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THE SAINT LOUIS

MAGNET,

DESIGNED TO ILLUSTRATE THE
PHILOSOPHY OF HUMAN NATURE.



T. J. M'NAIR,
EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR,

MONTHLY—ONE DOLLAR PER ANNUM, IN ADVANCE.

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INDEX.

A Learned Editor.....	37
Anecdote of a Sleep Walker.....	69
Anecdote.....	71
A Sound Mind a rare thing.....	160
A Hint.....	279
Bulwer on Water Cure.....	220
Brocchieri Water Tested.....	283
Communications.....	4
Correspondents.....	5
Clairvoyance.....	78
Columbian Magnetic College.....	91
Causes of Apoplexy.....	95
Correspondence.....	107
Clairvoyance.....	144
Chemical Action.....	150
Curious Case of Mesmeric Detection of Crime.....	154
Correspondence.....	169
Climate, Seasons, and Periods of Time, indicated by Fossil Wood.....	183
Correspondence.....	244
Delay of The Magnet.....	5
Diseases Removed by Mesmerism.....	16
Dr. Koch's Discovery of the Hydrargos.....	157
Difference between Animals and Vegetables.....	195
Dr. Buchanan's Lecture.....	251
Death Warrant of Christ.....	280
Empiricism.....	8
Editor's Address.....	1
Electro-Magnetic Telegraph.....	39
Electricity applied to Vegetation.....	67
Editor's Address.....	25
Electricity.....	194
Electricity.....	217
Extraordinary Experiments and Extraordinary Cures.....	237
Electricity.....	277
Future Prospect of Mesmerism.....	7
Greenland.....	145
Gradual origin of Bad Health.....	207
Gambling and its Consequences.....	216
Homœopathy.....	200
Homœopathy.....	235
Human Life.....	282
Life of a Plant.....	119
Learning in the Middle ages.....	211
Lectures on Neurology.....	231
Mesmerism.....	21
Medical Cases.....	36
Mesmerism and the Devil.....	14
" Editors Remark's.....	47
" Poetry.....	48
Mesmerism in St. Louis.....	54
Mesmerism and the Devil.....	56
Medical Cases.....	65
Mesmerism by no means a Discovery of Yesterday.....	71
Mesmerism in St. Louis.....	88
Magnetic Action.....	93
Medical Cases.....	94
Mesmerism in St. Louis.....	103
Medical Reformer.....	113

Magneto Electrical Machine	114
Medical	118
Mesmer Mesmerized	124
Magnetic Developments	129
Mesmeric Revelation	131
Medical Cases	138
Medical Cases	161
Magnetism, Mesmerism, or any other "Isms," in connection	197
Medical	203
Mesmerism	213
Moral Insanity	230
Magnetism among the Chinese	240
More Clerical Delinquency	255
Medical	263
Modical	271
Meteorology	274
New Discovery in relation to stones	71
New and valuable use of Magnetism	156
Neurology	164
Neurology	186
New Magneto-Electrical Machine	191
On Animal Magnetism	6
Our Terms	4
On Magnetizing	10
On the Preservation of Health	214
Phrenology	31
Progress of Society	49
Phrenological Investigations	59
Phenomena of the Brain	64
Power to Live or Die	63
Progress of Society	73
Progress of Society	98
Philosophy of Sleep	221
Phrenology	166
Phonography	181
Phrenology	185
Phrenology	209
Phrenological Developments of Dr. Samuel Thompson	228
Phrenology	236
Prospectus of the 2d Volume	241
Progress of Science	265
Poetry	96, 168, 216, 239, 234
Remarkable Cases of Supersentience at Glasgow	62
Successful application of Mesmerism to a Surgical Operation	141
Sweating Blood	183
Surgical Operation under Magnetic Influence	238
Stammering	281
To the Friends of Science	4
The Name of our Work	4
The Chemist to his Love	72
The Magnet	24
The Location of Diseases Electrically considered	110
To Physicians	120
The Magnanimity of a Dog	168
The Origin and Propagation of Febrile Diseases	174
The Milk Sickness	179
The St. Louis Magnet	189
The Weather	190
Taste for Science	281
Useful to Printers	192
What will be the Benefits of Magnetic Knowledge	113
Wonders of Electricity	160

THE SAINT LOUIS MAGNET.

No. 1.

SAINT LOUIS, MAY 1, 1845.

Vol. I.

EDITOR'S ADDRESS.

After due contemplation, we have determined to present the public with a periodical addressed, in the main, to their reflective faculties. This is thought by many to be a hazardous undertaking—that the mass of the people are too indolent to think for themselves—that a work of this character, would necessarily involve deep thinking and patient research, far beyond the capacity of the general reader; and consequently fail for the want of a sufficient support.

These objections, we regret to acknowledge, carry with them too much weight. Observation and experience prove them to be too well founded. But we still believe, there are a sufficient number of reflecting minds in the Mississippi Valley, who desire solid mental food—such as will expand the mind and draw it out of that narrow, contracted orbit, in which it has been too long compelled to revolve. A little patient reflection will teach us that we are, as yet, in a state of infancy in the arts and sciences. We fall infinitely short of perfection, in any of the operations of life.

How few of the mechanic arts are brought to any tolerable degree of perfection? How contradictory are the views and opinions of man, in relation to most of the sciences? How infinitely short does the physician frequently come, of judging correctly of the pathology of disease?—And how frequently does disease baffle all his skill, and bid defiance to the combined powers of all his remedial agents? How imperfect is the science of law?—And how insufficient is it to meet every individual case, and deal out justice to all? The science of theology is constantly being modified.—How different the theology of to-day from that of the sixteenth century?

Such is the imperfection of man, and such his progressive nature, harmonizing with the constitution of the globe upon which he dwells. Hence, we feel the force of the following sentiment, "All things are passing away, and all things are becoming new." This is demonstrated

by the constant changes and revolutions which are going on in the works of nature, and the every-day operations of man.

Notwithstanding all the vain pretensions of man to wisdom; so short is his life, and so imperfect his abilities, that but little can be accomplished by any one. And the slightest observation of all his works, teach us the imperfection of that which he does accomplish. How few of the sciences are mastered to any great extent, by our most profound philosophers? And how few the number of individuals, who have taken any considerable range in the vast and spacious departments of pantological science? Where is the man who would dare to call himself a pantologist, and not blush at the thought of his infinite pretensions? No one has ever examined and described, classified and arranged all the works of nature, and the laws by which they are governed. This is too vast and complicated for any one mind to grasp.

