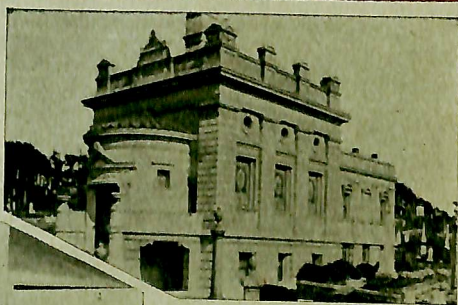


Cremation



presented by the

ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL. U.S.A.

POINT LOBOS AVE.

JOS. WINTERBURN CO., PRINTERS.

1899

The Odd Fellows' Cemetery Association

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

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JOS. WINTERBURN, TREASURER
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A. W. SCOTT,	JOS. WINTERBURN.

OFFICE AT THE CEMETERY

Point Lobos Avenue, San Francisco, Cal.

Telephone West 896.



"And heaven that every virtue bears in mind
Even to the ashes of the just is kind"
—Pope—

Introduction

The tendency of our age and times is towards development and improvement in every direction, and nowhere is it more apparent than in the care and disposal of the mortal remains of those whom we have loved and lost.



Death is the common lot of all and "ashes to ashes" the inevitable result, no matter how much we may interfere to prolong the process of dissolution.



Modern, scientific cremation commends itself on two strong grounds which need no argument. Sanitary reasons are the first and strongest, more arguments having been advanced, by men of science and letters, for this reason than that of any other.

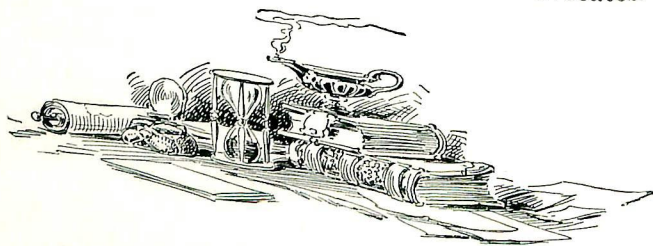


Economy is another strong consideration. What is more sad and depressing than the sight of a neglected, unkempt grave in the midst of a beautiful cemetery? And yet to have it properly marked, kept green and in order, entails an expense that the great majority can ill afford to incur. "With due regard to our dead, the living are nearer to us and their needs must first be consulted."

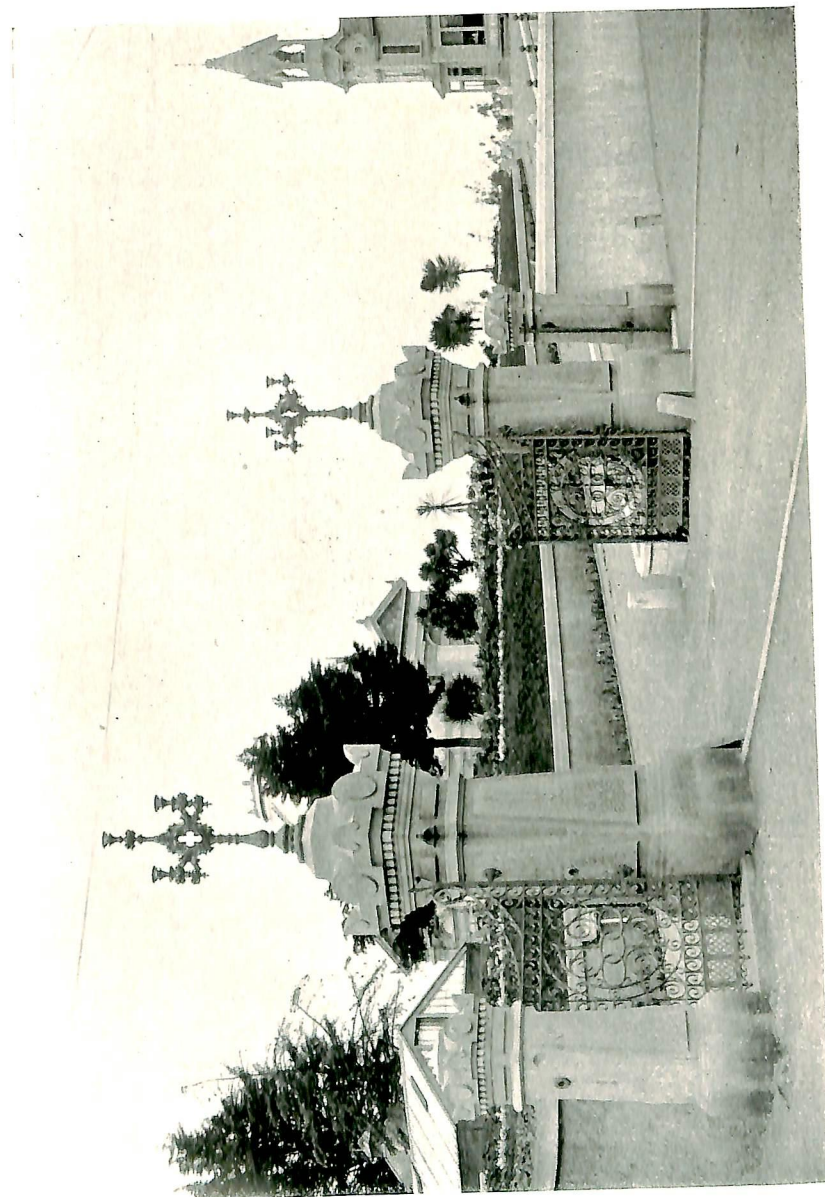
The time will come, and in the near future, when the sacredness and all the tender sentiments and associations which are wont to cluster about "the little mound of earth," the grave, will be transferred to the repository of the ashes, the COLUMBARIUM with its thousands of niches, beautiful urns and memorial tablets, always in order, sheltered, protected and freed from the elements of decay, a place that can be visited at all times, and under all circumstances, with perfect ease, safety and comfort, a convenience that is utterly impossible under the most favorable conditions of earth burial.



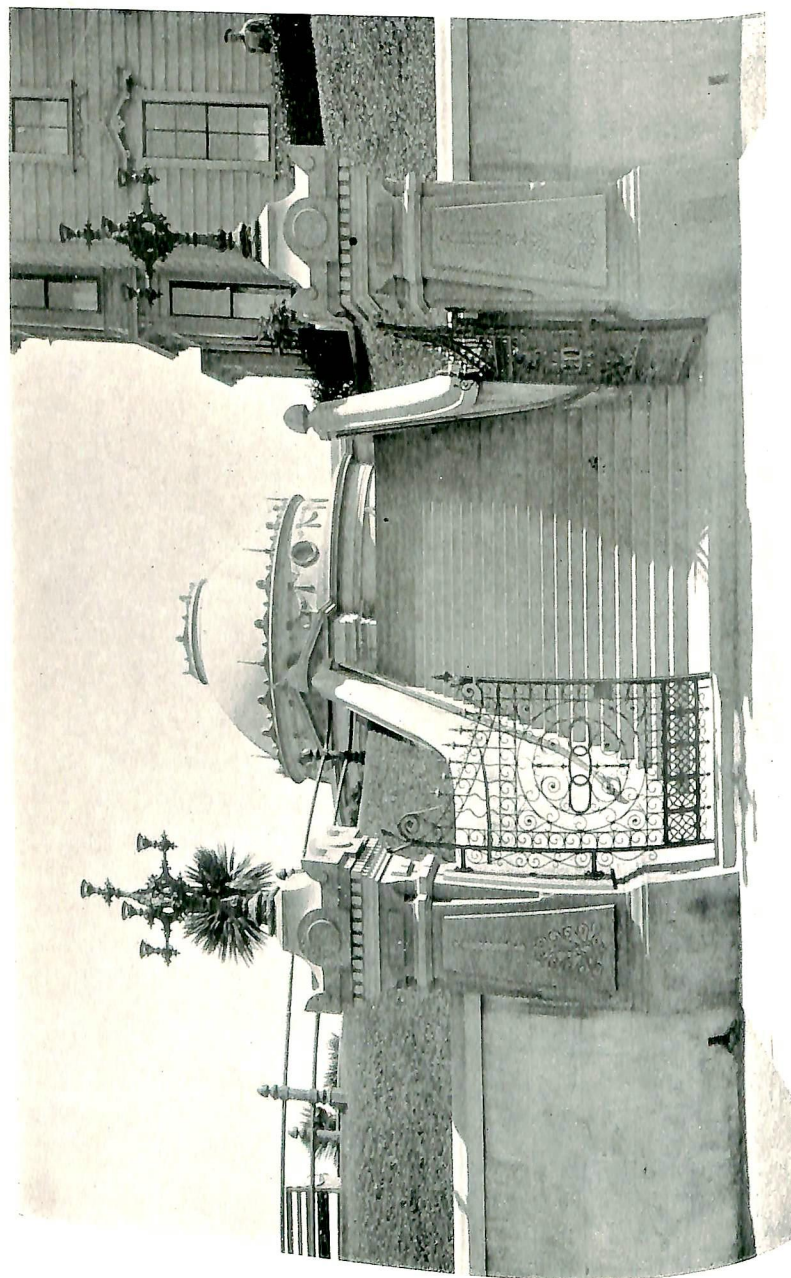
Time was when cremation was objected to on religious grounds, but these have mostly given way to a higher and broader intelligence, and it is to-day endorsed by the clergy of all denominations, many of whom are among its most earnest and ardent advocates.



Particular attention is called to page 19.



MAIN LOWER ENTRANCE, ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY.



ODD FELLOWS CEMETERY, SHOWING DOME OF COLUMBARIUM.

Cremation

What is it?

How is it accomplished, and what are the advantages to be derived from its adoption?

It is unquestionably the coming method of disposing of our dead, and will, in the very near future, be adopted by all civilized nations, and especially adhered to in all cases of death resulting from contagious diseases.



It is endorsed and urged as a hygienic and much needed reform by all medical, scientific and progressive people of the world.



The revival of the practice, by modern scientific process, was first successfully accomplished in Breslau, Germany, in the autumn of 1874, and was introduced into the United States by the incineration of Baron de Palm, in the private retort of Dr. F. Julius Le Moyne, at Washington, Pa., in December, 1876.



In 1884, or ten years from its beginning, Europe and America together possessed but five crematories,

Particular attention is called to page 19.

while in 1888, or four years later, it was stated at a congress of cremation societies in Vienna, that there were *fifty* in active operation, and others in course of construction.

During the past ten years cremation has advanced with rapid strides, until to-day every city of prominence in the world has in operation, or contemplation, a modern Crematorium and Columbarium, by means of which there is provided, for all classes, without distinction, a commodious and beautiful building, where the last sad rites may be held without annoyance or interruption, freed from the dangers consequent to earth burials; where all meet upon the same level, the rich and the poor alike, and where the remains of the humblest person receives the same respectful care and attention as bestowed upon that of the most wealthy and renowned.

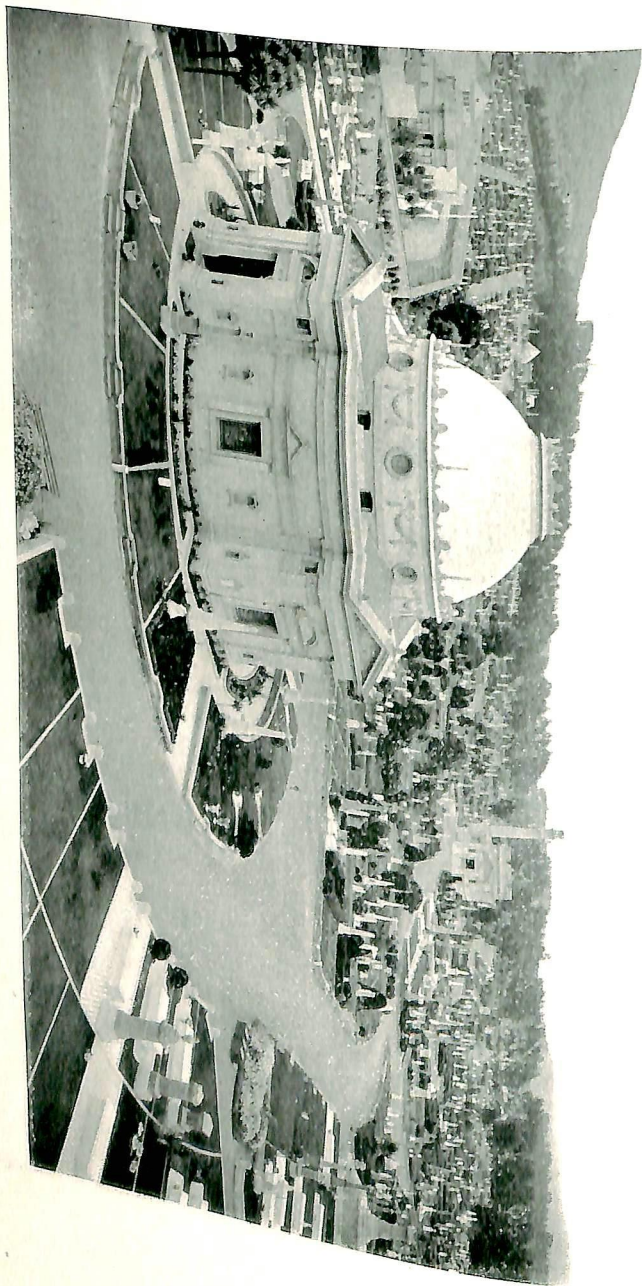
It accomplishes in a few brief moments, and by exactly the same process, only scientifically applied, that which takes years to accomplish by nature's plan.

