

named in 1875, favored cremation but police objections nullified the proposal. The agitation was continued until, finally, in 1885, the Minister of the Interior allowed the establishment of a crematorium, but merely as an experiment and only to be used in the cremation of the debris of the dissecting room. Late in 1887 the law was so amended that persons in a position to dispose of their worldly belongings by will were given complete option in regard to the burial or burning of their own bodies. The same law made regulations concerning the establishment and operation of crematories, the objection concerning the facility cremation offered for the hiding of crime being met by the appointment of a special officer who is charged with determining the existence of any indications that seem to call for a special enquiry into the cause of death. In 1889 there were 49 cremations at the Paris municipal crematorium; in 1900 the number had reached 300 with an ever-increasing manifestation of public interest in the subject. Cremation has the warm support of the municipal authorities of Paris.

The history of cremation in England dates back to 1874, when Sir H. Thompson, F.R.S.C., M.B., Lond., etc., who had seen the exhibit of Professor Brunetti at the Vienna exhibition, contributed an article to the *Contemporary Review* describing the process and arguing strongly in favor of its adoption. A society was formed for the purpose of advocating cremation in April, 1874. The declaration signed by the members read :

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