

THE  
PHRENO-MAGNET,  
AND  
MIRROR OF NATURE.

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No. VIII.

SEPTEMBER, 1843.

Vol. I.

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RETROSPECT.

THERE is no faltering in the work. Labourers are numerous and earnest; and though amongst them are a few mercenary interlopers, who care little for the reputation either of Mesmerism or Phrenology after their own sordid turn be served; and a few others so vain-glorious as to be altogether unmindful at what sacrifice of principle they acquire notoriety; the public is becoming sufficiently well-informed on the subject to distinguish the latter classes of professors from the truly worthy. The impudent and the crafty may succeed for a time in exciting an interest; but the devotee of Truth alone is he who shall prevail at last, and be owned by her when she has acquired dominion. We therefore beg of those who are still engaged in propagating Mesmerism, not to cry "Wonderful, wonderful! come and see the astonishing display of Mr. So-and-so from London!" and we beg, too, of the public to discourage all attempts at creating an unnatural excitement by such unscientific and disgusting means—means worthy only of the conjuror and the mountebank. Depend upon it he is either a knave or a fool, or both, who resorts to them!

The object of every genuine Mesmerist is, not to cloud with mystery and wonder the phenomena educed by his experiments, but to endeavour to refer them to common and rational principles; since, however startling and strange they may be at

present, from our want of better observing them as they occur in ordinary, there can be no doubt that the day will come when they will be quite as familiar to scientific investigation as now are the phenomena of air, or heat, or light.

The phenomena of electricity are wonderful to a savage. He associates lightning only with the idea of thunder and storms, ignorant that the fluid in one form or other is constantly active in and around him. To tell him you could produce lightning by machinery, in his wigwam, would assuredly be to earn his amazement or his incredulity, perhaps his contempt. When he saw it he would scarcely believe it. Yet since the days of Franklin, nothing to the electrician has been so simple and explicable as this very process. So of the mesmeric influence: we see its natural results continually without regard, in fits, strokes, trances, somnambulism, &c. But the moment a man comes forward and tells those who have not considered the matter that he can induce and reduce all these conditions by an artificial process, he is gazed at with wonder and awe by the unschooled; the learnedly ignorant become virulent in their opposition to him, simply because such things were not dreamt of in *their* philosophy; strife begins, which, if he be reckless of the right, he goes on fomenting for the purpose of keeping up excitement and getting audiences; and it is only when he has departed that, from the interest created in a few rational minds, a fair investigation of the claims of the science takes place, its real beauties are brought out, and its uses discovered; but, the *show* being over the public at large take less interest in it than if there had never been such excitement.

So strong in some people is this disposition to take temporary advantage of the wonder-loving gape of the ignorant, that a professional Phrenologist, (as though the love of the horrible were not sufficiently pandered to already,) started a periodical in which, by ill-executed woodcuts, were exhibited mesmeric patients in the most tortuous and miserable attitudes of terror, &c. To charm the vulgar by such a prostitution of the human frame we take to be not a whit better in principle than exhibiting a cock-fight or a bull-bait. A truly rational and benign operator never complies even with the request of an audience to inflict so horrible an injury as that of exciting terror in a confiding and defenceless patient to the extent denoted by the woodcuts in question; and to incite others to such an act by publishing them is worse than committing it himself. Yet this very individual was one who went into the north proclaiming himself "the *eminent* lecturer on Mesmero-Phrenology, *from London*"—*from London*, truly, as he had never lectured in London on the subject! Shame! shame!

Still, as we said before, there are many truly worthy, earnest, intelligent lecturers abroad, and thousands of careful, humane experimenters in private. Lecturers have sprung up in Scotland like mushrooms. In Ireland mesmerism will soon become as common as teetotalism. There is scarcely a nook of England that has not been visited by one operator or other; and Wales has also been penetrated in the right spirit. The first experiments we heard of in the Principality were by a native—Mr. Edward Jones—at Holywell. Mr. Jones and his brother are both enthusiastic in Mesmerism. They have laboured hard to acquaint themselves with its principles, and by their sincere, unassuming mode of treating the subject, have succeeded in making many converts to a belief in it. Investigation—not assumption—appears to have been their object; instead of dogmatising they have invited the co-observation of their friends; and the consequence is that several of the Faculty, in Holywell, are already devout advocates of Mesmerism.

We are not unfrequently asked in a very grave manner, what is to be the end and advantage of all this. The end is too far off for any one to see. We have scarcely yet stepped even on to the threshold of this subject; but as to its advantages, many of them have become already strikingly apparent. We believe that all the excitement of novelty and wonder in connexion with it must shortly cease, when those who love it for its own sake, or for the good it is capable of, will combine for the purpose of developing its true character and discovering its tendencies. Very commonly, by its agency, we induce and remove various kinds of fits, strokes, somnambulism, insanity, and other extraordinary conditions in those who are naturally liable to the occurrence of them; and we have now no doubt remaining that, just as through the artificial induction of small-pox by inoculation you prevent its recurrence in a more virulent form, so by artificially inducing the conditions above mentioned by the mild means of Mesmerism, their natural occurrence subsequently may be materially softened, and not unfrequently obviated altogether.

And is there no *educational* advantage in Phrenopathy? We know that nearly all the present systems of education are ineffective. In the old schools we are taught, though Englishmen, to be Greeks and Romans—to be what others *have been* rather than to be ourselves—and in the new schools to be what others *are*—and herein is the grand reason why mankind progresses so slowly. Instead of education teaching us to work out the nature that is in us, it too much induces us to be *artificially* what others, in a different clime and time, have been *naturally*.

Phrenopathy, by instructing us in the true number and character of our functions, and their adaptability to the circumstances by which we are surrounded—by enabling us, in short, to look into a fellow-man's constitution as into a mirror of our own, and then to study our relationship to the place, the world, and the age we live in—will do wonders in correcting this fallacy, and in making us what we ought to be, the unconventional out-workers of a glorious destiny.

With this harvest in view then, the ingenuous lecturer has a fine field and a glorious hope. Let him go on cheerfully; and inviting the public to take an interest in his progress, allow the truth to speak through him only in its own language of facts. Wherever *facts* are, truth is not far off; for as hard would it be for falsehood to utter such language, as for the night to flash sunshine from its ebon wings.

We continue to hear of the formation of Phreno-Magnetic Societies, and of the progress of many already in existence. Perhaps one of the best in England is that at Liverpool, which includes men of first-rate scientific attainments. We are happy in being able to promise that its proceedings will ultimately be published through our medium; and we shall be not less glad of communications from similar institutions in other places.

In the mean time let not the private experimentalist become weary of his work. It is to the quiet retirement of the study, after all, perhaps, that we must look for the most important revelations of magnetic truth. And little is the unbelieving man, whose great learning is often so much foolishness, aware of the interest from time to time awakened in him who pursues these investigations in his tranquil leisures away from the petty annoyances and interruptions of scepticism! It is there that, in reading human nature as it is—not as it misrepresents itself in conventional life—we become furnished with a faith enabling us to withstand all sneers and revilings, confident that man has within himself that which would be to him a perpetual feast, if he would but consider the means and end of his own existence.

The contributions of our private correspondents will, this month, be read with peculiar interest. We are sorry our limits will not allow the insertion of all with which we have been favoured; and those whose communications we have taken the liberty to postpone must not deem that we slight them; but rather that we think their articles will be at all times so seasonable as not to loose by a little keeping.

## HUMAN MAGNETISM DEMONSTRATED.

BY ROBERT W. GIBBES, M.D.

The magnetism of the human body has been denied by many scientific men, because it has not been experimentally proved by direct influence on the needle. The experiments with the magnet on the body during the *mesmeric* (or what should now be called the magnetic) *state*, have not been satisfactory, because it could not be shown that the attraction is reciprocal—if the magnet attract the body, the latter should attract the former. This has never been exhibited. It affords me great pleasure to have discovered the mode of shewing that *the human body is magnetic by direct proof, and that it has polarity*.

Having observed that magnetisers after throwing subjects into the magnetic sleep, direct their fingers with energy towards their eyes (as they say) to render that state more intense—or, in common language, to deepen the sleep—I thought it not improbable that *magnetism*, which is not apparent while the limbs are quiescent, might shew itself during muscular action.

I procured a long delicate magnetic needle, and made a strong effort, as if throwing off something from the fingers, and brought them carefully to the needle, avoiding to produce vibration of the air, and to my satisfaction, found my right hand *repel the north pole* of the needle.—I repeated it, and found it *attracted the south pole*, proving north polarity in that hand. I now tried the left hand, and found it to exhibit opposite polarity, attracting the *north* and *repelling the south pole* of the needle.