It is generally understood and believed, that in the process of cremation the remains are taken from the casket and wrapped in a cotton cloth, many being under the impression that even the clothing is removed, and while the former is true of many places, all *modern* crematoriums have changed the

method, and except in cases where *metallic* caskets are used, THE REMAINS ARE NEVER TOUCHED OR HANDLED, BEING ALWAYS INCINERATED IN THE CASKET AS RECEIVED, the glass and metallic trimmings only being removed, as otherwise they would melt and fuse with the ashes. The casket is encased in a cotton cloth and placed upon a steel carriage, by means of which it is quickly and noiselessly deposited in the retort.

In the process, as practiced by this Association, only the hot blast is used, the body supplying the hydrogen and carbon. For heating the retort a stream of heated hydro-carbon, mixed with heated air, is sent directly into the retort from the gasometer, which is supplied from English coke. The fire brick chamber, or retort, is thus heated to a high degree (about 2,500 degrees Fahrenheit) previous to cremation. Under the action of the intense heat disintegration immediately ensues, and all disease germs and noxious gases are destroyed and rendered forever innocuous.

The process of slow decomposition and its attendant evils and all objectionable features are thus avoided, and within the space of one hour the body is reduced to its original elements, leaving only enough pure ashes to remind us of that which has been, and around and upon which, when placed in the COLUMBARIUM, to center our loving memories and affections.



A modern Crematorium



The

ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

has now in operation one of the
handsomest, most modern, scientific
and complete Crematoriums in the world, erected in
1895.

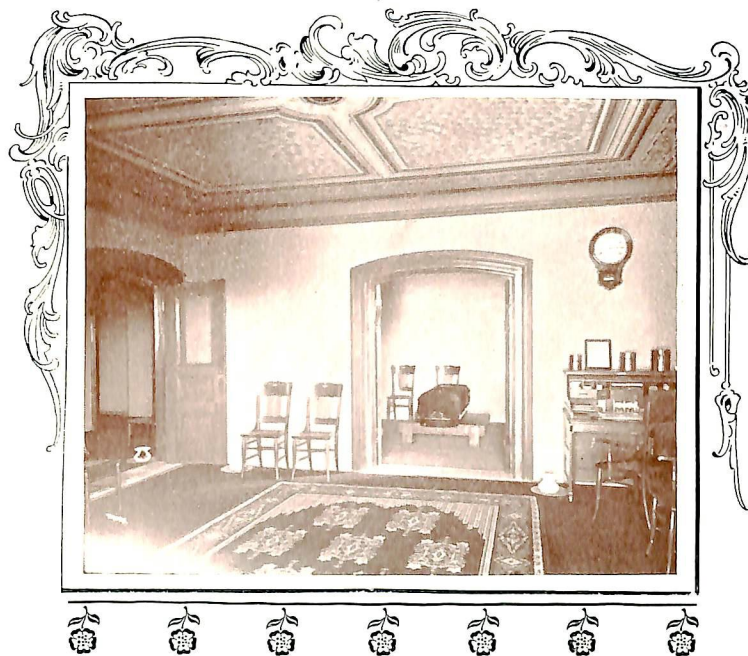




.....
 THE CHAPEL has a seating capacity of one hundred and forty, and, with standing room, will easily accommodate two hundred persons.

It is well ventilated, light, and cheerful, no expense having been spared to make it comfortable and pleasing.

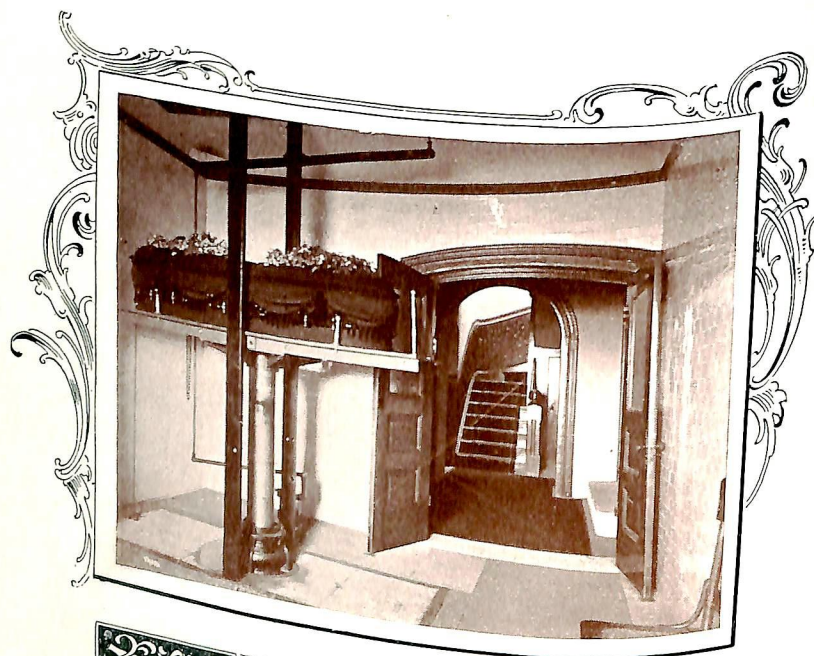
ORGAN SERVICE
 furnished FREE.



RECEPTION or Waiting Room (showing Preparation Room in the distance).

This room is directly beneath the Chapel, is light and airy, neatly and artistically decorated and furnished.

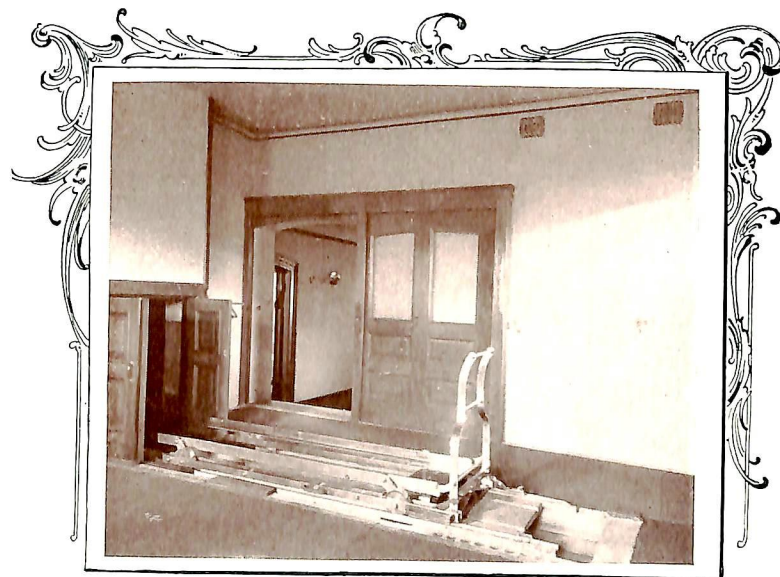
The remains are always carried to this room by the pall bearers, and if there is no service in the Chapel the friends here take farewell, and such as do not desire to witness their introduction into the retort can remain until that ceremony is completed.



RECEIVING or Preparation Room in which the casket is prepared for incineration by removing the glass and metal trimmings, THE BODY REMAINING IN THE CASKET AS RECEIVED, WITHOUT IN ANY WAY BEING HANDLED OR DISTURBED. The walls of this room are lined with light glazed tiling, the ceiling neatly tinted, and the floor of cement, covered with rubber matting.

The HYDRAULIC LIFT noiselessly transports the casket to and from the Chapel. The entire room is thoroughly antiseptic, with all appurtenances for frequent fumigation and cleansing. Not less than two witnesses are always present when the casket is being prepared for incineration.

Particular attention is called to page 19.



RETORT or Incinerating Room.—The casket is borne from the Preparation Room into the Incinerating Room, by the attendants, and placed upon the steel carriage which is then quickly and noiselessly pushed forward into the retort. By means of a simple mechanism the bed of the carriage is slightly lowered, thereby depositing the casket on the floor of the retort. The empty carriage is then immediately withdrawn and the doors closed.

This work occupies but a few seconds and is not nearly so trying to friends and relatives, who may witness it, as that of lowering the casket into the open grave.

Connecting directly with the Chapel is a gallery, running around three sides of the room, where those may be seated who desire to witness the work of introducing the casket and remains into the retort.

Particular attention is called to page 19.



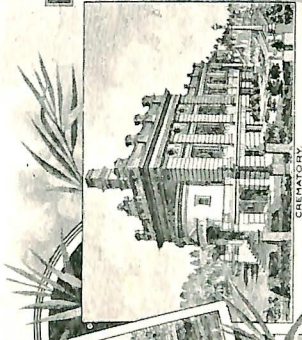
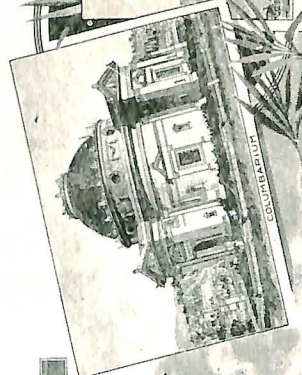
EXPERIENCE has proven that many persons who during life favored the idea of Cremation, and expressed a desire to be so disposed of, were at their decease interred in the family plot or in a single grave in the Cemetery, for the very reason that at the time of death the funds with which to carry out their wishes were not available.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

In order to obviate this, and that Cremation may be brought within the reach of all persons so desiring, THE ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION is now issuing **Cremation Certificates**, a fac-simile reproduction of which, in reduced size, is shown on the opposite page; said Certificates are sold for the sum of \$35.00 each, payable as follows: \$10.00 cash, and the balance in monthly payments to suit purchaser, as per Contract Form, page 33, upon the fulfillment of which Contract said Certificate or Certificates will be issued.

COMMUNICATE WITH THE
OFFICE OF THE ASSOCIATION
AND ARRANGE FOR THE TIME
AND DETAILS OF FUNERAL
SERVICES BEFORE MAKING
ANNOUNCEMENTS.

\$35.00

THE ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

INCORPORATED

INCINERATIONS AND
SERVICES TO BE AT ALL TIMES
SUBJECT TO THE RULES AND
REGULATIONS OF THE
ASSOCIATION.

0101

This Certifies that
upon the surrender of this Certificate, is entitled to our incineration at the Crematory of
The Odd Fellows Cemetery Association in the City and County of San Francisco,
State of California, including use of the Chapel, organ service and the ownership
of a plain copper receptacle for the incinerated remains.

George F. Hurlbert
SECRETARY

Geo. E. Bohan
PRESIDENT

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

DATE

NON-TRANSFERABLE

This Certificate is transferable and will properly endorsed will upon demand be honored by any one of the following named Cremation Associations or Societies

**CERTIFICATE
OF
CREMATION.**

ISSUED BY
**THE ODD FELLOWS'
CEMETERY ASSOCIATION**
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA
U.S.A.

TO

DATED

*For Value Received. Thereby, sell, assign and transfer
unto
and interest in the within Certificate.
Dated at*

In presence of

NOTICE: The Odd Fellows' Cemetery Association, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA MUST BE NOTIFIED OF ANY TRANSFER OF THIS CERTIFICATE SAID NOTICE TO GIVE THE NUMBER OF CERTIFICATE, DATE OF TRANSFER AND THE NAME AND ADDRESS OF PERSON TO WHOM TRANSFER IS MADE

CERTIFICATES so issued are transferable under the ruling of the Association, and may be used for the incineration of any person designated by the purchaser, or his or her heirs at law, or assigns.

Negotiations are now in progress and we feel assured that in the near future arrangements will be perfected, whereby **Cremation Certificates** issued under the seal of this Association will be honored by the majority of, if not all, Crematories, Cremation Societies or Associations in the world, they performing the incineration upon the presentation and surrender of said certificate, which is then cancelled and returned to this Association.

