

from contributing to the health, the comfort and the convenience of mankind, why should it be restricted in a matter of such grave importance as the final disposition of the bodies of the dead? They were placed underground then merely that their decomposition might not be a menace to the living. The progress of human knowledge has taught us that the precaution was a most imperfect one, and science has demonstrated in cremation the existence of a perfect plan. There is no religious scruple which should tie us to the sanitary errors of the past.

The only tie which binds us to the grave as a method for the disposition of the bodies of the dead is that of reverence for a custom general in all lands and among all people for many centuries. Breaking away from this tie requires but calm consideration, a consideration which the history of modern cremation has shown to have been freely accorded and with most satisfactory results for its believers wherever the location of a crematorium has attracted more than fugitive public attention to the matter. It is a fact of considerable interest in this connection, that there is not one of the modern crematories located in Great Britain, in Europe, in the United States or elsewhere, which has not shown a steady increase in the demand made upon it. The history of cremation is practically but sixteen years old in the United States. In 1884, there were but sixteen cremations in that country; in 1900 there were 2414. There were but two crematories in 1884; in 1900 there were twenty-four in operation. The figures indicate the progress made in the past. The future is more promising, for as the stone rolls down the hill it acquires momentum. It is in the hope of aiding in the diffusion of the knowledge of the benefits and advantages of cremation and to draw public attention to the