

PERFECTING DETAILS OF CREMATORY SERVICE

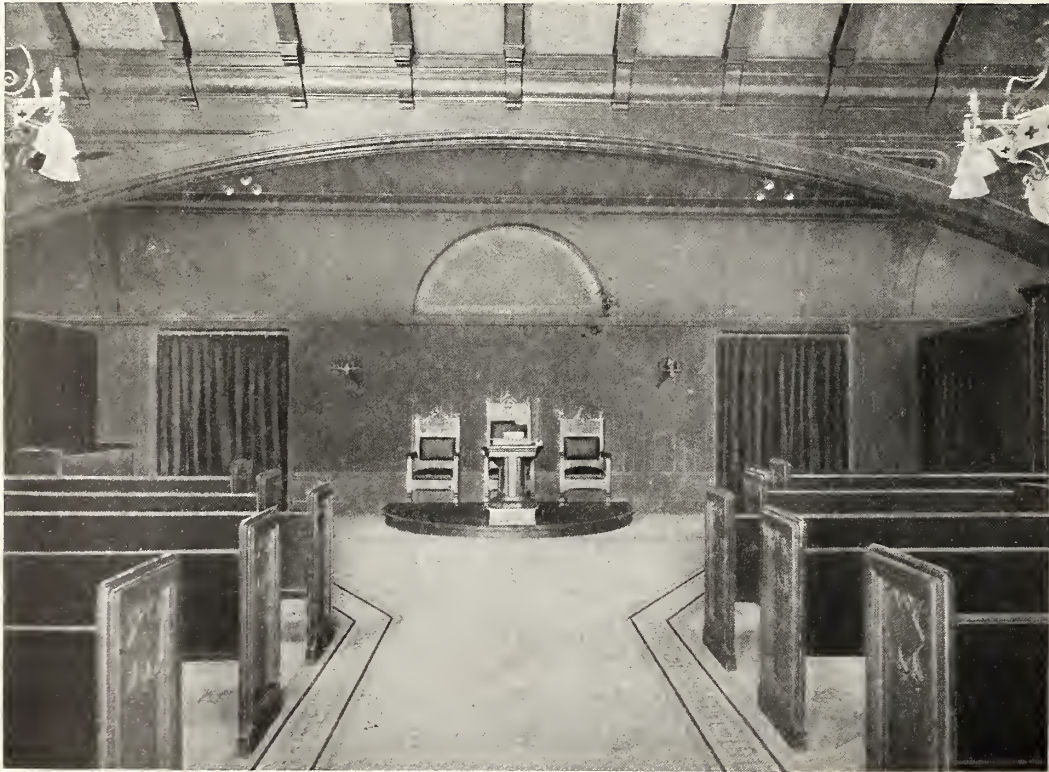
Cremation has now become an established fact in the United States. Since the first incineration took place in Pennsylvania in 1876, the practice has been steadily increasing, until now crematories may be found in all parts of the country and the demand for their use is wide among all classes of people.

The perfection of detail in handling the operation itself has been largely responsible for this result and nowhere has more careful atten-

tion been given to every detail of service than in the new crematory of Oak Woods Cemetery in Chicago. We have previously given in these pages a description of the crematory furnace, and the methods of operation, and have illustrated the retorts, which are operated exclusively by natural gas. The illustrations here give some further idea of the arrangement and furnishings of the chapel and the other rooms that per-

tain to the crematory. The chapel at Oak Woods is an important feature of the cemetery. Its use is of course not confined to cremation funerals, but it is in demand at all seasons by those who have learned and appreciate its advantages and convenience. It is thoroughly appointed, with electric lights,

hot water heat and retiring rooms and a glance at the photograph will indicate the superb character of its finish. The colors and hangings are rich and restful and it is designed in every way to extend a gentle influence to those who make use of it. The room is of ample size and seating capacity and a system of exhaust ventilation keeps the air at all times pure and wholesome. In the corridor of the Oak Woods Receiving Vault the visitor will note parties using the Crematorium. It is spacious and high-ceiled and like all parts of the building, perfect in ventilation. Daylight is admitted through windows of beautiful art-glass, rendering a subdued atmosphere of peace and quiet that is not lost on short Winter days when the pleasant glow of the electric lamp is substituted. Ample seating is provided for all ordinary demands and because of the more intimate character of its comforts, this room is fre-



INTERIOR OF CHAPEL, OAK WOODS CEMETERY, CHICAGO.

