Burial Practices of Many Nations, Ancient and Modern

Among the numerous globe-trotters who make Omaha their abiding place there are but a few who have brought back with them a descriptive record of the many wonderful things they have seen. One of the few is Ralph W. Breckenridge, who, upon his return, put into book form the "Letters of a Girdler to His Son." To the lovers of books of travel the letters make a strong appeal. Turning to almost any page in the book the reader will find something worth while. Chapter IV relates to India and contains much interesting matter descriptive of the Hindu. That portion of it touching upon the burial customs of the people is highly entertaining. Here is a paragraph:

"We were taken to a Hindu cemetery where we saw two cremations going on; one was of a young child, the other that of a man. The burning ghats are of iron and hold fifteen to twenty sticks of wood, in about the middle of which the dead body is placed. I saw the head of the corpse and Mr. W. saw a foot burning.

"The interesting thing about the Parsees is the way in which they dispose of their dead. On the very top of Malabar hill in the center of a beautiful garden, are the Towers of Silence, where every dead Parsee is brought. If one dies in the evening his body is taken to the Towers the next morning; if he dies early in the day he is carried there at 5 in the afternoon. After a religious service of some sort, white-robed priests take the body up the stairway into one of the Towers, which are circular and open at top. Here there is a slanting platform in which there are grooves, and at about the middle of the platform is the aperture of a well forty feet deep. On the outer rim of the platform is the groove for the bodies of men, next to which is the groove for the bodies of women, the inner groove being for those of children. The naked bodies are left in these grooves and soon become food for the vultures, which strip the carcasses to the bones in a short time. The bones are left there to bleach in the hot sun, when they are swept into the pit or well and are dissolved by chemicals. * * * On our way to Agra we saw hundreds of graves, if such they can be called, consisting of bamboo stretched on poles raised eight or ten feet from the ground, where the bodies are placed to be stripped by carrion birds.

Disposal of Dead.

"Barbaric as these customs are, the people of tropical and semi-tropical climes must find some method of disposing of the dead other than interment, which is a more dangerous method than in temperate climes. The rich people of India build permanent tombs, but these are comparatively few.

One of the famous tombs of the world is at Agra. It was built by the tyrant Shah Jehan to commemorate his wife. Taj Mabal is the name of the structure, which contains the bodies of both king and queen. It is said to have cost $30,000,000. Mr. Breckenridge says: "The building is of white marble, is square, with dome in center and a minaret at each corner. It is a vision, a dream; it looks as ethereal as the clouds. It has stood there since 1648 and shows no mark of the tooth of time. It is the most beautiful and artistic architectural creation in all the world. * * * I am much impressed by the fact that the supremely interesting places that we have visited are the monuments of the dead—the Abbey, Napoleon's tomb, the Pyramids, the Taj Mabal."

The burial custom of the natives of the Island of Luzon, P. I., is largely that of permanent, above-ground entombment. There are large stone and brick structures containing tiers of spaces in the walls, one above the other, in which the bodies are deposited and hermetically sealed. In old Mexico a similar custom prevails. John L. Stoddard, in one of his lectures, gives this graphic description:

Planted in Pigeonholes.

