

# THE DISSECTOR.

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## CURES WITH MESMERISM.

Cure of long-standing intense Pains and other Sufferings, and extreme Debility, with Mesmerism, after the failure of endless and distressing measures.—By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

TOWARDS the end of October, 1845, I received a visit from Mr. Morgan, of Bedford Row, the gentleman who some years before had so humanely and rationally yielded to the request of a poor woman in Three Cups Yard, behind Bedford Row, that he would apply to me for mesmerism to her child, who was afflicted with insanity, fatuity, dumbness, and prostration, and upon whom he had exhausted all his remedies in vain, and the wonderful mesmeric cure of whom is recorded in the fourth volume of *The Zoist*. Mr. Morgan's present object was similar. But the rank of the patient for whom he now requested my assistance was very different. She was a young lady residing in Eaton Square, and her father and brother were in Parliament. Some of the most fashionable physicians had been called in. A royal physician in ordinary, and two other royal physicians, had exhausted all their means upon her as fruitlessly as Mr. Morgan had exhausted his upon the poor child in Three Cups Yard. I accordingly met him at her father's house, and found the young lady very pale, sickly and emaciated, so feeble as not to be able to sit upright, and suffering agonies in many parts of her system.

After hearing the history of the disease, I examined her carefully, and finding no sign of structural disease, though some perfectly unfounded fears had been entertained respecting one of her lungs, I declared that no reason appeared why she should not get well, and that mesmerism would probably cure her. According to my custom, I refrained from being so presumptuous as to declare that it would be sure to cure her. Mesmerists should always remember that in a host of cases there may be something inappreciable by our means of investigation

that will baffle all our power, and that the most promising cases may eventually foil us. Medical men, on the other hand, who despise mesmerism, should remember, when mesmerists are so foiled, that they themselves with their *legitimate* (that is the orthodox word) medicine are foiled every day, and every hour of the day if they have an extensive practice, perhaps after prescribing the most painful measures, and that this sad imperfection of medicine and surgery it is that makes patients fly to mesmerism and other abominations. For sick people are circumstanced still like the woman in the gospel nearly 2000 years ago, who "had suffered many things of many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but rather worse."

It was therefore arranged that the young lady should be mesmerised, and Mr. Morgan goodnaturedly and liberally offered to operate if I would show him the way. He, however, lived at a great distance, and fancied he produced no effect; and the maid tried and she was thought to produce no more. Seeing that the thing would not be done at all unless I did it, I offered to take the case in hand myself, though I very rarely do unless there is likely to be something peculiarly interesting in the phenomena. I premised that I never had mesmerised professionally, and never would, however high in rank a patient might be, and that if I took the case in hand I must act entirely as a friend. I really pitied the poor sufferer, and had soon discovered that she had every lady-like feeling and habit, and was not only unaffected, but courageous and sincere, straightforward and noble-minded.

The following is the account which she at once cheerfully consented to draw up for me of her case.

"Five years ago, I caught a severe cold, and had a cough which lasted for more than three months, and pulled me down so much that I could hardly make any exertion without feeling so exhausted, depressed and ill,

that at night I was forced to throw myself on the bed and lie down for some time before I could be undressed. After trying a great many remedies without the least benefit, I was obliged to take to my bed and have a blister on my chest; and was relieved for a time; but my nerves became so dreadfully disturbed that I was hysterical, and the least noise affected me painfully. About this time I heard of the sudden death of a great friend in India, and received a shock greater than any one knew, and the recollection of her haunted me day and night. I was continually fainting and had violent hysterical paroxysms. My medical attendants—a neighboring practitioner and a physician, thought that “rousing” would do me good, and ordered me to be “well talked to,” although I was taking stimulants which seemed to excite me more than was proper. The “rousing” seemed only to make me much more worse, so great was my excitement. After a long time I appeared to rally, and was ordered to go out if I could. But I was quite unequal to it, not having left my room for some time, and the merely going down stairs amongst my family was the cause of a relapse so severe that I kept my bed for many weeks. Dreadful head-aches came on with violent bleedings at the nose. Leeches were continually applied behind my ears, and on the temples. The relief from them was very great. Blisters, too, were applied to the nape of my neck; but, though they relieved my head, the agony from their irritation was so great that I could scarcely endure them. A large extent of surface over my spine was raw and discharged exceedingly for some time. Violent hysterical attacks were induced, which sometimes lasted three hours. For them I was literally drenched, sometimes for three hours together, with cold water, thrown at me to “rouse” me. I used to sink down thoroughly exhausted by all I went through. I had no rest at night, and my maid was constantly getting up to try to quiet my excited state, and would remain with me for two hours at a time, although really not knowing what to do for me, or how to pacify my truly wretched condition. Every thing was tried. I was drenched with medicine of all sorts; but none did any good. Tonics brought on such an inward fever that I was forced to leave them off; my lips became parched and peeled through the fever, which for three weeks was so intense that I lived on nothing but ice water. This state continued for more than six months, sometimes a little better and then again worse. My head-aches were at times so bad that I could bear no noise: any one

walking across my room almost drove me wild, and really at times I knew not what I did, and the subsequent depression was so extreme that for days I have felt unable to speak. I got quite disgusted with the medical men who saw me, and I determined to give up all medicine for a time and trust to nature. This I did for many weeks, though obliged to have leeches continually, so violent were my head-aches, which nothing relieved but losing blood. Not getting on any better, I was again induced to see a physician, and did see another, who gave me some quieting medicine, which, however, proved of little use. The bleedings at my nose were constant, and the more I lost by leeching the better I felt; but I was always “roused” soon afterwards by being “well talked to,” and the excitement which this produced was quite dreadful, so that I have rolled about my bed like a wild person.

“My illness at times seemed to change; the cough again troubling me, together with great weakness, and my head-aches not being so violent. I was under all sorts of medicine, at times better, and then worse. Violent head-aches came on, if I walked across my room; and at last I was carried from my bed to the sofa, and even this would bring on faintings and hysterical attacks, which would exhaust me for a long while. I continued the leeches for a year, almost every other day, and they still gave me relief, always making me lighter and easier. They, however, were the only remedy which did me good; but as this plan, of course, could not go on for ever, I now took advice of a third physician, and he forbade all leeching unless nothing else would answer; ordered me mustard baths up to the knees, and gave me steel in an effervescent state. For a time I rallied, but only for a time, and I again began to go back; my head getting worse, and my nose sometimes bursting out bleeding in the night, so that I was quite alarmed, though the relief was great to my heavy head. The tonic medicine I was taking I was obliged to discontinue as fever came on again, with sickness and retching, and at one time continued for a very long period. I was ordered salines, which I took for some time with great benefit. I determined again to do without a doctor, so heartily tired was I of all the remedies that had been tried. My sufferings were so terrible, that I have lain many a day without noticing any one, the tears rolling down my cheeks from agony; yet I got somewhat better again, and tried a shower bath, which proved of service, and I was enabled by degrees to get about my room, and then down

stairs, and to take a drive; but yet could not bear much, and noise still distressed me greatly. Yet on the whole, I was decidedly better, and as the autumn was coming, I was ordered to try change of air, and went to Bath to stay with some friends, and drank the waters. But after a little while they seemed to disagree with me, as I felt continually sick after them and feverish, and had a noise in my head and ears. By the advice of a doctor there, I gave them up. He ordered me to be careful not to over-exert myself, and prescribed salines. I unfortunately caught cold, and was again troubled with cough, which reduced me sadly, and I got into such a weak state, that I felt illness was again creeping over me; and so bad did I become, that I took to my bed and never stirred from it for a month, except to have my bed made, and some days not even that, and my wretched head became most troublesome. Leeches were again applied continually, always with a great relief; but I became so ill, that it was an exertion to turn in my bed, and my spine began to cause me such pain that, when I attempted to walk from my bed to the sofa, I was in misery, and at last could not, but used to slide across the bed to it. Unfortunately, the house could not be kept as quietly as I wished, and, after much suffering, I was moved up to London. The journey was the cause of great misery to me; I for a week after never moved out of my bed. The room was kept dark, as light brought on severe head-ache; if I were the least roused, the excitement was dreadful. Some days have passed when I have not even turned in my bed, and I felt so ill, as if I really were dying gradually. Ice was applied to my head, which had been shaved, and cold lotions also, with relief for a time; but still my sufferings I think increased, and nothing but the greatest quiet, and leeches almost every day, give me any relief at last. Often have I clenched my hands and beaten myself about for hours, wild with pain, and then such sobbing fits would attack me, that the bed has shaken under me.

My exhaustion after these attacks was of course great. Still my room was obliged to be darkened all day, so painful was light to me; and if any one ever whispered in my room, it drove me wild; I never spoke or took the least notice, and felt gradually sinking; a kind of exhausted sleep came upon me, which lasted for some time; but I was generally disturbed out of it by some noise, and the frightful state of excitement I was then thrown into, must have been sad to witness. To raise myself in bed was impossible, or even to put my foot to the

ground, as my spine gave me pain up to the head by the attempt. I was again obliged to see a physician, making the fourth, and he ordered me to be kept quiet, but *not too quiet*, as I should otherwise never be able to bear noise; not to have leeches every day, but now and then; he gave me some German waters, and afterwards iron, but I could not continue this for head-ache; and he ordered water to be thrown over my head continually in large quantities, and this relieved me. Again I got better, and was able to be outside of the bed for a little while, then to be set upon the sofa, and by degrees to sit up much longer. Yet I made no further progress, excitement coming on violently if I was talked to for long. As my cough again troubled me, my physician thought there was some internal change going on, and examined my chest. He said the right side, or rather lung, was sore and delicate, and that I must be careful, and, as soon as I could, be moved away for change of air; and he recommended Norwood. So I went there and remained two months, my cough continuing, and incessant, and I expectorated much; nothing quieted the cough, and it wore me down greatly, as well as distressing my head. As the winter was approaching, I returned home, not worse, but yet not better. I was often obliged to keep in bed, my spine causing me great suffering, particularly from the coughing, which distressed my head as well. My physician ordered me an opium plaster down the spine to soothe me, but I could not bear it; the irritation it occasioned was so bad that I was obliged to have it torn off as quickly as possible, and my cough and head-ache still went on for more than fourteen months, and I expectorated a great deal. My physician said it was useless his coming, as he could do nothing for me, and directed us to send for him if I got worse. Thus I remained for a long time, some days better, some days worse. The whole spring and summer passed away, and I was unable to move, except from the bed to the sofa, and even that was a trouble to me. I sighed for the fresh air, and felt it would do me good if I could breathe it, but I was unable, as every exertion brought on great pain to my spine and head. The winter was advancing, and I was still so ill, I again saw the physician who had last attended me; he advised me by all means to be moved, in as easy a manner as I could, to some quiet house about the Regent's Park, as the noise of our own house was too much for me. In fact, I could no longer bear it, my nerves were in such a sensitive state. My nights were dreadful; often my maid was up with me half the night, to soothe my wretched

state, and the following day I was so ill, I could bear no one coming near me. In February I was moved to St. John's Wood, where I remained nine months. The quiet was most grateful to me, though at first I was obliged to have recourse to leeches almost every day, and was getting so bad that I really thought my mind must go. For hours together I was like a wild person, particularly if disturbed after the leeches; my head got so weak that I could not bear any noise. I felt that the relief from the leeches was still very great, yet they seemed to be gradually injuring me. I saw my physician again, who said I must not have them, though he knew not what to do for me: he thought I could rouse and exert myself more. But I had not the power: I really could not. I asked him if he thought a seton would benefit me; he said perhaps it might, but he could not say, and advised me, if I wished it, to try it. To have the prospect of any relief was so delightful, that I determined to try the seton, and by his orders had one put in the nape of my neck. This was kept open a year, and for a longer time than anything else did me much good; my head-aches were wonderfully relieved, and by degrees I left my bed, and was able to move about my room, and at last to get down stairs, a thing I had not done for many months, and as the summer advanced, I got out into the garden, but could not walk; and driving was still painful to my spine and head. Yet I was better, for I was able to see people at times, but was still obliged to be quiet, as excitement and great exhaustion were generally the result, if I was long talked to. I was wretchedly thin, and my cough was again becoming troublesome and weary to me. As the winter was approaching, my own medical man (who had attended all our family for years) induced me to try a winter at Hastings, for I felt the cold so much; and in October I was moved there in a bed-carriage, by railroad. After having been there some time, I began to feel better, and when it was warm, I went out for half an hour in the Bath chair. But the exertion was very great, and I could not walk at all. I, however, remained away from home for six months, and was much better till within two months of my leaving, when I began to feel ill again, but my complaint seemed now to have assumed a different form. My head-aches were very bad, though my seton discharged very well. A sense of heavy weight oppressed me after eating, and a kind of torpid state came over me, so that I felt I could not move; and although I craved for food I have been obliged to abstain, so wretched was the state which eating caused me. I

used to feel in a kind of dreamy existence directly after eating, with a wish to sleep, but if I did it was most disagreeable. My head felt heavy, and I was quite unable to move for a long time, and had a great deal of fever, and was obliged to remain in my bed, for I could not move about the room without violent pains in my back; the seton did not discharge as it used, and it gave me great pain. I sent up to my physician in town to know what to do; he said I ought by all means to return to town, as I would not have advice at Hastings; and as soon as I was able, I did, in a bed-carriage. The next day my doctor saw me, he thought me extremely ill; I was miserably thin; he said my seton had literally worn itself out, and that it must be closed up, as it was only injuring me: it had been kept open a year. He gave me some medicine, as I was in such a feverish state, and had a continual gnawing pain under my right shoulder; for the latter he dry-cupped me. He tried many things, and thought I got better for a little while under these remedies, yet it was only for a little while I was better. Taking little in the way of food, I was greatly reduced; I could take nothing but light puddings, and sometimes not them, for I was more troubled by sickness after eating, and pain at the pit of my stomach; I was obliged to go many hours without food, although I longed for it, as I could not keep in my stomach what I took, and I felt so much easier and lighter when I took nothing. But of course this would not continue. I tried various remedies as my stomach was so irritable, and I was obliged to take powerful aperients. I continued in a most wretched state, never leaving my bed-room throughout the beautiful spring and part of the summer months; I was only able to lie on my sofa, and sighed for fresh air, I felt so weak and sinking. Nothing, however, seemed to do me any good, and I was heartily sick of all the doctors; I gave up all remedies and resolved to trust to nature again, and, as I at times felt easier, I resolved to try if a drive for a little while would benefit me. The air felt indeed truly delightful, but my head suffered much from the motion of the carriage, and I therefore went out but twice or thrice, and began to get so ill that I knew not what to do. My limbs became affected with violent darting and gnawing pains; I was in my bed for days, had no rest at night, and was completely worn out.

"Often has the pain caused me to sob for many an hour, and I tried morphine to give me sleep; but it was of no avail. I got so bad and irritable I could not bear myself, and felt as if I must gradually die, at times, from

my dreadful pains and excitable state. I therefore determined to see our own family medical attendant, who had always been most kind to me, though from living at a distance, he had not attended me through the illness. He advised me to see some other physician: and about this time I was urged much to think of mesmerism, which I laughed at and ridiculed; and I said, 'I would not hear of it, as it was all nonsense: after four years of such illness, and after every thing had been tried, to think of mesmerism doing good was absurd; and I did not like it or believe in it.' I however heard all that was said, and a book was sent me with the case of a lady who had been ill for fifteen years, and had tried everything, and was told she must die, when she heard of mesmerism and tried it, and was cured. Yet, though all this surprised me very much, I would not listen to being mesmerised. I asked the opinion of our family medical attendant, and he said it was a thing that must be left entirely to my own decision; he had seen a remarkable case of a child, who had been cured by it; and, though he did not himself understand it, he would, whenever I wished, call on Dr. Elliotson, and ask him to see me. After thinking over it a long time, I determined to see Dr. Elliotson, and ask whether he thought it might in some degree alleviate my sufferings, although I had no faith in it, and felt nothing now would do good. My doctor called on Dr. Elliotson, and told him of my case, and how I had suffered and was still suffering; also that one physician had said my right lung was diseased. Dr. Elliotson said he must see me first to judge for himself; he had known mesmerism work wonders where everything had failed, and as I so much wanted to be soothed and to obtain rest, he did not see why it should not be tried. Dr. Elliotson came, and after examining my chest very carefully with the stethoscope, told me there was no disease anywhere about the lungs; that my cough was entirely from nervous irritation of the air passages; and, after some farther examination, he began to mesmerise me. I shall never forget the effect it had on me the first day, it was so dreadful; I was all the time in a wretched state of weakness, and could not sit up on the sofa without being bent double. As he made the passes, I became most restless and started up from the sofa, so that my own doctor, Dr. Elliotson, and my maid, were obliged to hold me to keep me quiet. This continued for some time, and at last, after great patience on Dr. Elliotson's part, he got me quiet, and I burst into a violent fit of sobbing and was relieved. Dr. Elliotson remained with me

nearly two hours, and was most kind. After trying to cheer me up, he left me, and desired I might be kept very quiet, saying he would see me the next day.

"My state after he left me was most dreadful. I was again seized with violent hysterics, jumped up off the sofa, and became quite unmanageable. My maid was forced to hold me to keep me quiet; and after an attack of two hours, I sunk down perfectly exhausted, and went to bed. But no sleep came upon me; and the next day, though I was up, I felt so strange and ill, that I wished I had never tried mesmerism, it so completely seemed to have routed (I may say) and disturbed my whole system. However, Dr. Elliotson persevered every day for nine months, half an hour at a time. His great kindness, patience and perseverance I shall never forget. He was always the same, and unlike all my other medical men, who had seemed to imagine I might get well if I tried; just as if I would not if I could, and I have often cried for hours to be what I once was. And really I used to wonder how he could go on from day to day, for there were no visible effect for more than three months. Certainly after the first two or three days I began to be much quieter while he was mesmerising me, and at last I lay quite quiet, and felt no wish to move, and the cough left me. He encouraged me, by telling me it might be many days, perhaps many weeks, before sleep came on, but he thought that when it did, my relief would be great. I still had no faith in mesmerism, and often, after he has left me, have I thought to myself what nonsense it was going on with it, and have longed to ask him to give me up. But my maid persuaded me to persevere, as she thought, though it was very slight, she could see an improvement working in me, and that I was calmer, and not so irritable, as when Dr. Elliotson first saw me.

"I was taking violent aperient medicine every night, as I was obliged. He told me I must begin to leave it off by degrees, it was injuring me greatly, and that mesmerism would not take effect as long as I did. So by degrees I left it off, and at the end of two months I began to take only a dessert spoonful of castor oil, and that only once in five days; and at last a teaspoonful was sufficient, and that once in ten days. I now at the end of three months began to feel a change; something different seemed really now to be taking place. I could sit up better on my sofa, and my appearance got better, not so ghastly and worn; and though the improvement was slight, still I felt something which I had never before experienced, and Dr. Elliotson himself began to think I

was really mending. Every day I became quieter; my head was better, and my limbs also. He ordered my maid to mesmerise my limbs at night, to ease the pains; and I obtained relief. My rest at night improved; nightmare, that I used to be horribly subject to, entirely left me; and I felt I was getting on.

"When Dr. Elliotson first attended me, I was continually in bed; but gradually I was able to leave it oftener and longer: every day for a week or fortnight together, and so on, until I seldom kept it for a whole day.—Of course, at times I was not so well; but when I think of the improvement that took place, I am thunderstruck. My depression was not nearly so great, and I could sit in an easy chair for some time, and felt lighter. Formerly I would be for hours totally unable to speak, and so depressed that the tears used to roll down my cheeks from the state of exhaustion and suffering that was upon me; and no one knows how utterly wretched I have been. All this had left me; and when mesmerism had been tried for four or five months, I began to feel a different creature. The spring too was fast approaching, and Dr. Elliotson allowed me to go out for a drive for half an hour. Though I was carried up and down stairs, the exertion was very great to me, but I persevered by his directions, only being allowed to go out at first once a week, thence twice, and so on to every day. The air indeed was delicious, though my exhaustion was very great; but nevertheless I bore it wonderfully well, and by degrees walked down stairs—a thing I had not done for many months before he first saw me; and after a time I walked up slowly as well as down, and next was able to drive to Kensington Gardens in the morning, and walk for ten minutes, and gradually up to half an hour.

"Mesmerism now began to take great effect, and I began to believe in it most *truly*. A sensation of torpidity came over me, so that I felt I could not move off the sofa, even if any one had attempted to kick the door down in order to get into my room (as my maid always locked the door after Dr. Elliotson left, that no one might disturb me) I used sometimes to remain in this stupified state for two hours, feeling more like a person, I should think, who was *dead drunk*; when the effects went off, I used to get off the sofa, and I shall never forget my face on looking at it; I was so altered, just like a tipsy person. But by remaining quiet for some time, all this went off, and in the after part of the day I felt as if I were quite well; so well and exhilarated I could do anything, and have done too much for my own strength.

Indeed, my sister happening one evening to see me from a window *peeping* up and down my room, could not believe it was I, and looked twice to convince herself: so surprised was she after seeing me like a dead person caring for nought so long, that she could not comprehend it. No one indeed can tell what a truly happy and blessed relief was now upon me. I never felt such an exhilarated feeling as from the effects of mesmerism. I lost all nervous excitement; my whole appearance was improved; I could read now a little and see more people without suffering, and began to feel as if I were getting like my own self. Sleep came gradually upon me, so that often after Dr. Elliotson had left me I have slept unknowingly for more than half an hour, and the *refreshment afterwards was like I know not what*, and did me more good than two hours common sleep. I used to wake up wondering what had happened and where I was, and was not aware my maid had left the room; and yet formerly, not even a person slightly whispering or working with a needle could be allowed in my room, so great was my agony from the noise. In fact mesmerism was working wonders, and I was obliged to ask Dr. Elliotson to *diminish* the time, which he did to twenty minutes, as the effect was so very great that I could not recover for hours from the stupified state. He gradually decreased it to fifteen minutes, and then to ten. Even this now was becoming too overpowering, and he tried five minutes, which was enough; till at last three minutes did; and as he was going to Switzerland in September, he advised me to leave it off, and not be mesmerised unless I felt ill. He had shewn my maid how to do it, and therefore I could always be mesmerised if necessary. I began now to get about like any other being. I never took during the whole nine months any medicine beyond aperients, and those less and less; I took but little nourishment, and only cold water and light puddings, and often not them; so that really I may say mesmerism was my only remedy.

"I can never cease to look back with feelings of gratitude to Dr. Elliotson for his great thought, kindness and patience; and what I feel at my wonderful recovery it is impossible to express; indeed I sometimes fancy I am dreaming now, so strange is it to be well and about. I thought if mesmerism could even quiet my wretched state it would be a blessing, but certainly never expected to be as well as ever, and more active than ever I was; and when I reflect that everything had been tried, and think over all I have gone through, and the heartless speeches that were made concerning my getting

well if I chose to exert myself, whereas I was never one to give way, and was always most active, I am so astonished that I cannot at all comprehend it. I am now quite well, and able to take very long walks, and still drink nothing but water, and take not as much nourishment as many take who do not walk as I do; and when many people who had not seen me for four years meet me, they start back and tell me it must be a resurrection, and that I am a living wonder. Yet, notwithstanding all this, I fear many will not believe mesmerism has cured me, or that there is anything in it. I only wish they could feel the effects I have felt from it, when gradually it worked upon my system, at first so uncomfortably, and then so soothingly. I cannot bear to hear any one for a moment laugh at it, for to it alone, I must maintain, do I owe my recovery. As I said, Dr. Elliotson's great attention and kindness will ever be remembered by me with feelings of the greatest gratitude; and much do I regret I did not try mesmerism long before, for I would all along have given worlds to have recovered, so unlike my former self was I when in this wretched state of suffering."

The painful excitement which the patient in the preceding account describes as the result of my first mesmerising her was possibly only an hysterical emotion at the novelty of the measure and of myself, who had never seen her before. I have known occurrences of this kind in other instances of the first mesmerisation. I recollect that when Dr. Roots and myself allowed Mr. Chenevix in 1828, to make trials of mesmerism on some of our patients in St. Thomas's Hospital, a female, under the care of Dr. Roots for violent hysterical fits, had a sharp one almost as soon as the manipulations were begun the first and only time, Dr. Roots not allowing her or others to be mesmerised again, and pronouncing mesmerism to be injurious, and since then, I understand, not entertaining a more favorable opinion of it. An epileptic young man from Welchpool had a violent epileptic fit when I first saw him and mesmerised him: but he was mesmerised regularly from that day and never had another,—becoming perfectly cured, and his case, with all its interesting mesmeric phenomena, is detailed in the first volume of *The Zoist*. Various catchings, pains, and other annoyances, even fits, when the patient is subject to them, may occur from mesmerism at first, and recur at every mesmerisation for some time; but I have always found these inconveniences gradually and com-

pletely disappear if mesmerism was persevered with.\* Still I cannot assert that these are not results of mesmeric influence independent of emotion.

For mesmerism is a much more remarkable power than many suppose. The mesmerism of one person will affect a certain individual differently from the mesmerism of another; and this even in regard to local effects,—when employed but locally; and where imagination cannot be conceived to have any influence. A variety of persons will, for instance, induce a variety of sensations in a mesmerised knee or arm. Some are much more affected by one mesmeriser than by another. Some derive no benefit from one mesmeriser, and great benefit from another. Also changes occur. I have a patient whom I send to sleep with one pass, or indeed by merely holding my hand for a second before her face, and whom I benefit exceedingly. But such is her susceptibility, that if another, not to say makes a pass before her, but stands or sits near her in her mesmeric state, unless that person is already in the mesmeric state, she is rendered very ill and exhausted. The same occurs in her natural state if any one but myself for a moment attempts to mesmerise her. Formerly a single pass from myself, even when she was in her natural state made her very ill. I had long attended her, and long did not propose mesmerism to her. But the attempt by myself or a young lady who knew her well made her ill for many days; whereas her sister, who was not like us in good health, sent her asleep for many hours twice a day with the greatest benefit. At length her sister did her no good; and my mesmerism was, and now is, not only borne, but productive of the very highest benefit. A mesmeriser therefore need not feel hurt because his mesmerism disagrees with a particular individual. The very person who agrees with his patient may disagree with another. It is wrong to urge perseverance with himself when he does not suit a patient. By making the attempt but slightly, however, and by behaving in the very kindest manner, his mesmerism may at last be borne; and it may be objectionable to make the attempt slightly at distant intervals. It is probable, nay almost certain, that imagination, without the patient being at all aware of it, may contribute to the degree and character of the effects of different mesmerisers in some cases.†

The ultimate augmentation of the power of mesmerism, even to inconvenience, that occurred in the present case, I have noticed

\* *Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 199.

