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AND
MIRROR OF NATURE.

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VOL. I.

RETROSPECT.

As our volume draws to a close, we are naturally led to make comparisons of the present state of the great question of Mesmerism with that in which we found it at the commencement; and it is impossible to do this without inferring that the year 1843 must ever be regarded as one of the most eventful in the history of the science. Brought into disrepute, and misrepresented by Mr. Wakley and other scientific journalists of London; scouted generally by *les savans* throughout the country as an idle chimera; and regarded by the miscellaneous public with suspicion or fear; when M. La Fontaine introduced Mesmerism into the principal towns of England and Scotland in 1841-2, his mission awoke a new interest in it that has never flagged, because it was amongst a large, intelligent, and earnest class of investigators who, belonging to no *caste*, have dared to be honest and avow their observations and discoveries in the face of all scepticism and derision, until now the question with most well-informed people is not—"What do you *believe* of Mesmerism?" but, "What do you *understand* of it?"

Nothing is more natural than for those who have long been devoted to any science, to look upon themselves as its conservators; and it is therefore no matter of wonder that the few who in this country had identified themselves with Mesmerism up to the period of M. La Fontaine's itinerary, should be somewhat alarmed by the very numerous accession of its

professors, induced by that circumstance. We believe that not less than 300 individuals have experimented publicly, (some occasionally and others regularly), in Great Britain, Ireland, and America, in the course of the year. Now it must be evident that many of these parties have been but very partially acquainted with the nature of the principles they professed to illustrate; and at this many of those who assumed themselves to be better informed have, from time to time, taken great umbrage. But, we would ask, if the EXPERIMENTS of these new advocates have been *bona fide*, where has been the harm of their proceedings? We take it for granted that *there must have been a case in which some one mesmerised for the FIRST TIME; and has not every other inquiring individual as much right to mesmerise, or to see mesmeric effects produced by another, as that man had?* "Ob, yes," says one of the exclusives, "but you know there are now so many long-experienced practitioners, it is a pity that those who have had so little experience should assume so public an alliance with the question." To such our reply is,—and we give it after having mesmerised nearly four hundred people, and delivered more than two hundred lectures,—that the wisest of us are but upon the threshold of the subject; a subject so multiform in its phases and so varied in its essentialities, that were its exposition confined entirely to those who thoroughly comprehend it, the question might at once be closed; for the man *thus* qualified is not in existence; whilst it is a well-known fact that some of the most beautiful and interesting mesmeric discoveries have been made by men having no pretensions to scientific lore, and whom, in short, the schools would be ashamed to own!

But—it is again argued—however new to science Mesmeric phenomena may be, it must be allowed that those who have had a scientific training, are likeliest fairly to appreciate the facts and put a rational construction upon them, and to such, therefore, it more legitimately belongs. Does it indeed! *That* we have not yet learnt; for Mesmerism belongs to humanity at large, and experience has taught us that those who have had the most rigid scientific training, as it is called, have ever been the first to oppose and abuse, and the last to receive the knowledge of any new and grand development of our nature, and none more so than of this very one of Mesmerism! **NAY, THERE IS SCARCELY A SCHOOL OF ANY NOTE IN EUROPE, THE LEADERS OF WHICH HAVE NOT, (in their own estimation) PROVED, "ON SCIENTIFIC PRINCIPLES," THAT MESMERISM CANNOT BE TRUE;—BUT IT IS TRUE NOTWITHSTANDING; AND SO HAVE THE THREE HUNDRED UNSCIENTIFIC MEN**

TO WHOM WE HAVE ALLUDED CLEARLY DEMONSTRATED ! If, therefore, they had served no other purpose than this, every sincere lover of the subject for its own sake ought to feel gratified rather than annoyed by the result. Instead of being grieved by it, we ought to rejoice that after the heavy blow which had been given to it by Mr. Wakley and other " Dictators to Nature," Humanity should thus start up and vindicate the truth at once with three hundred tongues inspired only by herself. But perhaps by this time many of those who at first entertained a different opinion are prepared to agree with us.

Let us not, however, be misunderstood. Nothing can be wider of our intention than to encourage the proceedings of mere mercenary pretenders. Nor is there now, perhaps, much to fear from such. The popular ankerling after Mesmerism merely as a curious sight has subsided or is subsiding; and he who can exhibit nothing beyond the common phenomena attending somnambulism has altogether ceased to be attractive. The number of public experimenters is therefore gradually lessening; but of private ones, increasing, rather than otherwise; and the probability is, that in a short time the science will be professed by none who are not either very skilful, or endowed with that earnestness by the exercise of which skill is at length acquired, and that these will cultivate it principally on account of its curative properties. In this manner, a new order of practitioners will be established, to whom the medical men of another generation will begin to assimilate themselves, until that which they now as a body so superciliously reject, will become the chief corner-stone of their practice; or, if not, they will assuredly be in a great measure superseded.

Since our last we have experimented publicly in Sheffield, Derby, and Nottingham—showing the striking analogy borne by a variety of Mesmeric results (especially of those educed in a state of vigilance) to the symptoms of Epilepsy, Hysteria, Paralysis, and other derangements or suspensions of the vital forces; as well as to those of perversion of the senses, mental hallucination, &c. It was gratifying, at Sheffield, to hear a gentleman of the high standing of Dr. G. C. Holland publicly declare his conviction that not a single phenomenon exhibited was wanting in genuineness; and the more so, as we believe this to be the opinion of nearly every other medical man of any importance in the town. In Derby we found the public generally, and especially the more intelligent portion, either believers in Mesmerism or passive inquirers. A few medical men, however, did all they could to interrupt and invalidate our

experiments; and though most unphilosophical and insolent in their own behaviour, pretended they were improperly treated because we would not allow them to meddle with what they boldly confessed themselves entirely ignorant of! We have never shown the least discourtesy towards professional men inclined to approach the subject in a rational spirit; but when men so truly ignorant of human nature as Messrs. Gisborne and Fearn, surgeons, virtually confessed themselves at Derby to be, come forward with taunts and sneers, denouncing Mesmerism as humbug, and all its professors from Dr. Elliotson downward as impostors, we can assure them they will meet with no court from us until they change their tone. A report of some part of these proceedings will be found in our present number. Since we left, Mr. Gisborne appears to have formed a coalition with the Editor of the *Derby Mercury* for the purpose of misrepresenting the whole affair; and denounces all Mesmerism as "quackery," et cetera, et cetera. But, after all, it may not be Mr. G.'s regard for truth that has been wounded by what he condemns as quackery. The "quackery" in which he has been educated chancing to be *orthodox*, and Mesmerism at present being *heterodox*, is quite sufficient to insure the condemnation of it by men of his stamp, who will one day be glad to eat back their own words when better men have made it *respectable*, as it is fast becoming.* As for Mr. Fearn, his conduct was altogether illiberal and vulgar, and commenta-tion upon it would be wasted.

At Nottingham we found a most wonderful change indeed. On visiting that town a year ago, the Faculty, almost to a man, gave us violent opposition. Not a word of opposition on this occasion however was offered, although many of them attended night after night. We were the more gratified by this, because their quietness was the result of conviction—many of them having become Mesmerisers out of sheer scepticism, and so beaten themselves into agreement with us by their own evidence! How advantageous would it be to the Faculty and their patients generally, if, instead of blindly opposing Mesmerism, they would try for themselves whether there be truth in it or not! Nothing is more easy. The modes have now been published through so many media, that no excuse is left for those who will not; and it is not worth while wasting time to convince those who are too idle to convince themselves.

* "I had hoped THE CREDULITY OF MY FELLOW-TOWNSMEN on the subject of Mesmerism had been dispelled, and that Derby had witnessed its death and burial, and that its remains were beyond the reach of man to resuscitate. The proceedings of last week PROVED MY MISTAKE."—*Vide Mr. F. Gisbourne's Letter in the Derby Mercury.*

We are exceedingly glad to hear of the progress our friends are making in the neighbourhood of Wolverhampton. Medical men, clergymen, &c., are there all taking part together in furthering the cause. Strange! that whilst in some towns, as in Bedford, Derby, &c. this class are so strongly opposed to it, in other districts they should be for it to a man. It may be said such an incongruity is easily referable to the force of example. This makes it no better;—such being merely the principle upon which silly sheep follow their leader; who chancing, perhaps, to leap over a faint mark on the path, is sure to be imitated by the entire flock as they come, one by one, to the same spot. Such a remark, however, cannot apply in some localities—in those of Wolverhampton, Liverpool, Sheffield, and York, especially, several highly respectable practitioners there having from the first been amongst the most earnest and prudent investigators.

At Manchester, Mr. Braid still perseveres in collecting facts corroborative of the peculiar views he has so long advocated; and our conviction still is that some of his conclusions, however they may seem warranted by his own experiments (which, though numerous, are, we think, of a somewhat samely character,) would be considerably modified if drawn from a wider and more varied range of phenomena. We do not war with Mr. Braid: on the contrary, to a certain degree we think him right; but he might easily go much farther—or rather take a wider scope—and not be wrong. We would respectfully hint to all pathetists that their views might be very much enlarged if they would wed themselves too strongly to one peculiar line of operation, but would each observe what the others are doing; and in the same spirit of earnestness in which they try that class of experiments to themselves most customary, try the other classes. This would not only lead at length to a knowledge of all the various phenomena by each operator, but probably to a more clear and accurate understanding of the real principles of what we call Mesmerism, than could be obtained by other means.

