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PROGRESS OF SOCIETY.

[Concluded.]

The mesmeric operations upon the brain in Europe and America have all been subsequent to Dr. Buchannan's discovery, and appear to have been made rather for the purpose of exciting wonder than of developing scientific principles. Dr. Buchannan has too much self-respect, and too high a regard for the great truths which he has discovered, to convert them into a mere means of creating vulgar astonishment. Like a true lover of nature, he has been steadily prosecuting his researches, and maturing a system of anthropology, based upon experiments which I venture to predict will create a new era in the science of man. Many are eagerly awaiting its publication, to learn the philosophy of the wonderful facts which they believe exist, but which have not been satisfactorily accounted for. The science of Neurology, I believe, will fully answer their expectations, for its scope is apparently unlimited. I would hardly venture to state even the Neurological facts which I have witnessed with my own eyes, which transcend any that I ever have before known, in their combination of philosophical utility and startling novelty. Yet I have seen very few of the philosophical experiments of Neurology. At the first meeting of Dr. Buchannan's private class that I attended, I was satisfied that there was "something in the science," and resolved to be attentive in future. At the next I attended I saw an experiment that was very remarkable. It was proposed to try the influence of letters upon any impressible person who might be present. Accordingly, a letter was produced by one of the company, which she said was worthy of a trial in this manner, and which she wished to see applied to some impressible person, to observe its effects. Dr. Buchannan consented, and taking the letter unopened in his hand, applied it to the head of Mrs. M****, of intellectual and pleasing countenance, who belonged to the class, and who

had been ascertained to be very impressible. In about a minute, or less, there was a marked change in her countenance, which became grave and distressed; her eyes were downcast—she became agitated—her head fell, as unable to be supported. At this juncture, fearing that the excitement might go too far, Dr. Buchannan removed the letter from her forehead, and the influence as speedily as possible. She recovered in about a minute, so as to describe her impressions, and stated that she had felt as if completely overcome—as if some great calamity had fallen upon her, and it was more than she could possibly endure—that she was agitated, weakened, overpowered by the mental struggle—that it was such a feeling as would be produced by the loss of friends or family by death, and if she had not been habituated to control her feelings, she remarked her first impulse would have been to scream. Immediately the same letter was transferred to another, without inquiring whether the result had been correct or not, so as to ascertain if different persons could coincide. Mrs. R*****, a lady whose impressibility had not been tested, agreed to hold the letter to her forehead, and report the impressions it might give her. She held it a few moments in contact with her forehead, and then remarked that it produced an unpleasant sensation, and that the experiment was disagreeable—that it gave rise to a distressed state of mind, such as might be produced by grief, or similar depressing passions. She agreed with the former lady, that the feelings were such as might be produced by the death of friends; but she did not feel the effect with so much intensity. She was desired to continue the experiment, and held it again to her forehead without experiencing any different result. She was relieved from the effects by Dr. Buchannan, and Mrs. Judge P*****, who brought the letter, was asked what were its contents and character. From her reply, we learned that it was a letter from a gentleman of very deep and intense feeling, expressing the most poignant and overwhelming grief for the death of several of his children, who had been cut off suddenly in the prime of life, leaving him overpowered and stunned by the greatness of his calamity. She was struck with the coincidence of expression, as Mrs. M. conveyed the idea of some affliction which was more than she could bear, and a similar expression was contained in the letter. She considered the result extremely satisfactory and wonderful. What does such an experiment show? Does it not prove some great principle? Does it not corroborate the science of which it is given as an evidence? In truth, Neurology might be called *the science of mysteries*. It undertakes to explain the mysteries of the mind, and it does so by facts too mysterious and startling for popular belief. But the eye-witness cannot discredit what occurs before him. The parties to the experiment

which I witnessed belonged to families of great respectability, and were attending the private lectures to become acquainted with the science. The experiments were made privately with such persons as were of the right kind to give satisfaction.

Witnessing these experiments convinced me of the truth of the science. It would be dishonest in me to doubt or deny after the facts have been made obvious. It is morally wrong to hold back and not do full justice to science of such character when it is first introduced, for I hold that it is worse to defame a useful science than to slander an individual. With these principles I think it my duty to acknowledge facts when I believe them to be such, and the experiments which I have seen have been so clear that I must confess the truth of the science of Neurology, or the science of the brain. On a subsequent private occasion, a letter was placed in the hands of the same lady by Dr. Buchannan, and the effects upon her countenance were entirely different from the experiment just mentioned. She seemed well pleased and happy; she smiled and occasionally sighed, and when asked why she sighed, replied that it must be a love-letter, for it produced a very tender and happy state of mind. "Well," said Dr. Buchannan, "we must have a consultation among you about this. Will you, Mrs. ———, try this letter also, and give your opinion? If you and Mrs. M. hold consultation, perhaps you can determine with certainty." The ladies accordingly sat together, and each placed a hand upon the letter. In a few moments they agreed that they felt a similar influence, and that it must certainly be a love-letter. The young lady felt a slight sadness in addition to the emotions which they felt in common. The letter, of which Dr. Buchannan read a portion, appeared to be, as they declared, the letter of a lover, but was also the letter of a *disappointed* lover, and spoke of his disappointment, which was a sufficient reason for the sadness which it imparted. Another letter was produced by a gentleman who was very skeptical, and was placed in the hands of the same lady. Under this influence she did not show any particular passion or emotion, but appeared entirely calm and reflective. She described a character of quite virtuous, amiable, and reflective habits, which appeared very justly to be that of the writer of the letter. Several similar experiments were tried upon gentlemen. A letter written under the influence of deep grief was applied to his forehead, and followed by the letter of a lover declaring his passion. Under the influence of the former he felt uncomfortable, looked depressed, and complained of pain in the forehead; under the influence of the latter his unpleasant feelings were removed and his countenance covered with smiles. The experiment was repeated. The letter of grief brought back the unpleasant sensations