I have repeated the experiment frequently and the fact is undoubtedly proved. The influence is only momentary, but clearly apparent. This is an important discovery in magnetic philosophy, and will assist us most materially in explaining many interesting phenomena, and most likely give us the means of understanding those of mesmerism.

Bodies similarly electrified or magnetised, repel each other, while, in opposite states, they attract. The north pole of a magnet attracts the south of another, and repels the north, &c. Electrified bodies have a tendency to impart electricity to all surrounding bodies.

The magnet communicates magnetism to iron or steel, if placed in contact with it, inducing in the former temporarily, and in the latter, permanently, a state similar to its own. All bodies may be more or less magnetic, but not exhibit effects except under certain circumstances—iron and steel having a greater capacity than others to give out the influence.

The north pole imparts south polarity; and the south, north polarity, and the process is called *induction*. Now, if the right side of the body possesses different polarity from the left, when the magnetiser sits opposite to his subject, they are rightly placed to produce the influence of attraction, and for the former to impart to the latter his magnetism. It would seem here to be expected, that the individual of the strongest magnetic force would charge the other, as the stronger magnet controls the weaker and changes its poles. The fact of subjects putting the operators into the magnetic state is common, and assists our theory; and the subsequent attraction of the magnetised subject by the magnetiser is a result to be expected. I have thrown into the magnetic state thirty-one cases—in no one (in a first experiment) could I produce the attraction without the aid of passes; until I used passes, (which I did not before I had experimented with twenty-three,) did I ever see attraction.

The magnetiser's influence over his patient is lost if he becomes exhausted, if his nervous power (magnetism) is weak. I have frequently put cases into the magnetic state, and found I could not keep them so if I was debilitated. In pre-nological experiments, where they acted feebly, I have by strengthening my nervous (magnetic) power, found them brighten up, and do better. When not weak, these cases would be fully under my control.

I have had but two days to reflect on this experiment, and am loth to attempt to theorise upon it, yet; still I am induced to think propositions similar to the following may result from its consideration.

1. The human body is magnetic, and possesses polarity.
2. Individuals of stronger magnetic power can charge weaker, with their magnetism, which gives them a control over the will and actions of the latter while the charge or communication lasts. Perhaps the polarity of individuals varies, and susceptibility to induction depends on reversing this polarity.
3. The will controls and puts in motion the magnetic forces—perhaps analogously to the supposed influence of the sun giving motion to vibrations producing light.
4. As magnets are charged, and part with their magnetism, so human bodies become more so, and lose the additional portion when the cause is removed. As the magnet once charged is more easily magnetised again, so the individual once affected becomes more susceptible each time to the induction, which we know is according to experience.

5. As the capacity of iron or steel for magnetism varies when soft or hardened, so does the peculiarity of temperament and circumstances modify the influences of human magnetism.

The laws of human magnetism are to be learned and we are fairly started in the investigation.

We have now to prove that the *passes* with the hands, *downward* and *upward*, differ in producing polarity, to aid our explanation of mesmeric induction, and I am strongly inclined to think we will be able to demonstrate it.

As I consider the fact, which I here offer to the friends of this interesting science, as important, I hasten to communicate it, and ask a fair examination of the suggestions here thrown out.—*Magnet*.

## THOUGHTS ON THE NATURE OF MAN.

(For the Phreno-Magnet.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHRENO-MAGNET.

SIR,—I was not a little interested by the "Phreno-Magnetic Facts and Deductions" recorded in the last number of your Journal.

Your intelligent correspondent closes his paper with the following words:—"What is the organ of mind? Is it the brain or cineritious matter, or some lining membrane? Or is the soul in reality a *πνεῦμα* or spiritus which gravitates towards and impinges against matter, producing by its undulations, like wind upon the *Æolian* harp, tones depending upon the texture and tension of the fibres on which it strikes?"

The mind and soul in this quotation are used synonymously, although we have, I think, sufficient *philosophical data* to consider them distinct terms. Physiological facts prove that mind depends equally as much upon the condition of the brain as bile upon the liver. That the effusion of a little blood or a small depression of some of its bony covering, reduces the intellectual man into an imbecile creature. That the functions of the brain, like every other organ, can be increased or impaired by various physical agents. That they may be suspended by a narcotic or roused into excessive action by a stimulant.

The science of Phrenology also demonstrates the necessary association of mind and matter; but certain mesmeric manifestations imply the existence of another agent. The majority of mankind do not believe that a person blindfolded, and in the dark, can see and recognize individuals, without contact, by

means of his thumbs: that the thoughts of the magnetiser are in some instances known to the magnetised, and in consequence his will, though unexpressed, obeyed. Such cases I have however witnessed, (in company with Mr. Roberts, a respectable surgeon in this town,) and am therefore better prepared than many of your readers to credit the astounding Clairvoyant announcements recorded in the *Phreno-Magnet*.

We learn from various authorities that some mesmeric subjects are capable of describing the form and size of rooms many miles distant, the number of individuals in them, their personal appearance, and in what they are actually engaged!

The supercilious may sneer at, and the indolent deny the truth of such statements, but, as you well know, the exhibition of these phenomena has now become of frequent occurrence, and sufficiently authenticated to satisfy the minds of those who are ingenuously searching for information on the subject.

Dr. Jung Stilling, who has distinguished himself by his mesmeric labours abroad, says, "By magnetising the soul is more or less detached from the brain and nerves, and consequently more or less a free agent." Facts and experiments have led him to believe that "the human soul can not only see without the aid of the body but also much more clearly than in its fleshy prison."

If it be admitted that some persons are not only capable of seeing without eyes, but of describing most accurately the character and situation of objects, as well as the occupation of individuals residing in another town, we can rationally presume that this percipient principle may take cognizance of surrounding objects when the tenement which it now occupies has been decomposed, and the chief part of its elements transferred from the animal to the vegetable kingdom.

I remain, Sir, yours respectfully,

WILLSON CRYER, M.D.

Bradford, August 5th, 1843.

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## ANIMAL LUMINOUSNESS.

BY SIR H. MARSH.

The prosecution of this subject leads us forward to a brief consideration of the evolution of light, as a function in living vegetables and living animals. From observations which have been made, we are led to believe that the flowers of several plants, in serene and warm summer evenings, disengage light and emit sparks. It is said to have been observed in the nasturtium, the marigold, the Indian pink, and other flowers; also in



some chryptogamic plants adhering to old-wood and growing in mines. The more warm and moist the locality, the clearer, it is said, is the light emitted.

Several species of lichens, especially subcorticalia, subterranea, and phosphorea, are occasionally phosphorescent, and more or less luminous in the dark; and hence they often give to the cellars and mines, in which they grow, an extraordinary and brilliant appearance. In the coal mines in the vicinity of Dresden, they are said to be so abundant and so luminous, as even to dazzle the eye by the brilliant light that they afford. This light is increased by the warmth of the mines, so that hanging in festoons and pendants from the roof of the various excavations, twisting round the pillars, and covering the walls, they are said, by their brightness, to give to the Dresden coal mines, in which they abound the semblance of an enchanted palace. Mr. Erdman, the commissioner of mines, thus describes the appearance of the rhizomorphus in one he visited: "I saw the luminous plants here in wonderful beauty; the impression produced by the spectacle I shall never forget. It appeared on descending into the mine, as if we were entering an enchanted castle. The abundance of these plants was so great, that the roof, and the walls, and the pillars, were entirely covered with them, and the beautiful light they cast around almost dazzled the eye. The light they give us is like faint moonshine, so that two persons near each other can readily distinguish their bodies. The lights appear to be most considerable when the temperature of the mines is comparatively high.\* It is asserted that the dictamus albus, in peculiar states of the weather, diffuses around itself an atmosphere, which, by contact with the flame of a candle, ignites and emits a brilliant blue flame. On this part of our subject, however, observations have been so few that we dare not speculate upon them, or make them the groundwork of any attempt at explanation; and yet it is a subject of considerable interest,—one which merits a more minute and extended investigation, and which is immediately connected with the general subject of phosphorescence in animated nature.

This property of becoming luminous during life, independently of reflected light, is possessed by certain genera of several classes of the animal kingdom; but it is amongst the almost infinitely varying and often shapeless forms which inhabit the ocean that we shall find the most beautiful and wonderful exhibitions of phosphorescent lights and illuminations.

The animals which most distinctly and constantly manifest this curious function are some infusoria, zoophyta, aculephæ, echinodermata, annelida, myriapoda, insecta, crustacea, and mollusca.† To give a detailed description of each species is neither my object nor intention; I shall merely select a few of such instances as display most remarkably the characters and properties of animal light.

Several species of infusoria belonging to the genera cercaria, volvox, vibrio, trichoda, and lincophæa, are said to be luminous; in this country I believe it has been generally observed that fresh water infusoria possess this property. To Sir Philip Crampton I am indebted for the following corroboration of this fact. He observed a luminous appearance, similar to that exhibited in the ocean, in the water of a mountain lake, which has given name to his residence, Lough Bray; the surface

\* Burnett's Outlines of Botany.