In this number we insert a letter from Mr. Pennington, of Preston, detailing some interesting phenomena in the case of a female patient there. We do this in the spirit which has animated us during the whole routine of our labours—that is, in the desire that every experimentalist should have an opportunity of describing his own cases in his own manner, without by any means pledging ourselves to an agreement with his inferences, but giving the whole of our readers a chance of forming their own opinions upon them. We know that the

Edinburgh Phrenological Journal takes a different course—with some people: withholding what such may regard as revelations or discoveries, because they do not square with the editor's present views. We know, too, that, because we gave a former letter of Mr. Pennington's, involving something at variance with our own ideas, that publication quoted his evidence against us—we think in a much too stringent and rather hasty spirit. We therefore take this opportunity of assuring our readers that, whilst we have from the beginning, for the sake of free inquiry and fair-testing, avoided all exclusiveness on the mere ground of a difference in passing opinions, we do not consider ourselves amenable for the abstract views of our correspondents. So long as we have been satisfied of the genuineness of their experiments, we have given them; and as to *their* interpretation of the indications, we had no right to withhold or mutilate them. We laid them altogether before the world, and reserved our own inferences—as we are yet reserving them—that when fairly matured they may be published in a proper form. This we think a more truly liberal, rational, and (with all deference) *prudent* course than reserving to ourselves an exclusive censorship as to what opinions on Phrenology shall or shall not go forth to the public.

An anonymous correspondent has called our attention to a ridiculous article in the *John Bull* newspaper, abusing our friend Mr. John Potchett, on the ground of those peculiar effects upon himself, described in a former number of the *Phreno-Magnet*, under the head of "A Mesmeriser mesmerised." The said article in a somewhat humorous vein represents him as intoxicated; and the *Nottingham Journal*, animated by a similar spirit, has copied it, much to the amusement of the good townspeople, who know Mr. Potchett, (holding as he does a public situation in a scientific institution,) to be one of the most sober, circumspect, cool-headed men in the neighbourhood! Such a representation as the *John Bull's* might do very well for a joke where the party was personally known. But as it could not be so well understood elsewhere, we have not hesitated thus to express our opinion upon it. Mr. Potchett has published a letter in the *Nottingham Review*, retorting upon the original writer and his copyist too—both of whom are probably much more familiar than he is with the nature of intoxicating drinks.

Mr. Robert Jones, of Liverpool, has sent us a letter, (too long for insertion entire,) on Dr. Collyer's claim to the honour of *first* discovering—what, we understand, he does not now believe in—Phreno-Mesmerism. The whole matter might be summed up in a few words. Mr. J. says, (we know not upon

what authority, unless that of Dr. Collyer himself,) that the priority belongs to the Doctor, both in England and America, by at least some months. He leaves it to the world to decide whether or not Messrs. Atkinson and Mansfield have even a contemporary claim with the Doctor—stating that his first discovery was in November, 1839, though he made no public announcement of it till 1841 (!) and thus continues—"According to Dr. Elliotson, in January, 1842, he announced to the Phrenological Society his having received in the preceding month a packet of newspapers from America, containing accounts of some Mesmeric experiments, which he afterwards transmitted to Mr. Prideaux, with a request that after having read them he would send them to Dr. Engledue. When Dr. Engledue received them he was just leaving home for Mr. Case's, at Fareham, where he was to meet Mr. Gardiner and Mr. Mansfield and hear the details of some experiments made by them, which, according to report, proved to bear a close resemblance to those contained in the American papers. Now (continues Mr. Jones) granting the correctness of the above narrative, the truth of which we are in honour bound to believe, it cannot but occur to the minds of your readers that no inconsiderable time must have elapsed from the instant of the first discovery to the first public announcement; and from thence to the report issuing from the Press; and afterwards in its transit from America to this country, when and where it found Messrs. Atkinson and Mansfield engaged in conducting experiments similar to those which had been made in America some months previous. So that, notwithstanding all that has been said *pro* and *con* on this matter, Dr. Collyer's claims to priority are quite conclusive and indisputable." This may be all very well; and granting that Mr. Jones has been rightly informed, the Doctor's claim to priority is probably correct. But Mr. J. has altogether overlooked the fact that other gentlemen—in *America*—not Messrs. Atkinson and Mansfield in England—declared *their* claim to priority long ago in the face of the whole world. Except that we love to see every man regarded according to his real deserts, it is a matter of no interest to us, who first discovered Phreno-Mesmerism. Nature must always make use of some agent in her revelations, and it is certainly pleasant to be considered that agent. But the case of the German somnambulist, in 1819, who directed those about her to excite a few of her organs for the purpose of better enabling her to give them some specific information, we again assert was a pretty good hint that any intelligent Mesmerist might act upon—and, indeed, *may* have acted upon, without knowing that others were doing so.

Further inquiry must be made before we assent to the correctness of Mr. Jones's information. So far as we are concerned, it would be quite as satisfactory for Phreno-Mesmerism to be *proved* to have originated with Dr. Collyer as with any other man. But the pretensions of La Roy Sunderland, Dr. Buchanan, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Mansfield, and others, are not all to be set aside in a moment on the mere *ipse dixit* of any one. This we feel convinced of—judging from communications we long since received from America, and withheld rather than wound Dr. Collyer's feelings—that if *too much* be claimed for him it will inevitably lead to a renewal on this side the Atlantic of the contention he has left on the other—contention of such a character as we should be ashamed of seeing Mesmerism involved in here. We are informed that since Dr. Collyer's arrival in this country he has exhibited some very novel and interesting Mesmeric phenomena; and though we are not prepared to agree with Mr. Jones that he “stands alone in the scientific world pre-eminently the *sole* discoverer of Phreno-Mesmerism,” we trust that all merited respect will be paid him for whatever useful and original light he may be able to throw on *any* phase of this multifarious question.

In concluding this *resumé* of the miscellaneous topics of Mesmeric gossip, we may perhaps be pardoned a few words on a subject in which our own personal character is more immediately involved. We think it will readily be granted that for upwards of a year no experimenter has laboured harder than we in acquiring and diffusing knowledge on this subject. Those who know us best can bear witness that not only at Sheffield, but in all the principal towns of England, from London to Durham, and from Lincoln to Chester, have we pursued our investigations night and day in presence of the most intelligent and truth-loving people we could draw together in each place, for the purpose of convincing them not only of the validity and importance of Mesmerism, but of instructing them how to apply it themselves as a curative and educative agent. And though by these means many thousands have been led to believe and investigate; the persecution we have had to endure in consequence—the insolence, misrepresentation, scurrilous back-biting, &c.,—not only on the part of the vulgar ignorant but of the *vulgar learned*, and their panderers of the press—can scarcely be comprehended or credited by those who have not been in some way or other personally affected by it; and (a fact we would more particularly notice) there has been no falsehood more currently reported and believed than that in all this we were animated solely by mercenary motives, and making Mesmerism merely an

instrument for amassing wealth. Now, though it is deemed honourable for a mere conjuror during a single itinerary to acquire a fortune; and a common showman dying worth ten thousand pounds is a theme of universal delight with some, whilst others think nothing of fifty or one hundred pounds in a night for a song or a dance; we are well aware that in the self-same eyes it is discreditable for an honest, sober, steady-going retailer of truth to get a living. Even were a Mesmeric lecturer to amass a fortune, we think he would be as well entitled to it as a professor of any other science, especially as his audiences would not part with their money unless they got what they considered a fair equivalent for it. It was of no consequence that last winter we gave nearly twenty pounds, the profits of some lectures at Nottingham, to the Infirmary and Dispensary, and that we have repeatedly done similarly in other places. The doctors there said it was "the fruit of collusion and trickery and ought to have been thrown in our face;" and though we did not clearly pocket an equal sum, after a hard week's work, the editors of the *Review* and *Journal* newspapers abused us as though we had stolen their purses! We will not boast of our motives for these exertions,—there is a reward in them of some kind, or they would be discontinued,—but for the consolation of those who envy and misrepresent us, we would, on bidding farewell to the subject, observe, that *up to the present moment we have gained nothing by Mesmerism but experience in its truth and beauty*; whilst, on the other hand, for the satisfaction of our friends, we are happy to state that we have lost nothing by it beyond our time, rest, and a little of that literary recreation in which before it was our wont to indulge, and in which we hope soon again to rejoice.

As our permanent residence in town will commence almost immediately, we shall then probably exhibit to our London friends a quiet series of interesting evening experiments, the character of some of which may be gathered from the report, at the end of this number, of our proceedings in Derby and Nottingham, to which we call particular attention.

REPORT OF A CASE BEFORE THE NORTHAMPTON PHRENO-MESMERIC SOCIETY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHRENO-MAGNET.