But of all the departments of science, there is probably none in which the general reader is so imperfectly informed, as that which takes immediate cognizance of himself—his own constitution, mental and physical, and the laws by which they are governed in health and disease. The violation of these simple laws of our nature, so admirably adapted to our rational desires, our happiness and perfection, bring upon us all the evils of which we complain, and frequently closes the scene with premature death. Scarcely an individual goes down to the grave with old age! All are hurried there by the wise and immutable sentence of the Divine Judge, who sits constantly in judgment upon their reckless disobedience! Viewing the actions of men, we would naturally conclude they owed obedience to no law. But when we view the sufferings to which they are liable, and the evils which daily befall them, recognizing no effect without a rational cause, and that punishment is the natural consequence of violated laws, we must infer laws to which they are subjected, and that those laws are their own judges, and their own executioners; or that they are in the hands of a higher Power, who avenges their transgressions.

To this department of pantological science, will the St. Louis Magnet be exclusively devoted. No pains will be spared in developing the most useful and practical principles of Human Physiology, embracing Cephalology, Pathetology, Physiognomy, Psychology, Neurology, Electricity, Galvanism, Magnetism, Light, Caloric, Life, etc., etc.

These highly interesting subjects will be discussed and presented to the general reader, in as popular and comprehensible a manner as is possible; or as is consistent with the character and design of such investigations. Our great object will be to further these investigations, and awaken suitable reflections among the inquiring minds, so numerous dispersed

throughout our widely extended valley ; and a faithful presentation of the general laws which pertain to Human Life, and which are concerned in the production of those states of the mind, called Somnambulism, Somniphathy, Trance, Clairvoyance, and various other mental phenomena, which have hitherto remained enveloped in mystery.

We shall be much disappointed, however, should we not meet with numerous objections, to these philosophical speculations. It is too commonly supposed, that they subserve no useful purpose in the economy of life. But, it is even true, that there are many inquiries in every department of intellectual pursuits, which, to all appearance, lead to no practical result. This is, however, a defect inherent in the investigation of every thing new, and can be urged as no specific objection against the investigation of the philosophy of mind and life ;—a correct knowledge of which, is so essential to our health, our happiness, and our future improvement.

In venturing upon the investigations of these sublime, but much persecuted principles, we would not wish to be understood as laying claims to any undue originality. We shall, as far as possible, avail ourselves of the advantage of the best productions upon these subjects, through whatever medium they may come. The object will be truth, and practical information, under whatever form it may be presented. Whatever may be the existing prejudices against a liberal investigation of those subjects—whatever coldness and apathy there may be in the minds of the people, in relation to their investigation—it is certainly true, that they have in all ages been held up to the mind's eye, in some light and under some form. In some, they have elicited the feelings of the marvelous, and given rise to the most absurd and superstitious beliefs. In others, that of power and wisdom, developing itself in the simplest manner, subservient to nature's laws.

Whatever then may be the belief, or disbelief of mankind in relation to these subjects ; nature pursues her undeviating course, and happiness obtains in proportion as we place ourselves in harmony with her operations ; and misery prevails just in proportion as we neglect this most obvious of all duties.

Happiness and misery, then, depend on our actions and not upon our belief, as has been so widely disseminated by certain teachers. It is very true, however, that we are apt to act in accordance with our belief. Hence, the necessity of a correct belief ; that our actions may be good and not evil. Hence, too, the necessity of a thorough investigation of all subjects, and a careful comparison of facts, that we may arrive at correct conclusions.

[To be Continued.]

THE NAME OF OUR WORK.—We call this periodical “The Magnet,” for a similar reason, that the Rev. Laroy Sunderland called his work *The Magnet*; and that is, we believe it possesses a little of the *rare* quality of its namesake, “The Native Magnet.” There is undoubtedly an *electric* spirit pervading its pages, which must polarize its readers, rendering them *positive*, as to the necessity of sustaining it, as an instructive, moral, and highly interesting periodical; and *negative* as to any disposition to let it fall, for the want of support. Hence, we know of no name more appropriate. We do not design that it shall be merely *Anthropological* in its investigations, but it will include the interesting and important principles of Magnetism in general. Physiology, Phrenology, Physiognomy, &c., are but branches of the same great subject, to be discussed in our pages. *Magnetism* being the all-pervading *soul* of the whole. There is no life in any thing whatever, without Magnetism. Hence, reasonably enough, its name, “The Magnet.”

COMMUNICATIONS FOR THE MAGNET.—Articles for this work are earnestly desired from those who have important facts to communicate. We hope we shall be favored with assistance of this kind from different quarters. All well authenticated facts connected with Mesmerism, as a Therapeutic agent, will be highly acceptable. We hope our scientific Physicians will lay aside their prejudices and investigate for truth, independent of popular opinion. For once, I should be pleased to see them in advance of popular opinion. This we know requires a degree of moral courage; and this degree we believe they possess, could it be excited into action. Would they conclude to take the Magnet, we think we may safely promise them a sufficient quantity of the Magnetic fluid, conveyed not immediately through the end of the fingers to the proper organs, but transmitted through the *electric* pages of the Magnet, to produce the action desired. Then shall we have reports of cases from numerous quarters, detailing facts, which will shed new light on the pathology of Living Magnetism, developing the laws by which it is governed.

OUR TERMS.—When the amount of interesting matter is duly considered, which each of our numbers will contain; occasionally embellished with engravings, it must be seen that our terms are *extremely* low; sufficiently so to place it within the reach of every inquiring mind.

TO THE FRIENDS OF SCIENCE.—The success of this periodical will necessarily depend on the influence of the few. All know how difficult it is to induce the many to take an interest in the subjects which will be discussed through the medium of these pages. All know, too, how deeply

rooted and wide spread the prejudices we shall have to encounter. Hence, what is done to extend our circulation, must be done by the few, who have eyes to see, ears to hear, and minds to appreciate the importance of this work. May we not hope, then, that all those who may obtain a knowledge of this undertaking, will immediately lend us their influence in forwarding subscribers. Give us that patronage which the importance of our work demands, and we promise an agreeable disappointment, to all those who may interest themselves in our behalf.

DELAY OF THE MAGNET.—We have delayed the Magnet two months longer than we designed, in order to obtain a sufficient number of subscribers to warrant the continuation of the work for the year. This has required more time than we anticipated, in consequence of the want of prompt action on the part of the friends of this much abused science. But now our sky clears, and our prospects brighten; the impenetrable gloom with which our favorite themes have been enveloped is passing away, and the sun of science shines forth with meridian splendor. The encouragement we are now meeting, is far surpassing our most sanguine expectations. The great mass of the people are arousing to the importance of the subject, and in spite of the cry of humbuggery, and colusion, which has been raised by the interested and ignorant; they are determined to examine and test the efficacy of this most powerful remedial agent. This is all we ask, for conviction in Mesmerism will as certainly follow investigation, as that day succeeds the rising sun. Hence, our friends have nothing to fear, and we are proud to say, we think their most sanguine expectations shall be realized.