† *Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 49. 52.

in others. It was remarkable in the young gentleman from Welchpool, permanently cured of epilepsy. Daily mesmerism at length produced head-ache, inability to collect his thoughts, flushing and heat of his face; and it was performed but every other day for a week; then every fourth day; then but once a week; and then omitted for good.\* Mary Ann, spoken of in so many *Zoists*,† has been mesmerised daily for epilepsy above four years. The more she was mesmerised the better she was. Finding her improve very little, I not only allowed her to sleep three or four hours every morning at my house, one pass being sufficient for this, but her father always sent her into mesmeric sleep as soon as she was in bed, and this sleep was allowed to expend itself, as it always did in three or four hours, running into ordinary sleep, the proof of which was her always remembering in the mesmeric state the next day all her thoughts and everything else which had occurred during the first three or four hours of her sleep the previous night, and no more. This additional mesmerisation for some time did her good; and if I deepened her coma by laying my hand upon her forehead, this did her good. But at length the additional quantity and the additional degree did her harm; rendered her faint and feeble for perhaps hours. If, in her mesmeric state, she mesmerises any one, or touches for a minute any one in the mesmeric state, so powerful is the effect, that she always has dropped senseless and exhausted. But now, if even another is mesmerised by passes in the same room where she is in the mesmeric state, she drops senseless and exhausted, and her limbs can no longer be stiffened. There is not a spark of affectation or fancy in her. The effects I know to be genuinely mesmeric. I now no longer attribute to fancy the restlessness and faintness which I have seen some persons exhibit when in a room where others were being mesmerised. In Mary Ann I now refrain from producing deep mesmeric coma, and from having her mesmerised more than once a day; and she is decidedly improving. The ultimate power of mesmerism in the young lady whose case forms the subject of this paper, and its gradually increasing production of unpleasant effects, are very remarkable. Could I have induced absolute coma, possibly she would have experienced none of that miserable confused state. But she never went to sleep while I was with her; and I could not deepen her heaviness, for she was made uncomfortable by longer continuance of the down-

ward passes before her face by which I always mesmerised her, or by placing the points of my fingers upon her closed eyes or my hands upon her forehead; and neither metals, nor a very large magnet, nor crystals exerted any power over her. All this holds good with medicines. Some persons are little or not at all affected by a particular drug; some are exquisitely susceptible of its effects; some are affected agreeably, others disagreeably; and in some a complete change will occur. Persons insusceptible, or almost insusceptible, of the effects of a medicine, may become very susceptible of them; and those with whom a particular medicine always did good, or at least agreed, may ultimately find it not merely useless but positively injurious; and there is no more evidence of imagination in the case of mesmerism than of these medicines. Attention to these points, and the adjustment of the force, is no less indispensable in mesmerism than in the exhibition of medicines. The minutest amount of mesmerism may be requisite in a case which once required all the mesmerism that could be bestowed.

Imagination cannot be alleged as the cause of the cure. The patient had strong sense and strong resolution, and a thorough contempt for affectation, fancies, whims, and the desire of sympathy and notice. It was long before she could be induced to try mesmerism; and, long after she began to try it, she continued to regard it as nonsense. She had no opinion of it till, to her surprise, she found herself improving. Exactly in the same way, Rosina, whose charming case is recorded in the second volume of *The Zoist*, submitted to be mesmerised solely to please her father, and regarded it as nonsense till she actually found her fits were less frequent and her illness less after each fit.\* Yet I

\* "She had continued to come to me in obedience to her father, but as she has since told me, still regarded the affair as a piece of folly, not believing that I ever sent her to sleep, and determined not to sleep. She found, however, that her fits were much less frequent, and that she suffered much less after they were over, and this made her begin to think there was something in it; and no wonder, for she had, independently of the mesmeric process and state, but three in eighteen days, each milder than the preceding, and the last without a struggle. The ignorant argument of mesmeric effects being all the result of imagination was absolutely ridiculous in her case. She both despised mesmerism, and defied it; and her intelligence and resolution are of no ordinary amount. But she could resist no longer, and is now as disgusted with those who talk their childish nonsense against the reality and utility of mesmerism, as she was originally with those who believed in truth. Even a little sister who used to run out of the room when her fit began, remarked the improvement in the violence and number of her fits, and said in a week, 'Mother, what a good thing it is you took Rosina to that new Doctor.' The excitement of an attack by the mesmeric process gradually declined"—Vol. II, p. 190.

\* *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 426.

† Vol. II., pp. 316, 347, 368. Vol. III., pp. 322, 374, 454. Vol. IV. p. 53.



have no doubt that imagination has great influence over mesmeric patients. I feel certain that there is *first* the genuine mesmeric influence transmitted from one person to another, often unconsciously in regard to one or both parties, and even transmissible by the intervention of inanimate substances, and it is perhaps a modification of galvanism, magnetism, and other powers of inanimate matter, which may be fundamentally one and fundamentally the same as that which produces vital phenomena and the mental phenomena of the brain or other mental organs, if others there be. But I am as certain that, *secondly*, imagination, suggestion, emotion, or whatever name we choose to employ, has a frequent share in producing the phenomena; and that, *thirdly*, the mere will of another person very often is able to produce them, though I have never been able to make it even probable in any trials I have made that my will has had any share in producing the phenomena which I have effected by mesmeric means. A very remarkable example of the true mesmeric influence was that of Mr. Henry S. Thompson and a lady, who, being both determined sceptics, resolved to play a trick upon a party. It was arranged that he should make passes and she go to sleep and exhibit phenomena; when to his utter astonishment his passes proved effective, and the lady fell into a true mesmeric coma.\*

The present case affords an additional proof that the common idea of sleep or some other sensible effect being requisite to benefit from mesmerism is unfounded. No sleep nor any sensible effect resulted while yet the cure began and proceeded.†

It exhibits also the necessity for steady and long perseverance in the absence of all prospect of improvement. For three months I was not able to discern any improvement nor any effect. I confess I began to feel a little despair. But I knew how slow are many of nature's results; I knew no reason why I should not succeed; and I went calmly on as I have done in supporting mesmerism against the efforts of nearly all the profession. I have seen some mesmerisers give up a case in a few months, or weeks; or even not persevere if there was no sensible effect of some kind the first or second time of mesmerising. Patients and their friends may be excused such conduct on the score of ignorance; but those who take upon themselves to practise mesmerism should know better.

This case proves the error of a common fancy that mesmerism is the effect of a strong

person upon a weaker; and that the weak are the most susceptible. I have often at once powerfully affected persons of fair strength and health; and very often have persevered a very considerable time day after day without causing any effect with persons of extreme debility, debility being usually attended with irritability which probably resisted the influence.\* While this lady was very weak, I was not aware of any effect; and, as she regained her strength, the power of mesmerism became more and more manifest, and at length became painfully great. So in ordinary medicine, during a severe disease doses are borne and required which disagree as the disease declines, and cannot be borne at all when it ceases. In very low fever and in violent pains, a quantity of wine is taken without inconvenience and with benefit that excites injuriously as the health returns, and we have gradually to lessen the amount.

If this case affords important mesmeric instruction, it furnishes a grave lesson to those medical men who scoff at mesmerism. Here was a fellow-creature of the gentle sex suffering by no fault of her own the severest torments. Several of the most popular practitioners in the highest circles were called in: and no doubt did their best. But to what did their efforts amount? After large expense, and the actual exasperation of all the sufferings by many of their measures, she was in the end just as bad as ever; and I feel convinced that, had nothing been done, she would not have been worse in the long run, and in many respects would have been much better. They practised no better than the humblest general practitioner of the village or the obscure street: no better than any practitioner who lived a thousand years ago. But if they did no better, they did no worse than others would have done. They practised according to the present imperfect state of medical science. Yet I must differ from them in many of their measures. I regret the injunction to excite her and distract her with noise and other harsh measures, while her nerves were all agonizingly sensitive. This practice was the same as ordering a man with an inflamed eye to be exposed to the sun with his eyelids held open, or as pouring brandy into an inflamed stomach. The excessive leeching, the blistering, and strong physic, were all measures which I would not have employed. Neither should I for a moment have hinted to her or any one so unjust an opinion as that she could prevent her sufferings and would get well when she thought proper. Such views appear to me erroneous in these diseases of

\* See Zoist, Vol. I., p. 73, 165, 334. Vol. II., p. 187.  
† Zoist, Vol. I., p. 168; Vol. III., p. 208.

the nervous system. The exquisite sensitiveness of various nerves, and the mental agony in these cases, is just as real as the pain of pleurisy. The various morbid sensations of different nerves in these cases, as well as occasional strange inclinations and thoughts which we witness, are all real.—The inferences of danger which patients in nervous diseases draw from their sufferings are unfounded: but their sufferings are as real as they represent. They may not be sensitive to noise and other things at one moment, and be very sensitive at another, perhaps the next moment: but it is just the same with the states of the nerves that cause the shootings of *tic douloureux* or convulsions. A patient may be free from these one moment and agonized or distorted the next. Nervous patients are too often very cruelly treated. When not very bad they may help themselves by exertion; just as a madman near sanity may by some argument addressed to him shake off his diseased idea: but they can no more by effort cure themselves of their agonies while in full force than the inmates of Bedlam can be cured by reasoning.\*

Some medical men behave unworthily to their patients when no better; stoutly declaring that they are better, and attempting to bully them into a confession that they are better, while the poor creatures feel and know they are no better: and I have witnessed this both when the object was to continue attendance upon a private patient, and in hospital practice from unwillingness to admit the imperfection of their art,—and even when the patients had no nervous affection and were steadily approaching the grave.

What is the grave lesson to medical men in the innumerable cases which they know by woful experience they cannot cure, or in which, though they have hoped to effect a cure, they are baffled?

I have always urged upon the mesmeric world and upon patients that mesmerism should be regarded as a holy thing—a thing involving the most solemn responsibilities of striving with all simplicity and earnestness of purpose to benefit our fellow-creatures, and of regarding ourselves as placed in a sacred relation, demanding perfect integrity and perfect purity of feeling. The person who holds not these convictions, and acts not entirely upon them, is unfit to mesmerise, and should be detested and openly discountenanced by us all: equally with the medical person who forgets his solemn responsibilities in the confidential intercourse

which his profession allows him. But I must urge upon the medical world and all those who may have influence over the treatment of invalids, that they likewise have a solemn responsibility in regard to mesmerism. Here is a *simple and innocent* method, alleged by very numerous persons of respectability to have effected very numerous cures of diseases which had proved too stubborn for all the established methods of medicine and surgery in the hands of the most eminent as well as of merely popular practitioners, and to have procured alleviation and comfort in incurable cases when the established methods had done not even this. Such endless cases are fully detailed with every personal reference which can be desired. No facts in medical records are more satisfactorily presented. The falsehoods of those who have previously attended the patients in vain, the shocking slanders of these men and others leagued with them, are too gross to deceive: and the previous notoriety of the cases, and the living testimony of the patients with the full-blown proofs of cure in their countenances and persons, render impotent every attempt to set aside the facts. Nearly all medical men profess to be Christians: many vent religious sentiments in season and out of season, in their lectures and their publications, are seen regularly at church, place religious books about the rooms into which their patients are shown, and unsparingly pronounce those of their profession, whom from merely some bad feeling they dislike, to be irreligious, infidels, even atheists,\* or something else, the reproach of which they know is calculated to do injury to the best man in the present ignorant and immoral state of society. And yet these virtuous men forget that religion is a farce, if it values people for their mere opinion upon mysteries, supernatural, incomprehensible matters, such opinions not being the result of proof, usually springing from the feelings and external influences, and requiring infinitely more knowledge and hard thought than fall to the lot of one person in ten thousand; if it does not penetrate the whole frame, influence our very smallest actions, and engender perfect good will and commiseration for those whom we think in error and that modesty which renders us aware of our scanty amount of knowledge and our disposition to proud injustice; and if it does not render us anxious to learn all that can be taught us which is calculated to enable us to be more useful to our fellow-creatures. I am compelled, there-

\* My readers will remember the absurdities of Mrs. Chick, who considered that poor Mrs. Dombey had only to "make an effort," and actually perished for want of having made "an effort."

\* Not only were the terms infidel and atheist bestowed upon Newton and Locke, but Christ himself is in the list of Atheists published in the *Dictionnaire des Athées*.

fore, to regard those professing medical Christians who, while gravely praying and singing in the sight of men at church, refuse to examine into the facts of mesmerism, refuse to go and witness them and experiment for themselves, and insanely declare they would not believe the facts if they witnessed them, to be such as Christ were he on earth again would inveigh against with all severity as he did against the hypocrites of old; and to be most immoral and unrighteous, indulging bad passions while calling themselves miserable sinners and bestowing all sorts of fine expressions upon the object of their worship and pretending reverence for his precepts of humility, justice and mercy.

Had the medical attendants of this young lady made themselves acquainted with mesmerism, and not through unfortunate prejudice remained behind this knowledge of the day, they would have recommended mesmerism in her case, and spared her years of suffering from both the disease and the means employed.

By mentioning the name of one medical man, her residence, and a circumstance or two of her family, I have put it in the power of all her friends to recognize the case and given all the proofs of authenticity which the world can desire. But though I have not given her full name, she nobly gave me permission to print it: and I cannot refrain, though without permission, to terminate this account with the note which accompanied the history, and which displays the truthfulness, kindness, modesty and courageous independence, that, when combined, render the female character so beautiful.—*Zoist*.

"Dear Doctor Elliotson:—

"I have sent you my case, which I trust you will be able to make out, and let me know if it is as you wish. I think I have done it as clearly as I can, and all of it is as true as it can be; indeed I have not said half what my sufferings were, but I do think I have said enough. If my name would be of any advantage to you, pray by all means put it in, as I feel I cannot be sufficiently grateful to you for all your kindness, &c., and I think such a recovery as mine deserves being made public, though of course I do not wish to make myself conspicuous.

"Yours sincerely,

"Eaton Square, "E—— B——.

"June 1st, 1847."

**An Instance of Clairvoyance independent of Mesmerism.**

COMMUNICATED BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

FROM my early demonstrations of mesmerism in University College Hospital to the present time, I have never ceased to remind the world that nothing is produced in the mesmeric state that does not occur spontaneously and independently of it. I have been favored with the following account from a friend.

J. ELLIOTSON.

The anecdotes relative to the extraordinary prophetic power possessed by a Brahmin of Bombay are extracted from the "Oriental Memoirs" of James Forbes, Esq., of whom a slight account is prefixed; as a relation so extraordinary requires every proof that the relator is a person on whose veracity we may rely.

The prospective power of the Brahmin is a remarkable contrast to the retrospective displayed by Zechokke. H. S.

James Forbes, Esq., author of "Oriental Memoirs," Member of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and of the Arcadian at Rome, lineally descended from the Earls of Granard, was born in London in May, 1749. He was educated at Hadley by the Rev. David Garron. Before the age of sixteen he obtained an appointment to Bombay. After having filled several important situations in different parts of India, with equal talent, honor, and integrity, he returned to England in 1784. In 1787 he married the daughter of J. Gayland, Esq., by whom he had one daughter, married to the Count de Montalambert, peer of France. He was a man of ardent piety, unbounded charity, and universal philanthropy, and considerable literary attainments. His drawings of the natural productions of the countries he visited, together with the manuscripts, fill a hundred and fifty folio volumes. He died in 1819, aged 70.

*Extract from Forbes's "Oriental Memoirs."*

\* \* \* \* "These persons (sooth-sayers) abound in all parts of India; but there are among the Brahmins a small number, who seem to differ from all the descriptions of people before mentioned; they appear also perfectly distinct from the fortune-telling Brahmins and pretended astrologers, who, like the gipsy tribe in Europe, are well known in India. Those I now speak of seem to be gifted with a talent possessed only by a very few of the quiet, retired, literary Brahmins. To one of these I shall

now confine myself; he was a man well known to many of my contemporaries in India, and I have occasionally met with him at Bombay, Surat, and Cambay, where I believe he chiefly resided.

"I shall relate three anecdotes in confirmation of the penetrating spirit, preternatural gift, or whatever term may be allowed for the talent which this man possessed. I know that the predictions were made long before the events happened and were literally accomplished.

"On my arrival in Bombay in 1766, Mr. Crommelin, the governor of that settlement, was under orders to relinquish his situation at the beginning of the following year, and then return to England. Mr. Spencer, the second in Council, was appointed his successor in the Bombay government, instead of Mr. Hodges, chief of Surat, who considered it as his right. Mr. Hodges had become acquainted with this Brahmin during his minority in the Company's service.

"This extraordinary character was then a young man, little known to the English, but of great celebrity among the Hindoos and every other description of natives in the western part of the peninsula. The Brahmin expressed an affectionate regard towards him, and, as far as the distinction of religion and caste allowed, the friendship became mutual and disinterested. The Brahmin was always justly considered as a very moral and pious character; and Mr. Hodges was equally well disposed; his Hindoo friend encouraged him to proceed in that virtuous path which would lead him to wealth and honor in this world, and finally conduct him to eternal happiness. To enforce these precepts, he assured him he would gradually rise from the station he then held at Cambay to other residences and inferior chiefships in the Company's service; that he would then succeed to the higher appointment of chief at Tellicherry and Surat, and would close his Indian career by being Governor of Bombay. Mr. Hodges, not being enjoined secrecy, spoke of these Brahminical predictions among his associates and friends, from their very first communication, and their author was generally called Mr. Hodges's Brahmin. These predictions for some years made but little impression on his mind. Afterwards as he successively ascended the gradations in the Company's service, he placed more confidence in his Brahmin, especially when he approached near the pinnacle of ambition, and found himself chief of Surat, the next situation in wealth and honor to the government of Bombay.

"When, therefore, Mr. Spencer was appointed Governor of that settlement, and Mr.

Hodges dismissed from the chiefship of Surat and suspended the service, he sent for his Brahmin, who was then at Pulparrá, a sacred village on the banks of the Taptee of which I have already spoken, on a religious visit. Mr. Hodges received him at the chief's garden-house, where he was sitting in the front veranda. He immediately communicated to him the events which had lately taken place to the disappointment of all his hopes and future expectations; and slightly reproached him for a pretended prescience and for having deceived him with false promises. The Brahmin, with an unaltered countenance, as is usual with his tribe on all such occasions, coolly replied, 'You see this veranda, and the apartments to which it leads; Mr. Spencer has reached the portico, but he will not enter the palace; he has set his foot upon the threshold, but he shall not enter into the house. Notwithstanding all appearances to the contrary, you will attain the honors I foretold and fill the high station to which he has been appointed. A dark cloud is before him.'

"This singular prophecy was publicly known at Surat and Bombay; and the truth or falsehood of the Brahmin was the subject of discussion in every company, when an express arrived overland from England to annul Mr. Spencer's appointment, and to invest Mr. Hodges with the government of Bombay. All which accordingly took place. Mr. Spencer embarked for England in the same ship in which I arrived in India in December; and Mr. Crommelin sailed in January, leaving Mr. Hodges in complete possession of the government. It is almost needless to remark the ascendancy of this Brahmin over the mind of Mr. Hodges during the remainder of his life; nor is it to be wondered at, that the new governor undertook no important step without consulting his Brahmin."

The second anecdote relates to the same Brahmin, and was as well known to the inhabitants of Bombay as the former. Mr. Forbes had been on terms of the closest friendship with the parties to whom it relates, from the first day of his landing in India. After stating some circumstances connected with his voyage and the friend to whom he was then introduced and with whom he remained for forty years on the terms of the closest intimacy, he says:—

"The lady sitting at the head of my friend's table when I made my bashful entry, was a widow at the time he married her. Her first husband died when she was very young, leaving two children, a son and a daughter. The latter remained with her mother, the former was sent to England for

education, and at the age of sixteen embarked for Bombay, with the appointment of a writer, some years prior to my arrival there. The ships of that season all reached the island in safety, except the one in which this young gentleman sailed, which at length was deemed a missing vessel, and her safety despaired of. A mother could not so easily give up hope: her usual evening walk was on a sandy beach, forming a bay on the western side of the island, in full view of the ocean. Maternal solicitude frequently cast a longing eye to that quarter where the ships from Europe generally appeared. The shore of that bay was also the place where most of the Hindoos erected the funeral pile and burnt their dead. This ceremony is attended by Brahmins, and Mr. Hodges's Brahmin, then at Bombay, was occasionally among them. Observing the mother's anxiety, he asked her the cause; the lady being a native of India, and well knowing his character, inquired in his own language why a man so extraordinarily gifted, should be ignorant of the cause of her tender solicitude. The Brahmin was affected, and said, "I do know the reason of your sorrow; your son lives: the ship will soon arrive in safety, but you will never more behold him." She immediately mentioned this conversation to her friends. A signal was made not long after for a ship from Europe: on the pilot reaching her, his private signal indicated the missing ship: boats were sent off to bring the passengers on shore. The expected son was not forgotten; his mother's friends went on board, and were informed that he had remained at the Brazils, where the ship having been long detained for repair, the Jesuits converted this promising youth to the Church of Rome. Instead, therefore, of conducting him to his expecting parent, they only delivered her letters, replete with affectionate expostulations and entreaties that she would follow his example, and enter the true church. A mother's disappointment is easier to conceive than describe. Her son continued at Rio de Janeiro, and occasionally wrote to her, until the suppression of the Jesuits in the pontificate of Clement the 14th, on which occasion, with many other members of that society, he was sent from South America to the prisons of Portugal, and no more heard of.

"The unfortunate mother came to England some years afterwards with her husband and only daughter, who was married, and died soon after her arrival. This was a stroke her fond mother was little able to sustain; a bereavement which seemed to admit of no consolation. The downy wings of time, the balmy comforts of religion, aided

by every effort of an affectionate husband, were of no avail in extricating her from a state of apathy and despair.

"Not long after this event, an intimate friend of the family having remitted a considerable sum of money from India by bills on Portugal, went to Lisbon to recover them. Walking near a prison in that city, he was supplicated for charity by a voice from a subterraneous gate, and being addressed in English made it the more impressive. Not content with affording transient relief, he entered into conversation with the prisoner, and found he was the long lost son of his disconsolate mother. The intelligence was immediately conveyed to England, and tenderly communicated to his sorrowing parent, with the addition that her husband had already remitted money to Lisbon, and exerted such means for his deliverance that there could be no doubt of his speedy restoration to her maternal arms. This news shed a momentary gleam of joy on her countenance, but it was soon succeeded by renewed pangs of sorrow, and a continued exclamation of "The Brahmin! the Brahmin!"

"The friend at Lisbon, when all was happily accomplished, lost no time in informing her son that his mother lived, was married to a gentleman of fortune and respectability, who was waiting to welcome him to their parental roof; and their interest and liberality had procured his liberty, which he was the happy instrument of effecting, and was then come to conduct him from a scene of misery to life, and light, and joy! Although the communication was made in the most considerate manner, he scarcely believed the reality of his emancipation from those dreary walls, where he had for years been excluded from the light of the sun and the fresh air: for 'hope deferred maketh the heart sick.' The sudden transition from hopeless despair in the dungeon's gloom, to the sight of the sun, the fanning of the breeze, and the sympathy of friendships, were too much for his emaciated frame; he faintly uttered the effusions of a grateful heart, and expired!

"Thus was the Brahmin's prediction to his mother, uttered full thirty years before, completely fulfilled!

"The last anecdote I shall relate respecting this man is very short. Some months previous to my first leaving India, a gentleman and his wife arrived from England at Bombay. He, having been appointed to a lucrative situation at Surat, proceeded thither at an early opportunity, leaving his wife in a friend's family until he should have procured a house, and made suitable provision for her reception at Surat. They were both young and had an only child. In a few weeks she

followed him to Surat. The evening before she embarked, sitting in a mixed company of gentlemen and ladies, anticipating her approaching happiness, the same Brahmin came into the verandah, with the gentleman of the house, who was high in station at Bombay. He introduced him to the company, and in a sort of jest asked him to tell the destiny of the happy fair one, lately arrived from Europe. To the surprise of the whole company, and particularly so to the object of the inquiry, he gave her a penetrating and compassionate look; and, after a pause, said to the gentleman in the Hindoo language, 'Her cup of felicity is full but evanescent! A bitter potion awaits her, for which she must prepare!' Her husband had written that he should come in a barge to Surat bar, to accompany her on shore. He did not appear, but a friend of mine went on board to announce to her his dangerous illness: he was then in the last paroxysm of a fever, and expired in her arms! I came home a passenger in the same ship with the widow, and another lady who endeavored to alleviate her sorrow by every tender assiduity. The name of a Brahmin was never mentioned at table, nor any thing relating to Hindoo astrology. The anniversary of her husband's death happened during the voyage, and was indeed a day of woe."—*Zost.*

## CURES OF NEURALGIA

Of various parts, After Pains, Abscess, Ophthalmia, acute Rheumatism, Deafness, and an instance of Prevision, being a few Cases selected from Mr. Parker's Mesmeric Experience during the last eighteen months. By Mr. John B. PARKER, Surgeon, Exeter.

### I. Neuralgia of the Face.

MISS ——— had suffered from tic douloureux for six years, during which time she had tried all the well-known remedies without any marked benefit; besides having many of her teeth extracted. On my first visit I found her in the greatest agony; the act of speaking aggravated her suffering so much, that she could with very great difficulty articulate two words in succession, and this occasioned great distortion of countenance. Six days mesmeric treatment quite relieved her from pain. During the past 14 months she has experienced two slight returns of the pain: on each occasion the complaint was removed by one mesmeric sitting. She is now quite well.

### II. Neuralgia.

Mr. Davidge, Milk street, Exeter, had suffered very severely from tic douloureux

for several years. The various remedies recommended for such cases having entirely failed, mesmerism succeeded in relieving him the first application, and in five days he was able to attend to his business as usual.

### III. Neuralgia of the Hip.

Miss ——— having for five months suffered much pain about the hip, so that she could with difficulty and in much pain walk across the room, consulted her ordinary medical attendant who pronounced it a hip complaint. The parents having heard of many of my mesmeric cures, sent for me; when I recommended the mother to mesmerise the daughter. In five days she was quite well and able to walk three miles, and she has remained well to this, now 12 months since.

### IV. Abscess of the Lachrymal Sac.

The sister of this young lady had been suffering from an abscess in the lachrymal sac for 18 months, accompanied with very distressing pains over the orbit and cheek. She had consulted several eminent surgeons in London who advised a pin to be worn in the lachrymal duct. Leeches had been previously applied, and suppuration of the leech bites had invariably followed. Mesmeric treatment was had recourse to, and in three weeks all the distressing symptoms subsided.

