

body, it burial in earth is objectionable, for the reason that infective germs are so preserved and carried about by water or air, to operate injuriously when favorable meteorological or social states occur. The rapid growth of populations, and especially of urban population, due to a greater prevalence of peace and a more satisfactory sanitary system, invests this question with ever-increasing importance. The religious objections have been completely answered by men like Lord Shaftesbury and Bishop Fraser. There is evidence that the number of cremations is increasing, in Italy and England, as in the week preceding Sir Spencer Wells' speech there had been three cremations at Woking; while in Italy, in the three years 1886, 1887 and 1888 there were 119, 155, and 202. Dr. Parkes thought that for maritime nations much was to be said for burial at sea, but we are a long way off such a solution of a very serious question, which strangely under-rates the sentimental objections.

TABES DORSALIS.—At the last sitting of the Berlin Society for Diseases of the Mind and of the Nerves, Professor Bernhardt reported his recent experiences of the "suspension method" in the treatment of dorsal tabes. Professor Bernhardt has tried it with nineteen patients, some of whom were suspended by him more than twenty, others from fifteen to twenty, times. They almost always stood the treatment well. The impression which this new method made on the minds of the patients was evidently very favorable, and though this circumstance must be taken into account in judging of the results, indisputable improvements were observed in the majority of cases. Some of the patients, indeed, declared that they were not conscious of any good effect; but Professor Bernhardt observed, as have Charcot and others, that most of them could walk better, and were decidedly improved in general condition,

FRACTURE OF THE THYROID AND CRICOID CARTILAGES; RECOVERY.—An interesting and rare case was recently exhibited by Dr. Sokolovski at the Warsaw Medical

Society of a woman in whom the anterior portion of the thyroid and both halves of the cricoid had been fractured through an accident with the strap of a mill. The immediate symptoms were severe pain in the throat, cough, and the expectoration of a considerable quantity of blood, also marked dyspnoea. Tracheotomy (inferior) was performed the second day. During the fourth week portions of the necrosed cartilage came away. After two months both halves of the thyroid were removed with forceps, and it was found that no trace of the cricoid remained, the posterior wall of the glottis being formed by the anterior mucous coat of the oesophagus. The patient made a good recovery, and was soon able to swallow food without difficulty. It is noteworthy that the condition of the larynx was accurately ascertained on the second day after the accident by means of the laryngoscope, and also that cases of fracture of the cricoid are almost invariable fatal. Dr. Sokolovski refers to the researches of Mr. Arbuthnot Lane and Mr. Durham as mentioned at the Pathological Society (See *The Lancet*, March 7, 1885). He also states that he has been unable to find more than one recorded case in which recovery took place after fracture of the cricoid—a case under the care of Freulich. He does not seem to have been aware of the case under Mr. Manby, of Wolverhampton (see *The Lancet* Jan. 9th, 1886).

VAPOR OF STEAM AND SULPHUR IN DIPHTHERIA.—T. Wyld Fairman, of Auckland, N. Z., highly extols inhalations of steam under a tented bed, improved by placing a sheet over an opened umbrella fastened to the head of the bed, and burning a teaspoonful of sulphur in the apartment every hour.—*Edinburg Med. Jour.*, Feb. 1889.

LONGEVITY IN IRELAND.—Among the deaths recorded during the quarter ending March were nineteen centenarians. Seven were aged 100 years, one each at 101, 102 and 103, two at 104, one at 105, two at 107, one at 109, two at 110, and one at 111 years respectively.