during the pending of a medical examination or inquest and for keeping unknown bodies as long as may be necessary for identification. As this must be done without danger to health and without creating a nuisance, some means must be employed to prevent the decomposition of the bodies.

The system of cold storage in a dry atmosphere at about the freezing point is the only means which has been found suitable for this purpose elsewhere and has the advantage of costing very little, after the apparatus has been constructed.

A cold storage chamber suitable for the requirements of Montreal could be made at a cost of about $1,200 by building a chamber with double wooden walls, the ceiling consisting of a galvanized iron tank filled either with brine cooled artificially, or simply with a mixture of ice and salt. By this means the temperature in the air space below can be maintained at the freezing point for an indefinite time and all danger of the nuisance and danger to health arising from putrefaction avoided.

In Montreal, where ice is cheap and plentiful, its use would be probably found more economical than that of artificial means of obtaining cold, especially if the ice was stored on the premises. In any case, if it was subsequently found advisable to substitute some artificial process, such as the ammonia distillation or expansion, no further change would be required than simply fitting the expansion tubes into the tank. By either artificial or natural cold the cost ought not to exceed a couple of hundred dollars per year. The use of cold would only be necessary during the period from May to November ; during the remainder of the year sufficient cold can be obtained from the outside air by having a flue opening outside.

Some provision for refrigerating is absolutely essential for medico-legal purposes in Montreal, since during the summer, especially in the case of drowned bodies, the effects of putrefaction make identification uncertain and the results of autopsy unreliable, under ordinary condition s