

it ceased practically, and that time was about about four hundred years after Christ, when into the Christian religion there came a belief in the resurrection of this physical body, and this belief still lingers at the present time, as evinced by the case cited by the essayist, of the lady in Massachusetts, who daily visits or sends messages to the tomb of her dead husband. The inference is, she believes that the living being is still in some mysterious way connected with or related to the body it inhabited during life here on earth. And this is not an isolated case. I remember hearing a sermon in this city only a few years ago in a prominent pulpit on the subject of the resurrection, and the speaker, who seemed an intelligent man, enunciated his belief in the actual resurrection of the physical body, and pictured parts of human bodies, legs, arms, and hands, flying through the air on resurrection morn, each part seeking out its associated part, coming from battlefield and cemetery and ocean, a representation that seemed to me absurd and shocking in the extreme.

It seems difficult to believe that such things could be soberly uttered in this enlightened age, but that man actually believed what he preached; at all events he preached it with conviction. While I believe in a resurrection of the *dead*, I do not find it anywhere taught in the Bible that this actual body is raised from the dead.

Until we get rid of these heathenish notions of the past we cannot hope to bring about this reform that is so important to the living—this method of so disposing of the dead that the living may be protected from the germs of disease by their destruction. If, as has been demonstrated here to-night and elsewhere by those who are carefully studying the subject, there is good ground for believing that the germs may lie dormant for an indefinite length of time and still possess the power of propagating disease when brought into right conditions for germination, the danger of burying bodies containing myriads of contagious disease germs cannot be estimated. The common impression is that Mother Earth covers up and destroys all germs of disease; but it has been shown that many of these

germs live without air, and, like the grain of wheat found in the Egyptian mummy, they may spring into life after many years.

(To be continued.)

THE DEAF AND DUMB.

The report of the Royal Commission on the Deaf, Dumb, and Blind involves several questions of medical and general interest.

The proportions of deaf to the general population, which in 1861 was one in every 1,484, decreased in 1871 to one in 1,742, and in 1881 to one in 1,794; whilst the attendance at school has increased from 1,300 in 1851 to 3,138 in 1888, and, if the law and attendance officers did their duty, would have now risen to about 5,000.

A large number of the congenital deaf are the children of deaf-mutes. Mr. Graham Bell believes that, if the deaf-mutes of the United States are brought together in institutions, and encouraged to associate and intermarry, as they are now, a deaf variety of the human race will be established in a few generations. The evidence is also very strong that consanguineous marriages tend to the production of deaf children.

The causes of non-congenital deafness are chiefly scarlet and other fevers in early childhood, when prompt and efficient treatment has not been available. With more accurate and widespread knowledge of the symptoms and treatment of ear disease, it may well be hoped that these cases will markedly diminish.

Of the total number of the deaf, from 12 to 25 per cent. possess some hearing power; many of them may be benefited by ear-trumpets and other mechanical appliances, whereas, if the ear is neglected and disused, it becomes further impaired. It is truly melancholy to find that many children of 3, 5, or even 10 and 12 years of age, who have acquired speech before losing their hearing, are placed with deaf children, taught by signs, and thus become totally "deaf and dumb."

It is needless to say here that dumbness has no physiological connection with deafness; but the two have been so in-