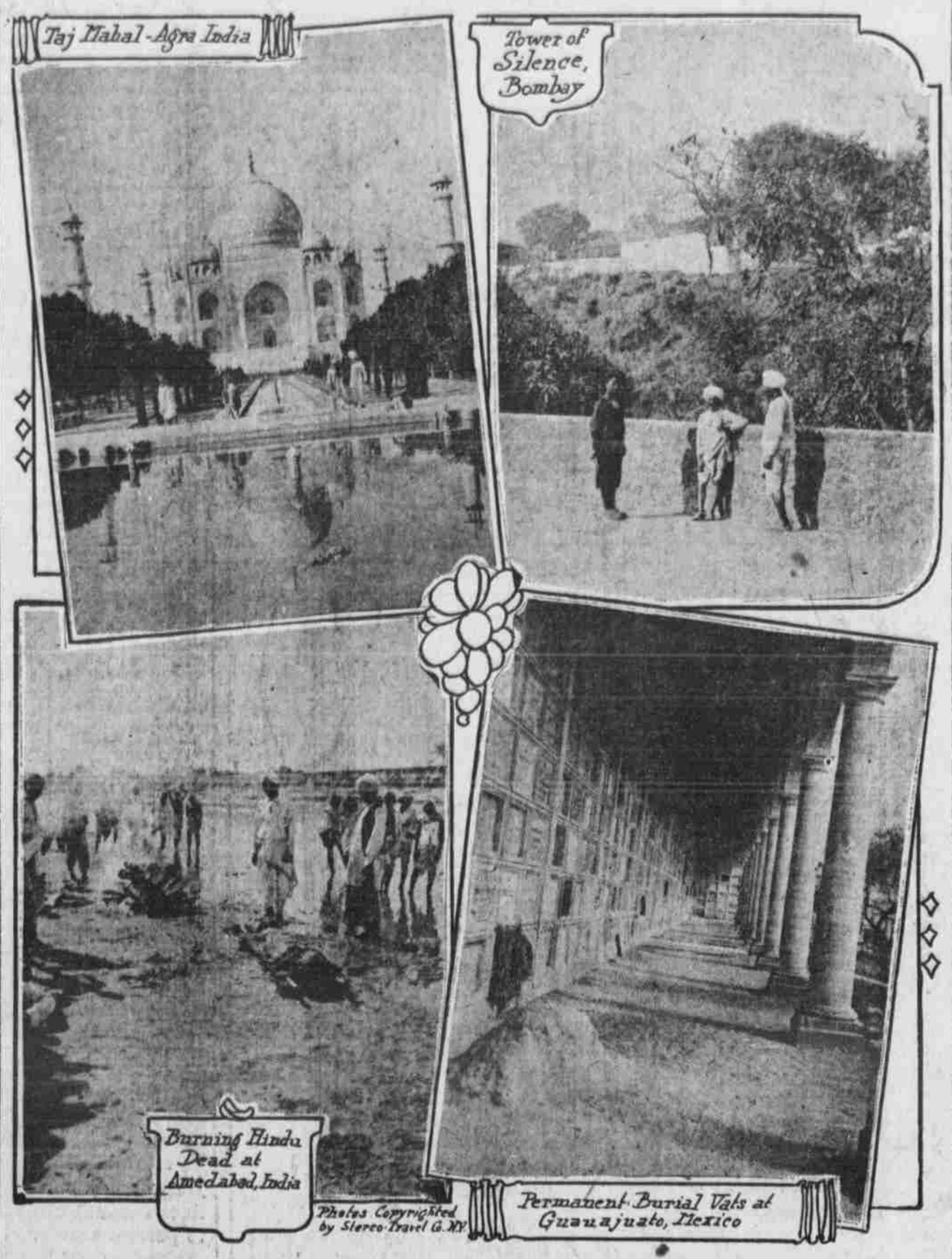
"We reached a hollow square entirely open to the sky. The walls surrounding it, which have a thickness of eight feet, were honeycombed with pigeonholes like letter boxes in a postoffice. In these receptacles the dead of Guanajuato are left, as books are placed on shelves, one tier above another, and when a space is filled with a coffin, the opening is closed with a marble slab that serves not only for a door, but also for a tombstone. Some of these pigeonholes are bought outright for $100, but the greater number are merely rented for five years. When the time expires, the bones are taken out, and the space is swept and garnished for the next comer, like a berth in a sleeping car.

"'What becomes of the evicted tenants?' I inquired.

"'Look there and see,' was the reply.

"I turned, and saw two well-nigh naked grave diggers tossing up skulls and bones from a trench in the enclosure. 'At first the bodies taken from the walls are buried here,' explained the guide, 'then they go down to the catacombs. Would you like to see them?'

"Thus invited we made our way down twenty steps and entered a long corridor. There was a general exclamation of astonishment. Before us was a crypt about twenty feet in height and 100 feet in length. For centuries it has served as the receptacle of bones discarded from the court above, till almost the entire space is now filled to the roof with skulls, legs, arms, ribs, hipjoints and shoulderblades heaped up from floor to ceiling, like corn cobs in a granary. Moreover, in the immediate foreground, thirty or forty mummies have been placed upright against the wall and look like ghastly sentinels guarding the chaotic mass of their companions."