CORRESPONDENTS.—We are happy to hear from the friends of science in different parts of the country; and it affords us equal pleasure to give such information as may be desired, when within our power. But it must occur to any one, on reflection, that it will scarcely comport with justice, for us to be taxed with postage on letters, from time to time, on business which is no possible profit to us, but for the sole benefit and gratification of others.

We have received numerous letters, asking for advice and information on the subject of Mesmerism, on which the postage was not even paid, to say nothing of the necessary time and expense of answering them. We shall be obliged to adopt it as a general rule hereafter, to take no letters from the office which are not post-paid. As to advice and information, it will be given in the columns of this work, as far as possible. But where advice is required in *especial cases*, compensation will be expected, in proportion to the time and attention required.

FOR THE ST. LOUIS MAGNET.

FUTURE PROSPECT OF MESMERISM.

DR. MCNAIR—Dear Sir: It is with pleasure that I learn your determination to issue a monthly periodical, devoted to the investigation of those interesting and useful, though much neglected, branches of knowledge relating more particularly to the different and varied phenomena of organization and vitality. It is but recently that the scientific world have directed their investigations in these channels, and already the imagination is dazzled, and the intellect delighted with the curious developments already elicited. Many heretofore inexplicable phenomena of vegetable and animal physiology have recently been brought to light by the application of the science of chemistry, to solve the problems of organic heat, the circulation of the blood, and the assimilation, and elimination of inorganic and elementary substances, into organized tissues, and new organic compounds. And I have no doubt that the researches of philosophers into the more intricate nature, properties, and qualities of the imponderable agents, Light, Caloric, Electricity, Magnetism, &c., will, at no distant day, lead to a much more rational explanation of the relations existing between mind and matter; or between the mental and physical phenomena, that are now wrapped in obscurity and mystery. All we want is thorough investigation and research by minds capable of grasping the subjects, and pursuing them, step by step, with steady, unwavering perseverance, and a determination to elicit truth at any hazard or sacrifice. This I consider to be the legitimate field for the advocates of Animal Magnetism, for it is my firm conviction that, when this much abused science is more thoroughly investigated by scientific men whose only desire is to arrive at truth, it will be found to be intimately connected with electricity in some of its varied modifications. We have had charlatans, neophytes, and uneducated illiterate men dabbling with this subject so long, that they have secured blind credulity from the ignorant and lovers of the marvellous, and the contempt and ridicule of the educated and scientific,—and it requires a bold and fearless spirit now to stand forth an advocate for the cause of science in this particular branch. Such an one must and will be sustained, and will eventually triumph over credulity on the one hand, and contempt on the other—and place the science of Magnetism on a base as far above, as it is now below, in the scale of the physical and mental sciences. I trust to see the day when your “Magnet” shall be acknowledged a true one, and although it may oscillate and vibrate, it will be found, when it settles to rest, to point to the pole without variation, whose name is truth.

Yours, &c. W—.

FOR THE ST. LOUIS MAGNET.

EMPIRICISM.

It is a long established fact that empiricism and mal-practice have pervaded every science that has tended to great practical utility in alleviating the sufferings of frail humanity. In the various branches of Medical science, empirics, mal-practitioners and quacks, are frequently found tampering with the health, constitutions, and lives of those, who have unfortunately fallen within the range of their unskilful practice.

This being well authenticated by observation and experience in relation to the Medical science, it is no less surprising to find ignorant zeal and enthusiasm sporting with the first glimmerings of a newly discovered science; the importance of which, as a remedial agent in connection with profound medical knowledge, cannot in anywise be doubted. In none of the great avenues to scientific knowledge and usefulness, are there to be found more ignorant zeal and enthusiasm than among the practical votaries of the science of Animal Magnetism, which necessarily operates as a great barrier to its introduction as a potent agent, in the Therapeutical branch of Medical science.

Progressive improvement and the march of intellect being onward, the time is fast approaching when this all-absorbing subject will enlist into its ranks the highly intellectual and intelligent part of the professional world, eliciting philosophical investigation that will place it upon the topmost pinnacle of scientific discoveries. It will then be divested of all its present mysterious character, and accounted for on natural and rational principles. It will then be relieved of all the abuse and odium that ignorance and ill-directed experiments have hitherto hurled upon it and its advocates.

Skill and practical knowledge are qualifications requisite in every department of science; and in the practical use of Animal Magnetism are all the powers of a well-cultivated understanding brought into requisition. When Magnetism is used as a remedial agent, it is highly important that it should be directed with skill and judgment. Or if it be employed for a test of its great truth, it should also be conducted with a cool calculating judgment and great presence of mind, most studiously and cautiously avoiding a ludicrous exhibition of the low, vulgar and ridiculous manifestations that have been, and in many cases are, developed most particularly through the medium of the Phreno-Magnetic experiments, thereby casting a cloud that overshadows all the beauties of its astonishing effect, and confirming the prejudices which have been entertained of its skilful management in humbugging the people through collusion.

These injudicious exhibitions are of frequent occurrence amongst lecturers, and must be acknowledged, by its warmest advocates, to be detrimental to its establishment in the great class of scientific discoveries; nevertheless, it is certain that many, and very many, are practised from motives purely noble—the evil only arising from an ill-directed manifestation of the experiments exhibited.

Whatever ludicrous ideas many persons may have associated with this subject, experience proves Animal Magnetism to be sublimely great, and ought, in no respect, and under no circumstances, to be trifled with by the enthusiastic empiric. Like every high gift conferred upon us by the Creator, the Magnetic power ought to be exerted with discretion and judgment, and only for benevolent purposes, and every thing of a useless or jocose character connected with the practice, should be discountenanced in the strongest terms.

R**** A**** J.

MAGNETISM.

ON ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Among the most interesting results yielded by the labors of recent explorers in the domain of physical science, must be reckoned the views which they have opened to us of the nature and mutual relations of those subtle and pervading agencies—call them imponderable elements, cosmic forces, or what other name best expresses the little, at bottom, we know about them—which reveal themselves to our senses in the phenomena of heat, light, electricity, and magnetism. Intimate connections, pointing to a common origin, have been developed between these agencies, multiplying themselves at every progressive stage of the experiments to which they have been subjected. A mass of observations has exhibited them in such rigorous interdependence—the presence of any one of them involving the nearness of all the rest—as to render it very difficult to consider them otherwise than as phases of one and the same principle, modifications of some expansive ground-force and primal activity of matter, universal as gravitation, and probably antagonist thereto.

