

an ample supply without in any way outraging the feelings of any class.

There are, however, unfortunately corporations and communities which afford aid and succour to the poor, who systematically send for burial all the paupers who die in their poor-houses. We have two large hospitals in Montreal, and from one of these institutions no pauper dead are ever handed over to the inspector of anatomy for the purpose of dissection. These institutions have each a full staff of medical officers, men who freely sacrifice the best hours of each day in the gratuitous performance of their duties in attendance on the sick poor. And all that these gentlemen ask, in this connection, is that the anatomy act be carried out faithfully. Why should the good ladies of the Hotel Dieu Hospital indulge in maudlin notions about the desecration of the dead? Have they not sufficient confidence in the common sense of their medical staff to know and feel sure that no such desecration is permitted in any well ordered school of anatomy? Are they not aware of the fact that the remains of the dead after dissection are carefully collected, placed in coffins and buried in consecrated ground?

But will some of these ladies, who are acquainted with the manner in which these matters are managed abroad, call to mind that in Paris the Government insist on the bodies of all persons dying in public Hospitals, being given over for the purposes of anatomy; what is the consequence? that Paris is the school to which all surgeons, who can afford it, both French and Foreign, resort for the purpose of completing their education practically, and furthermore that such a thing as robbing a church yard, or breaking into a vault, let alone taking the bodies therefrom of "persons belonging to a religious order," is a crime unknown in the Modern Babylon.

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#### SIR WILLIAM LAWRENCE AND CHLOROFORM.

The *London Lancet* tell us that, at a meeting of the Edinburgh Royal Society, Prof. Christison made some remarks on the discovery of chloroform, which illustrate how nearly Sir J. Y Simpson was anticipated in his introduction of this anæsthetic into practice. In the summer of 1847, a few months only before Simpson's discovery was announced, Lawrence had repeatedly used in practice an anæsthetic which came recommended to him under the name of chloric ether; and while he and his assistant were busily contriving how to concentrate their chloric ether, not recognizing the fact that it consisted merely of chloroform dissolved in rectified spirit, Simpson's discovery came forth and put a stop to their inquiries.