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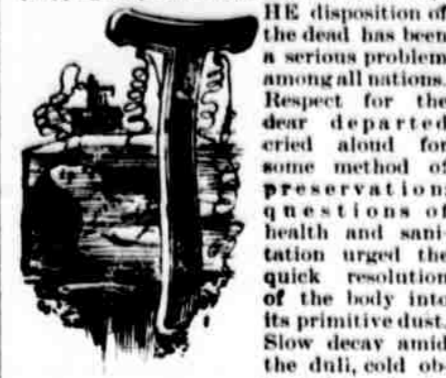
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CORPSES CLAD IN GOLD.

A WONDERFUL PROCESS FOR PRESERVING HUMAN BODIES.

It is the invention of a French Physician, and Makes Cadavers Indestructible by Means of Electroplating—The Work of Ancient Embalmers.

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THE disposition of the dead has been a serious problem among all nations. Respect for the dear departed cried aloud for some method of preservation; questions of health and sanitation urged the quick resolution of the body into its primitive dust. Slow decay amid the dull, cold obstruction of the tomb was the means adopted by our forefathers, who found solemn consolation in obituary verse and stately epitaphs. The modern trend has been in favor of cremation and memorial urns, which is a revival, on an improving plan, of the old eastern system of burning the dead. Still there are many who find grim solace in the old graveyard, and wish their bones to repose under the shade of weeping willows and drooping yews, while the process of embalming has numerous adherents among the wealthy who want to insure their lineaments against decay.

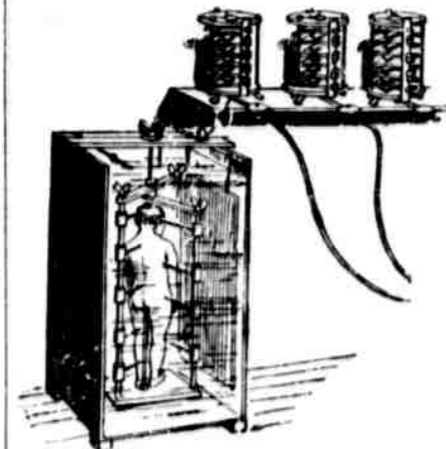
The art of preserving the body after death was brought to great perfection by the ancient Egyptians. Their methods varied according to circumstances and notions of the operators. Some of the ghostly relics of the catacombs give evidence of having been dried by vegetable and balsamic substances; others have defied the worm and natural corruption by the aid of salt or natron. Aromatic gums or asphaltum were used for the first class of mummies, which have been found in a good state of preservation. Those prepared with salt and natron have a hard, black and smooth appearance; they attract moisture when exposed to the air and become covered with a saline substance. The bodies were rolled up in bandages of silk and linen, which were sometimes 1,000 yards in length. The coffins were usually of sycamore, cedar or pasteboard; the case was covered with gold and decorated with paintings of funeral scenes and other subjects; the cover was ornamented in the same manner, and bore also the painted and often gilded face of the deceased in relief. Not only were human corpses preserved in this fashion, but all animals held sacred by the Egyptian religion were mummified.

But Egypt was not the only country in which embalming was practiced successfully. It appears to have been a dogma among several other ancient nations, inculcated by their religion, that the soul continued in the body after death. They looked upon it as a duty, therefore, to keep the tabernacle of the soul intact and hold sacred the resting place of the dead. In some countries corpses were exposed to the air a certain period and became mummies by the operation of natural causes. Especial conditions of the soil and atmosphere rapidly dried the animal tissues and prevented putrefaction. A large number of mummies were found in the environs of Durango, Mexico. They were in a sitting posture, but had the same kind of wrappings, bands and ornaments as the Egyptian.

The modern system of embalming follows the same general plan of that of the ancients, consisting of filling the piece of the intestines with odoriferous and preservative drugs and spices, but it is not expected that bodies treated nowadays will defy the ravages of time as long as the mummies of Egypt. Thoroughness was a pronounced characteristic of the Egyptians. They embalmed as they built—for all time. The thousands of small bandages which inclosed the body formed part of their system, and the whole treatment must have taken a great deal more time than our undertakers are allowed to prepare a corpse for burial.

Always foremost in grim and fantastic notions, the French are engaged in discussing a new method of preserving the dead which has many marked advantages over that of the Egyptians. Our museums have familiarized us with mummies. They are shriveled, unsightly cadavers, and emit a sickly, nasty odor. The American climate seems to have a bad effect upon them, for mummies that have braved the worms of Egypt for thousands of years have crumbled to dust upon the removal of their wraps in the United States. All the disagreeable features of the old time mummy are avoided by the French plan. No wrappings or desiccating drugs are needed; there is no danger of the preserved body dropping to pieces in any climate. On the contrary, the French mummy may be made ornamental, if not useful, and threatens to cause a revolution in the art of sculpture. It will be neither more nor less than an electroplated corpse coated with gold, silver, nickel or brass, according to the taste and fortune of the bereaved.

Dr. Variot, one of the foremost practitioners in the Paris hospitals, is the author of the system, whose result has been



IMMERSION IN THE GALVANIC BATH.

termed "L'anthropoplastie galvanique." His mode of procedure is as follows: He places the body in a double frame, with four uprights fastened together, with square trays, and then covers the frame with a pneumatic bell. The body is perforated by a metallic wire, one end going through the roof of the skull, the other rests in the tray at the feet. This wire not only acts as a support to the corpse but as a conductor of electricity. The uprights and other portions of the frame are carefully insulated with india rubber, gutta serena or paraffine. A small thermoelectric battery furnishes the current. A metallic contact descends from the upper tray and rests lightly upon the surface of the calaver. The surface of the feet and the palms of the hands also rest

upon two contacts, and, in addition, contacts are chained on the uprights and frame, and can be applied or disconnected at pleasure.

