

balmed. The embedding of coffins in any but suitable coffins cannot be undertaken :

The following is extracted from the official instructions issued by the Cremation Society of England.

“ It cannot be too clearly understood that it is most undesirable to encase the body in a heavy or costly coffin — *a light pine shell is the best receptacle for the purpose of cremation.* There is no reason why, for the funeral service, a simple shell should not suffice, and it may be covered with cloth at very small expense, if preferred. When, however, it is intended to hold a funeral service in public, and with some degree of ceremony, before cremation, a more ornate coffin may be used if desired, but it should contain the shell described, which can be afterwards removed.

“ Upon the arrival of the body at the Crematorium, if there is a funeral service, it is at once proceeded with, at the conclusion of which the undertaker and his assistants convey the remains into the Crematorium, where they may be followed by one friend of the deceased ; but no inspection of the process is on any account permitted. The operation usually occupies about one and a half to two hours, at the conclusion of which the ashes are gathered together, with the assistance of the officer and placed in an urn for preservation. Scrupulous care is taken to maintain them intact and pure for this purpose.”