the chapel is immediately connected with a sewer, *Ib.* 1296—From the violence of the keeper of Enon chapel, witness believes a great body of injurious matter to be concealed there, *Ib.* 1300—Witness (another member of the Committee) was refused admittance into the vaults of Enon Chapel, *Ainsworth*, 1306, 1307—Witness (another member) at Enon Chapel was prevented going into the vaults; there was nothing but planking over them; it was near a common sewer, *Fox* 1409, 1410.

See also *Burial Fees. Destruction of Coffins. Effluvia, II. 2. Gases, 2. Health, II. 2. Insects. Mortality. Quick Lime. Sewers. Vaults.*

Evidence. Points of the evidence given by some of the principal witnesses briefly noticed by the Committee in support of their conclusion, *Rep.* iii. iv.

Exhalations. Effect of the exhalations from deep graves with a number of coffins upon a gravedigger in New Bunhill Fields, *Helsdon* 19—Case of a brother-in-law of witness who died after attending a funeral at St. Clement Danes, *Irwin*, 88-93—Instance stated of a nauseous exhalation arising from a new grave, *Ib.* 94, 95—In most London burial-grounds there is scarcely any room; the bodies are near the surface, and exhalations must constantly be mixing with the air, *Whittaker* 510-519—Witness has often an unpleasant taste in the throat after attending funerals, *Carr* 665-669.

The exhalations from the dead must be injurious; they escape from churchyards, and even from leaden coffins in vaults, *Walker* 792-796—The working clergy are so careful not to breathe the air of graves, that the sexton is ordered to place the box at some distance, *Ib.* 815—A barrister told witness lately that he had been affected several days after attending a funeral in the Waterloo Road; it is an improper place, owing to the humidity of the soil, *Ib.* 833, 834—Cases in which persons attending funerals have suffered from exhalations, *Haycock* 981-985—The foul air exhaled from the dead is generally so diluted and scattered by the wind, as to produce no specific disease, but only a general ill effect on those predisposed, *Copland* 2663—Epidemics following the plague of London in 1660, caused, first, by the exhalation from the 100,000 bodies then buried, and secondly, by the bad water; different form of disease arising from these causes, *Ib.* 2667—Witness has always advised persons labouring under any disease, if living near a churchyard, to move into the country, as emanations from the dead depress the powers of life, *Ib.* 2667.

See also *Andrew's, St. (Holborn.) Effluvia. Grave-diggers. Typhoid Fever.*

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Expense of Burials. The additional expenses of interments out of town will bear an insignificant proportion to the benefit thereof, *Rep. v.*—Suggestions as to the relief of the expense of burials to poor persons; they do not like to accept gratuitous burial, *Baldock* 1916-1919, 1923, 1924, 1926-1930—By a well-regulated scheme, the funerals of the poor might be conveyed to a distance of three or four miles from London without any increased expense, *Milman* 2774.—See also *Cemeteries*, 2, 3.

Eyles, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Was gravedigger for a year at St. Clement's churchyard, in Portugal-street, 323-328—The coffins were never improperly broken up, 329-334—Depths of the graves; number of coffins placed therein, 335-339—Size of the ground; number of burials per week; fees, &c. 340-347—Was sometimes unwell while employed there, and is not quite well now, 348-351—Is fond of spirits, and so are the present gravediggers, 352-357—Bits of coffins have sometimes come out of the earth and have been used as fire-wood, 358-362—The bones are thrown up at the same time, and taken to the bone-house, 363-370—At one time quantities of bones were removed there, and will not be disturbed for centuries, 371-378—Has never taken bodies home nor opened the coffins of children, 379-391—Depth of graves and of earth over the upper coffins, 392-394.

[Second Examination.]—Desires not to be examined until assured that his family would not be injured, 1138-1148—Shallowest depth at which witness has known a body to be buried in the Portugal-street burying-ground, 1149-1151—Case in which witness felt the effects of gas at the bottom of a grave in St. Clement Danes, 1152-1157—Constant practice of breaking up the coffins in that churchyard, and taking the lead, 1158-1175—Distance at which effluvia from a grave may be smelt, and through what depth of ground they may penetrate, 1176-1179—The gas escapes from the vaults into the church through a grating cullett, and many persons who go to church there are taken ill and die, 1180—Offensive smell adhering to witness's clothes after working in graves, 1181-1183.

The sexton has often obliged men to dig through coffins when they have been reluctant to do so, 1184-1186—Witness saw them chopping the head off his father's coffin, and induced them to desist, 1187, 1188—Circumstances attending the burial of persons named Clark and Beasley, 1189-1190—Removal of earth lately from St. Clement Danes churchyard; where shot, 1191-1195—The sexton orders persons to dig a grave in a particular place and then leaves them, 1196-1199—Filthy state of the pauper ground of St. Clement Danes, close to the almshouses; steam arising from it, 1200-1206—In Portugal-street burial-ground has also seen the steam issuing from the earth, 1207, 1208—A deep grave takes some days to dig, and it is left open at night, or only covered with a tarpaulin, 1209, 1210—Persons could not object to the use of quick lime; in dry ground it would be of great use, but not in wet ground, 1216-1218.

F.

Farran, Dr. Letter from C. Farran, M.P., dated 30 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, stating his views on the subject of "interments within the precincts of towns," *App.* 208.

Fellowes, Sir James. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Physician to the army; was sent out to Gibraltar at the time of the pestilential fever there in 1804; was afterwards employed as inspector-general of the military hospitals during the whole siege of Cadiz, 1931—Determination of the Government at the time of the pestilential fever that all persons should be buried out of the towns instead of in the churches; they have still adhered to this practice, 1932—The practice of burying in towns is extremely prejudicial, and it is highly probable that it is productive very often of disease, 1932-1944—How the expense was supplied when the alteration in the mode of burial was made to prevent the pestilential fevers in Spain, 1935.

[Second Examination.]—Explanation of former evidence, 2613—It would not be necessary to apply lime, provided the bodies were buried outside the town, 2614.

Fees. Resolutions of the Committee as to the payment of fees to the clergy on account of burials in cemeteries, *Rep. vii.*—Classes of fees received by the clergy, *Milman* 2787-2789.—See also *Burial Fees. Clergy*, 2. *Complimentary Fees. Highgate Cemetery. Tower Hamlets Cemetery.*

Fevers. The effluvia given off from the dead human body may be considered as one cause, *inter alia*, of fevers; it is likely to produce fevers of the low typhoid kind, *Collier* 2096-2106, 2113, 2114, 2122—Witness considers the crowded state of the churchyards as one cause of fever and disease; the dense population in courts and alleys another, and want of sewerage another, *Brodie* 2918-2921—Character of fever arising from decayed vegetable matter, and from vegetable and animal matter together, *Copland* 2672.

The miasma rising up in the atmosphere of this town is likely to generate low fevers, *Lane* 2304-2312, 2335-2337, 2340—Remarkable case that occurred in witness's practice, two years since, of a gentleman who died of malignant fever, caused by inhaling noxious

Report, 1842—continued.

Fevers—continued.

noxious air from the vault of a chapel; death of his wife from infection, *Copland* 2662. 2664-2666—In a hospital his disease would have propagated itself to others predisposed, if the apartments were not properly ventilated, *Ib.* 2663.

The gases emanating from human bodies are likely to be injurious to the general health, but not to produce any particular fever, *Todd* 2422-2425.

See also *Elim Chapel. Leeds. Typhoid Fever. Typhus Fever.*

Fisher, Mr. Letter from George Fisher, Mayor of Cambridge, dated 23 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the burial-grounds of that town, and their effects upon its general health; and also the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery, and inclosing tables, *App.* 200.

Fitch, Mr. Anger of Mr. Fitch, the sexton, when a man of the name of Irving examined Portugal-street churchyard and probed the ground, *Pye* 1232-1234.

Fitzpatrick, Dr. Letter from Thomas Fitzpatrick, M.D. of Dublin, dated 25 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, detailing circumstances demonstrative of the abominations consequent on the frequent re-opening of graves, *App.* 198, 199.

Flemish Burial-ground. Negotiations between the parishes of St. John and St. Olave, Southwark, and the Greenwich Railway Company, as to the providing of a burial-ground in lieu of the Flemish burial-ground taken for the purposes of the railway, *Abdy* 1355-1368.

Ford, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Beadle of the parish of St. Martin's, Ludgate, 1704—The dead are buried all in vaults; there is no burying-ground; size of the vaults; number of bodies they contain, 1705-1709—Effluvia arising from them in damp or warm weather, 1710. 1718-1720—Practice of clearing a vault from its contents in order to place other bodies in it, 1711-1717. 1723—One or two of the vaults are very dry; there are flues like chimnies in the vaults, 1721—Interments in wood are allowed, 1724, 1725—Remark made by the Bishop of London on the interments in the church of late; they still continue to bury there since that remark, 1726-1731. 1739-1742—The congregation have never complained of any effluvia from the vaults, 1732—Name of the clergyman performing the duty, 1733—Precautions taken by the clerk with respect to some of his relations buried in the vaults, 1734-1736—Leaden coffins are a protection to persons entering the vault; if they be properly soldered no effluvia can escape, 1743-1745.

Foreign Countries. Singularity of our tolerating an abuse which has been corrected for years by nearly all other civilized nations, *Rep.* iv.—See also *Cemeteries*, 5.

Forrester, Dr. Letter from R. F. Forrester, M.D. to the Chairman of the Committee, dated 30 April 1842, respecting the state of the churchyards of Derby, and the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery adjacent to the town, *App.* 197.

"*Fosses Communes.*" The plan of "*Fosses Communes*" for the interment of the poor at Paris, recommended, *Walker* 832.

Fox, Colonel, M.P. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Places recently visited by him, 1404-1405—Confirms the evidence taken by the Committee, 1406, 1407—The basement stories of several houses adjoining different churchyards are far below the surface of the earth in which innumerable bodies are placed, 1408—At Enon Chapel was prevented from going into the vaults; there was nothing but planking over them; it was near a common sewer, 1409, 1410—The gravediggers in Portugal-street left off working when witness was preparing to observe them, 1411—Remarked holes made by the searchers, which must let out foul air, *Ib.*

Fox, Mr. Fox, the gravedigger at St. Ann's, Soho, used to pull out the nails and handles of the coffins and sell them, *Copland* 1378-1382.

Frankfort. Possibility of making cemeteries an agreeable promenade, as at Frankfort, *Bishop of London*, 2973.

Fraudulent Burials. (Bishopsgate). Comparison of the number of deaths registered in the parish of Bishopsgate, and the number buried at the parish churchyard; one-third are unaccounted for; probable causes of this fact, *Russell* 2444-2454. 2473-2476—Whether several of the parishioners who have died may not have been buried in Globe Fields, or elsewhere, on account of the lower fees, *Ib.* 2458-2463—Possibility of their having been buried fraudulently, to avoid fees, *Ib.* 2464-2468—Witness has never had reason to suppose that people have sometimes not been buried at all, *Bishop of London* 3027.

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G.

Ganges, The. The water of the Ganges and Hooghly, contaminated by dead bodies, has produced dysentery and putrid fever, *Copland* 2670.

Garland, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—One of the churchwardens of the parish of Leeds, 2901—Confirms Mr. Baker's evidence in all points except one, the demand for a 1s. rate; witness's explanation of it, 2901-2907.

GASES :

1. *Their escape from Graves, and injurious Effects generally.*
2. *In particular Churchyards and Burial-grounds.*

1. *Their escape from Graves, and injurious Effects generally.*

Effects of the escape of gas from a leaden coffin upon witness when engaged by Mr. Walker, a medical man, in collecting it, *Whittaker* 428-442—The gas must escape from leaden coffins; if there is no vent it will burst them; grave-diggers have sometimes burned it, *Ib.* 447-457—Virulent effect of the gas emanating from coffins; that emanating from leaden coffins is more injurious than that from wooden ones, *Atkinson* 2253-2261. 2266.

All the London burial-grounds are full, and noxious gases must escape, *Whittaker* 560-562—Reasons for concluding that animal matter is mixed up with the gases produced by dead bodies, *Walker* 816-818—The gases produced by churchyards are a very exciting cause of consumption in this country, *Ib.* 894—All gravediggers have been more or less affected by the gases produced by churchyards, *Ib.* 895—With the present mode of interment noxious gases must escape; if the dead were buried 30 feet deep, perhaps they might be neutralized, and at all events would be greatly diluted, *Brodie* 2914-2916—The gas emanating from a human body is more injurious than that of an animal, *Lane* 2319-2324.

2. *In particular Churchyards and Burial-grounds :*

Enon Chapel.—Enon Chapel is surrounded by houses, and the gas must get into them, *Whittaker* 443-446.

Martin's Burial-ground.—Coffins are sometimes less than two feet from the surface; the gases would certainly come through, *Whittaker* 495-498.

Portugal-street Burial-ground.—Witness has seen a steam issuing from the earth in the Portugal-street burial-ground, *Eyles* 1207, 1208—Witness, when he visited Portugal-street burial-ground, as a Member of the Committee, saw a hole in the ground, which one of the gravediggers said was to let the gaseous matter escape, *Ainsworth* 1308, 1309.

St. Ann's (Soho).—Mode of burning out the foul air; rapid accumulation thereof in graves, *Lyons* 1066-1069—Steam described as issuing from the deep graves as from dunghills; great heat of them even in cold weather, *Ib.* 1129-1135.

St. Clement Danes.—Case in which witness felt the effects of gas at the bottom of a grave in St. Clement Danes, *Eyles* 1152-1157—The gas escapes from the vaults into the church through a grating cullett, and many who go to church there are taken ill and die, *Ib.* 1180.

See also *Aldgate Churchyard.* *Consumption.* *Effluvia.* *Exhalations.* *Fevers.* *Leaden Coffins.* *Prout, Dr.* *Strand, The.* *Water,* 1.

George's, St. (Bloomsbury). Amount of burial fees in 1838, 1839, and 1840, *Bishop of London* 2949.

George's, St. (Hanover-square). Amount of burial fees in 1838, 1839, and 1840, *Bishop of London* 2949.

