

retained his salary and the pump was still used, but he pumped only the ordinary company's water, which was laid on by a pipe. He thought that very often such a state of things as that might exist quite unsuspected in a great many parts of England. He did not intend to go into any details on this matter, but he desired to say that he had just visited a country where cremation was practically the rule, where considerably more than half of those that died were cremated. When he was in Tokio in Japan one of the things he went to see was the crematoria, where they disposed of an enormous number of bodies, and it was satisfactory to see how easily and how cheaply it could be done, and without the slightest outrage to any sentimental feelings. There was an average of thirty bodies cremated there every evening separately. There was a row of thirty small furnaces placed side by side, connected with horizontal flues, each one having a vertical flue at the base. By these means they secured a considerable draught and rapid cremation without any offensive exhalations. The funerals were carried out with great ceremony. The body was taken in procession to the temple, where the service was read. The processions were carried out with great pomp and a profusion of flowers. After the prayers had been said at the temple and the service performed, the body was brought to the crematorium in a very simple and respectful way by bearers, accompanied by one friend or one representative of the family of the dead person, who after the body was deposited, generally went away. The cremation was then performed, and the friend returned the next morning and received the ashes, generally in a very charming pottery jar. Some slight portion of the remains might be taken, and then the rest were taken back to the temple, where they were interred by the priest. It was very satisfactory to see in Japan, public favor so entirely on the side of cremation. He might

mention a very peculiar thing that had happened in Japan in regard to cremation. When the Japanese first came into complete touch with European natives, about twenty years ago, they acquired the idea that Europeans knew how to do things a great deal better than they did themselves. Their representatives in Europe reported that cremation did not exist in Europe, that it was frowned upon as an uncivilized practice and desiring not to be uncivilized, as the result of our bad method of interment, they returned to Japan, where the people were highly scientific and educated, and raised an opposition to cremation as an uncivilized practice. Whereupon the Government issued an order prohibiting cremation, on the basis of the superiority of European knowledge. For some years that prohibition continued, and they were beginning to poison their wells, thinking that they were following our superior wisdom. After a few years they began to think a little more for themselves, and they said: "This is a European prejudice rather than a European principle, and we had better follow the lead with the knowledge now acquired and restore cremation and permit it." It was now only five years ago, after a period of ten or twelve years during which cremation was prohibited as a practice discountenanced by Europeans, that it was restored in Japan as a permissible practice. There were now a large number of cremations performed there in the decent manner he had mentioned. It was a private company there which carried out the cremations, and the price varied from seven to five shillings, but he did not think that any system of burial could be more decent or respectful, neither did he think that if cremation came to be more general or universal in the country there would be any difficulty in providing separate crematoria, and so preventing the ashes from being mixed one with the other, and in meeting any reasonable or well intended desire on the part of the friends.