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Cremation in Austria. A Bill was recently introduced to the Austrian parliament to make cremation optional in that country, but failed to receive the support of the government party and was consequently defeated. In 1904 the bodies of 316 persons, for which cremation was desired by relatives, had to be taken to crematories in Germany.

Treatment of Ozæna. Because the use of adrenalin, to facilitate examination, led to exacerbation of the malady, Royet decided to try the effect of vaso-dilators in the treatment of ozæna. In one case he had remarkably good results from the use of a one per cent. solution of stovaine in glycerine and water. In other cases, he began treatment with stovaine but later substituted dionine. This treatment led to very great amelioration of the symptoms.

San Francisco Physicians. As might be expected, doctors suffered not less than others by the terrible disaster which recently overtook San Francisco. Many men lost everything in the fire, it being stated that fully five hundred physicians are destitute. It

is reported that the New York Chamber of Commerce has specified that, out of the large contribution forwarded to the stricken city, \$5,000 is to be devoted to the relief of unfortunate physicians and their families. The Philadelphia County Medical Society has appointed a committee to collect moneys, and has contributed \$200 from its treasury to the fund.

Dampness and Respiratory Diseases. Dr. Henry J. Barnes, writing in the *Boston Medical and Surgical Journal* (May 3, 1906), on the Influence of Dampness of Soil and Climate on the Diseases of Respiration, reviews the literature and statistics of this subject, and concludes that, as respiratory diseases are so universally distributed and of such common occurrence regardless of temperature, of humidity, or of dampness of soil, these factors can scarcely be considered to have any influence in their production. An excessively dry air, however, such as is almost constantly created in our dwelling houses by present heating methods, impairs the resisting powers of the mucous membrane, and doubtless contributes to the universal frequency of respiratory diseases in cold weather.