From the "Catholic World" the following paragraphs are taken: "Along the coast of the Gulf of Mexico, and about New Orleans in particular, the soil is low-lying and subject to inundation. Inhumation, or interment below the surface of the ground, is practically out of the question. 'Burn them; destroy them by fire,' say the zealous advocates of cremation. But the people of New Orleans turn a deaf ear. They will have none of this expedient, which they consider an offense to reverent and tender sentiment. Inhumation of bodies, it is said, is liable to be injurious to the health of those living near the place of interment. But even this does not make necessarily for cremation, against which there are objections of a doubly serious character."

The Campo Santo at the Basilica of St. Lawrence outside the walls of "Rome * * * one of the most perfect of its kind in existence, furnished ample accommodations for entombment. Rev. Charles R. Treat, who has studied the matter most exhaustively, has the following remarks to make:

Best of Methods.

"Better than any other method of disposing of the dead that has ever been devised, entombment has met the demand of affection. There may have been at times a general adoption of cremation; at times a general prevalence of earth burial; but the one has not long satisfied the sorrowing survivors, and the other has owed its beginning and continuance to the apparent absence of alternative. Wherever the living have been able and the dead have been dearly loved or highly esteemed, the tendency to entomb and not to bury has been constantly manifested. To call attention to this tendency is enough to prove it, so easily accessible is the evidence and so familiar is its operation in the human heart. The mausoleum, tomb of Mausolus, erected by his sorrowing queen, Artemisia, at Halicarnassus, upon the Aegean's eastern shore, became at once one of the few great wonders of the ancient world. This was intended to do honor to the loved and illustrious dead; and this it did, as no grave or pyre could do. This was also intended to protect the lifeless form from ruthless robbery and reckless profanation, and it performed this office so well that for nearly 2,000 years no human eye beheld the mortal part of Mausolus.

"At a far earlier time Abraham, the Father of the Faithful, while he illustrated this tendency to entomb the dead, also offered an influential example to all who would do him reverence, as, in the hour of his greatest sorrow, he sought the seclusion and security of Machpelah's cave for the last resting place of his beloved wife. There he buried Sarah; there he and his son's son and their wives were all laid to rest, and the place of their repose has not been violated even at this distant day."

In the Days of Abraham.

Among the ancient Israelites burial in rocks or in stone buildings or caves was the rule. In Isaiah, 22:16 the prophet says to Shebna: "What hast thou here, and whom hast thou here, that thou hast hewed thee out a sepulchre here in rock?" This indicates plainly that the custom at that time was to deposit the dead in family sepulchres which consisted of caves hewn in rocks. In a number of instances mention is also made in the Bible of special buildings used as mausoleums, as in I. Samuel, 25:1 and 28:3; I. Kings, 2:34; Chronicles, 33:20.

In Talmudic times, the custom of entombment in rocks, caves and mausoleums was still in common vogue. The Hebraic phrase often used for the closing of a grave is "Sotham hagolel," which means "He closed the top-stone." From this it may readily be inferred that the grave itself was made of stones, one of which was used for the entrance and put in place after the coffin or corpse had been deposited. Another illustration of the kind and character of the tombs used in Talmudic times may be found in the Mishnah, where Rabbi Simon ben Famaliel says, in determining how thick the walls of a grave should be: "It all depends upon the (hardness) of rock." The Talmud also speaks of two types of graves in general use, "Keboroth," built graves, and "Kochin," dug or hewn graves, the latter being vaults or crypts which, from the description given of them (Moed. Katon. 8b) were constructed very much similar to the mausoleum vaults of today.

Shown by Records.

