

In concluding, we wish to state that there are two classes of morgues: The one, are those employed simply as places of deposit for dead bodies; the other those which form recognized centres of medico-legal investigation and teaching, and have raised legal medicine to its present important position. As both classes of morgue cost practically the same sum to build and equip, the future success or failure of a morgue depends upon how it is designed and above all how it is conducted. It is to be hoped that in providing a morgue those in authority will furnish one in every way worthy of this city.

A building such as we have suggested could, as has already been pointed out by Coroner McMahon, be constructed by capitalizing the sum now annually paid by the coroner's court in connection with the transport and care of bodies, rooms for juries, and so forth. If built in connection with the police station the annual cost of heat, lighting and attendance would form but a trifling amount.

In the American cities mentioned above, and in most European cities, the construction and running expenses of morgues are met by the municipalities. In the case of Montreal it appears as if expenses in connection with transport, preservation, guarding and burial of bodies, as well as arrangements to prevent nuisance or danger to health, should legally belong to the city, while those in connection with judicial or medical study of the cases should be borne by the Province.

No doubt an amicable arrangement could be readily arrived at by which a satisfactory service could be obtained at an outlay not exceeding that required for our present very primitive arrangements.

(Signed)

WYATT JOHNSTON.
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