

the tradition, and the custom of centuries associated with it.

In conclusion, it is well to remember that various important discoveries and many new ideas of science have been ridiculed, declared preposterous, and bitterly opposed. When Benjamin Franklin made the discovery of the identity of lightning and electricity, it was sneered at, and the people asked, "Of what use is it?" Dr. Peter Barlow, a distinguished scientist, declared the impracticability of the electric telegraph. Sir Humphrey Davy argued against the use of illuminating gas as a project without scientific value or even possibility. The discovery of the circulation of the blood by Harvey was received with derision as the utterance of a cracked-brain impostor. When Jenner introduced and established the practice of vaccination as a protection against small-pox, the medical profession, at first, refused to make trial of his process. He was accused of attempting to bestialize his species by inoculating the human system with disensed matter from a cow's udder. Vaccination was denounced from the pulpit as being diabolical, and the most monstrous statements regarding its effects were disseminated and believed.

With these examples in view, it is evident that the introduction of any change in the present method of the disposal of the dead will naturally encounter suspicion, criticism, and opposition, except in the case of the method of desiccation, which seems to have been received, so far as presented, with marked favor.

At a meeting of a cremation society in Glasgow, a few months ago, Sir Spencer Wells cited the case of a churchyard, near Yorkshire, where the bodies of people who died of scarlet fever had been buried thirty years before. A part of the churchyard was closed, but it was afterwards included in the garden of the rector, who had it dug up, and in consequence of this the scarlet fever from which those people had died thirty years before broke out in the family of that clergyman and spread to the surrounding houses.

We all know or have read of instances of sudden death from the poisonous gases

that emanate from the soil where human dead bodies have been buried, and all such gases are well known to be absorbable by water, to say nothing of the disease germs which they float.

But if these gases and germs are pent up in air-tight caskets under ground, how long they will remain dangerous, and yet at all times subject to the loosening of their confines and gaining access to the watercourses, none of us know.

The author of the paper has alluded to the grains of wheat found in the wrappings of mummies. It is well known that some of these have been planted and grown, and given name to a species of wheat that is cultivated now in all wheat-growing countries, called "mummy wheat." This germ or seedling wheat was not less than three thousand years old. How much longer that three thousand years it might have remained in the mummy cloth and still have lived and bloomed under congenial conditions, may well be asked of those, in answer to the question, "How long do you suppose a disease germ would live?" I know of no reason why it would not live just as long as a grain of wheat would live, if placed under like favorable conditions.

(To be Continued).

HAIR PASSED IN THE URINE.

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On May 5th, 1887, I was consulted by Mr. A—— for disease of the bladder, one very remarkable feature of the complaint being that he passed hair in the urine. The patient was fifty years of age, rather short and stout, and regular and temperate in his habits. Twelve months before he called upon me he began to suffer from irritability of the bladder; three months after this he noticed blood in his urine; and about five months subsequently to the hemorrhage he discovered hairs in that fluid. The hairs at the outset were single and not very numerous; but as time went on they increased in number, and some of them formed little tufts. The