

flesh sponges which may be studied in metropolitan bachelor halls, but better yet, in wealthy convents. The soul that may still linger in a fat Austrian abbot is functional to his body only as salt is to pork—to prevent imminent putrefaction.

A PRACTICAL REFORMER.—An occasional protest is raised against the extravagance of funerals, but no one seems to inaugurate the reform which few will deny is desirable. Doctors are as much interested in this reform as any. People who consider the undertaker's bill a debt of honour, and who will scrape and save to pay it, are not at all distressed about the doctor's bill. Possibly if the relicts could be persuaded to lavish less wealth on the dust of the "dear departed" they might find it less difficult to settle for the medical attendance. A doctor recently died in England, who, doubtless, often felt, as we all have, the senselessness of the extravagance of modern funerals, and took a sensible and practical means of working a reform. He believed that this reform, like charity, should begin at home, and the following are the provisions of his will, touching his interment: "There is to be no wake whatever. My brothers and sisters, with their children, are to be the only persons admitted while my body is laid out. No clergyman is to be invited to my funeral: as they do not attend the burial of the poor, they shall not attend mine. No crape, gloves, cypruses, hat bands, or such emblems of mourning, to be made use of at my funeral. The cost of my coffin shall not exceed £1. The money thus saved, amounting to over £60, shall be distributed among the poor of the village of ———, where I have lived for the last thirty-three years."—*Mich. Med. News.*

PERSISTENCE OF THE CANAL OF MULLER IN A BOY AGED SIX.—In the March and April number of the *Journal de l'Anatomie et de la Physiologie*, M. Rémy describes the *post mortem* appearances seen in the genito-urinary apparatus of a child who died in the Hôpital des Enfants, Paris, of cystitis and suppurating kidneys, the result of chronic retention of urine. In front of the right ureter, another canal was found: it

began as a *cul-de-sac* among a mass of little cysts close to the suprarenal capsule, and passed downwards under the fundus of the bladder, opening into the utricle of the prostate by an aperture which would admit a large probe. Passing between the muscular and mucous coats of the bladder for some distance before reaching the utricle, it raised the mucous membrane close to the neck of the bladder to such an extent as clearly to have been the cause of fatal retention of urine. The urethra was perfectly free from stricture. This abnormal canal was evidently Müller's duct, and the cysts at its upper end represented the remnants of the Wolffian body. As the duct opened into the utricle, the homology of that depression to the female uterus is practically confirmed by this case. But Waldeyer's theory, that the hydatid of Morgagni represents a remnant of Müller's duct, is shaken by the fact that a well-formed hydatid existed on the right testicle in this instance where the duct was so complete. The presence, too, of an "organ of Giralde's" over the right epididymis, although very distinct remnants of the Wolffian body were found far from the testicle, at the upper end of the duct, tends to disprove Giralde's opinion that the little structure which bears his name consists of the remnants of the Wolffian body. The malformation in M. Rémy's case was perfectly unilateral.

THE EFFECT OF SMOKING UPON THE TEETH.—At a recent meeting of the Odontological Society of Great Britain, Mr. Hepburn read a paper on this subject; and the results of his investigations on the subject are contrary to what is, we believe, the popular notion. He considers that the direct action of nicotine upon the teeth is decidedly beneficial. The alkalinity of the smoke must necessarily neutralise any acid secretion which may be present in the oral cavity, and the antiseptic property of the nicotine tends to arrest putrefactive changes in carious cavities. In addition, he is inclined to believe that the dark deposit on the teeth of some habitual smokers is largely composed of the carbon with which tobacco-smoke is impregnated. It is this carbon which is deposited upon the back part of the throat and lining