The researches of all the latest inquirers seem to have left no doubt as to the identity of all the species of electricity. The heating power of the magnetic fluid has now fully identified it in one of the most remarkable characteristics of electric action, with the voltaic and the common electricity; while the magnetic influence in its turn is found to belong to them all, and common electricity is at length discovered to deflect the needle. Animal

and thermo-electricity, as well as magnetic agency, decomposes water. As far as their powers can be summoned into sufficient activity, they all appear to perform each others work; and it seems an exaggeration of timidity to hesitate in pronouncing them the various manifestations of some single and pervading principle. The intimate connection of this principle again, with heat and with light, which is perhaps little more than the peculiar effect of the vibrations of heat upon the optic nerve, plainly associate these with the former, and invite us to expect the near approach of some decisive discovery, which in combining them all, shall indeed lift the veil of Isis, and form before long, the great philosophical glory of the nineteenth century.

Should such a "decisive discovery" ever accomplish itself, there will probably be seen, taking its place in the circle of the powers here referred to, and asserting a cognate relation to them, the fifth power—that, namely, which announces its existence in the phenomena of Animal Magnetism. If such a power exists at all, it exists, assuredly, not in a state of isolation, as something *sui generis*, but is, with all other forces and activities that are found in the universe, a ray broken, by the great world prism of sensuous being, into refractions infinitely diverse in direction and color, the *maximum* of deflection being perhaps just at this point where Animal Magnetism shows itself.

Many organic forces have in their working much similarity with the powers of inorganic nature, yet are not identical with these. Now since, in nature generally, subsistence is ever evolved out of subsistence, it seems more in accordance with nature's economy to contemplate the organic forces not as an absolutely new order of powers, but as modifications of those already observed in the wider field of the inorganic, the modifying agency being that of the vital principle (and the will, where this power gives to the vital principle a particular character or direction,) which works upon and assimilatively transforms these powers, in the same way as it transmutes the inorganic material substances into organic. Those phenomena of electricity and light, which are subject to the individual vitality of inorganic bodies, and even to the will of certain animals, here form the transition and mediative link.

Certainly, if ever we possess a satisfactory theory of Animal Magnetism, it must be one which will base itself upon this principle—the essential unity of the organic and inorganic forces of nature, and show that the necromancy which our witch-finders of the nineteenth century espy in "a pass of the thumb or a movement of the fingers, and signs, and talismanic tokens," as Mr. M'Neile hath it, is the very same which their great prototype of the twelfth century detected in the crucible of the chemist and the decoctions of the apothecary.

"As we are almost daily receiving fresh knowledge on this subject, there need be no hurry," remarks Mr. Lang, "in building up a theory. The phenomena of Animal Magnetism are in themselves true, whatever theory may ultimately be adopted, and probably inquirers would for the present be most usefully employed in scrutinizing and recording facts, and leave the rest to time."

This is true: the time is not ripe for a theory of Animal Magnetism that will stand—a theory that will account for all phenomena observed containing at the same time nothing that observed phenomena will not bear out. Nevertheless, theorizing is a spontaneous operation of the mind. The first facts observed suggest, however little we may be conscious of it, certain involuntary speculative stirrings within us—an obscure instinctive seeking for some common ground to refer our observations to, without which there were no alternative but to dismiss them as mere phantasm and optical illusion. While we are observing facts, our theory is silently forming itself: for what else, indeed, is a theory but a beholding? My theory of the Magnetic phenomena is, in other words, my way of looking at, my view of the Magnetic phenomena—what *I see* in the Magnetic phenomena. Not to theorize is not to look, but passively to suffer the shapes of things to flit over the incognizant sense, passing away unapprehended, and without having added an impression to the store within. Let us, then, "scrutinize and record facts:" that is indispensable; but while the eye and the registering hand are busy, let not the faculties of thought and imagination be idle: let us theorize (provisionally) as we go on, were it but to enliven the, else, all too dull work of observing and recording. The very terminology of our record will depend in some measure on the theory—on the light in which, on the medium through which, we see.

ON MAGNETIZING.

The organs by which chiefly an extraorganic direction and activity are impressed, are the hand and the eye.

The most usual way of magnetizing, says Ennemoser, and, as many erroneously believe, the only way, is by the hand. The hands are the proper organs of the will, through which volition becomes act: as the body in general is the visibility of the soul, the manifest psychic subsistence, so the hands are, especially in their movements, the physiognomic indices or features of the will in its constitution and manner of working. But in like manner as the hands execute what the spirit within determines, so are

they also the most natural conductors of the direction and fixation of physical energies.

The hand, says Passavant, is the organ in which the sense of feeling becomes sense of touch, and thus emerges into freedom, in the power of seeking and examining its object. Through the erect posture of man the hand is an emancipated organ, which, instead of serving to the support of the progressive motion of the body, becomes a comprehensive organ of the spirit. From the continual activity of the sense of touch, a greater consumption of nervous force goes on at the hand, particularly at the extremities of the fingers, and in consequence, probably, an increased efflux of the nervous æther: this process may be heightened in intensity through the influence of the will. In all ages a healing virtue has been attributed to the touch, to the imposition of the hand on suffering parts of the body; and from the earliest epochs of man's history has this organ been lifted up to bless and to curse. A custom in which all nations at all times have shown so singular an agreement, can have no mere arbitrary or conventional ground: it must find its import in the nature of the organ itself; and this is contained in the circumstance, that the hand is, in man, the freest member of the body, and that, as organ of the sense of touch, it is ordained to be the dispenser of the effluent nervous æther.

Passavant's directions for the magnetic manipulation are exceedingly simple. The hand is to rest either on the parts affected (where the disease under cure is local,) or on those places where the most important nervous structures are situated—namely, in particular, upon the head, and upon the region of the stomach, the former the centre of the cerebral, the latter of the ganglionic nervous system. Passes made with the points of the fingers or the palm of the hand, whether with or without contact, must (as a rule,) in order to work beneficially, be carried from above downwards, from the brain towards the extremities. According to Ennemoser, the greater the quietness and uniformity with which the process of manipulation is carried on—the less there is of bustle, gesticulation and ceremony—the more advantageous will it be to the patient, whose imagination should be as little as possible appealed to, his composure as little as possible disturbed, by what may strike him as oddity in the procedure he is subjected to. It were best if the manipulation wholly escaped the notice of the patient, so that the magnetic effects should steal upon him unawares, without his having been previously agitated by the expectation, perhaps the fear—of a mysterious power strange to his experience, and the anticipated approach of which must involve, one should think, feelings of a somewhat uneasy curiosity.