† Cyclop. Anat. and Phys., Art. Animal Luminousness.

of a piece of muslin, through which some of the water had been strained, presented a luminous appearance; thus proving that in fresh water, as well as the sea, luminous animalculæ exist.

Among the floating polypi, (the polypi natantes of Lamarck,) the pennatula or sea-pen is most remarkable; it derives its name from its singular resemblance to a quill with its plumes. It is a phosphoric animal, and emits a light so brilliant, that by it the fishermen are reported to see fishes swimming near it. Several species of the penatula are phosphorescent.

The acalæphæ furnish us with a numerous catalogue of luminous animals; almost every species of medusa, beroë, physalia, rizophora, athephanomia, physophora, enjoy this function. Of these, Dr. Macartney, in his interesting memoir read at the Royal Society, has described and given drawings of three species discovered by him on our own shores, beroë, medusa, hemispherica, and m. acintillans; it is to this last almost microscopic animal that he chiefly attributes the diffused phosphorescence of the ocean. One of the largest and most splendid of the luminous creatures of the deep, is the medusa pellucens, discovered and described by Sir Joseph Banks; it measures six inches across the crown or umbrella, the central parts are opaque, and it emits vivid flashes of light during its contractions.

Few instances of animal luminousness are met with among the echinodermata; a species of asterias, ophiura telactes, and phosphorea, are however, described as possessing this property.\* Several species of nereis, as n. phosphorans, noctiluca, cirrigera, mucronata, and planaria retusa, with other annelidans, evolve light.

Among the crustacea we find cyclops brevicornis, grammurus pollex, scyllaris, (?) and cancer fulgens, &c. In a species of cancer seen by Smith in the Gulf of Guinea, the light (which seemed to him to be emitted by the brain) was of a deep blue colour when the animal was at rest; but when it moved, bright coruscations of silvery light were darted from it in all directions.

Various observers have included the salpæ among phosphoric animals; of these salpæ confederata (one of the tunicaries of Lamarck) dwells in the ocean at a great distance from land. Several individuals are attached by their sides to each other in rows; during the day they appear like white ribands, and during the night like ribands of fire, which alternately roll up and unfold themselves, either from the motion of the water or from the will of the animals that compose them.

The pyrosoma atlanticum, mediterraneum, and gigantum, are brilliantly luminous; their dimensions vary from five to fourteen inches in length. The external surface of the p. atlanticum is studded with thick elongated tubercles, which shine like polished diamonds as it descends below the surface, is described as presenting the appearance of a moving ball of fire. Its hues are ever varying, and when in motion it shines most brilliantly.

The pholus, or stone-borer, is remarkable for its luminous property, which was noticed by Pliny, who observes, "that it shines in the mouth of the person who eats it; if it touch his hands or his clothes it makes them luminous, and that its light depends upon its moisture."

M. Reamur states that it is more luminous in proportion to its being fresh; and that when dried, its light will revive if it be moistened either with fresh or salt water; but that brandy immediately extinguishes it.

\* Cyclop. Anat. and Phys., Art. Animal Luminousness.

He endeavoured to make this light permanent, but none of his schemes succeeded. Baccarius, who tried numerous experiments on the pholas, found that of all the liquors into which he put the pholades, milk was rendered the most luminous. A single pholas made seven ounces of milk so luminous, that the faces of persons might be distinguished by it. He also states that when the animal is preserved in honey, the property of becoming luminous would continue longer than a year, and then it would, when plunged in warm water, give as much light as ever.

Several naturalists have given accounts of certain fishes having been seen to give out light, while alive, in their native element; among others, Mr. Bennett, in a paper read at the Zoological Society, has described some fishes, recently discovered, to be luminous.

Herrings, it is stated, as they move in shoals of myriads through the waters, throw off a kind of slimy secretion, which extends over their columns, and is easily seen in calm weather; this substance, in gloomy, still nights, exhibits a phosphoric light, as if a cloth faintly luminous was spread over the sea. We may here just advert to the fact, that Fourcroy and Vanquelin, in analysing the milt of the carp, found phosphorus in such quantity as to give a bright light in the dark. Sharks have been reported as luminous, and Dr. McCulloch enumerates also the pollock, the pilchard, the sardine, the whiting, the mackerel, and the gar, as being sometimes accompanied by phosphoric lights.

This property of evolving light seems to reside either in a fluid secreted by a vital process, and generally diffused over the surface of the animal; or it is confined to a particular and especial organ destined to perform this function. In the *scalæphæ* it is asserted that the exudation, which is luminous, is that which possesses the stinging property from which these animals derive their name. In some animals, the light appears to be increased or diminished by muscular motion, and is probably not wholly independent of the will of the animal.

MM. Quoy and Grimard state that, in handling luminous marine animals, while alive, they have been sensible of an odour proceeding from them, similar to that which is perceived around a highly charged electrical apparatus.\* The various marine animals above alluded to, as evolving light from their living bodies, together with perhaps many yet undiscovered species possessing the same property, are now believed to be the *chief* source of that beautiful and remarkable phenomenon, the luminousness of the sea. Of these creatures, some, as certain medusæ, are so extremely minute as to require the aid of a powerful lens to prove that, minute as they are, they still possess the characters of organized beings, and are capable of active voluntary motion. The water of the sea is sometimes so densely crowded with these small animals, that when passed from one vessel to another, a stream of flowing light is seen; by adhering to the fisherman's nets, they occasionally give them a very curious and beautiful appearance; when slowly raised from the sea, in the dimness of twilight, the nets present a luminous outline: each of the meshes is bounded with a line of light, and the whole looks like a fairy scene.

For miles around, these little animals sometimes give to the sea the aspect of a vast surface of snow, and produce on the ocean's face a new milky-way. This appearance of the sea, produced when luminous animals are crowded on the surface, has more than once terrified the

\* Cyclop. Anat. and Phys., Art. Animal Luminousness.

inexperienced navigator of intertropical seas. The oceanic illumination is exhibited in two distinct forms, either that of a diffused sheet of light expanded on the surface of the ocean, or the waves appear to sparkle with intermitting and often vivid scintillations. The scintillations are observed most distinctly when the crests of the waves are broken by the wind or by the transit of a ship, and are much more brilliant on some nights than on others. Lord Byron gives a beautiful description of this phenomenon in the "Corsair," a description evidently derived from personal observation :—

"Flashed the dipt oar, and sparkling with the stroke,  
Around the waves phosphoric brightness broke."

In a note it is observed, "By night every stroke of the oar, every motion of the ship or boat, is followed by a alight flash, like sheet lightning, from the water." This phosphorescence has likewise been observed to follow the course of sea currents; and it has been noticed, that when the sea is most brilliantly illuminated, small fish abound, and are taken in great numbers.

Sometimes, when heavy tropical showers of rain descend at night, the sea is suddenly kindled up, and as suddenly the light is extinguished. These sudden alternations of light and darkness are described as being remarkably beautiful.

Many years since, I had one, and but one opportunity of witnessing, on the bold and romantic western shores of Ireland, the oceanic phosphorescence displayed with peculiar splendour and effect. The huge waves of the Atlantic were rolling magnificently, and in slow succession, on the pebbled beach of a deeply indented bay, involved in lofty cliffs and sea-worn caverns; it was on a still night, preceded by a day of storms. The boundary of the waves, as they advanced and retreated on the shore, was marked by a broad and brilliant fringe of silvery light, the waves themselves tipped at intervals with a restless and ever-fitting and beautiful phosphorescence. There was just sufficient starlight to give a dim view of the lofty cliffs on either side of the bay, against which the waves were beating with incessant roll. The effect of the whole was inexpressibly grand. Next morning, the sea was found so densely crowded with what the fishermen call jelly-fish, that it was difficult to propel a boat through the water; and swimming, which I vainly attempted, was rendered impracticable.

Dr. McCartney, in his "Observation on Luminous Animals," gives the following interesting account of the illumination of the sea:—"I have had two opportunities of seeing an extended illumination of the sea. The first night I saw this singular phenomenon was extremely dark; many of the medusa scintillans and medusa hemispherica had been observed at low water; but, on the return of the tide, they had suddenly disappeared. On looking towards the sea, I was astonished to see a flash of light, of about six yards broad, extend from the shore for apparently the distance of a mile and a half along the surface of the water. The second time that I saw this sort of light proceed from the sea, it did not take the same form, but was diffused over the surface of the waves next the shore, and it was so strong that I could for the moment distinctly see my servant, who stood at a little distance from me; he also perceived it, and called out to me at the same instant. On both these occasions the flash was visible for about four or five seconds."