### V. Prevision of Cure.

A lady had a large tumour of the left ovary of nine years duration which has been completely removed by the application of leeches to the os uteri. This treatment had been had recourse to by myself with very decided benefit before she had ever been mesmerised; but in her mesmeric sleep-waking her introvision was so correct as to tell me how many applications of leeches would be necessary to remove the whole of the tumour; and her prevision has been most truly verified. The tumour of the side was so large as to cause the trunk to be swerved on one side to such an extent as to produce a very visible distortion of the spine.

### VI. Removal of After Pains.

April 13, 1847, Mrs. C. was delivered of her fifth child, after a natural and short labor, at eight in the morning. The after pains were very violent and I ordered her several doses of morphine and mesmerism. The morphine was taken during the day and through the night. On my visit in the

morning, I found her in great distress—the pains constant and very violent. The mesmerism had been omitted. She was then mesmerised in my presence, and in twenty minutes the pains ceased. I requested the operation to be repeated if the pains returned. On my visit the following morning I found my patient quite delighted with the wonderful effects of mesmerism; there had been no necessity to repeat the operation.

#### VII. Neuralgia of the Heart.

Mrs. ———, æt. 42, subject to violent palpitation of the heart with considerable pain of the organ, occasionally attended with faintness and much pain on the inside of the left arm, much aggravated by going up stairs. The pain was quite subdued by the first application of mesmerism, and in three days she was able to resume the active duties of life.

#### VIII. Ophthalmia.

My own little boy, æt. 6, had a very severe attack of catarrhal ophthalmia, for which I ordered leeches, blisters, aperients, soothing and astringent applications, without the least relief. In fact the pain was becoming more and more severe. He was then mesmerised twice daily, and from the first trial, the pain was much subdued, and in the course of a few days all the symptoms were removed and the eyes resumed their natural lustre. Under ordinary circumstances this would have become strumous ophthalmia—the most troublesome complaint at all our ophthalmic institutions. From what I have witnessed in this case, I am quite satisfied that mesmerism is the true remedy for all scrofulous affections, as it is certainly a transfusion of the nervous energy: and as diseases may be transferred from one individual to another without an act of the will, there is much more reason to believe that health may be transferred with the additional assistance of the will, as is exhibited in my daily experience.\*

#### IX. Deafness.

Ann ———, æt. 23, had been very deaf for 3 years, I could scarcely make her understand a single word. She was mesmerised daily for a month, when her hearing was quite restored, and she now hears conversation in the lowest tone.

#### X. Acute Rheumatism.

Mr. C. for three succeeding years has had a severe attack of rheumatic fever: each at-

tack commencing with more violence than its predecessor. April 16, 1847, he sent for me. He was then suffering very acute pains in the whole system. I had bled him during the former attacks as well as in this. In the preceding attack his wife had some prejudice against mesmerism, and consequently he had very little benefit from it. But on this occasion his wife mesmerised him when he had any acute pain, and immediate relief has invariably followed every mesmeric operation. In the former attacks he had been unable to move till a month or five weeks; in this attack he was convalescent at the end of a fortnight. The result of this case is the perfect confidence of the whole family in the remedial agency of mesmerism.\*

Not a day passes without my being consulted for pains in the face, ear-ache, or rheumatic pains; and in the great majority of these cases, a single mesmeric operation is quite sufficient to remove all the pain. Such a multitude of these cases has now passed under my own observation, that mesmerism is resorted to in Exeter by the industrious classes as a most extraordinary remedial agent.—*Zoist*.

#### Cure of Shortsightedness

And Tic Douloureux, and painless Extractions of Teeth. By Mr. SARGANT, Surgeon, Reigate, Surrey. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

LAST year, Mr. Sargeant, a medical gentleman at Reigate in Surrey, called upon me to enquire whether I thought mesmerism would be of use in a very extraordinary case of some standing in which he had lately been consulted. I replied in the affirmative, and shewed him a case or two and the method of making the passes, since he knew nothing of the subject and had viewed it as Mr. Wakley represented it in the *Lancet*, till of late when the constant abundant accession of indisputable facts compelled him to believe that he had been deceived. In five minutes he was put into the way of mesmerising and demesmerising. He returned home, began mesmerising his patient, produced wonderful benefit and striking phenomena, and the extraordinary case will in due time, I trust, be placed among the cures recorded in *The Zoist*. Like an honest and courageous man, he resolved that his patients in general should benefit by mesmerism whenever it was possible, and openly both avows his convictions and practises the art. The fol-

\* See cures of ophthalmia and of scrofula in Vol. II., p. 239; Vol. III., pp. 519, 34, 396; Vol. IV., pp. 456-6, 461-3.—*Zoist*.

\* See similar cases in Vol. II., pp. 86, 257, 384; Vol. III., p. 326.—*Zoist*.

lowing are a few of his cases illustrative of the benefit of mesmerism.

To me Mr. Sargant's conduct is peculiarly gratifying, from the course taken by an old practitioner in his neighborhood, who ought not to have acted as he has done in reference to the great subject of mesmerism.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

"Reigate, June 4th, 1847.

"My dear Sir.—I herewith send you a few cases, which, should you think them sufficiently calculated to further illustrate that great boon—mesmerism—to suffering humanity, and to open the eyes of those who are so blind that the sun in its meridian is darkness to them, I shall with yourself and others feel repaid if we can only 'convert one sinner from the error of his way.'

"Believe me, my dear Sir, with every feeling of gratitude for your kindness,

"Ever yours faithfully,

"JOSEPH SARGANT."

"Dr. Elliotson."

#### I. *Shortsightedness.*

Rebecca S., æt. 25, a servant for some years in a respectable family, was compelled to leave her situation from shortness of sight, in August, 1846, the time I was attending the family; and I advised mesmerism, to which she very gladly consented, though at the same time I was doubtful whether any benefit would be derived. But to my great astonishment, after mesmerising her eight times, her vision has returned as strong as when she was a child; and she has now been in service for the last three months.

#### II. *Tic Douloureux.*

Sarah B., æt. 22, had suffered from tic douloureux for six months, and had tried all the usual remedies without any benefit. In August, 1846, she came to my house, a perfect stranger, to witness mesmerism, and likewise to consult me as to my opinion of its effects upon her case. My answer was, that we had cases on record which had been, if not cured, very greatly relieved. After witnessing some phenomena, she sat down, and in three minutes was sound asleep. I then locally mesmerised the side of the face, and allowed her to remain for half an hour, and then awoke her. She left my house and walked home, went to bed, and slept from ten o'clock until eight the next morning, without the slightest knowledge of pain, which she had not done for the last six months. Being delighted, she dressed,

and, not giving herself time for breakfast, ran up to my house to be mesmerised, fearing I might have left home. I again mesmerised her for an hour as before, and in the course of the day she had a few twinges, but slight compared to her former attacks. I continued to mesmerise her for a fortnight, when she was obliged to leave the neighborhood, and said should she feel the slightest return she should come down to me. I have heard from her since, and she continues quite free. These cases occurred on the 17th August, 1846.

#### *Painless Extractions of Teeth.*

I. August 27th, Miss B., æt. 16, at a ladies' seminary, was suffering with a severe tooth-ache. I mesmerised her and extracted one of the molares in a very decayed state, without her having the slightest knowledge of the operation; evincing not the minutest feeling of pain, not so much as the distortion or movement of a single muscle.

II. September 19th. At the same place I extracted a decayed molar tooth from Miss C., æt. 11, in the mesmeric state, without the child being at all conscious, she having a great dread of the operation. I had promised, if she would allow me to mesmerise her then, I would instantly awake her, when she should have her tea, and then be mesmerised and the tooth be extracted. But finding, on first mesmerising her, she was so soundly asleep, I embraced the first opportunity and extracted the tooth. On awaking her to enable her to cleanse the mouth, she said, "Oh dear, why you have taken out my tooth, and I never felt you."

III. S. P., æt. 19, came to my house to have her tooth extracted, and said, "You send people to sleep before you take their teeth out; don't you, Sir?" "Yes," I replied, "and I will send you to sleep if you like." She sat down, and in six minutes she was sound asleep. I then desired her to open her mouth, which she did; lanced the gum and extracted the tooth without her moving a muscle, and awoke her to cleanse the mouth. She was quite surprised. Her mother was in the room, and asked her, "Did not you feel Mr. Sargant pull your tooth out?" She replied, "No, mother, I never felt it all."—*Zoist.*



## Cure of Affection of the Heart

By Mr. ADOLPHE KISTE. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

I HAVE received the following letters and documents from Mr. Majendie.

"Hedingham Castle, June 7th, 1847.

"Dear Sir—I send you the case of Eliza Barrett, in which the benefit derived from mesmerism seems to me proved by most direct evidence. It is most improbable that the able physicians and surgeons of three London hospitals should have been mistaken in supposing disease of the heart to exist, if it were not so; and that Mr. Hands, who examined Eliza Barrett before mesmerism was applied,\* should also have been in error. It is most improbable that you, with all your experience in the use of the stethoscope, should, on examination after mesmeric treatment, have failed to detect disease of the heart, if it still remained.

"The so-called reasoning of *post hoc non propter hoc*, is hardly admissible, as it is most improbable, that when, after failure of all other medical appliances, mesmerism was employed and benefit ensued, the cure should be a mere matter of chance. If the whole is to be resolved into the effect of imagination, the sooner doses of imagination are prescribed according to an orthodox formula, the better for suffering humanity.

"Very sincerely yours,

"ASHHURST MAJENDIE.

"Dr. Elliotson."

"In the beginning of February, Mr. Adolphe Kiste, expressed to me the wish to meet with some sick person whom he might endeavor to benefit by mesmerism. I mentioned this to Mr. Decimus Hands, and met at his house Eliza Barrett, a girl of twenty-two, who had just left St. George's Hospital, suffering from disease of the heart, considered incurable.

"I took her to the *studio* of Mr. Kiste, in Great Marlborough street, who speedily put her into the mesmeric state, and sleep-waking soon declared itself.

"She slept that day about five hours, and continued to do so daily for three weeks. Mr. Kiste then desired she should pass twenty-four hours in mesmeric sleep. I accompanied him to the sister's house one morning,

when he put her to sleep; and he went again the next day at the same hour, when he awakened her.

"The benefit which was apparent from the first day of trial, was, from the time of the long sleep, more decided. Dr. Elliotson kindly offered to examine the state of the heart.

"Eliza Barrett walked in the mesmeric state from Marlborough street up Blenheim Steps, got into a cab, and proceeded to Conduit street, where she remained an hour. Dr. Elliotson examined her minutely, and found no trace of disease of the heart. She was taken back without being awakened. She had been in a most deplorable state, unable to maintain herself by needle-work, unequal to service from the pain in the side brought on by exertion, and without resource.

"After about six weeks she appeared to be in good health, and was endeavoring to get a place as housemaid. But an attachment, which had been broken off, as I believe, on account of the desperate state of her health, was renewed.\* She married in the month of May, and Mr. Kiste finds on enquiry that she is perfectly well.

"ASHHURST MAJENDIE."

"To Adolphe Kiste, Esq.,

"37 Maddox street.

"June 26th, 1847.

"Kind Sir.—I return you my sincere thanks for the cure which, under God, I have received at your hands by mesmerism. I can truly say, that for more than one and twenty years of my life I never knew what it was to enjoy health, and when the physicians at three hospitals, and St. James's Dispensary, and many other medical gentlemen had, after using all the means and medicines they prescribed, failed to do anything more than relieve the pain for a time, I came to you in February, 1847, in a very weak state, utterly incapable of earning my own living, then laboring under disease of the heart, and pains in the limbs. The first time I was mesmerised I received benefit from it. When I had been mesmerised six or seven times, five hours a day, I could lie down on my left or right side, not having been able to lie upon either for some time previous, without considerable pain. The violent beating of the heart, and shortness of breath then left me; I had, I believe, been mesmerised two and twenty times,

\* Before any non-medical mesmerist takes a case in hand, he should have it examined by a medical man, and the opinion pronounced upon it should be written down. Lamentable experience makes this necessary. When a fee cannot be given, no medical man who is a mesmerist will refuse this good office.—*Zeist*.

\* The patient at Bideford, cured by Mr. Davey, after being dumb seven years, was, before her illness, engaged to a young man; but the marriage was broken off. Her cure removed all difficulty; the advances were renewed, and through mesmerism she became a happy wife.—See *Zeist*, Vol. IV., p. 451.

when I was quite cured. You mesmerised me five times after that, which made the cure more permanent. I have now enjoyed perfect health for above three months, being well six weeks previous to my getting married, which was on the 9th of May. I have had *much mental anxiety and exertion of body, without the least return of pain or palpitation.* After suffering so much for so many years, I am well able to appreciate the cure which I have received through mesmerism. With many thanks for your kindness towards me, believe me to remain,

"Your very humble servant,

"ELIZA HARRIS.

"No. 4 Duke street, Bloomsbury."

"To Adolphe Kiste, Esq.

"Sir.—From the age of one year to fifteen years I was afflicted with fits, abscesses and tumours. It was at this age I first suffered with palpitation of the heart and rheumatism in my limbs, which caused them to swell at times very much. In February, 1845, being then twenty years of age, I became so bad, and having no home, I went to Middlesex Hospital to try to get in, but could not. I then went to St. Pancras Infirmary. It was here I had the rheumatic fever and began spitting of blood. When I had been here seven weeks, suffering so much from the heart, and a complaint in the throat which they gave me a gargle for, and getting no better, I asked Mr. Cooper to give me an order to go out, which he did. I then went on the following day to St. Thomas's Hospital. Dr. Barker ordered sixteen leeches over my heart the day I went in, and salivated me. I was there six weeks, when Dr. Barker told me he could do more for me. I had no prospect before me but to go into the workhouse when I left there, being incapable of earning my living; I asked Dr. Barker to be so kind as to give me a note, stating that I had been under his care and what was the matter with me. This was on Saturday, the 3d May, 1845. On the following Monday he sent me one from his house by the post to the hospital, stating that I had a disease of the heart and what kind of a one. I then came out of St. Thomas's Hospital, and I obtained a letter for Middlesex Hospital, of Mr. Bell, chemist, Oxford street. Tuesday being Dr. Crawford's taking-in day, I went there and was taken in, had a warm bath and was put to bed. The first medicine I had there stopped the spitting of blood, and when I had been there a week, Dr. Crawford ordered me to have cold shower-baths of a morning, every other day at first, and then every day.

I had blisters applied to my side and to the back of my neck. I had turpentine fomentations applied to the stomach and side, and the medicine I was taking brought me out in boils all over me. They healed up again; I got so well that I was enabled to come out of the hospital, and having no clothes scarcely, and my father being ill in the infirmary, I had no one to assist me, so I took the letter which Dr. Barker gave me with me to the work-house. This was in June, 1845, on a Thursday; on Friday I was called to the board-room of the work-house, Mr. Cooper was there, and Mr. Lee the master of the workhouse; I gave them Dr. Barker's letter and told them what I had come there for, and that a friend had got me a situation; and they gave me some clothes, and I came out and went to place. I kept pretty well for two months, and then I had the attendance of Mr. Parts, of Camden Town. It was from this time I began taking calomel for to ease the pain, and I have taken it all along till I got so bad in November last. Before I left my place, a lady my mistress was acquainted with gave me a letter for the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary. I went there, and saw Dr. Dew. He ordered me to be cupped on the left shoulder and a blister over the heart; he gave me some medicine and ordered me rest. It was not convenient for me to lay up at my situation, and he said he could not get me well without I did, and that I had better go into the hospital where I could have rest. I obtained a letter for Middlesex Hospital, and went there and saw Dr. Crawford again, December 4, 1846. But he told me he could not possibly take me in till the next week, but he put me under Dr. Latham's care. I saw him that day, and he gave me some medicine; and on coming home with it I lost my senses and fell down in Cavendish square. When I came to, a young woman kindly offered to lead me as far as Mr. Sommerfield's, in Marylebone Lane, who sent his servant home with me. I was to go to the hospital on the following Friday, and as I got much worse my mother was obliged to lead me there. While I was waiting to see Dr. Latham I was very bad, and Mr. Corl came and spoke to me, and asked me if I should like to stay then and go to bed. I said I should like to stay, so he ordered one of the nurses to take me up into Queen's Ward. At night I had a warm bath, and I had a blister put on my forehead; when I had been there a week, Dr. Crawford ordered me shower-baths again. I had been here rather better than a fortnight, when Dr. Crawford said he should not keep me there any longer, as he thought I should be better out and have the

air. I was no better when I left, for I no sooner got down stairs and went in the board-room to return thanks, than I became very ill again. Dr. Crawford, when he discharged me, the Tuesday before Christmas, made me out-patient under Dr. Latham's care. I was seized with a trembling fit whilst waiting to see him. When I reached home I had a worse attack, and I was a week getting worse, when I went on the following Tuesday down to St. George's Hospital to see if I could get a letter for to go in. I was unsuccessful, and I was forced to give a little girl something to lead me from Hyde Park corner to Bond street. She then left me, and when I had got half way up Bond Street I fell down in a fit. When I came to a young man kindly offered from amidst the crowd that was round me to see me home, which he did. On the next day I went again to St. George's Hospital. I obtained a letter at No. 7, Belgrave Square, and I went and saw Dr. Jones, who immediately made me an in-patient. I had two of these trembling attacks, and I was taken up stairs to Holland's Ward and put to bed. Dr. Jones, when he saw me again, sounded me a good deal, and I think he then called my complaint an affection of the heart and chest. Afterwards I was sounded by several other gentlemen and Mr. Fuller. They changed my medicine a good many times and fomented the stomach. Dr. Jones ordered me vapour baths for the pains in the limbs, and would not suffer me to get up at all. Mr. Fuller sounded me again for about three quarters of an hour. This was when he found out what the complaint was. Afterwards Dr. Jones sounded me again: it was then he said Mr. Fuller was right in saying it was a chronic disease of the heart. The doctors all complained of a confused murmur or grating sound in the heart, which they heard when they sounded me. I used to feel sometimes as though the heart would beat out of the side, and then all at once it would stop and seem to take my breath with it. To lay upon my left or right side I could not, and if I laid upon my back the palpitation was so great that it shook me in my bed. I remained in St. George's Hospital four weeks, when Mr. Hamilton, the house-surgeon, discharged me. When Dr. Jones heard of it, he said he was very glad of it, as he was afraid that he should have me get worse again if I stopped there, but he would make me an out-patient if I liked. But I told him it was no use of his doing that, as I could not walk so far. It was previous to this that he said he could not take out my heart and put me in a new one. They gave me steel medicine to take, and the last medicine I took from there was

ether and hartshorn. Dr. Jones ordered a bella-donna plaster over the heart and a strengthening plaster round the loins. I sent for my sister to fetch me home. When I had been home three days, I saw Mr. Hands in the prayer meeting along with Mr. Miller. On the following Friday, Mr. Hands sent to my sister's for me to come down to his house. I went there, and he then spoke to me about mesmerism, and said he thought he knew of a gentleman that would undertake to cure me if I would make up my mind to be done, and mother would give her consent to my being mesmerised, which she did on the Saturday previous to my coming to you on the Monday. I blessed God that ever I was mesmerised, for I have been only one and twenty times in that state, and am now quite cured: for which I return you my sincere thanks.

"I remain, Sir,

Your very humble servant,

"March 28th.

"ELIZA BARRETT."

There can be no question that the view taken of the disease by the various physicians was correct; and their treatment of it sound and excellent. It was evidently a case of acute rheumatic pericarditis, or inflammation of the heart's covering, that became chronic, and probably induced after a time a degree of hypertrophy or overgrowth off the heart; and there was the addition of hysteria. She was treated by all with the greatest kindness as well as skill. But in the end her disease proved to have been ameliorated only for a time. Ordinary medical means could have effected no more in any hands; and these circumstances render the value of mesmerism the more striking.\*

I have seen her this week, and she is perfectly free from all disease of the heart and from hysteria, though the troubles and bodily exertion she has gone through lately have been great. She tells me that mesmerism appears to have changed her constitution altogether, for, from having all her life been ill in some way or other, she is now perfectly hearty.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

June 28th.

\* The utility of mesmerism in affections of the heart is exhibited in Vol. I. p. 465.

**Case of Neuralgia of the Stomach**

With Excessive Debility, &c. &c. By Mr. SYMES, Surgeon, 77 Grosvenor street.

Miss ———, having been in rather delicate health for a twelvemonth previously, was suddenly seized on the 28th of January, 1843, with violent cramp-like pains of the stomach (gastrodynia) accompanied by distressing vomiting, faintness, great flatulent distension of the abdomen with borborygmi, &c., coldness of the surface and particularly of the lower extremities, extreme pallor of the countenance, &c. Hot brandy and water was administered, and hot fomentations applied to the stomach, but it was above an hour before she experienced any relief, she remained very weak and languid for some days and then had a recurrence of the pains, &c., more severe even than at first; after which the attacks returned more and more frequently and with increased intensity, lasting three or four, or even five hours at a time, and producing sometimes absolute fainting from excessive pain and exhaustion. She could not take the smallest particle of solid food, not a single crumb of sopped bread, without inducing one of these distressing paroxysms, which would likewise come on from any little mental agitation, and frequently, too, without any apparent cause. Her menstruation had always been regular and with scarcely any pain, but now her periods were attended with intense pain of the loins and anterior region of the uterus; and this again would invariably bring on a recurrence of the stomach affection. After attending to the alvine secretions, I ordered hydrocyanic acid three times a day, beginning with a small dose and gradually increasing it to as large a dose as my patient could bear, combining it in turn with lime water, sesquicarbonate of soda, and with stramonium, and afterwards also with creosote and trisnitrate of bismuth, &c. Full doses of cajeput oil were administered during the paroxysms, &c., &c., but with only temporary relief. In short I tried every medicine I could think of as applicable to the case, and at length nothing seemed to give the slightest alleviation of pain except strong stimulants combined with large and repeated doses of opium (muriate of morphine was the form employed) but this was followed with such distressing head-ache, sickness, and thirst, that nothing short of the intense agony she suffered would have justified its exhibition.

Nine weeks had now elapsed since the commencement of these attacks. I have said that my patient was unable to take a particle of solid food, she obtained scarcely

any sleep at night, and became weaker and weaker, until one day she nearly fainted in trying to walk between two assistants from her bed to a sofa in the same room; and, at length, she could scarcely bear to be lifted from one to the other to have her bed made without faintness or pain. I saw with alarm that no permanent benefit was derived from any of the powerful remedies I had prescribed, and I felt that my patient must shortly die unless some better means could be devised. I had long felt desirous of attempting mesmerism in this case, but knowing that the lady's friends were strongly prejudiced against it, I had not suggested its adoption, especially as at that time I had never seen a similar case so treated; but, in despair of affording relief by any other means, I now ventured to propose it to the mother as a last resource; her reply was, "Well, Mr. Symes, you know our confidence in you, and whatever you say is necessary shall be done." I had on that occasion only a very few minutes to spare, but, determined to lose no time, I at once commenced mesmerising my patient, and was pleased at seeing an evident effect produced at the end of ten minutes, although she did not go into the mesmeric sleep: this was on the 5th of April. On making my visit on the following day, I was highly gratified at learning that she had passed a better night than for two months previously.

6th. Mesmerised her 25 minutes; she became drowsy and could with difficulty keep her eyes open but did not sleep, yet she felt so much better afterwards that I determined upon discontinuing all medicine. She passed, in her own words, "a most excellent night."

7th. Mesmerised 25 minutes. The eyes closed spontaneously, but without loss of consciousness; she felt however so much better and stronger afterwards that she rose from the sofa of her own accord and walked across the room without assistance. I now gave her the yolk of an egg, raw, which she bolted and retained on her stomach without any ill effect; slept well all night.

8th. The eyes closed in spite of herself a few minutes after I commenced the passes, and she was unable to open them until I ceased; still she did not lose consciousness, but was enabled to take her yolk of egg and walk about the room for ten minutes afterwards. She passed another good night, and the next morning attempted to walk about the room before being mesmerised, but was soon obliged to sit down from faintness. After being mesmerised half an hour, with no other effect than on the previous day.

she could walk about with impunity for a quarter of an hour.

10th. My patient had no recurrence of her attacks since the first day she was mesmerised; but this being her monthly period, I had looked forward to it with anxiety. She complained of lassitude and severe pain in the back, but had entirely lost this pain after half an hour's mesmerising; ate two yolks of eggs, and walked about a quarter of an hour without fatigue.

11. The eyes closed as usual, and she experienced the usual benefit.

12. Was discomposed by letters of a distressing kind, and felt ill in consequence. Mesmerised half an hour, but with little effect, being much disturbed during the time; the eyes did not close, she was unable to walk afterwards, and passed a restless night.

13th. After half an hour's mesmerism I ventured to allow her a little chicken, which caused no inconvenience; she slept naturally for an hour afterwards and awoke refreshed.

14th. The eyes closed as usual, she made a hearty meal, and felt so well that I gave her permission to take an egg for her breakfast the next morning.

16th. A violent attack of pain, vomiting, &c., &c., was brought on by eating the egg before being mesmerised, and left the usual faintness and prostration of strength; but after being mesmerised three quarters of an hour, felt so much better that she walked about and ate a hearty dinner without inconvenience.

16th and 17th. Felt as usual, weak and listless in the mornings, but strong and well after the mesmerism.

18th. Went into the mesmeric sleep for the first time to-day, after which she made a hearty dinner, and read aloud great part of the evening without fatigue: a fortnight before she could not even endure a little conversation.

Still mesmerised half an hour daily, the eyes always closing in spite of any efforts to keep them open, but without her losing consciousness; felt so well on the 20th that she was induced to dine before being mesmerised; about twenty minutes after it, however, the old symptoms of pain, vomiting, flatulence, &c., returned, but ceased entirely after the mesmerism, and she was able to read aloud and walk about all the evening—formerly after such an attack she was always obliged to go to bed.

Went on well till the 29th, when some cause of excitement occurred in the evening, which kept her awake great part of the night; and a renewal of the annoyance on the following morning induced a painful at-

tack, which was relieved as usual by mesmerism.

May 6th. Monthly period. Had considerable pain in the back, &c., which was entirely removed by mesmerism, and the sleep was induced for 27 minutes.

Had an attack on the 13th from the sudden communication of a family affliction; and on the 18th the same symptoms were just commencing when I paid my daily visit. Mesmerised her three quarters of an hour, prevented the attack from coming on, and left her quite comfortable. With these exceptions she went on favorably, the eyes always closing during mesmerism, but the sleep only coming on occasionally till the 23d, when she went out for a drive for the first time since the commencement of her illness; it was a cold easterly wind, and an hour after her return she was seized with head-ache, sore throat, cough, and loss of voice. After half an hour's mesmerising the head-ache was entirely relieved and the throat better; the voice did not return for several hours, and the cough continued troublesome for a day or two.