Next to the hand, the eye is the organ through which, principally, man

exercises an immediate psychic influence both in men and beasts. From of old has the power of working magically, that is, of carrying the impulses of the will without the limits of the organism, been attributed to the eye. The fixed gaze of a malignant soul, which, as St. Thomas says, is often to be met with in old women (*ut in vetulis sæpe contingit*), was supposed to work with deadly effect upon unresisting subjects, particularly upon children, and even to exert a baleful influence on the atmosphere. Virgil has indicated in the line—

“Nescio quis teneros oculus mihi fascinat agnos,”

the belief of his time on this point; and Rosseau assures us that he killed four toads in Egypt by what Mr. Tappertit would call, “eyeing them over.” However, on making the experiment on a toad at Lyons, the reptile being no benighted Egyptian toad, but an enlightened French one, and on a level with the intelligence of the age, not only did not die, but returned his look with such malign effect, that he swooned on the spot. The eye, as Passavant remarks, has this in common with the hand, that it not only receives but gives—not only is itself the subject of sensation, but causes sensation in others. While the senses of taste, smell, and hearing, are only receptive, the hand and the eye are at the same time acting, magically working organs.

The eye, he proceeds, is the telescope through which the soul discerns, the mirror in which she is discerned, and the telegraph whereby she announces the most hidden feelings. No passion so base, no dignity of soul so high, but it speaks out and reveals itself in this transparent organ.

But magnetic workings may take place without employment of either the eye or the hand. The approach of the physician is fraught with a powerful influence on the patient; and Friedrich Hufeland’s conjecture seems not to be without foundation, that physicians often exercise a magnetic power without being themselves suspicious of it, and benefit their patients more thereby than with their prescriptions. Mr. Braid’s method of “hypnotising,” perhaps derives its efficacy in part from the magnetic influence which he unconsciously exerts: it may be doubted, at least, whether his patients would not take much longer to become “hypnotised,” if they sat and squinted at their eyebrows in a room by themselves.

Continued and repeated magnetizing produces frequently, though not always, sleep. This is, according to Ennemoser, one of its most salutary properties.

Sleep, he remarks, is the first of medicines in all such diseases as consist in, or are accompanied by, an inordinate degree of excitement and over-activity of the system, and in which the inward harmony of the different organic workings is disturbed. When once we are fortunate

nough, in nervous affections, in fevers, in pains of whatever kind, in mental diseases, in madness, &c., by any means to procure sleep, crisis of amendment begin to present themselves ; but in no case so striking and so surely as in consequence of the sleep produced by magnetism.

The great advantage of this kind of artificial sleep, besides its extreme profoundness, involving insensibility as of death, is that it avoids the use of those narcotic substances which, whatever immediate relief their employment may bring, are, through their deleterious action on the brain, fatal to the subsequent healthy working of the functions both of mind and body.

[*New York Magnet.*]

WHAT WILL BE THE BENEFITS OF MAGNETIC KNOWLEDGE?

The above is a question often asked by those who, forced by incontrovertible evidence into a belief of a magnetic agency in nature, are astonished that since it may be useful at all, man should have been six thousand years so ignorant of its workings. Many, who have distinguished themselves by a violent opposition to our views, disappointed on finding themselves overcome at last, turn surlily round and denounce both the principle and its advocates because once, perchance it was, and therefore may be again, devoted by some evil mind to an injurious purpose. But, to doubt its efficacy because it was not understood by our forefathers from the first, would be as wrong as to doubt the value of Christian truth because so many ages had elapsed before it was manifested in Jesus ; and to prohibit its recognition lest it should be misapplied, would be not less absurd than to prohibit the general use of fire because it has been an occasional agent in the hands of the incendiary.

Our own belief is that, when rightly understood, its efficacy will be found fully equal to its power ; and though the Rev. Hugh M'Neale and others have not hesitated to hint at its satanic origin, we must suppose the devil a much better being than he is generally described, before we can attribute to him all the wonderful yet beneficent results of its judicious application which have come under our knowledge. Such objections to Magnetism as that of Mr. M'Neale's remind us of a national council who, on meeting to consider the propriety of rendering navigable two of their rivers, which might easily have been accomplished, came to the following sapient resolution—"That had God ever intended those rivers to have been navigable, being himself more wise and powerful than man, he would have made them so naturally ; therefore such an improvement would be sinful in his sight"—never thinking for a moment that the sciences and arts themselves are all only nature developed through human agency !

Like all other subtle and powerful elements, Magnetism will be good or bad according to the motive for its appliance ; and we think it argues little faith in God, or in his image, which man is said to be, if we must shut our eyes lest the light should only show us evil. But such with some people is just the way. They talk about putting their trust in Providence ; yet dare not trust its workings even in themselves. They pray to Heaven for its blessings on their fellow-creatures, and then are afraid such blessings should be enjoyed, because it may be they have not the exclusive administration thereof. They seem to have forgotten, or never known, that much which they themselves have abused till it became a curse might, if rightly understood, have been a blessing ; whilst on the other hand, with the pure all things are pure, and with the righteous all things right.

Our object then must be not to discard, but to use an influence so potent properly ; and since it has not been invented by ourselves, but placed by the great Creator in our hands, let us not return to him, unused or misused, so valuable a talent. Of its capabilities we probably know but little, compared with what we may, as we fit ourselves more for receiving such knowledge ; but one thing is certain, that many of its curative, to say nothing of its educative qualities, are, in their development, almost as astounding as miracles. In Sheffield, it has been used with success by medical men, in various cases which have come to our knowledge. It has been our own privilege to be instrumental in the cure not only of monomania, but general derangement, by its agency on several occasions. In our last, we mentioned the restoration of hearing and speech under its influence, by Mr. Braid, and have since, in an operation of our own, observed a young man, totally deaf and dumb from his infancy, made so decidedly sensible of various sounds, as to give considerable hope of all but perfect restoration.

One case of the most horrid delirium was cured under our direction, two months back, at Nottingham, in presence of several police officers, and not less than ten or twelve other inhabitants, at a public house, into which we were called about the middle of the night. On arriving in an upstairs room, we found a poor man (who had previously smashed nearly all the furniture, glasses, and crockery around him) tearing his hair, and beating his head on a table, and raging all the while in the most miserable tones. The whole (as we believe to be the case with innumerable similar fits of suffering) was the result of a magnetic sleep, during which the patient had been cross-magnetised by several persons who had for some time been drinking. On the commencement of the next paroxysm of destruction, we directed one of the party who had previously handled

him, and who appeared to have the greatest influence, to soothe his feelings by touching the organ of Benevolence. Sceptics may sneer at such a suggestion, but thus they would not have done had they witnessed the almost instantaneous and favorable result. The maniac immediately became as docile as a lamb, and in that state was thrown into a deep magnetic sleep, and carried to a sofa in a more convenient room. We then directed passes to be made without contact from the head to the feet, whenever the patient began to dream; and in turn the legs, the body, and the arms became much convulsed. At last, the whole influence, so mixed and foreign to the man's ordinary nature, seemed to have settled about the extremities, and at this juncture we directed the manipulator suddenly to nip the hands at the roots of his fingers, as hard as possible. The effect appeared electrical. The patient bounded up as if a demon was bursting from his body; his senses were recovered, and he could reason on his condition. Still he was far from well. His brain was whirling, and he felt somewhat sick; but on taking him entirely under our own control, and pouring a few gallons of water on the principal magnetic poles of his body and head, we brought him into a calm and painless, though, of course, exhausted state; and the following day he came, quite restored, to thank us, as he said, for saving his life.