George's, St. (Southwark). Number of interments in the vaults in the course of the year; charge, *Houghton* 1592-1595—Average number of interments in the churchyard in the course of the year, *Ib.* 1596, 1597. 1600-1606—Information with reference to the vaults under the church; witness has never perceived any unpleasant effluvia to arise from what has been interred there; the vault is well ventilated, *Ib.* 1567-1573. 1591—The churchyard has been lately much increased in size; way in which it has been enlarged; number of years the new churchyard has been made; present size of the burial-ground, *Ib.* 1575-1586.

George's, St., Hospital. See *King's College Hospital.* *Lock Burial-ground.*

Gibraltar. Determination of the Government at Gibraltar, at the time of the pestilential fever there in 1804, that all persons should be buried out of the town, instead of in the churches; they have still adhered to this practice, *Fellowes* 1932.

Giles's,

Report, 1842—continued.

Giles's, St. in-the-Fields. At St. Giles's-in-the-Fields they are obliged to remove the dead; it is said they are put into pits with quick lime, *Whittaker* 520-527—The parish has two grave-yards, the one at the church, the other a cemetery in Pancras Road, between King's Cross and Kentish Town, *Tyler* 1415—State of each described; number buried in 1841, *Ib.* 1415-1418—They continue to bury in London, because they have no right to refuse, and the churchyard has been shut up for 20 years; there is no objection, either on the ground of health or of decency, *Ib.* 1419—Size of the churchyard *Ib.* 1432-1434—Manner in which the ground became raised above the street, *Ib.* 1478—Amount of burial fees in 1838, 1839, and 1840, *Bishop of London* 2949.

The Roman-catholic Irish prefer it to the cemetery, as it was consecrated by a Roman-catholic bishop; course pursued during the cholera, *Tyler* 1419, 1420.

Falsehood of a statement made in a Sunday newspaper concerning the alleged bad state of St. Giles's churchyard, *Tyler* 1463.

A portion of the churchyard has not been disturbed for nearly forty years, *Tyler* 1435—Cases of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields and St. James, Westminster, in which local Acts were prepared to enable the parish to raise money for the purchase of a burial-ground, *Bishop of London* 2970—In St. Giles's the fees have kept up, as a new burial-ground was purchased 40 years ago, *Ib.* 3030.

See also *Burial Fees. Cemeteries, 4. Decomposition of Bodies. Depth of Graves, 2. Vaults.*

Globe Fields Burial-ground (Mile End). The burial-ground in Globe Fields is a private burying-ground, belonging to Mr. Thomas Tagg; where situate, *Miller* 1615-1619—Number of pits dug in it for the depositing of bodies previously interred, to make room for others to go into the graves, *Ib.* 1620-1637—Size of the ground; number of bodies which have been buried there since the year 1820, *Ib.* 1638-1640—Size of the ground; depth to which a grave is dug without finding water; space of ground unoccupied; it is freehold, *Tagg* 2143-2145, 2147, 2148, 2150—Fees charged at this ground, *Miller* 1681; *Tagg* 2159, 2187.

Circumstances connected with a theft of bones, nails, and plates off the coffins, in October 1839, *Miller* 1641-1649—By whom the burial service is performed, and how, *Ib.* 1653-1657—When witness has been digging a new grave, what he calls bloody corruption used to run down from the old grave near it, *Ib.* 1691-4-1697—Case of a cow dying in a few hours from eating the grass which had been cut from Globe Fields, *Ib.* 1703.

Falsehood of the evidence given by William Miller respecting this burial-ground, *Tagg* 2123-2138, 2146—The ground is not consecrated; it is not attached to any chapel, *Ib.* 2139, 2140, 2151—Plan of burial, by which 9,500 bodies have been buried in a space less than half of three-fourths of an acre, *Ib.* 2149-2158—Persons of all religious denominations are interred in this ground, *Ib.* 2176-2181—A great many persons who have been dissected have been interred there, *Ib.* 2182-2184.

A petition has been presented to the House of Commons from the common council, complaining of burial in witness's ground, *Tagg* 2188-2191.

The ground is surrounded by a wall; persons can see what is going on in the ground; the front iron-work is open, and the gates are standing open all day long, *Tagg* 2192-2195—Circumstances connected with a disgusting scene witnessed by a person from the Eastern Counties Railway in the burial-ground belonging to Thomas Tagg in Globe Fields, Mile End, *Parker* 2202-2217; *Shaw* 2220-2228.

See also *Destruction of Coffins. Effluvia, II. 2.*

Gloucester. Letter from Mr. W. Morgan Meyler, dated 18 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information respecting the state of the burial-grounds of the city of Gloucester, and their effects upon the general health of the town, and suggesting a remedy for the evil, *App.* 203.

GRAVEDIGGERS:

1. Generally.
2. Effect of their Employment upon their Health.
3. Their addiction to Spirits.

1. Generally:

Unseemly and demoralising practices exposed by their evidence, adverted to, *Rep.* iii.—It had certainly been the practice at St. Ann's, Soho, before witness's time, for the gravediggers to strip the lead from the coffins, *Lyons* 1086-1096.

2. Effect of their Employment upon their Health:

Witness was sometimes unwell while employed in St. Clement Danes churchyard, Portugal-street, as gravedigger, and is not quite well now, *Eyles* 348-351—Witness, for 24 years, was at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields; during that time he removed the whole of the bodies, with help, to the catacombs and elsewhere; his health was affected by the work; his sensations and remedies, *Lyons* 1048-1055—Witness's (grave-digger at St. Ann's,

Report, 1842—continued.

GRAVEDIGGERS—continued.2. *Effect of their Employment upon their Health*—continued.

Ann's, Soho) pay; state of health, &c. *Ib.* 1100-1107—Instances in which witness's (grave-digger at St. Clement Danes) health has been affected, *Pye* 1235.

Case of a gravedigger in St. George's churchyard who died in consequence of some earth touching a cut finger while digging a grave, *Haycock* 1041-1045—Grave-digging is a very unhealthy employment; witness has been in much better health since he left it, *Pye* 1274-1281—Unhealthiness of the occupation of grave-digging illustrated by witness's experience, *Copeland* 1371-1376. 1402—Witness's health has been much better since he left off grave-digging, *Ib.* 1394-1397—Witness has been affected in his health from this work, *Miller* 1669-1672—Illness of witness from his employment as gravedigger, *Chamberlain* 2347, 2348. 2366-2380. 2385-2391—His wife is afflicted with the same complaint; the doctors term the complaint catching, *Ib.* 2392.

3. *Their addiction to Spirits* :

Addiction of gravediggers to drink on account of the effluvia; their wages, *Heldson* 23-25—Witness (formerly grave-digger) is fond of spirits; so are the present gravediggers, *Eyles* 352-357—Gravediggers require a little extra drink, *Munns* 584, 585—All gravediggers are drinking men; the old ones take care not to be injured; they let others do the work, *Walker* 802—Gravediggers usually drink; they could not live so long as they do if they did not, *Haycock* 997-1003.

Witness (grave-digger at St. Clement Danes) has been obliged to drink spirits, *Pye* 1235, 1236—Witness could not perform grave-digging without the use of spirits, *Miller* 1665, 1666. 1685—To enable gravediggers to continue their work they must have recourse to spirits, *Lane* 2328-2334. 2339—Witness has been driven to drinking by his employment, *Chamberlain* 2381-2384.

See also *Gases*, 1.

Greenwich Railway Company. Negotiations between them and the parish of St. John and St. Olave, Southwark, respecting the Flemish burial-ground, *Abdy* 1355-1368.

Guilford, Earl of. Letter from the mayor to the Earl of Guilford, rector of St. Mary, Southampton, to which the common burial-ground belongs, on the subject of a new burial-place, *Deacon* 2638.

Gutteridge, Mr. Letter from Mr. Thomas Gutteridge, dated 6 May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, offering to obtain information relative to the burying-grounds of Birmingham, *App.* 207.

H.

Hackney-road Burial-ground. See *Leonard's, St.* (Shoreditch).

Harker, Daniel Richard. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Parish clerk of St. Stephen's, Coleman-street, 1946—Statement as to the accommodation for burials, and the mode in which the vaults have been cleared, 1947—A great many bodies have been buried in the common vault since witness has been there; there are no unpleasant effluvia from the vault; it is a large vault and ventilated, 1947-1950. 1952—Number of burials in the parish annually, 1951—The churchyard is only on the north side of the church, 1953—Way in which the parish clerks derive their incomes, and how they are appointed, 1954-1962—Objection of the population of the parish to quick lime being placed in the coffins; they would object as much now as at any former time to its insertion, 1963-1973—As far as the means of parties are concerned, they generally incur expense in dressing the body, 1974-1977.

Evidence as to the expense of coffins, 1978, 1979—The system of keeping bodies so long before they are interred could not be dispensed with, without interfering with the feelings of the people, 1980—Additional expense of the funeral of a person of the lower class, supposing the burial-ground at a distance of two or three miles, 1981-1992—Carriage invented by Mr. Shillibeer to take a corpse and mourners to the burial-ground, 1993.

Harvey, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—General builder; parish clerk of St. Andrew Undershaft, 1746-1748—Size of the churchyard; it is inclosed from the street; it is about two feet higher than the level of the pavement; cause of this, 1749-1754—Distance between the churchyard and the adjoining houses, 1755, 1756—Number of burials on an average in the course of the year, 1757-1759—There are no coffins nearer the surface of the earth than four feet, 1760, 1761—Obstruction found in digging graves from bodies being buried so thickly; the coffins and bodies are cut through; what is done with them, 1762-1768. 1770-1772—The churchyard may be buried in for 10 or a dozen years to come, considering the population, 1769—Effluvia issuing from the churchyard, 1773-1788. 1793-1796—There is one vault in the

Harvey, Joseph. (Analysis of his Evidence)—*continued.*

the church, the entrance to which is outside; there is an air-pipe to afford ventilation; it has been closed, with one exception, upwards of 20 years; it is full, 1789, 1792, 1797, 1798—Bones are found in the cellars of houses near Leadenhall-street; in St. Mary Axe, there is in one of the cellars a place full of bones, 1799-1801—There is no offensive smell when the windows of the school-house are open in hot weather, 1802—The poor are healthy in the neighbourhood; they suffered much in the time of the cholera, 1803, 1804—Some of the churchyards in the City are far better than others; some are not as they ought to be; state of several of them described, 1805-1831.

Haviland, Dr. Letter from John Haviland, M.D. dated 27 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the situation and state of the churchyards of the town of Cambridge, and their effects upon the health of the inhabitants, *App.* 198.

Hawkes, Mr. Letter from Mr. H. Hawkes, mayor of Coventry, dated 15 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information respecting the state of the burial-grounds of that town, and suggesting a remedy, *App.* 203.

Haycock, Valentine. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Gravedigger at the New Bunhill Fields burial-ground, called Martin's burial-ground, 943-947—Number of bodies interred in the last 10 years, and previously; size of the ground, 948-961—Mode of piling up the coffins in deep graves till they are full, 962, 963—Effect of the dreadful smells upon witness's health, 967-973—His family suffered in health until they removed to a distance; people are always leaving the neighbourhood, 974-980—Cases in which persons attending funerals have suffered from exhalations, 981-985—Immediate effect sometimes produced upon witness by the stench from graves, 986-990—The grounds of St. Mary (Newington), and Bermondsey Old Church, are worse than Martin's burial-ground; witness has been there as bearer, 991-996.

Gravediggers usually drink; they could not live so long as they do if they did not drink, 997-1003—Name of the minister of Martin's ground; burial fees, &c., 1004-1016—The ground has risen six inches in ten years, 1017, 1018—Mr. Hoole died soon after having assisted in removing remains from the vaults, 1019-1025—Account of witness's pay and perquisites; he is about to give up his situation, on account of his health, 1026-1040—Case of a gravedigger in St. George's churchyard who died in consequence of some earth touching a cut finger while digging a grave, 1041-1045.

HEALTH OF LARGE TOWNS:

I. Generally.

II. In the Neighbourhood of particular Churchyards and Burial-grounds:

1. Clement's-lane Burial-ground.
2. Enon Chapel.
3. Martin's Burial-ground (New Bunhill Fields).
4. Portugal-street Burial-ground.
5. St. Andrew Undershaft (St. Mary Axe).
6. Southampton.
7. Spa Fields.

I. Generally:

After patient investigation the Committee cannot arrive at any other conclusion than that the injury arising to the health of the community from interments in large towns is fully proved, *Rep.* iii.—Witness has seen enough to convince him that the general evidence concerning the injury done to the health of the inhabitants by grave-yards is perfectly borne out, *Acton* 1288, 1289, 1294-1297.

Names of burial-places personally examined by witness, *Walker* 806—Persons living near all these must be affected in their health, *Ib.* 807-811—Examination as to the mode in which the health of persons near churchyards may be affected, and evidence to show that it actually is affected, *Ib.* 822-830—Witness is decidedly of opinion that it is injurious to the health of inhabitants of large towns that burials should take place within them, *Hewson* 1898—Complaints made of the effluvia and bad effects from the churchyards by persons residing near them, *Anderton* 2234—Circumstances that influence the health of the inhabitants of large towns, *Copland* 2659.

Witness is not aware of any nuisance having arisen, or any noxious effects having been produced upon the health of the population in the vicinity of the burial-grounds, *Robinson* 2809.

II. In the Neighbourhood of particular Churchyards and Burial-grounds:

I. Clement's-lane Burial-ground:

Ill-health of witness and his family, and sickness in the neighbourhood; there is no free passage of air, *Lane* 727-735, 753, 754.

Report, 1842—continued.

HEALTH OF LARGE TOWNS—continued.

II. In the Neighbourhood of particular Churchyards and Burial-grounds—continued.

2. Enon Chapel :

Witness has been of opinion for years that burying the dead at Enon Chapel, and in Wild-street, is injurious to the health of the neighbourhood, *Burn* 314, 315.

3. Martin's Burial-ground (New Bunhill Fields) :

Witness's family suffered in health until they removed to a distance; people are always leaving the neighbourhood, *Haycock* 974-980.

4. Portugal-street Burial-ground :

The houses overlooking the churchyard must be very unhealthy, *Ainsworth* 1314.