SIR,—The subject of Mesmerism excited in the town of Northampton, as at other places which have been favoured with your presence, a vast degree of interest among all classes; and its subsequent history here is, I presume, but the history

of it in other places. It is received with wonder;—men suspend their belief till they see which way the tide of popular opinion flows—the medical faculty take the lead in denouncing it—they cannot deny the facts;—argument fails and they resort to scurrility and abuse;—the latter a weapon, so powerful that it has disarmed the timid, who, in place of testing by practical experiment or candid investigation, follow with the multitude, and by unanimous consent delude their minds into a belief that their puny efforts have succeeded in putting a stop to what these gentlemen term “humbug.” But, Sir, truth cannot become dormant when once excited, and he who courts her will find the arguments and scorns of his fellow-men daily give way before the accumulated evidence with which she will furnish him. Our investigations here have led to important natural revelations. The following case is an example:—

The patient who was operated upon on this occasion, was a healthy young man, about eighteen years of age. After being thrown into a state of coma, which was accomplished in about five minutes by Mr. Stenson, whose name has already appeared in the *Phreno-Magnet*, his limbs were thrown into a state of rigidity and afterwards reduced to their natural state, at a signal given by a third party, by passes made behind the patient at the distance of four to five feet, precautions being taken that he should not, either by the action of the air, or the sound which might be made by the operator, discover which arm was intended to be relaxed. The operator now took hold of the patient's hand, and requested one of the gentlemen present to operate on his (the operator's) head. The organ of Combativeness was touched, and was immediately developed by the patient, thus fully demonstrating the power of influencing the patient through the medium of the operator. The action of this organ was now attempted to be reduced by the operator himself touching Benevolence on the patient: but after repeated attempts he was unsuccessful. It then occurred to the audience to reduce it by the same means by which it was excited: viz., by placing the finger of the third party on the organ of Benevolence in the operator; the effect was instantaneous, and excited the greatest surprise in the audience.* The next experiment of the same kind was performed by the same person placing his finger on the tip of the operator's nose; the patient arose, pulled an imaginary gun, primed, loaded, and let it off,

* In this experiment, both operator and the third party were as far behind the range of vision as possible; had the patient been in his usual state he could not have seen the experiment.

and in a short time ran forward and picked up the bird. Veneration, Imitation, &c. were excited and were developed with their characteristic manifestations. Mr. S. then tried whether he could operate on the patient by *volition*, and was in every case successful; the patient rose from his chair, went to the fire to warm himself, seated himself by the operator, went through a variety of motions;—the last (a most decided experiment) was his getting out of his chair and seating himself within one yard of one of the company, the operator *willing* that he should do so, at the request of one of the gentlemen present. This was the closing experiment of the evening, and all present went away fully convinced of the power of Mesmerism, *the will of the operator to affect the patient*, and of the truth that he can be operated upon through the medium of a third party.

The experiments on the same party on a subsequent occasion were not quite so successful owing to the interference of a sceptical gentleman, which had such an effect upon the operator that it communicated disagreeable feelings to the patient, who expressed himself annoyed at the disturbance created in the room, and has since felt a peculiar dislike to the gentleman who caused it.

I am Sir, yours, (on behalf of the Society,)

A MEMBER.

Northampton, 14th Nov., 1843.

THE NEWLY DISCOVERED ORGANS—BY A MESMERIC PATIENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHRENO-MAGNET.

Since the discovery of Phreno-Mesmerism, Phrenology has been widely spread; those who had formerly paid a little attention to the science, and then given it up, have commenced again with renewed vigour, and many who sneered at it are now eagerly inquiring into its particulars. Charts, busts, &c. are in extensive demand, and a general desire for information on the subject seems to have spread throughout the whole country.

Within the last three or four months, about forty lectures have been delivered on Phreno-Mesmerism in this town;—numbers now believe in the doctrine; others are still doubting; while a third class set the matter down as a delusion. The medical profession are looking on—some few are experimenting for themselves—but the general opinion of most is, that there is “*something in it.*” Mr. Harell and I, during our Mesmeric investigations, have latterly found that a female patient

is able, when in a state of somnolency, to give valuable Phrenological information, though when the same female is awake she is quite ignorant of Phrenology. At a few sittings she pointed out to us the localities of all the organs marked on the busts, several newly discovered ones which we already knew, besides a great number of others. I will give the names, as many of them may be new to your readers—Love of Pets, Sound, Jealousy, Love of Company, Independence, Velocity, Climbing, Ease, Industry, Gaming, Bathing, Shooting, and Fear Grotesque. These were organs with the localities of which we were previously acquainted. The others which were given by the female to our several interrogatories were as follows:—The senses of Hearing, Feeling, Tasting, Smelling, Heat and Cold; also Perseverance, Confidence, Modesty, Curiosity, Contentment, Madness, Pity, Childishness, Remembrance, Personal Identity, Thoughtfulness, the feeling of Sickness, the feeling of Health, the Love of Life, the Fear of Death, Love, the Desire to Wander, Rigidity, Falsehood, Suicide, Antipathy, or a dislike to persons, things, &c.; Somnolence and Consciousness. A few observations on some of the above may not be uninteresting.

Remembrance—When this organ is touched the patient recollects anything, when awake, that has transpired during the time that the organ was excited when she was in the Mesmeric state.

Rigidity, on each side of Firmness—When this is excited, the whole body of the patient goes into a state of catalepsy.

Somnolence, situated above Consciousness on the front part—When this organ is touched, sleep is induced.

Consciousness, betwixt Cautiousness and Conscientiousness—When this organ is operated upon the patient awakes in a few seconds. Before we discovered this, we have frequently been, and seen others, from thirty to sixty minutes in awaking a person by the usual methods of blowing, reverse passes, &c. On touching one side of Consciousness, the one hemisphere of the brain becomes awake, on which side the organs cannot then be excited, but they can be excited on the other side. When in this state, the features look as if they belonged to two different persons; the patient laughs with one side of the mouth.

We have tried all the organs on several individuals, and found that in every case the particular feelings were excited, on touching the parts pointed out by the female, during what we may call her Clairvoyant Mesmeric lectures.

On the whole, the proceedings have been of a very extraordinary character, and have baffled all attempts at explanation.

The pupil appeared to read the numerous organs of the mind with as much ease as if she were reading a book ; and her comments on the localities and functions of each organ were most surprising, and would not have disgraced a Gall, a Spurzheim, or a Combe. Well may we exclaim with England's greatest bard :—

“ What a piece of work is man !
 How noble in reason !
 How infinite in faculties !
 In form and moving, how express and admirable !
 In action how like an angel !
 In apprehension how like a God ! ”

MYLES PENNINGTON.

Preston, Nov. 11th, 1843.

MR. POTCHETT'S CONCLUDING LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHRENO-MAGNET.

SIR,—Last year, on your second visit, I asserted at one of your lectures, that I had obtained evidence sufficiently demonstrative to prove that a power or principle in nature exists by which the human frame, under certain circumstances, can be thrown into a peculiar state or condition, designated Mesmeric, and that I should test it by as many experiments as my opportunities might afford, and impart to the public their results. I have done so with great care—having often repeated my own experiments, and never relying upon the hearsay evidence of others—corroborating the general Phrenological manifestations, as well as the state called Clairvoyance. But I am as unable as at the first experiment to form any opinion as to the cause, and am quite regardless as to what appellation may be applied for its designation, so long as the simple idea of the principle involved is understood. Every cool, unprejudiced, philosophical experimentalist obtains demonstrative evidence that various wonderful and strange effects are produced, which some ascribe to a special or particular fluid—to Terrestrial Magnetism—to Animal Magnetism—to Electricity or Galvanism, &c. ; whilst others regard them as the mere results of the imagination, which bye-the-bye is no less astonishing than any of the former ; for this supposes that certain portions of the brain or mind can be called into active operation at the will of its possessor or of others, which acts upon the nervous and muscular system so as to produce rigidity, temporary insanity, paralysis, and various other states. We also find that sympathies and antipathies call into activity the same principle

or power—as the sparkling eye and cheerful countenance of a friend or lover, or the angry frown and stern look of a merciless creditor or relentless foe produce opposite effects; likewise the playful antics of a favourite dog or kitten, and the savage roar of a tiger affect the whole system in different ways. A charge is often brought forward by sceptics, that unless the experimentalist can succeed upon every one alike whom he may be induced to try, that it is all trickery and deception. All may be susceptible to the influence of some individual, but not to every one; for instance in my own family, which is rather numerous, I have in almost innumerable instances succeeded in obtaining the most satisfactory results from the state termed mesmeric, excepting from two of them, the one a female about seventeen, the other a boy about nine years of age, each of whom I have frequently tried with the most firm determination on my part and earnest desire on theirs, for upwards of half an hour at a time; and so far from producing any sensible effects I might as well have endeavoured to obtain the anticipated and desired results from marble statues. But these do not invalidate or destroy the evidence from others; the why or the wherefore I pretend not to determine—they appear in every respect as likely subjects as the rest.

As the science called Mesmeric is but yet in its infancy, many of its effects are unexpectedly produced from the circumstance of a sufficient number of them not being recorded. Still they are undoubtedly the results of certain established laws in nature, though at present known but to a very limited extent; but when it becomes more investigated, and the results of certain applications more extensively known, and experiments from numerous distant places compared with each other, the laws by which they are produced will be reduced to a greater certainty, so as ultimately to become established as a universally admitted science, though the attainment of such may be the work of many years.

I remain yours sincerely,

JOHN POTCHETT.

Snenton, adjoining Nottingham, Nov. 20, 1843.

