

**THE
PRINCIPLES
AND
PRACTICE
OF
EMBALMING**



**THIRD
EDITION
1965**

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF EMBALMING

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DEDICATED
TO THE ADVANCEMENT OF
MORTUARY EDUCATION

PURPOSE

THE PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF EMBALMING *presents to the funeral service and closely allied professions a dignified and authoritative account of how mankind has cared for its dead through the ages. It is involved in the whole scope of modern professional funeral service and, therefore, contains much of interest and value for persons other than embalming students and practitioners. The funeral director can benefit from this in his local public relations program.*

Historians, sociologists, medical students and practitioners, pathologists, clergymen, psychologists, vocational counselors, attorneys, coroners, writers and editors, and many others have found this book useful in their own vocational fields. Many have said it has helped them to a better understanding of their own and of their contemporaries' attitudes toward death and the problems it creates in a family, a community, and society.

This book, then, offers you the most up to date material possible on your profession—first, as a text and then as a continuing reference. But it also can be an excellent source for public relations to certain people in your community whose greater understanding and respect you seek.

Preface

AND ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Recent years have witnessed not only many significant developments in the science of embalming, but also a greatly increased realization of the importance of embalming in perpetuating American customs and culture. That embalming and the "body care" is the keystone upon which rests the entire funeral service profession must be apparent to every observer.

New developments and new information have made embalming an increasingly complex science, and created a need for broadening the curriculum. In this book the effort has been made to provide the widest possible background of scientific information, and then adapt that information to the specific needs of the embalmer. The motivating desire has been to stimulate independent thinking, to teach the embalmer not only *what* should be done but also *why* it should be done.

The authors wish to acknowledge and express their appreciation to the Associations of Colleges of Mortuary Science, and especially to the members of the Course Content Committee for the assistance the embalming course content outline has been in the preparation of this text. In addition, we wish to acknowledge and express our appreciation to the instructors in all of the Colleges of Mortuary Science for their advice, encouragement and cooperation.

Acknowledgment is also made to the professional journals, especially the National Funeral Service Journal, Southern Funeral Director, Mortuary Management, Mid-Continent Mortician, and Casket and Sunnyside, for the splendid educational and technical articles they have published and which have been of great assistance in gathering material for this book.

Also acknowledgment is made to the Department of Dermatology, State University of Iowa College of Medicine, to the National Funeral Directors Association, and to the Chicago Museum of Natural History for making available several of the photographs used in this book. This courtesy is appreciated.

We also acknowledge the contributions made both by our predecessors and our contemporaries, for knowledge is a shared experience to which each generation contributes its portion. We trust that our contribution will be some measure of help to those who will some day follow in our footsteps.

THE AUTHORS

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