5. St. Andrew Undershaft (St. Mary Axe) :

Effect upon witness's health from living near the churchyard; to save his life, he was obliged to leave town, and take a small living; nature of his sickness, *Knapp* 908-911. 914, 915—The poor are healthy in the neighbourhood; they suffered much in the time of the cholera, *Harvey* 1803, 1804.

6. Southampton :

The medical men of the town of Southampton have brought forward the subject of the burials as injurious to health, *Deacon* 2625, 2626.

7. Spa Fields :

The burial-ground is surrounded by houses, but witness would not think the health of the people affected, *Carr* 656-659.

See also *Botolph, St.* (Bishopsgate.) *Cemeteries*, 2. 3. 4. *Clement's-lane Burial-ground. Quick-lime*, 2.

Helen's, St. (Bishopsgate.) This churchyard is in a better state than most in the City; it is taken a great deal of care of, *Hawes* 1817-1819.

Helsdon, Henry. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Collecting clerk of J. H. Cooper, iron-founder, *Drury-lane*, and assistant dissenting minister at a burial-ground in *Golden-lane, Barbican*, 4-7—The graves, as in other grounds in London, are dug 30 feet deep, and filled with 16 or 18 coffins, and children's coffins in all the openings, 8. 20, 21—Once, in 1837, witness buried 21 persons on a Sunday afternoon in *Holywell Mount ground*, 9-11—The same plan of interment is common in other burial-grounds, 12-17—Offensive effluvia and swarms of black flies and insects generated by this mass of corruption, 18-22—Effect of the exhalations upon a gravedigger in *New Bunhill Fields*, 19—Addiction of gravediggers to drink on account of the effluvia; their wages, 23-25—Intermittent fever prevails much near the ground, but it may arise from the filthy state of the neighbourhood, 26-31—The system of burial affects the morals of the people, 32, 33—One of the worst burial-grounds in London is that of *St. Martin's-in-the-Fields*, in *Drury-lane*; immense number of burials; mode of raking over the graves, 34-43—All the neighbourhood complain of the ground as a serious nuisance, 44-46—Number of burials weekly, 49—The same evils prevail in all burial-grounds; monopoly of individuals irresponsible to any authority, 51-53—Mode in which witness discharges his duties, 55-62.

Hewson, Rev. Frank. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Crowded state of the burial-ground in the parish of *St. Mary's, Birmingham*; it is situated in the heart of the town; the smell and effluvia are most abominable and disgusting, 1871-1873. 1891-1893—In digging fresh graves, they frequently turn up bones and pieces of human flesh, 1874, 1875—Complaints made by persons of their friends' coffins being disturbed, 1876-1879—There are not many vaults, 1881—The inducement to bury here is that the fees are lower than the other churchyards, 1882—Size of the churchyard; number buried there in a year; length of time it has been open; the ground has been very much raised, 1883-1888. 1901-1905—Name of the rector of *St. Mary's*; by whom the fees are received, 1889, 1890—Objection of the lower orders to the use of quick-lime to hasten decomposition, 1895, 1896.

Witness is decidedly of opinion that it is injurious to the health of inhabitants of large towns that burials should take place within them, 1898—Crowded state of the churchyard of *Norwood*, in *Middlesex*, of which witness is incumbent; they can scarcely find room to bury a fresh corpse, 1879. 1898—The expense to a populous parish of obtaining a burial-ground out of its precincts, and conveying the bodies of the poor, would be very trifling, 1899—Difficulty of making a sufficient compensation to incumbents for the loss of fees, 1900—It is generally felt as a nuisance to have over-crowded burying-grounds in country places; witness cannot tell why Christian churches should be considered proper places for burials, 1901—The Jews always buried without the cities, *ib.*

Report, 1842—continued.

Highgate Cemetery. The Highgate Cemetery is well situated, *Walker* 869—A small fee was secured to the clergy by the Highgate Cemetery Act, but they are losers, *Bishop of London*, 2948.

Holywell Mount Ground. Once, in 1837, witness buried twenty-one persons on a Sunday afternoon in Holywell Mount ground, *Helsdon* 9-11.

Hooghly, The. See *Ganges, The*.

Hook, Rev. W. T. Letter from Rev. W. T. Hook, vicar of Leeds, dated 19 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, with suggestions for the establishment of a cemetery in that town, *App.* 201, 202.

Hoole & Martin, Messrs. Description of a grave-yard in the New Kent Road belonging to Messrs. Hoole & Martin, *Whittaker* 458-475—It is a speculation of their own; they appoint a dissenting minister to bury the dead, *Ib.* 476-494—Their burial-ground is surrounded by houses, *Ib.* 550-553—Mr. Hoole died soon after having assisted in removing remains from the vaults in his burial-grounds, *Haycock* 1019-1025.

Houghton, Rev. John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Rector of St. George's, Southwark, 1566—Information with reference to the vaults under the church; witness has never perceived any unpleasant effluvia to arise from what has been interred there; the vault is well ventilated, 1567-1573. 1591—No bodies are allowed to be interred there without lead, 1574. 1589, 1590—The churchyard has been lately much increased in size; way in which it has been enlarged; number of years the new churchyard has been made; present size of the burial-ground, 1575-1586—If an Act of Parliament were passed prohibiting the burial of the dead within the precincts of the metropolis, a rate of a penny in the pound would not be sufficient to remunerate the clergy for any loss of dues, 1587, 1588—Number of interments in the vaults in the course of the year; charge, 1592-1595—Average number of interments in the churchyard in the course of the year, 1596, 1597. 1600-1606—The Lock burial-ground in the Dover Road is under witness's control; the ground was left to the parish, 1598, 1599—Bad state of this ground formerly; improvement in it; size; number of bodies buried there, 1607-1614.

I.

Innocent, Mr. Letter from Mr. John Innocent, bookseller, of Sheffield, dated 31st March 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, offering to obtain information respecting the system of burial in towns, *App.* 205—Letter from Mr. J. Innocent, Mayor of Sheffield, dated 6th May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, enclosing information relative to the state of the parochial burial-grounds of that town, *Ib.* 207, 208.

Insects. Insects that infested Enon Chapel, Clement's-lane; they were supposed to have arisen from putrefaction; they were similar to bugs, with wings, *Pitts* 161, 162—Witness has observed a long thin fly coming out of the burial-ground in Clement's-lane, *Lane*, 738-740. 749-752—Witness has seen nasty great black things, as big as his finger, crawling about in various churchyards; when the sheep are grazing they pick them up and chew them as well as the grass, *Miller* 1664. 1698-1702—Insects which generate in churchyards described, *Dr. Lynch* 2698-2700.

See also *Paul's, St.* (Leeds).

Intermittent Fever. Intermittent fever prevails most near the burial-ground in Golden-lane, Barbican, but it may arise from the filthy state of the neighbourhood, *Helsdon* 26-31.

Irwin, John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—House-painter, living in Clement's-lane; works chiefly out of doors, 63-67—His house overlooks the burial-ground of St. Clement Danes; bad health of himself, family, and lodgers, since he has lived there, 68-84—Before he had been there six weeks a child was attacked with typhus fever and died; Mr. Carpenter, who attended him, said it arose from their vicinity to the churchyard, 85-87—Case of a brother-in-law of witness, who died after attending a funeral, 88-93—Instance stated of a nauseous exhalation arising from a new grave, 94, 95—Scene witnessed at St. Sepulchre's in clearing out a vault; removal of bones, &c. to the bone-house, 97-100—The health of witness's family cannot have been injured by keeping paints in the house; their good health before they lived in their present situation, 101-110—Statement as to the numerous deaths near Clare-market, and the assumed causes, 111-116—Bad drainage of Clare-market and the streets adjacent, 117-122.

[Second Examination.] There is another burial-ground at the bottom of Clement's-lane, belonging to St. Clement Danes, 321, 322.

Report, 1842—continued.

J.

James, Rev. Evan. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Curate of St. Dunstan's, Stepney, 2701—There have been more dead bodies buried in that churchyard than in any other in the kingdom; during the plague, in 1665, there were upwards of 150 buried in a day, 2704—There have been several private cemeteries established lately, 2706—Average number of burials in a year now; they have been diminishing gradually since 1825; 2711—They cannot dig deep, they would come to water; they never put more than two coffins into one grave, 2712-2716—Witness has never been aware of any offensive smell when attending funerals, 2717, 2718—The fees have most seriously diminished in consequence of the cemeteries, 2722—Speaking generally with regard to London, witness is decidedly of opinion that large cemeteries on each of the four sides of London would be a great advantage, 2723, 2724—There is a pump in the churchyard; the water is not offensive, 2725-2727.

[Second Examination.]—Dreadful scene in Stepney church, in consequence of keeping a body too long before burial, 2939—It is very injurious to keep bodies long, especially in hot weather; feeling of respect which influences the relatives of the deceased to defer the funeral, 2940-2945—Has ascertained that he has been drinking for years the water from the pump in Stepney churchyard, and that three medical men always drink it, and say it is the best in the neighbourhood, 2945, 2946.

James, St. (Colchester). Letter from Charles Edward Blair, M. D., churchwarden of St. James, dated 4th May 1842, to Mr. William Sparling, town clerk of Colchester, giving information respecting the state of the churchyard of that parish, *App.* 206.

Jews. The Jews always buried without the cities, and it was supposed the Temple was profaned by any approach of a dead body, *Hexson* 1906.

John's, St. (Southwark). See *Depth of Graves*, 2. *Flemish Burial-ground.*

John's, St. (Waterloo-road). Circumstances attendant upon an attack of illness experienced by witness after attending the funeral of a friend at St. John's, *White* 2030-2046.

K.

Katharine, St., Cree. State of the churchyard of St. Katharine Cree, in Leadenhall-street; it is not so full as Aldgate, but it is getting very full, *Harvey*, 1811, 1812.

Kensal-green Cemetery. It is flanked by a canal; they follow the very objectionable practice of placing several bodies in one grave, *Walker* 869—Evidence as to the remuneration of the clergy; existing practice at Kensal-green and other cemeteries, *Knapp* 927-929—Loss sustained by the incumbents of Paddington and St. Mary-le-bone by the cemetery at Kensal-green, although fees were reserved, *Bishop of London* 2948.

Kidd, Mr. Letter from Mr. J. Kidd, dated 22 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the churchyards in Oxford, and the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery, *App.* 201.

King's College Hospital. There is a public hospital to the left of the burial-place in Portugal-street; it is a very improper locality for a hospital; number of patients it will contain, *Walker* 2069-2078—Position of King's College Hospital; no more bodies should be buried there, *Brodie* 2927-2929, 2931-2932—The books of King's College Hospital would show what diseases have prevailed there, *Ib.* 2934-2937.

No inconvenience whatever has been felt from the contiguity of the grave-yard in Portugal-street to King's College Hospital; no disease of any kind has originated from it, *Todd* 2407-2412, 2434-2443—The state of disease prevalent at King's College Hospital is pretty much the same as at all hospitals; comparison of the various rates of mortality at this hospital and at St. George's, *Ib.* 2426-2433.

Kingstown. Letter from Mr. O'B. Adams, M. D., dated 25 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the burying-grounds at Kingstown, and the measures taken for the establishment of cemeteries near Dublin, *App.* 198.

Knapp, Rev. Henry John, D. D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Vicar of Willesden, 906—Was for 27 years curate of St. Andrew Undershaft in St. Mary Axe; distressing state of the churchyard; accumulated mass of putrescent bodies; exhalations therefrom, 907—Effect upon his own health of living near the churchyard; to save his life he was advised to leave town, and take a small living, 908-911—Nature of his sickness, 914, 915—Excessive fulness of the churchyard, 911-913—Frequent cases of illness of ladies during divine service, 916-918—Modes of obviating it; the expense of burying in distant cemeteries described, 923-927—As to the remuneration of the clergy, existing practice at Kensal Green and other cemeteries, 927-929—Quantity of lead removed from the vaults of St. Andrew Undershaft, 918, 930-933—Proposed rate of 1 *d.* in the pound to defray extra expenses of burial, and to remunerate the clergy, 934-938—The present mode of burying is a temptation to theft, 939-942.

Knapp,

Report, 1842—continued.

Knapp, Rev. H. J. Letter from Rev. H. J. Knapp, dated 4 May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the removal of burial grounds from the metropolis, *App.* 196.

L.

Laffan, Sir Joseph de Courcy. Witness is not of opinion with Sir Joseph de Courcy Laffan, that the plague has in some instances arisen from the putrefaction of bodies in towns, *Campbell*, 1869.

Lane, George Dorkin. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries, 2293, 2294—Statement of witness's sentiments generally, with regard to the healthiness or unhealthiness of burying in large towns, 2295-2340—Case of illness attended by witness at a house abutting on St. Martin's burial-ground in Drury-lane, 2295, 2297—The neighbourhood is very low, and the people very dirty; how far the health of the neighbourhood is affected by miasma arising from the burial-ground, 2298-2302—The effluvia rising up in the atmosphere of this town is likely to generate low fevers, 2304-2312, 2335-2337, 2340—There is no reason why the poor should not be buried at the cemeteries, as well as those that can afford to pay; it might be done by contract, 2313-2316.

The gas emanating from a human body is more injurious than that from an animal, 2319-2324—It would be desirable to have a compulsory law, to require the burial of the dead at a stated period after the decease, 2325-2327—To enable grave-diggers to continue their work, they must have recourse to spirits, 2328-2334, 2339—The gases emanating from the vaults underneath the churches in the Strand, or any other part of London, must be injurious to the health of the people, 2338.

Lane, James Michael. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Lives at 30, Clement's-lane, close to the burial-ground, 707-712—Number of burials there weekly, 713-716—Case observed, in which a coffin was taken up in pieces a month after it had been buried, with bones and flesh hanging to it, 717—Another case in which a coffin was brought up quite fresh, 717-719—Never saw coffins burned, but has heard of them being bought for firewood, 721-723—The smell is very bad in hot weather; buildings by which the ground is surrounded, 724-726—Ill health of witness and his family, and sickness in the neighbourhood; there is no free passage of air, 727-735, 753, 754—Has frequently been obliged to close the window when at meals, 736—The walls of the house are damp, 737—Has observed a long thin fly coming out of the burial-ground, 738-740, 749-752—He would not live there if he could pay a higher rent; rent paid, 741-743—Would not object to the use of quick-lime, and has seen it used, 744-748—Constant practice of breaking up coffins to make room for more; description of instrument used, by whom and when done, 749-780*.