An extraordinary series of phenomena connected with a particular display of the luminousness of the sea, is reported by Mr. Henderson\*

\* Cyclop. Anat. and Phys., Art. Animal Luminousness.

as having occurred in the Atlantic on the 5th of March, 1824. About 9 p.m., the sea appeared unusually luminous. Every person who kept his eye fixed upon it but for a short time was immediately affected with giddiness, headache, pain in the eyeballs, and slight sickness. Although these symptoms varied in intensity amongst the spectators, yet there was not one on board who did not feel some degree of them, and all imputed them to the effect of the light proceeding from the surface of the ocean. Mr. Henderson remarks, "For my own part, the headache, &c., which followed immediately my looking at the water, was particularly severe, nor did it go off until morning. The effects I experienced were like those produced by smoking too much tobacco."†

### SINGULAR CASE OF EXCITABILITY.

The following account was drawn up by an intelligent lady of New York, says La Roy Sunderland, at his request. She is about thirty years of age, of what would be called a nervous temperament. The first time he saw her, she was suffering from some pulmonary difficulty. On pathetising her, she fell into a state of somniphobia in a few minutes, and was very much relieved. She is quite susceptible, but, from an excitability peculiar to her system, she has never been put so soundly to sleep but that she could hear, though the other external senses seemed to be perfectly closed:—

"Some six or eight years since, after a winter of severe labour in school, and during which time many entire nights were spent in watching with the sick, I found my physical system in a very singular state. Physicians, to whom I applied, acknowledged they did not understand my case, though it was their opinion I was suffering under some fatal disease of the brain. At times, my eyes looked very strangely, the pupil very much enlarged, and sometimes it seemed as though they emitted sparks of fire. If I was exposed for any length of time to the sun, it seemed as though I was filled with the light, just as porous bodies, when exposed to water, will have their pores filled with it. My face would become blanched, having a slight shade of light, such as objects have, on which the sun shines. If I covered my eyes ever so closely, I was sensible of the light and of the interception of its rays, by moving opaque bodies before me. Though I was never sensible, when blinded, of discerning any objects distinctly, yet I often thought and said to others, I could see through my forehead.

"Being exposed to bright moonlight produced a similar sensation to that I have mentioned from the sun. If a light was brought into my room, when I was in a sound sleep, it would immediately awake me, with a sensation like that I have felt when receiving a shock from an electrical machine.

"In the course of three or four months, my health became good, and I was relieved from these singular susceptibilities. About three years since, after several months spent in taking care of sick relatives, my usual sleep being much lessened by watching, I was for some time similarly affected, though in a less degree.

"When the clouds are strongly charged with electricity, I often, if not uniformly, experience a heated and restless sensation of the body, and have observed a sallow and flushed appearance of the skin; and not

† Trans. Med. and Phys. Soc. of Calcutta, I., 107.

unfrequently have felt a painful sensation, like an electrical shock, if touched by another person. All these phenomena uniformly disappear, during and immediately subsequent to the discharge of the electricity, and often a drowsiness ensues that I am not able to resist; so that some of the most refreshing sleep that I ever enjoyed has been in the midst of violent and protracted thunder storms.

"The facts I have here stated have often made me wonder and inquire what could be the cause of such strange phenomena. The usual answer to my problem has been "you are very notional," a solution rather silencing than satisfactory to curiosity.

"New York, April 22, 1843."

## SECOND LETTER FROM H. G. ATKINSON, ESQ.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHRENO-MAGNET.

SIR,—I thank you for your prompt attention to my note—which I should not have thought it necessary to have troubled you with, had I been aware at the time that a paper which I read during the last session of the Phrenological Association, would have been published in the *Medical Times*; an incorrect report of which appeared in the *Sentinel* newspaper, and has been copied into the *People's Phrenological Journal*. I must now try to reply to the observations which you have thought proper to make on the contents of my letter. You say that I have "set forth the claims of myself and several other gentlemen, not only to credit for certain peculiar opinions, but priority in the field as Mesmero-Phrenologists." I have only stated what was my own conviction, and the facts I have observed, and which, since I wrote have been tested and proved again and again beyond a doubt; and anything more beautiful in philosophy or more important in a medical point of view, I cannot well conceive; and when you come to London I am sure that Dr. Elliotson will allow me to shew you these results on some very perfect cases of somnambulism which he now has under his care; but, before which, in all probability, you will have tested the matter and satisfied yourself, and I look with confidence to your candid confession that you have been in error.\* You say that "you believe it now all but impossible to

\* We admire this earnestness of Mr. Atkinson in his own views, and can most cordially assure him that we have no disposition to resist evidence however opposed to our preconceptions. For that very reason we had rather forego all discussion, until we have an opportunity of observing mutually with Mr. A. those experiments upon which the opinions of us both are founded. After that we shall doubtless be free to discuss the question, or agree with him upon it, without reserve. In the meantime, however, we shall be glad of a communication from him, (as from any other honest mesmerist or phrenologist,) whenever it may suit his taste or convenience to write us.—Ed.

decide who really was the first discoverer of Mesmero-Phrenology, since you are quite sure that even you were engaged in the work before many who at present believe or pretend they have priority to you in it."\* You will excuse my illustration, but which is something like saying that because Mr. A. or B. conceives that he began to light his house with gas before you, hence it is all but impossible to decide really who did first introduce gas lighting—a consequence which does not appear to be quite conclusive; but, in reality, there is no difficulty in the matter at all, you want only facts and dates, and the question is settled. In Dr. Engledue's address you will find those facts correctly stated with regard to Messrs. Mansfield and Gardener, Dr. Engledue being intimate with those gentlemen at the time, but was not then aware of what I had done, and by which statement you will perceive that Mr. Mansfield made the discovery; and that what Mr. Gardener observed with regard to a pain in the organ of tune, is only what has been observed perhaps a thousand times before, and is a matter relating to which I have collected facts for many years, and have written a paper on the subject. Mr. Mansfield made the discovery of Mesmero-Phrenology in December, 1841, and I in November, a month earlier; and I have pursued the investigation ever since, and not, I believe, without having arrived at most important results. I have read papers on the subject at the Phrenological Society, and during each session of the Association, but never wished to claim any merit or priority in the discovery until now, when I find in the *Edinburgh Journal* that Mr. Gardener is held up as "the first in Europe" to discover what he never discovered at all, either first or last. This statement is what Dr. Elliotson gave in his opening address this year to the Phrenological Association—a very important address, and which I believe will be published in the next number of the *Zoist*—with a report of the other meetings. But to return to your remarks. You say that a somnambulist in Germany, about twenty years ago, observed that if her organs of Place and Colour were rubbed, certain characteristic results would be observed. I do not know from whence you obtain this—but apples fell long before the time of Newton—probably from the tree of knowledge in the Garden of Eden—without

\* Nay, nay, good Sir, this is hardly fair. Take it with the context. We added immediately to what you here quote, "*It is on this ground we wish Mr. Atkinson and others to be fairly heard in their own words, and then be judged by corresponding circumstances, or the most [misprinted more] authentic records,*"—thus speaking in the very spirit of your strictures. What would any one claim beyond this?—ED.



exciting attention or leading to the discovery of gravitation; and so likewise hints of Mesmero-Phrenology must have been given a thousand times, and to the discredit of those who did not take advantage of such hints. But the fact of this hint lying in the barren soil of science for so many years, is a pretty clear proof that no discovery was made, or if made, was neglected. I have troubled you with a much longer letter than I purposed—but trust that you will forgive me. I have nothing in view but an earnest desire for truth—truth which may supply the wants of mankind, and lead to the happiness of all—and not less of those, who not knowing what they do, would impede the progress of knowledge—and to man the most valuable and important of all knowledge—the knowledge of man. And considering the *Phreno-Magnet* to be the proper place of record for the origin of that discovery out of which it has grown, and trusting in the good faith of its conductor, I beg to remain, wishing you every success,

Your obedt. servant,

HENRY G. ATKINSON.

8, Upper Gloucester-place, London,

August 8th, 1843.

P.S.—I quite agree with what you say about the Edinburgh Journalists—they ought to have noticed what you had done, however much they might have differed from you in opinion. You stood out in the world, holding your “Mirror of Nature” up before you; but, in fact, they did not know what to say, and therefore with all Scotch prudence, just held their tongue, to see how the matter would go.—H. G. A. [So it may be—but surely the office of a *Journal* is to record what is passing. This it may do without either special pleading or commentation, and be quite free from any committal of itself. What we maintain is that the *Edinburgh Phrenological Journal*, should have said something more to the purpose or nothing. No good ever came of ambiguity.—ED.]

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## MR. POTCHETT ON PATHETISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHRENO-MAGNET.