If favorable to the idea of Cremation you will promote its interests and that of your own by entering at once into a contract with this Association for the purchase of one or more Cremation Certificates, and thus make provision, in advance and upon easy terms, for the incineration at death of yourself, any member of your family or of those dependent upon you. A saving of \$10 00 in the cost of each incineration is effected and the carrying out of your individual wishes in the matter is the more reasonably assured.

If a permanent resident of this locality, you should in addition to the purchase of Cremation Certificates, secure and fit up, on the same easy terms, for future use, a niche or family space in our magnificent and beautiful Columbarium, views, details, prices, etc., of which you will find on the pages following.

Receiving Vault.

It frequently happens that death ensues whilst some member of the family is at a distance with whom communication

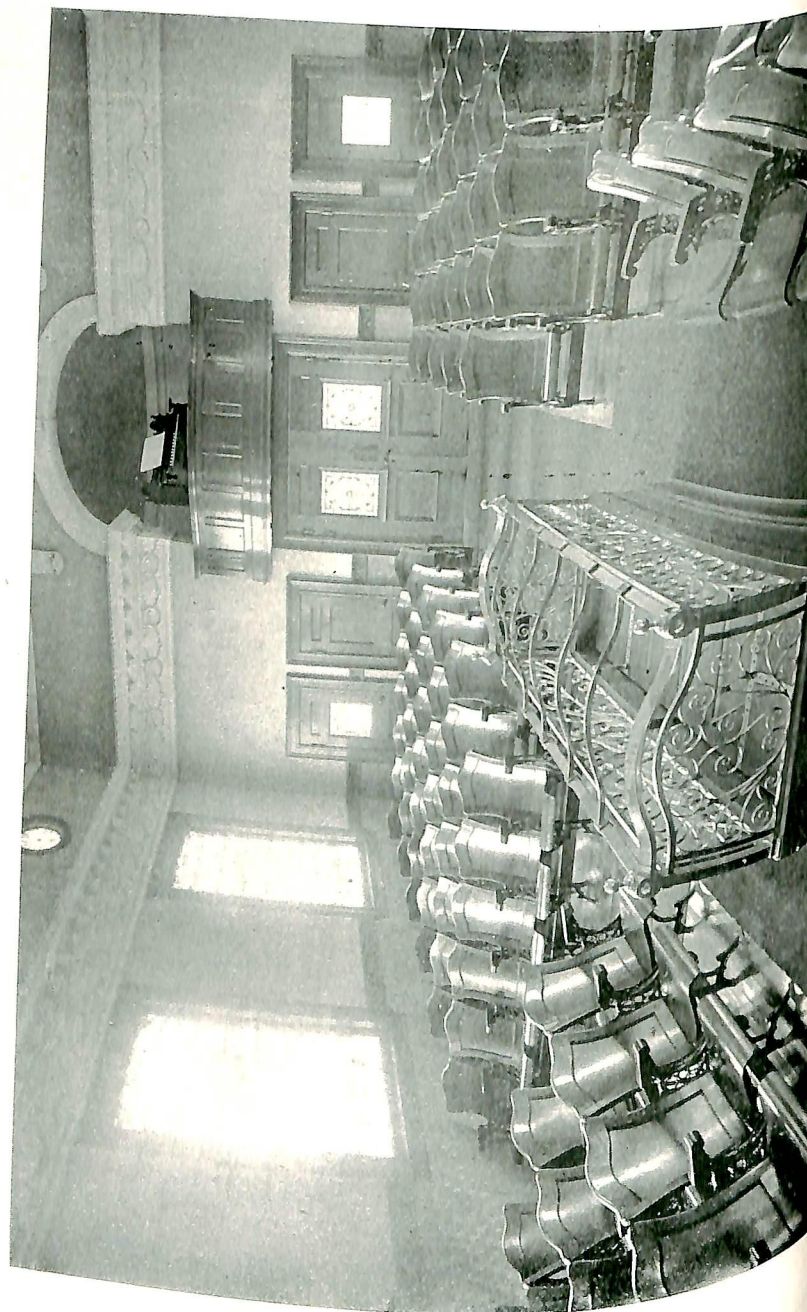
must be held, or whose arrival must be awaited, before making a final disposition of the remains thereby causing delay.

To meet such exigencies and others necessitating the postponement of the incineration for a time, a thoroughly constructed, well ventilated and secure RECEIVING VAULT containing six (6) niches has been erected on the ground floor of the CREMATORIUM where the remains may be placed until such time as funeral arrangements are definitely settled, for the use of which there is no extra charge, unless occupied for a longer period than five days.

Particular attention is called to page 19.



CHAPEL, CREMATORIUM, LOOKING TOWARD CHANCEL.



INSTRUCTIONS

REGARDING CREMATION

1. **Certificates of Death or Removal Permits.** Under recent regulations of the San Francisco Board of Health, all bodies from a distance intended for cremation or interment in this City and County, must have issued therefor three (3) Certificates of Death or three (3) Removal Permits. One (1) of which must accompany the remains. One (1) be given the transportation company, and one (1), *the original*, be sent either to an undertaker in San Francisco or to the Cemetery Association direct. The *original* should be sent *before* the remains are shipped, in order that there may be ample time in which to exchange the same for the necessary local permit, thereby avoiding the possibility of a vexatious delay after arrival of remains in this city. Have the Health Officer or Coroner in your locality issue Removal Permits as above, BUT SHOULD THERE BE NEITHER OF THESE OFFICERS AVAILABLE, SECURE *Certificates of Death in triplicate* FROM THE ATTENDING PHYSICIAN, AND HAVE THE SAME ACKNOWLEDGED AND COUNTERSIGNED BY A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE. This rule is *imperative* and must be strictly adhered to in all cases.

2. **Shipment.** On one day's notice we will receive bodies coming from a distance, obtain the necessary local permits, and take charge of all arrangements *without extra charge*. Bodies may be

sent by express, and will be received by the Association, if the proper Removal Permits or Death Certificates have been sent in advance—(see section 1), Undertaker's wagon being used to transport the body from depot or wharf to the Crematorium. If hearse is desired, charge will be \$10.00 extra.

3. Preparation of the Body. No special preparation of the body or clothing is necessary, it being incinerated *in the casket* as received. Where a metallic casket is used, the body is removed and wrapped in a cotton cloth.

NOTE.—A casket lined with zinc is *not* classed as metallic, the remains being incinerated in a casket so lined, the same as they are when received in an ordinary wood casket.

4. Caskets and trimmings destroyed. All caskets, or parts thereof, trimmings, etc., not incinerated with the remains are immediately destroyed, and no parts of the same (except the name plate) are permitted to leave the Crematorium.

5. Cost. The fee for incineration, including a copper receptacle for the ashes, use of Chapel, organ service, etc., is forty-five dollars (\$45.00), payable invariably in advance. Cremation Certificates may be contracted for, entitling the holder thereof to one incineration on demand, under the ruling of the Association, for the sum of thirty-five dollars (\$35.00), details of which are fully explained on pages 14, 15 and 16.

6. Use of Retorts. In order to avoid confusion, applications should be made at the earliest possible moment, and the details for the incineration arranged *before* funeral announcements are made.

7. Disposal and Care of Ashes. The incinerated remains are placed in a neat, copper receptacle, properly sealed, and are deliverable on the day

Particular attention is called to page 19.

following the incineration upon presentation of written order from the legal custodian and necessary Removal Permits from the San Francisco Board of Health. The ashes can remain in the custody of the Association for a period of three months without charge.

8. Receiving Vault. If it is desired to postpone an incineration, bodies will be received and placed in the Receiving Vault for a period of five days without extra charge.

9. Use of Chapel. Services can be held when so desired in the Chapel of the Crematorium, including organ service, without extra charge.

10. The Association will procure the services of a minister of any denomination, and will arrange for any form of service, by receiving timely notice, at the expense of the parties so ordering.

11. Solo, duet or quartette singers, male, female or mixed voices, will be furnished, the cost of which can be ascertained upon application.

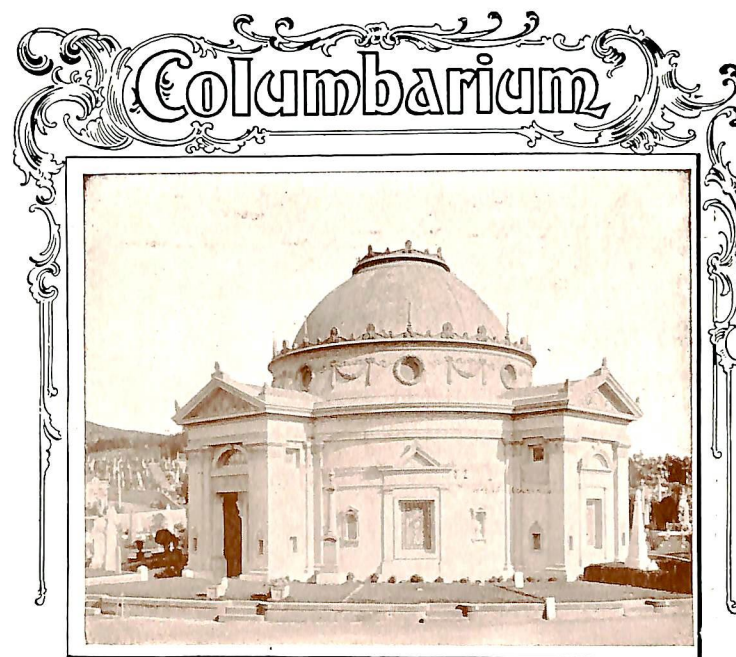
12. Privacy. The incineration may be strictly private if family and friends of deceased so desire.

13. Location. The offices and buildings are located in the Odd Fellows' Cemetery on Point Lobos Avenue, San Francisco, only half an hour's ride from the ferry, and are accessible by transfer privileges to all lines of street cars.

14. How to reach there. Transfer from Market or Fillmore Street to Geary Street cars which pass the grounds, or from the Larkin or Sutter Street system to the Sutro electric cars which pass within one block of the entrance.

15. Ask the conductor to let you off at *The Odd Fellows' Cemetery*.

Particular attention is called to page 19.



THE COLUMBARIUM just completed is without exception the most beautiful and elaborate building in the world, used EXCLUSIVELY as a repository for the ashes of the dead.



It is original and unique, both in design and arrangement, of classic architecture, and contains upwards of FIVE THOUSAND niches, of great variety in size, style and finish, to accommodate the means and varied tastes of all.

It is entirely separate and distinct from the Crematorium, is constructed of fire-proof material throughout, imposing in appearance, bright and cheerful in aspect, and built in such manner as to insure permanency and stability.



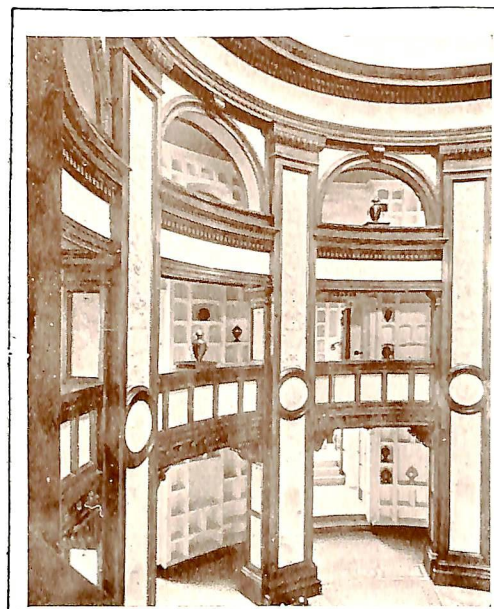
All niches and receptacles are easy of access and so arranged, by means of separate apartments or rooms, and by regulations regarding visitors, that one may be almost, if not quite, alone when visiting the remains of their loved ones.



All space therein will be sold for **permanent occupancy** and **with perpetual care**, and while great latitude will be given purchasers as to style of urns, memorial tablets, finish, etc., in order that the whole, when completed, shall present a pleasing, artistic and harmonious effect, all designs and work must first be approved by the Association before they can be executed and placed in the building.



