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## PRESERVATION OF THE DEAD.

### Extraordinary Results of a New Chemical Process—Bodies Kept in Good Condition for Months by One Application of a Liquid—Decomposition Entirely Prevented, or Arrested After it has Begun.

From the New York Post.

A new method for the preservation of the human body after death has lately been employed in this city with astonishing results. It had previously been tried in San Francisco and St. Louis, but only a slight degree of publicity was given to the experiments. In this city the matter has purposely been kept from the press until arrangements for the general use of the process were perfected. These details having been adjusted, the inventor of the method and his agents are now willing that the fullest information on the subject should be given on the public.

The author of this discovery is Dr. Samuel Rodgers, lately of San Francisco. In conversation yesterday afternoon with a representative of the *Evening Post* he said that he had been a practising physician for eighteen years, and during the last eleven years had given much attention to the study of chemistry. About two years ago he made a number of experiments with a view to the preservation of meats by chemical treatment, but his success was only partial. He compounded a liquid which would keep meat fresh for an indefinite period, but it imparted a disagreeable flavor, and was therefore of no value for practical purposes. About this time there was much discussion in the newspapers and elsewhere on the subject of cremation, in consequence of the burning of the body of the Baron de Palm, which was performed with much ceremony in Pennsylvania. The chief argument of the advocates of cremation was the fact that it obviated all the danger to health and the shock to sentiment which were caused by the decomposition of the dead. It occurred to Dr. Rodgers that he had within his grasp the means of accomplishing all that could be gained by cremation in a sanitary point of view, and at the same time of preserving the body after death without injury to form or feature. He began experiments for this object, and the result was the perfection of the discovery.

Dr. Rodgers prepared a chemical solution, which has been named "allekton," from a Greek word meaning "everlasting." The formula for its preparation is a secret. It is a light yellow liquid, with a peculiar smoky odor resembling the smell of tar. In ordinary cases, where it is desired to preserve a body for but three or four days, it is only necessary, Dr. Rodgers says, to brush it over with the liquid, and decomposition is entirely prevented in the hottest weather. At the same time the body is given a wonderfully natural appearance. When the fatal disease was of a nature to hasten decomposition, or it is desired to preserve the body for a long period, there is some further treatment. The umbilicus is slightly punctured with a needle, and, with a common hand syringe, some of the liquid is injected into the thoracic and abdominal cavities. No incision is made, and there is no injection into the veins or arteries. The whole of this simple process takes up but twenty or thirty minutes. It requires, on the average, about a gallon of the liquid, which can be supplied to undertakers at a cost of only five dollars.

In April, 1877, while living in San Francisco, Dr. Rodgers obtained the body of a Swede, named Andrew Brunn, who died of consumption on the 3d of that month. He subjected it to this treatment, and kept it in his possession for one hundred and two days. During this period it was examined from time to time by a number of the leading physicians and medical professors in San Francisco, who furnished certificates of its excellent condition. Dr. Washington Ayer, president of the California State Medical Association, certified that on the sixtieth day after the death he gave the body a careful examination and was unable to detect the slightest trace of decomposition; also that he found the limbs as flexible as in life, and the muscles soft. On the 21st of May Dr. R. A. McLean made a similar examination, and certified that the body was in an excellent state of preservation; there was no odor of decomposition, and the limbs, skin and muscles were perfectly flexible.

Dr. Rodgers made some further experiments in California, and applied his process to the body of Arthur C. Huey, who died at Napa, Cal., on the 7th of July, 1877. The body was forwarded to Pemaquid, Maine, the home of Mr. Huey's parents. The latter sent a letter to Dr. Rodgers gratefully acknowledging the arrival of the body on the 18th of July in excellent condition, and saying: "The preservation was so perfect that the body looked as natural as if death had only occurred a few hours previous."

Dr. Rodgers preserved with equal success, the bodies of two other persons who died in San Francisco, and were sent one to Ohio and the other to Oregon. He also preserved the body of a little boy who died of diptheria. The father of the boy who is an officer connected with the city government of San Francisco, furnished a testimonial that he visited a vault four weeks after the entombment and found the body unchanged.