SIR—Whether the sympathetic state be the result of one or more fluids, or whether it arises from affinity or attraction, or from whatever other source, perhaps may never be ascertained any more than the cause of those conditions known by the terms electricity, magnetism, gravity, &c., yet if we cannot tell the why or the wherefore electricity is produced—or why the mag-



netic needle points northwards—or why a stone falls to the ground, still we may become acquainted with the conditions under which the above effects are produced, and under what circumstances; and so, ultimately, may the established laws of nature, in reference to the state called pathetic or mesmeric, become equally as well known, but which can only be arrived at through the medium of a great variety of careful experiments, with the circumstances and conditions under which they may have been conducted, as well as their results being faithfully recorded, to allow the opportunity of comparing them with others, exclusive of favouring or opposing any preconceived opinions or theories. By such means the science may be brought under some general standard, and the laws made known by which these wonderful effects are produced.

We seldom hear of cross-influences *now*, yet it might be of great service to the science, if those experimentalists who have sufficient leisure would endeavour to ascertain the nature or cause of such effects—whether they are produced by too great an abundance, or a withdrawal of positive fluid, equivalent to *positive* and *negative* in electricity—or whether there be a difference in kind or only in degree, or whatever else may be the agent. When these results become better known, one important step will be attained, and the ordinary state of persons suffering from such influences may be more speedily restored than by the modes hitherto practised, especially in bad cases. 'Tis true I have never experienced any cross influences in my own experiments but twice, and on one of these occasions it was done purposely, where I and another called forth manifestations indiscriminately and obtained them equally well, yet I could not restore the individual, but the convulsive twitchings rather increased than diminished by my endeavours, when on the other operator applying the usual means, the alarming symptoms were soon brought under subjection, and the ordinary state produced. However, I have seen fearful consequences from other experimentalists at times; but why such effects follow appears very strange and mysterious; in fact as the poet says—

New difficulties arise—  
I'm still quite out at sea,  
Nor see the shore.

The phenomena appears as unaccountable as when first brought before the notice of the public: therefore, instead of speculating on probabilities, I again turn to the recording of observations and facts.

Being at a friend's house, I threw a female into the pathetic state, and obtained numerous beautiful manifestations from the cerebral organs; and on another female entering the room, she was desired to sit down on a chair adjoining that of the person's under operation, when in about a minute she fell into the same state; this was what I expected and intended. I now connected their wrists by the extremities of a silk handkerchief, when, on touching or pointing with the finger to any organ of either one or the other, both shewed expressions of features and manifestations alike, though the one actually operated upon shewed them rather earlier than the other; yet those of the latter were not the result of imitation, as the indications on the countenance clearly shewed themselves before the possibility of receiving ideas through the medium of hearing, or from leading questions; and it was amusing, when the organ of imitation was touched in silence, to see them mimicking the actions of two different yet consequential prudes, and treating each other with scorn and derision. Tune being touched, both sang the same song. Comparison being touched in silence, each imagined she had got a shawl vastly superior to that of the other's, and a warm altercation ensued between the two in defence of the respective merits and beauties of the shawls, and in pointing out the vulgar, unbecoming, and ridiculous appearances of those of their rivals, and of their low notions and want of taste. Adhesiveness being touched, they clung so fast as to remain locked in each others embraces some minutes after removing the finger. On touching Self-Esteem, both rose and walked about the room in the most consequential and arrogant manner, and bidding each to get out of the way of the other; in fact, a regular row and fight ensued in defence of the opinions and superiority of each over the other. They were now separated and allowed a sufficient time for the excitement to subside; after which a few light and cheering manifestations were obtained from each, when the first was easily restored, but the latter showed those convulsive twitchings which indicate a cross, and on being restored to consciousness, would again fall off with increased severity; the former also began to show strong symptoms of a relapse. I now desired her to rally and endeavour to restore the other, which she did by wafting, taking hold of the thumbs, shaking the arms, and placing the open hand on the forehead and snatching it away hastily, and in about ten minutes both were restored to their ordinary states, without experiencing any further ill effects.

I have frequently had persons in the pathetic state describe correctly the different colours of certain articles, all of the same

texture, on being presented to the ends of their fingers, in a variety of combinations having at the same time their eyes closely bandaged; yet candour compels me to admit that the same individuals, on other occasions, have not unfrequently made mistakes. I have also had them describe strange places correctly; but in order to ensure success in such cases, it appears requisite that the operator should himself know the places he conveys the stranger to in imagination, when his thoughts or ideas, by some sort of sympathetic feeling, in a way indescribable, become for the time being theirs, as if they formed but one person, and answers are given accordingly.

Yours, &c.,

JOHN POTCHETT.

Snenton, adjoining Nottingham, August 14, 1843.

P.S.—It does not follow that operating on two or more in connexion should be accompanied with a cross influence, though it is not unlikely; yet they are difficult to manage, as, on removing the finger from one, the others may fall down, unless previously seated.

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## NOTES ON MR. HAMILTON'S FIRST COMMUNICATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PHRENO-MAGNET.

SIR,—Some time ago, in a private note, after passing a merited eulogium upon Mr. Hamilton's admirable article in your 4th No., entitled "Phrenomagnetic Facts and Deductions," I made a few remarks on a part of that article which appeared to me to require qualification. I now, at your request, repeat the criticisms in a form suitable for your pages, though subsequent reflection has satisfied me, that the qualification is of less importance than I then esteemed it.

The part referred to is the following, on page 111.

"29. Since Phrenological manifestations have been produced by the proximity to the organs of various substances, not in contact with the operator, it cannot be assumed that a peculiar influence from the body of the operator is necessary to produce those manifestations."

Whether the writer intends it or not, this will no doubt be generally interpreted as *negating* the hypothesis that, in the excitation of the phrenological organs by contact with the operator's fingers, a peculiar influence passes from the operator to the patient. That this conclusion is unwarranted by the premises, however, is very obvious. Contact with other substances disconnected with the operator may, and no doubt does,

excite the organs; yet, that a peculiar influence passes from agent to patient may be a valid assumption nevertheless. For, may not a peculiar influence pass from operator to patient, though such influence be not peculiar to the body of the former, but possessed by it *in common with other substances*? The influence may be peculiar; its *locality* general. It is simply the assumption that this influence is confined to the body of the operator which the fact stated negates, not the hypothesis that a peculiar influence passes from the one body to the other.

As already remarked, I do not now attach so much value to this correction as I formerly did. The reason is, that I have since seen cause to consider the supposition of the transmission of an influence (such as a magnetic current) from operator to patient less probable than I then esteemed it. At all events, there seems quite as much, if not more, probability in the hypothesis that the operator *attracts* some principle—say, for want of a better name, a fluid—from the patient as that he *transmits* such.

I have several observations to make on this subject, and a few suggestions to offer to experimenters who make its elucidation their object. But these, for certain reasons (privately explained) must be deferred to a future number.

In my former letter I referred to a verbal error in one of the notes to Mr. Hamilton's article. It is not of much importance, but may as well be pointed out as not. It is in page 109. The words are, "The patient's mental faculties were particularly large." Now, the word "faculties" being indicative of *immaterial* powers, the attributes applied to it should indicate *immaterial* qualities. Such terms as *large* and *small*, therefore being indicative of *physical dimensions*, are, unless used figuratively, not strictly applicable to it, but should be applied to the word "organs." Immaterial properties only—such as activity, intensity, force, &c.—can be legitimately predicated of immaterial principles.

L. F. L.

19th August, 1843.

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## MESMERISM AND PHRENOLOGY, AT NORTHAMPTON.

### INTERESTING CORROBORATIONS AND DISCOVERIES.

Those who remember the violent and unjustifiable opposition with which Mesmerism in connection with Phrenology, was met by the faculty and the press at Northampton, when we first lectured there on the subject, a few months ago, will be deeply

interested by the following details, furnished by our scientific friends Mr. Joseph Stenson and Mr. T. J. White. We have also a communication of more common phenomena from Mr. B. Pratt, of that town—common, yet very interesting as a corroboration of what has been forwarded by other correspondents. Mr. Stenson thus writes on the 3rd August:—

“DEAR SIR,—I last night met a few of the members of our Phreno-magnetic Society, and had with me a patient who is very susceptible to the mesmeric influence. I repeated before the society a series of experiments, some of which I have never seen or heard of before, except in my own private manipulations, but which I have tried with the same results on several other patients previously, and, as far as I am able to judge, the manifestations have been sufficient to warrant the facts referred to as established:—First, as regards the organ of Colour. On exciting this organ, I had produced invariably a manifestation of *colours*, but the colours were spoken of by the patient as varying every time (or nearly so) they were excited. This led me to suppose it might be possible that the so-called organ of Colour was, (like the other parts of the cerebral organization,) a *group* of organs. The finger end I conceived covered too large a space to test the truth of this supposition, and I used instead of the finger, the pointed end of a black lead pencil, blunted a little. Now I find, that when the pencil is placed in contact with the under side of the eye-brow, and close above the top of the eye, (the end of the pencil point erected upwards) the colour seen by the patient is *black*; remove the point a little vertically upwards, and the result is, that the patient sees all the prismatic colours, as the point is brought upwards by a *little* at a time. I sometimes find combinations of other colours than those above alluded to; but they are placed *exactly as they are on the prismatic spectrum*!\* and finishing with white, which is the uppermost in the group.