The mesmerism was continued till the 27th, on which day it was omitted; she passed a restless night in consequence, and awoke next morning with one of her attacks, which continued till she was mesmerised; she had also a little pain on the 31st, from not being mesmerised until several hours after her dinner.

June 4th. The periodic pain in her back, &c., removed by mesmerism. Continued for the next nine days, always feeling weak and low of a morning, but strong and in good spirits after the mesmerism, which was omitted on the 13th, and at bed-time she began to feel unwell. Took some beef tea, but rejected it almost immediately, and was restless and uneasy all night. A rather severe attack came on her after her breakfast the next morning, leaving her weak and ill till the afternoon, when the mesmerism restored her, and she enjoyed a hearty meal.

30th. Went out to spend the day, and probably from over fatigue had a slight attack in the evening, which was soon subdued by mesmerism. This was continued daily until the 9th of June, when she was persuaded to go for change of air to stay at the country-house of a friend, and not having been mesmerised had an attack in the evening, which lasted two hours.

10th. Lay down to sleep for an hour in the middle of the day, and was most careful of her diet, in the hope of avoiding an attack; but it again came on in the evening even more severely than on the previous day.

11th. Weak and ill, lay on the sofa great part of the day, and went to bed very early, but a most severe attack ensued. Her friends there, who had hitherto laughed at mesmerism, now confessed that she, at least, could not do without it, and agreed to drive her up to town to see me on the following morning.

12th. She arrived at my house with her mother, so weak that she could with difficulty step out of the carriage into my dining room. I immediately mesmerised her for an hour, after which she expressed herself as feeling quite well; had a ravenous appetite, returned to the country and ate everything before her. The young lady of the house, who had often seen her friend mesmerised by me, and acknowledged the invariable improvement in her appearance after it, yet retained an unaccountable antipathy against the remedy, and could never be persuaded than an hour's natural sleep in the course of the day would not have an equally beneficial effect; but seeing that no precautions would keep away the attack, save "the one thing needful," her natural goodness of heart and sympathy for her friend's sufferings overcame her prejudices at this time, and she consented herself to apply the remedy. Accordingly from the 13th to the 20th this lady mesmerised my patient for half an hour daily, and there was no return of the pain till the 21st, when a slight attack was induced by a fright, which the lady soon relieved by the usual means; yet

"—— true 'tis strange,  
And passing strange 'tis true,"

her antipathy against this, to her friend, invaluable blessing, is at this day greater than ever; nay, I am told that she has so far imbibed the prejudices of a religious friend as to ascribe the mesmeric influence to satanic agency. Other friends of my patient do not scruple to declare this same conviction: one lady in particular, a near family connexion, who has likewise witnessed the remarkable sanative effects of mesmerism in this case, and the failure of all other means, for she was staying in the house at the time is most bitter against it and all who practise it; yet she too, under the influence of her better feelings, has more than once, on witnessing Miss ——'s agonizing pain, offered to mesmerise her. Others again rudely laugh at her for adopting such absurdity. Miss —— herself knew nothing about the science until applied to her own case, and her mother had a feeling against it; but both have, from the commencement, been deeply sensible of, and grateful for the benefit conferred, and can afford to laugh at the

folly of those who have tried to set them against it.

22nd. My patient returned to town, and I recommenced mesmerising her daily till the 5th of August, when she went into the country, feeling quite well, and continued so until the 13th, on which day she awoke with great pain in her back from the usual periodical cause. A severe attack came on after her breakfast and lasted two hours. She could not move off the sofa all day, and took nothing but a little chicken broth, yet another paroxysm came on in the evening, leaving her very weak and ill for days after; but she had not another attack till the 31st, when the carriage was nearly upset, and she had to alight and walk a considerable distance: this induced a slight paroxysm, and on the 5th of the following September an alarm of fire produced another, when the young lady who had formerly mesmerised her being fortunately present, kindly exerted her satanic (?) influence, sent her to sleep in spite of the pain within 5 minutes, and in twenty minutes she awoke feeling quite well. One must presume therefore that Satan is tired of walking up and down like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, and prefers assuming the form of a ministering angel assuaging the ills of mortality. Probably these ladies are not aware that the same absurd outcry has been raised against every new remedy—vaccination, bark, &c., &c., but how they can reconcile it to their consciences, under any circumstances to employ such a remedy, if they really do in their hearts ascribe it to such a source, "I must leave it to themselves to explain; "I only know that" "I" "would not have done so."

Most of the dates in the foregoing narrative are taken from a journal kept by my patient for a sister who is abroad, but from some cause not sent to her, and put into my hands to "make what use I pleased of." Miss —— escaped any attack for some months after this, and in her letter to her sister, dated April, 1844, says she is quite well. She was indeed restored to comparative health, and I am as fully convinced as she is herself that her life was in imminent danger when I commenced the process, and has been saved by it. The tendency, however, to a recurrence of the attacks has continued: and although sometimes she has been free from them for many months together, at others she has had them severely, requiring to be mesmerised very frequently afterwards: thus in November, and again in December, 1844, and several following months, she had some severe attacks.

It is worthy of note that Miss ——'s

mother, an elderly gentlewoman, has been subject to attacks of gastrodynia for three or four years previous to Miss ——'s illness, during the whole of which time *they had slept together*, and as I afterwards learnt they had been in the habit of sleeping with a hand locked in each other's hand; and during the whole of her daughter's illness, up to this time, Mrs. R. had not suffered a single attack. I did not for a long time connect these circumstances with Miss ——'s illness farther than as giving the hereditary predisposition, and when I did so, I had some difficulty in inducing the ladies to occupy separate sleeping rooms, but I did at last insist upon it, and since then Mrs. —— has had occasional returns of gastrodynia, although not so severe or so frequent as formerly. I have now little doubt that the younger lady's illness was originally induced by sleeping in this way with her mother, and that the obstinate predisposition to a recurrence of the attacks, and the debility and lassitude so constantly experienced of a morning, are ascribable to the same cause. In truth, the beneficial action of my half hour's active mesmerism in the day was constantly being counteracted by the injurious tendency of the mother's eight or ten hour's passive mesmerism, so to speak, at night.

After a time, Miss —— went habitually into the sleep-waking state when mesmerised, and although on this occasion I have dwelt principally upon the curative powers of the agency, different highly interesting phenomena have been induced. I had often great difficulty in awaking her, sometimes for hours together; her eyes, too, would remain closed for some time after coming out of the mesmeric state, in spite of her own and my efforts to open them. On one occasion, I tried in vain to get her eyes to open for about an hour after the waking, but not being able to accomplish it, I was obliged to leave her, telling her that without doubt they would presently open; but if not, that she might be pretty sure they would open when she awoke in the morning after a night's rest. To my surprise, however, I found them still closed on paying my visit the next day, though they opened readily after I had again mesmerised her. But at length she was enabled in the sleep-waking state, to instruct me how to avoid this difficulty in future. She would also tell me how long it was necessary for her to sleep, and if I awakened her before that time, she would be sure to have an attack. If I could make her promise to awaken spontaneously at the end of a given time, as in twenty-three, or twenty-five, or thirty minutes for example, she would do so precisely at that

time. Then she acquired the power of foreseeing to an hour in how many days or weeks the next attack would ensue if not mesmerised; and if I delayed ever so little after the time specified, I was sure to find her ill. But as I have always taken care to mesmerise her if possible before an expected attack, she has rarely had any, and when they have come on, I could always clearly trace them to some imprudence on her part, or to mental agitation, or other exciting cause; and they are always readily subdued by mesmerism. At one time, however, when she required to be mesmerised daily, as was always the case after an attack, I was undergoing excessive fatigue and anxiety, and I found myself hardly able to affect her; so my friend, Dr. Elliotson, kindly undertook to mesmerise her for me for a week or two. He could produce the effect without difficulty, and when I recommenced, under more favorable circumstances, I was equally successful.

In November, 1845, too, she unfortunately had an attack when I was out of town, and not liking to trouble Dr. Elliotson, she sent for a neighboring practitioner, who dosed her with powerful medicines for some twenty hours, without the slightest relief; and when I arrived, I found her completely exhausted with pain and fatigue.—Although I could usually induce the sleep in a few passes—I have effected it by merely gazing at her for a second or two at the distance of her drawing-room—it was now above an hour before I could succeed, and in her sleep she told me it would be necessary for her to be mesmerised daily for two months, unless she could be kept in the mesmeric state six or eight hours a day for a fortnight; but as she would neither allow any one, except the mesmeriser, and those who had mesmerised her, to approach her, nor suffer her mesmeriser to leave her in the mesmeric state for more than a few minutes at a time, I could effect this only by begging her to come on a visit to my house for a fortnight, during which time I regularly mesmerised her night and morning for an hour or two, and my wife for some hours in the middle of the day; and thus we got over the effects of this violent and protracted attack.

I can excite in her some six or eight of the phrenological organs, as well as the phenomena of traction, and alternate rigidity and relaxation of the limbs, &c.; and by making her promise, during the sleep-waking, to do any thing in her natural state, she will certainly do it, although having no recollection of anything that has occurred in the mesmeric state.

I must not omit to mention, that my patient

is now happily married, and that I saw her a few days since in excellent health and spirits.

The case is highly interesting and instructive in many points of view. It has served thoroughly to convince me of what I had before but a vague notion of, viz., the great impropriety of allowing young persons to sleep with the aged, especially when the latter are afflicted with any disease, even though not of a kind usually considered contagious. Had I immediately on the commencement of the malady insisted on my patient sleeping alone, and could I have devoted several hours in the day to mesmerising her, or had she been blest with friends ready to do so, and thus to co-operate with me in my anxious and strenuous efforts to effect a cure, instead of thwarting me and annoying her, by decrying and persuading her to discontinue the only remedy she found of use, I feel assured her recovery would have been as rapid as it was protracted. It shows, too, how long it is sometimes necessary to persevere with this remedy, just as with any other therapeutic agent, in order to effect one's object; and it may serve as a lesson to all of us never to presume to give an opinion upon subjects we are unacquainted with.

This lady has herself effected several striking cures by means of mesmerism. For example: on visiting the cottage of a poor woman in the country, she one day saw a child which had been suffering for weeks from ophthalmia. She succeeded in mesmerising the child. On the following day the eye was much better; she repeated the operation, and in two days all traces of the inflammation had disappeared.

On calling at a friend's house in town, she found the infant screaming in the nurse's arms, and was told that nothing would pacify it; it had been crying all night, and the mother, quite worn out, had just gone to lie down. Without saying anything she took the child in her lap, mesmerised it for twenty minutes, and restored it asleep to the nurse. The mother had no idea how the change had been effected, but wrote to her the next day to say how much better the child had been ever since her visit; it had slept so much, and had scarcely disturbed her all the night afterwards.

Only a few weeks ago, spending the evening at my house, I saw her remove tooth-ache in a few minutes, from a gentleman who had just before been pacing the room in agony with it.

Before concluding I may perhaps be permitted to mention, although it has nothing to do with the above case, how highly I was

gratified a few days since at witnessing, by the kindness of Mr. Chandler, the extremely interesting phenomena induced in his blind patient, Captain Peach. The gentleman who usually mesmerises Captain P. readily sent him into the sleep-waking state by a few passes, and then exhibited the phenomena of traction, community of taste, &c. While the Captain was still asleep, a lady, who is also in the habit of mesmerizing him, entered the room; she is said to have greater mesmeric power over the Captain than any one else, and it was agreed that after he was awakened she should send him to sleep again without his knowing she was present. She did speak however after he was awakened, but we went on talking to the Captain, and at a given signal she, sitting a distance of at least six feet, commenced making passes and pointing towards him. His eyes presently began to quiver and fill with tears, as they always do when mesmerised, and his head dropped several times upon his chest, he each time rousing himself with a start, moving uneasily about upon his seat, and apologizing to us for "not being able to keep awake." The lady at length advanced towards him, and in a few moments sent him quite off, and then readily produced the different phenomena before alluded to. It is indeed a most satisfactory case, and, the usual effects occurring as they do in a gentleman who has been blind so many years and when he could not know what was being done, it shows that at least these phenomena may be induced quite independently of "the imagination."

#### Cure of Tic Douloureux

In two sittings. By Mr. HAYMAN, LACE MANICURER, Sidmouth.\*

ABOUT the middle of April, 1845, Anne Llewellyn came on business to my shop, and having heard I mesmerised, expressed a wish to be present at one of the sittings, though much prejudiced against it from believing it to be satanic. I consented, and took her into the parlor where there was a youth in the mesmeric sleep. I began by exciting the phrenological organs, and having touched Veneration and Language, he slowly rose from his chair, clasped his hands, fell upon his knees, and poured forth a most beautiful and affecting prayer; upon which Anne declared herself satisfied, as the devil

\* A subscriber to the Mesmeric Infirmary, and acquainted with Mr. D. Hands.—*Zois.*



would never teach a man to pray. She then determined to come to me the next day and try what could be done for her. She was then about 30 years of age and had been suffering from tic douloureux ever since a severe cold in 1840. It was accompanied by tightness, weakness and oppression of the chest, and frequent spasms. The nose was much affected, the tip scarlet, burning hot in acute pain. She had consulted several of the medical profession in Exeter and Exmouth, who coincided in declaring her to be in a highly nervous state and that medicine could not avail, though nature might.

Anne came according to her promise, and her sister and brother-in-law came with her. I proposed to commence by mesmerising the man, and therefore began by making the passes over him at the same time that I forcibly willed that she should feel the effect instead of him. After some minutes, I turned to her and said, I feared I could not give her much time, but found she was already partially collapsed. I took her thumbs and in about four minutes she fell back unconscious, but seemed to labor under great oppression and difficulty of breathing; a few downward passes quickly relieved her. As I made them down the limbs and off from the feet, her countenance brightened, testifying the comfort and pleasure she felt. I then spoke to her and so did her sister and brother, but she did not answer. I then excited language and called her by name, "Anne." "Yes." "Are you comfortable?" "Yes; but in great pain." "In what part?" She placed her hands on her chest without speaking. "Do you think I can do you good?" "Yes, I know you can." "Tell me then what I am to do, how to proceed." She put both hands on her forehead, drew them gently down, pressing on the chest with her thumbs; then down to the hips, pressing there; continuing to the feet: then throwing off the influence, she repeated this process, and I closely observed her directions. As my finger accidentally touched the tip of her nose, her features sparkled with pleasure. I again excited language, and the remainder of the sitting was filled up by proving my power over her. I made her sing, and excited Terror and Ideality, when I was obliged to quiet her: I then demesmerised her. She walked twelve miles the following day, and two months afterwards called on me to show me how well she was. I then tried to mesmerise her by pointing, and she exclaimed I was throwing fire at her, and then at the beautiful colors. She saw each of my fingers as I pointed forming a different color, with sparks of fire; she then said she saw the interior of her

mesmeriser, and described the different arteries; the circulation of the blood, the appearance of the brain, &c., &c., calling the lungs the lights. One of my hands felt cold, the other hot. All of a sudden she became very sad, and cried and sobbed out, "Oh my husband, my husband." On being questioned, she said she saw him, that he had been bled in consequence of an accident, being crushed between a waggon and a wall; that the hurt was in the shoulder, and he had been in bed four days and was wishing for her, but did not like to send for her; he had no bones broken.

I cautioned the sister not to say anything of this to her when awake, but to go home as soon as they could. On their arrival the whole account was found perfectly correct.

I have seen her repeatedly since, and she remains in good health and has not had any return of her complaint since April, 1845.—  
Zoist. June, 1847.

#### Dr. Esdaille's First Monthly Report

Of the Calcutta Mesmeric Hospital and his Experiments with Ether used with the same view as Mesmerism in Surgical Operations. Painless Operations at Madras, by Dr. Johnstone, upon a European lady, in the Mesmeric state. Appointment of a Mesmeric Committee at Madras by the Government.—Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

THE following is the printed report which I have received:—

"The Government having been pleased to sanction the publication of monthly reports from my hospital, as the best means of diffusing correct knowledge among the people on a subject of practical importance to them, I shall in future furnish a monthly summary of the cases treated in the hospital, that the public may know what is doing, and that my statements may be corroborated or contradicted on the spot, while the facts are fresh in the memory of those who witnessed them. It is impossible for me to give the names of the persons who witnessed what I relate, very few of them being known to me, but I hope that they will freely, and without scruple, correct any statement of mine that does not in all essentials correspond with their own observations.

"I regret that there is no novelty in the nature of the cases treated last month, and for this reason: in consequence of the success I have met with, in removing the tumors so common in this country, while the patients were in the mesmeric trance, persons

afflicted with this disease resort to me from great distances, and a notion has gone abroad among the people, that my 'charm' is only applicable to such cases; add to this, that the natives are totally ignorant of the efficacy of mesmerism in medical diseases, and it will explain the sameness of my proceedings since coming to Calcutta. The field will gradually open, however, and in proportion as the public become familiar with the subject, and its extensive application to medical as well as the generality of surgical diseases, I shall be able to communicate more varied and interesting matter.

"In recording last month's proceedings, I shall put the reader in possession of the facts, and then make some comments on them.

"November 9th, Doahmony, a peasant woman, aged 50, has come from Benares to get an immense scirrhus tumor of the right breast removed. It commenced two years ago, and is moveable, hard, and elastic; there is no enlargement of the axillary glands, and she does not look in very bad health.

"On the 7th day of mesmerising, she was entranced, her arms were partially cataleptic, and she was insensible to pricking. Next day, she was again put to sleep, and two-thirds of the tumor removed without her moving or appearing to feel it. She then awoke up, and appeared to recover her senses before the operation was finished. No manual restraint was used during the excision of the mass, but she became very violent immediately after, and required to be forcibly held down while the arteries were being tied.

"The breast weighed 7 pounds.

"December 29th. Discharged at her own request, her friends having come for her from Benares. The sore is nearly healed.

"Ramlochan Doss, a weaver, residing in Serampore, aged 60. He has got one of the usual tumors of 30 years' growth. Having been entranced for five days previously, he was operated on the 1st December.

"I intended to save all the parts, if found to be worth keeping, but the organ on the left side was diseased, and was therefore sacrificed; the other being healthy, was kept.

"There was not the slightest shrinking from the knife, or the smallest movement in the trunk and lower extremities. An indistinct moaning was heard when the cord was cut across, but the man lay perfectly passive and motionless during and after the tying of the arteries. His pulse being nearly insensible from the great loss of blood, I thought it expedient to awake him to administer a cordial.

"He was with considerable difficulty aroused, and was very unwilling to be disturbed, but at last opened his eyes, and instantly asked, 'Why so many people were standing around him?'

"He said that he felt very well in every respect; that there was a slight heat in the seat of his complaint; this caused him to carry his hand to the part, and he then became aware that the tumor was gone.

"It weighed 40 lbs.

"December 31st. He has had no difficulty in recovering, and the wound is nearly healed.

"December 6th. Katick Doss, a washerman; has been afflicted with a tumor for 16 years. He was entranced on the fifth day of mesmerising, and was operated on two days after. Having injured my hand, I was unable to operate, and Mr. R O'Shaughnessy obligingly took my place. The dissection was tedious and severe, but he lay motionless, till about the middle of the operation; he then began to awake, and was completely aroused before it was over. He complained for a good while after, that *he could not see*—this fact will be met with again soon. The organs were all saved. Weight of tumor, 30 lbs.

"December 31st. This man has been in a very dangerous state, sloughing, diarrhoea, and fever having ensued, but I think that he is now likely to recover.

"I hope that the reader will give the following strange eventful history his best attention, as in it nature herself will be seen partially raising the veil, and admitting us to a glimpse of the mysteries of the inner life of man.

"November 21st. Sheik Manick, a husbandman, has come from Burwan to have an enormous tumor removed. He is subject to fever twice a month, but his constitution appears to be wonderfully little impaired. We succeeded in entrancing him on the third day, and for four days after, but fever, followed by diarrhoea then attacked him, and the process was discontinued. On the 4th December, he was again mesmerised, but it was found that we had to commence *de novo*, his system having thrown off the mesmeric influence in the interval. I determined on account of the periodic derangements of his system, to operate on the first occasion that offered.

"December 12th. His arms, which were crossed upon his breast, were rigidly fixed in that attitude, and could not be extended; pricking him all over did not disturb him. I therefore proceeded to operate.

"I ought to have noted, that after testing

him, I awoke him daily, to ascertain if he had been conscious of any annoyance in his sleep.

'The tumor was so immense, that no attempt could be made to save the deep-seated organs; I therefore performed the operation in the manner described by Dr Stewart, in a similar case on which I operated in the Native hospital.

"About the middle of the operation, he cried out, and showed other signs of suffering; but his exclamations were unintelligible or had no reference to his present position. Soon after all was over, he vomited a full meal, and his pulse became imperceptible. he answered questions in a wild distracted manner, and all we could make out was that *he could not see*, although his eyes were wide open. When I tried to give him a cordial, his teeth were found to be firmly clenched, and considerable rigidity still remained in the arms. He continued to complain in a distracted unintelligible manner for an hour, that I remained with him.

"The tumor weighed 100 lbs.

"He was operated on at 12 o'clock p.m., and I returned to see him at 4 o'clock. He was sleeping soundly, and I awoke him; he said that he was in full possession of all his senses, that he saw very well, and he spoke loudly and earnestly as usual. He had slept soundly since 10 o'clock (his mesmerising time,) he said, and was awoke this moment by me. I asked him when he last saw me; and he replied, '*yesterday when you awoke me as usual.*' He had no recollection of having been disturbed, and said that he certainly had not vomited to day. Being farther pressed to remember if nothing had annoyed him when asleep, he said, 'Ah! Yes, now I recollect being awoke for a moment by the ants biting me, but went to sleep again till you awoke me this moment.'

"He now missed the weight of his burden, and sat up to look for it; on seeing the altered state of things, he expressed the greatest surprise, and said, 'Why did you not tell me you were going to do it to day?'

"I desired him to go over the events of the day up to the present moment, and he did this with the greatest minuteness till 10 o'clock, his mesmerising time, but after that he only recollected being annoyed by the ants for a moment, and slept well till awoke by me just now. He repeated, that he had not seen me since yesterday. I found him entranced when I came to the hospital to-day, and therefore was not among his waking recollections—his existence from 10 till 1 o'clock was a complete blank. He seems to me to have awoke up from the most intense degree of the mesmeric trance into

somnambulism, (of which the patient has no recollection in his waking state) in which there was a disturbance of the instinctive powers of life caused by the sudden and profuse loss of blood, but the life of volition continued torpid and enchained till the moment that I awoke him.

"December 13th. The wound was stitched to-day, and there was no want of meaning in his exclamations; they were most emphatic and appropriate, and he abused everybody in the most expressive Bengalee terms.

"December 28th. He has had no difficulty in recovering, and has been walking about for several days.

"December 4th. Sheik Nemon, a Khitmutgar; aged 30; he has got a small tumor. He was entranced on the 8th day, and the operation was performed two days after.

"The operation was very difficult and severe, from the almost cartilaginous hardness of the skin, and its adhering closely to the subjacent organs.

"Towards the end of the operation, he exhibited the usual signs of pain, and asked for water and a punkah, but on coming thoroughly to his senses, in about ten minutes after, he asked when and by whom it was done? The organs all saved.

"December 31st. Is doing well.

"From the foregoing, it will be seen that two, if not three, patients awoke into consciousness before the end of the operation. The extraordinary case of Sheik Manick I consider to have been as satisfactory as if he had acted the part of a corpse throughout. For when the convulsive movements often seen leave no memory of them in the brain, and no trace of suffering in any part of the system is visible when the person comes to his senses, such cases are surely for all practical purposes *painless operations*. If a man has had no apprehension of an operation, and knows not that it has been performed when he awakes, what is this to be called if not a *painless operation*?

"As a practical man, I am quite satisfied if my patients assure me that they felt no pain, especially when every look, word, and action correspond with their statements. To the careful observer, those vague convulsive movements are as specific and characteristic of an extraordinary state of the system, as a corpse-like endurance of the most cruel torture. When the trance is only disturbed, but not broken, the motions often seen are as objectless as those of a galvanized corpse, or the fluttering of the fowl after its head has been cut off; the spinal nerves seem

only to be irritated, without involving the brain, or voluntary part of the nervous system, *and as long as there is no volition, there is no sensation, as will be shortly seen.* There is no attempt to withdraw the part from under the knife, the patients never try to remove it with their hands, and it is quite evident that they have no idea of the source of their discomfort. If the *will* had prompted the movements, some memory of them would remain, *but there is usually none.* I think it very probable that this muscular irritability might be generally extinguished altogether by prolonged treatment, but it is not worth the trouble, for the system suffers as little as when there is not a quiver of the flesh. This I have been long aware of, and acted up to, but I now come to an equally practical fact, in working out which I have usefully spent a considerable part of last month.

"It is no small triumph of science, and no trifling boon to humanity, to render men insensible even to *half* the horrors of terrible operations, but having been long accustomed to save my patients *all* knowledge of the injuries inflicted upon them, I was dissatisfied with the half-successes that occurred last month, and suspected that there was some disturbing influence at work which had been overlooked, or that I was ignorant of, as many imperfect operations happened in one month as in the last year and a half, and I resolved not to move a foot farther till the disturbing cause was detected.

"In the hot weather, the patients are all but naked and in this state are entranced, and operated on. But last month, they were mesmerised under two blankets and a sheet, with their faces only exposed. Having been tested in the mesmerising room, they were carried on their beds into the operating room, through which a current of the cold north wind blew, and that every movement of the body might be seen, they were exposed stark naked to the spectators. I remarked on several occasions, that a deep inspiration, and other involuntary movements immediately followed this exposure of the body to the cold air, although the persons had a moment before been quite indifferent to the loudest noises, pricking and pinching. The demesmerising influence of cold, when artificially applied, was familiar to me, as will be seen in my *Mesmerism in India*, and it will appear surprising that I should not have been more on my guard against it as a *natural agent*. I can only plead in extenuation, the stupifying influence of a successful routine; but failures, when improved, are often more instructive than complete success.

"Mothoor, a bearer from Cuttack, has

got one of the usual tumors. He was sent to me by his brother, Bogobun Doss, from whom I removed a 50 pound tumor in the trance, a year ago, at Hooghly; he also sent Morali Doss, on whom I operated in the Native Hospital, in presence of the mesmeric committee.

"December 27th. Mothoor being entranced to-day, was subjected to the action of the electro-magnetic machine with the central magnet in it, his hands and body trembled in synchrony with the shocks, but his countenance remained perfectly placid; in about ten minutes, his head turned convulsively to one side, but his features were not disturbed, and he slept on.