MR. SPENCER T. HALL'S MESMERIC LECTURES IN DERBY

(Abridged from the Derby Reporter, Nov. 10th.)

In consequence of the solicitations of many earnest enquirers, Mr. Spencer T. Hall, editor of the *Phreno-Magnet*, whose startling experiments have excited so much interest in London and the principal provincial towns, gave a series of lectures at the Athenæum, Derby, this week.

On Tuesday evening, before a highly respectable audience, Mr. HALL commenced by observing that it was not his intention to invest his subject either with mystery, ambiguity, or pedantry, but to call their attention in the simplest and most intelligible style to phenomena which, however, strange and startling they might appear at present, would, at no distant day, be as familiar to scientific investigation as were at present those of electricity, air, or light. For it was not because of any change in the laws of nature, but that they were observed by him through a new medium, that to the devoted Mesmerist every day developed something novel, surprising, and important;—and as from the days of Noah to our own, every new development of truth had been met with opposition, misrepresentation, and scorn, fully equal to its advantage to mankind, Mesmerism, in not being exempt from this, had suffered, and was yet only enduring the common lot. The ever-glorious and undying principle men had agreed to call truth, although often minute in its manifestations as a single ray of light, was in the sphere of its influence “dimensionless as God’s infinity.” It was, therefore, no wonder that men conventionally trained to believe that their small minds could comprehend at a grasp all worth knowing, should endeavour to qualify their ignorance by misrepresenting all that lay beyond the limits of their understanding. He made these remarks in consequence of some of the medical men of Derby having denounced both him and Mesmerism, and endeavoured to dissuade people from attending his lectures without having the least knowledge of the nature of those phenomena he had yet to adduce. Their conduct, however, would defeat their object; for though they might, like the ostrich, hide their heads and then imagine that nobody could see their position because they were blind to it themselves, Mesmerism would make its way until every act of scorn or contempt now levelled at it by its ignorant opponents would form a brick in the monument to its triumph. The experiments he was about to bring before them were both genuine and important,—indicative, indeed, of some of the grandest principles of our nature. Still he did not call upon any of them to believe him on his mere *ipse dixit*, but ponder well when they had candidly observed, and wait or seek for further evidence if not fully satisfied with the phenomena he might exhibit. He wished them clearly to understand that he stood there not to identify himself particularly with anything that might have been advanced by previous experimenters in the town. He believed much he had to show them would be altogether new, and would perchance throw some light on what before might have seemed discrepant without invalidating it—for this had been the way in which time had cleared up many mysteries. Many startling developments of our own day were not known or even anticipated by our grandsires; and the natural inference therefore was, that we could not yet have arrived at a knowledge of all that might be known; and bearing this maxim in mind, nothing could be more revolting to common sense than to repudiate everything that could not be tested by our old preconceptions and preconclusions. The lecturer then adverted to the fact that nearly all those who were publicly occupied as Mesmerists in this country produced their principal phenomena when the patients were in a comatose state. To him some of the most interesting were produced in a state of perfect vigilance, and he would proceed to exhibit them; before which, however, he requested the audience to appoint some candid, intelligent, and respectable gentleman to sit by him and act as chairman and scrutineer.

W. BARKER, Esq., having been unanimously appointed, took his seat on the platform, and the LECTURER then stated that his intention was to proceed with the experiments, and to submit to no querulous interruptions until they were concluded, when he would be most happy to answer any relevant question that might be asked; or, when he could not do so to their satisfaction and his own to acknowledge his inability rather than abuse the truth by a false assumption. (Cheers.) It was, however, necessary, before he went further, to state more definitely some of the principles for which he should contend that evening; these, were, in brief, that there was a striking analogy borne in the symptoms of hysteria, paralysis, epilepsy, stammering, and other derangements or suspensions of the vital functions to the results of Mesmerism; and that, just as by inoculation the small pox, and other physical disorders, might be hastened in a mild and salutary form, to the obviation of their more virulent recurrence; so, where a tendency to the diseases he had mentioned was cherished in the system, might Mesmerism bring on a similar premature crisis, with similar advantage—or even remove the effects where they had already occurred. As a proof of this he could quote a vast number of cases; and the principle he would presently illustrate by experiments upon parties who were present.

Another branch of his subject—the application of Mesmerism to Phrenology—he would also advert to. The dispute between metaphysicians of the old school and the earlier phrenologists involved much less difference than the world generally supposed; for though the former believed the brain to be a simple unity, they still acknowledged it to be the capital organ of the mind. The Phrenologist, too, believed it to be the organ of the mind, but with this difference, that instead of being a simple unity, it was a complication of thirty-six or thirty-eight organs, each organ having its own peculiar office, but administering to the grand function of the aggregated mass. For himself, as a Phreno-Mesmerist, he felt bound to go farther than either, and to assert his belief that not only was there a greater number of capital organs than was recognised by the early Phrenologists, but that each of these was itself a concretion of minor and distinct, though relative organs, every one possessed of its own peculiar but tributary function. Another important fact to which he called their especial attention was, that not only had each faculty of the mind its distinct cerebral organ, but that this again, had a double function, or, more probably, was associated with another organ having a negative function, operating as a regulator, and modifying its action, thus leaving the mind at liberty in the sphere it occupied to adopt or reject, to do or to avoid, according to the power of the motive. In contending, however, that the brain was the organ of the mind, the lecturer observed that he was no more advocating the principle that it was the mind, (as had been done by some philosophers,) than, in speaking of a musical instrument, he was contending for its being the musician who played upon it. He would rather liken the brain to the instrument, the spirit to its musician, and thoughts, whether embodied in words or actions, its music. (Applause.) It had been preposterously supposed that Mesmerism and Phrenology would necessarily lead to infidelity and irreligion. For himself he could assure them, that in consequence of his pursuits he was every day becoming more reverent in his disposition, and more spiritual in his views. Phreno-Mesmerism, if it proved anything at all, showed most clearly that man had organs of Veneration, Hope, and Faith—faculties for worshipping God, and believing in more than could be made

palpable to the grosser senses. And since, in the wide range of creation there could not exist an atom without its use—since there could not be a function without some purpose to which it might be applied, Nature could never have endowed man with the organs he had named, unless there were a God to worship and something to believe in beyond the comprehension of gross corporeality; and in these very facts alone they had a sublime and powerful argument against the atheist and the scoffer, which ought to consecrate Phrenology to all who had a hope in their own immortality. (Applause.)

Mr. HALL now called William Holbrook, a respectable looking youth of about eighteen years, of a nervo-sanguine-lymphatic temperament, and pretty fairly developed head, whom he proceeded to operate upon in a state of perfect vigilance. We have not space for the whole of the observations by which these experiments were accompanied; and to give them partially would be unsatisfactory. It is difficult even to describe many of the most striking phenomena as they were brought out—a true conception of their character can be formed only by an eye-witness. The operator standing behind the patient (who was still perfectly awake) and slightly pressing a finger of each hand upon the deltoid muscles, caused the arms to dart out to their full extent with great force, and in a state of the most complete rigidity, which the chairman tested. Contact with the extensor and other muscles in different directions caused not only complete rigidity in the part, but modified the position at every touch, which was done, as Mr. Hall said, irrespective of any design on the part of the patient; and he had produced the same effects in different parts of the country upon gentlemen of the highest respectability, whom he named, many of whom had, up to his attempting it, believed it impossible. Pressure of the flexor muscles of the various joints operated upon in this patient instantly reduced the rigidity, as also did passes of the operator's hand or a current of his breath. Some one here asked Mr. Hall if the same effect could be produced on any stranger who might present himself. He replied that such might not be the case—or if so, a considerable time might be occupied in the attempt, as all people were not equally susceptible. It was only where an extraordinary degree of susceptibility existed, that effects so startling as those they had witnessed could be so speedily induced. There were idiosyncrasies in Mesmerism as well as in medical practice; but they could not urge this want of uniformity against its validity until they had explained how the same medicine operated differently upon different people, or even upon the same person at various times—or how stimulating drink threw those who took it into such various moods, and how, whilst a single glass of wine was sufficient to intoxicate some men, others could take several bottles with impunity. (Hear, hear.)

The Lecturer then gave several experimental illustrations of the laws of stammering, which complaint he said often occurred from sympathy with, or mockery of, those afflicted by it, and by the same rule reversed might be easily cured.