I next exhibited to the Society a series of experiments on the part assigned to Form. On exciting the lower part of that organ, on the side of the upper part or root of the nose, I find the patient perceives *circles*; remove the pencil a little higher, and he sees and speaks of *triangles*; higher still, and he speaks of *squares*; and so on are mentioned all the forms as above, with a great variety of modifications of those forms, using such expressions as these—“That is not a true circle.” “This is a three-square thing, only that corner is not right.” “Well, that will not do; don’t you see it is not exactly square?” &c.

I want your opinion on two or three matters which appear very strange, and to myself most unaccountable. Thus, the operator’s finger placed in contact with the palm of patient’s hand produces a desire to shed blood. This you showed me on the boy you had from Leicester. I should suppose the nerves which conduct the influence have an agency in the brain; but are we to suppose there is an organ for bleeding or for shedding blood? I have been near being stabbed by the patient pulling out his knife and threatening to murder me while under this influence,

\* The division of the organ of colour into so many components had been established before by Phrenopathy; but this peculiar arrangement of them is the especial discovery of Mr. Stenson, and is a beautiful reward of his earnestness and research.—Ed.

but I calmly and firmly stayed his hand, and excited benevolence. The point of a pencil on the *webby*\* part of the hand, or rather behind the edge of the part towards the back of the hand, directly sends the patient off swimming. I have had some beautiful displays of this. On one occasion the patient said, "If it's a mile deep I shall bottom it;" and suiting the action to the word, sprang off the supposed bank.

I am, dear Sir,

Yours, most truly,

Mr. Spencer T. Hall.

J. STENSON.

The foregoing is worthy the consideration of every true Phrenologist; *and he is no true Phrenologist who is afraid of an amplification.* Gall was a man who dare be true in spite of doubts and sneers; and he left the question of an amplification quite open to his successors, his system being one of pure induction. Why, then, do some who bear the name labour so hard to prove the present popular number sufficient, instead of further investigating the matter? Is it more easy to dictate to Nature than learn of her—Nature who

"Never did betray the heart that loved her?"

Respecting Mr. Stenson's question as to the sympathy between certain organs and remote parts of the system, we are enabled, from experience, to assert our conviction that there is no cerebral organ without sympathetic points in many parts of the frame—as in the face, hands, &c., and one beautiful fact is, that we have observed a positive and a negative polarity at these points, the same as when operating immediately on the cranium. It was only last week, whilst operating before the Liverpool Phreno-magnetic Society, that, by touching the hand of a highly susceptible patient at various points, we produced manifestations of Benevolence, Acquisitiveness, Adhesiveness, Mirthfulness, Self-Esteem, Industry, Joy, Sorrow, &c., &c., quite as strong as those induced by any other means. Yet mark one important fact: upon blowing or wafting the corresponding part of the head, the effect was completely subdued, although contact with the hand was maintained; whilst, when the manifestation was induced through more immediate *cerebral* excitement, blowing upon these remote sympathetic points did not appear to subdue it in the least. Thus it is proved that, however possible it may be to excite the mind through other parts of the frame, the brain is more especially its throne or capital, from whence its influences extend through the system.

\* I use these terms not knowing any more proper. Do you think there is any *sympathetic action* between the part of the hand I have alluded to and the Aquative organs? You will say I am speculating wide of the mark; but *we can swim*, and some men are or appear to be by nature fond of it.

The following account of a Mesmeric case is dated August 12, and witnessed by three highly respectable gentlemen besides the subscriber :—

"DEAR SIR,—Of Mesmerism and Phrenology I have seen much and read more; but never was I so awe-stricken and convinced as on August the 2nd, when I went to a friend's house, where I was introduced to an interesting young man, a student from the free college, Manchester. I conversed with him on a variety of topics; he was intelligent, communicative, and cheerful. My friend, Mr. J. Gee, temperance coffee-house keeper, said he had mesmerised him the evening previous, and was going to operate again. Breakfast cleared and the room prepared, two or three minutes elapsed and he was in a state of coma. Calm as a summer's eve was his brow, and beautiful as the child of song was his aspect. I produced a bust, and motioned my friend to touch Veneration. He prepared to pray with solemnity, but sympathy was at once imparted that defies description; his hands dropped, and he relaxed for a second and then laughed aloud. I was sceptical as to the sincerity of his state, but I soon discovered my friend, the operator, was attracting him and disposing him to do what he did; so that he laughed, and danced, and drank water, and took off his coat, just as my friend did—talked rationally and answered every body's questions—read a letter to me which I put into his hand—told me the time from his own watch, relapsing into a state of somnolency after each question; but such was the state of being into which he was brought, that he seemed to have occasional raptures, and laughed, clapped his hands, and shouted. Did the operator leave the room, immediately he was conscious of it, and knew every body in the room by the touch, and became restless and uncontrolled until his return. He was told in five minutes to tell the time by a clock up the stairs, to which about the period proposed he led the operator. Having to start by a coach, we were anxious for his restoration, but this seemed impossible. The operator demesmerised him, but a glance or a word threw him back into the trance. In this state I sat down, talked with him about mathematics, algebra, the prospects of the college, and many other things connected with his studies, about which he gave clear but *slow and sleepy* answers. At this stage, my friend's anxiety deepened as to the young man's departure; he began to be concerned about his restoration, and became pale and trembling. To this I attributed his (the patient's) sinking into the sleepy and languid state, so that, though sensible of my presence, and replying to all I asked, yet was there about it a want of wakeful pertinacity.\* Another gentleman was called in, and we agreed the mesmeriser should leave the room. This would not do. We then proposed to wet the palms of his hands. He then poured water or held his hands to have water poured over them, drank, expressed gratefully his feelings, smacked his lips—he was a tee-totaller—and when I said another bumper, he objected, saying no; no; as though he feared the fatal liquor of the drunkard. The mesmeriser now went behind him and I in front, and with silk handkerchiefs we succeeded, and my friend the operator left the room. We gave him ammonia to smell; he was playful, and we feared not quite right; however, he came to suddenly and went out of a side room, pacing gloomily up and down the court into which the door opened. From hence we induced him to take

\* We think it was owing to his having been in contact with so many different persons.—Ed.



a long walk, but he paused and leaned upon a stile entering a church-yard in the town. I forced him onwards, but when inside he would lie upon the grass, so that I was obliged boldly to lift him, and urge him on. We then went to the coach office, he booked his place, paid his fare, and now proposed his luggage being fetched, described it, but then said, "I have not paid my bill;" returned to do so, but sunk, when at the door, into a grievous and sullen mood. I would not suffer him to enter the house, but arranged everything, not permitting my friend to see him. I now took him to a chemist's, had a glass of soda water and some ammonia put into it, and this seemed to restore him, except a stammering and broken mode of articulation. I placed him on the coach by which he was to travel, and since having received a letter, I learn that he was thoroughly conscious of all that transpired, but could resist nothing—lost his stammering in half an hour, and rejoices that he had an opportunity of testing what before he was opposed to.

I am yours,

"Mr. S. T. Hall

"THOMAS J. WHITE."

### CONCLUSION OF MR. SPENCER HALL'S LECTURES AT CHESTER.

On Thursday evening and Friday morning week, Mr. Hall gave two more experimental lectures on the above interesting subject, with his usual success. At the close of Thursday night's lecture, several gentlemen remained after the audience had departed, in order to have a few objections answered. The result, to them, was not at all satisfactory; inasmuch as they conceived that there was ground to suspect collusion between Mr. Hall and his patients, if he refused to mesmerise—or should fail in producing that effect upon trial of—one of their party; notwithstanding the necessary condition which the lecturer has again and again asserted, must exist in relation to the operator and the individual operated upon. Mr. Hall at first objected, because he did not think that there was one among the party who would be then susceptible of the mesmeric sleep. However, his conscientious feelings could not suffer his veracity and honour to be thus impeached without an effort in support of the truth of his declarations. He therefore selected from the party one gentleman, whom he (Mr. H.) considered to be the least unlikely. The gentleman took his seat on the platform, and in less than seven minutes relapsed into that condition—a sleeping statue—and was himself about to become, though unconsciously, the eloquent vindicator of that inexplicable phenomenon in nature, now being tested by *les savans* of our country. We may state, that the phrenological manifestations of this gentleman were beautifully developed; and that he and his party, like many others, became as confirmed believers in mesmerism



and phrenology, as they were previously sceptics in those sciences. [We are in possession of the gentleman's name and residence.] On Saturday evening Mr. Hall gave his final lecture, (Major Anderson, of the Royal Artillery, presiding) when Mr. M., the gentleman previously alluded to, then sojourning at the Albion, was one of the subjects operated upon.