Leach, Mr. Letter from Mr. James Leach, high constable of Rochdale, dated 12th April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information respecting the burial-grounds of that town, and their effects upon its general health, *App.* 203, 204.

LEADEN COFFINS:

1. At St. George's, Southwark.
2. At St. Giles-in-the-Fields.
3. Whether they are a Protection against the Escape of Noxious Gases and Effluvia.

1. At St. George's, Southwark:

Burials were permitted in the vaults of St. George's, Southwark, without leaden coffins, and the vaults were so offensive that the clergyman read the funeral service outside, *Abdy* 1320, 1322-1325, 1327-1329—No bodies are allowed to be buried in the vaults without a leaden coffin, *Houghton* 1574, 1589-1590.

2. At St. Giles-in-the-Fields:

Leaden coffins are not allowed to be buried in the churchyard of St. Giles's, *Tyler* 1509.

3. Whether they are a Protection against the Escape of Noxious Gases and Effluvia:

Stench coming from a leaden coffin, buried in 1789, struck against in making a sewer in the Strand, *Walker* 804, 805—Unnecessary expense of coffins; leaden coffins are not the least protection, *Ib.* 872, 873—Case in which a leaden coffin was seen by witness to burst from the gas within, *Pye* 1252, 1253.

Leaden coffins are a protection to persons entering a vault; if they be properly soldered no effluvia can escape, *Ford* 1743-1745—Interment in leaden coffins is not a safeguard against effluvia, unless they are of a certain thickness, *Baker* 2601-2604—A properly-made leaden coffin, in 19 cases out of 20, prevents the escape of gases, *Bishop of London* 2948.—See also *Gases*.

Report, 1842—continued.

Leadenhall-street. See *Bones.*

Leeds. Crowded state of the parochial burial-grounds in Leeds; investigation into the conduct of the sexton; proposed remedy for the evil; difficulties arising out of the variance on the subject of church-rates, *Eddison* 783—Insufficiency of the parish burial-ground for the deaths that take place, *Baker* 2507-2511—State of the different churchyards in Leeds, with reference to the population, *Ib.* 2512, *et seq.*—The cholera was most violent near the parish burial-ground, and fever is most prevalent there, *Ib.* 2535-2553—Amount of population of the township of Leeds; average deaths, *Ib.* 2560, 2561. 2565, 2566—Situation of the great towns near Leeds as to their burying-grounds, *Ib.* 2591-2598.

Mode in which witness would purchase a burial-ground for the town of Leeds, and buy out the rights of the clergy; in whom the control and superintendence should be vested, *Baker* 2557-2559. 2567-2579—Necessity for the enlargement of the grounds; refusal of a rate for that purpose, *Ib.* 2515-2534—Evidence respecting the refusal of a rate for the purchase of a new burial-ground for the town of Leeds, *Beckett* 2609-2612—Witness confirms Mr. Baker's evidence with respect to the town of Leeds in all points except one, the demand for a 1s. rate; witness's explanation of it, *Garland* 2901-2907—Letter from Mr. Nathaniel Sharpe, dated April 1842, to Mr. Ridsdale (for Mr. Savery), with an estimate of the extent of the churchyards of Leeds, *App.* 203.

Legislation. In the first instance, should be confined to towns of the largest size, *Rep.* v.—Resolution, that it be confined to the metropolis, and to places with a population above 50,000, *Ib.* vi.—All funerals should be undertaken under the authority of Government, *Walker* 899.

See also *Cemeteries.* *Prohibition of Interments in Towns.*

Leonard's, St. (Bromley). Cemetery established there; fees to be received by the clergy, *Bishop of London*, 3002.

Leonard, St. (Shoreditch). The churchyard is very bad; they have enlarged it, but there is a part where they cannot put any corpse without its floating, *Harvey* 1827—The graveyard is far from being very bad, as described in answer to question 1827 of the Evidence; they have graves as deep as 17 or 18 feet, without coming to water, *Yarrow* 1995, 1996—It has occurred, that at the depth of 14 or 15 feet they have come to water; this is pumped out; it is muddy from the soil; there is nothing offensive in the smell, *Ib.* 1997-2006—Size of the ground; proportion subject to be flooded, *Ib.* 2007-2009. 2020.

There is another burial-ground for the paupers in the Hackney-road; it is rather inferior than otherwise; the paupers are generally now buried at the mother church, *Yarrow* 2010-2013—Annual number of interments in the churchyard of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and in the pauper-ground in the Hackney-road, *Ib.* 2021-2023.

See also *Depth of Graves.* 2. *Disinterment of Bodies.*

Limehouse. Removal of coffins from Limehouse churchyard, *Miller* 1663—Size of Limehouse churchyard, *Ib.* 1673, 1674.

Lock Burial Ground (Dover Road). State of the Lock burial-ground in the Dover Road, belonging to the parish of St. George's, Southwark, for paupers; piles of coffins, bones, &c., *Abdy* 1320, 1321. 1326—It is still used, and nineteen years ago witness thought it was scandalous to go on burying there, *Ib.* 1330-1335—The Lock burial-ground in the Dover Road is under witness's control; the ground was left to the parish, *Houghton* 1598, 1599—Bad state of this ground formerly; improvement in it; size; number of bodies buried there, *Ib.* 1607-1614.

London, The Right Rev. Lord Bishop of. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Twenty years ago, while an incumbent in the City of London, his Lordship was interested in the present subject, 2947—While residing in the rectory house of St. Botolph, Bishopsgate, in the churchyard, neither his own health nor that of his children was at all affected, nor on removing thence was it sensibly improved, 2948—The evils resulting from interment in towns are much exaggerated, and would not arise with proper care, *Ib.*—No grave should be opened within the memory of persons who witnessed the first interment, for the burial of fresh bodies, except of relations, *Ib.*—If four or five feet of earth is over a coffin, there is no reason to apprehend any evil from their decomposition, *Ib.*—No bodies should be allowed to be buried under churches, except in leaden coffins of a certain thickness, *Ib.*—A properly made leaden coffin, in nineteen cases out of twenty prevents the escape of gases, *Ib.*

Practice of the Church Building Commission to sanction the building of catacombs under churches, arched with brick or stone, and having no entrance within the church; no evil has arisen from interments there, 2948—In some old parish churches, as St. Martin's, Ludgate-hill, bodies have been interred in wooden coffins under the church, *Ib.*—Security should be taken that unconsecrated cemeteries should be preserved exclusively for christian burial, except in special cases where the Legislature may interfere, *Ib.*—Some arrangement should be made to secure the clergy a compensation, not only for the burial fees, but also for what are called complimentary fees, *Ib.*—

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London, The Right Rev. Lord Bishop of. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

Loss sustained by the incumbents of Paddington and St. Marylebone, by the cemetery at Kensal Green, although fees were reserved, 2948—A small fee was secured to the clergy in the Highgate Cemetery Act, but they are losers, *Ib.*—Ten shillings is payable to the clergyman of the parish for every burial in the West London and Westminster Cemetery, and is thought sufficient, *Ib.*—The clergy will be obliged to examine the books of cemetery companies, in order to secure their fees, *Ib.*

Difficulty as regards the burial of the poor in cemeteries; a cheap and decent hearse might be provided for their use, 2948—No general law should be applied to all populous places, the circumstances of which greatly differ; it should be left to the local authorities to determine in what cases funerals should be prohibited, *Ib.*—Burial fees of certain London parishes stated, in order to show how dependent many of the clergy are upon that source of income, 2949-2952—The present incumbents would make some sacrifice, and it might be ensured, at all events, from their successors; care must be taken to leave them enough for the spiritual wants of the parish, 2953-2957—If a union of parishes had a cemetery with an officiating chaplain, the complimentary fees would be gradually discontinued, 2958-2960—The incumbent of a parish should be a party to the discontinuance of interment in any town, with an appeal to the bishop, 2961-2964.

If cemeteries were parochial the rights of the clergy would be preserved; his Lordship recommended unions of parishes for this purpose ten years ago, 2965—Assuming that ground were purchased by a rate upon the parish, there would be no objection to leaving a part unconsecrated for Dissenters, 2967, 2968—The Church Building Commissioners may apply to the Court of Queen's Bench for a mandamus to compel parishes to purchase additional burial-ground; cases of Watford and Bishop's Stortford in Hertfordshire, 2968, 2969—Cases of St. Giles-in-the-Fields and St. James, Westminster, in which local Acts were prepared to enable the parish to raise money for the purchase of a burial-ground, 2970—Propriety of Government undertaking the establishment of cemeteries considered, 2972, 2973.

Possibility of making cemeteries an agreeable promenade, as at Frankfort, 2973—Victoria Park would suffice as a cemetery for the north and east part of London for a century, 2973-2976—There would be a feeling amongst the people against the conveyance of funerals by railway, 2977, 2978—Personally his Lordship would not object to being buried with quicklime, but others might, 2979-2981—Some local authority should determine where a cemetery should be, 2982-2984—If the poorer classes would use a cheap conveyance, the expense of a funeral out of town probably would not be greater than a walking funeral in town, 2985—The right of relations to be buried in existing family vaults should be reserved under certain limitations, 2986-2989—And in family graves in churchyards, 2990, 2991—The objection to quicklime would be very general, and is connected with some of the best feelings of our nature, 2992—The funeral conveyance should carry both the corpse and the mourners, 2993-2996.

The cemetery fees payable to clergymen should only apply to burials in consecrated ground; but the fees should be so managed as not to hold out a premium to people to be buried in unconsecrated ground, 2997-3000—Various fees in different cemeteries; his Lordship is not prepared to say what specific sum the clergy should receive, 3001-3005—Acts regulating the powers of the Church Building Commissioners, in establishing new burial grounds on the application of the parish authorities, 3006-3012—The consolidation of the Church Building Acts is in progress, and the Commissioners would willingly undertake the responsibility of determining in what towns new burial-ground should be provided, 3013, 3014—The complimentary fees usually pass through the undertaker; a less sum paid directly would be more satisfactory to both parties, 3015-3018—The crowded state of the London churchyards drives some burials to private grounds, and diminishes the fees; the cemetery fees should be adjusted with reference to this circumstance, 3019-3023.

Interments should be prohibited in the private burial-grounds as well as in the churchyards, 3024—The feelings of people would probably be against more than one body being carried to the cemetery by one conveyance, 3025, 3026—His Lordship has never had reason to suppose that people have sometimes not been buried at all, 3027—The clergy would be willing to take from the cemeteries a fair average compensation for their precarious fees, 3028, 3029—In St. Giles's the fees have been kept up, as a new burial-ground was purchased 40 years ago, 3030—The parish clerks should be prevented, if possible, from being serious losers; the sexton has not the same claim, 3031—List of burial fees of different parishes, in the years 1838, 1839, and 1840, handed in, *Ev. p.* 194.

London, Bishop of. Remark made by the Bishop of London on the interments in St. Martin's (Ludgate) church, of late; they still continue to bury there, *Ford* 1726-1731, 1739-1742.

Lonsdale, Dr. Letter from Henry Lonsdale, M.D. of Edinburgh, dated 24th April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the effects of the putrescent exhalations from crowded burial-grounds upon the health of towns, *App.* 199.

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Lyme Regis. Letter from Mr. W. M. Tartt, mayor of Lyme Regis, dated 28 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the churchyards within the precincts of the town, and enclosing a statement of the number of burials from July 1837 to April 1842, *App.* 198.

Lynch, Jordan Roche, M.D. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Agrees with Dr. Copland in all he has said, 2682—In the West London Union there are a great many courts and alleys, and the poor are always suffering under typhus fever; causes of this, 2683-2687—The side vaults in St. Sepulchre's church are all well constructed; there is good ventilation, and they are free from any taint or atmospheric impurity, 2688—The smell on the Sabbath-day at times, at St. Martin's, Ludgate-hill, is awful; they allow them to bury in wooden coffins, 2688, 2689—The vaults under St. Andrew's church, Holborn, are very well ventilated; they are formed on arches, still the miasma escapes, 2689, 2690—Witness confirms Dr. Copland's observations respecting ague and typhus fever, 2691, 2692—With proper regulations with regard to interments and privies, typhus fever might be unknown in the metropolis, 2693, 2694—Bringing the water by pipes from the country into the town, and preventing individuals drinking the water which has percolated through the churchyards, has been beneficial to the health of the country, 2695-2697—Insects which generate in churchyards described, 2698-2700.

Lyons, Bartholomew. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Grave-digger at St. Ann's, Soho, 1046, 1047—For 24 years was at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, 1048—During that time removed the whole of the bodies with help, to the catacombs and elsewhere, 1049-1051—His health was affected by the work; his sensations and remedies, 1052-1055—Plan of digging deep graves at St. Ann's, and placing coffins one above another, and only partially covering the graves till full, 1056-1060—Practice with regard to the removal and burning of decayed coffins, and the burial of bones, 1060-1065—Mode of burning out the foul air, rapid accumulation thereof in graves, 1066-1069—Case in which a body fell upon witness while digging a grave; the coffin had been removed, and the head taken off, 1070-1081, 1083-1085—It had certainly been the practice before witness's time, for the gravediggers to strip the lead from the coffins, 1086-1096—Has heard from several people that it has been the practice to take the bones of the dead and play at nine-pins with them, 1097-1099—Witness's pay, state of health, &c., 1100-1107.

Bad state and reputation of the Portugal-street burying-ground; nearness of the bodies to the surface, 1108-1118—Has seen old coffins dug up in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, with nothing but bones in them, 1119-1128—Steam described as issuing from the deep graves as from dunghills; great heat of them even in cold weather, 1129-1135—Quantity of shavings burned in a grave to get rid of the foul air, 1136.

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Mahomedans. The Mahomedans almost invariably bury their dead out of the towns; their cemeteries are the places where the inhabitants congregate for health and enjoyment, *Bowring*, 1832.

Manchester-square. Effects of opening a sewer near Manchester-square, *Brodie* 2912, 2918.

