

Grosse Isle to other islands. There are no other islands very near, and I repeat that burying the bodies on another island is simply to remove the danger from Grosse Isle to another place. You have never seen a protest from any source against the adoption of cremation at New York. We do not want cremation for all cases, but for infectious diseases only. Let people adopt any course they please at home, but Grosse Isle is a public quarantine station and we are recommending the best mode of disposing of the bodies, and, scientifically speaking, I do not know of any better than the one recommended in the report.

DR. BERGIN—I must confess that at first blush I felt almost the same horror of cremation that Dr. Hingston and Dr. Rodgers express, but on consideration I felt that we had not to deal with a matter of sentiment; what we were to deal with was the safety of the community. We had to consider whether, if we objected to cremation, we would not be leaving one of the many doors open for the introduction of cholera into this country. In addition to that, I felt also that Grosse Isle is an immense burial ground where to-day lie thousands of bodies of people who died from the most infectious diseases—typhus fever, smallpox, scarlet fever, and other diseases of equally malignant type—and that if burial was to be permitted on that island the possibility was that in addition to cholera we would disinter those other malignant diseases and Canada would become a pest-house. I felt that sentiment ought not to influence us. The members of the committee felt the difficulty of their position; they were exposing themselves to opprobrium from men who give no consideration to the subject, and who would be guided and influenced solely by the horror they have of the introduction of that which in old times was always the custom but which during later Christian years has not been practised. We felt, notwithstanding, that we had taken upon ourselves a duty, upon the proper performance of which would depend the lives of large numbers of the most valuable of our citizens. We felt that we need not flinch from that duty, and, much as we deplore it, we felt that we should recommend to the Government that cremation should be enforced. We did so for this very reason, that nowhere is there an island sufficiently close to Grosse Isle that could be ob-