

but will supply an electric furnace with oxygen; and it is believed that destruction of the bodies by this means will be almost instantaneous.

According to a contemporary, one of the directors of the new company says "the liquid air process has solved the burial problem; it leaves no ghastly impressions, and even loved ones of the dead might witness the incineration without having their sensitiveness shocked."

The best method of disposing of the remains of the dead is a problem which for a long while has been a difficult one, and which as time goes on promises to be more and more acute. No one who is acquainted with the great "cities of the dead" to be found in this country, can fail to realise that the dead may be a source of danger to the living. From time to time also, stories of re-used graves—and worse—reach the public ear, and make us wish that some method might be devised by which the bodies of those dear to us may be safe from desecration. The employment of cremation is a method which commends itself from this, as well as from a sanitary point of view. To some it is repugnant, but, after all, it is merely a matter of taste whether the destruction of the mortal remains shall be accomplished by the quick and cleanly agency of fire, or the slower means employed when we commit "earth to earth, dust to dust, and ashes"; and, as a rule, do everything in our power to *prevent* this natural resolution.

SERVANTS OF THE PUBLIC.

Mr. Smith, one of the resident medical staff at the Cardiff Infirmary, recently received a lesson from the chairman of the infirmary which, it seems, was a necessary and salutary one. It has, apparently, been the custom at this institution to make a charge of half a crown (which half crown becomes the property of the medical officer) for certificates as to the nature of injuries sustained by accident patients, and pending an enquiry, the Committee passed a resolution that no charge should be made. This resolution, it is alleged, was ignored, and the Committee called in Mr. Smith and drew his attention to the irregularity. Mr. Smith, however, argued the case, and ultimately the chairman spoke plainly as the medical officer declared his intention of "doing as he had done before," pending further instructions from the Committee. The chairman required him to "withdraw his expression of insubordina-

tion," and said: "You have no right to give an opinion in the way you have done. This Committee is a Committee appointed by the public. We are the servants of the public for the time being, and you are a servant of the Committee." The lesson is one which all hospital officials whether lay, medical or nursing will do well to take to heart, and is one which is not always remembered by those in official positions. When orders are, as in the case related, given by a Committee it is obviously the duty of the "servants of the Committee" scrupulously to observe them. No official can be a law to himself, and if he, for whatever reason, sets aside definite directions and then proceeds to argue the case he must expect to bring down upon himself well-merited rebuke.

BABY SHOWS.

A BABY show is at all times a questionable exhibition, and it is impossible to understand how a mother who considers the well-being of her child can permit it to enter into a public competition of this description. But the position becomes more serious when—as is stated to be the case in France—the baby who carries off the prize is not the finest but the fattest specimen. It is easy to fatten a baby, but the result when carried to excess must be prejudicial to the health of the infant, and a mother must be ignorant, or heartless, indeed, who is willing to obtain a prize at the expense of the well-being of her child. At the present time a movement has been inaugurated in Paris by members of the medical profession to induce the Paris Municipal Council to prohibit such exhibitions, and the organizers of a Baby Show are waiting their decision before proceeding to arrange their exhibition. We hope the Municipal Council will prohibit any abnormal fattening of babies, even if it does not forbid the future holding of Baby Shows.

A WISE REGULATION.

The waste occasioned in workhouses by the custom of supplying a regulation quantity of food to each inmate, irrespective of the appetite of the person, is one to which we have from time to time drawn attention. We are therefore glad to notice that the Holbeach Guardians have abolished this plan, in the case of children, and the aged and infirm, and the rations will henceforth be distributed as required.

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)