Mr. GREAVES (surgeon) interposed, and claimed the privilege of discussing the merits of the question with

Mr. HALL, who said he came to give his own evidence of what he believed an important truth, and standing upon an Englishman's right to give his evidence before he could be cross-examined, he requested the chairman to read, from the *Sheffield Independent* of the previous Saturday, the following account of his experiments on a most inveterate

stammerer there, who had been brought to him by a sceptic in a crowded theatre:—

“On account of many people not being able to get into the Theatre on the previous Friday evening, Mr. Hall, early this week, announced three more lectures for the evenings of Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The audiences have again been numerous and respectable. On each evening, Mr. Hall exhibited specimens of what he believed to be the causes and cures of stammering. At the close of the lecture on Friday evening week, a youth climbed the stage from the pit, and walked up to Mr. Hall, requested to know (but could scarcely make himself understood, from excessive stammering,) whether he could cure him? Mr. Hall told him that he believed he could, but requested, as it was getting late, that he would call upon him the next day. The evening of Wednesday last, Mr. Hall introduced this youth to the audience; but previous to saying anything about him himself, called on Mr. Bromley, shoe manufacturer, Fruit market, requesting him to say what he knew about the case. Mr. Bromley in reply, stated that the young man's name was George Langstaff; that he had worked for him about twelve months; that he had seen and conversed with him, on an average, several times every week; and that all the time he had been a most inveterate stammerer; so much so that it was difficult for him to make himself understood, and painful for others to listen to him. Mr. Bromley further stated, that he was himself present at the previous Thursday evening's lecture, and that, during the performance of the experiments, he was in great doubt as to their truth: they appeared too big for belief. However, with a view to test the matter, he determined to try to get this young man forward, which he was the means of doing the night following. Mr. Bromley further said that he had conversed with the young man that day, and that he appeared, and he believed was, perfectly cured. Mr. Hall then asked the young man the following questions, and requested him to answer him aloud, so that all the audience could hear him:—When did you first see and know me? On last Friday evening.... Did it not require at least half a minute for you to utter the first word in answering me a question? It did.... How long have you stammered? Seventeen years.... Have you, during all those years, to your knowledge spoken, or read one single sentence without stammering? Never.... Can you stammer now, in my presence, if you try? He tried, and could not. Mr. Hall then put a New Testament into the young man's hand, when he read part of the 9th chapter of Luke, without the least faltering in speech.... Mr. Hall next requested to know of the audience, whether any of them witnessed the young man's coming upon the stage last Friday evening, and whether he did not stammer very bad? Several voices replied in the affirmative... He next requested the audience to say, whether there had been the least appearance of stammering in the young man that night? The answer was a general “No.” The young man publicly and finally thanked Mr. Hall for what he had done for him. We understand that on Thursday night, another young man, who has hitherto been a notorious stammerer, was put into the Mesmeric sleep, in which he talked and sang without in the least manifesting symptoms of his old propensity. On his being demesmerised, he again stammered a little, but Mr. Hall has no doubt of curing him in a day or two. We learned yesterday, that Mr. Hall's house is literally besieged with great numbers of halt, lame, and blind individuals.”

The Lecturer now called up two other boys—one a weakly town-bred boy, the other a hardy, uncultivated rustic, and then in the same manner as he had at first influenced Holbrook, whilst they were all perfectly awake, made them cleave to each other as one body, or start asunder, at the wave of his hand—or, clustered as they were, follow him about in any direction he pleased “in spite of their own will.” The effect of this was singular, and took the audience completely by surprise.

The next experiment was that of throwing Holbrook into the Mesmeric sleep, which was done by contact of his hands with those of the operator, who observed that the patient was now in a state in which he would either act upon any verbal suggestion that might be made to him; or in obedience to any local excitement of the scalp, from the pressure of an external body upon it. Both these were then illustrated by a series of experiments, which produced many marked manifestations of those organs already mapped on the popular busts and charts, as well as those discovered by Mr. Hall, who observed that to suppose this “mere acting” was to give the boy, who was only a Nottingham mechanic, credit for all the phrenological knowledge of a Combe, the logic of a Locke, and such genius as would stamp him a young Garrick in simulating—which it was far more credulous to believe than it would be to suppose what they had seen a simple, genuine elucidation of natural principles—(Applause).

The concluding experiments were exceedingly interesting. Messrs. Hardy, Hawkridge, and Lowe, the talented vocalists, and Mr. Woodward the pianist, being in attendance, their services were now in requisition and produced a most extatic effect. Mr. Hall having told one little boy to sit on the platform, and “go to sleep,” he instantly complied, without any manipulation whatever! The other boy, Salmon, was also thrown into a state of somnolence, when the pressure of their heads upon the chair-back, or the floor, produced the same cerebral excitement as that caused by contact with the operator, making them start up and strut about when Self-Esteem was excited, or laugh under the influence of Mirth, &c. On suggestion, they dreamed of playing at marbles, &c., and went through all the motions quite *naturally*; but the character of the game, and their passing remarks, never failed to be influenced in accordance with the excitement of any fresh organ—their phrenological manifestations being quite equal to those of the elder youth Holbrook. One of them having pressed the organ of combativeness on a chair-back, began to square with his fists, and on the chairman attempting to take from him a handkerchief caused him instantly to “show fight” towards him, much to the amusement of the audience. The lecturer having stated that the two younger boys could see whatever was passing around, a newspaper paragraph, in very small type, was handed to one of them, who read a few lines from it very distinctly: the Chairman and Mr. John Steer, who examined very closely, declaring that they could not see his eyes in the slightest degree opened. Mr. Hall, however, stated that he did not call this a case of “clairvoyance,” as whatever semblance it might bear to that state, the fact was that whatever was described must be held, not only in the direct line of sight, but must have a light upon it; whilst in clairvoyance (or clear vision) any object held at the back of the head or even in another room, or at the distance of many miles, is often accurately described! In the present case there was this peculiarity, that however they might suppose the organs of sense to be active, any expression or indication of scepticism by those around, would instantly make all seem dark to the patient. (This statement was ridiculed by several persons.)

The vocalists now gave a variety of glees, which appeared to animate the entire frames of the patients with extatic feeling, causing them to keep time in gesticulations most appropriate to the music—now bowing in humility, now bounding up in exultation, then tripping as the tune became more brisk, and occasionally falling into utter prostration as it died away. Nor could it pass unobserved that in all this the rough loutish boy, Salmon, became transformed into a most active and graceful posture-master, very different to what he appeared when again called from the sleep. All these manifestations were certainly very wonderful—if genuine; if *not* genuine, they were, if possible, still more wonderful. If Mr. Hall is imposed upon, the boys are certainly clever adepts. We do not pretend to give an opinion on the subject of Mesmerism. By some parties the experiments were denounced as “humbug,” by others, they were believed to be genuine. Who shall decide? Many of the experiments certainly appeared too “big for belief.”

In reply to a question, Mr. HALL stated that were it necessary, he could collect hundreds of cases from different parts of the country equally striking and conclusive. If, therefore, they believed it to be all the result of “training,” as some had asserted, they gave him credit for having the talent of moulding rustics and mechanics into a greater number of first-rate actors than any country in the world could have boasted of before; and under such circumstances it would be far more profitable to him to set up for an histrionic schoolmaster than bring such geniuses forward, as he did, for the purpose of illustrating a truth so scorned and maligned as Mesmerism—(Applause).

The CHAIRMAN, having been asked to state his opinion of what had taken place, said, as far as his own observation had gone, the experiments had been made with perfect fairness, but he gave no opinion on the subject of Mesmerism. As regarded the taller boy, he (the Chairman) had closely observed him during the singing, and an unusual expression of pleasure was strongly depicted on his countenance. On being demesmerised, he asked the boy whether he experienced that sensation, and he replied that he was unconscious of it.

Mr. GREAVES, surgeon, now asked Mr. Hall whether he would allow tests to be applied to his cases?

Mr. HALL: Are you a believer in Mesmerism?

Mr. GREAVES: That has nothing to do with my question. I have, however, no objection to answer you. My mind is not decidedly made up as to the truth or fallacy of Mesmerism, and I wish to apply tests in order to arrive at a conviction, one way or the other.

Mr. HALL: If you are a believer in Mesmerism, you have a reason for your faith; if you are *not* a believer, you do not understand it, and if you do not understand it you cannot test it.

Mr. GREAVES: But surely I may ask you to test it?

Mr. HALL: In what way?

Mr. GREAVES. Throw one of your boys into the Mesmeric sleep, and I will then ask you to comply with certain requests.

Mr. HALL: I wish to know what tests you would apply. I give you certain facts; do you believe them, or do you not?

Mr. GREAVES: Before I give you my belief I wish to reduce the cases to a particular test. If I were to assert that I could make men walk upon their heads, I should expect to be called upon to show how it was done; and I consider that you stand in such a position before the public as to court inquiry and investigation.

Mr. HALL repeatedly requested to know what Mr. Greaves and his medical coadjutors present wanted to prove or disprove, since he had laid nothing but plain phenomena before them, which he himself had every reason to believe real, and no reason to doubt; knowing as he did, the entire history of the cases. The Chairman and the audience had seen the state into which the patients were thrown, the results being indicative of all he had contended for. With regard to bringing any further proof, he did not see how it was possible. Mr. Greaves himself appeared to be awake, but it was impossible for him (Mr. Greaves) to prove to another that he was so. Every one whosaw him believed him to be awake, because he appeared to be so; why could not he (Mr. Greaves) believe the cases of the patients to be what the appearances indicated since there was no evidence of deception?

Mr. GREAVES was about to make a remark, when—

Mr. FEARN, surgeon, rose, and expressed a hope that Mr. Greaves would not test the cases at all. The doctrine had been thoroughly exploded by Mr. Wakley, who exposed imposture in the case of some of Dr. Elliotson's patients, and sufficient evidence had been obtained to convince the faculty that the "science," as it was called, was a fraud and a delusion. Mr. Fearn used strong language, denied all that he had seen as imposture, said that he had considerable doubt in his mind as to the propriety of attending the exhibition, and was now thoroughly ashamed that he had done so.

Mr. Fearn then arose to walk out of the room.