"When handling his arms, I saw a boil on one of them, and made a crucial incision into it, without his shrinking in the least. He was then carried under the blankets, and his bed placed in the north door of the hospital; the blankets and sheet were suddenly pulled off, and he was exposed naked to the cold air; in about two minutes he shivered all over, his breathing became disturbed, and he clutched right and left for the bed-clothes, but still sleeping; they were supplied to him, and he huddled himself up under them with the greatest satisfaction, still sleeping however. The bed was then carried back to the mesmerising room, and he was artificially awoke. He had slept profoundly without a dream, he said, and awoke this moment from feeling cold. When shown the wound in his arm, he was greatly surprised, and showed the usual signs of pain, saying, that he had struck the boil against something in his sleep, he supposed, and it had burst.

"December 28th. The magnetic machine awoke him to-day on the second application.

"December 29th. He was more deeply affected to-day, and lay unmoved for several minutes in the open air: he then shuddered all over, his breathing became irregular, and he immediately awoke into the full possession of his senses; the cold had awoke him, he said.

"Dec. 30th. I covered the wound in his arm with nitric acid to-day; the flesh became instantly white, but he did not shrink in the least; a pin was also thrust through the flesh between his fingers, and left there, of course without his minding it. He was then exposed in the northern door-way, and awoke in less than a minute after being exposed to the air. The cold awoke him, he said.

"The pin sticking between his fingers greatly perplexed him, and he drew it out, expressing as much pain as most people would do on having it stuck into them. The whitened sore on his arm was now shown

to him, and he immediately exhibited signs of the greatest pain, as people always do when any raw surface comes in contact with the mineral acids; the pain was so severe that I ordered his arm to be fomented with warm water.

"A stove was ordered for the operation room.

"Dec. 31st. The room being agreeably heated to-day, I proceeded to operate on him in the presence of numerous spectators, exposing only the diseased surface. The operation was very severe and tedious from the hardness of the diseased mass and its adhering closely to the delicate organs below, which were all saved. No sound escaped the man, there was not the slightest shrinking under the knife, and the only movements observed, I was told, were some slight contractions of the toes and forehead.

"He awoke in about ten minutes after all the arteries were tied, as if from a natural sleep, stretched himself well, complained that he felt his thighs and arms stiff, and seeing his *bhai*, Bogobun Doss, he asked him to shampoo them for him. He had slept very well, he said, nothing had disturbed him, and he felt no pain in the part. The wound was at last shewn to him, and he expressed the greatest horror and alarm, exclaiming that it pained him excessively. After a while, I asked him if Bogobun Doss had told him the truth. 'On! yes,' he answered, 'it was done exactly as he described.'

"Dr. Dickens from Cuttack, visited the hospital a few days after, and was recognized by Mothoor.

"After telling him all about it, he confidentially asked, 'But how did the Dr. Saheb do it?'

"Chand Khan, aged 35, has got the same complaint. We commenced mesmerising him on the 8th December, and on the 25th he was insensible to pricking, &c.

"December 27th. He was carried on his bed, under the blankets, to the north door. I called upon him loudly by name, and plucked a pinch of hair out of his moustache without disturbing him. I then drew off the bed-clothes; in less than a minute he shivered, sighed deeply, like a person after a shower bath, and eagerly sought for the bedding, straining his eyelids to open them, but in vain. He soon after awoke from the cold, he said.

"December 28th. Again exposed to the cold air, after inflicting different tests of sensibility. After shivering, and seeking for covering, as yesterday, but finding none, he rolled himself up like a hedge-hog, and tried

to make the most of it, but soon awoke, and from the cold, he said.

"December 30th. Acted precisely the same as yesterday.

"December 31st. I stuck a pin into his nose, and left it there a moment, before drawing off the bedding. He awoke exactly as he had done on former days, and from the same cause, cold.

"When getting up he rubbed his nose against the bed, and the pin fell out to his great surprise.

"After he got up, I gently pricked his nose with the pin which he resented as much as any one in the company would have done.

"Next day he was operated on without knowing anything about it, and although the operation was not the formidable one expected, it was very curious, and will be related next month.

"From the foregoing facts, I consider myself entitled to say, that it has been demonstrated, that patients in the mesmeric trance may be insensible to,

"The loudest noises.

"Painful pricking and pinching.

"The cutting of inflamed parts.

"The application of nitric acid to raw surfaces.

"The racking of the electro-magnetic machine.

"The most painful surgical operation, and yet be aroused into full consciousness by the exposure of their naked bodies, for a few minutes, to the cold air."

"All the persons admitted last month for operation have been disposed of, except one.

"JAMES ESDAILE, M. D.

"Calcutta, 1st January, 1847."

In the *Delhi Gazette Overland Summary*, for March 22, are the following paragraphs:—

"His Highness the Nawab Nazeem of *Moorshedabad*, accompanied by Mr. Torrens, Mr. Cooper, and the native gentlemen in his suite, visited the Mesmeric Hospital on the 10th. Dr. Esdaile offered to operate on a patient who had been brought to the proper state, and the Nawab declined to be present, but munificently presented the doctor with 500 reals, to be applied to the purposes of the hospital.

"The *Englishman* of Feb. 23, is glad to hear that steps have been taken by several of his wealthy fellow-townsmen to give greater publicity to Dr. Esdaile's proceedings

"\* This will be provided against in the London Mesmeric Hospital, no doubt.—J. E."

and successful cures among their countrymen than it would seem they have hitherto attained."

The following paragraph will amuse those who have watched the conduct of the adversaries of mesmerism in Europe.

"The *Hurkaru* states that Government, on the representation of the medical visitors to the Mesmeric Hospital, has withdrawn the permission which it had previously given for the publication of the reports of this institution. The public will remember that Dr. Esdaile has from the very first been anxious that the utmost publicity should be given to the whole of his proceedings, and he has always courted the free expression of opinion regarding the nature of his operations, confident that the result of discussion would be the triumph of the cause he has espoused. One monthly report as our readers know was published, and it is impossible not to see the advantages which arose from its publication. Dr. Esdaile challenged any proof of the inaccuracy of his statements, and this challenge brought forth two antagonists in the columns of a contemporary. One of these writers boldly asserted that Dr. Esdaile had given an incorrect account of the month's proceedings; that he had spoken of operations as painless, which were in reality not so. *Dr. Esdaile came forward, and vindicated himself most satisfactorily from this charge, and in the end Medicus retired in discomfiture.*

It delights me to inform the European public that Dr. Esdaile has shown no unworthy feeling respecting the inhalation of sulphuric ether, but has had recourse to it and begun most dispassionately to investigate its properties. Without any communication with the mesmerists of Great Britain, he has displayed the same pleasure at the discovery of its powers, and not for an instant thought of attempting to depreciate them. The conduct of the mesmeric world in this particular has, I fear, disappointed their adversaries. Truth and universal benefit were the sole objects of us here and in India. Dr. Esdaile printed the following letter in the *Englishman* of March 3rd.

"THE INSENSIBILITY PROCURED BY MEANS OF ETHER.

"To the Editor of the *Englishman*."

"Sir,—The moment that the rumors of the possibility of procuring insensibility to pain by the inhalation of the vapour of ether assumed a positive shape, I made experiments with it in my hospital.

"On the 23rd Feb, I caused two men to inhale the fumes of nitric ether, (not having sulphuric ether at hand) but only with the effect of making them disagreeably drunk for several hours without any remarkable modification of sensibility. On the 28th February, having procured sulphuric ether, I put two ounces of it into a pint of water, and desired two of the hospital coolies, then in perfect health, to inhale the fumes from the common inhaler used in hospitals, in the way that they smoke a hookah. It was very disagreeable, and I had some difficulty in getting the first man to persevere for five minutes. He then became very drunk, and begged to be allowed to go and lie down, which he was permitted to do. Up to this point he was sensible to pricking, and named the place injured.

"Another man was made to smoke the hookah for seven minutes, with considerable intermissions, and when he ceased to be able to smoke, I held the bottle of ether under his nose. At the end of seven minutes, he begged to be taken to bed, and had to be supported to it. Immediately after lying down, he became insensible to all questions, and to pricking all over his body. This I was quite prepared for, knowing that we can be made sooner insensible by the lungs than the stomach often, by means of carbonic acid gas, opium, bhang, suamoni, &c. But judge my surprise when I found him to be as completely cataleptic as any person I ever saw in the mesmeric trance! Not only so, but he exhibited the same spasmodic closure of the eyelids, and trembling of the eyelashes, and his insensibility from head to foot was perfect. On forcing open his eyes, the white of his eye could only be seen, and in no respect could I have distinguished his condition from that of a person in the most intense degree of the mesmeric coma.

"The pulse when he desired to lie down was small and frequent, but when the coma was established, it became full and regular, like a healthy or mesmeric sleeper's, and his breathing was quite tranquil without snoring. He was reduced to this state at ten minutes after 1 o'clock p. m. I pricked him most pertinaciously all over, at intervals, for ten minutes more, and tried to awake him by rubbing his eyes, blowing in them, squirting water into them, and sprinkling his face and chest with cold water, but all to no purpose.

"His teeth were firmly clenched, and he could not be made to swallow a drop of fluid. The catalepsy continued intense all the time. At twenty-five minutes past 1 o'clock, I desisted, and desiring him not to be disturbed, I drove to the medical college, a mile off, in

the hope of finding Dr. Mouat, as I wished to have a competent witness of the man's condition. I found Dr. Mouat at home, and he obligingly accompanied me to the hospital. We reached it at twenty minutes to 2 o'clock, and found the catalepsy to be going off, and the man beginning to move. The spasm of the eyelids continued, and the eye was still turned upwards.

"When urged by questions, he answered precisely like a person in the mesmeric somnambulism, but when pricked all over, he said that he felt nothing. We now attempted to rouse him farther, by causing him to inhale the fumes of carbonate and liquor of ammonia, which seemed to disturb him a little, but he said that he smelt nothing, and it did not materially dissipate the torpor of the senses. Shortly, after, he began to call upon me by name, begging me to open his eyes, which I tried to comply with, but could not succeed in effecting, and still the insensibility of the skin continued. At ten minutes to 2 o'clock, he was carried out of doors, and seated on the steps leading to the hospital. A bluestie was placed several steps above him, and was ordered to empty his mussek slowly on his head and spine. He was asked if he felt anything? He replied, 'nothing.' In about six minutes, he opened his eyes for the first time, but it was evident that their sense was shut, and he said *I was a Baboo*. The cold affusion was continued, and at 2 o'clock he suddenly jumped up; an instantaneous expression of intelligence spread over his countenance, and he showed that he was restored to full consciousness, by getting into a passion with the bluestie for wetting him. This was the first moment of consciousness since he had gone to sleep, and as is often seen in mesmeric sleepers, he had no recollection of the means used to put him to sleep. In a word, the state of com and somnambulism was perfectly identical with the parallel mesmeric conditions."

"How long this man's state of unconsciousness would have continued, if not so violently dissipated, I cannot pretend to say, but I am certain that he might have been flayed alive for fifty minutes without feeling it, for he was quite insensible to external impressions in his half-roused state of somnambulism, or sleep-waking rather, and in this also he resembled a mesmeric sleeper.

"4th March. I have done the same thing again to-day, and contrasted the catalepsy and somnambulism caused by ether, with the same states induced by mesmerism, and they could not be distinguished. The former was only more intense, and would yield to nothing but long continued affusion of cold water. But I suppose the etherial effects were real, and the mesmeric ones delusion or humbug.—J. E."

"The other man did not attract so much of my attention at first, as he continued sensible to pricking for some time after lying down, and he only seemed very drunk. But when I returned with Dr. Mouat he was fast asleep, and it took much cuffing and pulling to get him to answer. There was no catalepsy in his arms, but on Dr. Mouat lifting his legs, he found them to be in a singularly rigid state—another mesmeric symptom.

"We continued to rouse him with ammonia, &c., and got him to speak plainly, and then he complained of not being able to open his eyes; the eyelids seemed glued together, and while begging to have his eyes opened, he was insensible to my pricking him assiduously. It was now upwards of an hour since he had smoked the ether, and we could not yet dissipate its effects. He also therefore was subjected to the cold affusion for several minutes, of whose action he was quite unconscious, although he kept rubbing his eyes all the time to open them, and occasionally answered questions correctly. He at last suddenly awoke into the full possession of his senses, and recollected nothing that had happened since he went to sleep.

"Here then is a most exact imitation of the physical phenomena witnessed in the mesmeric trance, and the sleep-waking state caused by ether beautifully illustrates the distinction between *sensation* and *consciousness* so often seen in the mesmeric state, and which I have insisted upon so frequently, with little effect I fear. These men were capable of talking and acting, and made the reasonable request to have their eyes opened, although they were unconscious of a deluge of water that was falling on their naked bodies from a height.

"The opponents of mesmerism will probably have little difficulty in believing all this, because it was done '*secundum artem*,' with an orthodoxly nauseous drug.

"I am satisfied that the man least affected might have been operated on to any extent a most, not without *appearing* to feel it, but without being conscious of it afterwards, just as is seen every day in mesmeric operations.

"Here then is a prodigious engine for good or evil, according as it is used or abused, for if the advantages are most striking, the evils are not less so in the above examples.

"*E celo descendit Ether*?" is no doubt gracefully ejaculated by the medical opponents of mesmerism, to whose aid it has come at their greatest need; but if their love and gratitude are not tempered with discretion, they may find their new ally a dangerous enemy.

"The speedy induction of insensibility of long duration is most satisfactory and complete, and I apprehend no danger from prolonged etherial coma, for the pulse was natural during its greatest intensity, and the breathing not disturbed, nor did the men suffer afterwards from what they had undergone.

"I believe that any amount of mere pain might have been inflicted without the knowledge of the patient, but I should be extremely reluctant to perform a capital operation entailing a great loss of blood on a person in this state, till I had obtained more command over my too active ally.

"In many of my late operations in the mesmeric trance, for example, the pulse became insensible from the sudden and profuse hemorrhage, and it became necessary to revive the sinking system by restoratives. The patients were therefore awoken for this purpose, and this can be generally very easily done. But in the coma from ether it has been seen there was no power of swallowing left in one of the men, and that stimuli applied to the skin and nose had no decided effect on the torpor; in fact there was no means of getting at the vital powers. Now, if this man's life had depended on our being soon able to restore him to consciousness and sensibility to ordinary stimuli, I think it very probable, and Dr. Mout agreed with me, that he would have died before this could have been done.

"But let us hope that we shall soon be able to regulate as easily as we can set in action, this potent influence. In the man most intensely affected, one-terth of the power exerted would probably have sufficed for all practical purposes, and more control might therefore have been preserved over the vital functions. By cautious and graduated doses, and with a knowledge of the best antidotes, I think it extremely probable that this power will soon become a safe means of procuring insensibility for the most formidable surgical operations even.

"All mesmerists, who are lovers of truth, and not mere traders, will rejoice at having been the means of bringing to light one truth more, especially as it will free them from the drudgery required to induce mesmeric insensibility to pain, which, although the most striking, is the least important branch of the subject.

"It is only of late years that the application of mesmerism to surgery has been prominently brought forward, principally with the view of affording an ocular demonstration of the existence and power of this great vital agent.

"But the great field for a display of its

usefulness is in the treatment of medical diseases, where it often comes to our aid when all other resources have failed, and it would take a library to contain the volumes of well-attested cures performed through its agency on the Continent, before it was ever heard of for surgical purposes.

"Not the least curious part of this history is to observe how the passions and prejudices of men have been made not only to establish known truths, but to discover new ones.

"I am, your obedient Servant,

"JAMES ESDALE

"Calcutta, 1st March, 1847."

I have received a pamphlet published at Madras in February, entitled, Notes of a Case of painless Surgical Operation performed while the patient was under the influence of Mesmeric Agency, by J. W. T. Johnstone, M.D. Edin. Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons: late President of the Royal Medical Society; Member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Edinburgh, &c. &c. Madras: 1847." I make the following extracts:—

"I am at liberty," says Dr. Johnstone, "to mention that my patient in this case is the lady of a clergyman of the church of England. Both she and her husband have perused the following notes in MS, and are 'most thankful to be able to bear testimony to their entire correctness.'

"Mrs. ———, European, of a well regulated mind—a well formed figure—and a system remarkably free from any kind of nervousness. Has been six years and a half in India. General health good. Before leaving England she observed a tumor about the size of a field bean over the posterior aspect of the right shoulder. It continued to enlarge gradually but slowly, and at the end of five years had attained the size of a small egg. For the last two years, it has increased much more rapidly, and now constitutes a tumor of an adipose nature, lobulated, mobile and kidney shaped. It measures about six inches in length, four inches in breadth, and two and a half inches in thickness at its thickest part, and stretches from the spinous process of the seventh cervical vertebra, downwards and outwards towards the acromion and outer third of the spine of the scapula, along the upper border of the trapezius muscle. A sensation of weight, and slight numbness of the right arm are the chief inconveniences complained of.

"I recommended extirpation on first seeing it, twelve months ago, but the patient would



not consent. Leeches, discutient ointments, &c., were had recourse to with no good effect. Seeing it thus increase, she at last made up her mind to have it removed. I recommended her to try the effect of mesmerism prior to the operation, to which she at first objected, as neither she nor her friends believed in its efficacy. She at length consented, and agreed that I should try it on the morning previous to the operation."

Mesmerism was begun on the second of January, and continued daily till the 9th. The events of this day are thus described.

*"8th Mesmeric Sitting, January 9th.*

"I commenced at a quarter past 7 a. m., and continued for three hours. She felt no drowsiness, sickness nor languor after yesterday's proceedings, and again expressed herself as feeling better than she did previous to the commencement of the mesmeric sittings. Position, manipulations, &c., the same as yesterday. Pulse 80—skin cool—respiration natural—ears filled with cotton. She soon fell into a deep sleep. Muscular twitches were well marked. At 10 o'clock, a. m., the mesmeric trance seemed perfect, the cataleptic condition was well developed, and sensibility to pinching, pricking, loud noises, strong light and ammonia, entirely absent. Soon after 10 a. m., Superintending Surgeon, D. S. Young, who had been requested to be present at the operation, arrived. Professor Key had also been invited and promised to be present, but was unavoidably detained at his class room. The state of the patient's perfect insensibility, and the cataleptic condition were shown to S. S. Young's entire satisfaction. At a quarter past 10, I turned her full upon her face, and made other necessary arrangements, to proceed with the operation. Pulse 80—skin cool—respiration slow and tranquil.

"*Operation*—I made two elliptical incisions over the tumor, commencing about half an inch superior and external to the spinous process of the seventh cervical vertebra, and meeting about half an inch below the centre of the outer half of the spine of the scapula. The length of each incision was about 7 inches 3 lines, consequently the extent of skin divided by the knife equalled 14 1-2 inches. I carefully dissected out the tumor, which was slightly adherent, from below upwards. This occupied about three minutes and a half. Three arteries of no great size required ligatures. The bleeding was profuse at first, and seemed not to differ in this respect from an ordinary operation. The edges of the wound were brought

together by four stitches, the intermediate distances being supported by straps of adhesive plaister. S. S. Young kindly assisted me in the operation, and Mr. Smith assiduously kept up the mesmeric passes along the patient's back all the time. The patient's husband, my apothecary, and a nurse were present.

"The time of the operation, from the commencement of the first incision to the application of the last roll of bandage, amounted to eighteen minutes, during all of which time not the slightest trace of suffering or sensibility on the part of the patient could be detected. The pulse continued unchanged at 80, as S. S. Young satisfied himself, and the respiration perfectly tranquil; no moan or sigh escaped her lips—no alteration in the expression of her features was observed—no instinctive motion or wincing was detected; once only she moved her head instinctively to free her mouth and nostrils from a little pool of blood which had collected about them, and was interfering with her breathing. She was easily demesmerised, before which care was taken to conceal as much as possible all traces of the operation. When she awoke the following dialogue ensued.

"Q. Well, have you been asleep to-day?

"A. Yes, I think I have.

"Q. Do you think you slept more soundly to-day than yesterday?

"A. I cannot say.

"Q. Did you feel me turn you or do anything to you to-day.

"A. No, but I feel something smarting, and my face and eyes feel stiff.

"She now put her left hand up to her shoulder, as she had often done before, and perceived that the tumor had been removed, of which she confessed perfect unconsciousness. The stiffness of the eyelids and face was caused by dried blood. Pulse 80—respiration natural.

"The tumor weighed 3 lbs. 1 dr. two hours after removal. The wound was dressed with cold dressings, and a most entirely healed up by the first intention. She suffered no pain in the wound, continued perfectly free from fever, and was confined to her room only one day. The pulse continued at 80 for two or three days after the operation, when it rose to 90, apparently its natural standard. She speedily recovered, and now feels better than she did previous to the commencement of the mesmeric sittings."

Thus Mr. Young, the Superintending Surgeon of the Presidency, requested to be present (observe the word *requested*) and

assisted in the operation : and another medical man, " Dr. Smith assiduously kept up the passes along the patient's back at the time "

This was not all. The Superintending Surgeon forwarded Dr. Johnstone's account of the operation to the Medical Board, hoping " that the present most triumphal illustration of the practice may be brought to the notice of Government."

" In making this request," continues Mr Young, " I am impelled by a sense of justice to call the Board's especial attention to the merits of Dr. Johnstone, a private practitioner at this Presidency, by whose well-directed and unwearied skill and perseverance, the great work has been achieved for the first time in the case of an *European patient in British India*, or indeed in the eastern world. Nor can I close this letter without reminding the Board that Assistant Surgeon G. Smith, who so admirably seconded Dr. Johnstone's efforts throughout, is the same promising young medical officer who, when the cholera broke out in H. M.'s 57th Foot at Arcot, elicited my warmest commendations by his humane exertions, as well as a highly favored report on his professional acquirements.

" I have the honour, &c.

" (Signed) D. S. YOUNG,

" *Superintending Surgeon.*

" Supt. Surgeon's Office, }  
Madras, 19th January, 1847. }

Did the Medical Board of Madras spurn the account in imitation of the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London? No. They ordered the following reply :—

" Sir,—I am directed by the Medical Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, No. 44, with its inclosure, a Report of a Case of 'Painless Surgical Operation,' under mesmeric influence, performed by Dr. Johnstone of Madras.

" 2. The Board request you will be so good as to communicate their thanks to Dr. Johnstone for his very interesting communication, which they consider highly creditable to that gentleman's professional talents and zeal in the pursuit of science, and it has afforded them much pleasure to bring his report to the notice of the Madras Government.

" I have the honor, &c., &c.

" (Signed) GEO. PEARSE, M D.

" *Secretary Medical Board.*"

The matter was next laid before the Government in Council by the Medical Board, and this was the acknowledgment :—

" The Most Noble the Governor in Council has perused with much interest the communication above recorded, and will be glad to receive the further reports on the same subject promised by the Medical Board.

" 2. His Lordship in Council fully concurs with the Medical Board in considering the exertions of Dr. Johnstone in the case now brought to notice, highly creditable to that gentleman's professional talents and assiduity in the cause of science.

" (True Extract.)

" (Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Lieut.-Col.

" *Secretary to Government.*"

After reading all this, I confess myself distressed on reflecting upon the sad conduct of my professional brethren in England. I will not, however, dwell upon it, but make one more extract from the pamphlet.

" I am glad to learn," says Dr. Johnstone, " that other medical men at this Presidency have incurred the same risk, and I observe that the subject has been taken up at the Medical School, since the concurrence of this case, where the students have been mesmerising one another under the superintendence of the surgeon at the head of that institution. It is said to have been first tried on two native pupils, and then on a few of the apprentices, and 'on the whole with complete success.' I further observe on the same authority (an anonymous writer in the *Athenæum* newspaper) that some of the sick inmates of the Male Asylum have been mesmerised under directions of the surgeon of that institution, where, it is mentioned, 'the patients who had been previously afflicted with internal diseases awoke perfectly recovered.' Be this as it may, the simple fact that mesmerism has been tried in the above institutions, leads us to hope much interest is about to be manifested in its behalf at Madras, and that the least success will stimulate to further inquiry in all institutions where such opportunities for its investigation present themselves.

" It is not my intention to offer any remarks whatever on the nature, pretensions, &c., of the general subject of mesmerism. I will merely mention that at one time I was as great a sceptic in its belief as any one could be, regarding it as a subject so novel in its nature, and so irreconcilable in its general conclusions to all past experience, that nothing short of the most complete inductive evidence, entirely incapable of being explained away, ought to be admitted in support of it.

" In the course of time, I saw men of high and established reputation,—accustomed to investigate such matters ;—men of acknow-

ledged wisdom and probity, whose authority on other subjects would not be doubted for a moment, not failing to come forward and add their unswerving testimony in support of some of the facts of mesmerism. I was thus led to the conclusion that, however encompassed with error and abused by imposters and charlatans, it no doubt deserved to be regarded more as the abuse of some great truth than an absolute fiction, and that instead of treating it with the ridicule and contempt with which it was received at the hands of many of my professional brethren, it better became every candid observer to endeavour to find out what part of it was true, and what was false. With these sentiments I carefully attended to all well-attested reports upon the subject, and incidentally instituted a few experiments of my own, limited more from want of opportunity in prosecuting them in such a place as a public hospital, than from my disbelief in many of the conclusions arrived at by others, and, partly by the evidence of my own senses, was compelled to acknowledge that Dr. Elliotson was not altogether wrong when he declared, years ago, 'that he should despise himself if he did not declare his conviction of the truth of mesmerism.'"

By the order of Government a Mesmeric Committee has been formed at the Presidency of Madras, as one was in Bengal; and I learn that Bombay is also wide awake, and we may soon expect to hear of a mesmeric hospital there. Mr Clark visited Dr Esdaile's hospital before going to Bombay, and was deeply and favourably impressed with the importance of the subject.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

#### Case of St. Vitus's Dance

Cured by Mesmerism in less than a month, after seven years of suffering, and upwards of nine months passed in several Hospitals. By MADAME MARIE.

CATHARINE HOGAN was sent to me on the 4th of January, 1847, with a note from my friend, Mr. Briggs, entreating me to try what mesmerism would do for her, and giving me a short account of her case. It appeared that seven years previous, when she was four years of age, she had been frightened on her return from market by a boy snatching her basket of vegetables and running off with it, on which occasion she wandered about the streets for several hours, feaving to return to her mother, who at last discovered her and took her home. Some days afterwards she fell in with a party of boys and girls romping, one of whom laid his stick across her

shoulders. The consequence was a fit that lasted three quarters of an hour; on recovering she was attacked with St. Vitus's Dance, and was taken to University College Hospital, where she became an out-patient under Dr. Davis. She seemed to recover, but two years afterwards, having a severe relapse, she went to the Middlesex Hospital as an in-patient, where she remained four months. They then made her an out patient, but the distance was too great to permit her attendance. She then was admitted into St. Bartholomew's, and remained there nine weeks; returned to the Middlesex for seven weeks, and University College Hospital for six weeks; making in all thirty-eight weeks. Middlesex, 16 weeks; Bartholomew's, 9 weeks; Middlesex, 7 weeks; University, 6 weeks.