That this mode of burial was by no means the exception can be gathered from the discoveries and descriptions of modern scholars, such as Wilde, who was the first to carry on wide investigations; Van de Velde, Renan, Lunez and others, who have found any number of graves of this variety in Palestine and Babylonia. Lunez knows of no less than 300 such tombs, besides the more famous ones of David, Hyrcanus, Jannaeus, Herod, the various other kings and queens, the prophets and the patriarchs. Nor was the rock-entombment confined only to the Biblical and Talmudical periods. Numerous investigations of the last century by Bosio, Garrucci, De Rossi, Marrucci Nicolaus, Mueller, Ascoli and Lenormant, brought to light the fact that wherever the Jews went, and to a late date, they adopted this mode of burial. Jewish catacombs built out of rock and containing many crypts or niches have been discovered in the various parts of Italy, on the island of Sicily, in Africa and Egypt.

Can Be Made Sanitary.

That entombment can be made sanitary is evident from the fact that, in countless instances, in many lands and through long periods of time, it has been made sanitary by the ingenuity of man or by unassisted nature; and it is also evident from the fact that decomposition and disease germs are the dangers to be guarded against and that against these modern science has been able to guard.

In some eastern and middle states there is a distinctive movement in support of permanent entombment, many communities having erected buildings of stone and marble, containing hundreds of crypts, which are available to the well-to-do, as well as to men of moderate means. There are more than thirty such structures in Iowa cemeteries.

A New Furniture Store Awaits Your Inspection

A new store—that's what our store is today! Departments have been rearranged, old stocks entirely cleaned up and the whole house filled with bright, new, clean, up-to-date spring stocks.

Your convenience has been our first thought in the rearrangement—draperies on the main floor, rugs on the second floor, furniture on the upper floors. Your satisfaction has been our first thought in stocking goods—everything, whether modest or expensive, is the "best at the price."

Watch our windows for valuable suggestions in house furnishings. In them we will show fine pieces never before seen in Omaha. Come in and see the new store. We will be pleased and proud to have you come, whether you buy or not.

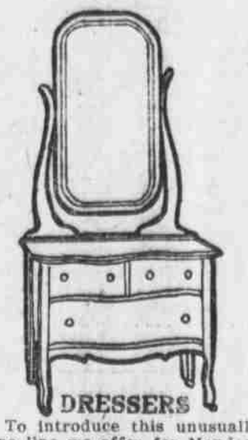
To introduce our new departments we announce the following exceptional values for Monday's selling:

BRASS BEDS

Just arrived, a whole carload of new brass beds. Tomorrow we offer a bed, similar to that shown in cut—two-post, five one-half inch filling rods, popular satin finish. Lacquer guaranteed. Price Monday **$9.75**

Other excellent values at **$14.50, $21.00, $22.00, $26.00, $28.50, $33.00, $44.00, $52.00, $58.00** and upward.

For Monday, splendid value in a cotton felt mattress, at **$6.75.** A large showing of mattresses and springs at various prices.



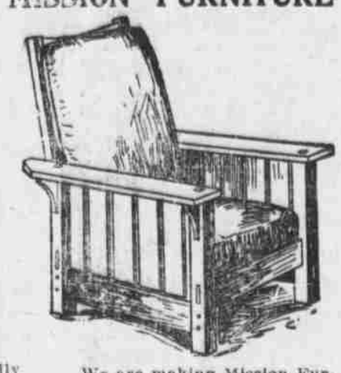
DRESSERS

To introduce this unusually fine line we offer for Monday, some extraordinary values — Princess Dresser—same style as cut, base 19x34-in., three roomy drawers, French plate glass mirror 18x36 in., either golden oak or mahogany veneer—**$17.50.**

Other dressers—**$19.50, $22, $25, $28, $31, $32** and upwards.

Chiffoniers to match all dressers.

MISSION FURNITURE



We are making Mission Furniture a very strong feature of our store. Don't fail to see the display.

This luxurious Mission Lounging Chair in quartered oak, fumed finish, loose cushions and seat, covered in genuine Spanish leather. Exceptional value at **$24.75**

Other chairs and rockers in this line at **$6.75** to **$45.00.**

DRAPERIES

LACE CURTAINS.

A beautiful line of Scrim and Marquisette Curtains in cream, ecru or white, with Cluny edgings and insertions, also hemstitched and some with hand drawn work in border in beautiful new designs. Wide range of patterns and prices, every pair purchased for spring business. For Monday an unusual value, at, per pair **$3.50**

CURTAIN NETS.