Margaret, St. (Westminster). The commissioners for the improvement of Westminster in 1814, reported that St. Margaret's churchyard could not long be used as a burial-ground, *Walker* 821—Particulars extracted from the *Lancet*, 13th June 1840, concerning the death of three persons from miasma, arising from St. Margaret's churchyard, *Ib.*—State of St. Margaret's churchyard described, *Anderton* 2230, 2231—Interments ought to be discontinued in St. Margaret's churchyard for several reasons, *Milman* 2744-2746—The number of interments weekly has diminished very considerably; the more opulent have removed their interments to the cemeteries, *Ib.* 2747.

See also *Broadway* (Westminster.)

Martin's Burial-ground (Borough). Calculations as to the number of bodies that could be contained in Martin's ground in the Borough, and the number that have been buried there, *Walker* 812—Number of bodies interred in the last 10 years, and previously; size of the ground, *Haycock* 948-961—The grounds of St. Mary (Newington), and Bermondsey Old Church, are worse than Martin's burial-ground; witness has been there as bearer, *Ib.* 991-996—Name of the minister; burial fees, &c. *Ib.* 1004-1016—The ground has risen six inches in 10 years, *Ib.* 1017, 1018.

See also *Depth of Graves*, 2. *Effluvia*, II. 2. *Gases*, 2. *Health*, II. 3.

Martin's, St., Burial-ground (Drury-lane). The neighbourhood is very low, and the people very dirty; how far the health of the neighbourhood is affected by the miasma arising from the burial-ground, *Lane* 2298-2302.

Martin's, St. (Ludgate-hill). At St. Martin's, Ludgate, there is no churchyard, and paupers have been buried in the vaults in common wooden coffins; cart-loads of decayed coffins, &c. were carted away; the Bishop of London has directed that no further interments should take place under the church, *Anderton* 1512-1514—The dead are buried

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all in vaults; there is no burying-ground; size of the vaults; number of bodies they contain, *Ford* 1705-1709—Practice of clearing a vault from its contents in order to place other bodies in it, *Ib.* 1711-1717. 1723—One or two of the vaults are very dry; there are flues like chimnies in the vaults, *Ib.* 1721—Interments in wood are allowed, *Ib.* 1724, 1725.

Effluvia arising from the vaults in damp or warm weather, *Ford* 1710. 1718-1720—The congregation have never complained of any effluvia from the vaults, *Ib.* 1732.

See also *Effluvia*, II. 2. *London*, Bishop of.

Martin's, St., in-the-Fields (Drury-lane). One of the worst burial-grounds in London is that of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields in Drury-lane; immense number of burials; mode of raking over the graves, *Helsdon* 34-43—All the neighbourhood complain of the ground as a serious nuisance, *Ib.* 44-46—Number of burials weekly, *Ib.* 49—Witness thinks the neighbourhood unwholesome, but is not in bad health, *Munns* 586-590—The ground has risen five feet above the street, *Ib.* 605-607—Witness has seen old coffins dug up in St. Martin's-in-the-Fields, with nothing but bones in them, *Lyons* 1119-1128.

See also *Depth of Graves*, 2.

Mary-le-bone, St. See *Kensal-green*.

Mary's, St. (Birmingham). Crowded state of the burial-ground in the parish of St. Mary's, Birmingham; it is situated in the heart of the town; the smell and effluvia are most abominable and disgusting, *Heuson* 1871-1873. 1891-1893—In digging fresh graves they frequently turn up bones and pieces of human flesh, *Ib.* 1874, 1875—Size of the churchyard; number buried there in the course of the year; length of time it has been open; the ground has been very much raised, *Ib.* 1883-1888. 1901-1905—Name of the rector of St. Mary's; by whom the fees are received, *Ib.* 1887-1890.

Mary's, St. (Newington). See *Martin's Burial-ground*.

Mary's, St. (Southampton). Letter from Mr. Peter Dickson, Mayor of Southampton, dated 20 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information on the state of the burial-ground of the parish of St. Mary in that town, and on the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery, *App.* 201. 204, 205.

Mary's, St. (Vinegar-yard). Number of burials that usually take place; supposed number of bodies therein, *Solomons* 229-235.

See also *Depth of Graves*, 2. *Destruction of Coffins.* *Effluvia*, II. 2.

Medical Police. If the practice of keeping bodies a long time before interment were prohibited, there should be a medical police to inspect bodies before interment, *Walker* 887-892.

Metropolitan Churchyards. The state of the churchyards in the metropolis is disgraceful to a civilized country, and the general feeling is against further interments in them, *Ander-ton* 1517-1519—All the parish burial-grounds within the bills of mortality are a disgrace to the country, *Ib.* 2237, 2238—Proper legislative enactments which might be framed respecting them, *Ib.* 2239-2246.

Miasma. See *Andrew's, St.* (Holborn). *Fevers*.

Meyler, Mr. Morgan. Letter from Mr. W. Morgan Meyler, dated 18 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information respecting the state of the churchyards of the city of Gloucester, and their effects upon the general health of the town, and suggesting a remedy for the evil, *App.* 203.

Miller, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Jobbing and labouring man; has been a gravedigger in Globe-fields, Mile End; it is a private burying-ground belonging to Mr. Thomas Tagg, situated on the left-hand side of Mile End, going up Globe-road, 1615-1619—Number of pits dug in it for the depositing of bodies previously interred, to make room for others to go into the graves, 1620-1637—Size of the ground; number of bodies which have been buried there since the year 1820, 1638-1640—Circumstances connected with a theft of bones, nails, and plates off the coffins in October 1839, 1641-1649—Witness has not known coffins to be disturbed in less than 14 years after interment, 1650-1652—By whom the burial service is performed, and how, 1653-1657—Witness has seen skull-bones and arm-bones and teeth lying on the surface of the earth in Stepney churchyard; has seen children playing with the bones, 1658-1660—Filthy and disgusting state of Bethnal-green churchyard, 1661, 1662—Removal of coffins from Limehouse churchyard, 1663.

Witness has seen nasty great black things as big as his finger crawling about in these churchyards; when the sheep are grazing, they pick them up and chew them as well as the grass, 1664. 1698-1702—Witness could not perform grave-digging without the use of spirits, 1665, 1666. 1685—It has been the regular practice to chop through coffins and bodies when they come in the way in the Globe-fields ground, 1667, 1668—Witness has been affected in his health from this work, 1669-1672—Size of Limehouse churchyard, 1673, 1674—Persons affected with the effluvia from the Globe-

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Miller, William. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

fields grounds; there are some coffins within six inches of the surface, 1675-1680—Fees at this ground, 1681—Witness's pay, 1682-1684. 1686-1689—When witness has been digging a new grave, what he calls bloody corruption used to run down from the old grave near it, 1691-4-1697—Case of a cow dying in a few hours from eating the grass which had been cut from Globe-fields, 1703.

Milman, Rev. Henry H. (Rector of St. Margaret's, Westminster). (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Statement of witness's opinion with respect to interments; first, as regards the question of legislation; secondly, in what way the remedies can be applied so as not to interfere with vested rights; and, thirdly, as to how far the nuisance itself exists, 2728—If the Legislature determine to discontinue burials in towns, public cemeteries are the only plan which could be adopted, with a certain reservation of rights to the clergy, *Ib.*—Sources of expense which would be incurred by the change; the purchasing of land; the fees to the clergy; and the additional expense of conveying the paupers to their last home, 2729, 2730—The power should be vested in the clergy in the event of a legislative enactment, 2731-2733.

Witness is not aware of any evil being produced by burying under churches and chapels; in what the burying in churches originated; within the last century it has been prohibited in a great portion of the large capitals of Europe, 2734—Interments ought to be discontinued in St. Margaret's churchyard for several reasons, 2744-2746—The number of interments weekly has diminished very considerably; the more opulent have removed their interments to the cemeteries, 2747—The poor are generally interred in the Broadway churchyard; it is a crowded churchyard, 2748-2750—Great pain might result to the feelings of some persons who wished to be interred by the side of their relatives, from a legislative enactment prohibiting interments in the grave-yards in London, 2751-2758—Witness would prefer a total prohibition, 2755—Witness and his family resided for 17 years at Reading; the rectory was in the churchyard, which was very full; they never experienced any inconvenience from it, 2759-2773. 2775, 2776*.

By a well-regulated scheme, the funerals of the poor might be conveyed to a distance of three or four miles from London without any increased expense, 2774—Mode in which, in the event of a legislative enactment, the vested rights of the clergy, and other parochial authorities, might be secured, 2777-2786—If cemeteries were opened without some such provision, the emoluments of the clergy of London would be half swept away, 2783. 2792, 2793—Whether a tax for the better interment of the dead would be objectionable to the rate-payers of the parish of Westminster, 2787-2789—Classes of fees received by the clergy, 2790, 2791—Reasons why witness, in the event of a legislative enactment, would suggest the exception of Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's, 2794-2808.

Monopoly. Abuses which prevail in all burial-grounds; monopoly of individuals irresponsible to any authority, *Helsdon* 51-53.

Monuments. The multitude cannot have costly monuments erected, but in an extensive burial-place there is a great theatre for public taste, *Bowring* 1834—The clergy would lose the fees on monuments, grave-stones, and tablets, by interments being removed from towns, *Bishop of London* 2950.

Morals of the People. The system of burial in Golden-lane, Barbican, affects the morals of the people, *Helsdon* 32, 33.

MORTALITY:

Clement's-lane.—Great sickness and mortality in the neighbourhood of Clement's-lane; it is in a filthy state, *Walker* 790, 791.

Enon Chapel.—Witness has no doubt three times as many persons die in the street near Enon chapel as in any other part of the parish, *Burn* 302.

See also *Health of Large Towns.*

Mounsey, Mr. Letter from G. G. Mounsey, Mayor of Carlisle, dated 23 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the burial-grounds in that city, *App.* 199.

Munns, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Plane-maker in Drury-lane, 570-572—In the burial-ground of St. Martin's-in-the-Fields they scarcely dig graves, but make them with boards, 573-578—Graves are sometimes two feet deep, more or less, 579-614—Witness has seen bones, entrails, and coffins not decayed, thrown up in digging graves; the bones are removed, and thrown down a flap, 580-583—Grave-diggers require a little extra drink, 584, 585—Witness thinks the neighbourhood unwholesome, but is not in bad health, 586-590—Has seen many pails of water thrown over the coffins before the earth was filled in, to make them rot as soon as possible, 591-595—Has constantly seen the gravedigger move coffins for his own use, 596-600—Has seen him smash two or three skulls in digging a grave, 602-604—The ground has risen

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Munns, Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

risen five feet above the street, 605-607—All working men fly to spirits when they have a nasty job, 610-612—The people, especially the Irish, would object to quick lime being put in with the bodies, 619, 620—Graves have sometimes been kept open two or three months, with nothing but boards and a little earth over them, 621-630.

Mutilation of Dead Bodies. It was a common occurrence at St. Ann's, Soho, under Fox the gravedigger, to mutilate the remains of the dead, *Copland* 1398-1401.

See also *Destruction of Coffins.*

Myddleton, Sir Hugh. Great effect of Sir Hugh Myddleton's enterprise in bringing water from a distance, in diminishing disease in the metropolis, *Copland* 2673.

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Naples. The public would not submit to the Neapolitan plan of having a vault for every day in the year, *Walker* 835—The feeling against the Neapolitan plan might be removed, if executed in a more decent manner, *Ib.* 838, 839—Practice near Naples of having 365 vaults, one for every day in the year, *Copland* 2679, 2680.

New Kent Road. Description of a graveyard in the New Kent Road, belonging to Messrs. Hoole and Martin, *Whittaker* 458-475.

Norwood (Middlesex). Crowded state of the churchyard of Norwood, Middlesex; they can scarcely find room to bury a fresh corpse, *Hewson* 1799, 1898.

Nottingham. Letter from Mr. H. C. Stenton, dated 10 March 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, referring to the state of the churchyard in Nottingham, *App.* 207.

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Olave, St., and St. John (Southwark). The parishes of St. Olave and St. John, Southwark, are in treaty for the purchase of a joint burial-ground, *Russell* 2488, 2489.

See also *Flemish Burial-ground.*

Oldham. Letter from Mr. John P. Brierly, head constable of Oldham, dated 19 April 1842 to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the burial-grounds in the borough and in the out townships, *App.* 202.

Opening of Graves. Graves have sometimes been kept open at St. Martin's-in-the-Fields for two or three months, with nothing but boards and a little earth over them, *Munns* 621-630—No grave should be opened within the memory of the person who witnessed the first interment, for the burial of fresh bodies, except of relations, *Bishop of London* 2948.

Oxford. Letter from C. J. Sadler, Alderman and J. P., to the Chairman of the Committee, dated 30 April 1842, respecting the state of the churchyards of Oxford, and the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery, *App.* 197—Letter from Mr. J. Kidd, dated 22 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, on the subject of the state of the churchyards in Oxford, and the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery, *Ib.* 201.

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Paddington. Amount of burial fees in 1838, 1839, and 1840, *Bishop of London*, 2949—The burial-ground at Paddington was enlarged by a considerable addition 10 or 12 years ago, *Ib.* 3029.

Pall Bearers. Pall bearers are likely to be affected injuriously, *Whittaker* 424-427.

Pancras Road Cemetery. The cemetery in St. Pancras-road is in a very admirable state; a large body of the whole square has never been used, *Tyler* 1416—The parish of St. Giles's-in-the-Fields raised a sum of money on annuities to purchase the cemetery, which has been paid off, *Ib.* 1421-1424—Regulations in this ground as to the depth of graves, and the quantity of earth above the coffins, *Ib.* 1449-1452—Extent to which it is occupied; length of time calculated before it will be full, *Ib.* 1453-1462.

See also *Depth of Graves*, 2.