We cannot conclude our notice of these lectures without expressing a conviction, that the paramount object of the lecturer appeared to be the enlightenment of his fellow-countrymen in the principles of a science in which he acknowledges himself to be a devoted enthusiast; they have been delivered with purity of sentiment, truthful aspiration, freedom from bombastic declamation; in every respect harmonising with that simplicity of style and exalted thought reflected in every page of "*The Forester's Offering*," and other works of which Mr. Hall is the author.—*Chester Chronicle of August 18.*

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### LITERARY NOTICES.

*Neurypnology; or, the Rationale of Nervous Sleep, considered in Relation with Animal Magnetism, &c., &c.* By JAMES BRAID, Esq., Surgeon, Manchester. London: John Churchill.

We have read this book with considerable interest. Mr. Braid is an enthusiast, though a somewhat wary one; and having laid down for himself a specific theory, has been remarkably industrious in trying experiments, and accumulating facts, adapting them, as we think, to his opinions rather than his opinions to them. Let us not, however, be misunderstood. We do not say that "*Neurypnology*" is a fallacy. On the contrary, we think it is, so far as it goes, very true; but that it will account satisfactorily for *all* which has been observed by Mesmerists of another school—or even for all that Mr. Braid connects with it—we are by no means prepared to allow. Mr. Braid thus states his theory:—

"That it is a law in the animal economy, that by a continued fixation of the mental and visual eye, on any object which is not of itself of an exciting nature, with absolute repose of body, and general quietude, they become wearied; and, provided the patients rather favour than resist the feeling of stupor of which they will soon experience the tendency to creep upon them, during such experiments, a state of somnolency is induced, accompanied with that condition of the brain and nervous sys-

tem generally, which renders the patient liable to be affected, according to the mode of manipulating, so as to exhibit the hypnotic phenomena. As the experiment succeeds with the blind, I consider it not so much the optic, as the sentient, motor, and sympathetic nerves, and the mind through which the impression is made. I feel so thoroughly convinced that it is a law of the animal economy that such effects should follow such condition of mind and body, that I hesitated not to give it as my deliberate opinion, that this is a *fact* which cannot be controverted. As to the *modus operandi* we may never be able to account for that in a manner so as to satisfy all objections; but neither can we tell why the law of gravitation should act as experience has taught us it *does* act. Still, as our ignorance of the cause of gravitation acting as it is known to do, does not prevent us profiting by an accumulation of the facts known as to its results, so ought not our ignorance of the *whole* laws of the hypnotic state to prevent our studying it practically, and applying it beneficially when we have the power of doing so. I feel confident that the phenomena are induced solely by an impression made on the nervous centres, by the physical and psychical condition of the patient, irrespective of any agency proceeding from, or excited into action by another—as any one can hypnotize himself by attending strictly to the simple rules I lay down."

After some remarks on his mode of hypnotising, Mr. Braid adds—

"It is important to remark, that the oftener patients are hypnotized, from association of ideas and habit, the more susceptible they become; and in this way are liable to be affected *entirely through the imagination*. Thus, if they consider or imagine there is something doing, although they do not see it, from which they are to be affected, they *will become affected*; but, on the contrary, the most expert hypnotist in the world may exert all his endeavours in vain, if the party does not expect it, and mentally and bodily comply, and thus yield to it. It is this very circumstance, coupled with the extreme docility and mobility of the patients, and extended range and extreme quickness of action, at a certain stage, of the ordinary functions of the organs of sense, including heat and cold, and muscular motion, the tendency of the patients in this state to approach to, or recede from, impressions, according as their intensity or quality is agreeable or the contrary, which I consider has misled so many, and induced the animal magnetizers to imagine they could produce their effects on patients at a distance, through mere volition and secret passes."

In a note to this assertion, Mr. B. attributes all "so-called clairvoyant" phenomena to *feeling*. But in both these doctrines we differ with him, and for the good reason that not only have we and many of our friends had experience of the possibility of causing somnolence without the assent or pre-cognizance of the patients—and that even with a wall between them and the operator—but, with a similar intervention, it is very common for them to be attracted or repelled at his pleasure, in obedience to some perfect analogy, if not identity, with the known laws of Magnetism. We might refer to many proofs of this, recorded in the back numbers of the *Phreno-Magnet*.<sup>\*</sup> We are perfectly aware, however, of the extraordinary power of persuasion, and of the patients' imagination and will, in producing semblances of magnetic phenomena; but we have seen much to convince us that neither to one nor the other—with Mr. Braid's mode added—is attributable half of what we have seen effected in the name of Mesmerism. As for "so-called clairvoyance" being the result of *feeling*, according to Mr. B.'s definition, so many contradictions of the proposition are already recorded in our pages, that we scarcely need further to advert to it. With eyes double bandaged, patients have been known to *read* long passages accurately, and to describe as accurately matters transacting in distant places. Could they *feel* the difference of a, b, and c, at the distance of a yard or more; or could they *feel* the objects within, and the outside shape of a building they had never seen or heard of before, at the distance of twenty or thirty miles? Depend upon it there is much here which, though true, cannot be accounted for upon Mr. Braid's theory. But whilst we state this, it must not be overlooked on the other hand, that we think all Mesmeric phenomena are not attributable to Magnetism alone. The magnetic theory, like that of Neuro-hypnotism, is true so far as it goes; to each principle is referable much that is peculiar to itself, and the object of the free inquirer should be to distinguish properly the claims of each, and not attach more importance to either than it merits. With these premises we lay the book down for the present, determined to resume it next month. We have every wish to do justice both to Mr. Braid and the subject. The work contains much that we approve, notwithstanding our objection to many of its propositions; and we advise every lover of inquiry to do as we have done with it—read it.

<sup>\*</sup> We have also had many proofs that a person self-hypnotised is not in the same state as if influenced by the passes of another.

*Mesmeric Devildoms. Being cursory Remarks on Sermons preached by the Rev. Hugo MacNothing, of Liverpool, in the Month of April, 1842.* By HARVEY HITALL, Esq.

We have been favoured with a pungent satire under the above title, (in manuscript,) on Mr. M'Neile's celebrated sermons against Mesmerism, which, according to the opinion of our author, were read by not less than eight and forty thousand people. Supposing this to be the case, we cannot but feel grateful to Mr. M'Neile for the service he has done Mesmerism by rendering his opposition to it so absurd as to defeat his own object. Only that he has been so often dressed over by others, we might soon point out in his discourses as many arguments against himself as against the truth. Surely never man beside perpetrated such a satire on himself as Mr. M'N. has done in said sermons! As our limits will not allow us to give the whole of Mr. Hitall's clever dissection of them, we shall be compelled to forego much that is amusing, and confine ourselves to a few of the more striking extracts. After a few preliminaries, Mr. Hitall says,

"In the morning sermon is the following passage:—'My brethren, there are men who, whether designedly or not, are in league with the fallen spirits—WIZARDS and NECROMANCERS, using ENCHANTMENT and DIVINATION, and producing divers effects beyond the power of man—real and natural effects, by the HELP OF THE DEVIL, upon both the minds and the bodies of their fellow creatures. Balaam is a specimen, not an exception. I shall endeavour this evening, by God's help, to follow that branch of the subject, and to show you what I conceive to be the connexion between the agency of those fallen spirits and the LYING WONDERS performed in these later times, amongst which I have no hesitation in reckoning this Mesmerism, which is now performing its real effects—real, supernatural, but DIABOLICAL!'

"The above powerful paragraph is a brick of the edifice he built in the afternoon. I beseech the reader, first, to consider, as a matter of mental exercise, how a 'lying wonder' can produce a natural effect. Generally speaking, effects are produced by causes, and we have high authority for believing that thorns do not produce grapes nor thistles figs; in short that a tree is known by its fruits."

We pass over some very caustic but appropriate remarks upon the comparative nature of Mesmerism and the black art, and the valliant polemical champion's fear of combatting evil—which in reality amounts to a confession on his part of the superiority of its power to that of *the christianity he professes*—and for the present give the following, with the intention of an early return to the subject:—

"The Rev. Gentleman has fairly and fully stated certain Mesmeric cases, and has, with the most praiseworthy candour, admitted that he believed, from the nature of the evidence, that the effects were real, but that they were beyond the course of nature!