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the unusual treatment of this part of the building, departing as it does from the old accepted coldness of stone and marble of vault interiors. The effort has been made to give warmth and cheer by the use of beautiful, rich draperies, so that the casket reposing here seems within the ken of human influence, not neglected in cold and damp surroundings. The rooms are all pleasantly lighted by electricity. The air is changed throughout the vaults regularly, by a motor-driven exhaust fan, insuring comfort and safety to visitors. A vacuum cleaning system is used throughout all parts of the building, so that even the remotest corners of the vaults are scrupulously clean.

A handsomely furnished reception room is at the disposal of funeral

quently preferred to the larger and more formal Chapel for private and family services.

In the preparing room is where the friends gather to witness the deposit of the casket in the retort. It is here that the observer forms his impressions of the Crematorium and incidentally of the process of cremation. The room is airy, light and finished in gratefully cool colors, and it is doubtful if more comforting surroundings could be conceived of wherein to surrender the mortal remains of a friend. There is no suggestion of noise or machinery of any kind. The two small doors at either side of the central door in the illustration admit the casket to the retort. The burners are not ignited till after the casket is in, and the doors closed,



CREMATORY RECEPTION ROOM, OAK WOODS CEMETERY.

so that all the observer sees is the pure white interior of the casket receptacles.

Advanced methods now impose certain requirements in the conduct of an incineration, having to do with

sanitation and due regard for the sensibilities of those interested. In the Crematorium at Oak Woods these conditions are all complied with. The working parts, the retorts and machinery were all carefully selected

and installed. The best advice was sought and the best talent employed in the construction of everything connected with the place. The fuel employed is natural gas and electrical power is used to furnish a supply of



PREPARING ROOM, OAK WOODS CREMATORY.

air in large quantities to the retorts, so that perfect combustion is assured. To preserve quiet about the edifice, the machinery for this air supply is placed in a building several hundred feet distant and the air taken underground to the retort room. With a few minutes' preparation a temperature of 2,500 deg. F. may be secured in the retorts and this is so perfectly applied and under control that the eye of the attendant may be within a few inches of this intense heat and the outer surfaces of the retort give no indication of its presence.

In response to requests that a suitable place of interment be provided for urns containing cremated remains, some of the best locations in Oak Woods Cemetery have been subdivided for this purpose.

The object is to allow sufficient area for the burial of the urn and a symmetrical marker for the spot, and to provide perpetual care for the surroundings.

Where something more durable in material and better workmanship is desired than are found in the Urn furnished with a cremation, Bronze Urns, ranging in price from \$20 to \$75, are sold.

Cremation Certificates are issued by the Association and can be procured at the city office. The form or permit for cremation reads:

.....19.....
 The Oak Woods Cemetery Association is hereby requested to incinerate the remains of on19.....
hereby certify thathave charge of the remains of said fromrelated to the deceased as.....

.....
 If no disposition of ashes are made within thirty days of the date of this order, you are authorized to scatter same.
 Witness..... Signed.....
 Address..... Address.....
 Received the ashes of.....
 this.....day of.....

On the reverse side are printed the following rules:

The Oak Woods Cemetery Crematorium is built in connection with the chapel and vault and is ready for use at any time except on Sundays.

Applications for incineration can be made at the Cemetery or at the city office of the Cemetery Association.

When an incineration is desired an order to that effect, signed by the person whose body is to be incinerated or by the relative having charge of the body, must be deposited at the Cemetery. Blanks for this purpose can be obtained at either office of the Association.

It is believed that every incineration should be conducted in as private a manner as possible and not serve to gratify morbid curiosity. Therefore but three persons in addition to the regular attendants will be admitted to the Crematory at the time of the incineration.

No special preparation of the body or clothing is necessary. The body is incinerated in the casket as received.

One day's notice is required when the use

of the Crematory is desired, and the ashes may be obtained the day following the incineration.

The charge for an incineration is thirty dollars. This charge includes a receptacle in which to place the ashes. It is believed that burial in a family lot will be the most satisfactory way to dispose of this receptacle.

OHIO CEMETERY MEN TO MEET

The tenth annual convention of the Ohio Association of Cemetery Superintendents and Officials will be held at Marion and Delaware June 21 and 22, with headquarters at the Marion Hotel, and meetings in the Y. M. C. A. A very interesting program has been prepared.