Paris. In Paris they have an excellent plan for the interment of the poor; this plan described, *Walker* 832—No burials are allowed in Paris: the same law should be made in London: the main difficulty is the burial of the poor, *Ib.* 861-865—The cemeteries in the neighbourhood of Paris are, many of them, agreeable and healthy walks, *Bowring* 1832—Probable cause of the diseases at Paris previously to the purification of the Seine, *Copland* 2661. See also "*Fosses Communes.*"

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Parish Clerks. The effects of the proposed change upon the emoluments of parish clerks is a matter to be considered, *Rep.* vi.—The parish clerk in St. Andrew's Parish, Holborn, derives very considerable emoluments from interments, *Robinson* 2859.—The principal part of the parish clerk's emolument in Whitechapel is derived from the burials, *Champneys* 2893, 2894.—The parish clerks should be prevented, if possible, from being serious losers; the sexton has not the same claim, *Bishop of London* 3031.

Parish Rates. Parochial authorities to impose a rate for forming cemeteries, *Rep.* vi.

See also *Burial Fees. Cemeteries. Clergy, 2. Leeds. Southampton. Whitechapel.*

Parker, Henry John. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Belongs to the police force; No. 10, K. division, 2200, 2201.—Circumstances connected with a disgusting scene witnessed by a person from the Eastern Counties Railway in the burial-ground belonging to Thomas Tagg, Globe-fields, Mile-end, 2202–2217.

Paul's, St. (London). St. Paul's churchyard is very full, *Anderton* 2236.

See also *St. Clement Danes. Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's.*

Paul's, St. (Leeds). State of the vaults under St. Paul's churchyard, Leeds; swarms of insects in them, *Baker* 2588, 2589.

Pennant. Pennant's account of the state of St. Giles's churchyard no longer applies, *Tyler* 1476, 1477.

Peter's, St. (Cornhill). The churchyard is getting very full, but a grave may be had of any depth, *Harvey* 1816.

Peter's, St. (Leeds). The position of St. Peter's burial-ground is the worst part of the town, *Baker* 2554.

Piedmont. Letter from — Revel, dated 28 March 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the laws regulating the establishment of cemeteries in Piedmont, *App.* 205.

Pitts, Samuel. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—A cabinet-maker, and formerly an attendant at Sion chapel, Clement's-lane, 123–127—Abominable state of that chapel from the interments; insects that infested it; smells arising, &c. 128–131, 199—Size of the chapel; supposed number of bodies buried underneath; effects of the effluvia upon the congregation, 132–148—A great many coffins were removed to make room for others, and burned, 149, 150—The burial fees were small, and went to the minister, 151–154—A sewer passed under the chapel, which the commissioners obliged the minister to arch over; the remains of bodies may have fallen into it, 155–160—The insects supposed to have arisen from putrefaction; they were similar to bugs with wings, 161, 162.

Enon chapel is entirely surrounded by houses, except on one side, 163—Witness believes that the abduction of coffins proceeded to a great extent, and that they were burned in the minister's house, 164–166—The minister built the chapel himself as a speculation; it is now shut up, 167–171—Offensive effluvia whenever the trap door was opened for letting down coffins: must have been injurious to the neighbourhood, 172–175—The minister had a Sunday-school, which attended the chapel for about six hours, 176–182—Witness's wife used frequently to come home ill from chapel, and has not since been a healthy woman, 184—The smallness of the fee induced great numbers of the poor to be buried there, 187–192—Amount of the fee, 197, 198—There could not have been room for the number of coffins unless many had been destroyed, 200–204—Persons were taken home fainting nearly every Sunday, 205, 206.

Portugal. In Portugal, where quick lime is used for the purpose of destroying corpses, some of the churchyards are exceedingly offensive, *Bowring* 1836.

Portugal-street Burial-ground. Bad state and reputation of it; nearness of the bodies to the surface, *Lyons* 1108–1118—Offensive state of the burying-ground in Portugal-street; case of the workhouse being denounced as unfit for a hospital from its proximity to the burial-ground, *White* 2056–2060.

See also *Effluvia. Gases. Health, II. 4. King's College Hospital. St. Mary-le-Strand.*

Private Burial-grounds. Interments should be prohibited in the private burial-grounds as well as in the churchyards, *Bishop of London* 3024.

See also *Burial-fees.*

Proceedings of the Committee. Minutes thereof, *Rep.* viii–xi.

Prohibition of Interments in Towns. Opinion of the Committee that a legislative enactment, prohibiting interments in towns and their vicinity, is required, and should emanate from the Government, *Rep.* vi.—The prohibition to be absolute in towns with above 50,000 inhabitants, except in the case of family vaults already existing, *Ib.*—There should

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Prohibition of Interments in Towns—continued.

should be an Act absolutely prohibiting burials in towns; no other interference could accomplish the end, *Bowring* 1835—The incumbent of a parish should be a party to the discontinuance of interment in any town, with an appeal to the bishop, *Bishop of London* 2961-2964—A legislative enactment prohibiting the interment of the dead within the precincts of the town of Leeds would be absolutely essential to health and most acceptable to the inhabitants, *Baker* 2455. 2562-2566—Witness would prohibit the burial of all classes, either rich or poor, in the present churchyards, *Anderton* 2247.

Whether it would be better to prohibit the burying in the grave-yards in London altogether, or to permit it only on the payment of a large fee, *Robinson* 2838-2848—Witness trusts that no law will be passed to prohibit funerals in London churchyards, *Abdy* 1317—No general law should be applied to all populous places, the circumstances of which greatly differ; it should be left to the local authorities to determine in what cases funerals should be prohibited, *Bishop of London* 2948.

See also *Private Burial-grounds.*

Prout, Dr. Statement by him that previous to the invasion of the cholera, the atmosphere was specifically heavier; his opinion that there was a quantity of gas floating in the air, *Walker* 905.

Prout, Mr. Letter from Mr. William Prout, dated 25 May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, relative to the effects of putrid exhalations from churchyards, and recommending the establishment of public cemeteries, *App.* 213.

Public Taste. See *Cemeteries.* *Monuments.* *Putrid Fever.* *Sulphuretted Hydrogen.*

Pye, Michael. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has worked as grave-digger in St. Clement Danes, 1219-1221—Fullness of the ground in Portugal-street; coffins are constantly ordered to be cut through to make a grave, 1222-1225—Number of coffins in the vaults under the church; smell arising when the vaults are opened 1226-1231—Anger of Mr. Fitch, the sexton, when a man of the name of Irving examined Portugal-street churchyard and probed the ground, 1232-1234—Instances in which witness's health has been affected, 1235—He has been obliged to drink spirits, 1235, 1236—To witness's knowledge coffins are cut up in the vaults, and the lead removed, and the wood and bones or bodies disposed of, 1237-1245—The common practice in digging graves is to break through wooden coffins, remove the wood, and place the remains at the bottom of the grave, 1246-1251. 1257, 1258—Case in which a leaden coffin was seen by witness to burst from the gas within, 1252, 1253—Rules as to the digging of deep graves; payment per foot, 1259-1270—Between each interment the grave is filled up, with the shoring boards kept in, 1271-1273—Grave-digging is a very unhealthy employment; witness has been in much better health since he left it, 1274-1281.

Q.

QUICK LIME:

1. *Whether any Advantage would proceed from putting it into Coffins.*
2. *Objection of the Middling and Lower Classes to the Use of it.*
3. *Use of it in all Grounds, particularly at Enon Chapel.*

1. *Whether any Advantage would proceed from putting it into Coffins:*

Persons could not object to the use of quick lime; in dry ground it would be of great use, but not in wet ground, *Eyles* 1216-1218—The use of quick lime and chloride of lime would be of service, and the opposition to it would be slight, *Copland* 2676-2678—Quick lime put into coffins would have the effect of destroying the body and preventing effluvia, *Brodie* 2938.

Doubt as to whether quick lime introduced into coffins would prevent putrid smells, *Bowring* 1836-1838—The period necessary for the decomposition of a body from quick lime being introduced into the coffin must depend very much on the state of the body, *Walker* 2079-2086—The purposes of interment are best fulfilled when rapid decomposition takes place, *ib.*—It would not be necessary to apply lime, provided the bodies were buried outside the town, *Fellowes* 2614.

2. *Objection of the Middling and Lower Classes to the Use of it:*

Poor people would have a strong prejudice against having quick lime put into the coffins, *Carr* 683-685; *Hewson* 1895, 1896; *Baldock* 1925; *Baker* 2556. 2583, 2584; *Robinson* 2857, 2858—The people, especially the Irish, would object to quick lime being put in with the bodies, *Mums* 619, 620—It would promote health to put quick lime into coffins, but it would be objected to, *Walker* 875—There would be objections to the use of quick lime, although it is much used on the continent, *Tyler* 1467—Pro-

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QUICK LIME—continued.

2. *Objection of the Middling and Lower Classes, &c.*—continued.

bable prejudice among the middling and lower classes to a law that there should be a quantity of quick lime put into the coffin, *Auderton* 2248.

Objection of the population of the parish of St. Stephen, Coleman-street, to quick lime being placed in the coffins; they would object now, as much as at any former time, to its insertion, *Harker* 1963-1973—Putting quick lime or chloride of lime in the coffins would do a great deal of good; but it would be objected to among the poorer classes, *Yates* 2898, 2899—Personally, witness would not object to being buried with quick lime, but others might, *Bishop of London* 2979-2981—The objection to quick lime would be very general, and is connected with some of the best feelings of our nature, *Ib.* 2992.

4. *Use of it in all Grounds, particularly at Enon Chapel:*

Quick lime is much used in all the grounds; people would not like it to be used as a system for destroying bodies in a short space of time, *Whittaker* 565-569—Quick lime has been used to a great extent at Enon chapel, *Walker* 2087.

See also *Portugal*.

R.

Railways. There would be a feeling amongst the people against the conveyance of funerals by railway, *Bishop of London* 2977, 2978.

Randall, Dr. Letter from Thomas Randall, M. D., dated 12 April 1842, to the Mayor of Oxford, respecting the state of the burial-grounds of that town, *App.* 204.

Reading. Witness with his family resided for 17 years, at the rectory at Reading, in the churchyard; they never experienced any inconvenience from it, *Milman* 2759-2773-2775, 2776*.

Relatives. Family vaults already existing to be exempted from the operation of the proposed enactment, *Rep.* vi.—The descendants of persons buried in the metropolitan churchyards expect to be buried there themselves, *Abdy* 1318—Desire on the part of persons to be buried where their ancestors were buried, *Robinson* 2838—The right of relations to be buried in existing family vaults should be reserved under certain limitations, *Bishop of London* 2986-2989—And in family graves in churchyards, *Ib.* 2990-2991.

Rents (Clement's-lane). Witness would not live in Clement's-lane if he could pay a higher rent; rent paid, *Lane* 741-743.

Revel, Mr. Letter from — Revel, dated 28 March 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the laws regulating the establishment of cemeteries in Piedmont, *App.* 205.

Reveley, Mr. Letter from Mr. Hugh Reveley, J. P., dated 17 March 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the practice prevailing in the parish of Bryn-y-gevin, North Wales, of burying corpses in the body of the church without leaden coffins, *App.* 206.

Robinson, Rev. John Trevor. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Witness is not aware of any nuisance having arisen, or any noxious effects having been produced upon the health of the population in the vicinity of the burial-grounds, 2809—In the parish of St. Andrew's, Holborn, there is a general approbation expressed of some measure which would put a stop to interment in populous places, *Ib.*—Witness concurs in the evidence given by Mr. Milman, *Ib.*—Expense which would arise from a new legislative enactment, 2810-2812. 2830—Under whose control the burials should be conducted, 2813—Scheme by which the vested rights and the security of the existing incomes of the clergy might be preserved, 2814-2817—Whether while continuing to them their vested rights, it would be desirable to require from them the superintendence and direction of the cemeteries, 2818-2829—It would be an objectionable proceeding to set aside a portion of the ground for persons dissenting from the Church, 2832-2837.

Desire on the part of persons to be buried where their ancestors were buried, 2838—Whether it would be better to prohibit the burying in the grave-yards in London altogether, or to permit it only on the payment of a large fee, 2838-2848—The compensation to the clergy should be in proportion to the average income, 2849-2856—Putting quick lime into the coffins would create a very strong feeling of disgust among the middling or lower classes, 2857, 2858—The parish clerk in witness's parish derives very considerable emoluments from interments, 2859.

Rochdale. Letter from Mr. James Leach, High Constable of Rochdale, dated 12 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information respecting the burial-grounds of that town, and their effects upon its general health, *App.* 203, 204.

Royal Funerals. It commonly happens that people are injuriously affected in attending royal funerals, *Collier* 2110-2112.

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Russell, Rev. John D.D. Rector of Bishopsgate.—(Analysis of his Evidence.) Inconvenience of burying in churches; instances at St. Michael's, Wood-street, and St. Michael's, Queenhithe; at Bishopsgate no real inconvenience has been felt from burials; size of the churchyard, &c., 2444-2455.—Comparison of the number of deaths registered in the parish of Bishopsgate and the number buried at the parish churchyard; one-third are unaccounted for; probable causes of this fact, 2444-2454. 2473-2476.—The interment of bodies in large towns, where there is not sufficient space, is very inconvenient, 2456, 2457.—Whether several of the parishioners who have died may not have been buried in Globe-fields or elsewhere, on account of the lower fees, 2458-2463.—Possibility of their having been buried in the churchyard fraudulently, to avoid fees, 2464-2468.—Burial fees at Bishopsgate, 2469, 2470.—The present sexton has no fees, but a fixed salary, 2471, 2472.—At Bishopsgate the fees are very low, and no charge has been made for paupers during the time of three or four rectors, 2477-2480.

Individually witness would gain if all bodies were buried in the cemeteries, and fees allowed to the clergy of the parishes whence the bodies come, 2481-2483.—The clergy would be disposed to agree to such an arrangement, 2484-2487.—The parishes of St. Olave and St. John, Southwark, are in treaty for the purchase of a joint burial-ground, 2488, 2489.—Arrangements might be made by parishes or unions with the cemeteries, for the burial of paupers, 2490-2492.—The authority for purchasing land or conducting the interment of paupers might be well vested in the minister and churchwardens for the time being, 2493-2495.—There are constant disputes arising out of the present system of interment; it would be a great satisfaction to witness if it were removed, 2496-2500.—The clergy are differently circumstanced in regard to fees; some have nothing but fees to live upon, 2501.—Statement as to the position and unhealthiness of the rectory house of Allhallows-on-the-Wall, 2501-2503.—Any legislative enactment which did not interfere with the vested rights of the clergy would be agreeable to them, 2502.

