

influence. Terebinthines, resinous applications, caustic potash, and several other caustics have been held by various competent authorities in high esteem, and their partial usefulness would seem to fortify the theory of the vital, the living nature of the disease—a theory which I think is greatly supported by the decided influence upon it of carbolic acid, a substance so well known to possess a special power of preventing the increase and development of low forms of life and cell-growth.—*Lancet*.

Cremation:—

The subject of cremation is again taken up by Sir Henry Thompson in the pages of the *Contemporary Review*. In this article he replies to various criticisms that have appeared in different journals, and gives a detailed account of the process he would suggest as most appropriate for the object in view. Sir Henry states, and it is certainly a somewhat remarkable fact, that the only formal opposition to cremation has been made by the present medical Inspector of Burials for England and Wales, Mr. Holland; and in reply to the observations of this gentleman, Sir Henry refers to the evidence obtained by Drs. Southwood Smith, Waller Lewis, and others, in regard to the large amount of gases produced in the decomposition of the body, and the impregnation of soil, water, and air to a considerable distance. Such impregnation by the dead, and consequent danger to the living, cannot, we presume, be questioned for a moment, and is fully borne out by the statements of Mr. Bowie and the general experience of the profession. We must also fully endorse Sir Henry's remarks in regard to the elimination of ammonia, or at least of carbonate of ammonia, from decomposing animal tissues, and are at a loss to understand how any doubt can exist about the point. Turning to the second part of Sir Henry Thompson's essay, he remarks that he has personally superintended the burning of three bodies of animals, one weighing 47 lb., another 140