

too large to secure the full instruction necessary. It is to be observed that the manner in which instruction is imparted will modify the statements above made.

#### CONCLUSIONS.

1. Anatomical material for the promotion of medical science should be obtained wholly under legal enactment. The provisions of the law should be compulsory upon all officers of State and county institutions and municipal governments.

2. Of the anatomical laws which are in force in this country, the committee is of the opinion that the law of the State of Pennsylvania is the best. It is framed in such manner as to provide under a strict execution of its requirements anatomical material for the promotion of Medical Science and prevents the desecration of the resting place of the dead.

3. The committee believes it would contribute to the best interests of anatomical teaching in this country if action was taken by this association to secure the enactment in every State of a law controlling the collection and distribution of anatomical material and recommends such action.

4. The committee finds itself unable, from the information which has been received, to arrive at any definite conclusions with regard to the best means for accomplishing the preservation of anatomical material for the purposes of dissection. Many of the agents reported in the communications received have been long in use, and to a greater or less degree have been employed successfully in securing preservation of anatomical material, but not with all the conditions which are deemed as essential in perfect preservation, and those which afford the best results in dissection. Preservation by means of cold storage it believes to be a method which approaches nearest to perfection, and it should be arranged upon such a plan as will admit of the retention

of anatomical material, under the influence the low temperature during dissection.

(Signed.) J. EWING MEARS,  
J. D. BRYANT,  
THOMAS DWIGHT.

NOVEMBER 19, 1895.

The following amendment to the report was adopted: "That Professors of Anatomy be requested to inform their students concerning the laws upon the subject of anatomical material, and request these students to use their influence with the authorities in their respective places of residence to increase the quantity of anatomical material by making available much that is now withheld, either from neglect or indifference."

#### ANATOMICAL LAW OF THE STATE OF PENNSYLVANIA, ENACTED JUNE 13, 1883.

*For the promotion of medical science by the distribution of and use of unclaimed human bodies for scientific purposes through a board created for that purpose, and to prevent unauthorized uses and traffic in human bodies.*

SECTION 1. *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, in General Assembly met, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same:* That the professors of anatomy, the professors of surgery, the demonstrators of anatomy, and the demonstrators of surgery of the medical and dental schools and colleges of this Commonwealth, which are now or may hereafter become incorporated, together with one representative from each of the unincorporated schools of anatomy or practical surgery within this Commonwealth in which there are, or from time to time at the time of the appointment of such representative shall be, not less than twenty-five scholars, shall be, and hereby are constituted a board, for the distribution and delivery of dead human bodies hereinafter described, to and among such persons as under the provisions of this Act are entitled

thereto. The professor of anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia shall call a meeting of said board for organization at a time and place to be fixed by him within thirty days after the passage of this Act. The said board shall have full power to establish rules and regulations for its government, and to appoint and remove proper officers, and shall keep full and complete minutes of its transactions, and records shall also be kept under its direction of all bodies received and distributed by said board, and of the persons to whom the same may be distributed, which minutes and records shall be open at all times to the inspection of each member of said board, and of any district attorney of any county within this Commonwealth.

SEC. 2. All public officers, agents, and servants, and all officers, agents, and servants of any and every county, city, township, borough, district, and other municipality, and of any and every almshouse, prison, morgue, hospital, or any other public institution having charge or control over dead human bodies required to be buried at the public expense, are hereby required to notify the said board of distribution, or such person or persons as may from time to time be designated by said board, or its duly authorized officer or agent, whenever any such body or bodies come into his or their possession, charge, or control, and shall, without fee or reward, deliver such body or bodies, and permit and suffer the said board and its agents, and the physicians and surgeons from time to time designated by them, who may comply with the provisions of this Act, to take and remove all such bodies to be used within this State for the advancement of medical science; but no such notice need be given, nor shall any such body be delivered if any person, claiming to be and satisfying the authorities in charge of said body that he or she is of kindred or is related by marriage to the deceased, shall

claim the said body for burial, but it shall be surrendered for interment, nor shall the notice be given or body be delivered if such deceased person was a traveller who died suddenly, in which case the said body shall be buried.