In another case we prevented a patient from committing suicide. Suicidal monomania had been imbibed from a source which, in the present state of popular prejudice and scepticism, we scarcely deem it prudent to mention, though the time may come when, as we have done in other matters, we may feel that all restraint of Truth is criminal, and so tell the world much that at present it little wots of. Suffice it, however, that we can give reference to evidence of the fact that we prevented suicide, and recalled the patient from a most violent fever, by magnetic influence (or what we call magnetic influence) alone, by passes and pressure over certain parts of the body and limbs, after applications of a more common and "approved" character had failed. The cure of the insane by magnetic means is already become a "profession" in the United States; and we are favored with intelligence, well corroborated, of the possibility of clairvoyant patients detecting the internal physical complaints in the persons they sympathise with. Nor is the latter at all new. Thirty years ago, a medical gentleman, at Lutterworth, in Leicestershire, discovered the diseases of his patients through the medium of his daughter, whom he was in the habit of rendering clairvoyant, but was compelled at last by prejudice to desist. But the truth is, the time has now arrived, not only for staggering scepticism but disarming superstition—two of the greatest foes to human happiness; and if Magnetism could accomplish no more than this, it might

be deemed one of Heaven's most welcome dispensations to man. Far greater than these, however, are its capabilities; and we are not amongst those who would hide them from the gaze of an inquiring world.

[*London Phreno-Magnet.*]

DISEASES REMOVED BY MAGNETISM.

There is no country, perhaps, in which a knowledge of Human Magnetism has been disseminated, where its therapeutic benefits have been so little sought after and so improperly appreciated as in our own. This deleterious effect, has undoubtedly been caused by the ludicrous manner in which this science has been exhibited through every part of the United States; by empirics, the most superficial, ever ready to catch hold of the first intimations of new discoveries in the arts and sciences, however efficient and valuable they may prove, or however false and pernicious the principles or machine may develop itself when thoroughly tested. The sole object of this most detestable part of community, is selfish in the extreme. So they obtain the *dimes*, they have little or no regard for their own feelings, or the ruinous havoc they may make of the most noble science. This science, probably calculated to shed more light upon the animal economy, than any other which is now agitating the minds of the philosophic world, has been made a complete baboon show of; disgusting the more intelligent and reflecting part of community, and merely amusing the balance. Hence, where people have depended upon these ludicrous exhibitions of the magnetic sleep, and know no more of its uses than what they see in experiments made for mercenary purposes, or to merely gratify idle curiosity, we are not to expect them to place a very high estimate upon any practical benefits which may be developed from a judicious use of this Human Science.

The most that we are surprised at, is, that the people have suffered themselves to be thus humbugged so long by the mere abuse of a science,—the chaff for the grain. But a new era in this science has arrived, the people have arisen in mass and placed their veto upon such proceedings with the broad seal of a few years reflection; and now this useful science is settling down in the hands of a more judicious class of community, to be wielded with power and efficacy in the removal of diseases, in which its healing properties will be fully realised by all, and disputed by none. We know, that already, a large proportion of the most intelligent of the learned professions in this country, are convinced of the truth of Mesmerism, and many of them have fully tested the valuable benefits accruing from its proper application in the removal of diseases, and the relief of

human suffering. We now rejoice to see many physicians, whose candor, benevolence, intelligence, and health, qualify them for removing disease, taking hold of this science and giving it such direction, as must at once elevate it above the abuses to which it has been too long subjected, and use it as the Author of Nature's other gifts should be used, for the relief of human woes.

For this end we make use of it, and the principal object of this periodical will be, to arouse other and more powerful minds to use it for the same noble purpose; and to accomplish this more effectually, we will report such cases as will be both interesting and instructive.

We have facts in abundance well authenticated, sufficiently sustaining the therapeutic efficiency of Human Magnetism. We have no room to quote from the numerous works translated from the French, German and Russian languages, with the exception of some very interesting cases. We shall, therefore, confine ourselves principally to the statements of such cases as may fall within our own observation, and those which may be reported to us for publication. The names of the persons referred to, need not always be given, but they may be known on application to the editor. In stating these cures, we shall avoid all technicalities as far as possible, merely giving those particulars which may afford general readers a definite idea of the nature of the disease, and the manner in which the relief, or cure, was effected.

I.—TOOTHACHE.

Miss H——, being present at a lecture which I delivered on Mesmerism, some time in February last, in the city, was suffering severely with the tooth-ache, which had produced considerable inflammation and swelling. After the lecture was closed, I was requested to demonstrate the efficacy of mesmerism, by removing the lady's toothache, which was thoroughly effected in at least ten minutes;—the swelling having almost disappeared, as well as the pain, in the same short space of time. We heard from the lady sometime afterwards, and was informed that she had not suffered with the toothache since. In this, we seldom ever fail, unless the tooth be ulcerated. We have tested the power of Mesmerism in this particular, in innumerable instances. It has finally become of every day occurrence; and there are but few, who have not become acquainted with the manner of its application. But for the benefit of those who have not, we may state that the operation consists in simply placing the end of one finger on the tooth which aches, and another finger on the opposite side of the face, and on a parallel tooth. The fingers may be continued thus, with a gentle pressure, for two or three minutes, which frequently causes the

tooth to ache worse for a short time. If the tooth which aches be an upper one, the manipulations, or passes, will be made downwards, immediately over the diseased tooth; but if an under one, the manipulations will be made upwards. The pressure and manipulations may be continued alternately until the tooth ceases to ache. This operation will mostly prove successful in from three to ten minutes. Thus simply may almost any one be relieved in a few minutes of the most excruciating pain; and that, too, without the inconvenience of losing the tooth. I have frequently removed the severest toothache, which I have never known to return. And had it not been for this simple and effectual remedy, the sufferers would no doubt have been compelled to have them extracted. This, however, is not true in every case. I have sometimes known the pain to return, and have removed it two or three times before the sufferer would be entirely relieved.

