

one, and it would not be amiss to know something with regard to procedure in the case of death. Our present law as to the certificate required to be sent to the Registrar is imperfect. There is no provision for still births. There is no requirement binding the medical man to state boldly and honestly the true cause of death, not the remote contributory cause which will spare the feelings of the patient's friends. It is rare, as was well pointed out, to come across the honest certificate of death from syphilis or from delirium tremens. There is equally no necessity for the certifying doctor to view the body. As a matter of fact, it often falls to the nurse to certify and the doctor to sign. This is not as it should be. And even so, although it is generally supposed that no body can be buried without a death certificate, the Registrar's returns show 8,000 deaths registered annually *uncertificated*, and, therefore, buried also *uncertificated*. These things are a menace to the community. The nurse or midwife, in any case of death occurring in her practice, should make it her business to see that a certificate of death is procured, and, so far as she is herself concerned, should do her utmost to get the doctor to view the body himself. A resolution was unanimously passed by the Congress as to the necessity of reform in the law of death certification.

In direct contrast with this laxness stands the law in regard to cremation. No person can be cremated who is known to have left written directions to the contrary, neither can remains which are unidentified. There are four formalities to be gone through:—

I. The death must be registered.

II. Application by an executor or near relation must be made on the form prescribed, and confirmed by a statutory declaration before a justice of the peace or commissioner of oaths.

III. *Two* medical certificates are required, one from the medical man in attendance during the last illness, the other from a medical man of at least five years' standing and holding a recognised public appointment, who shall have personally investigated the cause of death.

IV. A medical referee appointed by the cremation authority must give a written authority before the cremation can take place. He may require a *post mortem* to be made, or may refuse his sanction to the cremation without giving his reasons.

There are thus three medical certificates to be obtained before cremation.

Passing to Protozoa, how many of us realise that there is such a disease as Piroplasmosis, or

Tick fever, that dysentery is caused by an Amœba, that by sleeping sickness we mean a late manifestation of Trypanosomiasis, or infection by a Trypanosome, that Schaudiner's recent work on syphilis shows it to be due to *Treponema Pallidum*, that three separate *Haemosporidia*, living at the expense of the red blood corpuscles, produce malaria? In short, that in all these diseases the human body is attacked by a zoological parasite, which causes the disturbances known respectively as dysentery, tick fever, malaria, sleeping sickness, and syphilis. We think with loathing of worms living within the body. What of these?

It was well pointed out by Major Blackham that we need to take notice of these matters in England. It is true that some amongst them are tropical diseases. But Englishmen travel in all parts of the world, and often either return home invalided, or, after their return, develop some latent illness. A nurse must keep herself up to date in these matters.

It is not a far cry from Protozoa to Sausages and their dangers, a step from the animal to the vegetable kingdom. Dr. Savage's paper was full of interest. Referring to the examination of fresh sausages from twelve different premises, he found in eleven of the samples over 100 bacillus coli per gram, whilst in four of them the number varied from 5,800 to 120,000 per gram. Now, bacillus coli is the distinctive organism of faeces. Further, in meat-poisoning outbreaks due to sausages, amongst other causes the bacillus of enteric, a disease to which pigs are especially liable, has been found to be one of the chief causes. And now comes the point. This infection lies not in the sausage meat, but in the gut which is used as casing. *No fresh or slightly salted gut is safe*. A sausage skin must have been through a week's careful preparation of five changes of brine, and in the end a hand rubbing of dry salt. Here is something for us all to know, as housekeepers and house providers, and for us nurses to preach and teach.

There were three special features in regard to the papers at the Conference—Women, Children, and Tuberculosis claimed by far the greater part of the interest. Seven papers on women and four on tuberculosis, in addition to the evening lecture on the latter by Dr. McSweeney, were presented. But the most surprising, and, at the same time, the most gratifying note of the Congress was the number of papers and the amount of time devoted to the interests of our little ones. No less than eleven of the papers dealt directly with the subject of children, apart from the

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