SEC. 3. The said board, or their duly authorized agent, may take and receive such bodies so delivered as aforesaid, and shall, upon receiving them, distribute and deliver them to and among the schools, colleges, physicians and surgeons aforesaid in manner following: Those bodies needed for lectures and demonstrations by the said schools and colleges, incorporated and unincorporated, shall first be supplied, the remaining bodies shall then be distributed proportionately and equitably, preference being given to said schools and colleges, the number assigned to each to be based upon the number of students in each dissecting or operative surgery class, which number shall be reported to the board at such times as it may direct. Instead of receiving and delivering said bodies themselves, or through their agents or servants, the board of distribution may from time to time, either directly, or by their authorized officer or agent, designate physicians and surgeons who shall receive them, and the number which each shall receive. Provided always, however, that schools and colleges, incorporated and unincorporated, and physicians or surgeons of the county where the death of the person, or such person described, takes place shall be preferred to all others. And provided, also, that for this purpose such dead body shall be held subject to their order in the county where the death occurs for a period not less than twenty-four hours.

SEC. 4. The said board may employ a carrier or carriers for the conveyance of said bodies, which shall be well enclosed within a suitable encasement, and carefully deposited free from public observation.

Said carrier shall obtain receipts by name, or, if the person be unknown, by a description, for each body delivered by him, and shall deposit said receipt with the secretary of the said board.

SEC. 5. No school, college, physician, or surgeon shall be allowed or permitted to receive any such body or bodies until a bond shall have been given to the Commonwealth by such physician or surgeon, or by or in behalf of such school or college, to be approved by the Prothonotary of the Court of Common Pleas in and for the county in which such physician or surgeon shall reside, or in which such school or college may be situate, and to be filed in the office of said Prothonotary, which bond shall be in the penal sum of one thousand dollars, conditioned that all such bodies which the said physician or surgeon, or the said school or college, shall receive thereafter shall be used only for the promotion of medical science within the State; and whosoever shall sell or buy such body or bodies, or in any way traffic in the same, or shall transmit, or convey, or cause to procure to be transmitted or conveyed said body or bodies to any place outside of this State shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and shall, on conviction, be liable to a fine not exceeding two hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year.

SEC. 6. Neither the Commonwealth, nor any county or municipality, nor any officer, agent, or servant thereof, shall be at any expense by reason of the delivery or distribution of any such body, but all the expenses thereof, and of said board of distribution, shall be paid by those receiving the bodies, in such manner as may be specified by said board of distribution, or otherwise agreed upon.

SEC. 7. That any person having duties enjoined upon him by the provisions of this Act, who shall neglect, refuse, or omit to perform the same as hereby required, shall,

on conviction thereof, be liable to fine of not less than one hundred nor more than five hundred dollars, for each offence.

SEC. 8. That all Acts or parts of Acts inconsistent with this Act be and the same are hereby repealed.

PHILADELPHIA, January 1, 1889.

In accordance with the requirements of the above law the Anatomical Board of the State of Pennsylvania was organized July, 1883, for the purpose of carrying it into execution. The attention of all State, county and municipal officers charged with duties under the law is directed to its requirements. Boxes containing bodies should be addressed to George Willie, Philadelphia, and should be delivered to the agent of the express company at the station nearest to the place from which the body is sent. The charges paid by the Board for transportation to the railroad station vary from \$1.00 to \$2.50 in accordance with the distance. These charges will be paid by the agent of the express company, and collected from the Board by the agent in Philadelphia.

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SEVENTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE  
AMERICAN FOLK-LORE SOCIETY.

THE American Folk-lore Society held its seventh annual meeting in Philadelphia on Friday and Saturday, December 27 and 28, 1895. Although the attendance was rather slim, the number and the value of the papers presented made the session an interesting one. The President, Dr. Washington Matthews, opened the meeting with an address on the poetry and music of the Navahoes. He brought out very clearly the misconception of superficial observers who have not had the opportunity to enter into the spirit of Indian life, and consequently described the primitive tribes as void of poetic or musical feeling. The examples given by the speaker are ample proof that the Nava-