A complete assortment of new Novelty and Bungalow nets in large and small patterns, ecru or white. Some with edges finished and others selvage requiring edging. Varied patterns. Your choice, per yard **35c**

COUCH COVERS.

Persian colored couch covers, reversible; also plain styles with plain centers and figured borders. Large variety of patterns and colors assures you of finding one to please.

Sizes are 60 inches by three yards long.

For Monday, each **$3.50.** Large additional line of Couch Covers at regular prices.

RUGS

To make it more convenient for the public, our rug department has been moved to the second floor. Here are hundreds of styles and sizes, in both domestic and Oriental rugs. Following are some of Monday's specials:

A 9x12 Hartford Saxony rug, every pattern new. Hundreds for your selection. Your choice **$50.00**

9x12 Wilton Rugs. Complete assortment of new styles, your choice **$41.50**

Small Rugs to match all room size rugs, where required, at prices reduced for Monday.

Rag Rugs, suitable for bed rooms and bath rooms, washable, size 27x54 ..... **$3.50**

ORIENTAL RUGS.

Our Oriental Rug Department is a big department of itself. It offers you all the many varied weaves of the far east—Anatolian, Beluch, Kazah, India, to the finer weaves of Persia Silks, etc. The rug lover can always spend here an interesting hour inspecting these wonders of the east in making a selection for some particularly favored spot in the home. The prices are always within reach.

BEATON & LAIER CO.

415-17 South Sixteenth Street

Dead Capitalist Insane When He Turned On Gas

DES MOINES, March 1.—That Thomas F. Flynn, the Des Moines capitalist, who was found dead in the bathroom of his apartments yesterday morning was "temporarily insane" when he turned on the gas and ended his life, was the official statement of Coroner James F. Lee, handed to the Associated Press today. No inquest will be held.

"After a thorough investigation I find," said Coroner Lee, "that Mr. Flynn had been acting strangely for several days. He had been lying on his bed reading. My conclusion is that he was temporarily insane when he walked into the bathroom, closed the door and turned on the gas."

DAYTON SENDS REGRETS OVER LOSS AT THE FIRE

The Chamber of Commerce of Dayton, O., has telegraphed its regrets to the Omaha Commercial club at the loss of life in the Dewey hotel fire.

"Kindly accept Dayton's sympathy on account of awful hotel fire of Friday. Deeply regret loss of life," read the telegram, which was signed by Fred W. Fansher, secretary of the Dayton Chamber of Commerce.

Editor Fry, Charged With Criminal Libel, Refuses to Give Bond

WAGNER, S. D., March 1.—(Special Telegram.)—Ed. A. Fry enitor of the New Era-Leader, was served with a bench warrant today to appear before Judge Tripp on a charge of criminal libel. It is the outgrowth of an editorial January 10 reflecting upon the conduct of Justice Ellison G. Smith of the supreme court in a land transaction in Knox county, Nebraska, with an old hermit named Louis Steltner. Fry refuses to give bond and will go to jail unless the sheriff can otherwise arrange it with the state's attorney, who has been obliged to get consent from Pierre before deciding.

RANCHMAN SAYS HE WAS MIKED IN DENVER

PUEBLO, Colo., March 1.—Jacob Harder, a wealthy ranchman of Ritzville, Wash., explained to the police at 2 o'clock this morning that he had been fleeced out of $25,000 in Denver by three men he met at Los Angeles a week ago. The alleged swindle, he said, had been worked by means of supposed bets on a mythical horse race.

The Persistent and Judicious Use of Newspaper Advertising is the Road to Business Success

"77" FOR GRIP & COLDS

A popular physician had three new cases of pneumonia in one day—the patients thought they had "just a Cold"—

To escape Pneumonia — escape taking Cold — escape the Grip, by taking "Seventy-seven" at the first feeling of lassitude.

If you wait till your bones begin to ache, till you begin to cough and sneeze, it may take longer to break up.

It pays to keep "Seventy-seven" handy, it is a small vial of pleasant pellets, fits the vest pocket. At your Druggist, 25c, or mailed.

Humphreys' Homeo. Medicine Co., 156 William St., New York.—Advertisement.