Before the apparatus is plunged in a galvanic bath the body has to be covered with a perfect electric conductor. For this purpose the operator either paints the corpse with a solution of nitrate of silver or he puts a powdered preparation of the same on the surface of the skin. The caustic penetrates the surface, and the skin turns an opaque color. Afterward the nitrate of silver has to be reduced or separated from its oxide, but this presents no great difficulty. The double framework is then placed in a reservoir, from which the air is exhausted by a pump, and vapors of white phosphorus dissolved in sulphur of carbon are introduced. This is a dangerous operation, as are all operations in which dissolved phosphorus plays any part. After the phosphoric vapors have reduced the nitrate of silver the corpse becomes a grayish white, and is a perfect fac-simile of a plaster of Paris statue. The metallization is then very simple, being effected by a galvanic bath in the usual way.

The French capital is greatly excited over this method of making indestructible mummies. Should it come into favor metallized bodies may soon take the place of wax figures and statuary in museums, galleries and even private residences. Not only can the last expression of the deceased be preserved, but various poses produced, and by deft manipulation the countenance of the corpse changed to express almost any emotion. The body of the warrior may be made to assume a martial attitude. The dead preacher could be electroplated in the act of exhortation. Statesmen and heroes could bequeath their remains to a sorrowing nation, and coated with gold, silver or brass preside in person over their own monuments. In fact there is no end of practical or romantic purposes to which our plated bodies might be put, from the pointing of a moral to the adornment of a tale, and even to the portrayal of some striking episode in national life.

In the city of England there are wells whose waters petrify anything placed therein. The most remarkable of those petrifying cisterns are show places in the vales of Derbyshire. Water strongly impregnated with lime springs from the surrounding hills, and is conveyed to the wells in pipes, where scores of jets distribute it in the form of spray. Birds' nests, baskets, eggs, pipes, the skeletons of birds and animals, etc., are slowly coated with limestone by the incessant fall of the spray, and sold for specimens of petrification. Enterprising showmen once got possession of a well for the manufacture of a



ELECTROPLATING A BODY.

petrified body, but public indignation was so great that they were driven in disgrace from the neighborhood. The French people, however, are different to the English. Dr. Variot, the introducer of this last method of perpetuating dead bodies, is hailed by many as a public benefactor, and the gilded cadavers of his unique undertaking establishment create as much admiration as wonder.

JOHN W. POSTGATE.

The New Kansas Senator.

Judge W. A. Peffer, of Topeka, who was in now Senator-elect Peffer, of Kansas, and will soon be the colleague of Senator Plum in the magnificent forum of solemn debate at Washington. His case adds another to the many remarkable revolutions in American politics. But yesterday it seemed that Kansas was almost solidly Republican, and that Senator Ingalls was her recognized leader; today her legislature is overwhelmingly anti-Republican, and Mr. Ingalls receives but 58 votes for reelection to 101 for Judge Peffer.

The new senator was born in Pennsylvania fifty years ago, and has moved westward by successive stages, having lived in Indiana, Illinois and Missouri, also a short time in Tennessee, before locating in Kansas. He has also been farmer, teacher, soldier, lawyer and editor. In Tennessee he was a conservative during reconstruction times, opposing the radicalism of Governor Browder. Going thence to Wilson county, Kan, he represented that county in the state senate in 1874. In 1880 he was a Garfield elector. In 1881 he became editor of The Kansas Farmer, a position he still holds.

He made this paper a very paying property, and did more, perhaps, than any other man to build up the Farmers' Alliance. His article in The Forum for December, 1889, on the movement attracted much attention. Like the other Alliance leaders in Kansas he is a picturesque character, and has experienced many phases of life in this present world.

Roumanian Women in Politics.

The women of Roumania are after their rights, and are getting them with commendable rapidity. Mrs. Joneanu has been elected to the mayoralty of Branesi, and others of the sex have achieved lesser political distinction. A lamentable phase of the situation, however, is that the mayoralty of Branesi is almost distracted by the demands for offices at her disposal made by women. The minister of the interior declares that unless the race ceases he will refuse to confirm Mrs. Joneanu in her position.

Uinta county, Wyo., is bigger than any one of the following states: Connecticut, Delaware, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont, and is nearly as large as the three first mentioned. Uinta county covers a surface of 14,830 square miles.

SLUMBER SWEETLY, BABY DARLING. (LULLABY.)

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Composed by FREDERIC LOWELL.

Musical score for 'Slumber Sweetly, Baby Darling' with lyrics and musical notation. The score includes various musical directions such as 'Andante', 'Rit.', 'Piu agitato', 'Cres.', 'mf', 'pp', and 'Seas...'. The lyrics are: 'Slumber sweetly, baby darling, Slumber sweetly, baby darling, Close thy roguish eyes of blue, Full of wonder, full of mischief, While the dimples, soft and cunning, Show where fairy fingers play; Cooing gently, baby darling, Swing up and Full of heaven's purest dew; Like a ray of golden sunlight Peeping through the clouds above, Thou hast come a living emblem Of divine and holy love; May thy brow so white and perfect Never know an angry frown; Fold thine arms around me closer, Lay thy head upon my breast; Thus may an angel's prayers remembered Keep thee safe from fear and harm. Slumber sweetly, baby darling, Slumber sweetly, baby darling, Slumber sweetly, etc. Slumber on and dream away, While thy dimples, soft and cunning, Show where fairy fingers play.'



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