

ceived over 22 per cent., and last reports indicate that the net profit per ton of garbage treated is about \$3.46.

Columbus has improved upon Cleveland in making the reduction process almost wholly automatic. And here the danger of nuisance from the escape of odors has been most largely avoided, because the process is what is known as a closed one.

The Cleveland and Columbus reduction plants seem to point to the possibility of further progress in this direction, and the entire elimination of smell.

It appears, then, that both the incinerator and reduction methods of garbage disposal may be made unobjectionable from the standpoint of nuisance, and may be profitable to the municipality in which they are installed. And in regard to utility, the only difference between them seems to lie in the fact that the by-product market is a home market and a constant one where the incinerator is concerned, but may be variable in regard to the reduction process.

Inter Alia.

The question of sanitation in disposal of the dead is one of moment. Considerations of public health no longer admit in populous centres of the unhygienic habit of earth burial, a habit which originated in the warring carelessness and ignorance of the darkest part of the middle ages, and has resulted in the present co-operative and pollution spreading graveyard as a substitute for the Roman method of cremation or the more ancient custom of entombment. Of the three methods, cremation is immediately the most available from a sanitary standpoint and in cases of necessary haste as the interception of plague is perhaps advisable. But while sanitary, cremation is not strictly burial; it is rather a quick destruction departing largely from religious custom and usually opposed by those directly bereaved.

Entombment, on the other hand, is the ancient method of burial, historically the most commonly adopted and of educative value contemporaneously and to succeeding generations through its encouragement of architectural and religious development. It is the instinctively favored

method of disposing of the dead, and while not as immediately available at present where it may be required as the careless method of earth burial nor as available as fire where great haste is necessary, entombment in modern mausoleum practice is comparatively sanitary. This practice consists of crypt disinfecting ventilation, tending to exclude sentimentally objectionable influences from the crypt and at the same time prevent what might otherwise result in disagreeable outside effects.

When one looks back on the year recently ended, it is possible to recall a number of events that have had a most important bearing on the question of public health, for although the actual discoveries of new means of treating or preventing disease may not have been remarkable, great progress has been made in the development of principles previously discovered and in their application to curative and preventive medicine. Again, a vast amount of very important medical research work was carried out in 1910, the full significance of which cannot yet be brought home to public realization owing to the highly technical nature of the investigations in question; but there is no doubt that these laborious researches—particularly those in connection with cancer, bacteriology, radiology, and tuberculosis—will eventually lead to results of the utmost value. Indeed, the investigations of many well-known bacteriologists and others have now gone so far in certain directions that startling discoveries might be made at any time.

The radium treatment is one of the methods of dealing with disease in which considerable progress has been made. Twelve months ago it was beginning to be realized that radium had very great possibilities from the medical point of view, but there was considerable uncertainty as to the directions in which the investigations on radiotherapy might be pursued to the best advantage. The treatment of cancer by radium has been investigated by our own specialists, but not to the extent that it has been abroad; the results obtained in Paris, and demonstrated in London, certainly gave an impetus to researches of the same kind in this country. Further developments in the radium treatment have