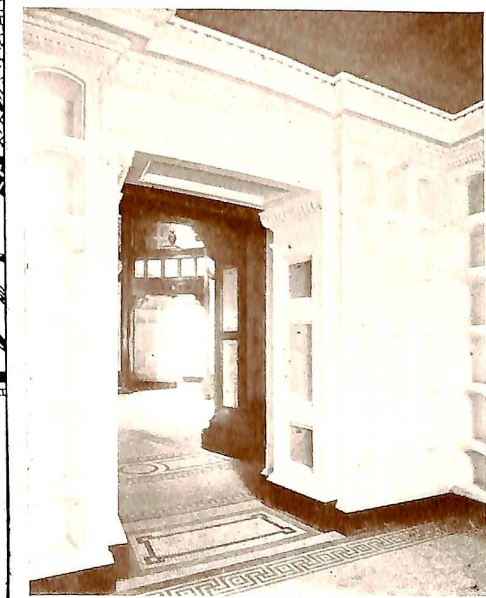
Each niche or apartment may be fitted with a flower holder of special design, and when so desired arrangements for artistically decorating the same with favorite flowers, at stated times, can be contracted for at a small expense.



MAIN ROTUNDA

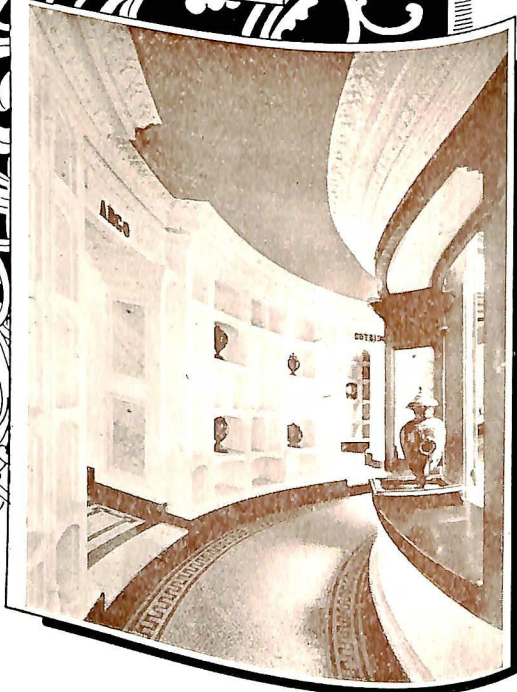


GROUND
FLOOR
from
WEST WING

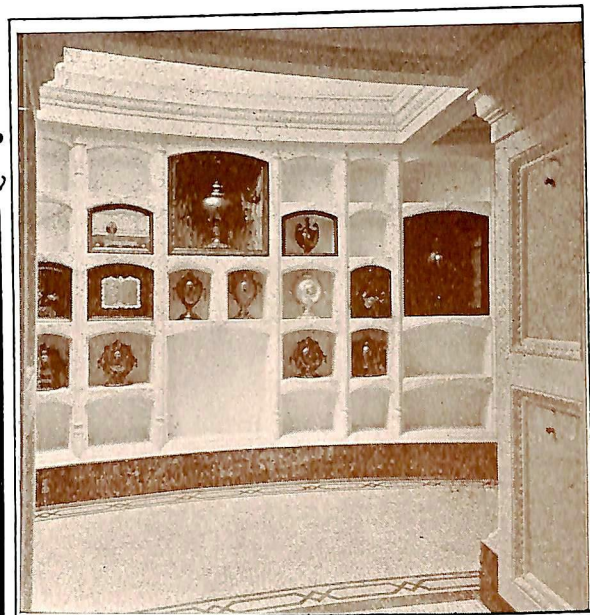
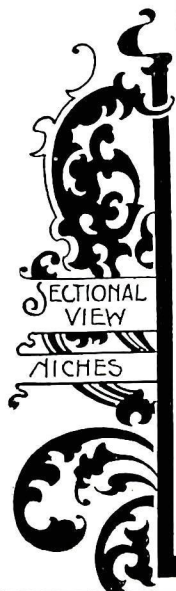


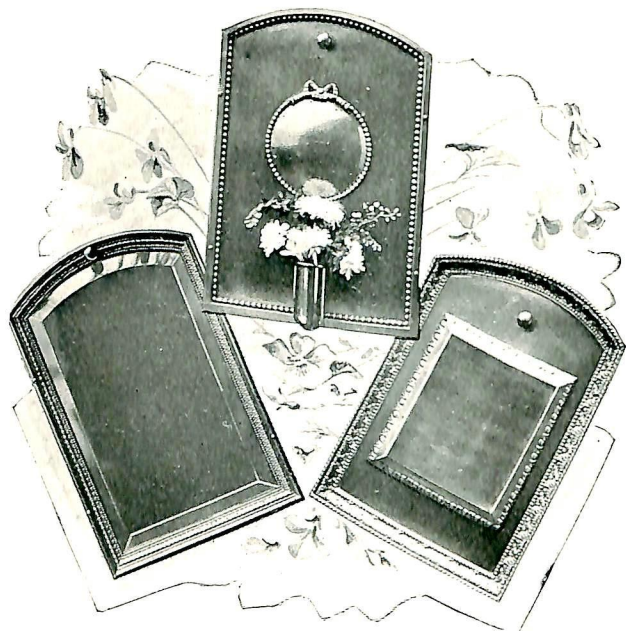


QUADRANT
FIRST FLOOR



MAIN CORRIDOR
FIRST FLOOR





ALL NICHES are required to be closed and rendered dust proof. Where ornamental urns are used the fronts are enclosed with beveled plate glass, held in place by means of neat, detachable copper or bronze frames, the interior of the niche being neatly tinted, frescoed or draped; otherwise the fronts are enclosed with *memorial tablets* of such design and material as the individual taste may direct. Bronze or marble being the most appropriate for this purpose.



By special arrangement with manufacturers, the Association is prepared to furnish both stock pattern and specially designed Artistic Urns, Linings, Fronts and Memorial Tablets, at much more reasonable prices than could be obtained by individual purchasers.

Particular attention is called to page 19.



INTERIOR VIEW, GROUND FLOOR FROM WEST WING, COLUMBARIUM.



MAIN CORRIDOR, FIRST FLOOR, COLUMBARIUM.

COST OF NICHE SPACE IN COLUMBARIUM



☼ ☼ ☼ As will be observed by reference to views herein, space has been so diversified and arranged as to accommodate the varied means and requirements of all, prices of which, for *permanent* occupancy, vary according to size and location, from \$10.00 for single space on the SECOND floor, to as high as \$250.00 for family space on FIRST and GROUND floors, in addition to which there are a number of spaces, including memorial windows, at even higher prices.

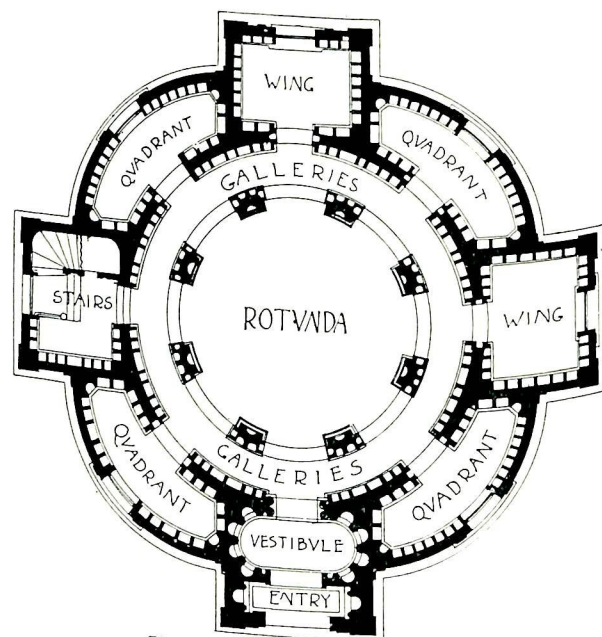
☼ ☼ ☼ The prices charged are for SPACE ONLY, including perpetual care. Fronts and embellishments are at purchasers' expense in addition thereto.

☼ ☼ ☼ For the accommodation of those who may not be in a position to purchase and pay cash for a desired space, arrangements may be made whereby same can be purchased at cash prices upon **partial payments** and upon **terms to suit the purchaser**. (See Contract Form, page 34.)

☼ ☼ ☼ Space purchased in this way cannot, however, be occupied, or any part thereof, until fully paid for.

☼ ☼ ☼ Detail information, plans and views, furnished upon application to intending purchasers who may not find it convenient to personally call and inspect the same.

Particular attention is called to page 19.



FLOOR PLAN, COLUMBARIUM.

GROUND FLOOR

as above, contains upwards of 1,700 niches, varying in capacity from 2 to 20 urns. Prices of niche space on this floor varies from \$40.00 to \$750.00, according to size and location.

FIRST FLOOR

Is an exact duplicate of the Ground Floor with the exception of the Quadrants being lighted from the top instead of sides.

SECOND FLOOR

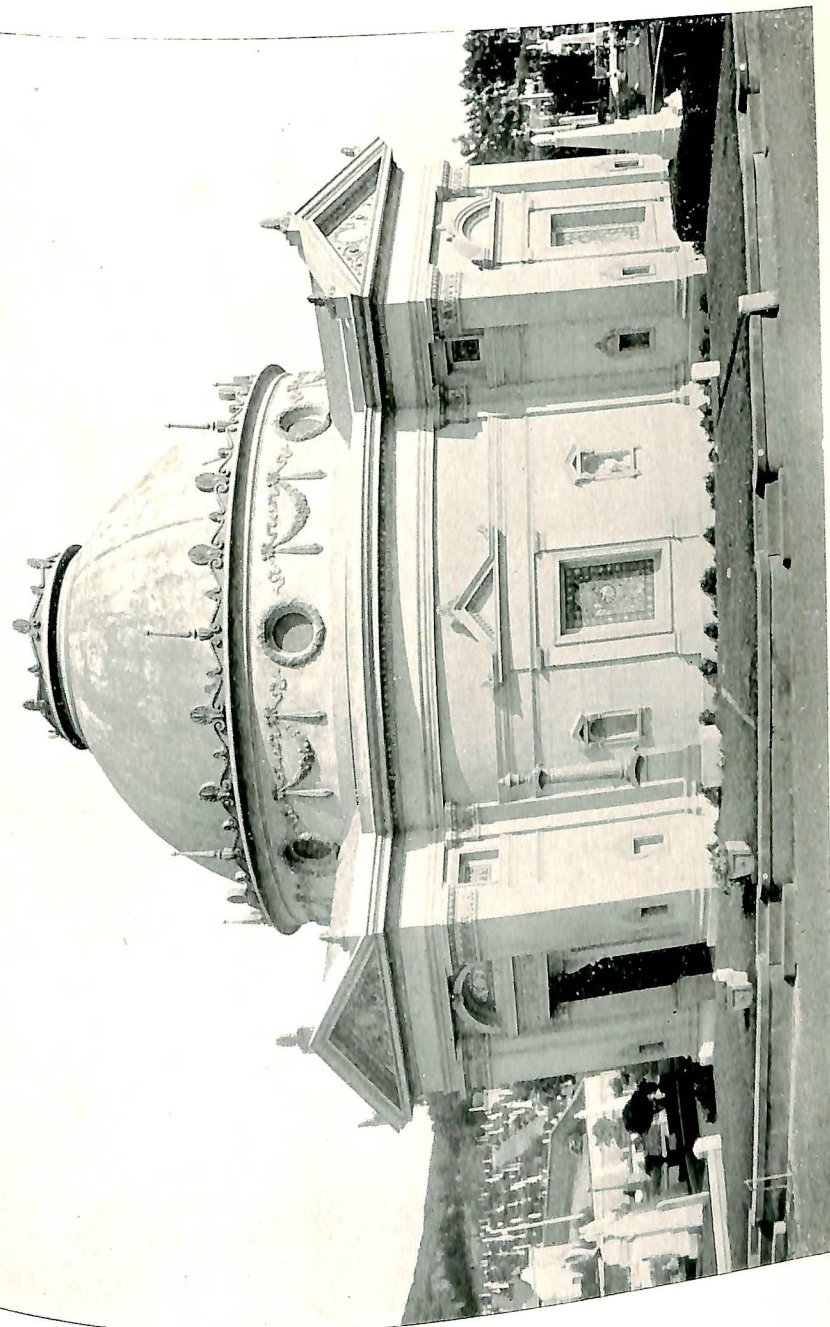
It contains upwards of 1600 niches; prices of which vary from \$20.00 to \$250.00.