When Catharine came to me she was about twelve years of age, and I then took down her appearance and symptoms as follows, premising merely that I was encouraged to undertake the case from the late observations of Dr. Elliotson in the January number of *The Zoist*, who there mentioned his success in curing the same disease by mesmerism, though failing in producing sleep.

On the 4th day of last January I began my operations on her, and henceforth shall transcribe from my diary, commencing by the statement of her case and appearance as I first formed my opinion.

Catharine Hogan, age twelve, short, thick set; temperament sanguineo-lymphatic; hair and eyes dark, the latter expressing idiocy; much trembling and irregular movements of the limbs; continual fits of hysteric laughter and crying; her hands incapable of holding anything; frightened to be alone or in the dark; suffering from frequent headaches, sickness of stomach, giddiness, palpitation of heart, much pain, bowels co-tive, not being relieved more than once in ten or fourteen days.

January 4th, 1847. Mesmerised Catharine Hogan for about half an hour, making long passes from the vertex of the head downwards, along the chest, arms, the region of the lungs, down the spine, breathing on the occiput and the shoulders. She complained of faintness and sickness, but felt warm, whereas she was very cold when she came.

5th C. said she had felt very drowsy after she left me yesterday, and slept at night better than usual.

6th C. says that on her return home yesterday she slept an hour, and very soundly during the night; she seemed to feel my influence more than usual to-day.

7th and 8th. I was prevented mesmerising.

9th. I found it very difficult to fix her attention; she complained that I made her eyes smart, and my passes were like pins and needles pricking her: at last, however, she went into a sound sleep, and though she did not perceive the entrance of a stranger and his departure, yet she did not lose all consciousness. She is naturally very cold, but a few passes are sufficient to excite warmth, and the trembling of her limbs is quite cured; she can now nurse the baby, and hold anything in her hands; her bowels act daily; she is no longer so nervous; this day on my exciting the organ of color, she saw bright light like stars.

10th. Sunday.

11th. Catharine says she went to sleep several times on Saturday, for a quarter of an hour at a time, but was faint and sick yesterday.

13th. Mesmerised her and she slept half an hour.

15th. She felt cold, and her left arm was very painful; a few passes completely warmed her; all her nervous trembling is now imperceptible.

Till the 20th. No perceptible change; on that day she slept profoundly for a long time, and when she went home slept again for four hours. Whenever she experiences great coldness, I breathe on her through muslin, which invariably warms her, and relieves the pain.

February the 2nd. Catharine fell asleep in three minutes by my merely looking at her; she has been so much improved that I now mesmerise her twice a week only; she has not had any trembling since the first week of being mesmerised; she has taken no medicine; her bowels act regularly; her nerves are strengthened, and she does not mind being alone or in the dark; indeed she voluntarily visited a friend who had died, and stayed with the body. The last sign of St. Vitus's Dance was on the 29th of January, this is the 31 day of September: from the month of February last, that is from the 28th, I did not see her till I sent for her, August 24th; her appearance was very different from what it was last January; she has no pretensions to beauty, but had now the countenance of an intellectual person. Finding her delicate I proposed to resume mesmerism, and she was under my influence immediately.—*Zoist*.

MARIE.

22 Thayer street, Manchester Square.

Sept. 7, 1847.

#### Removal of Rigidity of the Neck,

Debility and dyspeptic disease of the Heart irritation of the Bladder, and severe Pains. By Mr H. S. THOMSON

#### I. Relaxation of rigidity of the Muscles of the Neck.

A poor woman was severely burnt about the neck and face three years ago, in consequence of which the muscles had become so rigid that she could not raise her head or move it to the right or left, and, from the time of the accident had never been able to masticate any food that was hard or solid, obtained immediate relief from mesmerism: that is, the muscles were all completely relaxed, she could move her head about freely, and could masticate anything. The injury was so severe that pieces of bone are continually exfoliating and working out; the irritation caused by this reproduces to a degree the rigidity of the muscles of the neck, but the operation of mesmerism soon relieves her, and renders her comfortable for days. The relaxation of the muscles was very extraordinary.

#### II. Cure of extreme debility and derangement of the Digestive Organs.

A case of extreme debility was much benefited by the operation of mesmerism. A young man, one of my tenants, became suddenly so weak that he was not able to go about his usual avocations. This debility increased that it was with difficulty that he could walk about. He had constant aching of the limbs from the slightest exertion, a sense of faintness, cold sweats, and loss of appetite, and his evacuations perfectly black. His sister was attacked in a similar way last year, and then died of consumption. It was more than three months from the commencement of his illness that I first saw him. He had run the round of physic and tonics by the advice of his medical men, but had only grown the weaker. The first time I mesmerised him he felt stronger, and during the process the aching sensation up his limbs was removed. He rapidly improved. On the third day his appetite returned, his evacuations were natural, and he was able to ride eight miles. I continued to mesmerise him almost daily for three weeks, at the end of which time he had nearly quite recovered his strength, being able to ride any distance and to walk tolerably well. The only trace of weakness that he complained of was in his legs if he walked any distance. As I left home about that time I sent him to the sea for change of air.

### III. *Wonderful benefit derived from Mesmerism in serious Disease of the Heart.*

The patient had been afflicted several years; but the complaint had advanced rapidly during the few last weeks. When I saw her she had been confined to her bed six weeks, suffering great agony in her head, shoulders and back; constant "palpitation of the heart and fluttering in the chest; a sense of suffocation so great that she was constantly obliged to be raised; her legs and body had been much swollen for some weeks; she had been unable to use them. She was instantly relieved from her pain, and half an hour sufficed to restore use to her legs; she gradually from that day improved; in a month she was able to walk daily from her house to mine and back again, which is rather more than a mile—a thing which she could do with difficulty a year ago. She enjoys herself, can attend to her family, and seems daily to gain strength. This case was pronounced by the profession as incurable from the first; but, as we have already overcome so much that was then pronounced impossible, I hope that in a short time I may be able to add that she is quite returned to health.\*

### IV. *Removal of irritation of the Bladder.*

This is another instance proving the use of mesmerism in inflammation of the bladder. A friend of mine had suffered a very severe attack, from which he was slowly recovering when he was obliged to go to London on business. I chanced to be there at the time. His journey brought back the symptoms, and he wrote to me saying how ill he was. I went to see him: he was suffering from constant irritation, great pain, and tenderness of the abdomen; so much so that he could scarcely bear the pressure of the bed-clothes. I asked him to let me try whether I could do him any good. He consented, and in half an hour the tenderness and pain were removed. I remained with him two hours, during which time he had no irritation nor pain; though, previously to my visit, the irritation was constant and the pain unvarying. The following day he was so much better that he was able to go out and attend to the business which had brought him to town, and on the day after he was well enough to return home.†

\* We entreat our readers to compare this case with those in Vol. I., p. 465, and Vol. V., p. 161.—*Zoist*.

† We entreat our readers to compare this with the cures in Vol. IV., pp. 50, 124; and Vol. V., p. 81.—*Zoist*.

### V. *Relief of Pain.*

This is another curious instance of the power of mesmerism to relieve pain. I was told that an old man in the village near which I reside was suffering great pain. I went to see him. He is *stone blind*. I found him on his bed, groaning and moaning, and clenching his hands. I asked him what was the matter with him; he said his head was very painful, he could only bear it in one position, and that he had great pain in his legs and arms; and added, "I have not an easy spot about me." He spoke in a most piteous voice. I did not tell him what I was doing, but made passes over him. He very soon said, "Ah, that's nice; the pain is all going." I continued making passes for a few minutes, when I asked him how he felt. He spoke quite cheerfully, saying, "Very nicely, thank you, Sir. I have no pain now;" and in a few moments he was in a sound sleep. He has had little or no pain since, and when it does return, a few wafts of the hand remove it. He cannot live long: he is very old, and has a constriction of the oesophagus, but it is very certain that he can be spared all pain.

### VI. *Cure of inflammation of the Eyes, and opacity and prominence of the Cornea.*

The sixth and last case that I shall at present send, is one of inflammation of the eyes and opacity of the cornea: the patient was a lad twelve years of age. From two years old his eyes had been defective. At that age he had serious inflammation in them, which has never entirely left them, being more severe at times. The cornea had become opaque and very convex. The inflammation, in the course of a few times mesmerising, was gone; the eyes began gradually to assume a natural and healthy shape, and the only trace of disease at present is the slightest film or spot on each eye, discoverable only in certain lights. The boy declares he is astonished at what he is able to see now. He does not appear in the least short-sighted. He says that he can see clearly and at any distance; whereas before everything was dim, and he could only see objects that were near him. The film seems gradually wearing away.—*Zoist*.

HENRY STAFFORD THOMPSON.

Fairfield House, near York,

August, 1847.

**A Recent Specimen of Professional Ignorance and Bigotry**

WHILST perusing the half-yearly abstract of the medical sciences, from January to June, 1847, by Dr. Ranking, of Norwich, we noticed the following:—

“The introduction of a new remedy, or a new means of obviating the many undesirable events contingent upon the practice of medicine and surgery, is always regarded in a different light by different members of the profession. There are some among us, on the one hand, who, contented to move along in the mental ‘jog trot’ to which they had been long accustomed, look with suspicion or dislike on any innovation upon the ancient opinions with which they have enfolded themselves. There are the men who ridiculed and opposed the introduction of the stethoscope, and who will continue to ridicule and oppose everything which they had not ‘dreamt of in their philosophy,’ and which either threatens to interfere with the usual routine of their thoughts, or necessitates a greater amount of intellectual application than they are capable of devoting to it—There is, on the other hand, another equally mischievous, perhaps, but far more interesting class of practitioners, whose imagination is apt to lead them to expect something great of every chimera which a busy age is continually forcing upon the attention. These men take up mesmerism, homœopathy, and such like vagaries, &c.”

Now this is written by a gentleman who professes to give his professional brethren the most important and attractive portion of the medical improvements and suggestions of the past six months. He thinks it right and conscientious to sneer at mesmerism and the advocates for its adoption, but he does not think it right to place facts before his readers that they may judge for themselves. He does not quote the “surgical reports” from the Calcutta Hospital, these are beneath his notice—he does not refer to the long list of surgical operations performed in Europe, Asia, and America—he does not in his physiological report notice the inexplicable phenomena presented by the simplest case of mesmeric sleep. All this important information is not to be found in *The Retrospect*—why? This is the course which would be followed by the truth-seeker, by the philosopher; but it is not the course to be pursued by the medical trader. The sale of the book is the first consideration, and to ensure this, the profession must only be

taught what is palatable, they must only have offered to them what it is known they will buy. Sir Benjamin Brodie has said mesmerism is “all humbug;” how then could Dr. Ranking presume to refer to a subject tabooed by the surgical luminary?

O! ye men of the world—ye money-traders, ye would be obstructives! a retrospect of philosophical progress proves that science will be more than a match for ye. The profession will become slowly enlightened, and amidst the contents of some future medical retrospect will be found a summary of mesmeric proceedings. We do not despair of Dr. Ranking even. He will open the pages of *his Retrospect* when it is safe, and the exchequer is not likely to suffer.—But we have not quite done with Dr. Ranking. In the article from which we have just quoted, he says,

“Pain is one of the greatest evils which the operator has to contend with: mere pain may, by contributing to what we are in the habit of calling ‘shock,’ be the immediate and sole cause of death. As a striking instance of this fact we may mention a case which recently occurred within our own knowledge, that of the application of a ligature for the cure of an erectile tumor of the entire breast. The patient, a healthy female, bore the initiatory steps of the operation without a murmur, without failure of pulse, and without change of countenance. The instant the ligature was tightened, which it was with the full force of two surgeons, she gave a yell of agony, the pulse became imperceptible, the countenance became ghastly pale, and in eighteen hours she was a corpse!!”

Horrible, most horrible! Dr. Ranking says that this operation occurred recently.—And this is the cause of our complaint against the gentlemen who had charge of the case. As surely they ought to have ascertained whether their unfortunate and confiding patient could have been placed in the mesmeric sleep. If she had been, the yell of agony would not have been heard, and we may be almost certain that the system would have calmly borne the shock of the sudden application of the ligature. Let us contrast the above horrible operation with the following description by an eye-witness of three operations at Cherbourg, performed during mesmeric sleep:—

“The remarkable calm, and the astonishment of the patients, who, on awaking as suddenly as they had been sent to sleep, were all surprised at finding a painful opera-

tion over, and who had felt nothing, perceived nothing, and been passive and motionless, while the operator forcibly plunged a bistoury into the flesh, dissected away enormous portions of it, and tied the arteries—was certainly a most extraordinary fact, well calculated to arrest the attention of physiologists more and more.” (See last number of *The Zoist*.)

There is no excuse for the conduct of Dr. Ranking's friends. Many years ago Cloquet amputated the breast of a lady without her being conscious of the slightest pain. In 1838, Dr. Elliotson proved that a seton could be inserted without the knowledge of the patient. Dr. Engledue, in August, 1842, divided the hamstring muscles without the consciousness of the patient. In October, 1842, Mr. Ward, of Wellow, amputated the leg of a man under the same circumstances, and we have by this time a list of upwards of two hundred surgical operations, all performed without suffering; and yet Dr. Ranking, the self-elected editor of a medical Retrospect, tells his brethren that “pain is one of the greatest evils which the operator has to contend with,” and at the same time closes his pages to the description of one of the most important means by which this pain is to be avoided. Dr. Ranking is in a false position, and we have no doubt that he has to thank his *cofrere*, Mr. Wakley, for it. There are many medical men who still form their opinion of mesmerism from what they see in the pages of the *Lancet*. We really feel surprised when we hear a person quote the *Lancet* as his authority for disbelieving natural facts. He little knows the polluted source to which he appeals, nor the disgraceful means which are weekly adopted to bolster up the course the unscrupulous editor has followed for so many years—Here is a specimen. Can any of our readers form the least idea to which page of *The Zoist* the writer of the following disreputable paragraph refers?

“M.D. We shall not allow the filthiest of all filthy slanders contained in *The Zoist* to go unwhipped. Of course the parties concerned in this infamous publication are in a state of perpetual mortification at their fallen and degraded position, and therefore they bite and rail. The leper must be taken with his spots.”—*Lancet*, July 31st, 1847.

This is amongst the notices to correspondents, and similar paragraphs are constantly inserted. The object of the writer is clear. We can quite understand an individual who has never seen *The Zoist*, feeling somewhat

sceptical as to the truthfulness of its contents after reading this paragraph: but then he should have been taught by this time not to go to such a journal for an opinion on disputed scientific subjects. We should just as soon think of recommending our friend to apply to a suspected incendiary to protect his property, as refer him to the pages of the *Lancet* for the purpose of gratifying and educating his moral and intellectual faculties.

L.E.G.E.

#### Instance of the great power of Mesmerism over Pain.

By Mr. G. H. BARTH. Communicated in a letter to Dr. ELLIOTSON.

Great Parndon, Essex,  
Sept. 5, 1847.

To Dr. Elliotson.

DEAR SIR.—Subjoined are a few cases of the cure or relief of pain by local mesmerism, without the induction of sleep being attempted. They are at your disposal for publication, if deemed worthy a place in *The Zoist*. Miss Wallace's, and similar cases as lately published in that journal, are valuable; they teach how readily and easily human suffering may be alleviated by mesmeric means, and carry a conviction of the utility of the process, which comes home to every unprejudiced understanding. Cases of this class are so simple, that they resolve themselves into a question of fact—true or not true. If sceptics can detect imposture and falsehood, let all obloquy fall on the heads of the impostors; if they admit the cases but deny the influence, let them teach us what influence it is which effects the cures. Those who will not admit, nor disprove, nor investigate, should hold their tongues quiet as regards mesmerism. Without investigation they are not in a condition to know, and those who prate about a subject of which they know not anything, are merely garrulous boobies, whose convictions are no more than idle opinions.

Wyniad Fawl, aged 40, single woman, cook in the family of a friend in this parish, asked my advice on December 4th, 1846, respecting an excruciating pain in her left arm and shoulder. It commenced every evening in the middle finger, travelled up the arm, and remained all night, rendering sleep quite impossible. It abated a little in the morning, but sometimes came on early in the day, and was so bad that, though I

might "think her childish, she could not help weeping with the pain." Had been thus afflicted seven or eight weeks, and had nearly lost the use of the arm; could not dress herself—her fellow servant was obliged to lace and unlace her stays; feared she could not continue in service, but must try and get into an hospital, as she had no friends who could assist her. I desired her to wait until the pain was exceedingly bad, and then come to me, and I would try what I could do to relieve her. Called on me in the evening of December 6th; said she had cried nearly all the previous night with the pain, and that the arm was then in great pain. The arm and hand seemed slightly swollen and reddened. When she had removed her bonnet and was seated, I made a pass at two or three inches distance over her head and face; she described the sensation as a warm wind from my fingers. I tried it down the arm; she felt it distinctly through the sleeve of her dress, its lining and some flannel.

A few passes over the head and face told me I might easily have mesmerised her; but as this was not my object, I went to work on the arm, drawing from the shoulders to the extremities of the fingers, and off. The pain gradually decreased, until in twenty minutes it was not felt. She said, "only a sort of soreness, not anywise troublesome remained." She left me then, and became so sleepy she could hardly reach home, and had a sound night's rest, the first for many weeks. Three more similar applications of mesmerism rendered the relief permanent. She now resides as cook with James Dobson, Esq., of Harlow, a well-known and long established medical practitioner. I have not had any communication with her since she quitted Parndon, but feel sure she will verify this statement if asked respecting it.

Anne Shipton, housemaid at the same friend's as the above, got a thorn in her thumb. Inflammation and supuration ensued, and a great portion of the subcutaneous tissue or cushion sloughed away, and is not yet renewed. She consulted a highly respectable surgeon of Harlow, who I have no doubt did all that was proper (except trying mesmerism,) according to the established routine of practice. She went to this gentleman several times. On Friday, the 18th of December last, when he saw the thumb, he shook his head, said he was afraid she would lose her thumb, gave her the needful applications and directions, and instructed her to come again on the following Monday or Tuesday, when he would

cut it off, or arrange for so doing, if this was necessary. I saw it at her mistress's request on the Sunday morning: the young woman had suffered so much pain, that she had quitted her bed, and walked her room a great part of the previous night. Servants who work hard in the day, don't do this when they can help it. On removing the poultice, the thumb appeared swollen, black, and gorged with a thick purulent secretion which exuded at the orifice of an opening which had been previously made. I seized the hand, and squeezed out a quantity of thick fetid matter. The pain this caused made the poor girl cry; so, as a matter of course, I mesmerised the thumb: in a few minutes the pain was gone. I requested permission for her to call upon me in the evening; and then more matter had formed, and the thumb, hand, and arm, were in pain. After squeezing out the matter, I mesmerised the arm and hand half an hour. The pain soon quitted, and did not return again. Her medical attendant saw it on the following Tuesday, some forty hours after the mesmerism operation; he was much pleased at its altered appearance; and said it was almost well, but he should like to see it once more. Anne did not tell him of the mesmerism; feared I might not wish her to do so, as I had not given any directions about it. I do not claim for mesmerism the credit of saving the thumb, which had good surgical treatment; but it certainly relieved the patient from severe and continuing pain. In fact, for many days afterwards, the thumb was deprived of sensibility; Anne could not feel any difference between a scalding hot poultice and a cold one: she knew her thumb was on, because she could see it; but she did not feel any thumb on that hand.

I have met with several instances of the sensibility of a part being entirely obliterated for a long time by continued passes in one direction. I mesmerised a young lady in town last year, and made passes for some twenty minutes over her feet before I obtained the result desired. A month afterwards she assured me she had never felt her feet since; her words were, "I know I have feet because I am standing on them, but I don't feel at all below my ankles, neither neat nor cold: I don't feel as if I had feet."

Susan Dennis, a blunt strapping old woman of sixty-four, keeps a shop at Ty-green, parish of Netteswell. I mesmerised her laughter who has fits, and many other afflictions; or I should perhaps, say bad; we are doing so well I am not sure that she will be correct: and the other troubles have long been consigned to the past. However,



I called one morning, and found Mrs. Dennis in great suffering. She said nothing, but looked faint and white. I enquired the cause. A boy, throwing a stone at a cow, missed the cow and hit the woman on the shin, where the bone has very little covering. She had nearly fainted, and described the pain as hardly endurable. The stone was as large as an ordinary fist. "Pull off your stocking and show me your leg." Leg was red, hot, and very much swelled, considering it had not been hurt more than an hour. Mesmerised it five or six minutes, when she exclaimed, "The pain has gone away;" stamped her foot on the ground, and said her leg felt quite well, only stiff. Two days afterwards I made my usual visit; "Well, Mrs. Dennis, how is your leg?" "Thank you, Sir, have never felt any pain since you was here: the swelling has gone down, but it looks very black." Let me see it, I will mesmerise it a few minutes." The front of the leg was discoloured from the foot to the knee: so large a blackened surface surprised me. "You don't mean to tell me, Mrs. Dennis, that you have had no more pain in that leg?" "As true as is the God who made me, I have felt no pain since you did it; why should I say I didn't feel pain if I did all the while?" The leg never gave any more trouble.

January 3d, 1847, Eliza Pretty, No. 7 Evershalt street, St. Pancras, severely scalded her foot. Her mistress took me to see her an hour or two after it was done. Found her in bed crying. "Don't cry, my girl, that will do you no good." "I can't help it, Sir, my foot hurts me so." "Poke it out of the bed and let me see it." It had an application of flour and a soft linen cloth over it. Removed this; the top of the foot was covered nearly by a vesica or blister, distended with fluid some four inches long by three wide, I should think; two small ones near the ankle, and the remaining surface inflamed. Her mistress held a candle; the girl sat up to see what I was going to do to her foot. "Keep your head on the pillow, I am not going to hurt you; never you mind what I do, tell me what you feel." I feel something warm move over my foot." "What else do you feel?" "Only warm, Sir; it seems like wind, I may be wrong, but I think so." "Well, tell me if you feel anything else presently." I continued passes for four or five minutes, when she laughed heartily and loudly twice, at intervals. Her mistress reproved her, saying, "There was nothing to be laughed at, as we were trying to do her good." I explained that she could not help it. This laughter was in-

voluntary, a sort of hysterical manifestation, frequently seen by mesmerists when their subjects feel the influence.

After a few more passes, she said, "I feel my foot cool now; it is like a cool wind." "How is the pain?" I enquired. "I don't know, Sir, I don't feel it." "Is it gone away? Why! What has become of it?" "I am sure, Sir, I don't know; I can't feel it just now." Nor did she feel it any more at all. The fluid in the vesica was not absorbed in two days afterwards; but she broke it by accident, and let it out. A bit of rag, and some simple cerate to keep her stocking from irritating the surface was put to it, and it was well in a week. It never occasioned the slightest pain after that one mesmeric application.

July 22nd, 1847. Paid a visit this evening, and found an amiable friend and neighbor inconvenienced by a burn on her hand; a portion of the external skin as large as a shilling was destroyed, and a watery secretion oozed from the denuded surface. Now, this was but a trifling matter, and yet caused a very uncomfortable sensation.—Those who venture to doubt, can burn such a place on their own skins, and try the effect. A few passes totally removed the pain; and a few more covered the wound with a firm healthy scab. The lady's husband and a friend stood beside us, and watched the growth of this scab, while I made short passes over the sore place. It commenced at the edge and spread to the centre; somewhat as we see a hot saturated solution of a salt form its pellicle on cooling. This little burn gave no more inconvenience. I do not think it was mesmerised more than eight minutes. I have seen healthy scabs thrown out very quickly an unhealthy, raw, surfaces, after local mesmerism is applied, in several cases.

July 27th, 1847. Emma Reid, Great Parn-don, is mesmerised for a disease of her eyes. Found her this evening with a severe burn on her arm, portion of skin destroyed, as large as half a crown, and surrounding surface reddened. She declared it gave her pain, and "I believed her." I made a few passes over it, and she said the pain was gone, and I again believed her. "Credulous simpleton!" exclaims some reader of the Wakleyan school. After inducing her customary sleep, at the end of an hour I awoke her. The burnt place was then protected by a firm scab; the surrounding skin puckered at the edges. It never gave her any more pain.

I might add cases of relief and cure by local mesmerism of gout, painful tumors, neuralgic and rheumatic pains, various other troublesome ailments; and tooth-ache more frequently than I can name, as I make no notes of tooth-aches relieved. But these few may suffice to shew that if mesmerists are, as some *wise people* (?) term them, "humbugs." They are certainly very agreeable, useful, comfortable "humbugs," valuable "humbugs," to all who are afflicted with pain and suffering; particularly when they perform their "mountebank feasts" for love and not money. Whenever I may be afflicted with disease, I pray that I may be able to secure the services of "some healthy and benevolent mesmeric humbug."

I have a patient, John Burton, of Ty-Green, who has allowed me several times to whip his hands and wrists soundly with stinging nettles; when the redness and small pimples are visible, and the smarting and irritation become uncomfortably perceptible, a few mesmeric movements of my hand have perfectly and permanently removed the disagreeable sensation. I have repeated successfully, on this man, some of your experiments with metals; and yet, though I mesmerised him daily for five months, I could not put him to asleep.

I must not omit, dear Sir, thanking you for your kindly seeing Miss Mary Markwell, and advising gratuitously in her case, (one of fits.) In accordance with your advice I persevered with mesmerism. She was mesmerised twice daily for sixteen months, and then once a day for eight months. She certainly derived benefit from the treatment; her fits, though they occurred as frequently as ever, were so slight as to be hardly worth naming, and never attacked her excepting when in bed at night, and then left no subsequent ill effects. She never bit her tongue or lips but once, after being subjected to mesmeric treatment. She got rid of many nervous fancies, and could sleep soundly at night, which she had not done previously.

Nevertheless, I could not, or did not, cure her; for if she was worried or put into a passion in the day, a fit came at night. So commonly did this occur that it appeared as cause and effect. "I had a fit last night, Sir;" "then you have been in a passion, Mary;" and so it always proved. As neither advice nor reproof, could abate the folly, (to use a mild term) of those who irritated her; I threw the case up in disgust, after mesmerising faithfully, and earnestly, and gratuitously for two years. It is probable that in cases of nervous disease when yielding to mesmerism, the cure is retarded by the in-

judicious treatment of patient's friends, more frequently than the mesmerist suspects.