II.—HEADACHE.

This is a very common complaint, especially among that class who lead sedentary lives, and spend the greater proportion of their time shut up in close rooms. This disease, however, frequently arises from a deranged state of the stomach, in which case a light emetic is sometimes required, followed by a mild cathartic. But in far the greater proportion of these cases, and more especially those which arise from nervous irritability, Mesmerism, or Pathetism will produce the desired effect in a few minutes. To successfully remove headache by Mesmerism, the hands of a competent person may be placed upon the head with a gentle pressure, and remain until a communication, or an equilibrium of temperature is produced between the hands of the Mesmeriser and the head of the patient. If the disease then originates from the stomach, the manipulations may be made down as low as the epigastrium, or pit of the stomach, where the fingers may rest for a short time, when the passes may be continued from the head well down to the extremities.

When the disease originates from nervous irritability, the manipulations, after a communication is produced, may be made from the centre of the forehead, back over the head. When pain shoots back from the anterior to the posterior portions of the head, one hand may be placed on the forehead and the other on the back part of the head; or if the pain should pass from one temple to the other, the hands may be placed on each side of the head, immediately over the region of the pain. The manipulations are always made immediately over the parts affected; unless they are made to produce a general influence over the whole system, which is sometimes necessary in the first instance.

III.—DETERMINATION OF BLOOD TO THE BRAIN.

Mr. D——, being very subject to this formidable disease, was violently attacked early one evening, in the month of January last, and sent for me. Upon repairing to his house, I found him in an insensible and helpless condition. His breathing was deep and difficult; and his pulse irregular. I applied Mesmerism until he became sensible, which consumed about thirty minutes of time;—the manipulations being made from the head to the lower extremities. By this time a tub of warm water was in readiness, which I had ordered immediately upon discovering the patient's condition. This was made moderately caustic with Sal-Soda, in which the patient's feet were bathed, drawing at the same time from his feet about one pint of blood. This being completed, I gave the patient an active cathartic, — mesmerised him some twenty minutes longer, in which time he became perfectly easy, went to sleep and rested well the remainder of the night. The next day, I found the patient quite well, and before night was attending to his business as usual. I will here give the treatment, which this gentleman stated he received from the regular practitioners, when laboring under the influence of this disease. First, lanced in both arms, and if the blood would not flow, which was frequently the case; then the skin was rubbed off from the back of the neck, and down the back, after which was applied to the excoriated parts strong spirits of hartshorn, giving æther and spirits of nitre internally. After the patient came to his senses, and natural feeling being restored, he suffered the most excruciating pain from this rugged treatment. But still, to complete this course of treatment, a dose of calomel was ordered, and as high as seven blisters drawn at one time; from the effects of which, the patient seldom recovered in less time than from six to twenty days! "But now," using the patient's own language, "I can be relieved from one of those spells by mesmerism, in a few hours." These facts, the gentleman handed me in writing.

IV.—CHRONIC RHEUMATISM.

Mr. O——, of this city, has been afflicted with this disease for some ten years, frequently preventing him for months, at a time, from attending to his ordinary business. On or about the first of October last, he was induced to apply to me for medical treatment. I applied mesmerism, which soon aroused the pain, until it became so severe that the patient frequently requested me to stop the operation for that time, for he could not endure the severity of the pain. The pain continued to change from the obtuse to the acute, until the patient became quite discouraged and felt much disposed to give up the treatment, in hopeless despair. But he fortunately possessed a sufficient degree of firmness and decision of char-

acter, to adhere to the resolution which he had formed when he commenced this marvellous mode of treatment, which was, "to give it a fair trial." Having exhausted the skill and ingenuity of the regular practice, as well as the power of the drugs which it wields—Mesmerism being the *dernier resort*, which, fortunately for its good name, in this gentleman's opinion at least, triumphed over the disease, in the course of some three months, and the patient found himself free from pain, and erect without a cane, walking, running or leaping as occasion required, and as he had formerly done before this formidable enemy of mankind carried its ravages into the field of his own vital action. The manner in which I used mesmerism in this case, was, first to produce a general influence over the whole system, by the most common mode of magnetizing, which is now mostly understood by all, and is sufficiently explained in another article in this work, under the head "On Magnetizing." A general influence being produced, I then placed one hand upon the highest part affected, which was the lumbar vertebræ, and the other upon the fleshy part of the leg, just below the knee, to which the pain reached. After holding the hands in this position for some time, manipulations were made from above the lumbar vertebræ down to the foot, carrying the hand back in a semi-circle. These operations were continued, alternately, for about twenty-five or thirty minutes each day, until the cure was effected. No other medicines were used in this case. The explanation of this treatment is deemed sufficiently full; as a little reflection will supply any deficiency in the detail which we may think necessary for brevity. Judgment must be exercised in the practice of mesmerism, as well as that of medicine. It is even true that mesmerism no more affects two patients alike, than calomel, opium, or any other drug wielded by medical practitioners.

Some weeks after Mr. O—— was considered thoroughly cured, he wrenched his back severely by lifting, when the disease returned, apparently with as much violence as ever. He again applied for mesmeric treatment, and was the second time perfectly cured, and has remained so up to the present time, which is more than two months.

MAGNETISM AS A MEDICAL AGENT.

It is our design, for the express advantage of our patrons and readers in general, to give especial attention to this subject in the succeeding numbers of our work. We have many facts connected with numerous cases, which will excite deep interest. The mitigation of human suffering should be the object of all who investigate this branch of science, and not merely the gratification of idle curiosity.

MESMERISM.

[The following authentic and minute description of an operation in Mesmerism appears in the last number of the Southern Medical and Surgical Journal, written by Dr. L. A. Ducas, Professor of Physiology in the Medical College of Georgia, who performed the operation in the presence of several eminent physicians.]

On the 3d of January, 1845, Mrs. Clark, (wife of Mr. Jesse Clark, of Columbia County, Georgia,) came to the city, for the purpose of getting me to remove a schirrous tumor of her right mammae, which had been gradually increasing for the last three years, and which had now attained the size of a turkey's egg. The tumor had never caused any pain of consequence, was not adherent to the skin; nor did it implicate any of the axillary glands. Mrs. Clark is about forty-seven years of age, has never borne a child, and her health, by no means robust, was pretty good, and had not been impaired by the evolution of the tumor. The operation having been determined upon for the following day, Mrs. Clark remarked to me that she had been advised by Mr. Kenrick to be mesmerised, but as she knew nothing about it, she would abide by my advice, to which I replied, that there were several well authenticated cases on record, in which surgical operations had been performed, under mesmeric influence, without the consciousness of the patient; that I would be happy to test the subject in her case, and that I would endeavor to mesmerise her, instead of operating as had been proposed, on the day following.