Mr. HALL said to Mr. Fearn as he was leaving the room, his contempt was no proof of the fallacy of Mesmerism. The Jews were "ashamed" of Christianity, and crucified Jesus Christ, but that did not disprove it. Mr. Hall stated that though, as to some of the doctrines of man's nature, he differed widely from Dr. Elliotson; he believed him to be one of the noblest, most amiable, and intelligent men of his day. In the case which had been alluded to by Mr. Fearn, Dr. Elliotson was the man who had not deceived himself, whilst Thos. Wakley, in his presumption, had proved himself to be as ignorant as he was heartless. The case was one presenting some apparent discrepancies, which subsequent investigations had completely explained, proving how impossible it was for either Mr. Wakley, or any other man, to test what he could not understand; and how noble it had been in Dr. Elliotson to wait patiently for further evidence to clear up the mystery, instead of attempting to justify his position by a false explanation. Mr. Hall then read an extract from one of Dr. Elliotson's recent works, in which he declared that Mr. Wakley's report in the case alluded to by Mr. Fearn was fraught with misrepresentations.

Mr. GREAVES said, when he first saw experiments in Mesmerism he was something of a believer in it; but the result of the tests applied at the Theatre on a recent occasion, had shaken his faith.

Mr. GREAVES and Mr. HALL had a long altercation—the one insisting upon having a test applied, the other saying it would be no test even if applied. The proposal of a test was done to mislead the boy, and this would materially influence the character of the manifestation. Nothing could be more preposterous than to attempt to try a manifestation of human nature by thwarting it. Mr. Hall repeatedly asserted that any indication of scepticism would make all appear dark to the patient whose powers of second-sight Mr. Greaves wished to test.

Mr. GREAVES persisted in his desire to test the cases.

H. ADAMS, Esq., rose, and addressing the Chairman, suggested that as it was getting late, it would be much better to adjourn the meeting. With regard to the proposal for tests, he thought, judging from past experience, that little or no good would result from it—at any rate during the present prolonged sitting. Nor did he think, gentlemen, who, as in the case of the recent exhibitions at the Theatre and Lecture-hall, went with their minds thoroughly prejudiced against Mesmerism, and with the full determination not to be convinced by any experiments, however simple or startling, were the most satisfactory parties to apply a test. Those persons who were present on the occasions to which he had referred, would confirm him in stating, that although certain gentlemen of the medical profession declared, after the application of tests, that the experiments were “a failure,” the audience on each occasion returned a very different verdict. (Hear, hear.) With this fact, then, in his recollection, he did not see how they would arrive at a satisfactory conclusion, as to the truth or fallacy of Mesmerism on the present occasion. The medical gentlemen would pronounce the experiments “total failures,” “impossibilities,” and so forth; whereas, in all probability, the audience would place greater reliance on their own judgment and powers of observation, and go home with the conviction that they had been eminently successful. (Hear, hear.) For himself he confessed that he was somewhat puzzled by the “Faculty.” He gave no opinion on the subject of Mesmerism; for he was in the same state of doubt and difficulty as Mr. Greaves; he did not know whether to believe or disbelieve it; and he feared the conduct of medical gentlemen would not tend to confirm him one way or the other. They had heard one gentleman use very strong language that evening, and who, instead of waiting for tests, had denounced the lecturer as an impostor, and displayed a rather illiberal spirit on leaving the room. The exhibition had been ridiculed by other medical gentlemen present. Now on referring to the reports of Mr. Hall’s lectures in the Sheffield newspapers, he found that an eminent physician—a gentleman of great literary and scientific attainments and of acknowledged skill in the profession which he adorned by his talents—a gentleman of high standing in society, and one to whose judgment great deference was paid—he found this gentleman declaring, in the presence of a large audience, his firm belief in the truth of the phenomena of Mesmerism. That gentleman was Dr. G. C. Holland. (Applause.) Other eminent physicians and surgeons had also declared their belief in the phenomena, and this being so, the question which naturally presented itself to the speaker’s mind, in connexion with the proceedings of that evening was,—“When doctors disagree, who shall decide?” (Applause and laughter.)

Thanks were then voted to the Chairman for his impartial conduct in the chair, and the meeting broke up.

RECENT PUBLIC EXPERIMENTS, IN THE NOTTINGHAM THEATRE.

On Saturday, Nov. 18th, the following and other experiments were made before a large and respectable audience at Nottingham—Chairman, Mr. LUKE BARTON; Operator, Mr. SPENCER T. HALL:—

Five boys came forward. Four of them were residents in the town or neighbourhood: two of them entire strangers to the Operator until two or three evenings previous, when they were sent to him from the audience, on his inquiring for a few youths who had been proved susceptible of the Mesmeric influence—their parents and other immediate relations being present at the time. Their ages varied from eleven to seventeen years; but with one exception they were all healthy and hardy-looking youths; their temperaments varying—the prevailing being sanguineous; the temperament of the one who differed most from the rest being nervo-lymphatic. This is stated more particularly because there are those who attach great importance to such matters in these experiments; but much the same phenomena have been educed from parties the most various in constitutional habit and energy.

EXPERIMENT 1.—One of the younger boys being seated on a chair, had half his frame mesmerised from his crown to his foot, the other half being kept perfectly vigilant. A needle was then applied very acutely to the hand, finger-ends, leg, neck, cheek, &c., of the mesmerised side;—other tests were also applied, but without producing the least sign of sensation. On being applied to the other side with less than half the pungency, the tests in every instance caused considerable “flinching.” Contact with the mesmerised side of the head produced Phrenological manifestations; but not with the other. The boy was then wholly mesmerised, and remained sitting.

EXP. 2.—The eldest of the party, William Holbrook, being seated in a chair, and another of the younger on the boards, at the distance of a few yards, the Operator took Holbrook by the thumbs, and gazed upon him—merely telling the other boy to go into the mesmeric sleep, which he did in a shorter time than Holbrook, notwithstanding the Operator's contact with him. This is often the case after parties have been frequently mesmerised.

- a. Yet had Holbrook thus *mesmerised himself*, he would (judging from former indications) have been in a different condition to that into which the operator now threw him *by contact*; and there would have been considerable difference in his sensibility to external influences.
- b. This patient is also in a different state when mesmerised in the evening to that he is in when mesmerised in the early part of the day. His Phrenological manifestations are more clear in the evening, and his sensations more pleasant on being awake, than in the morning. The Operator has sometimes thought that *light* exerted a powerful influence over him.
- c. Holbrook, when mesmerised, (which was done in about four minutes) sat apparently stolid in the chair. One of the little boys leaned back

till his organ of Self-Esteem came in contact with the boards and became excited, when he sprang up with some energy, and folded his arms and moulded his features in an attitude of self-conceit. The other, falling side-ways, pressed the organs of Secretiveness and Caution upon his hand, and then got up and hid himself behind a chair.

EXP. 3.—Operator touched Holbrook's head with the *edge* of his *finger-nail* on various points in the space commonly appropriated to the organ of Tune; when each touch, so long as it was continued, drew forth a simple monotone. Language being added, the patient sang part of a song, but it was only in monotone. As the edge of the finger-nail was from time to time shifted, about as far as over the space that would be occupied by its own impress, the key of the tone was changed, until every note of the Gamut had been brought out. When, however, the whole of the space was covered by the Operator's forefinger and thumb ends, the patient was enabled to modulate his tones at pleasure, and to sing "On the margin of Zurich's fair waters" in a sweet and appropriate style.

a. The Operator having tried this experiment frequently, upon various patients, without acquainting them at all with his purpose, has seen in them corroborations of this result. These cases, however, have all been of a most susceptible character. He has tried the experiment in other cases and seen no such result, but a manifestation of the entire function of the organ instead. In other cases he has met with no Phrenological manifestation at all; and in most some idiosyncracies are observable. Still, he has seen the above sufficiently often, and so free from a possibility of deception on the part of the patient, that he feels justified in offering his opinion that there may be a distinct organ in Tune for each cardinal note of the gamut, as there appears also to be in Colour for each primitive colour; in Form, for squares, circles, ovals, &c.; and so on through the entire cerebral arrangement.