As a humble disciple of that good cause, which you have so nobly and successfully maintained against cruel calumny and ignorant and bigoted opposition, I joyfully congratulate you on the now almost universal acknowledgment of its truth; and am, dear Sir, with warm admiration and respect,

Your obedient servant,

G. H. BARTH.

*Zoist.*

#### Apparent Clairvoyance

Independent of Mesmerism, but connected with Insanity. Communicated in a letter to Dr. ELLIOTSON.

THE following particulars were sent to me by a medical gentleman who has already contributed with his name to *The Zoist*, but begs his name not to be disclosed on the present occasion: though I am at liberty to mention it to any person privately.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Dear Sir.—The perusal of your curious cases of "double consciousness" in some numbers of that most instructive periodical, *The Zoist*, has greatly interested me, as has also that communicated by Mr. Clark, in p. 30, No. XVII., for April, 1847. I have some personal analogous experience. It is nearly nine years since I took the immediate charge of a gentleman of deranged intellect, with whom I reside in intimate association as friend. I have often, particularly in the earlier years of my charge, been thoroughly puzzled to account for his knowledge of circumstances, perhaps mere trifles, with which we did not wish him to become acquainted. I did not deem them worthy of note at the time; that is, I did not make any memorandum of them; and would not now like to trust my memory as to particulars, nor would they be clearly apprehended without entering into tedious, proxy details. Suffice it that long before I read *The Zoist*, I had expressed to the able medical gentleman who regularly visits us, an opinion that "our friend seemed to know things as if a spiritual intelligence was at his elbow and whispered in his ear;" "formerly they would have said he had a familiar spirit;" know he certainly does, but how, I can't make out;" and such like remarks, showing my impression at the time. Our patient's mental condition has greatly improved, and I do not now often observe

these curious perceptions, or they are not so singular or strongly marked as to preclude the possibility of their being matters of accidental coincidence.

About three years since, for a few evenings, this perceptive power was wonderfully acute; he was in an argumentative and quarrelsome humor at the time. We sat together by the fireside while our tea was infusing, seemingly both engaged in thought, when my friend exclaimed, "I don't think that, Sir; I don't think that." "I don't believe it." "I say I don't believe it." I replied quietly, "Don't believe what, Mr. —?" "I have not spoken; what do you allude to?" He immediately, without noticing my remark that I had not spoken, referred to the precise subject of which I had been just thinking, and began to contradict me respecting it. Had this occurred but once, it might be said I was "unconsciously thinking aloud," but several similar manifestations of perceptive power took place about this time; and as I was on my guard I can certainly state, with as firm a conviction of the truth of my averment as any one who confides in his senses and memory can feel, that I did not speak my thoughts, but that there was a clairvoyant perception of them, or perception in some unaccountable manner. Another instance is well marked, and caused as much interest and wonder at the time.

Four and a half years since it became necessary that M——, our house-steward and butler, should be discharged. As he was an old family servant, and his dismissal might irritate our patient, it was deemed advisable that we should pay a visit to the seaside for a month, and his removal be effected during our absence. This was exceedingly well managed, the secret well kept. Without tedious explanation, I cannot convey the grounds of my conviction, but surely convinced am I that our poor friend neither did nor could know anything of the contemplated change until the day preceding that of our return home. He was then informed by letter that M—— had, for certain reasons, been sent away, and a very comfortable, respectable elderly person, a Mrs. T——, installed in his place. We were at breakfast when the letter was delivered; he perused and handed it to me; enquired why M—— was gone; supposed he would "turn up again some day;" and made such remarks as would naturally occur on being for the first time apprised of the circumstance. Next morning we started for home, a distance of sixty miles. Whilst the horses were being changed for the last stage, our friend, who wanted his dinner, (having declined refreshment on the road,) expressed his hope that

we should find something good when we got home. I explained that as the time of our arrival was uncertain, a cold dinner would be on the table waiting us; that we might be sure our new housekeeper, Mrs. T——, would take care to make us comfortable; that she was a very respectable person—that we would not consider her a common servant, but call her our lady housekeeper, &c., &c.: in the same strain, trying to impress that she was a very superior person to the one she had succeeded. As I finished we started; my friend threw himself back in the carriage and did not speak for eight or ten minutes, and then said, "I don't see that, Mr. —, (addressing me,) I don't see that; I don't believe it. M—— kept a grocer's shop before he came; Mrs. T—— kept a grocer's shop before she came; one grocer is as good as another; both shopkeepers; no difference in respectability I think." This was strictly true; and the enquiries which I made to discover how our friend knew it only tended to puzzle me, as the attendants whose casual remarks might have been overheard, declared that they did not know Mrs. T—— was a grocer until I named it; and other sources of information there were not.

If those who have the opportunity would take the trouble to notice and communicate, some curious matter of the above kind might, I think, be elicited; such communications could not be otherwise than interesting to all who are engaged in the study of the phenomena of mind, or treatment of diseased mental functions.

Your most obedient servant,

\* \* \*

It has frequently happened that these highest forms of clairvoyance were connected with insanity.\* Such high powers may be more readily called forth when the brain is in an excited and disordered state, and perhaps exist more readily with a disposition to disorder of the brain. "Great wit to madness nearly is allied." Indeed the greater part of alleged clairvoyants whom we hear of around us talk at times great nonsense. We cannot be too careful in attempting to distinguish between their clairvoyant movements and their periods of wildness.—*Zoist*.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

\* Such were the cases related in the last number but one of *The Zoist*, p. 30, occurring in several members of the same family.

## CURE

Of a singular Twisting of the Head in a young man. By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"The world has had its laugh at mesmerism. Its mysteries and miracles are nearly forgotten."—Mr. Douglas Jerrold. His Weekly Newspaper, Sept. 11, 1847.

Mr. DOUGLAS JERROLD is a daring man. He snaps his fingers at our steady and abundant issue of solid facts every quarter, for some years, to his knowledge.

On the 2nd of last December I was consulted by a young man, thirty-two years of age, occupied in a city banking-house, on account of a complaint which had existed seven months and had gradually come upon him. It was a slow but powerful involuntary movement of his head over to the left side, till the face came nearly above the left shoulder, in writing, in brushing his hat or coat, and particularly in taking his meals,—all acts requiring a little stooping and motion of his hand and arm. He could read without this annoyance because neither of these two things is necessary at that time. He began to write at my request that I might observe the phenomenon. His face almost immediately turned slowly round to the left, so that at length he was looking at the paper with the right eye only. The moment he left off writing, he could move it back to its original position.

If watched by others at the time, or excited by any cause, the head turned, he said, the more quickly and forcibly to the left. If he persevered in what he was attempting, the head at length trembled. If he merely raised his hand towards his head, this was inclined to move to the left. In handing a paper to another person, the head turned. If he looked steadily at another person, and was at all excited, though his hands were motionless before him, his head would turn; but not if he held them tightly behind his back.

"He was naturally nervous, but he looked remarkably well: and indeed his general health had improved of late, though, from the time his complaint began, he had felt, and still felt, somewhat heavy after dinner, as well as in the morning before rising, but no longer than he was in bed. The exciting cause had been fatigue and anxiety.

He tried Brighton a month; and Ramsgate six weeks; and, though better while there, was as bad as ever on his return. He had been galvanized for a month and found great benefit for the first three days, but no longer. He had been under a consulting surgeon in the city, who sent him into the

country; and under a physician who gave him slight aperients which reduced him, and then better tonics. I considered that tonics were the most suitable medicines and iron the most suitable of tonics. But he took it in vain. Mesmerism was substituted. He brought a friend whom I instructed in two minutes how to proceed, just as I instructed Mrs. Snewing; this friend after a fortnight instructed the father, sixty-five years of age, who mesmerized him regularly and cured him. None of the parties had seen anything, or indeed known anything, of mesmerism.

I lately begged him to write me out an account, and it is as follows:

"Clapham, Surrey,  
"30th August, 1847.

"In the beginning of the summer of 1846 I was attacked with a violent nervous affection in my head, which prevented me applying myself to anything requiring my head to be steady. It gradually increased until I was compelled to resign for a time my usual duties. It produced an involuntary motion of my head, particularly when writing, which was my daily occupation. It almost prevented me from cutting my own food, and, whenever I used my hands, it became worse, until I could scarcely sign my name without supporting my head with my left hand. I believe it to have been brought on by over-excitement and fatigue, together with being employed in a confined office; my constitution not being very strong, my nervous system gave way under it.

"I first applied to a surgeon in —, who told me all I wanted was rest and change of air; he recommended me to have a shower bath every morning, and he had no doubt but by a long relaxation from business I should be once more restored to perfect health; he gave some pills to take occasionally, and said he could do nothing more for me. I then made arrangements for going in the country, previously to which I applied to Dr. —, who quite agreed with all my previous medical adviser had done; he also said it would be a very long time before I got quite well again. I then went to Ramsgate, and bathed every morning for the space of six weeks; when out of doors in the air I felt quite well, but immediately on attempting to write or use my hands in any way, the affection in my head returned. I was induced after spending a week at Ramsgate to apply to a medical man of that place (who I believe is highly spoken of in his profession) for advice; but he likewise seemed to think nothing could be done for me; he gave some medicine to take daily, but was of opinion that nothing but time and

change of air would restore me. After six weeks stay at Ramsgate, and being very little better, I began to despair of my recovery. I returned to London and to business, thinking that employing my mind a few hours in the day would prove beneficial to me. But after having been at business a month, (the weather at the time was very hot and of course very trying to me,) I was compelled once more to resign my duties for a time; the complaint returned much worse than before. I then went to my physician again, who told me I must not think of remaining in business for at least four or five months, but must remain quiet at home, as rest was the only chance I had of recovery.

"I then tried galvanism; was operated upon every morning, Sundays excepted, for a month. The first week I was quite cheered at the effect, it seemed to make my head steadier, and certainly the improvement was quite apparent to myself and friends. But, alas! from that time the improvement ceased, and the complaint gradually returned to its former obstinate position. I then again began to despair, thinking I never should recover; but was again recommended to try once more what sea bathing would do for me. I went to Brighton in the commencement of October, took a great deal of exercise, dieted myself according to my medical man's advice, and used all the means in my power which I thought conducive to my recovery. After spending a month at Brighton, I returned to London, much better in my general health, although still suffering from the affection in my head on applying myself to write or use my hands in any way.

"I again consulted my physician, as to whether he thought it advisable for me to return to business in the state my health then was. He recommended me to do so, but he thought a few hours a day would be all I should at present undertake. My employers very kindly allowed me to remain at business as long as I thought convenient to myself, but all was of no avail: I continued getting worse until the end of November, 1846. A friend of mine advised me to have further advice. He recommended me to apply to Dr. Elliotson, who he said he knew to be very clever in his profession, but was much afraid he would want to mesmerise me. I said Dr. Elliotson might do with me what he thought fit; that if I went to him, I should place myself entirely at his disposal. After a fortnight's delay, being quite low spirited at having tried so many remedies without success, I went to Dr. E., who very kindly took great interest in my case. After explaining to him the nature of my complaint and the means I had used without

success, he prescribed for me, but in vain. Mesmerism was now suggested, and Dr. Elliotson offered to shew a friend of mine, who kindly consented to sacrifice an hour every evening for that purpose. I tried it for a fortnight and was certainly a little better; but thought, as the effect produced was so slight, and as I slept but little during that time, that my friend did not perform the operation properly. I went to Dr. E. to enquire if he thought I should continue it. He told me by all means go on with it at least for three months. I did; was operated upon every evening by my father for half an hour, when in less than a month the change was apparent to myself and all around him. I again went to Dr. E. to inform him of the result, when he again urged me to continue with it lest the complaint should return: and from that time till the middle of May in this year, I seldom failed being operated upon every evening, and am thankful to say am now quite restored to my wonted health and strength. The effect it produced was sometimes scarcely visible, occasionally it produced sleep; but at all times it so rested me that for a time after I felt quite refreshed, but not at all to interfere with my sleeping at night in bed. I do entirely attribute my cure to mesmerism, and bless God in his providence that I was ever persuaded to try it."

All this time he took no medicine: and resided at home, going daily to business.

The sensible effect of the process was a heaviness and unwillingness to move: without unconsciousness: though for a moment perhaps just forgetting himself. This occurred after the first few days, increasing for a short time, but at length no farther, and was never followed by anything more. It always began in about a quarter of an hour, and lasted half an hour after the mesmerisation was finished. The great effect noticeable was the invigoration he always experienced when the heaviness had gone off. —*Zoist*.

#### Cure of Severe Head-Ache,

Of Seven Years' standing; with Cerebral Symptom, Mesmeric Excitement of Cerebral Organs, and Clairvoyance. By Mr. Hockley. Communicated in a letter to Mr. Chandler.

16, Great James Street, Hoxton,  
27th August, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—Agreeably to your request I beg to forward you a short statement, the daily notes of which I also enclose, of the case of Elizabeth Troth, of Sidemore, near

Bromsgrove, aged 22, who had from the age of 15 suffered (though in other respects in robust health) most severely from attacks of head-ache, which becoming gradually worse (latterly lasting two or three days in each week) had compelled her to leave all her situations. On the 15th Feb., 1846, she having suffered much from head-ache on that day, I commenced magnetizing her, and continued about an hour and twenty minutes with scarcely any effect, she merely going into a dozing state and waking upon the slightest questioning. I repeated the operation on the 16th, 17th, and 18th, for about an hour each evening; she still, however, only went into a doze and woke whenever interrogated, but her head-ache had become much easier. On the 19th, she having had the head-ache all day, I commenced at ten minutes past 8 p.m. to magnetize her: in three or four minutes she fell into a doze, her countenance brightened, she said she was "easy and very nicely," but woke upon being further questioned. I made a few passes and she went again into a doze; she said she felt much easier, especially the right side of her head was very comfortable, and she appeared very unwilling to be disturbed. At a quarter past nine I awoke her; her head-ache had entirely ceased. I continued the operation every evening for about an hour until the 13th of March; but she did not experience from the 19th Feb. up to the 26th June, when she left us to return home, the slightest tendency to head-ache. Her cure was complete.

As my motive in subjecting her to the magnetic influence was to alleviate her pain, I had but little desire to place her in any danger of a relapse by making (to myself) useless experiments. It was not until the eighth time of magnetizing her that she passed into the magnetic sleep, when she at once became to a considerable degree clairvoyant and super-entient, (as you will perceive by the statement herewith). On 27th Feb., having two friends with me, Mr. W. G. Dixon and Mr. Walmsley, both of Hands-worth, and exceedingly sceptical, I, shortly after placing my patient in magnetic sleep, brought Mr. Dixon *en rapport* with her, and to prove to him the reciprocity of taste, Mrs. H. put into Mr. D.'s mouth some vinegar. The patient immediately began tasting, and upon being questioned, said "It was sour and she did not like it;" upon his taking some more she again said it was sour, and by countenance shewed her repugnance to it. Mrs. H. then gave him some sugared milk and water. She said it was nice, it was sour and sweet; Mr. Dixon immediately said that was precisely what he felt, hav-

ing some of the vinegar still in his mouth. I took a pinch of snuff. She said she "did not like it; did not know what it was; wouldn't have any more of it." Tried her lucidity; asked what was on the table, which was entirely hidden from her. She described the candlestick, book, snuffers. I asked what else. She said "Something round; thought it was money: said it was gold." I told her it was silver, not thinking there was anything at all of the kind. She said, "No, it was not; it was gold." It proved to my surprise, to be Mrs. H.'s gold ring. And upon closely pressing her she became very irritable. I tried to excite Benevolence, which I could do but slightly. Tried Mirthfulness and Tune, and pressed her to sing. She smiled and said "No, we should laugh at her;" then said she would and began, "Young Colin," &c. I asked her if she was asleep: she said, "Yes." I told her I thought she was dreaming; and her face assumed a peculiarly mirthful incredulous smile. I asked her how much longer she would sleep. She said, "Fifteen minutes." We then left her alone and quiet. Mr. Walmsley immediately looked at his watch. At the thirteen minutes she said, "I'm coming, I'm coming;" and in two minutes more, "I'm coming, Sir," and began to get up, which woke her. Mr. W. said she was precise to a minute.

Both Mr. Dixon and Mr. Walmsley, expressed themselves convinced of the mesmeric influence exhibited.

It is most curious that, although she had been so long and so severely afflicted, she expressed but little surprise at being relieved; and when questioned by any one about it, merely replied that "it was a good job master had slept it away." *Zoist*.

I am, Sir, yours most obediently,

FRED. HOCKLEY.

Thos. Chandler, Esq.,  
&c., &c., &c.

## CLAIRVOYANCE

In the case of Master Chapman recorded by Dr. Storer in No. XVI. of *The Zoist*; and Mesmeric Phenomena in a young Lady. By Lieut. Hare. R. N. Communicated in a letter to Dr. Elliotson.

6, Somerset Place, Bath,  
Sept. 2, 1847.

SIR,—Knowing how justly you advocate mesmerism, I take the liberty of communicating the results of a few experiments I have made. Before Dr. Storer left Bath, he

frequently invited me to see his patients under the influence of mesmerism; one of these, (whose case is given by him in the January number for this year, p. 449 of "The Zoist,") Edward Chapman, interested me much. His parents confirm Doctor Storer's account of his malady and cure by mesmerism. After Dr. S. left Bath, he felt sometimes a little faint, and by the wish of his father and mother I frequently mesmerised him. He went readily into the sleep-waking in periods varying from five minutes to ten seconds, exhibiting the change from his natural shyness in the presence of strangers to bold and unreserved loquacity, making fun of persons present, and ridiculing any peculiarity of appearance or manner he noticed in those about him: but upon being awakened he seemed unconscious of what he had done or said. A proof of this occurred on one occasion when I gave him a sixpence, which he placed in his pocket. Upon awaking his sisters asked him to buy some trifle for them in the town, slipping two fourpenny-pieces into his pocket. He purchased the article, and gave the change, and also the sixpence I had given him, seeming quite unaware of having had any money given to him. But the next time he was in the mesmeric sleep he related to me the trick his sisters had played him, asking at the same time that the sixpence should be returned to him.

I could readily make his arms rigid by will, or by passes made at distances varying from one to forty feet, and could produce the same effect from a room above or below the one in which he might be. Upon these occasions the arm suddenly appeared elongated with a start as if electrified. Upon placing round rulers in each of his hands, and making the latter clasp them firmly, I could relax either by gazing intently at it for a short time. I varied these experiments in the presence of friends who, though at first sceptical, confessed the power of mesmerism.

On the 8th of last June, Chapman, whilst in the sleep, predicted that on the following Friday he should soon after 8 a. m. be very ill, have an attack, be unconscious, and that during the time it lasted it would be necessary to hold him and keep things out of his reach or he might do mischief, and that he should have a second and third attack; but he begged his mother not to be alarmed, as he should recover and be in better health than before. I called on Mrs. Chapman on the Friday, and learned from her that her son had been attacked precisely in the manner he described, first soon after 8 a. m., and

a second time during the morning; that he was delirious, and attempted to get hold of things near him. These left him very weak, and he wished me to mesmerise him the next day, which I did. In the sleep there was a convulsive movement of the limbs, which he extended; the attack was very slight. His mother suggested his being awakened; but, upon my commencing reverse passes, he pushed me back, and in a low voice asked me to "send him deeper," which I did. He told us this was the third and last attack, consoling his mother by telling her he should be better than ever. It is only fair to mention that his two sisters were staying with his mother, and that they left on the Friday morning early, which may have made him expect to be excited and distressed at their leaving; but this does not account for the accuracy (as to time and number of the attacks) with which he predicted what would happen to him, that he would be delirious, inclined to do mischief, &c. After this he became better; and when I left Bath did not complain of anything but being a little faint in hot weather.

A young lady whom I frequently mesmerised for debility, nervousness, and pain in the side, occasionally came with Mrs. Chapman and her son. She was far more sensitive; a look at her hand was at any time enough to make it rigid, and a few seconds' gaze would relax it. I could produce the same effect from another room by will or passes. I could also deprive her for a time of the power of speech; sometimes whilst speaking to another person. She never spoke unless I touched her, or I addressed my voice to her hand, when a whisper was sufficient to make her hear and respond; but no other person could make her speak. This young lady was thrown into the sleep with a few passes, but it was always difficult to waken her. One thing I have noticed in many cases, viz., that there is a sympathy existing between the corresponding nerves of the mesmeriser and patient. Thus this young lady whom I could not awaken for many minutes by either transverse or reverse passes or by fanning, would upon my shutting my eyes opposite to her and opening them once or twice, open her's and awake.

If any of the above experiments are worth insertion in *The Zoist* they are at your service. I was requested by a scientific friend to communicate them, for he observed that, coming from a gentleman who has no interest to serve, who is an amateur only, and who can have no object in practising deception, the communication of facts he has witnessed would not excite suspicion. I am

aware there is nothing new in what I relate, at least to a mesmerist.—*Zoist*.

Trusting you will pardon the liberty I take in writing to you,

I am, Sir, yours very faithfully,

RICHARD HARE, Lieut. R. N.

To Dr. Elliotson.

For the Dissector.  
CLAIRVOYANCE.

MR. EDITOR:

In my last communication, I gave some account of the curative influence of Animal Magnetism in the case of William Henry Child; and made some allusion to his powers of Clairvoyance, with the pledge of a future communication on that subject. I had heard that he had exhibited remarkable powers of somniscient vision, but had never seen him in that state till I magnetized him at the residence of his father in Bergen, Genesee county, N. Y., on the 6th of April, 1843. He became highly clairvoyant, and at my request, he visited a Mrs. Griffing, a very respectable lady, residing in Bergen, an adjacent town, six miles distant. He soon found her house; said there was a lady there, but that it was not Mrs. G. Recollecting that when I called at her residence about two hours before, Mr. G. and lady were at a tavern in the village, waiting on a painter who was taking the portrait of a little daughter. I sent him to the inn, where he immediately found Mrs. G.; but soon said she had stepped out. It was about noon, and supposing they had gone home to dine, I directed him back to her residence, where he found her. I had seen but few cases of Clairvoyance, and had been slow to believe, and therefore was very rigid in my investigations. He told correctly her size, and said that the color of her hair was auburn. I doubted his correctness, for, notwithstanding much intimate acquaintance, I had always supposed it to be black. I asked is it light auburn or dark? He said dark. The following conversation ensued:—"Will you look at her throat?" "It is swollen." "Will you look at the inside?" With a heavy sigh he said, "It looks very red." "Will you examine her lungs?" "They appear to be healthy." "Her liver?" "I don't see but that it is in a healthy condition." "Her heart?" "It is diseased. She has palpitation." "Will you examine her spine very thoroughly, through the whole length, beginning at

the head?" "It is diseased about five inches below the neck." "Is that disease in her spine the occasion of the disease of the heart?" "It is. Some of the nerves lead from that place to the heart, others to the head. That disease in her spine was occasioned by a fall when she was a small girl." As a novice on the subject of Clairvoyance, my attention was again arrested, as I had been informed that the Clairvoyant could see only what the magnetizer saw or knew.

Here were two points that furnished fair tests in regard to his powers, as an independent Clairvoyant. 1. He said that Mrs. G.'s hair was auburn, while I fully believed it was black, having resided with my family in a part of Mr. G.'s house for six months, on terms of intimate acquaintance, and having seen her almost every day, during that time. 2. He said the disease was occasioned by a fall when she was a small child, while I had neither known or imagined the cause of that disease, or the time of its commencement. He went back at least twenty-five years.

I knew that he was correct in regard to the disease of her heart and throat. About three years before, she had taken white lead for soda, which very seriously affected her whole system, especially her throat.

A few weeks after this interview with Henry, I visited at Mr. G.'s, and to ascertain whether he was correct, I said to Mrs. G., "What color do you call your hair?" She replied, "Many have called it black, but I never did. I call it auburn." Being told what was said of her being injured in the spine by a fall, when quite young, she replied that she had no recollection of such a fall; but after awhile, she said, I do recollect it. I was quite a small girl—was playing on the fence, and fell and struck my back against a rail. It knocked the breath out of me, and it was a long time before I could breathe again. They took me up and carried me into the house, and my back was sore a great while.

After Henry came to live with me, as I stated in my former communication, I asked him while in the normal state, if he ever knew Mrs. Griffing, of Bergen. He replied in the negative. Soon after, when clairvoyant, he was asked if he recollected visiting Mrs. G., and promptly replied that he did. "What did you say was the matter with her spine?" "She hurt it by a fall." "What was she doing?" "Playing on the fence." "Did she get up and go into the house?" "She could not. They took her up and carried her in." "How old was she?" "About six years." "How long was her back sore?" "About ten months."



I asked him subsequently, while in the normal state, if he ever heard of Mrs. G. of Bergen. He said, you asked me the other day, if I ever saw her. I never heard of her before.

In both these conversations, his vision was like an electric shock, and his answers followed my questions without any hesitation. His first remark about her fall was entirely spontaneous, not having been elicited by any inquiry on my part either real or mental.

August 18, 1843. While in my study in Covington, Genesee county, N. Y., between thirty and forty miles south of Lake Ontario, I put him into the magnetic state, and told him to examine the geological strata in a vertical section, directly under my residence. He commenced with the superincumbent earthy formations, and passed through the aluminous and limestone shales, sand stones and clays, giving an account of each strata, its thickness, species of rock, or earth, with its color, petrifications or boulders, and this with such correctness as enabled me to follow him, and understand where he was, and what formations he was describing; and displaying a knowledge of them, of which he could have no conception in the normal state. For though his mind was naturally bright, yet owing to his fits, he was very backward in even common school education.

When he had passed far down into the earth and had reached the formations of aluminous red sand stone, which border Lake Ontario, I told him to go directly north in a horizontal pathway to the Lake. In this subterranean journey, he passed through several new formations which he had not before reached, as the strata, though nearly horizontal, have a gentle dip in a southerly direction. Each of these he described as he passed on; finally he entered a bed of gravel, containing pebbles and boulders, and when he emerged from this, he found himself in the water, at a considerable distance from the shore, being as he said 62 feet from the surface and 50 from the bottom. Here he was much frightened by something which he thought could not be a fish. He described the size of the eyes, the position of the mouth, the teeth—the position of the pectoral and candal fins and its peculiar motion, giving very accurately the distinctive characteristics of the lake sturgeon, as I found afterwards by having him examined, while somniscient, by a gentleman, a disbeliever in Clairvoyance, who was very rigid in his investigations, which he pursued without asking any leading questions. He affirmed while in the normal state, that he had never seen a sturgeon, or even a cut re-

presenting one. I supposed that he was describing the sturgeon, but was not then sufficiently acquainted with that fish, to decide accurately, much less to have furnished him the description by his looking upon my mind. He described it as being about nine feet and a half long, and weighing 500 lbs.