Russell Court Burial-ground (St. Mary-le-Strand.) Witness, one of the Committee, has visited several burial-places in London, *Ainsworth* 1303, 1304.—Was refused admittance into Russell-Court burial-ground, *Ib.* 1305.

S.

St. Clement Danes. Witness's house overlooks the burial-ground of St. Clement Danes; bad health of himself, family, and lodgers, since he has lived there, *Irwin* 68-84.—The health of witness's family cannot have been injured by keeping paints in the house; their good health before they lived in their present situation, *Ib.* 101-110.—Removal of earth lately from St. Clement Danes churchyard; where shot, *Eyles* 1191-1195.—The sexton orders persons to dig a grave in a particular place and then leaves them, *Ib.* 1196-1199.

Filthy state of the pauper-ground of St. Clement Danes, close to the almshouses; steam arising from it, *Eyles* 1200-1206.—Witness was refused admittance to the vaults of St. Clement Danes church when he went as a member of the Committee to visit them, *Acton* 1286, 1287.—Witness considers St. Clement Danes little better than burying in our town streets, and also St. Paul's, *Anderton* 2233.

See also *Bones. Vaults. Water*, III. 2.

St. Mary Axe. See *Bones. Gases*, 2.

St. Mary-le-Strand. The burial grounds of St. Mary-le-Strand and Portugal-street are both so bad there is no telling the difference, *Carr* 687-690.—St. Mary-le-Strand burial-ground is raised about four feet above the surrounding level, *Ib.* 695-699.

See also *Bones*.

Sadler, Mr. Letter from C. J. Sadler, Alderman and J. P., to the Chairman of the Committee, dated 30 April 1842, respecting the measures taken for the establishment of a cemetery near the city of Oxford, *App.* 197.

Savery, Mr. Letter from Mr. Charles Savery, dated 18 March 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information respecting the state of the grave-yards of Bristol, *App.* 205, 206.

Savoy Burial-ground. Sickness experienced by witness in removing earth from the Savoy burial-ground, *Burn*, 295-297.—The Savoy burial-ground is made into a garden, and is the finest little ground in London, *Carr* 691-694.

Searchers. Witness at the Portugal-street burial-ground observed holes made by the searchers, which must let out foul air, *For* 1411.

Sepulchre's, St. Scene witnessed at St. Sepulchre's in clearing out a vault; removal of bones to the bonehouse, *Irwin* 97-100.—The side vaults in St. Sepulchre's church are all well constructed; there is good ventilation, and they are free from any taint or atmospheric impurity, *Lynch* 2688.

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Sewers. It was generally believed that bodies were slipped down the sewer at Enon chapel, otherwise the place could not have contained so many; this made the commissioners strict in bricking it over, *Burn* 278-281.

See also *Manchester-square.* *Strand, The.*

Sextons. The present sexton of Bishopsgate has no fees, but a fixed salary, *Russell* 2471, 2472—The case of the sexton, in point of emoluments from burials, is different from that of the parish clerk; the sexton is paid the same as any other labourer, *Bishop of London* 3031.

Sharpe, Mr. Letter from Mr. Nathaniel Sharpe, surveyor, dated April 1842, to Mr. Ridsdale (for Mr. Savery), with an estimate of the extent of the churchyards at Leeds, *App.* 203.

Shaw, William. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Serjeant of police, K. division, No. 2, 2218, 2219—Evidence respecting a disgusting scene which has come under witness's knowledge with regard to the grave-yard in Globe-road, 2220-2228.

Sheen's Burying-ground. The opening of a burying-ground some years ago, called Sheen's burying-ground, has reduced the number of burials in Whitechapel ground considerably, *Wallace* 1548.—Some of witness's parishioners are buried in Sheen's burial-ground, which stands within a stone's throw of the church; size of it, *Champneys* 2865-2867.

Sheffield. Letter from Mr. J. Innocent, Mayor of Sheffield, dated 6 May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, enclosing information relative to the state of the burial-grounds of that town, *App.* 207, 208.

Shillibeer, Mr. Carriage invented by Mr. Shillibeer to take a corpse and mourners to the burial-ground, *Harker* 1993.

Sickness. Witness is certain that sickness is more prevalent in houses close to churchyards, *Walker* 797—Sickness is most prevalent in the city; in the neighbourhoods of Spitalfields and Bethnal-green, *Harvey* 1829.

Skittles. Witness has heard from several people that it has been the practice to take the bones of the dead and play at nine-pins with them, in St. Ann's, Soho, *Lyons* 1098, 1099—Witness has seen a man named Fox, the gravedigger at St. Ann's, Soho, and his assistants, play at skittles with the bones and skulls, *Copeland* 1376, 1377.

Society of Friends. Statement respecting the burial-grounds of the Society of Friends in the metropolis and the provinces, together with a table of the interments in the metropolitan burial-grounds, *App.* 213, 214.

Solomons, Moses. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Resides in Vinegar-yard, Drury-lane; his staircase windows look on to the churchyard of St. Mary's, 207-212. 214—Has seen the gravedigger take a coffin out of the ground, take out the body and chop the head off, so that he could take it out of the ground, 213—The graves are dug deep, and coffins placed one upon another nearly to the surface, 215-217—The smell is sometimes so strong as to oblige him to close the windows, 218-222. 225-227—Number of burials that usually take place; supposed number of bodies therein, 229-235—Has often seen coffins broken up by the gravedigger, 236-246.

Southampton. Great want of accommodation for the burial of the dead in that town, *Deacon* 2616—The common burial-ground for the town is only two acres two roods, in the heart of the town; has been used for 500 years; and in the last four or five, the average number of burials has been 500, *Ib.* 2617-2621.

The borough council determined to apply to Parliament for a cemetery on the common, but await a general measure, *Deacon* 2621—Difficulty in obtaining the consent of the rate-payers to take part of the common, *Ib.* 2622-2624—Explanation of the difficulties experienced in the vestry meetings of rate-payers as regards the proposal for a new burial-ground on the common, *Ib.* 2650-2654—The proposed spot was two miles from the town; it would have been better nearer, but the council could get it for nothing, *Ib.* 2655-2657—The council calculated that fees from the rich would enable them to convey the poor at a very inconsiderable expense, *Ib.* 2658.

The burial-ground is crammed full, and the most disgusting scenes are witnessed there; skulls are brought up with the hair on, &c., *Deacon* 2627-2635—Complaint made by a man of the name of Targit that his wife's coffin was exposed, *Ib.* 2636, 2637—The part of the town near the burial-ground is low and densely peopled; there are burials under the catacombs of two churches, *Ib.* 2639-2645.—See also *Cemeteries*, 2. *Health*, II. 6.

Spa-fields Burial-ground. Quantities of funerals at Spa-fields burial-ground, yet there is always room made, *Whittaker* 528-545—Spa-fields ground is surrounded by houses, *Ib.* 548, 549—Number of burials and size of Spa-fields burial-ground, *Ib.* 554-557—Spa-fields is a better burial-ground than many parochial burial-grounds; it is more open, and there are not so many bones lying about, *Carr* 660-664.

See also *Destruction of Coffins.* *Health*, II. 7.

Spain.

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- Spain.* A great number of the new burying-places are beyond the seats of population; the result has been generally satisfactory, *Bowring* 1832—How the expense was supplied when the alteration in the mode of burial was made to prevent the pestilential fevers in Spain, *Fellowes* 1935.—See also *Barcelona*.
- Sparling, Mr.* Letter from Mr. W. Sparling, town clerk of Colchester, dated 25 May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, giving information as to the state of the burying-grounds of the parishes of St. Peter, St. Runwald, and St. James, Colchester, *App.* 206.
- Spirituous Liquors.* All working men fly to spirits when they have a nasty job, *Munns* 610-612.—See also *Gravediggers*, 3.
- Spitalfields.* Unhealthiness is most prevalent in the city, in the neighbourhood of Spitalfields and Bethnal-green, *Harvey* 1829.
- Stenton, Mr.* Letter from Mr. H. C. Stenton, solicitor, Southwell, Notts, dated 10 March 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, offering information on the subject of the inquiry, &c. *App.* 207.
- Stephen's, St.* (Coleman-street). Statement as to the accommodation for burials, and the mode in which vaults have been cleared, *Harker* 1947—A great many bodies have been buried in the common vault since witness has been there; there is no unpleasant effluvia from the vault; it is a large vault, and ventilated, *Ib.* 1947-1950. 1952—Number of burials in the parish annually, *Ib.* 1951—The churchyard is only on the north side of the church, *Ib.* 1953.
- Stepney.* Witness has seen skull-bones and arm-bones and teeth lying on the surface of the earth in Stepney Churchyard; has seen children playing with the bones, *Miller* 1658-1660—There have been several private cemeteries established lately in the parish, *James* 2706—Dreadful scene in Stepney Church in consequence of keeping a body too long before burial, *Ib.* 2939.—See also *Water*, III. 3.
- Stokes, Mr.* Letter from Mr. Thomas Stokes, Mayor of Leicester, dated 18 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, in reference to interments within the precincts of the town of Leicester, *App.* 203.
- Strand, The.* Nuisance arising from the present excavation of the Strand, with reference to the sewers, *White* 2047-2053—Evidence regarding the opening of the street in the Strand, near St. Clement's Church, for the purpose of forming a sewer; the stench arose from human bodies, and not from the opening of any former sewer, *Walker* 2063-2068. 2092—Why the openings from the vaults under the churches in the Strand to the public streets can scarcely be considered to be injurious to those who are passing by, *Collier* 2107-2109—The gases emanating from the vaults underneath the churches in the Strand, or any other part of London, must be injurious to the health of the people, *Atkinson* 2267; *Lane* 2338.
- Sulphuretted Hydrogen.* Sulphuretted hydrogen is evolved from putrid bodies, which is so noxious, that 1 part in 500 of atmospheric air is fatal; a less proportion may produce typhus or putrid fever, *Brodie* 2912.
- Sunday Funerals.* Sunday funerals cause a desecration of the Sabbath, but could not be prevented without great loss to the labouring poor; shopkeepers are often buried as well as the poor on Sunday, *Abdy* 1336-1341.—See also *Clapham*.

T.

- Tagg, Thomas.* (Analysis of his Evidence).—Witness attends for the purpose of rebutting the evidence given before the Committee by William Miller affecting the burial-ground belonging to witness in Globe Fields, Mile End, 2123-2125. 2130, 2131—Produces the register books of such burial-ground, 2126-2129. 2141, 2142—Purport of the evidence which witness considers as injurious to him; evidence proposed to be produced to prove the falsehood of that given by William Miller, 2132-2138. 2146—The ground is not consecrated; it is not attached to any chapel, 2139, 2140. 2151—Size of the ground; depth to which a grave is dug without finding water; space of ground unoccupied; it is freehold, 2143-2145. 2147, 2148. 2150—Plan of burial by which 9,500 bodies have been buried in a space half of three-fourths of an acre, 2149-2158—Fees charged 2159, 2187.
- Evidence respecting the burning of decayed coffins, 2160-2173. 2185, 2186—Witness has never observed any effluvia or bad smell, 2174, 2175—Persons of all religious denominations are interred in this ground, 2176-2181—A great many persons who have been dissected have been interred there, 2182-2184—A petition has been presented to the House of Commons from the Common Council, complaining of burials in witness's ground, 2188-2191—Time necessary for the decomposition of a body, 2192—The ground is surrounded by a wall; persons can see what is going on in the ground, the front iron work is open, and the gates are standing open all day long, 2192-2195.

Targit, Mr. See *Southampton*.

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Tartt,

Report, 1842—continued.

Tartt, Mr. Letter from W. M. Tartt, mayor of Lyme Regis, dated 28 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, respecting the state of the churchyards within the precincts of the town, and enclosing a statement of the number of burials from July 1837 to April 1842, *App.* 198.

Thoroughfares in Churchyards. Churchyards in London and Westminster which are thoroughfares enumerated, *Anderton*, 2232, 2233.

Todd, Dr. Robert Bentley. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Fellow of the College of Physicians, and of the Royal Society, 2406—No inconvenience whatever has been felt from the contiguity of the grave-yard in Portugal-street to King's College Hospital; no disease of any kind has originated from it, 2407-2412, 2436-2443—Erroneous opinions have been put forward respecting the exhalation of the effluvium from grave-yards furnishing one of the most powerful causes of disease and mortality in the metropolis 2413-2421—Difference between typhoid fever and typhus fever, 2415—The gases emanating from human bodies are likely to be injurious to the general health, but not to produce any particular fever, 2422-2425—The state of disease prevalent at King's College Hospital is pretty much the same as at all hospitals; comparison of the various rates of mortality at this hospital and at St. George's, 2426-2433.

Tower Hamlets Cemetery. The Tower Hamlets Cemetery is considerably too low and too near the river, *Walker* 866—There are two classes of fees in the Tower Hamlets Cemetery, *Bishop of London* 3001—Fees settled by witness for the Tower Hamlets Cemetery, *Ib.* 3004.

Tyler, Rev. James Endell. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Rector of St. Giles-in-the-Fields for nearly 16 years, 1413, 1414—The parish has two grave-yards, the one at the church the other a cemetery in Pancras-road, between King's Cross and Kentish Town, 1415—State of each described; number buried in 1841, 1415-1418—They continue to bury in London because they have no right to refuse, and the churchyard having been shut up for 20 years, there is no objection either on the ground of health or of decency, 1419—The Roman-catholic Irish prefer it to the cemetery as it was consecrated by a Roman-catholic bishop; course adopted during the cholera, 1419, 1420—The parish raised a sum of money on annuities to purchase the cemetery, which has been paid off, 1421-1424—Fees in the churchyard and in the cemetery respectively, 1425-1428—Before the Anatomy Act people were so anxious to be buried in front of the church where there were lights, that witness was obliged to raise the fees, 1428—Size of the churchyard, 1432-1434—A portion has not been disturbed for nearly 40 years, 1435—The graves are not less than 14 feet deep, and are put as close as possible side by side, 1436-1442—The orders are that not less than three feet of earth shall be above the uppermost coffin, 1443-1448—Regulations in the new ground as to the depth of graves and the quantity of earth above the coffins, 1449-1452—Extent to which it is occupied; length of time calculated before it will be full, 1453-1462.