N.B.—The first time the Operator's attention was called to this indicated amplification of Tune, it was quite unexpectedly, whilst in reality anticipating some other result, and in a patient ignorant of Phrenology.

b. During the above experiment, the Operator drew the hands of one of the lesser boys and his knees together as he sat, and made them quite rigid, to prevent his head again falling in contact with the boards; and fixed the other upright, at some distance, his legs quite rigid and his arms extended horizontally, in which position they would, if left, remain for hours without fatigue or sensation. This was done by a single pass; he has often done it without a pass at all; and it has sometimes also resulted from the patient's imagination.

c. In certain states of "Sleep" it is possible, by verbal suggestion to make these and other patients dream of any thing the experimenter chooses; and so far from being insensible, they become more keenly alive than ever to the influence of external things. Remote sounds are brought home to the ear, which is rendered particularly acute: and they easily see all around them with eyes apparently closed, &c. In this state they not only describe accurately whatever

is really about them, but their very ideas become palpabilities, and the experimenter may cause them, by suggestion, to believe they see anything he chances to imagine, and still remain perfectly cognizant of actualities. Yet, if the scalp should happen to come in contact with any object, no matter whether animate or inanimate, the approximate organ is called instantly into activity, and the character of the dream becomes imbued by a manifestation of its function. Thus, in

EXP. 4.—One of the boys, who had been accustomed to help in a barber's shop was, after a verbal suggestion, dreaming of playing at marbles with another boy. The Operator, by the wish of the Chairman, touched the organ of Acquisitiveness, when he said his (imaginary) companion wanted to cheat him, and had been getting more marbles than he had a right to, but that he (patient) must have them back. On Benevolence being touched his countenance underwent an instantaneous change; and he exclaimed, "Never mind; I don't want them, you may keep them all!" Industry being then touched, he forthwith buttoned up his pockets and said in a hasty manner, as if just recollecting himself, "But I mus'n't stay playing here: I'm wanted at the shop." Dreaming that he had arrived at the shop, and still influenced by the faculty last excited, he went most expertly through the entire manipulation of shaving a customer. On Self-Esteem being touched, he said he wouldn't be a barber any longer; and Language being more highly stimulated he became a lecturer on Mesmerism; expatiated in the language he had heard used by others on the nature of the science; and then proceeded to mesmerise an imaginary patient. In this subject, as in some others, the following striking characteristics were observable:—

- a. Just as in ordinary dreams, we hear, see, smell, taste, or *feel* what we dream of, so now did the patient. The imaginary lifting of weights, &c. oppressed and fatigued him not at all less than if it had been actual; and when told he had cut himself with his razor, he not only said he saw the blood, but seemed to feel the wound as keenly as though there really were one.
- b. When he had mesmerised his imaginary patient, and gone through the ordinary process of inducing rigidity and placing weights upon, and otherwise testing the extended limbs, he proceeded to bring out the Phrenological manifestations by contact. His ignorance of the location of the organs, manifestations of which were requested by the Operator, Chairman, and others, now placed him at fault. He said the head ought to have the names printed upon it like those busts in the shop windows; but he "supposed he must try." The most remarkable indication was now to commence. He was touching for Benevolence (as he supposed) at the *top* of the head (such was his ignorance of its position); and his finger being brought into contact with Firmness in the imaginary patient, he gave a most splendid manifestation in his own person (*not of Benevolence, which*

was the organ in his idea,) but of the function of Firmness, the organ he would actually have been touching if his patient had been a real one. Stamping his foot on the boards, and raising his hand, he exclaimed in a most determined manner, that his patient was doing precisely the same, and then fell altogether inert, until again stimulated by the Operator; when a considerable number of other organs were tried in a similar manner with corresponding results! This Phenomenon the operator has observed in many other cases wherein the dreaming mesmerisèe has been all but entirely ignorant of Phrenology; and where the organ he would have touched (though not always the one he imagined himself touching) in *his patient* became excited *in himself*.

- c. The other of the lesser somnolent boys was observed (either from sympathy or imitation) to mimic some of the actions of the patient in this experiment. This will serve as a hint to the prudent, that Phrenological manifestations cannot be depended upon as *purely such* in the case of a second patient who has been present at experiments upon the first, especially if mesmerised at the same time. We wish it to be understood that we never *depend* upon the correctness of Phrenological indications where there has been any possibility of an idea being caught, however indirectly.

EXP. 5.—One of the somnolent patients having read, and described various things taken by the Chairman from his pocket, &c. to indicate, not that he was clairvoyant, but that he could really see whatever was held in the direct line of sight, with a light upon it (the Operator's opinion being that this resulted from the mere quickening of the senses in the present case) he was then directed to touch his own head at various points, when, though ignorant of Phrenology, the manifestations corresponded with the parts he touched.

- a. Whenever the contact of his finger was withdrawn from the part, the manifestation ceased, and he fell into a state of utter inertness until the next touch or suggestion.

EXP. 6.—The whole of the five boys being thrown into the mesmeric trance, the band of Sherwood Minstrels played a beautiful, slow, solemn air, when each patient became differently affected, according to his natural disposition by the music, and was thrown into attitudes sympathetic with the sounds, so appropriate and so graceful that the whole frame seemed to be speaking, though silent, in eloquence most powerful to the senses of every one who beheld. And these attitudes were changed again as the Operator occasionally stimulated specific organs, as those of Ideality, Time, Tone, Gesticulation, Imitation, Hope, Joy, Self-Esteem, Firmness, &c., producing an indescribable, though characteristic and extatic effect. Nor were the manifestations at all less remarkable on the music suddenly changing to a brisk and joyous tune,—causing the younger boys to dance and caper with all the grace and apparent skill of first-rate posture-masters; whilst the eldest one

began dreaming (owing perhaps to his association of that particular tune with such a performance) that he was an equestrian in a circus, lightly galloping round and making the most dexterous flourishes, &c. Upon the music ceasing, two of the boys fell inert on the boards; one stood nearly upright but motionless; one was rigid in the arm from its having accidentally being in contact with another boy; and one had approached the orchestra, and was offering the Minstrels a penny to induce them to "play him another tune."

- a. Whenever music commences, one of these patients instantly clasps his hands, and sympathetically presses his knuckles in extacy, upon the organ of Tune.
- b. During the latter part of this experiment, the Operator touched Time, Order, and Self-Esteem in one of the boys, when he assumed a commanding attitude, and beat time with his right fingers upon the hollow of his left hand (and with his foot upon the boards) as though he imagined himself to be directing the band. Having touched Imitation in another one, he assumed an imaginary cornet, and mimicked the musician in front of him. And Combateness in a third, who flung out his arms and squared with his fists to the tune as accurately as the one in whom Time had been more directly excited. The same may be observed, though not to so great perfection, on any holiday when boys are let loose to a band of music, each exhibiting his delight in the manner according most with his predominant faculties.
- c. The boy whose arm was paralysed was made well by the one he touched breathing upon it.

N.B.—However interesting it may be on particular occasions, where there is sufficient room, and no chance of interference, to have a variety of patients mesmerised at the same time, it requires the greatest care and judgment, and ought never to be done but by a very experienced Mesmerist.

- d. The Operator awoke the whole of the patients by wafting them well with a handkerchief over the entire frame, and then suddenly pressing and jerking the palms of the hands. This, however, is only one of a dozen modes. But that ought always to be adopted which, according to an operator's experience, will best ensure the complete recall of the patient to a normal state. If care be not taken of this, low head-aches and other complaints will inevitably result, and the patient may rue, whilst he lives, the day he was mesmerised.

EXP. 7.—(*The five patients all perfectly restored and vigilant.*)—The points of the fore-fingers of their right hands were all placed in contact. The Operator then, in their presence, suddenly pressed his own fore-fingers together. Simultaneously doing the same, as by some preternatural impulse, the patients' fingers became so fixed in their position, that (though poor boys, and some of them all but entire strangers to the Operator) when a sudden pledge of near £20 sterling was made to any one of them who should withdraw himself entirely

from the rest, none of them could do so. Every effort on their own part to accomplish their liberation appeared only to attach them the closer. The offer of the sum before named was then made to the whole party if all of them together should succeed in liberating one; but it could not be done. One of them, indeed, did succeed in detaching his finger momentarily: but despite his best efforts, it suddenly closed again to the rest; and he said he felt as though the finger drew his whole body in that direction.

- a. At first when one of the party moved in any direction, the whole went in the same, if left by the Operator to themselves.
- b. Afterwards, when the Operator made passes as though he would draw them to himself, they were irresistibly attracted. When, however, the motion appeared repellant, they were driven from him, in a cluster, with great rapidity.
- c. On the Operator himself suddenly assuming an erect and rigid state, though not in contact with the patients, the whole body of them did the same, and so became fixed to the spot they were on—their legs being entirely, and their bodies more or less (according to their various degrees of susceptibility to the influence) inflexible. When, however, this had been done, on his moving away as though he would draw them all after him, they fell towards him upon the boards in a body, owing to said rigidity of locomotive organs. Yet, if he stood in the presence of any of them, and threw his body, or any limb or feature, into a crooked or other abnormal position, one or all of the patients would instantly do the same, with as great rapidity as though they were entirely flexible; but would then remain as rigid in the posture thus newly assumed as they were in the previous one, until the Operator, by passes of the hand, wafting, blowing, or some other sign, reduced them again to a normal state, or threw them into another abnormal one.
- d. All such inducements, (as proffered rewards and otherwise,) as were supposed by the friends of the patients, the chairman, or the audience, best calculated to influence them were held out if they would deviate from these manifestations or avoid them, but without avail. Similar inducements were held out to them during the subsequent experiments, and many subtle tests tried, but with the same result,—except on one occasion, when one of the little urchins, by a manœuvre which the Operator had not anticipated, snatched up a half-crown piece with an eagerness that showed how glad he would have been to have got all the proffered docours were it possible.

EXP. 8.—The Operator having told one of the boys to place his fingers and toes in juxta-position, so fixed them there apparently by a pass of his hand that the patient could not separate them. In this state he was suddenly lifted and swung about; and afterwards "trundled" backward and forward by the attractive or repulsive passes of the Operator, who stood at a distance from him of several feet.