He described two different strata of sulphate of lime, or plaster, as they occur, mentioning the drab-colored limestone superincumbent on the one which is worked, for the purposes of fertilization. He also met with two springs or streams of water, the one pure and the other sulphurous. Many things were described by him, which of course I could not test, as they were not within the reach of my vision. But he so described the characteristic organic remains of the different strata, that I could easily trace him in his hidden pathway through the various formation of different geological epochs, attested by their distinctive paleontological records. I might state many other tests by which I proved the correctness of his somniscient vision. But these would render too tedious my already lengthy communication. I will therefore close with a few observations.

1. It is a great mistake to suppose that clairvoyants can see no more than their magnetizers see or know.

In this state, Henry saw many things that I did not know. He was, in this sense, independent. I have produced a good degree of Clairvoyance in inconsiderable number of persons, and all of them saw things beyond my knowledge. Those who can see no more than their magnetizers, cannot be depended upon, they are very imperfect.

2. A good clairvoyant may be of great practical service in many respects. He might discover the seat and cause of occult diseases, and the appropriate remedies indicated—decide whether, in given localities, it would be profitable to dig for water, coal, plaster, or other mineral substances—direct to the recovery of lost articles, and stolen goods that have been secreted—describe the personal appearance and dress, and changes of dress in the case of thieves, robbers and murderers, and the course to be pursued for their detection—and pursue many other important investigations, some of which would be of highly important service in the sciences.

3. Animal magnetism deserves a patient and thorough investigation. After some degree of such investigation, I am fully convinced of its reality, together with its wonderful phenomena of Clairvoyance. I have never known or heard of a single individual who has examined the subject philosophically, by well conducted experiments, who

has not been fully convinced of its verity and importance. It is unphilosophical to decide against the truth and profitableness of any subject, without due investigation. If true, animal magnetism is vastly important; and the wise and good should well understand it and employ it for good, and not condemn and leave it to be employed in the mischievous devices of the wicked.

4. If our men of professional learning would examine this subject thoroughly, I have no doubt that it would very soon be reduced to a regular and beautiful science.

I have no doubt that it is as capable of such reduction as any of the sciences. The learned, with very few exceptions, have treated it as unworthy of their attention. They have prejudged and condemned it without due investigation. And with all due deference to their superior wisdom, it is suggested to them, whether, if they should treat the sciences of Botany, Conchology, Mineralogy, Electricity Mineral Magnetism, and Galvanism, as they do Animal Magnetism, they would not completely destroy their reputation? Have not the learned, almost by universal practice frowned this subject down? Have they conducted a series of experiments on this subject, by their personal investigation—collecting, arranging, and analyzing facts, as they do on the sciences generally? If not, why not?

5. Animal Magnetism must soon rank among the sciences. It is destined no longer to be monopolized by the priest and the juggler for oracular predictions and fortune-telling. It can no longer be frowned down. This is a thinking age. On this subject men will think, and speak, and write. Some powerful minds have taken hold of it; and their investigations, when published, will tell with power upon the public mind; and the learned will be compelled to investigate, or receive in their turn the full measure of scorn which they have meted out to others.

6. When it becomes a science it will be vastly important in a moral point of view. It will be a most powerful restraint of vice and crime. Men will understand that they can be detected, can be known; and cannot sustain a fair character, by concealing their crimes under the veil of secrecy. It will be a powerful stimulant to virtue.

SAMUEL GRISWOLD.

Lyne, Oct. 6, 1847.

#### White Swelling of Knee,

Hip Joint and Thigh, and Curvature of the Spine, also Tuberculated Lungs, cured by the Magnetic Practice.

Albany, Nov. 8th, 1847.

Dr. JOHN FENDEY.—Dear Sir.—Our little girl had scarlet fever more than three years ago—took cold—complained of her leg—during the fall and winter she was in great pain night and day. The knee swelled and was drawn out of shape—she lost the use of that leg; the other knee then swelled—the use of that leg was also lost. She had a large swelling below the hip joint, along the whole thigh—there was much pain in the hip joint. Her back bone got very crooked—she could not lie in bed—we made a chair with wings and front piece—in this she sat and slept night and day for two years—she was quite thin and feeble—had a very grievous cough—her lungs seemed to be much affected. She was visited by many, who wondered how she could live under such racking pains, and thought it would be a miracle if she ever got well. Tongue cannot express what she suffered for two years. We used the prescriptions of the most eminent physicians, and every thing we heard of we tried, without benefit. We gave up all hope of ever seeing her well, or walk. Last February you called at my shop on business; I related the case of my daughter; you said that such cases had been cured under your plan. I could not believe that swelled and crooked joints, and a crooked back bone, and a swelled thigh like hers could be cured, but asked you to call and see her; you did, and said you believed she could be cured. I told you you might try. To our astonishment she soon began to improve—your plaster drew the large swelling in her thigh to one spot, and made it break; it discharged at one time a quart or more; she cried when she saw her limb getting so thin, and thought her thigh was all running away; it ran for three months. The machine and medicine worked wonders. The knee joint which was swelled and out of shape, is now straight, the crook in her back bone is gone, it is as straight as ever. She can walk across the floor without her crutches, and with one crutch she is as nimble as a deer. Her cough is gone—lungs are sound—she has grown quite fat and hearty. Every one who has seen her since she got better, that knew how bad and hopeless her case was, thinks it almost a miracle that she has been restored. We would recommend the afflicted to pursue the course we have adopted—if

anything will heal disease we believe that will.

Yours, respectfully,  
JOHN FRIDAY, 93 Swan street,  
Arbor Hill.

The Magnetic treatment is the most successful one in diseases of a tuberculous or scrofulous nature; consumption in its earlier stages is invariably cured and often in its last; diseases of the kidneys, liver, stomach, womb, heart, and the different organs, white swellings, rheumatism, bronchitis, dyspepsia, opacities of the cornea (films over the eyes,) every disease in line of a scrofulous nature is relieved by this treatment. Dr. Sherwood, of New York, the celebrated inventor of this treatment, an old and highly successful physician, has appointed the subscriber sole agent for the sale of his improved magnetic machines in this city. He has also been fully authorized by him to carry out in practice the principles of the magnetic treatment. He can be consulted at his medical rooms, 41 Columbia street, Albany.

JOHN FONDEY, M. D.

**Case of Rapid Consumption Cured by the Magnetic Practice.**

*Albany, January 28, 1847.*

DR. JOHN FONDEY—Dear Sir: For two years previous to my coming under your care I had suffered constantly from pain in my breast, with occasionally a hacking cough; had for a year more, almost constantly, night sweats, which weakened me much—appetite poor, digestion bad,—had been under the care of several physicians for about a year, but received no benefit from their remedies. About October, 1845, I caught a severe cold which settled on my lungs; from this time my health failed rapidly, my cough was incessant—raised much tuberculous matter, night sweats much worse, bled at the lungs, and became so weak that I could hardly walk across the room; I appeared to be in a rapid consumption, and felt that my life would soon terminate unless speedily relieved.—You visited me about the middle of November; under the use of your machine and medicines I experienced speedy relief and improved daily, so that in the space of five weeks I was able to go out and attend to business—have been improving ever since—lungs are now sound! I believe I should have been in my grave long ago had it not been for your peculiar practice.

ELBRIDGE EVERETT,  
696 Broadway, Albany.

**Case of Bronchitis, Disease of the Heart, Throat, Liver, Lungs, and Kidneys, cured by the Magnetic Practice.**

*Albany, February 1, 1847.*

DR. J. FONDEY—Dear Sir: About five years since I found myself afflicted with a disease hitherto unknown to me, which grew worse until August, 1843, when I caught a severe cold, accompanied with cough, for which I used several highly recommended medicines without the slightest effect. My cough grew worse, and in the spring of '44, I had an attack of quincy, followed by an occasional raising of blood. During the winter of '45 I suffered much from a violent choking or crawling pain in the lower part of the throat; pain in my chest and right shoulder; hacking cough; severe palpitations of the heart (which was enormously enlarged) accompanied with cold sweats which weakened me much; my throat was so much affected by the swelling as to create a difficulty in breathing and eating; I was subject also to occasional attacks of hoarseness; my kidneys, too, were much diseased, so that I had been kept awake every night for weeks by pain in them. After trying several physicians, who effected no cure, and feeling myself to be already far advanced in a consumption, I put myself under the care of Dr. Fonday, in September, '45, who applied the Electro-Magnetic Machine and administered electro-magnetic medicines. I was laughed at for my folly in going through this treatment, and was told it would end my days; for the first three weeks I found no relief, but soon the scale turned; my strength and weight increased, and in April, '46 I found that the palpitations of the heart, cough, pain in the side and chest had entirely gone; also the distress in my kidneys had departed, and that in my throat was fast subsiding at the time. I am troubled with none of my old complaints except an occasional soreness of the throat from changes in the weather; and this I attribute altogether to the salutary effects I have experienced before I came under Dr. F.'s care; my constitution is daily improving; any one desirous of conversing with me about my case can call on me at my hat, cap, &c., store.

J. C. TUCKER, No. 635 Broadway.

**Case of severe Tubercular Disease of all the Organs cured by the Magnetic Practice.**

*Albany, February 9th, 1847.*

DEAR SIR—I know not how to express sufficiently my gratitude to you for the health which, after years of suffering, I now, through

the mercy of God, enjoy. At the age of 13 I enjoyed comparatively good health, although from childhood sickly; however, I caught cold and was visited with fits which came on monthly; various skilful physicians were employed, but were of no avail. I got worse; delirium set in, and for nearly a year I was a lunatic; at length reason returned; at the age of 21 I was married; after the birth of a child I suffered severely from a womb complaint, which for eight years previous had harassed me: but now keen bearing down pains afflicted me so that for weeks at a time I could scarcely walk; I was troubled too with palpitations of the heart, pains throughout my body, my bowels, stomach, kidneys, lungs, liver, throat, and brain, were much affected. For these complaints I was attended by many skilful physicians in Albany and elsewhere, having been under the care of 20 or more of them. My case, however, seemed a hopeless one, and I looked forward to a speedy termination of my sufferings by death.

In August, 1844, I applied to you, with little faith in your ability to relieve me; but thanks be to God, under your treatment I was speedily raised from my sick bed and daily mended. From the hour I first employed you, I have improved, and my health for the last few months has been much better than it ever was in my life; much better even than when a child. I cannot put in a public paper all the symptoms of my diseases. If any female desires a more particular history of my case I will cheerfully impart it.

Yours,  
Mrs. S. A. M., N. Pearl st.

This sketch gives but an imperfect view of the case. The tuberculous disorder involved every organ in the system, and was fast wearing away life. The success attending the treatment of that case affords triumphant proofs of the superiority of Electro-Magnetic practice in diseases of tubercular or scrofulous nature. There is a multitude of chronic diseases, especially those arising from womb complaints in females, which would be speedily cut short were the Electro-Magnetic Medicines and Machines used in their treatment. Females thus afflicted are invited to call on the subscriber, who can give them something more than a hope of relief.

JOHN FONDEY, M. D.

### CONSUMPTION CURED BY THE MAGNETIC MACHINE.

ALBANY, March 10, 1847.

DR. JOHN FONDEY:—My little girl, now in her sixth year, was troubled with a cough

from infancy; in Feb., 1845, was taken with the whooping cough; her lungs became seriously affected; our family physician said she could not live, and that it was useless to give her medicine, as it would weaken her, and left. In October, 1845, you took her in hands. applied the machine twice a week for two months, and administered medicine; she has been restored to health, a thing which she never had before.

ANN M. CLEMSHIRE,

107 Second street.

Case of Tubercular Disease of the Heart, Liver, Lungs, Stomach, and Kidneys, of more than twenty years standing, cured by the Magnetic Practice.

DR. JOHN FONDEY,—Over 20 years since I became afflicted with palpitations of the heart and fainting spells; if I ran or did anything in a hurry I would faint away; could not work more than an hour at a time without fainting; have been troubled all this time with pain in my stomach and side; indigestion; disease of lungs and kidneys; no physician has ever given me any relief. This winter, on the 1st February I was attacked with billious fever and inflammation; expected to die; I sent for you; you broke up the fever in 24 hours, and in a week I was out; you then commenced treating me for the thorough cure of my old complaints; I improved astonishingly under the uses of your Machine and Medicines; I have no more faint spells, no palpitations; can do as hard a day's work as any one; feel well, and am certain I shall get entirely rid of every vestige of my former complaints under your treatment.

CAPT. J. WM. BABCOCK,

49 Colonie street.

Albany, April 5th, 1847.

Case of severe Neuralgia and Sick Headache and case of Disease of Heart and Lunge cured by the Magnetic Practice.

ALBANY, February 22, 1847.

DR. JOHN FONDEY: For five months previous to your attending me I was affected with neuralgia; the pain commencing in my left hip and darting down through the thigh and leg to the foot; the pain was incessant, like scalding water. I could not work an hour all day, and no day more than an hour at a time; the pain troubled me night and day; nothing relieved me. The application of the machine a week or so enabled me to

rest well at night and I could work for a longer time during the day. You applied it for about five weeks; I was affected too with frequent attacks of sick headache, and had not been well for seven years; your medicines have cured me of this also; my headache and neuralgia are gone, and my health is better than it has been for seven years. My little boy had always from birth been sickly; was troubled with palpitations of the heart and cough. For a long time he had been failing; we thought he was in consumption. Under the use of your magnetic medicines he was cured and is now a healthy child,

JACOB SCOTT, Shoemaker,  
164 S. Pearl street.

DR. J. FONDEY—Dear Sir: I have suffered for some time past from severe palpitation of the heart with great distress in that organ; at night I was troubled with it; my liver was very sore. For the past year also I have been inclined to dropsy; these diseases were brought on by working beyond my strength; after a long illness, about three months since I applied to you, and have been much benefitted by the use of the Galvanic Battery and your medicines, and regret that on account of leaving the city, I will be obliged to give up a course which has relieved me so much, and which if persevered in would, I believe, cure most if not all diseases that have a nervous or tuberculous origin. I feel grateful for the benefit I have received, and you are at liberty to make what use of this you please, it will be useful to others.

MRS. C. W., 10 Cross st.  
Albany, April 21, 1846.

### MEDICAL ELECTRICITY.

If all we read of Dr. Sherwood's success be true, Electro-Magnetism is destined ere long to work a great revolution in the medical world as it has already performed for the physical. To all appearances its power is infinite—there is no saying where electricity can stop. It surmounts difficulties that once seemed insurmountable—it severs mountains—drags our locomotives—in an instant it can deprive us of life, and in another instant give it back to us again—it causes the rain-drops to fall—it fashions vegetation—and in the hands of science may yet deprive "sickness of its sting, and consumption of its frightfulness." We have been led to

these remarks from the perusal of a little work entitled "The Motive Power of the Human System," by Dr. H. H. Sherwood, a gentleman who probably knows more about electricity, galvanism, and their application to the human system, than any other man in the country.—*D. Knickerbocker, Albany.*

## THE DISSECTOR.

NEW-YORK, DECEMBER 1, 1847.

### MESMERISM.

JENNY LIND, AND DR. BRAID.

*From the Manchester Courier.*

"On the 3d inst.\* Madlle. Jenny Lind, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. S. Schwabe, and a few of their friends, attended a seance at Mr. Braid's for the purpose of witnessing some of the extraordinary phenomena of hypnotism.† There were two girls who work in a warehouse, and who had just come in their working attire. Having thrown them into the sleep, Mr. Braid sat down to the piano, and the moment he began playing, both somnambulists approached and joined him in singing a trio. Having awaked one of the girls, Mr. Braid made a most startling announcement regarding the one who was still in the sleep. He said, although ignorant of the grammar of her own language when awake, when in the sleep she could accompany any one in the room in singing songs in any language, giving both notes and words correctly—a feat which she was quite incompetent to perform in the waking condition. Mr. B. requested any one in the room to put her to the test, when Mr. Schwabe played and sang a German song, in which she accompanied him correctly, giving both notes and words simultaneously with Mr. Schwabe. Another gentleman then tried her with one in Swedish, in which she also succeeded. Next Jenny Lind played and sang a slow air, with Swedish words, in which the somnambulist accompanied her in the most perfect manner both as regarded words and music. Jenny now seemed resolved to test the powers of the somnambulist to the utmost by a continued strain of the most difficult roulades and cadenzas, including some of her extraordinary sostenuto notes, with all their inflections from pianissimo to forte crescendo, and again diminished to thread-like pianissimo, but in all these fantastic tricks and displays

\* October, 1847.

† Hypnotism. This new name for mesmerism by Mr. Braid, is a twin sister of *Pathetism* by Mr. Sunderland.

of genius by the Swedish nightingale, even to the shake, she was so closely and accurately tracked by the somnambulist that several in the room occasionally could not have told, merely by hearing, that there were two individuals singing—so instantaneously did she catch the notes and so perfectly did their voices blend and accord. Next, Jenny having been told by Mr. Braid that she might be tested by some other language, commenced ‘Casta Diva,’ in which the fidelity of the somnambulist’s performance, both in words and music, fully justified all Mr. Braid had alleged regarding her powers. The girl has naturally a good voice, and has had a little musical instruction in some of the ‘Music for the Million’ classes, but is quite incompetent of doing any such feat in the waking condition either as regards singing the notes or speaking the words with the accuracy she did when in the somnambulist state. She was also tested by Madlle. Lind in merely imitating language, when she gave most exact imitations; and Mr. Schwabe also tried her by some most difficult combinations of sound, which he said he now knew no one was capable of imitating correctly without much practice, but the somnambulist imitated them correctly at once, and that whether spoken slowly or quickly. When the girl was aroused she had no recollection of any thing which had been done by her, or that she had afforded such a high gratification to all present. She said she merely felt somewhat out of breath as if she had been running.

Such feats as those above described have often and long since been practised in this country in the magnetic state.

The following very interesting case occurred in Hartford, Conn., and was published in January, 1842.

“An eminent lawyer being introduced to her, she began with him the discussion of some legal question, astonishing us by the clearness of her conceptions, or keeping us in a roar of laughter by the lively sallies of her wit. During this conversation, some one behind her placed his hand near her head, without touching it. She instantly evinced embarrassment, forgot the subject of discussion, and could not go on until the hand was removed. The magnetiser then placing his hand upon her forehead, her recollection was restored and the conversation renewed. The magnetiser then touched the organ of veneration, when she abruptly terminated the discussion, assuming an attitude of devotion, and refused all farther communication with the physical world. Her devotions being ended, she was put in commu-

nication with a scientific gentleman, with whom she held a long and interesting conversation on the subject of Animal Magnetism; boldly controverting his arguments and giving her own view of this extraordinary science with great clearness of thought and beauty of expression. And here she seemed like an ethereal being—a being of another creation—and in the language of the eminent divine to whose church she belongs, ‘she appeared perfectly sublimated.’ After this she astonished all by determining with wonderful accuracy, the phrenological character of various individuals present, and describing with most minute exactness, their several diseases, acute or chronic, incipient or confirmed. A gentleman present was requested to sing and play a German song for her. The first note struck brought her to the piano, when during the prelude she persisted in standing, but the instant he commenced the song, she sat down by him, and with a full, sweet voice, accompanied him in the very words he sung, although in her natural state she has no knowledge of that language. She then accompanied a French gentleman in one of the songs of his country, and afterward began again the German song, which the pianist had been requested to sing once more. During the performance of this, she was demagnetised, and, of course, discontinued her accompaniment. Being asked by the writer why she stopped, and if she would not still accompany the other voice, she replied that she knew neither the words nor the air.”

These apparently strange phenomena are easily and satisfactorily explained, by the well known fact that persons in the magnetic state, read the minds of other persons instantaneously and with the greatest and most extraordinary facility. In fact the minds of other persons often crowd upon the minds of persons in the magnetic state so as to appear to the latter as their minds. Besides persons in the magnetic state are in a spiritual state, and are in communication more or less with the spirits of other persons, so that the knowledge and language of other persons becomes more or less the knowledge and language of the persons in the magnetic state.

**RATTLESLAKE.**—Dr. Lee, of Hartford, Connecticut, says he has successfully treated several cases for the bite of a rattlesnake, with rum, brandy, or gin in doses of a half pint every fifteen minutes. It is said to absorb and deaden the virus and never intoxicates. This is poison vs poison. How would it act upon a hard drinker as an antidote? A writer in the Washington Union cites case of a cure from the bite of a rattlesnake by drinking copious draughts of brandy.

# SOMNAMBULISM ALOFT,

AT WAR WITH THE WEATHER-COCK.

THE most curious case of somnambulism on record took place last Sunday night, about half-past eleven o'clock in this city. A man named Jesse Combs, living at No. 609 Warner street, was discovered at the top of the liberty pole at the corner of Cherry and Gouverneur streets, turning the vane. He was watched by the police and a number of citizens, who had been attracted by his frequent attempts to change the position of the vane, which was as frequently changed by the wind, reminding many of the lookers on of the celebrated fight between Don Quixotte and the windmill. After making several efforts to place the vane in the position he seemed to desire, down he came, and with a nimbleness that the Jack tar might envy, on reaching *terra firma*, off he started, and was closely pursued by officer Martin, 7th ward, and citizens, when, after a sharp run of several blocks, he was captured. He had on a shirt, drawers, hat and boots, and was taken to the station house by the officer. He could give no account of what occurred, and stated that he "felt as if he had been hard at work." His friends and clothes were sent for. The friends stated that he went to bed after 6 o'clock, and that he must have gone out of the dome window, as the doors were all locked. The pole has been measured, and stands one hundred and twenty-five feet high from the ground. The man was three quarters of an hour in the position in which he was first discovered.—*N. Y. Herald.* November 2, 1847.

## CLAIRVOYANTS,

*Impressionists, and their Magnetisers.*

Clairvoyants in the magnetic state see literally by direct magnetic light as they do in their natural state by reflected light.

They see through opaque bodies by the light of the magnetism which is innate in those bodies.

In order to see objects at great distances they go to them—their spirits do, and are guided by a magnetic or spiritual light that goes before them.

Impressionists do not see literally in the magnetic state, but have impressions in their minds, and also from the single and combined minds of other persons, which are sometimes accurate, but often very erroneous like the blind man's impressions of things

he never saw, and besides they generally pass for clairvoyants and are a fruitful source of skepticism in regard to the reality of clairvoyance. Original impressionists are rarely advanced as high as the first degree, and consequently know nothing of the different degrees in the magnetic state except what they have learned from books or other sources. There are, however, another class of impressionists who were originally clairvoyants, but who have lost their clairvoyance under the baleful influences of the wills of their magnetisers. These magnetisers having often and daily *willed* them to have *impressions* of ideal notions, of phantasies or things that have no real existence, they at last lose their clairvoyance and become mere impressionists, but continue to be used as mere decoys for making money. They can, however, as well as other impressionists, be distinguished from clairvoyants as easily as blind men can be distinguished from those who see; with this difference—that impressionists will often read the minds of the persons about them, and thence obtain information from these and other sources, which might be mistaken for clairvoyance.

## Magnetic Machines and Consumption.

We should again direct the attention of physicians to the great importance of the use of the *magnetic machine* in the treatment of consumption, as the use of this instrument with the compound chloride of gold cures every case in the first stage of the disease, and more than nine-tenths of those in the last stage.

We should also again direct their attention to the fact that we first commenced the new, scientific, and successful manner of magnetizing, which gives to these machines all their value, and were soon after compelled to engage in the manufacture of magnetic machines to obtain good instruments for magnetizing, by which the great benefits of the practice might be extended and perpetuated; and that we have sold and continue to sell at a very small profit a great number every year. The great demand for these instruments has, however, excited the cupidity of speculators,

who have engaged in the manufactory of inferior imitations of our machines, and without any knowledge of magnetism or magnetizing, are foisting them upon the profession and the public with all the arts that are peculiar to such geniuses; and if the practice of magnetizing is not entirely ruined and abandoned in a few years, it will not be from any fault of theirs, for a little practice soon shows that no dependence whatever can be placed upon the action of such machines, in the cure of consumption or any other disease.

The actions of the two magnetic forces are opposite, or as different as black is from white, and in magnetizing it is a matter of great importance to know which is the positive and which the negative force, and where to apply the positive and where the negative force; yet neither the speculator who sells, nor the person who purchases, knows anything on these subjects. Besides the forces from our machines are really magnetic, and appear, and are really different from those of other machines as seen by the natural eye and by clairvoyants.

Physicians are not only using these machines in acute and chronic diseases with great success, but they are using the magnetized compound, chloride of gold, in tubercular disease or scrofula, including consumption, and are curing these hitherto intractable cases at a rapid rate. The cases we publish in this number are fair samples of a great number we have received from distinguished physicians in different parts of the Union and the Canadas. —

#### Quacks and Quack Medicines.

Few persons have any conception of the extent and wantonness of the impositions that are daily practiced by the venders of quack medicines, who advertise remedies for every disease, from Taylor's Balsam of Liverwort down to Smith's *Torpedo* machines. Certificates and letters innumerable detailing the wonderful cures performed by these remedies are paraded in handbills, pamphlets, and in whole columns of the daily papers, at an enormous expense, and these expenses are paid out of the enormous profits from the sale of these articles to the poor and

very ignorant portion of the community, for whom they are manufactured.

Now it is well known to persons who have examined the subject, that no dependence, whatever, can be placed upon the certificates or letters thus paraded—no matter whether they are sworn to or not, or a thousand dollars offered any person to show they are counterfeit, and besides, it by diligent, active and laborious search, one of these certificate makers or letter writers is run down or caught, he is found to be a poor ignorant creature, or man of straw.

The following morceau from one of Dr. Townsend's pamphlets, is a fair specimen of the wantonness constantly practiced by these geniuses.

**"SPINAL COMPLAINTS.** The Engravings below illustrate cases of Spinal Complaints relieved or entirely cured by the use of Dr. Townsend's Sarsaparilla. We cannot spare the space to give the certificates which are very interesting, but they may be had at the office. This remedy has, through the blessings of Providence, performed some most astonishing cures in this most obstinate of all diseases."

There are four "engravings below," or following the above article, all of which are ours, and will be very familiar to our readers, as we published one of them in this Journal in April, 1844; page 96, and in our Manual, page 61, and the other three in the January number for 1847, and Manual, figures 1, 2 and 4. Our readers will also remember the extraordinary results of our labors with the magnetic machine in the first, and the equally extraordinary results of Dr. Kinne's labors in the last. There was not, however, "spare space to give the certificates which are very interesting"—of course they are, and just as much so as any others he may or may not have. There is, however, nothing really extraordinary in all this, as these geniuses employ men daily to write letters to them puffing their medicines, and to write certificates of cures, and prepare them with accompanying puffs for publication, and these things are so well understood that if any intelligent man should call to see one of these letters or certificates in regard to any particular case, he would be esteemed very green, even by the inmates of the office where such wonderful articles of medicine are sold.