and disagreeable state of mind; the letter of love restored him to an agreeable, social mood, and to pleasant feelings, after which he was informed of the character of each letter that had been applied to his forehead. But the experiment which seemed to me the most striking was one made on an autograph furnished by myself. It was the autograph of John Tyler. This autograph was placed between her hands, and she soon rose to a more erect position, and assumed an universal degree of dignity. The effect was almost instantaneous. She spoke with a firmness and precision, and with an air of condescension, which showed that she felt a very elevated sense of her own dignity. When asked what she thought of the writer whose influence she felt now, she replied that he was a noble character—one who occupied a very elevated sphere in life, who had power, and was accustomed to command. She was asked whom he was accustomed to command—was it men, women, children, or servants? "Not," she replied, "the latter, certainly—it is men." "Are they citizens or soldiers?" "I dont," she replied, "know, they might be either, but he is not a millitary character." After a few further remarks, she said that she would not say anything more about his character, for she felt finally convinced in her own mind that it was the present President of the United States. She could not tell how she arrived at this conclusion, but she felt perfectly certain of the fact. I have now related enough of the experiments to inform the reader a part of my investigation. I have tried many letters in the same way. Some were written in stenography, and wholly unknown to all others but myself, and the investigations in every instance were so startling, that I was compelled to lay aside my skepticism, so far as concerneth Neurology, or the science of the brain.

To revert to the subject of human progress, what has the philanthropist to hope from the science of Neurology? I would reply, that he has much to hope. Its discovery shows that the inventive genius of man is adequate to mastering all the difficult problems of nature; the most difficult of all problems—the offices of the brain—the connection of mind and matter, has already been solved by a young American, a native "backwoodsman of Kentucky," as Byron would have called him, and he is daily carrying his investigations farther. May not other more wonderful discoveries rend still further the veil which hangs over the inner sanctum of nature? Is not the signal success of Dr. Buchanan cheering to all who undertake the investigation of difficult sciences? But we hope great progress from Neurology itself. It confirms nearly all the discoveries of Gall and Spurzheim, and developes many functions of which they never dreamed. I have examined the Neurological diagram published by Dr. Buchanan

at Boston, and I find a vast deal of new matter in his sketches of the organs of the brain. I have not time here to go into the details of these discoveries which Dr. Buchanan is now preparing to publish, but I must allude to a principal feature of the new science, which promises the greatest practical results. Medical science has heretofore been defective in one essential particular. It has been incapable of giving any philosophy of the functions of the nervous system. It has told us almost nothing of the power of the brain as a part of the body, modifying its health and exercising a controlling power over all the functions of animal organic life. It has not been sufficiently performed—it has not traced back effects to their first causes. This is the defect which, I understand, Neurology proposes to remedy, and probably many others which I do not comprehend, not being fully acquainted with the science and its claims. The power which the brain exercises through the spinal and pneumogastric nerves, Neurology traces to the particular organs from which it emanates, and thus discovers the condition of the brain, both in health and disease. In fever, paralysis, or insanity, there is a change of the cerebral functions which Neurology alone can explain. Thus, as it traces up health and disease to their proximate causes in the nervous system, it imparts much of the accuracy of science to these obscure subjects. In addition to this, by another style of experiments upon the impressible temperaments, Dr. Buchanan traces the exact relations of all the articles of food and medicine to the human constitution, showing how each article affects the different organs of the brain and the different physiological functions. Thus he lays the basis for a far more natural and exact system of medicine than we have ever heretofore enjoyed.

