

thought about it in the past—be equally taken to indicate our own æsthetic proclivities. We do not think that the time has come for cremation to be adopted as a general means for the disposal of the dead, nor are we prepared to urge it upon the community. But if we be asked whether it be reasonable, we, as medical men, must admit that it is—nay, more, must acknowledge that there is no more perfect way of disposing of the dead. Indeed, from a hygienic standpoint, it is abundantly evident that there is little or nothing to be said in favour of the consignment of earth to earth, as usually conducted, while cremation, as now carried out, fulfils every hygienic requisite. We do not attach much weight to the objection that the crematorium will help to defeat the ends of justice. Those who favour cremation can have no objection to the performance of autopsies. For years to come cremation must be regarded as a luxury, and will be paid for accordingly, so that no hardship will be imposed in demanding a preliminary autopsy whensoever the crematorium is called into use.

We trust that we have made it clear that we are at one with those who shrink from being consigned, and from consigning those near and dear to them, to the action of fire, purifying and cleanly though that action must be. But we cannot see a solitary satisfactory objection to permitting those who so desire to be cremated. No valid reason can be brought against the erection of a crematorium in this immediate neighbourhood. If such be erected, it is not proposed to cremate therein the members of the Board of the Mount Royal Cemetery, save at their express desire. The sentiment which of late led a majority of those present at the annual meeting of that Board to oppose the erection, can only be described as mediæval. Surely the time has passed when one section of the community can deny to a minority of the same—a minority which, nevertheless, contains some of the greatest philanthropists and most highly respected men in Montreal—the privilege of disposing, in a strictly legitimate manner, of that which

“ the soul
Hath broken and cast away.”