

rendering it probable that the irrigation water percolated through the superficial strata, and found its way under the Stockhalder by subterranean channels in the limestone rock. Moreover, some years before, a hole on one occasion formed close to the Furlenbach by the sinking of the superficial strata, and the stream became diverted into it and disappeared, while shortly after the spring at Lausen began to flow much more abundantly. The hole was filled up, and the Furlenbach resumed its natural course.

"The Furlenbach was unquestionably contaminated by the privies of the adjacent farmhouses, the soilpits of which communicated with it. Thus, from time immemorial, whenever the meadows of the Furlenthal were irrigated, the contaminated water of the Furlenbach, after percolation through the superficial strata and a long underground course, helped to feed one of the two heads of the fountain supplying Lausen. The natural filtration, however, which it underwent rendered it perfectly bright and clear, and chemical examination showed it to be remarkably free from organic impurities; and Lausen was extremely healthy and exempt from fevers.

"On June 10th, one of the peasants of the Furlenthal fell ill with typhoid fever, the source of which was not clearly made out, and passed through a severe attack, with relapses, so that he remained ill all the summer; and on July 10th a girl in the same house, and in August a boy, were attacked. Their dejections were certainly, in part, thrown into the Furlenbach, and, moreover, the soilpit of the privy communicated with the brook. In the middle of July the meadows of the Furlenthal were irrigated as usual for the second hay crop, and within three weeks this was followed by the outbreak of the epidemic at Lausen.

"In order to demonstrate the connection between the water-supply of Lausen and the Furlenbach, the following experiments were performed: The hole mentioned above as having on one occasion diverted the Furlenbach into the presumed subterranean channels under the Stockhalder, was cleared out and eighteen hundred-weight of salt were

dissolved in water and poured in, and the stream again diverted into it. The next day salt was found in the springs at Lausen. Fifty-six pounds of wheat flour were then poured into the hole, and the Furlenbach again diverted into it; but the spring Lausen continued quite clear, and no reaction of starch could be obtained, showing that the water must have found its way under the Stockhalder in part by percolation through the porous strata, and not by distinct channels."

I will mention that I have conclusive evidence that the germs of typhoid fever have been carried down the Ohio River eight hundred miles, and Cincinnati has been contaminated by the water-supply. The evidence produced by men who have studied that question is so clear and overwhelming, and our population increases so wonderfully, and as our burying grounds are going to increase, and it is certain that these germs are living for a long time, which has been alluded to, that I think for the preservation of the living the dead should be cremated.

DR. G. W. BRUSH.—I think the medico-legal and sentimental sides of the question have been fully covered. There is just one point, in connection with the religious aspect of the question, that I think has not been fully covered, and I will occupy just a few moments on that.

We find, in looking back into the history of the past, that this whole question of the disposal of the dead is closely allied to the religious beliefs of the inhabitants of the world.

The Egyptians, some two thousand years before the Christian era, were in the habit of embalming their dead, and one of the reasons was that they believed that after death the soul left the body and performed a certain cycle of existence, dwelling in the bodies of animals and other beings as a method of punishment, finally, after from one to three thousand years, coming back to inhabit the original body, which should from thence be immortal; hence their great care to preserve the body in the best manner possible then known to science.

We find, as the essayist has said, that the Romans practiced cremation of the dead. There came a time, however, when