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See also *Ague. Sulphuretted Hydrogen. West London Union.*

U.

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Church, *Rep.* vii.—Security should be taken that unconsecrated cemeteries should be preserved exclusively for Christian burial, except in special cases where the Legislature may interfere, *Bishop of London* 2948.

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Valpy, Mr. Letter from Mr. A. J. Valpy, dated 13 April 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, enclosing papers relative to interments in cemeteries, *App.* 204.

VAULTS :

Enon Chapel.—State of the vaults under Enon Chapel; scene witnessed there, *Whittaker* 406-410.

St. Clement Danes.—Number of coffins in the vaults under the church; smell arising when the vaults are opened, *Pye* 1226-1231.

St. Giles-in-the-Fields.—There are very few burials in the vaults; position, construction, and ventilation of them, *Tyler* 1469-1474.

See also *Andrew's, St.*, (Holborn.) *Enon Chapel.* *George's, St.*, (Southwark.)
Martin's, St., (Ludgate Hill.) *Sepulchre's, St.*

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Verner, Mr. Letter from Thomas Verner, sovereign of Belfast, dated 17 May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, relative to the burial-grounds of the town of Belfast, *App.* 206, 207.

Victoria Park. Victoria Park would suffice as a cemetery for the north and east part of London for a century, *Bishop of London* 2973-2976.

W.

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Walker, George Alfred. (Analysis of his Evidence)—continued.

situations, 842—Grave-yards ought to be at a distance from London, 843—Danger of the gases from graves finding their way into the wells; the pumps near some churchyards are not used, 844-856—Grave-yards should be in high and dry situations, 858, 859—No burials are allowed in Paris; the same law should be made in London; the main difficulty is the burial of the poor, 861-865—Remarks upon different cemeteries in the neighbourhood of London, 866-871—Unnecessary expense of coffins; leaden coffins are not the least protection, 872, 873—The conveyance of the bodies of the poor must be done by parishes, unions of parishes, or the Government, 873, 874—It would promote health to put quick lime into coffins, but it would be objected to, 875—Wood of which coffins should be made; description of French coffins, 876-879.

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[Second Examination.]—Evidence regarding the opening of the street in the Strand, near St. Clement's Church, for the purpose of forming a sewer; the stench arose from human bodies, and not the opening of any former sewer, 2063-2068, 2092—There is a public hospital to the east of the burial-place in Portugal-street; it is a very improper locality for a hospital; number of patients it will contain, 2069-2078—The period necessary for the decomposition of a body from quick lime being introduced into the coffin must depend very much on the state of the body; the purposes of interment are best fulfilled where rapid decomposition takes place, 2079-2086—Lime has been used to a great extent at Enon Chapel, 2087—Objections to a damp burial-ground, 2088-2091.

Walker, Mr. G. A. Letter from Mr. G. A. Walker, dated 3 May 1842, to the Chairman of the Committee, stating interesting facts connected with the inquiry, and offering practical observations upon the evidence adduced, *App.* 208-213.

Wallace, George Starhins. (Analysis of his Evidence).—Livery-stablekeeper in Whitechapel, 1520—Custom of burying in Whitechapel Church in open graves under the pews with only three or four feet of earth between the bodies and the flooring of the pews, 1521-1526—Average number of interments in a year in the church, 1526, 1527—Size of the churchyard; it is part leasehold, and part freehold; the burials have ceased for some years in the leasehold part, from the impression that the remains will be liable to be disturbed from the ground falling in at the end of the lease, 1528-1534—Average number of burials in the course of the year, 1535—Of late years the graves have been dug much deeper than formerly; a great many coffins are put into each grave; the ground seldom covers the top coffin more than three feet, 1536-1540—Desire of the inhabitants to provide a fresh burial-ground, 1541-1544—The opening of a burying-ground some years ago, called Sheen's burying-ground, has reduced the number of burials in Whitechapel ground considerably, 1548—Witness has never experienced, nor has he heard any complaints of any unpleasant effluvia from the churchyard, 1549-1551.

WATER:

I. *Injurious Effects of the Mixture of Animal Matter with it.*

II. *Advantages of bringing it from the Country by Pipes into the Town.*

III. *Qualities of it near particular Churchyards.:*

1. St. Anne's, Soho.

2. St. Clement Danes.

3. Stepney Churchyard.

I. *Injurious Effects of the Mixture of Animal Matter with it:*

Danger of the gases from graves finding their way into the wells; the pumps near some churchyards are not used, *Walker* 844-846—Water percolating through soils enriched by animal matter is injurious to the health of those who use it, especially in warm climates, *Copland* 2659, 2660—Filtration through a new soil will purify the water from its grosser materials, but in towns the communication extends to a great depth, and affects the water with morbid matter, *Ib.* 2661, 2662—Injurious effects of the admixture of animal and vegetable matter with water, *Ib.* 2671.

II. *Advantages*

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WATER—continued.

II. *Advantages of bringing it from the Country by Pipes into the Town :*

Bringing the water by pipes from the country into the town, and preventing individuals drinking the water which has percolated through the churchyards, has been beneficial to the health of the country, *Lynch* 2695-2697.

III. *Qualities of it near particular Churchyards :*

1. *St Anne's Soho :*

There is a pump in Dean-street, close to the churchyard ; the water is good, *Copeland* 1390-1393.

2. *St. Clement Danes :*

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3. *Stepney Churchyard :*

Witness has ascertained that he has been drinking for years the water from the pump in Stepney churchyard, and that three medical men always drink it, and say it is the best in the neighbourhood, *James* 2945, 2946.—See also *Myddleton*, *Sir Hugh*.

Watford. See *Church Building Commissioners*.

West London and Westminster Cemetery. In the Westminster Cemetery there is a payment made for the clergyman from whose parish the body comes, *Russell* 2483—Ten shillings is payable to the clergyman of the parish for every burial in the West London and Westminster Cemetery, and is thought sufficient, *Bishop of London* 2948.

West London Union. In the West London Union there are a great number of courts and alleys, and the poor are always suffering under typhus fever ; causes of this, *Lynch* 2683-2687.

Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's. Exceptions to be admitted to the proposed prohibition in favour of eminent public characters to be buried therein, *Rep.* vi.—Reasons why witness, in the event of a legislative enactment, would suggest the exception of Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's, *Milman* 2794-2808.

White, George Thomas. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Practising barrister, 2029—Circumstances attendant upon an attack of illness experienced by him after attending the funeral of a friend at St. John's, Waterloo Road, 2030-2046—Nuisance arising from the present excavation of the Strand, with reference to the sewers, 2047-2053—Witness would have all dead bodies removed from towns, and from places where people live, 2054-2056—Offensive state of the burying ground in Portugal-street ; case of the workhouse being denounced as unfit for an hospital from its proximity to the burial-ground, 2056-2060—Witness has no doubt that every burial-ground in London when opened has an offensive smell, 2061, 2062.

Whitechapel. Custom of burying in Whitechapel Church in open graves under the pews with only three or four feet of earth between the bodies and the flooring of the pews, *Wallace* 1521-1526—Average number of interments in the year in the church, *Ib.* 1526, 1527—Average number of burials in the course of the year in the churchyard, *Ib.* 1535—Size of the churchyard ; it is part leasehold and part freehold ; the burials have ceased for some years in the freehold part, *Ib.* 1528-1534—Desire of the inhabitants to procure a fresh burial-ground, *Ib.* 1541-1544.

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See also *Cemeteries*, 2. *Depth of Graves*, 2. *Efluvia*, II. 2.

Whittaker, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Has been an undertaker for 16 years, 395-398—Has frequently seen coffins and bodies, old and new, cut to pieces with the spade to make room for fresh comers, 399-405—State of the vaults under Enon Chapel ; scene witnessed there, 406-410—There have been at least 12,000 persons buried there, 411, 412—The stenches arising from putrid bodies has affected witness's health, 414-423—Pall-bearers are likely to be affected injuriously, 424-427—Effects of the escape of gas from a leaden coffin upon witness when engaged by Mr. Walker, a medical man, in collecting it, 428-442—Enon Chapel is surrounded by houses, and the gas must get into them, 443-446—The gas must escape from leaden coffins ; if there is no vent, it will burst them ; gravediggers have sometimes burned it, 447-457.

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Whittaker, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—continued.

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Wild-street, Little (Lincoln's-Inn-fields). Baptist Chapel in Little Wild-street, Lincoln's-Inn-fields; respectable mode of burying the dead there, still there is a bad smell in summer time, *Burn* 306-313.

Wooden Coffins. In some old parish churches, as St. Martin's, Ludgate-hill, bodies have been interred in wooden coffins under the church, *Bishop of London* 2948.

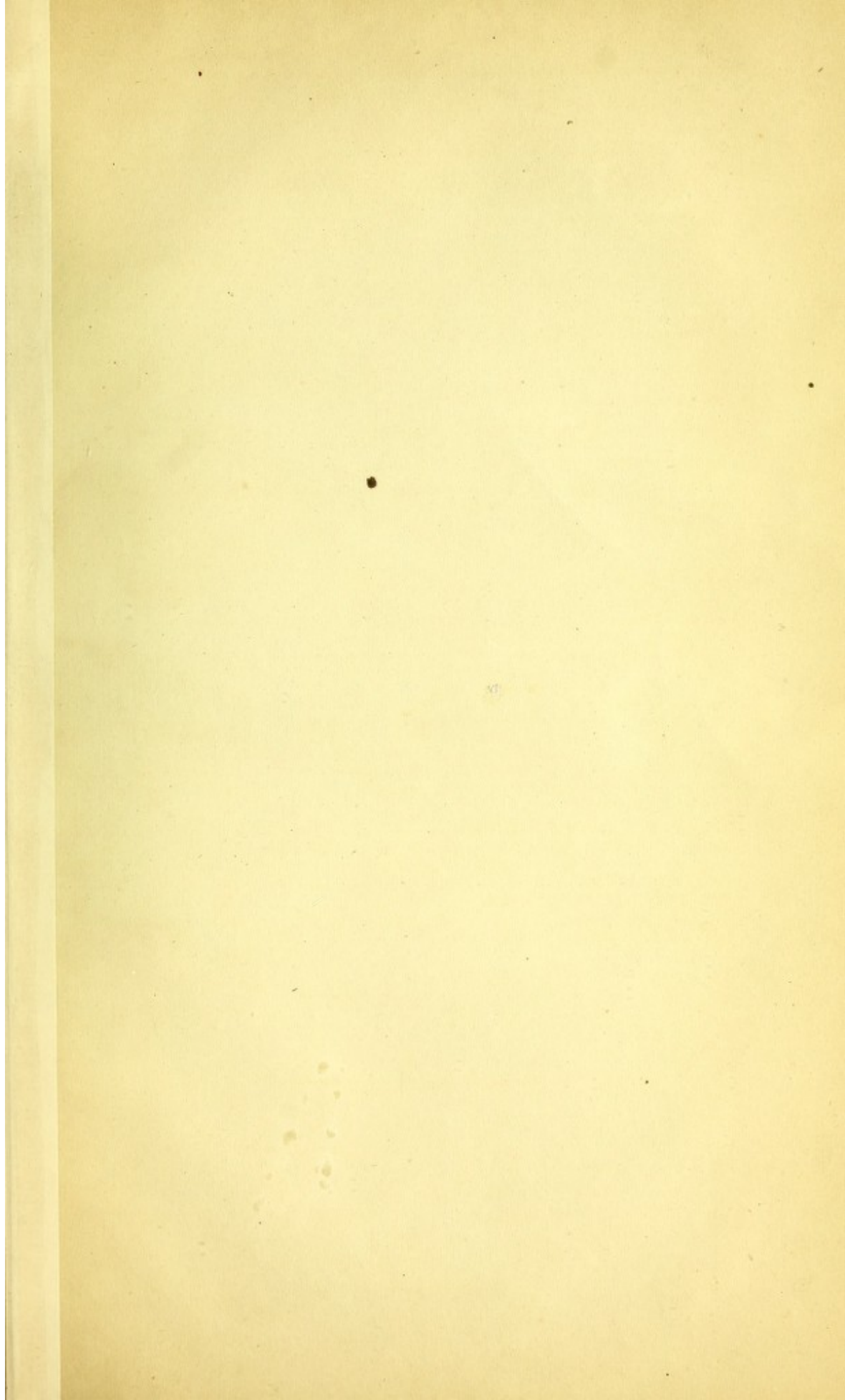
See also *Coffins*.

Y.

Yarrow, George. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—Parish clerk of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, 1994—The grave-yard is far from being very bad, as described in answer to question of the evidence 1827: they have graves as deep as 17 or 18 feet without coming to water, 1995, 1996—It has occurred that at the depth of 14 or 15 feet they have come to water; this is pumped out; it is muddy, from the soil; there is nothing offensive in the smell, 1997-2006—Size of the ground; proportion subject to be flooded, 2007-2009, 2020—There is another burial-ground for the paupers in the Hackney-road; it is rather inferior than otherwise; the paupers are generally now buried at the mother church, 2010-2013—Complaints from the neighbourhood, when the bodies were taken up, the ground excavated, and then buried afresh, 2014-2017, 2028—Annual number of interments in the churchyard of St. Leonard's, Shoreditch, and in the pauper-ground in the Hackney road, 2021-2023—Regulation as to the depth below the surface which the last coffin must be put in the grave; graves are dug as close as possible to one another, 2024-2027.

Yates, Dr. Holt. (Analysis of his Evidence.)—There can be no doubt that the present system of burying in grave-yards is prejudicial to the population of large towns; the only remedy would be providing burial-grounds at a distance, 2896, 2897—Putting quick lime or chloride of lime in the coffins would do a great deal of good; but it would be objected to among the poorer classes, 2898, 2899.

Yorkshire. Witness does not know a burial-ground in any of the great towns of Yorkshire which is not objectionable, *Baker* 2606.



R E P O R T.

Health of Towns.

(Effect of Interment of Bodies.)

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