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## IN THE POTTER'S FIELD.

WHERE PAUPERS AND THE UNIDENTIFIED DEAD SLEEP IN  
WOODLAND CEMETERY.

No marble or granite marks the graves of the unknown dead in the potter's field at the Woodland cemetery. While the cemetery in general is a smiling field of varied colored flowers broken by beautiful monuments with the names of dear ones engraved in the hard stone, a sort of invisible line is drawn at the potter's field and few or no traces of identification remain to mark the spot of the departed.

When Woodland cemetery was first laid out, and on some of the gravestones can be traced the year 1880, a part far from that devoted to private graves was used as a city burying ground. It was secluded and distant and hardly seemed to belong to the pretty and well kept part of the cemetery. At first little attention was paid to the summer in which the potter's field was laid out, but as the population of the city extended to that section and the number of graves in the cemetery increased it became necessary to designate a particular place for the burial of paupers or unidentified dead. As the cemetery had been laid out as it was used a number of paupers' graves found their place among these and to parties as single graves. In this way certain sections contain paupers' graves together with those said to individuals, but the graves of paupers or the unknown dead are easily distinguished from the others by their appearance of neglect.

The potter's field for adults, however, is section 54, which extends along the edge of the cemetery on Gliddings avenue about one-quarter of the way to Woodland avenue while the infant paupers' graves are along the north edge of the cemetery, extending in a narrow row near the fence about a third of the distance from Gliddings avenue to Cemetery street. This northeast border of the cemetery has for its impressing significance. There several hundred bodies are buried and not a least mark to show who they were. Occasionally a pauper's grave will have care from those left behind and a few flowers will mark the resting spot. A few graves where the names were known were marked with wooden slabs for headstones, but the elements have erased all traces of paint and the graves are marked by but the black naked stone. With green grass profusely over these graves and is occasionally trampled to show the graves. In many instances they are almost level with the ground.

The potter's field grows rapidly. Its occupants come from several sources. The dead coming from the city poorhouse or infirmary and several other city institutions, the poor without means to pay for a last resting place, orphan asylums, and the unidentified from the county morgue all go to the potter's field. Occasionally friends or relatives of a dear one occupying a pauper's grave obtain permission to move the body to a more respectable grave in some part of the cemetery. Then, as a usual thing, it blossoms with flowers and is among the others.

A burial in the potter's field resembles another in but few respects. A dead woman is the usual occupant. No rough box covers the coffin and the same grave generally contains others. A city ordinance prohibits rough boxes being used in the burial of paupers and the coffin are generally covered. This is done to prevent fraud on the part of undertakers. It was said that at one time undertakers merely put in the head of a pauper and filled the rest of the coffin with rubbish, so arranging the appearance as to deceive the authorities, while the body was sent to medical colleges. The lack of rough boxes also allows the putting of three paupers in one grave,

while four or five children are placed under the same small piece of sod. To utilize all space possible in the potter's field a roadway is now being converted into a burying ground.

Perhaps the saddest cases brought to the attention of the observer of the potter's field are those of the unidentified. These come from the county morgue. The records of the county morgue show some cases of

found occasionally. The coroner's records show 230 unidentified bodies to have been found since 1845.

In this same connection the reports of missing people as are made at the central police station may be considered. Usually a day passes but one or more persons are reported missing from their homes and the police are requested to locate them. Now it is a lost child and again a father and

told owing to the conscientiousness of the doctor or staff, who, bound by the oath of office, would rather die than divulge what the world is ever on the quiet live to learn.

It is said that when Miss Adams, who is now Mrs. Mallott, was appointed maid of honor in the queen's household, she was visiting in a household where was a well known man of letters and wit.

"What a fine opportunity you will now have to keep an interesting diary," he said to her.

Miss Adams responded that, according to the queen's conditions, no one was allowed to keep a diary when at court. But, disbelieving, the man laughingly responded, "I think I should keep a very secret one, all the same," to which the future maid of honor courteously replied:



THE POTTER'S FIELD IN WOODLAND CEMETERY.

this sort than is usually understood. In 1845 three cases of unidentified bodies are recorded. Some years have gone while in 1885 there were eighteen bodies which were never identified, and so far this year the record is eleven. Descriptions of the bodies are generally kept, but in some instances they are so distorted or disfigured that a description is impossible. Occasionally the slightest clue to the identification of the body, such as a bandage mark, a tattoo or a ring will be found upon the body, but complete identification is impossible. Scattered through the coroner's record of the unknown dead are such names as Brown, English or Meloy, but they are never identified. Men are the most frequently unknown, while very young children are also

unidentified. At times as many as a dozen persons are reported missing in a single week, but in most cases they are located sooner or later. At other times, however, they are entirely lost track of and it may be that while they are at home among their loved ones they occupy a pauper's grave in a potter's field similar to that at Woodland cemetery.

### Secrecy in Royal Households.

One of the many rules governing those who enter to the yards and pleasure of royalty is that a strict secrecy shall be maintained as to the sayings and doings of their royal masters' and mistresses. Many a secret has gone to the grave un-

"Then I am afraid you would not be a maid of honor."

The term, "maid of honor," seems to have a wider significance than is usually applied to it. It is to be not only a maid who is honored by her elevation to the rank of maid of honor in the royal household, but it is to be a maid whose honor is used in defense of her mistress, or silence, as may be required.

### Between the Acts.

The actress: "I wonder if it is really disappointment that drives so many men to drink."  
The critic: "I guess so. But few theatrical reformations come up to the average man's expectations."—Chicago News.