

means as the General Board of Health might deem fit to direct, into the state of the burial grounds in any part of England or Wales excepted from the powers of the Public Health Act, 1848, or in any populous city, town, or place in England or Wales, to which for the time being the said Act had not been applied, and if it appeared to the General Board of Health that any such burial ground was in such a state as to be dangerous to the health of the persons living in the neighbourhood thereof, it should be lawful for the said General Board of Health in England and Wales, under the seal of the said Board, and under the hands of two or more members thereof, to issue such orders as the said Board might think fit for the application of such disinfecting substances, and for the adoption of such other measures of precaution in relation to the premises as might, in the opinion of the said Board, tend to lessen or remove the danger to health; and whereas after the issuing of the said above-recited Orders of Her Majesty's Most Honourable Privy Council, and whilst the same have continued in force, the General Board of Health have caused inquiry to be made by Gavin Milroy, a Doctor of Medicine, a superintending inspector to the said Board, into the state of a certain burial ground known as the Collier's Rents Burial Ground, situate in White-street, Southwark, in the county of Surrey, being a part of England excepted from the powers of the Public Health Act, 1848; and whereas it now appears to us, the said General Board of Health, upon the report of the said Gavin Milroy, upon and after the inquiry made by him as aforesaid, that the said burial ground is in such a state as to be dangerous to the health of the persons living in the neighbourhood thereof; now We, the said General Board of Health, being of opinion that the adoption of the measures of precaution hereinafter specified would tend to lessen the aforesaid danger to health, do hereby, in exercise of the power vested in us by the above-recited Acts, order and direct you, the persons to whom this Order is addressed, and all other persons (if any there be) having the care and control of the said burial ground, to do and cause to be done the following works and matters in and in relation to the said burial ground, and the mode of interment therein; that is to say:

1. That the whole surface of the said burial ground (excepting such parts thereof as are now used as footpaths, or are now covered with flat stones) shall be forthwith covered with quicklime of a uniform thickness of three inches at the least.

2. That when any portion of the said lime shall be removed for the purpose of making or digging any grave in the said burial ground, or for any other purpose, such lime shall be replaced immediately after the filling up of the grave, or the completion of such purpose, and a sufficient quantity of quicklime shall be provided, and from time to time shall be applied, so as to keep the whole of the said burying ground (except the parts above excepted) covered therewith to the thickness of three inches as aforesaid.

3. That to prevent the contamination of springs of water, every grave which shall be made or dug in the said burial ground shall be covered at the bottom thereof with quicklime of a uniform thickness of three inches at the least, upon which covering of lime the coffin containing the corpse, which shall be buried or deposited in such grave, shall be placed.

4. That not more than one corpse shall be buried or deposited in any grave, and every grave in which any corpse shall be buried or deposited

shall be filled up to the level of the ordinary surface of the said burial ground immediately upon the corpse being buried or deposited therein, and no further burial shall take place in the same grave, nor shall any other corpse be deposited therein.

5. That no corpse shall be buried or deposited in any grave in the said burial ground at a less distance than two feet and six inches from any other grave, such distance to be computed from that part of the coffin containing such corpse which is nearest to such other grave.

6. That no corpse shall be buried or deposited in any grave in the said burial ground in which, after the burial or deposit thereof, there shall not be at least five feet of earth remaining between the ordinary surface of the said burial ground and the upper part of the coffin in which such corpse shall be contained.

7. Provided always, that the foregoing directions and regulations, which are respectively numbered 3, 4, 5, and 6, shall not apply to burials in stone or brick graves, vaults, or catacombs.

8. That no corpse shall be deposited in any stone or brick grave, vault, or catacomb, in the said burial ground, or in any vault or receptacle connected therewith, unless such corpse shall be enclosed in a coffin made of, or lined with lead of the weight of at least six pounds to every superficial square foot, and of the thickness throughout of one-tenth of an inch, nor unless such coffin or lining be soldered up, or otherwise secured so as to be perfectly air-tight.

9. That if in making or digging any grave in the said burial ground, or in opening any part of the said burial ground for any purpose whatever, any human bone, or other part of a human body, or any coffin, or portion of a coffin shall be found, or become visible, the earth that shall have been disturbed by such making, digging, or opening shall be forthwith filled in and covered with quicklime to the depth of at least three inches, in addition to the uniform thickness of lime with which the surface of the said burial ground is hereinbefore ordered to be covered.

10. That no grave shall be made or dug, nor shall the ground for any purpose, or upon any pretence, be opened in any part of the said burial ground where a corpse has been buried or deposited within ten years now last past.

And we do further order and direct that this Order shall take effect on the day of the date hereof, and the works and matters above specified shall continue to be done, acted upon, and executed by you, the said persons to whom this Order is addressed, and other persons (if any) until further or other Order be made in relation to the premises.

Given under our hands, and under the seal of the General Board of Health, in Great Britain, this 6th day of November 1849.



(Signed) Ashley,
Edwin Chadwick.
T. Southwood Smith.

To the Proprietors of the New Bunhill Fields Cemetery, Deverell-street, New Kent-road, Southwark, in the county of Surrey; and to all other persons having the care and control of the Burial Ground hereinafter described.

Whereas by the "Nuisances' Removal and Diseases' Prevention Act, 1848," it was enacted that when any part of the United Kingdom should appear to be threatened by any formidable epidemic,