THIRD FLOOR

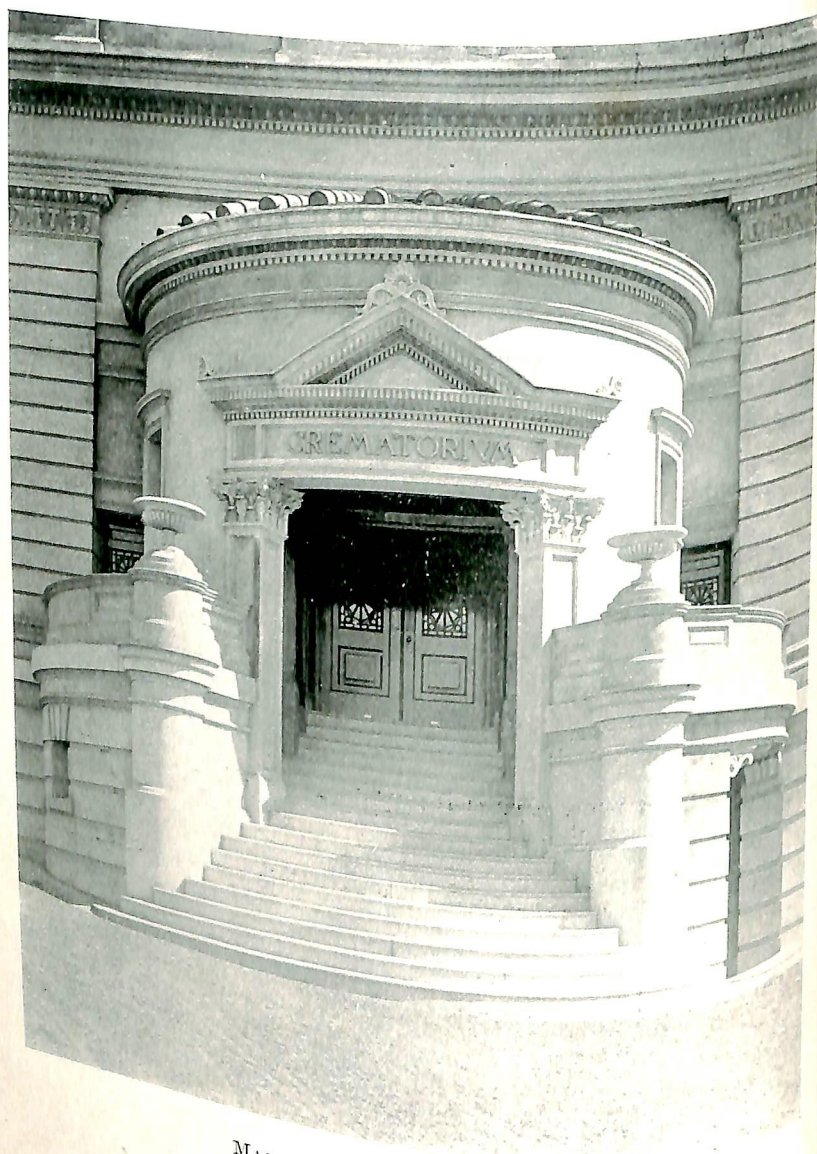
Is the same as Galleries of Ground Floor plan, Wings and Quadrants being omitted. It contains upwards of 700 niches, capacity of which vary from 1 to 10 urns. Prices of these niches range from \$10.00 to \$50.00, according to size and location.

Contains upwards of 2,000 spaces.

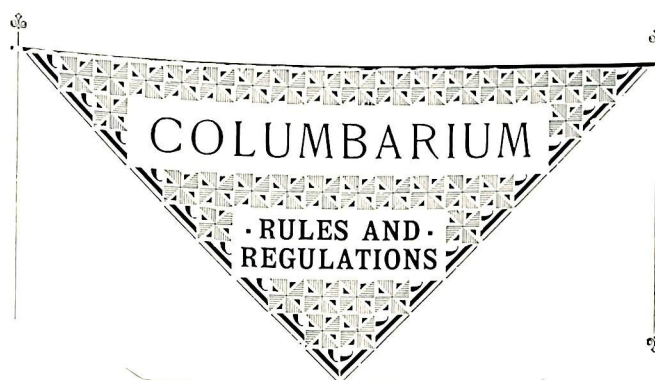
All the above prices are for *permanent occupancy* and with *perpetual care*, and are for *niche space only*. All fronts and improvements to the same are extra, costing from \$1.50 to \$200.00, according to material, design, etc., that is used.



EXTERIOR VIEW, COLUMBARIUM.



MAIN ENTRANCE, CREMATORIUM.



1. The building will be open to parties owning space therein on week days from 7:30 o'clock A. M. till 5:30 P. M., and on Sundays from 9 A. M. till 5 P. M.
2. Visitors other than niche owners are admitted only upon application at the office of the Superintendent, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, from 9 A. M. to 4 P. M.
3. Canes, umbrellas, parasols, or baskets will not be allowed inside the building. Have them checked at the office or by the attendant at the building.
4. All floral decorations, natural or artificial, must be of such size, style, etc., as not to interfere with other niches, and be at all times subject to such regulations as the Association may adopt.
5. The fronts of all niches are required to be closed and rendered dust proof. The materials and designs for which must first be approved by the Superintendent.
6. The Association reserves the right of doing all work in connection with the setting or removing of fronts, or of changing or altering the interior finish, etc., of the niches.

7. Any damage to the building, or property therein, through negligence or the careless use of water, will be charged to the owner of the niche who may be directly or indirectly responsible therefor.

8. The building is at all times in charge of courteous and trustworthy persons, whose duty it is to receive visitors and to see that all rules and regulations of the Association are strictly enforced.

The Crematorium is open to visitors every day in the week, between the hours of 8 A. M. and 5 P. M., and on Sundays from 10 A. M. to 5 P. M.

Address all communications and make all remittances to

The Odd Fellows'
Cemetery Association

Point Lobos Avenue

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL

Telephone
West 896

Particular attention is called to page 19.

• • • CREMATION • • •

This Contract, executed in duplicate, by and between THE ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, party of the first part, and _____ party of the second part, bears witness. The said Association has agreed to sell to said party of the second part, and said party of the second part has agreed to purchase thereof _____ Certificate of Cremation for use in its Crematory in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, and to pay therefor the sum of \$35.00 _____ upon the following terms and conditions, viz: \$ _____ upon the delivery of this Contract, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and \$ _____ day of each and every month thereafter till fully paid; and when said full sum of \$35.00 _____ is paid, and not before, shall said Certificate _____ be issued. Each Certificate is transferable and entitles the holder thereof to one incineration at said Crematory, including use of Chapel, organ service, and the ownership of a plain copper receptacle for the incinerate remains.

WITNESS our hands this _____ day of _____ 18 _____

For THE ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE.—Address all communications to, and make all Drafts, Checks, Money Orders, etc., payable to The Odd Fellows' Cemetery Association, San Francisco, California.

♦ ♦ ♦ COLUMBARIUM, ♦ ♦ ♦

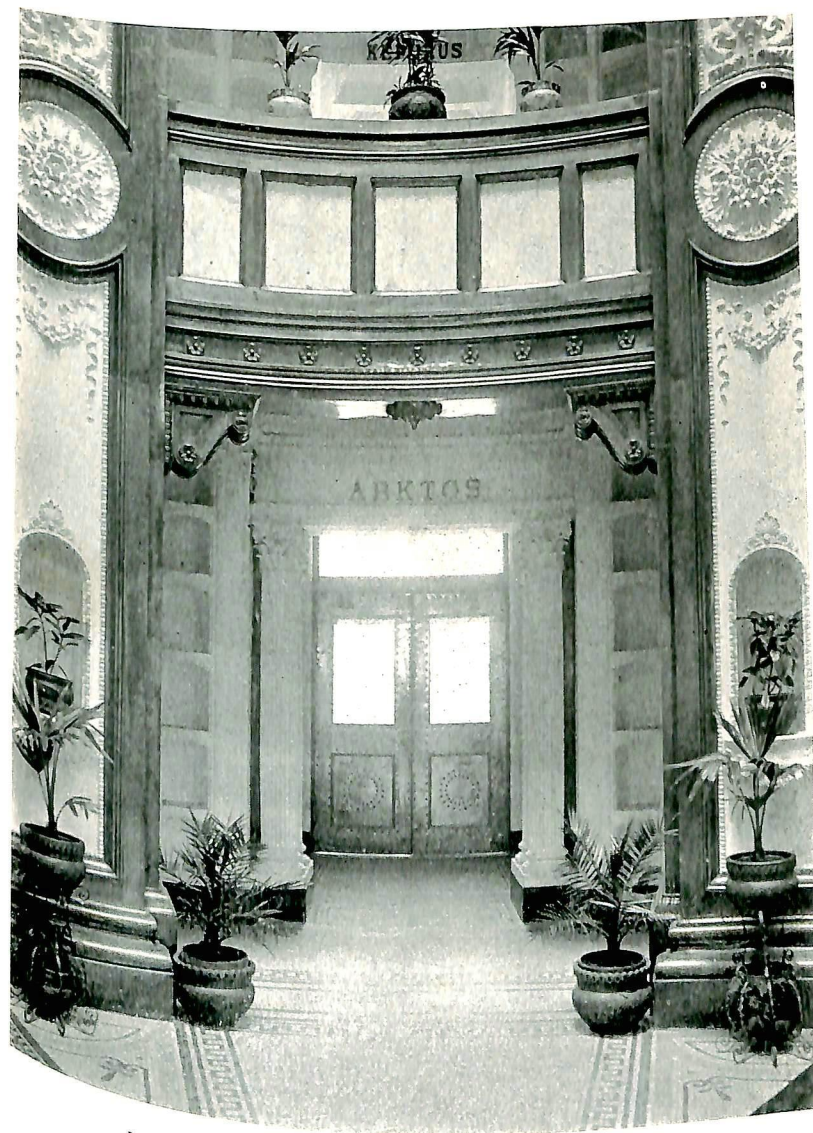
*This Contract, executed in duplicate, by and between THE ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION, party of the first part, and _____ party of the second part, bears witness. The said Association has agreed to sell to said party of the second part, and said party of the second part has agreed to purchase thereof Niche, Tier _____, No. _____, Section _____ on the _____ Floor in its **Columbarium**, in the City and County of San Francisco, State of California, for the sum of \$ _____ together with improvements, to-wit: _____*

and to pay therefor the sum total of \$ _____ upon the following terms and conditions, viz: \$ _____ upon the delivery of this Contract, receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and \$ _____ upon the day of each and every month thereafter till fully paid, with interest at the rate of 6% per annum on deferred payments, and when said full sum of \$ _____ is paid, and not before, shall said Niche be transferred to said party of the second part, to be used as the rules of said Association may hereafter prescribe. No inscription, addition, ornamentation or alteration shall be made to or about said Niche without the consent of the Board of Trustees of said Association.

WITNESS our hands this _____ day of _____ 18_____

For THE ODD FELLOWS' CEMETERY ASSOCIATION.

NOTICE.—Address all communications to, and make all Drafts, Checks, Money Orders, etc., payable to The Odd Fellows' Cemetery Association, San Francisco, California.



MAIN ENTRANCE, COLUMBARIUM, LOOKING OUTWARD.

Appendix

Views of FRANCES E. WILLARD, the late President of the Women's Christian Temperance Union, as expressed in her *Glimpses of Fifty Years*:

"I have the purpose to help forward progressive movements, even in my latest hours, and hence hereby decree, that the earthly mantle which I shall drop ere long, when my real self passes onward into the world unseen, shall be swiftly enfolded in flames and rendered powerless, harmfully to affect the health of the living. Let no friend of mine say aught to prevent the cremation of my cast-off body. The fact that the popular mind has not come to this decision, renders it all the more my duty, who have seen the light, to stand for it in death, as I have sincerely meant in life to stand by the great cause of poor, oppressed humanity."

Miss Willard's remains were cremated at the crematory in Graceland Cemetery, Chicago, Ill., April 9th, 1898, and the ashes interred in the Willard family plot at Rose Hill Cemetery.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS, Boston:

"I have never been able to understand any of the arguments against cremation. The religious argument certainly has no bearing on the subject. As a matter of sentiment, I fail to see why we should rather consign the remains of those we love, to the tender mercies of worms, than to the tender mercies of heat."

DR. A. BUCCELLATTI, a Catholic Priest, and Professor of Theology at the University of Pavia, one of the most learned ecclesiastics of Italy, in a letter addressed to Professor Polli, at Milano, says:

"You enquire of me in what relation cremation stands to religion. As a reasoning Catholic, free from any prejudice, I do not hesitate for a moment to openly declare that cremation, as you and your colleagues understand it, is not inconsistent with the teachings of religion."



"AVERILL" MEMORIAL WINDOW.