On the 4th January, at 11 o'clock, A.M., I called on Mrs. Clark, and was informed that on the preceding evening she had been put to sleep by Mr. Kenrick (at whose house she resided.) I then mesmerised her myself, and induced sleep in about fifteen minutes. Finding my patient susceptible to the mesmeric influence, and reflecting that it would not be convenient for the same person to maintain this influence and to perform a surgical operation at the same time, I requested Mr. Kenrick to mesmerise Mrs. Clark morning and evening, at stated hours, until insensibility could be induced.

This was regularly done, with gradually increasing effect, when on the evening of the 6th January, sleep was induced in five minutes, and the prick of a pin was attended with no manifestation of pain. The sittings were continued, and the patient's insensibility daily tested by myself and others in various ways.

Fully satisfied now of our power to induce total insensibility, I determined to operate upon her the next day at noon, but carefully concealed any such design from the patient and her friends, who did not expect its performance until several days later.

On the 20th of January, 20 minutes past 11 A.M., Mrs. Clark was put to sleep in forty-five seconds, without touch or pass of any kind, the facility with which the mesmeric influence was produced having gradually increased at each sitting. At 12 o'clock, M., in the presence of Professor's Ford, Mead, Garvin and Newton, and Dr. Halsee, the patient being in a profound sleep, I prepared her dress for the operation, and requested my professional brothers to note her pulse, respiration, complexion, countenance, &c., before, during, and after the amputation, in order to detect any evidence of pain, or modification of the functions. As Mr. Kenrick had never witnessed a surgical operation, he feared he might lose his self-possession, and requested to be blindfolded, which was done. He now seated himself on the couch near the patient and held her hand in his during the operation. This was accomplished by two elliptical incisions, about eight inches in length, comprehending between them the nipple and a considerable portion of the skin, after which the integuments were dissected up in the usual manner, and the entire mammaræ removed. It weighed sixteen ounces. The wound was then left open about three quarters of an hour, in order to secure the bleeding vessels, six of which were ligated. The ordinary dressing was applied, and all appearances of blood carefully removed, so that they might not be seen by the patient when aroused. The amount of hemorrhage was rather more than is usual in such cases.

During the operation the patient gave no indication whatever of sensibility, nor were any of the functions observed to those present modified in the least degree. She remained in the same sound and quiet sleep as before the use of the knife. Subsequently the pectoral muscle, which had been laid bare, was twice or thrice seen to contract, when touched with the sponge in removing the blood. About fifteen minutes after the operation, a tremulous action was perceived in the lower jaw, which was instantaneously arrested by the application of the mesmeriser's hand to the patient's head. This phenomenon recurred in about ten minutes after, and was again in the same manner arrested. Professor Ford, who counted the pulse and respiration, states that before any preparation was made for the operation, the pulse was 96, and the respiration 16 per minute; that after removing the patient to arrange her dress for the operation, and just before this was commenced, the pulse was 98, and the respiration 17; that immediately after the detachment of the breast the pulse was 96 — respiration not counted; and that after the final adjustment of the bandages and dress, which required the patient to rise and move about, the pulse was 98 and the respiration 16. All present concur in stating that neither the placid countenance of the patient, nor the peculiar natural blush of the

cheeks, experienced any change whatever during the whole process; that she continued in the same profound and quiet sleep in which she was before noted, and that, had they not been aware of what was being done, they would not have suspected it from any indications furnished by the patient's condition.

The patient having been permitted to sleep on about half an hour after the final arrangement of her dress, the mesmerizer made passes over the seat of the operation in order to lessen its sensibility, and aroused her in the usual manner, when she engaged in cheerful conversation with Mr. Kenrick and myself, as though she had no suspicion of what had taken place. I then introduced to her the gentlemen, who had placed themselves so as not to be seen by her on awakening, and observed that I had invited them to come in during her sleep, in order that we might test her insensibility, preparatory to the operation. After a few minutes of conversation, I asked her when she would like to have the operation performed? To which she replied, "the sooner the better," as she was anxious to get home. I added, "Do you really think that I could remove your entire breast when asleep without your knowledge?" Answer — "Why, doctor, the fact is, that from the various experiments I am told you have made on me, I really do not know what to think of it." "Well, madam, suppose I were to perform the operation one of these days, and to inform you of it when you awake, would you believe me, and could you control your feelings, on finding that it had been done?" Answer: "I could not suppose that you would deceive me, and of course I would be very glad, but would try not to give way to my feelings." "Have you perceived, since your arrival here, or do you now perceive, any change in the ordinary sensations of the affected breast?" "No, sir, it feels about as it has done for some time back."

About a quarter of an hour having elapsed since she awoke, I then told her that as we found her in a proper state for the operation, I had performed it, and that the breast was now removed. She expressed her incredulity — said I was certainly jesting, as it was impossible that it could have been done without her knowing it at the time, or feeling any thing of it now. She became convinced only on carrying her hand to the part and finding that the breast was no longer there. She remained apparently unmoved for a few moments, when her friends, approaching to congratulate her, her face became flushed, and she wept unaffectedly for some time. The wound healed by the first intention.

In laying the above narrative before the profession, it is due to the cause of truth to state, that it has been submitted to all the physicians at the operation, and that I am authorized by them to say that it accords in every particular with their own observations, so far as they were present.

I should also add that, having no other object in view than the establishment of the fact that a surgical operation may be performed under such circumstances without the consciousness of the patient, I have design- edly avoided any mention of the various and interesting mesmeric phenomena manifested prior and subsequently to the operation. These have been carefully and judiciously recorded by Mr. Kenrick, whose well-directed zeal has enabled him to collect a body of highly important facts from a field unfortunately explored too exclusively in ignorance and charlatanism.

AUGUSTA, Ga., 1st Feb., 1845.

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FOR THE ST. LOUIS MAGNET.

### THE MAGNET.

When darkness shrouds the mighty deep,  
Or storm and lightnings thicken fast,  
When billow after billow sweeps  
The deck, of canvass, men, and mast;

Of every other guide bereft,  
The sailor clings to one alone —  
The first — the best — the last, is left —  
It is *his* priceless *Magnet Stone*.

The sea of knowledge spreads afar —  
Man's little bark would fain explore;  
Yet guided by a glimmering star,  
He cannot venture far from shore.

Another science lights the fire  
Whose light shall gleam from sea to sea;  
Let truth alone be man's desire —  
Let truth his mental pinions free.

The Magnet points the wanderer home,  
As lightning follows down the rod —  
*This Magnet* points to all who roam,  
Through nature, up to Nature's God.

P\*\*\*\* S\*\*\*\*\*.