In the program, the names to which stars are prefixed, are the authors of the papers who presented them at the National Association. The names following in parentheses are the state members who will read the papers at the meeting. Following is the program:

Wednesday, June 21—Call to Order 9 a. m.
 Prayer.....Rev. D. H. Bailey
 Welcome Address.....Mayor J. G. Seiter
 Response.....
 Roll Call; Application and Reception of New Members; President's Address; Secretary's Report; Communications.
 Secretary's one-half hour to receive fees and dues.
 Paper—"Superintendents and Their Responsibilities"*Timothy McCarthy (W. H. Collins, Akron, O.)
 Paper—"Mistakes in Cemeteries"..... *A. W. Blain (F. C. Case, Norwalk, O.)
 Paper—"Grass and Weeds"..... (J. A. Reed, Canton, O.)
 Question Box; Appointment of Committees on: Auditing, Resolutions, Location, Lunch.
 Wednesday Afternoon.
 1:30 P. M.—Take cars at Hotel Marion for

Oak Woods has recently issued a handsomely printed brochure illustrating and describing the chapel and crematorium that is a model of good taste both in matter contained and in manner of execution.

Cemetery; Inspection of Cemetery.
 Evening Session.
 Banquet—6:30 to 8; Call to Order 8.
 Paper—"Beauties and Benefits of Modern Cemeteries".....*George H. Scott (C. C. Crain, Portsmouth, O.)
 Solo.....Mrs. B. L. Wallace
 Paper—"Use of Shrubs in Cemeteries"*O. C. Simonds (George Gossard, Washington C. H., O.)
 Paper—"Some Winter Work in Cemeteries"*Bellett Lawson, Jr. (John Perrin, Toledo, O.)
 Question Box; Nomination of Officers.
 Thursday, June 22—Call to Order 8:30 a. m.
 Paper—"Care of Country Cemeteries"*Ezra Downs (C. W. Modie, Mt. Gilead, O.)
 Paper—"Ohio Laws Regarding Removing Bodies".....J. J. Stephens, Columbus, O.
 11 o'clock—Take cars for Delaware, Ohio, where party will lunch.
 Welcome Address.....Mayor Lease
 Response.....J. J. Stephens
 Impromptu Talks.
 Inspection of Cemetery and Ohio Wesleyan University; 3 o'clock, meeting Cemetery Chapel.
 Paper—"Lot Enclosures"....*M. P. Brazill (Chas. C. Carroll, Cleveland, O.)
 Report of Delegate to National Convention in Chattanooga.
 Question Box; Report of Committees; Unfinished Business; Election of Officers.
 Members and prospective members are requested to bring photographs and models of tools and implements used in their cemeteries.
 OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION.
 President, George E. Whittaker, Youngstown, O.
 Vice-president, C. C. Crain, Portsmouth, O.
 Secretary and Treasurer, C. C. Anderson, Sydney, O.

LEGAL STATUS of LOT ENDOWMENT

The uncertain legal status of endowment funds and bequests in many states makes this one of the most perplexing of the cemetery's problems. West Laurel Hill Cemetery, of Philadelphia, has recently issued a leaflet to its lot owners, explaining briefly the legal status of the matter of endowment of cemetery lots in that state. It reads in full as follows: Concerning Endowment of Cemetery Lots.

The Act of May 26, 1891, Sec. 1, P. L. 119 F. D. Last Edition 559, provides: "No disposition of property hereafter made for the maintenance or care of any cemetery, churchyard or other place for the burial of the dead, or any portion thereof, or grave therein, or monuments or other erections on or about the same, shall fail by reason of such disposition having been made in perpetuity, but said disposition shall be held to be made for a charitable use."

This act indicates that it is the policy of this state to regard a trust for the care of a burial lot as a charitable use.

The lots themselves are exempt from taxation under the provision of Act of 5th of

April, 1859, Sec. 1, P. L. 63, Last Edition P. D. 564, as follows: "Whenever any lot or lots, or the right of sepulture therein, shall be granted to any person or family, by any incorporated cemetery company, or church or religious congregation, within any common enclosure made by such company, church or congregation, as and for the purpose of the perpetual burial of the dead, every and all lots so disposed of or used for burial shall hereafter be free and exempt from all taxation so long as the same shall be used or held only for the purpose of a sepulture."

Under this act it was held that a reasonable provision for the care of graves of testator and his family and his cemetery lot is not subject to the collateral inheritance tax. (Fleck's Estate, 52 P. L. J. 67 1904).

The Act of 5th of March, 1903, P. L. 12, P. D. 610, provides: (Sec. 1) "Hereafter all bequests and devises in trust, for the purpose of applying the entire interest or income thereof to the care and preservation of the family burial lot or lots of the donor, in good order and repair perpetually, shall be exempt from liability for collateral inheritance tax." (Hurst v. Cemetery Assn. 1 Lanc. L. Rev. 60 (1883); (Fleck's Estate, 52 P. L. J. 67 (1904)).