SIR HENRY THOMPSON, M. D., Professor of Chemical Surgery, University College, London (Extract from article in *Contemporary Review*):

"One of the many social questions waiting to be solved, and which must be solved at no very remote period is: Which of the various forms of treatment of the dead is best for survivors? The answer is easy and simple. Do that which is done in all good work of every kind—follow nature's indication, and do the work she does, but do it better and more rapidly.

"In order to meet a possible objection to the substitution of cremation for burial, let me observe that the former is equally susceptible with the latter of association with religious funeral rites, if not more so. Never could the solemn and touching words, 'Ashes to ashes, dust to dust,' be more appropriately uttered, than over a body about to be consigned to the retort; while, with a view to metaphor, the dissipation of almost the whole body in the atmosphere, in the ethereal form of gaseous matter, is far more suggestive of another and a brighter life, than the consignment of the body to the abhorred prison of the tomb."

REV. JOSEPH MAY, Philadelphia:

"It gives me much satisfaction to have an opportunity to express publicly my earnest approval of cremation as a mode of disposing of the bodies of the dead. I strongly desire to promote this reform.

"While it costs, at present, some moral effort to adopt the method of cremation, I am persuaded that it will ultimately come to seem, aesthetically, even more attractive than burial. We cannot now let our imagination follow the remains of our dead. By the system of cremation they pass through no process of decay, but by a purest conceivable mode of dissolution swiftly exhale. In several instances with which I have been familiar, the remains of persons, who had themselves so directed, have been disposed of by cremation. In each case, their relatives have assured me very emphatically of the refinement and tenderness of all the incidents of the process as actually conducted, and of their full conversion to the reformed method. I urge it upon all, as a duty to the public, to encourage its adoption."

CHAS. W. WENDTE, Oakland, Cal., Superintendent Unitarian Churches for the Pacific Coast:

"The true disposal of our dead, is cremation, rather than earth-burial. It is associated with feelings of the noblest kind, with veneration and tenderness for the departed, with the religious trusts and hopes that center in the thought of immortality.

"It does not contradict Christian teachings or compel the alteration of a single line of the burial service. It conduces far more than the usual practice of interment to the comfort, health and safety of the living. For this reason it is commended by all sanitary authorities and men of science. It is also far less offensive to the imagination and feelings of man. Finally it is recommended by considerations of utility and economy. For these and many other reasons it should be adopted."

REV. CHARLES WOOD, Philadelphia:

"In reply to your favor of the twenty-first of January, it gives me pleasure to say that I believe cremation to be hygienically the proper method of disposing of the dead."

JAMES M. LINGLE, President of Union College, Philadelphia:

"I take pleasure in endorsing all the general claims made in favor of cremation, and am positively desirous that when my spirit leaves for the beyond, that what is to become but ashes shall be reduced to ashes quickly."

PROF. GEO. W. FETTER, Philadelphia:

"I am heartily in favor of cremation, and believe that the march of progressive thought in the future will lead to a universal opinion in that direction. Prejudice, the chief obstacle, is fast being removed by reason and common sense."

RICHARD M. JONES, President Penn Charter School, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania:

"You have against you prejudice and tradition, but with you reason and common sense."

REV. W. I. NICHOLS, Philadelphia:

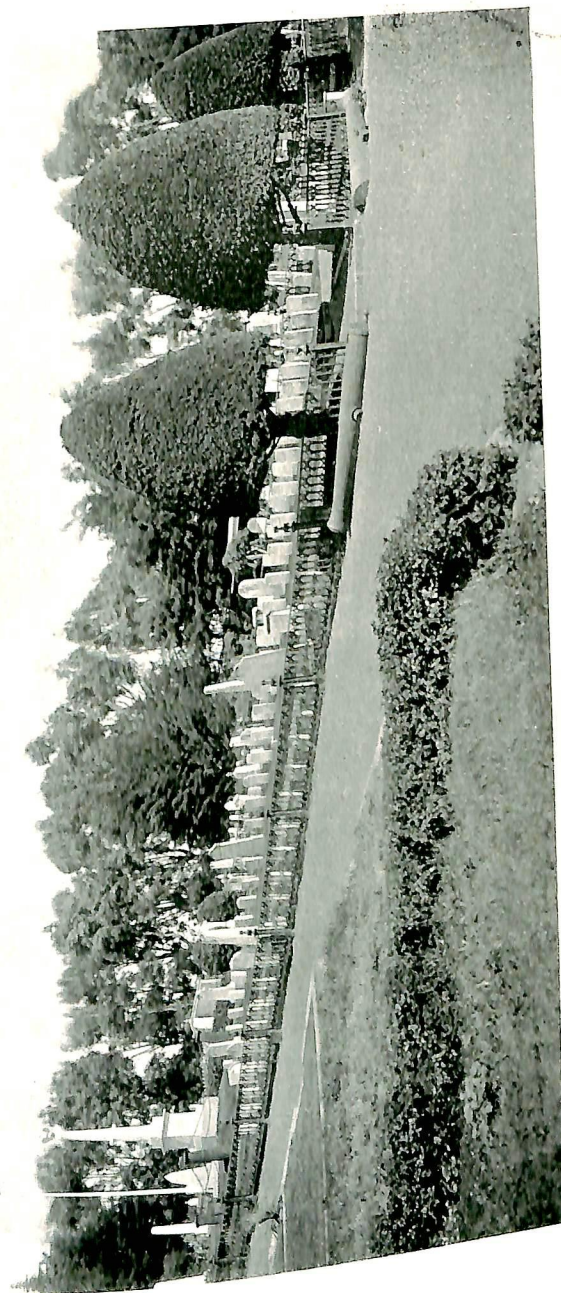
"I am glad to express my approval of cremation as a substitute for burial in disposing of the bodies of the dead. It seems to me that cremation is preferable on every account. Even on grounds of sentiment, heat, the great purifying force, is far pleasanter to contemplate than decay—a process associated with corruption. And considered from the point of view of reason and common sense, there can be no question of the advantage of cremation.

"During the past year I have officiated at two funerals when the bodies of the deceased were cremated, and in observing carefully the process, I could not see anything which need offend the most critical taste, but, on the contrary, there was gratifying exemption from many unpleasant features of earth-burial. I cannot doubt that this reform will commend itself more and more to thoughtful people.

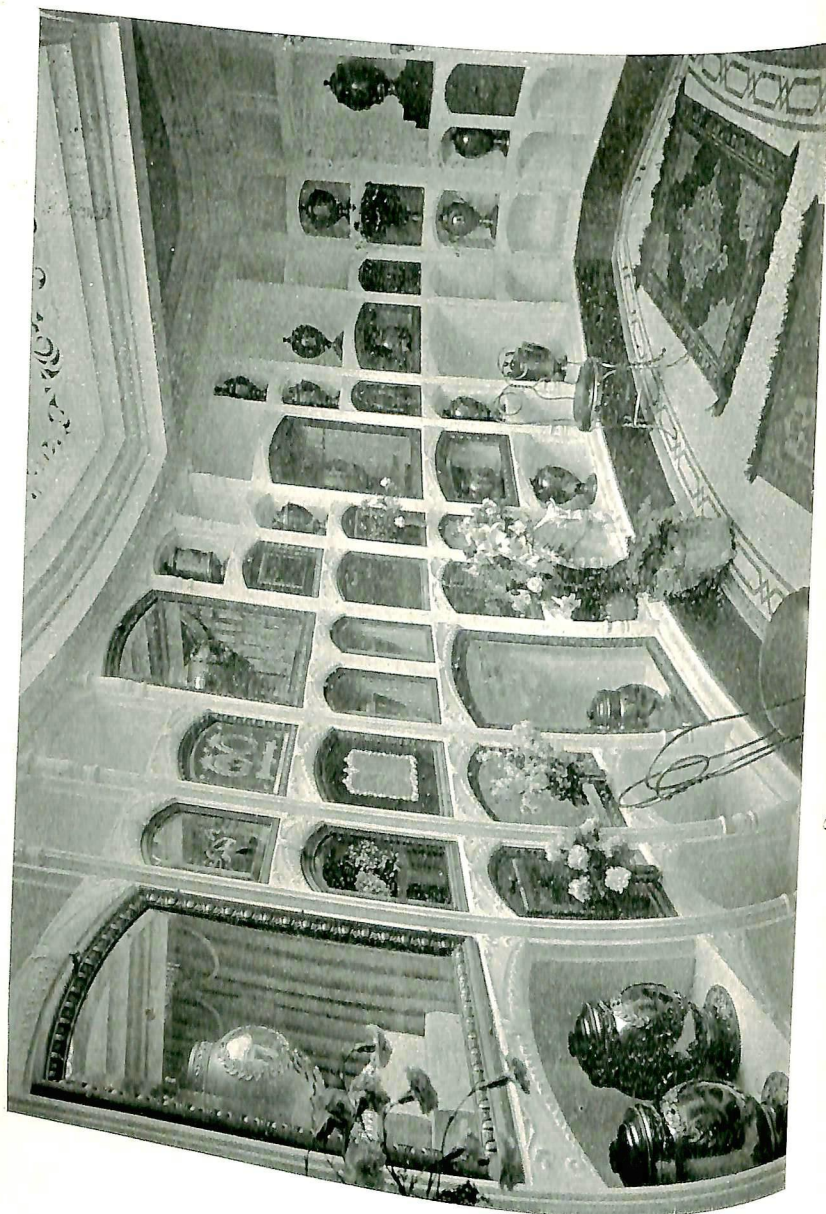
"I take satisfaction in having been enabled myself to arrange for the final disposition of my body by this method, and I desire to let my influence be exerted in behalf of so important a reform."

What JULIA THOMAS, of New York, says:

"Success attend your worthy efforts, and right speedily. We want protection for the living, and the best way to secure it is to cremate our dead and decaying, cast-off garments of clay. My sister and self were long ago converted to a faith in cremation. One has such a horror of rotting slowly back to the elements of one's material being! Who does not prefer the sweeter, cleaner, swifter process of 'rosy heat?' A few years ago the upper Delaware was flooded with the melting snows of spring, and the turbid, swollen stream overflowed its banks and washed out a number of graves in the country burying-grounds. When the floods had abated, dead bodies and skeletons were found strewn along the banks and dangling from trees, which had been partly undated. The sight was most shocking to the friends of the deceased and demoralizing to every passer-by, but making a most impressive object-lesson in favor of cremation. We, who were witnesses of this event, are haunted even to this day by the horrible sight."



GRAND ARMY PLOT.



QUADRANT, FIRST FLOOR, CREMATORIUM.

The late LUCY STONE, of the American Woman Suffrage Association, Boston:

"I am decidedly in favor of Cremation; on sanitary grounds alone it seems to me to be wholly desirable."

[Her's was the first body to be cremated in the Boston Crematorium, January 4th, 1894.]

Rev. ROBERT RITCHIE, D. D., Rector of St. Paul's Church, Oakland, Cal.:

"Being asked for my opinion in regard to Cremation, I can only say that I approve of it without qualifications. There can be no objections against it on religious grounds—save in the way of conservatism that is the result of sentiment rather than reason. A custom or usage supported by Christian antiquity is of weight provided that it commends itself also to modern needs and exigencies; but this, the practice of burying the dead, does not always do. As the world grows older, and more and more of its inhabitants are returned to its bosom in nature's last sleep, the problem, especially in our large cities, of disposing of the dead presses for solution."

The REV. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, D. D., Boston:

"I have no doubt that Cremation will work its way into general favor, and I am glad to think so. I am glad to remember that in *Old and New*, now more than fifteen years ago, I published a well-considered article urging the reform in burial."

REV. E. R. DILLE, Pastor First M. E. Church, Oakland, Cal.; former Pastor Central M. E. Church, San Francisco, Cal.:

"I am in hearty sympathy with your enterprise. I believe incineration to be the ideal and future method of disposing of the sacred mortal remains of our dead, and that it is preferable to earth-burial upon sanitary, aesthetic and religious grounds. When an unreasonable and superstitious prejudice shall have been outgrown, there will be no more earth-burials in the environs of populous cities."

PROF. JOSEPH LECONTE, of University of California:

"I cannot for a moment doubt that Cremation is by far the most rational mode of disposal of our dead. I am sure I would prefer such disposal for myself."

PROF. E. W. HILGARD, University of California:

"The objections to cremation arise, with us, purely from tradition and habit, for even as a matter of sentiment it is difficult to assign any reason why the destruction of the body slowly, as accomplished by earth burial, should be preferred to the quicker and, in itself, certainly less gruesome process of quick combustion. It seems to me that for cases of contagious disease especially, destruction by fire might well be made obligatory by law, as a measure of public safety."