"Oh! most lame and impotent conclusion! Because certain effects were not to be explained on principles with which the Rev. Gentleman was conversant, ergo, they were out of the course of nature! The king and prophet David acknowledged that we were 'fearfully and wonderfully made.' Solomon acknowledged that there were at least three things too wonderful for his comprehension; but he did not declare for that reason they were beyond the course of nature. That was reserved for the clerical modesty of these later times. From this specimen of his scholastic acquirements, I presume that the Rev. Gentlemen did not waste much of his time at the University in studying either nature or logic. Partridge would have attacked his 'Sequitur.' Cambridge and Oxford send out queer men now, very queer men. Are men of sound judgment and education to keep aloof from the simple collection and record of facts, and their practical application for the benefit of humanity, until their causes be sufficiently clear for the comprehension of ignorant objectors? He challenges the professors of Mesmerism to come forward boldly and state the laws of nature, by the 'uniform action' of which the 'thing' (!) is done, and not to confine themselves to experiments in a corner, upon their own servants, or upon females hired for the purpose. This challenge, it must be remembered, was from the pulpit, where he was satisfied that no gentleman would forget himself so far as to accept it. Let him only attend a Mesmeric meeting, and question the operators face to face, and they will tell him openly, and not in a corner, (for they have nothing to conceal) that they cannot at all comprehend how Mesmeric effects are produced, but that they will be most grateful to him for any information he may kindly afford them. They will explain to him that 'they operate on their servants' as being always at hand, and on 'hired females' because they are more easily procurable than the nobility and gentry; but that they have no objection whatever to operate upon himself, or any of his household, in public, whenever he may choose. This challenge was thus given by one, and accepted by another professor of the law; and the operator soon convinced the unbeliever, that the mind of the mesmerisé had no power in withstanding a practical hand. It is false that anything is done in a corner. I have been only once present when Mesmerism was practised, and then it was performed before sixty persons of both sexes and of all ages; and the Rev. Hugo himself quotes proofs that it has been performed before scores of people in France.

"If we are to abandon the collection of facts until we can explain the *modus operandi*, then, in common justice, let him preach against physicians, who, in the language of Voltaire, prescribe drugs of which they know little for bodies of which they know less. Let him issue a proclamation *something* like the following:—

'Let there be no more occult science! Science is open and above board to all who will examine it; it wants examination. Let us not

listen to it so long as they keep it a secret and hide the nature of it; so long as there is nothing but a pass of the thumb or a movement of the fingers, and signs and talismanic tokens, without any intelligible law laid down stating some property of matter and stating how it acts; stating the nature of its action on human flesh; stating how it stops the circulation\* (?) of the human blood so as to withstand the *strengthfulness* of the human frame; stating how it prevents the delicate touch being felt in the cutaneous veins!! (?)'

"The reader will see what sort of science he requires, for those are his own words. Even I, my beloved, am moved by this eloquent appeal to the *clearfulness* of your *understandings*. Behold, I warn you, ye marines, from this hour to discard your binnacles and their compasses, with their talismanic points—with their north pole and their south pole, their east and their west; your magnetic meridians and your dipping needles; your eastern variations and your western variations: and your invisible magnetic fluid. The sea is the sea, and your ship is the vessel; and we all know what brigs and yachts are! Show us why your bit of steel points to the north and not to the east; show us this fluid which you say compels your needle to select the one in preference to the other. If it be a fluid, don't hide it in a corner, but put it into my hands; let me feel it; let me weigh it; let me taste it; let me smell it; and then I shall be able to see the nature of the matter and the operation of the matter! Science is science, and science is open and above board to all who examine it; it courts examination *ut supra*. Discard in like manner your barometers and your sympiesmeters, your tubes of glass hermetically sealed, and your notched scales of whitish metal thereunto attached; your magical words of 'fair' and 'foul;' your 'stormy' and your 'changeable,' and all your Satanic prophecies of storms! Wind is wind and air is air; and we all know what gales are! Explain to us from whence your wind comes. Explain why it comes when we don't want it. Show me how it happens that your mercury is sometimes concave and at others convex. Show me why you cannot predict storms for eight and forty days as well as for eight and forty hours previously. Show me why your mercury slips up and down. Explain why it does not remain fixed; for if it operates *capriciously*, then be assured, my beloved, that there is some mischievous agent at work; and 'we are not ignorant of the devices of the devil!' What I ask of you is highly reasonable, for I merely expect of you to refrain from using them, till these laws be made plain and published to the world! Sail along your coasts as your pious forefathers did. I consider that no Christian person ought to enter, either as a sailor or as passenger in your ships, until you discard those instruments of Satan; for if you cannot explain their laws and properties to my comprehensiveness, then it is not clear to me that your magnets and your barometers are not acting under the influence of infernal agency!"

"\* This shows the ignorance of facts on which his senseless attack is founded, the pulse often rapidly rising and becoming of a wholly different character!"

"Should the reader believe the foregoing to be a miserable caricature, let him refer to the Rev. Hugo McNothing's sermon, and he will be quickly satisfied that I have closely adhered to his affecting and persuasive style, language, and train of thought."

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## MISCELLANEOUS.

**MORE EXPERIMENTS ON THE DEAF AND MUTE.**—A few weeks ago, during a visit to East Retford, we made a highly respectable gentleman there, who is quite deaf and mute, so sensible in the mesmeric state, to the charms of music, that it was impossible to prevent him dancing to the tones of a piano in the room, or fondling a musical box which was introduced—although when the music ceased he relapsed into apparent unconsciousness. When the organ of Tune was stimulated his raptures received a powerful acceleration. On his organ of Veneration being touched he knelt in a beautiful attitude of devotion; and when that of Language was appealed to he repeated the Lord's prayer with his fingers, after his usual mode of conversation. On touching Philoprogenitiveness he fondled an imaginary babe; and when Language was added to this case, he articulated after the manner of a child learning to talk. A great number of other organs were excited in their turn, and their functions developed with equal character and power. During the sleep he drew a picture in very tolerable style under the influence of Constructiveness and Form; and when awoke remembered nothing that he had done, and even doubted his own handiwork. Although requested not to publish the gentleman's name, we have liberty to make any requisite private reference to him, and shall be glad to do so. He belongs to one of the most respectable families in Retford.

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**THE SISTERS O'KEY.**—The cases of both sisters were genuine throughout, similar but very differently modified, and it was ignorance only which led any one to doubt them, and it was heartless cruelty to slander two perfectly virtuous and afflicted female children, who had been carefully brought up and had lived only with their parents and afterwards in a respectable family till they were seized with epilepsy. \* \* \* The display of disreputable unacquaintance with this kind of case, and the composition of vulgar tirades by so many professional men pretending to medical knowledge, was precisely the conduct which we witness in the streets when a deranged or



imbecile person is pursued and hooted by boys and rabble, as though he were master of his own condition and conduct, and not the subject of an affliction profoundly interesting to the philosopher and to the man who can feel for others. *Everything* stated or ever printed to their disadvantage was *an absolute falsehood*; I repeat these words emphatically, *an absolute falsehood*.—*Dr. Elliotson.*

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CRUELTY OF FALSE IMPUTATIONS.—To accuse mesmeric patients of imposition is very easy. But it is a very vulgar, as well as cruel habit, founded on ignorance, presumption, and heartlessness. We should never prefer such an accusation on light grounds: and, to be assured of the grounds, we should be well acquainted with the subject. He who is ignorant of a subject is surely not justified in giving an opinion: and yet, medical men and others, because they are ignorant of the phenomena of the more wonderful and uncommon diseases of the nervous system and of mesmerism, preposterously pronounce the subjects of them impostors, and those, who know the truth, to be fools, or rogues, or in league with the devil.—*Dr. Elliotson.*

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DISAGREEMENTS OF MEDICAL MEN.—The disagreement of the greatest medical authorities on the same points is proverbial. Whilst as a body the Faculty are denouncing and ridiculing Mesmerists, because *they* cannot give the rationale of all they observe and advocate, a medical friend of ours is amusing himself by drawing up a tabular view of the diversity of their own opinions on the principal diseases incidental to the human frame. It is curious, on glancing over this category, to find at least five hundred different opinions as to the proper mode of *treating* the same diseases; whilst at this moment the professional author of "Fallacies of the Faculty" is reducing all diseases to one!

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A FACT FOR THE CURIOUS.—If the most delicate plants are kept closely covered, they will endure repeated and severe freezings without the least injury. We had two very tender plants of the same kind during some severely cold weather, one of them was frozen without having been covered, and notwithstanding all the remedies in such cases usually applied, it drooped and died; the other was covered by a glass tumbler, inverted over it and fitted closely at the bottom. This was suffered to remain over the plant till it had completely thawed, and it was not in the least injured. It has been frozen and thawed in the same manner several times, and yet looks as fresh as ever.—*Ill. Palladium.*