A remarkable property of the allekton is its preservation of the dead body in a perfectly flexible condition, and the fact, as alleged, that it thoroughly preserves the tissues. Testimony to this effect is furnished from many sources which are not likely to be disputed. Dr. Rodgers went to St. Louis last autumn, and obtained permission to apply the allekton to the bodies of two men who died in the City Hospital, one on the 11th and the other on the 23d of October. On the 16th of last March Dr. D. V. Dean, superintendent of the hospital, reported to Dr. Rodgers that both bodies had lain exposed to the air to that date, and that for much of the time the tissues had been exposed. Dr. Dean then said:

"With the present warm weather the bodies are beginning to dry, and the muscles have not quite their original red and fresh appearance, nor is their demarcation quite as distinct as immediately after death; but there is not the slightest odor of the usual decomposition of the human body."

On the 29th of March last, August Haak, the keeper of the deadhouse at the St. Louis City Hospital, replied to a note of inquiry from Dr. Rodgers as follows:

"The bodies are here still. One has been dissected and nearly cut to pieces, but no sign of decomposition anywhere can be noticed. The interior of chest and abdomen was found in excellent condition; heart, liver, etc., looked natural and fresh; lungs were a little collapsed, but hardly more than was to be expected after all air had escaped. The cause of death, tuberculosis, could easily be noted about six months after death. The bowels, the most difficult part to preserve, showed not the least evidence of putrefaction. All those parts—muscles, viscera, etc., have been exposed to open air ever since dissection commenced (December, 1877), but no change occurred, except that as the tegument was removed they were disposed to dry up."

Allekton, it is asserted, not only prevents decomposition, but immediately arrests it at almost any stage, and also partly or wholly restores the natural pallor which succeeds death. Furthermore, Dr. Rodgers declares, it destroys all germs of contagious disease with which it comes in contact, thus rendering the bodies of persons who have died from smallpox, diphtheria, or any form of infection, entirely innocuous.

In conversing on the subject yesterday Dr. Rodgers said that animal matter, in the course of decomposition, always evolved sulphuretted hydrogen gas, carburetted hydrogen, carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide and ammonia. The sulphuretted hydrogen and the carbon monoxide were extremely poisonous in their effects, the former being one of the principal causes of putrid fever, and the latter being the most deadly gas known. The decomposition of human bodies, both before burial and in graveyards, was therefore a fruitful source of disease. In 1858 eleven graveyards in London were closed for this reason by a Royal Commission. He believed that in this respect alone his invention would be of grate benefit to the living, as a body treated with allekton would never decompose, but would only become oxidized and slowly waste away. Months would pass, however, before even this change would be perceptible, and he believed that if the process were renewed from time to time a body could be preserved for many years.

The other benefits to be derived from allekton, if the statements concerning it are even approximately correct, must be obvious to any one. In the most unfavorable weather, without the use of ice or removal to an undertaker's a body can be preserved in perfect condition until any date desired for the funeral. The bodies of persons who die at a distance from their friends, even in a far country, can be transported unchanged without the cost and the mutilation which are involved in the old method of embalming. In hospitals and medical colleges the subject intended for dissection can be preserved for months until required by the demonstrators of anatomy.

Dr. Rodgers came to this city about nine months ago, and has since been using the allekton in a quiet way. Most of his trials have been made at the city Morgue, where he has found much difficulty however, in obtaining good subjects, as the best of the unclaimed bodies are all taken by the different medical colleges. The keeper of the Morgue, Albert N. White, speakes of the new process in terms of unqualified praise. From his experience of its use, he testifies that it preserves the dead body for an indefinite period, free from the slightest offensive smell attendant on putrid decomposition, and free from any perceptible change in the tissues. Among the subjects experimented on at the Morgue were the body of one Michael McGuire preserved from the 7th of last May till June 25—forty-nine days—and the body of a women, preserved from May 9 until June 17—thirty-nine days. These bodies were examined by Professor James Wood, of Bellevue Medical College, Dr. W. M. Carpenter, Curator of Anatomy in Bellevue Hospital, and many other prominent physicians; also by a number of well-known undertakers, among whom were Stephen Merritt, Mr. Cantrell and Senior & Warner. All of these it is said, were greatly surprised and interested by the results of their investigation.

The discovery of Dr. Rodgers having been brought to the attention of two business men in this city, Mr. C. N. Middleton and Mr. Earl Warner, Jr., they made a thorough investigation of the matter, and then secured a contract constituting them as the agents for the introduction of the allekton into general use. In company with these gentlemen the writer yesterday afternoon visited the Morgue, where they were joined by Dr. Rodgers. In a small room in the deadhouse lay three bodies to which the allekton has been applied. One body, that of a woman, had been dead, the keepers said, for fourteen days. Although decomposition had set in before the body was obtained for treatment, there was no perceptible indications of it, and no trace of the odor which results from it. The flesh was nearly white, and was firm and elastic, without a particle of the rigidity of death. All the limbs could be bent freely, the joints being perfectly flexible.