DAVID STARR JORDAN, President Leland Stanford Junior University, Palo Alto, California:

"The practice of earth-burial arose with primitive man, who had all the earth for his purposes, and had no idea of the possible evil influences that might arise from the decay of flesh near the homes of men. This practice became associated with the idea that the body itself would be of some further use to the soul, and this idea has acquired a certain religious sanction. It is not, however, part of the belief of the people of to-day. The practice of cremation is in every way preferable, and it becomes us rationally, then, to use our influence towards its general use in the interest of the living, and in time the sacredness now attached to the grave as a repository of decaying flesh, can be transferred to the repository of the ashes freed from the elements of decay."

RIGHT REV. WM. FORD NICHOLS, D. D., Bishop Episcopal Diocese of California:

"You ask: 'Does the Episcopal Church, as a body politic, approve of cremation as a means of disposing of the mortal remains of the dead?' In answer thereto I can only say that the Episcopal Church has made no official utterance touching the subject of cremation, allowing in that, as in other things, for differences of views."

DR. WINSLOW ANDERSON, A. M., M. D., M. R. P. C., London, Professor of Gynæcology, Dean College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco:

"I am in full sympathy with the practice of cremation. Earth-burial is unscientific, cremation does in an hour what earth-burial requires a hundred years to accomplish, viz., the reduction of the body to dust. Fire purifies all that remains of a body, namely, the earthy salts, and contamination or the spreading of contagious diseases is impossible under this method. My foster father, the late Dr. Chas. Frederick Winslow, was the first man cremated west of New York, his body having been cremated in Salt Lake City in 1877."

DR. JNO. FEARN, M. D., Professor Materia Medica and Therapeutics, California Medical College, San Francisco:

"I am now and for a good many years past have been a firm believer in cremation. I believe it to be immeasurably superior to earth-burial on sanitary and aesthetic grounds. I can see no objection to it on religious grounds, as we grow in enlightenment the superstitious prejudice against incineration will, I believe, pass away. I have had my dead cremated and when I pass from this body, I hope that the body which has served me so well will be cremated."

REV. WM. RADER, Pastor Third Congregational Church, San Francisco, Cal.:

"The method of disposing of the dead by means of cremation is based upon sound principles of sanitation. It is a step in advance of the old custom of placing the body in the ground, and is not only a sanitary measure, but is both convenient and expedient."

"The magnificent Crematorium and Columbarium at the Odd Fellows' Cemetery, satisfies every religious and aesthetic sense, and is peculiarly fitted for the orderly disposal of the dead. I believe the method will become more and more in vogue as population increases and people advance beyond the paganism of the modern funeral."

DR. ALBERT ABRAMS, 784 Geary Street, San Francisco, Cal.:

"The vital question of cremation, whether discussed from the standpoint of the economist, philosopher philanthropist, hygienist, or theologian, admits of only one conclusion, viz., that incineration constitutes one of the greatest sanitary reforms of this *fin de siècle* period.

"The conventional method of inhumation is a relic of barbarism, nurtured by ignorance, prejudice and bigotry.

"Cremation, in the language of the immortal Gross, 'Is a truly beautiful method of disposing of the dead.'"

J. A. CRUZAN, Managing Editor *The Pacific*, Y. M. C. A. Building, San Francisco:

"I have for years been an earnest advocate of cremation, instead of earth burial. Every argument is in favor of this form of disposing of the worn out body. Only sentiment is against it, and when we think of the terrible processes of disintegration which go on under ground, from decay and from insects, I cannot understand why sentiment also should not be changed to the side of cremation."

CHAS. DEXTER CLEVELAND, M. D., San Francisco:

"As the utter and complete dissolution of the human body is inevitable; as it must, whatever may be the mode of its disposition, return to its original elements, it seems to me that refined and aesthetic considerations most emphatically and decidedly commend its destruction through the chemistry of the scientific and well constructed crematorium."

J. H. STALLARD, M. D., San Francisco, Cal., formerly one of the Sanitary Commissioners of the London *Lancet*:

"I have been an advocate of cremation for many years, having employed it in my own family.

As conducted in a modern crematorium it is far less revolting to the feelings of relatives and friends than inhumation, whilst the remains can be more lovingly cared for, and the personal associations more closely preserved."



ROTUNDA, COLUMBARIUM.



MAIN ENTRANCE, COLUMBARIUM.

PHILIP MILLS JONES, M. D., Director of the Waldeck X Ray Laboratory, San Francisco, Cal.:

"My views in regard to cremation, are most emphatic in approval and commendation. Earth burial is unsanitary, unscientific, and revolting; whereas, cremation is the direct opposite, and is in fact the only scientific and sanitary method of disposing of the dead."

The late KATE FIELD, Washington, D. C.:

"I am a cremationist, because I believe cremation is not only the healthiest and cleanest, but the most poetical way of disposing of the dead. Whoever prefers loathsome worms to ashes, possesses a strange imagination."

[Her body was cremated by the Odd Fellows' Cemetery Association December 27th, 1896, and the ashes sent East to be interred at Mount Auburn. The interment took place January 10th, 1897.]

A. A. D'ANCONA, M. D., San Francisco, Cal.:

"In my opinion hygienic considerations certainly demand the abandonment of burial as a method of disposal of the dead. All who are not swayed by a sentiment based wholly upon custom must welcome cremation as the only means by which to dispose of the bodies of the dead."

REV. DR. HOWARD HENDERSON, D. D., LL. D., (Methodist), Cincinnati, Ohio:

"I regard cremation as the most rational method of disposing of the dead. Rightly understood, it is the most aesthetic and least repulsive to surviving love."

"In a sanitary and economic point of view it is incomparable. There is nothing in the mode inconsistent with Christianity. From the Apostolic age it has been a tradition that the martyrs will have preeminence at the resurrection, and will rise first. Hundreds of these died at the stake and their ashes were sown to the winds. The power that can raise these is competent to raise all who have been cremated. Putrification is slow burning. The dust of the dead and the ashes of the urn are identical, one is the ash of putrification loathsomely extended through years, the other is the ash of purifying incineration performed in an hour."

DR. C. G. KENYON, Surgeon to St. Luke's Hospital, San Francisco:

"I am favorable to cremation. From a scientific, sanitary and economic standpoint it is the best method.

"Opposed to it we have only a sentiment, based upon the respect we are prone to pay to established custom. Many who, a few years ago, were opposed to cremation, having upon observation and investigation of the procedure as practiced by you in San Francisco found nothing to shock the sensibilities or nerves of the bereaved relatives and friends, have become advocates of this modern, sanitary and scientific method of the disposal of the dead."

REV. DR. CHAS. R. HENDERSON, Professor Department of Sociology, University of Chicago:

[Formerly Pastor First Baptist Church, Detroit, Michigan.]

"I have watched the process of cremation and have given the subject much thought.

"To my mind this method of disposing of the dead body is by far the best of all,—clean, free from all suggestions of the charnel-house and the grave, a symbol of the unseen, and, best of all, least harmful to the living."

DR. CHARLOTTE BLAKE BROWN, M. D., San Francisco, Cal.:

"After a careful study of the subject, I believe cremation to be the only intelligent solution of the question, 'How to dispose of the dead, especially in large communities.' Its moderate expense is also a feature which everyone must believe worthy of consideration."

REV. A. J. WELLS, Pastor Second Unitarian Church, San Francisco, Cal.:

"Cremation will yet supercede the old methods of sepulture. It is reasonable; it is safe; it is clean; it involves no pollution of the ground; it appeals to the imagination. Nothing is so purifying as fire, and under its action the ashes of our friends are rescued from all the associations of decay. We hope to see it come into general use at an early date."

REV. J. CUMMING SMITH, Pastor Tabernacle Church (Presbyterian), Indianapolis, Ind.:

[Formerly of Trinity Presbyterian Church, San Francisco.]

"The ancient custom in many countries, *e. g.*, Greece, Italy and India, was cremation of the dead body. Interment for various reasons, some secular, some theological, has prevailed for centuries and has naturally through long usage become intertwined with our popular sentiments. But when a right theology comes into vogue, and a broad regard for the hygienic and sanitary conditions of the living becomes a communal habit, then cremation must supercede our present burial custom, which is obnoxious to our finer feelings."

REV. GEORGE EDWARD WALK, M. A., former Rector Trinity Episcopal Church, San Francisco:

"Those who prefer to incinerate their dead have a perfect right to thus follow their inclinations. I know of no law, human or divine, to forbid of such disposal, and as a priest of the *Church, Catholic*, I would perform 'Christian service' in such cases."

G. W. SWIFT, Pastor First Baptist Church, Stockton, Cal.:

"I am decidedly in favor of cremation and believe the Divine power can call together every particle, whether transmitted in air, or sea, or lodged in the grave. I cannot discover why it is more sinful or horrible to consume the body with fire than to permit it to rot in the grave. A friend of mine once disinterred a body for re-burial, and exposed a horror found only connected with earth burial, the skull in the coffin was a nest for rattlesnakes."

The REV. C. C. TIFFANY, D. D., New York:

"You ask my opinion, as a Christian minister, in regard to cremation as a mode of burial. I can see no possible objection to it on religious grounds, and from a sanitary point of view, much in favor of it; usage and the growing conviction of earnest consideration must prepare the way for cremation as a general practice. For myself I prefer it."

RABBI ABRAM SIMON, Congregation B'nai Israel, Sacramento, Cal.:

"I have no hesitancy in declaring that to my mind cremation will be the future method of disposal of the dead. It is the necessary method; it is rational; it is expedient; it is desirable."

The RIGHT REV. PHILLIPS BROOKS, P. E., Bishop of Massachusetts, wrote:

"I believe that there are no true objections to the practice of Cremation, and a good many excellent reasons why it should become common."

REV. W. I. KIP, JR., Cathedral Mission of the Good Samaritan, San Francisco, Cal.:

"I am in sympathy with any movement which tends to the reform of the means and manner of burial."

MARDON D. WILSON, Rector St. Peter's Episcopal Church, San Francisco:

"In regard to cremation, there are two familiar lines of thought worthy of mention, the sanitary and the sentimental. The question of religious principle is not involved so far as I can see. I mean to say that I can see no possible objection to cremation from the aspect of religious principle. The question of sanitation is the most important in my judgment and of course you claim that the question of sanitation has been met and solved."

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX:

"I heartily approve of cremation. In the first place it is cleanly; in the second place, it is economical. It helps along nature. The body must eventually turn to dust, and why not turn it to dust by cremation rather than have it decompose in the ground?"

"Then again, the increase in population and consequently, death, must render this mode of disposing of the dead eventually necessary."

JEROME A. ANDERSON, M. D., Editor *The Pacific Theosophist*, San Francisco, Cal.:

"The Theosophical Society has never taken any official action in regard to cremation, and probably never will. Most of its members, however, advocate cremation as the proper method for disposing of the dead, for various reasons. The chief one of these is, that we hold that there is a certain magnetic connection between the soul and the body, which persists until the latter is entirely disintegrated. The nature of this connection is hard to demonstrate, and will be scoffed at no doubt by scientists, but it nevertheless exists, and the soul is more or less held in an 'earth-bound' (to use a loose expression) condition until the body is thoroughly decomposed. Fire, the great purifier, releases all such magnetic conditions instantly, painlessly, and thoroughly, and is unquestionably the proper method for the disposing of dead bodies from an occult standpoint. But aside from this, Theosophists recognize the importance of cremation from a purely sanitary point of view. Therefore, you will perceive that Theosophists are 'all-round' cremationists."

REV. EDWARD B. PAYNE, formerly of the First Unitarian Church, Berkeley:

"Science teaches us that the earth itself was once only a fire mist. The soil, the dust, are therefore but condensations of the earlier fiery elements. If then our bodies, after death, are given to the flames, they return the more quickly to the original and celestial form of all earthly things."

"This may well be counted more noble than to moulder."

"The tongue of flame certainly seems more spiritual than the clod."

REV. THEODORE C. WILLIAMS, New York:

"I believe that merely on grounds of feeling, the considerations of decent respect due to the remains of the dead are increasingly in favor of cremation. The grave, the tomb, are necessarily revolting to any imagination that looks beyond the surface. Cremation, on the contrary, can suggest none but pure and elevated conceptions. I find large numbers of persons, especially young people, who express a desire for this reform."

The REV. JOHN W. CHADWICK, Brooklyn:

"I do not think I can do better than refer you to an article in *The Forum* (No. 3 if I remember correctly), for my very favorable opinion of cremation, which I am not likely to change."

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS:

"I have never been able to understand any of the arguments against cremation. It seems to me that, instead of seeking to prolong the process of decay by the adoption of leaden caskets, marble boxes, and hermetically sealed vaults, we should seek to promote it by every means known to science."