- a. The Chairman (a well-known shrewd, scientific gentleman, appointed by the audience,) suggested several very subtle tests in this case, and

expressed himself satisfied that no one by mere simulation could represent the states into which the boy had been thrown, and at the same time be subject to such peculiar motions; and as this was the last interview the Operator would have with the boy, who could therefore have no particular interest in assuming these states to please him, a docteur of twenty pounds was pledged to him if he could separate his fingers and toes. The poor boy made many ardent attempts, amid the cheers and encouragement of his friends and the audience; and after about five minutes gave it up as hopeless. Yet, on the Operator making a mere transverse pass with his hand, at the distance of several feet, the boy was perfectly released in a moment.

- b. A conversation here took place on the supposed nature of the agent by which these phenomena were educed, which ended in the Operator stating that he thought it much better, in the present stage of the question, to experiment and inquire than to dogmatise. He had opinions; but he was waiting either for such confirmation or modification of them as further evidence might furnish.

EXP. 9.—(*Suggested by the Chairman, but not within hearing of the patients.*) To try what analogy the phenomena would bear to those of ordinary Magnetism; by “magnetising” three of the boys as they stood in a certain relative position, and then suddenly reverse the poles of their bodies by turning the central boy half-round. To accomplish this the Operator placed their hands upon their hips, with the elbows pointed outwards, and then stiffened them in that position, as he had done particular limbs in specific positions before, by his own example. The effect was, (though the little uneducated boys could scarcely be supposed to know what was anticipated,) that when the central one was very suddenly taken by the shoulders and jerked round by the Operator, the other two, almost with the rapidity of lightning, whirled about and attained their old relative position to him. This was repeated, with many variations, but the results were all coincident.

- a. The CHAIRMAN seemed to think this experiment strongly corroborative of the theory of animal magnetism. The OPERATOR said they had *no proof* that the entire results were not merely correspondent to the *design or anticipation* of the experimenters, who by a contrary design might, for any thing they then knew, have obtained contrary results. He did not deny that Magnetism was an agent; but he believed that the will or anticipation of the experimenter had at times a great deal to do with these matters, and that this will would often, through the agency of some subtle sympathetic principle, awake the APPREHENSION of the patient, though no external suggestion or signal of any kind were made. Yet so rapid might be the whole process that the experimenter would scarcely remember that he had willed at all, or the patient that he had apprehended. This law was often clearly in operation between persons engaged in earnest conversation, one all but—or sometimes, perhaps entirely—anticipating the remarks of the other.
- b. The CHAIRMAN—Could not this view be tested by trying the same experiment again, anticipating at the time a contrary result? OPERA-

tor—Not fairly, for several reasons—1st. It would be difficult perhaps, after what the Chairman had then witnessed, especially entertaining the opinions on Magnetism he had avowed, for him continuously and unequivocally so to direct his mind to that end as not to think a recurrence of the first result more probable; and having taken part in the experiments it was now impossible his presence should not influence them. 2nd. Fresh patients would be required, who had heard or seen nothing of the last experiment, (and such they could not now procure in time;) for he (Operator) had observed that when once a patient had observed a specific phenomenon resulting from a particular mode of induction, he would himself be exceedingly liable to manifest the same again. 3rd. This conversation having been carried on within hearing of the patients, they would now have IDEAS of their own on the subject, which, however vague or indefinite, might affect the experiment. He had rather try such an experiment only with maiden cases; and would recommend them to form a Society in Nottingham and so investigate for themselves, which would be better still. The CHAIRMAN assented.

EXPS. 10, 11.—(*Suggested to the Chairman, on a slip of paper, by one of the audience, and not named within hearing of the patients.*)—Firstly, to blindfold one of the boys—the Operator to stand at a distance behind him—and see if by silently making passes, like those which had before produced rigidity or contortion of specific parts, he could produce the same effects again. Secondly—Afterwards to try whether he could produce similar effects by his *silent will*, without passes at all. The OPERATOR said he would predict nothing but was quite willing to try. With regard to the second clause of the proposition there were various reasons—different parties being directly interested in the experiment—why it might not turn out very satisfactory *in appearance*, though perfectly accordant with the principle he had stated. They must take the result for whatever it might be worth in their own estimation; but he would not stake the question upon it.

- a. The patient was then placed standing, completely blindfolded—the Operator a space of six feet behind him—and complying with the silent signals of the Chairman. For a considerable time *the manifestations were in exact accordance with the Operator's movements.*—They then became rather confused; and it was evident the patient was now in sympathy with the Chairman as well, and answering to both at the same time.
- b. As it was evident the boy was passing into the mesmeric trance, he was released and refreshed by wafting; and the next experiment—that of the effect of volition—was tried upon another patient, and it was decided by the Chairman and the Proposer, after a short conversation, that there was no need for blindfolding him.
- c. The CHAIRMAN then (but not within hearing of the patient) suggested to the Operator what he should design, which was that the boy should go from the place where he stood and sit down in a chair; but he did not move.

- d. A shilling being laid upon the boards, as though intended for the patient to pick up, Operator was instructed to *will* that he should not do so. Patient instantly became rigid in his position—not moving.
- e. The Chairman then, without letting the patient see what he was doing, put a small piece of common paper upon another part of the boards, in a manner scarcely calculated to attract the attention of any one, and signified to the Operator, (there being no possibility of the boy knowing what he intimated) that he wished him after the lapse of a short time to go very eagerly for the paper. In a short time patient became very restless and tried hard to move, but was found to be still rigid. Being asked what he was thinking of, he said he felt "very anxious to go for that piece of paper yonder."
- f. The Operator thought the boy's will and physical capabilities not being harmonious, *might* be the result of occasional variations in the anticipations of the Chairman and himself. He did not, however, on the whole, attach so much importance to this experiment, or deem it so conclusive, as some of the audience did. He would not take advantage of that which, after all, *might* be a coincidence—preferring caution.

EXPS. 12 to 20.—Operator showed the power of suspending or perverting the senses in persons who have been frequently mesmerised. Utter deafness he produced and restored by passes over the ears. Muteness by passes over the mouth, or by stiffening his own jaws or closing his throat or lips, which caused patient to do the same—the patient remaining so during his (Operator's) pleasure. To the sight he made any article change its colour as he chose, from blue to yellow or red to green—or so the different patients *felt persuaded*. Patient was made to feel in his hand that which existed no where but in his idea; or was rendered insensible to what he really handled, &c. Stammering was caused by the force of example, and cured by it, &c. Semblances of paralytic strokes, "knock-knees," contorted features, &c., were also shown and removed instantly by the Operator, though the patients could not reduce these effects themselves.

- g. The inference Operator drew from these facts was, that when such phenomena occur in ordinary, they are the result of a derangement or partial suspension of those vital forces which act as an agency between the will and the organs when we are in a normal and healthy state; and that if such could be brought under Mesmeric influence in the same degree as in the cases then exhibited it would be adequate to their restoration.
- h. In these cases, just as in the common occurrence of paralysis, the susceptibility to external influences (and consequently the liability to pain) was reduced in proportion to the reduction of functional energy and consequent helplessness of the patient—illustrative of a wise and beneficent regulation, showing with what reason the Poet had exclaimed—

"Thanks that even agonies have this relief—

The long are moderate, and the acute are brief!"

EXP. 21.—The whole party of patients placed back to back, in a cluster—the Operator in presence of one of them giving a slight motion to his own back, whereupon, with one exception they all clove together, and, notwithstanding the inducement of a good sum of money pledged to them by the Chairman, to which Mr. Hall himself made a very considerable addition, they could not leave each other. They were then attracted or repelled at his pleasure as described in Remark c, Exp. 7.

- a. In the exception above alluded to, one of the boys had become so transfixed, and his whole body so rigid, that when the mass were drawn away he was left on the spot; but leaned and at length fell on the boards towards them.
- b. There was some difficulty in separating the boys at the conclusion of this experiment, which was accomplished by wafting or blowing. When the Operator happened to take one away in his arms, the rest rushed after him *en masse*, and in somewhat of pain and anxiety, as they said, until their original relative position to him was restored, or he had gone through the "demagnetising" process. The individual under such circumstances also felt uneasy until the influence was withdrawn or he had rejoined his companions.

EXP. 22.—A *trail* of the whole number was formed—sitting foot to back—when they were drawn in a circle round a considerable area, the Operator moving a few feet in advance.

- a. Every inducement for them to deviate from the Operator's wake—to stop—or to cross the area—failed to make any of them do so; and they all declared that they tried, and would had it been possible.

EXP. 23.—The boys were placed in a line—hand-in-hand. The Operator then clenched his own hand, and they simultaneously doing the same, (as they said with an electric sensation,) the same inducements as before were offered them to separate; but with no other result. The Operator then opened his hand wide and held it up; the boys did the same; and on being requested to clasp each other again they could not.

- a. The *Nottingham Review* and *Journal* affect to sneer at all this, and to insinuate that the boys—resident in the town as most of them were—deceived the Operator. Preposterous! If they were clever enough to do that, it was a pity they were so foolish as not to get the pretty sums of money offered (exceeding what the lectures altogether realised) merely for varying the experiments a little—if they could have done it! What would the *Nottingham Review*, or *Journal* either, not do for such a premium? Let the townspeople answer.

In conclusion, a vote of thanks to the Chairman, for his intelligent, candid, and impartial manner of watching the proceedings was unanimously passed.

END OF VOL. I.