Another body was that of a man who died on Monday morning of consumption, and was much emaciated from the disease. It was in the same excellent condition as the other. The third body, also well preserved, was that of a womam who had been dead twelve days. Although this was much decomposed and discolored, it was said, at the time it was obtained, the natural death pallor had been restored. Dr. Rodgers made a slight incision in the sole of one of the feet, and the tissues exposed were red and fresh looking. It was alleged that blood had followed the dissecting knife thirty days after death in subjects thus treated.

It was also said that to prove the permeation of dead tissues by the allekton, which physicians had declared impossible, Dr. Rodgers recently colored some of the fluid, and practically demonstrated that it penetrated clear to the bone.

The writer then accompanied Mr. Middleton to the undertaker's shop of Stephen Merritt, where he was shown, in a glass-covered coffin, the body of a woman, which was in the same good condition as the other bodies examined. This woman, he was assured, had been dead exactly thirty-one days. She had been dead two days and the body had begun to decompose when the allekton was applied, and it had ever since then lain in Mr. Merritt's establishment.

Mr. Middleton said that he and his associates were now ready to give all the information in their power to any person interested in the subject, and that they desired the most careful investigation of the process and its results.

The most interesting case of the use of the allekton in this city was in the family of a wealthy gentleman living in West Forty-seventh street, who e name was given to the writer. The wife of this gentleman, who is a retired merchant, died on the 28th of last May. He was devotedly attached to her, and as both had a strong fear of burial alive, each had promised that the one who died first should be kept six days before the funeral. The wife's body was given into the charge of Mr. Merritt, with instructions to make every effort for its preservation. All the usual methods were tried, but, in consequence of the nature of the fever which caused the death, decomposition began on the third day. Mr. Merritt then applied to Dr. Rodgers, and the latter treated the body with allekton, being occupied in the task only twenty minutes. The entombment, at Woodlawn, took place on June 3. A week ago last Tuesday an associate of Dr. Rodgers visited the tomb with the husband, and the latter kissed his dead wife's forehead. The body was unchanged, except that the fingers had slightly wasted. On Sunday last the husband took his little boy, three years old, to the tomb, and the child recognized his mother. The silver plate on the inside of the coffin is said to be as bright as on the day of the funeral, although the sulphuretted hydrogen gas which is generated by decomposition would have turned it black within twenty-four hours.

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If Kearney's speech, as reported, is Kearney's speech as delivered, Kearney may be relied on to kill himself off. A man who never drinks, and yet who calls Ben Butler "the gallant, the gifted, the generous, the chivalrous, the white-plumed Navarre of the rostrum," is beyond the reach of the Danbury News man, and may safely defy all the wits of the press to make him more ridiculous than he is. *St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

## IS THERE A FUTURE LIFE.

### Bishop Foster Says He Don't Know, But Believes That There Is.

At the Chautauqua Assemby on Wednesday, Bishop R. S. Foster, of the M. E. Church, delivered a lecture on the topic, "Beyond the Grave." He said the subject was one of great importance, but one of great intrinsic obscurity. It will not do either to assume everything and to discuss the theme from personal beliefs. It must be discussed from the standpoints of Bible truth and human reason. The first question of two to be considered, "Is there a life beyond the grave?" was tak en up. Said the Bishop. "I do not know whether there is or not. [Sensation.] There are grounds for belief that there is. It is a matter of natural belief supported by evidence, because there is no absolute knowledge of life beyond the grave. The question has become one for disputation, and there are a great many honest doubters, many of whom do not declare their doubts." With David, the Bishop classed pure materialists as fools. For them there is no God and no life beyond. Others believe that a man has a spirit within his human organization, but at death the spirit sleeps until the resurrection. Others believe that the souls of the wicked are annihilated at death. Then there is the well known belief of the Christian world. The belief of the speaker was that man was a spirit and survived after death, yet the matter was involved in great difficulties. So far as we can see the man dies and perishes. We cannot pursue personal investigation beyond the grave.