"So far as sentiment is concerned, I at least find nothing dreadful in the thought that the body of one that I have loved has been resolved again into the elements of life, and gone to nourish the things that purify the air and gladden the eye. There is nothing dreadful in all that, but that other thought, that the form once dear to me lies for years rotting in the ground, a slowly, wasting, hideous mass of putrefaction, and that the ingenuity of man has been employed to prolong this terrible process, that thought is horrible."

The late CHAS. A. DANA, editor of *The Sun*, New York City:

"It is my judgment that Cremation is the most rational and appropriate manner of disposing of the dead."

PROF. CHAS. ELIOT NORTON, of Harvard University:

"The arguments in support of Cremation are so strong, and those against our present fashion of burial are so conclusive, that I have little question that, when they are fully presented to intelligent men and women, the development of a sentiment favorable to Cremation will be rapid, and the adoption of the practice speedily become familiar."

The REV. D. S. RAINSFORD, D. D., Rector of St. George's Church, New York:

"You may quote me as heartily favoring the objects of your association."

MRS. J. C. CROLY ("Jennie June") New York:

"I am heartily in favor of Cremation, considering such disposition of human remains as the wisest, cleanest, most healthful and economical method of disposing of what is no longer of any use."

W. F. McNUTT, M. D., Professor of the Principles and Practice of Medicine in the University of California:

"Most of the objections urged against cremation are the offsprings of sentiment, superstition, and usage. It is called unchristian, revolting to our senses, etc. To those who call incineration revolting, could they once witness the exhumation of a body that has been buried a year or two, they would never be buried themselves, nor advise their friends to be buried."

"In modern cremation there is nothing repulsive. It is simply a last baptism by incandescent heat; a purification by fire, whereby the corrupt takes on incorruption, as the mortal takes on immortality."

GEO. A. MERRILL, Superintendent The California School of Mechanical Arts, San Francisco:

"To my mind there are many reasons why the practice of cremation should become customary; sentiment will not prevail against a thing that is obviously so desirable for the general good."

W. P. BOYNTON, Pastor First Baptist Church, San Francisco:

"Cremation is the way in which to dispose of our dead. The body is but the clay and will go back to dust again in course of time. The hastening of the decomposition by means of fire cannot be objected to on other ground than that of sentiment. I favor cremation."

REV. REUBEN H. SINK, Pastor First Congregational Church, Stockton, Cal.:

"There is nothing objectionable to my mind in the disposal of the mortal remains of our friends by incineration."

REV. E. D. McCREARY, Pastor Central M. E. Church, Stockton, Cal.:

"I have no prejudices whatever against cremation, and believe it to be the cleanest and most sanitary method of disposing of the dead."

REV. A. W. RUSSELL, former Pastor Hamilton Square Baptist Church, San Francisco, Cal.:

"I am fully committed in my convictions to the policy of cremating the dead. It is surely as humane as to inter and let the body pass through the slow but certain process of putrefaction and decomposition, and by far the most economic. Cremation offers a possible, yes, a certain, relief, to the extent that this intelligent, rather than sentimental, view becomes the practice of the people."

REV. PHILIP COOMBE, Pastor Richmond Congregational Church, San Francisco, Cal.:

"I am glad to say it is my opinion, oft expressed and firmly held, that cremation is the safest and most sensible way of disposing of the dead. It is a cheaper method than burial and removes the possibility of being buried alive. When all shall see that 'the body that is sown, is not the body that shall be' (1 Cor., xv, 37), the universal method of disposing of the dead will be by cremation."

REV. J. ANDREWS HARRIS, Philadelphia:

"I am perfectly willing to go on record for myself individually, and have no hesitation in saying that from almost every point of view, and chiefly from a sanitary point of view, I regard incineration preferable to earth-burial. It accomplishes in an hour or two precisely the same results as require years by the rotting process, and accomplishes those results, according to my way of thinking, in a more satisfactory way. The only so-called theological objections which I have heard urged against incineration have appeared to me without any weight, and some of them have a fair title to be called absurd. It is an honorable, reverent and cleanly disposition of the bodies of the dead; it is a vast protection to the bodies of the living in ways which every sanitarian knows perfectly well."

REV. J. GEORGE GIBSON, Pastor Emmanuel Baptist Church, San Francisco, Cal.:

"There can be no objection to cremation on religious grounds. Cremation does not make the resurrection of the body any more impossible than earth burial. Even in cremation it is still 'dust to dust.' As a sanitary measure it has everything in its favor."

The REV. R. HEBER NEWTON, D. D., New York:

"I am glad of an opportunity of expressing my interest in the work of Cremation. For many years I have thoroughly believed in cremation on a variety of grounds. Having tried to make my life one of usefulness to my fellows, I object to the possibility of injuring any one after I am dead. The thought that what I cannot take away with me to a higher form of life is to be left as a means of poisoning life is abhorrent to me. I prefer that my body shall be so disposed of as to put this out of the question. The religious objection has always been nonsensical to my mind. Believing thoroughly in a life to come, I have not the slightest notion of that higher life being conditioned in any possible way by the way in which we get into it. Nothing but the stupid prejudice of a blind orthodoxy could allow any notion of this kind to have weight. In so far as it does have weight, it ought to be exposed and ridiculed. I have also, for years, had the intensest horror of thinking of any one dear to me undergoing the noxious process of decomposition, as we have made sure that it shall be made noxious by our whole mode of interment. I want those I love to pass from this life to a higher life without any such abhorrent decomposition of the form once dear to me."

"On every hand cremation has commended itself to my judgment, and I am sure that it is destined to prevail in the future. I expect to be disposed of thus myself, and do not know of any expression of opinion which I could offer that could have more weight than this."

The REVEREND W. A. GARDNER, of the Christian Church, Honolulu, in a sermon recently preached by him, says:

"The majority of the human race is controlled by habit, fashion or sentiment; we boast of our 'God-given reason',

but few are led by it. During an experience of more than twenty-five years in conducting funerals I have noticed that the most heartrending scenes in connection with those sad occasions are when the body is lowered into the grave. The disagreeableness of those burials is often augmented by the sweltering of a tropical sun, or a storm of rain, snow or a freezing blizzard. During the time I was a pastor in San Francisco, I conducted several funerals in the Odd Fellows' Crematory. The distressing circumstances necessarily surrounding the ordinary burial have no place there. The Congregation is seated in a comfortable and commodious chapel, which is furnished with organ and organist; the friends of the departed are seated around the casket, which rests on a bier and surrounded by a railing covered with drapery. The casket is taken into the preparation-room, placed upon an elevator and noiselessly lifted into the open space in the chapel. All the services may be conducted there, if desired, but if the sermon has been delivered at the house or in the church, only the committal services are engaged in at the crematory. Before the services commence, the pall is removed from the casket, and at the conclusion (with its decorations of floral tributes) is re-covered and lowered again into the preparation-room, and the congregation dismissed. I am thoroughly convinced that the proper way of disposing of the dead is by incineration, but a large number of intelligent people are opposed to it. The opposition is not because of any substantial reason they have against it, but because they are influenced by habit, fashion or sentiment, at least those are the things which for years caused me to oppose cremation. If the disposition of our dead is a matter of sentiment, then a careful consideration of the facts will certainly make that sentiment favorable to incineration."

REV. E. M. HILL, Pastor of Twenty-fourth Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church, Oakland, says:

In a paper upon Cremation, read before a San Francisco Preachers' Meeting recently, the undersigned, after discussing the various fads and fancies of the day, took the ground that "cremation is something more than a fad." Doubtless this is true, and the practice of incineration will prove itself to be permanent by the increasing favor with which it will continue to be received. Cremation is the cleanest, safest and, all things considered, the most satisfactory method of disposing of the dead. While it is true that custom, habit and sentiment will protest against innovations, yet when such are for the manifest welfare of the race, these protests ought to be in vain. Nevertheless, sentiment and custom have their place, and should not be lightly cast aside, nor ever, except in matters of common weal. The incineration of the mortal garments of immortality would seem to make for the public good. Especially is this true in large cities.

Fraternally,
Oakland, August 14th.

E. M. HILL.



SHERMAN URN IN COLUMBARIUM.



BRONZE EGYPTIAN URN.

Cremations at the Odd Fellows' Cemetery.

RECAPITULATION *to September 30th, 1899.*

	MALES	FEMALES	TOTAL
For 1895.....	42	24	66
" 1896.....	63	38	101
" 1897.....	126	88	214
" 1898.....	172	88	260
To Sept. 30, 1899, 9 months.....	184	81	265
Total.....	587	319	906

Of these, 413 were under 50 years of age.
 " " 493 " over " " "

NATIVITY *as given in the Certificates of Death issued by the Health Office:*

United States.....	526	Japan.....	3
Germany.....	199	Hungary.....	2
England.....	38	Belgium.....	2
Canada.....	26	Prussia.....	2
France.....	20	Norway.....	2
Ireland.....	18	Scotland.....	2
Denmark.....	11	Spain.....	2
Switzerland.....	10	Russia.....	1
Austria.....	10	Poland.....	1
Sweden.....	8	Holland.....	1
Novia Scotia.....	5	India.....	1
Italy.....	4	Hawaiian Islands.....	1
Bohemia.....	4	Mexico.....	1
Australia.....	3	Wales.....	1
Total.....			906

The Odd Fellows' Cemetery Association
 POINT LOBOS AVENUE
 SAN FRANCISCO, CALA.

TOTAL YEARLY CREMATIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

CREMATORIA.	1876	1883	1884	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	Total.
Baltimore, Md.								3	5	12	16	22	15	11	17	21	11	136
Boston, Mass.								23	30	38	27	30	31	87	132	160	167	638
Buffalo, N. Y.				1	8	17	16	23	30	38	27	30	31	41	28	44	40	374
Chicago, Ill.												6	42	66	64	82	130	580
Cincinnati, O.												42	38	66	46	39	39	310
Davenport, Iowa.												33	8	8	9	23	17	91
Detroit, Mich.												47	22	31	29	44	51	329
Fort Wayne, Ind.																		6
Lancaster, Pa.			3	36	11	13	6	1	3	1	3	5	2	1	1	1	2	92
Los Angeles, Cal.																		352
Milwaukee, Wis.																		85
New York, N. Y.				9	77	67	83	106	160	187	186	232	243	296	330	331	466	2773
Philadelphia, Pa.																		55
Pittsburgh, Pa.																		693
San Francisco, Cal.																		167
St. Louis, Mo.																		268
St. Paul, Minn.																		1071
Swinburne Island, N. Y.																		778
Troy, N. Y.																		13
Washington, D. C.																		106
Washington, Pa.																		110
Waterville, N. Y.																		63
Totals	25	16	47	114	127	190	249	372	471	561	674	829	1017	1101	1391	1699	8883	

TOTAL YEARLY CREMATIONS IN GREAT BRITAIN.

	1885	1886	1887	1888	1889	1890	1891	1892	1893	1894	1895	1896	1897	1898	Totals.
Glasgow											1	10	16	12	39
Liverpool												2	10	27	39
London	3	10	13	28	46	54	99	104	101	125	150	137	173	210	1283
Manchester								3	30	47	58	52	51	62	303
Totals	3	10	13	28	46	54	99	107	131	172	209	201	250	341	1664

Compulsory Cremation.

A Measure that is now Pending in the British Parliament.

San Francisco Call, August 20, 1899.

In England, the idea of making cremation compulsory is being earnestly pressed with a view of cheapening the cost of the disposal of dead bodies, and upon the higher ground of sanitation. A bill in Parliament looking to this end has passed the committee and the first reading, with an amendment that causes it to apply only to certain large cities and to defined conditions of society in them. It is twenty-five years since the first organization was made in Great Britain to establish a crematorium; it took six years to get one built, and it was four years before an incineration took place; but from the date of its first use, that is to say, fifteen years ago, the number of incinerations has increased rapidly, so that several thousand bodies were cremated last year. Aside from the sentimental phase of the matter, one of the most potent objections thrown in the way of the society that promoted the plans was that cremation could be used to destroy the evidence of crime. This objection was met by the society assuming the obligation to investigate the conditions of death in the case of every body for which application for incineration should be made. The prejudices were finally overcome, as may be seen by the fact that the proposed legislation includes a provision that in the whole kingdom cremation should be obligatory in cases where death is due to transmissible diseases, as small-pox, scarlet fever and tuberculosis. The measure is meeting no considerable opposition, and the bill will probably pass. This is meeting the questions involved in a wise and broad spirit. [Philadelphia Times.]

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