

in the course of a few hours. In addition, where it is necessary to preserve organs for a time, pending inquiries as to the necessity of a chemical analysis, putrefactive alkaloids are produced in them which tend to confuse the results of the chemist and at the same time the poisonous alkaloids tend to become destroyed.

Whether it is desirable to make a place where the bodies of unknown persons are kept, a place of public show, which any person shall be allowed to visit through morbid curiosity, or whether the view of such bodies should be restricted to those who are professionally or personally interested in their identification, is a question which can best be decided by the police. There is much to be said on both sides, but certainly the less the idea of a morgue is made repugnant to the general public the better. In any case means should be taken to secure that bodies which have been identified shall not be needlessly exposed, and that as far as possible inquirers shall only be obliged to see such bodies as correspond in sex, age, etc., with the individual whose identity it is sought to establish.

By keeping a description of the body, clothing, etc., together with a photograph, in the coroner's office, it could be at once stated whether any of the bodies in the morgue corresponded with those sought. Photographs suitable for this purpose can readily be taken with an ordinary Kodak camera and can be printed at a cost of only a few cents each. Such photographs would, in addition, form a permanent proof of the appearance of the body if it finally had to be buried unidentified.

The chamber for viewing these bodies should be so placed as to be accessible without interfering with the other parts of the morgue. It could be illuminated either by daylight or by electricity, in which latter case the consumption of ice would be decidedly less.

In connection with the mortuary there should be a room in which undertakers could lay the bodies in coffins and in which the bodies could be received. This should have a