Why do we believe that man survives death? We are bound to answer this question. First was given the evidence which is found outside of the Bible. This is first in the nature of man. The essential man is invisible. The material man is only an organism for the use of the real man. In proof of this it was said that there were two kinds of existence, one of spirit and one of matter, a factor of thought which thinks and expresses thought. The mere matter of living or unliving is not a thought factor, and cannot become so. Behind every organism, and necessary to it, is the thought factor, which is antecedent to organism, and without it the organism could never exist. A watch is an organized machine. Reason asks, "Whence came it?" and it finds that at one time it existed in unorganized material; that a thinker existed who organized the idea of the watch and gave it a material form. This was a certainty. It is said the brain is the organizer, but what organizes the brain in the realm of nature? However, we have a variety of organism superior to material structure, chief of which is that of man himself. Then the universe itself is an organized whole. A grain of sand or a drop of water is an organism as a result of natural law. Vegetable organisms were also alluded to. Behind all these the Bishop placed a thinker. No order or succession could be eternal. The essence of numbers is a unit. The idea is finite. The order of the globe cannot be eternal. The system of day cannot be eternal. One is before the other, and a thing that is after any other thing cannot be eternal. Take the order of corn; every grain grows on a stalk and every stalk grows from a grain. You can't get one except as the result of another. [Applause.] The heavenly system was referred to by way of illustration. Beyond it there must be thought. We say granite and the mountains are solid. They are not. They must pass away. There is only one thing that is solid and eternal—that is the spirit. [Applause.]

The question now was "Is Man a Spirit?" The speaker thought he was, yet, as he was invisible, he of course could not be seen. We can look in through the window of the sparkling eye and know that there is a man in there. The spirit of man has a machine—the human frame—to get about with. When he wants to go to Europe he tells his body to get up and go. [Laughter.] Is not the spirit different from the flesh and blood? We know it. [Applause.] Every seven years there is an entire change in the body, but the man stays. [Laughter and applause.] The picture gallery of the soul is larger than all the picture galleries of the world, and it is not a material construction. We may know this spirit is older than matter. The soul is distinct from the body. Man belongs to the spiritual realm. All this we find as the result of pure reasoning. When the body perishes, what after? Does it have any effect on the soul? When the musical instrument is destroyed, does it follow that the player is destroyed? Destroy the body of the lover who whispers sweet words to his mistress, and you do not destroy him. There are things a man can do without eyes, or ears or hands. He can live in two worlds. He cannot eat corn, but he must raise it to feed to his machine. [Laughter.] The Bishop said: "I undertake to say that I can live without the body after death, and I expect to." [Applause.]

### Printing by Water Power.

During the last week the power by which the *Herald* has been printed has been a thirty-inch (single) water motor. It is a little machine taking up no more room than a farmer's grindstone, and is rather ornamental than otherwise. But small, compact and simple as it is, it is one of the great inventions of the age, being a triumph in the application of hydraulics and the inventor's art. It is supplied with water from the mains, and the stream used passes through a tip through which an ordinary Faber pencil will barely pass. The power is obtained from the pressure, which, we understand, is about fifty pounds at this point. The full capacity of the motor we do not know, but the power is more than we have any use for at present. Small as the jet is that turns it, one-half of the force is sufficient for our purposes, as with it one thousand *Heralds* an hour can be printed. Probably double the speed could be obtained it necessary. It is a pleasure to watch the motor work, it performs its duty with such ease and perfect regularity, and is so quiet about it. There is no "firing up," no waiting for steam, no smoke, no dust, no heat, no danger of an explosion, no engineer, no unpleasant smell, nothing about it that is dangerous or disagreeable. You simply turn a hand wheel and work begins, the power and speed being regulated at will by the little wheel opening and closing the valve that controls the water.—*Salt Lake Herald.*

## OUR WINES IN FRANCE.

### Commendations of Foreign Wine Judges—Use of American Vines.

WASHINGTON, August 12.—A letter to the Commissioner of Agriculture from Dr. Murtrie, agent of the Department of Agriculture at the Paris Exposition, says:

"There will be a Wine Growers' Congress at Montpelier, France, in September, and I have been requested to furnish the names of Americans who should be invited to attend. I hope to be able to go there at that time to see all that they have already told me something about. During the past two weeks I have had the leading wine-growers come and sample our wines. Representatives of the various districts of France, Germany and Austria have been here for the purpose; and with the exception of those from Bordeaux all were very well pleased and considered some of the qualities as good as French wines. The Cynthians, Jacques, Norton's Virginia, Herbemont and Hermann grapes are the favorites of the one hundred and eighty varieties of American vines grown at Montpelier, where they use our vigorous stocks on which to graft French vines as a remedy for the phylloxera."

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