Piles Quickly Cured at Home

Instant Relief. Permanent Cure—Trial Package Mailed Free to All in Plain Wrapper.

The Pyramid Smile.

Many cases of Piles have been cured by a trial package of Pyramid Pile Remedy without further treatment. When it proves its value to you, get more from your druggist at 50c a box, and be sure you get the kind you ask for. Simply fill out free coupon below and mail today. Save yourself from the surgeon's knife and its torture, the doctor and his bills.

FREE PACKAGE COUPON

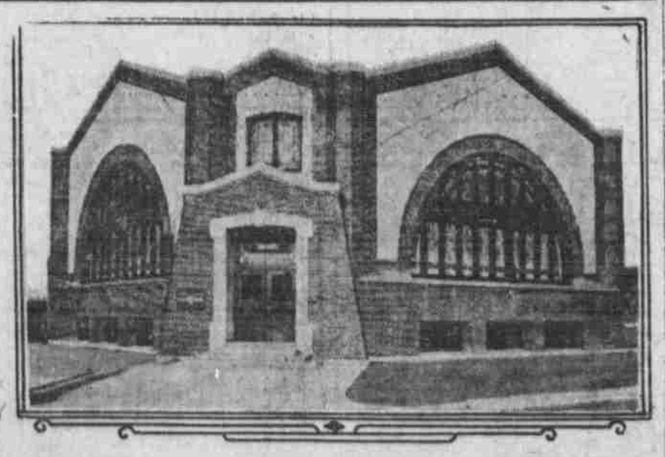
PYRAMID DRUG COMPANY, 402 Pyramid Bldg., Marshall, Mich. Kindly send me a sample of Pyramid Pile Remedy, at once by mail, FREE, in plain wrapper.

Name .....

Street .....

City ..... State .....

New Temple Ready



The new church building of the Christian church of Kearney, Neb., at the corner of Twenty-fifth street and Central avenue, has one of the best locations in the city. It is across the street east of the Midway hotel and one block north of the new postoffice building.

The building, 62x66 feet, is what is known as the "New American" plan, a massive structure built of brick, trimmed with Bedford limestone. The gables over the large oval windows are finished with stucco. The entrance is at the corner. The steps leading to the auditorium are within the main hall, also two flights of steps leading to the basement. The architecture is plain, both within and without, the principal thought being to construct a workshop for the various functions of the church.

The auditorium proper will seat about 500. On three sides of this are rooms to be used for Sunday school and Endeavor rooms, which, by means of roll partitions, can instantly be thrown into the main auditorium. On two sides above these rooms is a commodious gallery. The choir loft occupies the fourth side of the auditorium. The entire building seats about 800 persons comfortably. Other rooms on this floor are a pastor's study, robing rooms and a choir room. The auditorium is lighted by the "X-Ray" system of indirect lighting.

The basement, with high ceiling, has a large reception and dining room, with a commodious kitchen attached. Cloak rooms, toilet rooms and furnace and coal rooms complete the basement. This building will be dedicated on March 9, G. L. Snively of Lewiston, Ill., a prince in the art of dedication, in charge of the services.

The entire cost of the building will be a little under $35,000.

I am the Guy that put

H

in Hostetter, whose Bitters have stood the test of over 60 years—for Stomach Ailments.

HOTELS.

Hotel Kupper

Eleventh and McGee Sts.

Kansas City, Mo.

LOCATED IN THE RETAIL AND SHOPPING DISTRICT.

A hotel of quality and refinement at reasonable prices. European plan $1 to $4 per day. Take elevated car at depot marked 27th St., direct to hotel.

KUPPER-BENSON HOTEL CO., Props.

The **VANDERBILT HOTEL**

34th St. East at Park Ave.

Subway Entrance *NEW YORK*

The World's Most Attractive Hotel.

Each room with a bath

TARIFF

Single room, with bath, $3, $4, $5, $6, per day.

Double room, with bath, $5, $6, $7, $8, per day.

Double bedroom, boudoir dressing room and bath, $7, $10, $12, per day.

Suites, parlor, bedroom and bath, $10, $12, $15, $18, per day

T. M. Hilliard, Managing Director

Walton H. Marshall, Manager