Such are some of the results of the wonderful American discovery! A discovery in comparison with which none give us so high and cheering hopes of human progress. If the hopes of the friends of Neurology are fulfilled even partially, the present century will be distinguished by the fact, that man enters into full communion with himself; and, studying his own nature, learns how to attain his happiness as an individual, how to perfect his constitution as a physiological being, and how to arrange the institutions and usages of society to secure the greatest happiness to all; for the development of the nature of individual man is also a development of the laws of society and the true principles of progress. This development of the elements of the nature of man as an individual, upon which all social science must be based, is itself based upon the simple fact that the brain is capable of being excited. All the mental and physiological faculties may be considered as concentrated in the brain, which is the link between the mind and the body. Dr. Buchanan asserts that he has

the power of operating upon the brain to excite particular portions, and that his experiments are simple, and have often been repeated by others. I see nothing unreasonable in his premises, and his facts are not incredible when they are subject to our observation. Although I have not witnessed all his experiments, I am satisfied of their truth, for if it is possible to excite any one part of the brain so as to discover its functions, it is possible also to excite other parts, and thus discover all its powers. Such discoveries have been made, and the same can be repeated, and the effects of the excitement of the organs on different regions of the cerebral is wonderful. But what then? Are they less credible? By no means. We may distrust any discovery in a new field which does not reveal something wonderful. Nature does not produce all her works from a single stereotype plate, but every where introduces an agreeable variety, that we may be roused by the novel freshness of each science that opens upon us in studying her works. Of all her productions, none are so rich in variety and complexity—none so strongly excite our wonder or interest, as the constitution of man; and if in this recent American discovery we possess the key to the human constitution, we may rejoice to live in the age and country which are to witness the opening of a great volume of truth hitherto sealed.

The vast variety of experiments which will be made upon the human constitution from that key will be, until the end of time, a source of pleasure and instruction. Now that such experiments may be made with care and safety, and with the full possession of reason and consciousness by all parties, there will be no hinderance to the active cultivation of human philosophy. The pursuit of truth, when not surrounded by too great difficulties, has an irresistible fascination. The appetite grows continually by indulgence and gratification. I therefore think it not extravagant to hope that mental, social, and medical philosophy will advance during the present century with almost an altogether unexampled speed, and thus Buchanan's discovery of cerebral excitability will be to philosophy like the telescope to astronomy—the means of bringing to the common eye new worlds for our observations—to enlarge our conceptions of the Divine power, elevate our minds with lofty contemplations, and fit us for the onward PROGRESS OF SOCIETY.

Louisville, Ky., Feb., 1846.

T. P. SHAFFNER.

MESMERISM IN SAINT LOUIS.

At a meeting held at the Court House, for the purpose of furthering the cause of Animal Magnetism, on motion of I. Hedges, E. R. Mason was called to the chair, and E. C. Eads appointed secretary. A motion was then made, that a committee of five be appointed to draft resolutions, expressive of the feelings of the meeting: Whereupon, the following gentlemen were appointed:—Mr. Coleman, J. M. Field, D. D. Page, Robert Orme, and Dr. J. N. McDowell. Dr. McDowell begged to be excused, when Mr. Houston was appointed to fill his place. During the absence of the committee, Dr. McNair was called upon to make a speech, who addressed the meeting, in a few brief remarks. Dr. J. N. McDowell was then called for, and addressed the meeting, in a speech, showing the identity of Heat, Electricity, Galvanism, Magnetism, and the nervous fluid. He also related some instances of mesmeric effects, which, he wished it to be understood, he did not at all deny.

The following preamble and resolutions were then reported by the committee, and adopted:—

Whereas, All newly discovered truths are at first received with great indifference, or rejected, and treated as mere delusions, or impostures; inquiry, thereby being thrown back into the old paths of error and tradition; and whereas, careful investigation is the only true mode of obtaining knowledge, with regard to new truths, whether of science or art: therefore, be it

Resolved, That the many evidences given by some of our most worthy citizens, in favor of Animal Magnetism, not only as to its truth, but also as to its vast importance to suffering humanity, demands at our hands cordial support.

Resolved, That the bold and persevering manner in which some of our citizens have pressed forward, and stood by this new discovery, amid the opposition of the prejudiced, will ensure them the gratitude of every lover of truth.

Resolved, That the Rev. I. T. Hinton has our hearty thanks for the fearless and noble effort he made here in favor of this valuable discovery.

Resolved, That we would recommend an investigating committee of ten, whose duty it shall be to collect all facts concerning Animal Magnetism, as a remedial agent, and to report such facts to an adjourned meeting.

A motion was made by Mr. Hedges, that the committee of ten be ap-

pointed by the Chair: Whereupon, Uriel Wright, Esqr., Dr. Pallen, Mr. E. Flagg, Dr. Coons, Dr. Morgan, Dr. C. Williams, J. M. Field, Dr. McNair, D. D. Page, and Dr. Hall, were appointed. By request, Charles Collins, I. Hedges, and John J. Ellett were added to the number.

Resolved, That this meeting adjourn, to meet at such time as the committee may deem advisable.

E. R. MASON, *Chairman*,
E. C. EADS, *Sec'y*.

Saint Louis, January 7, 1845.

It will be perceived that this committee was appointed "to collect the facts concerning Animal Magnetism as a remedial agent, and to report such facts to an adjourned meeting." Instead of going forward in the duty for which they had been appointed, they commenced a series of experiments to satisfy a few self-sufficient sceptics, who were of their number, with as much assiduity as if the truth of the science depended upon the opinion of these obscure individuals, who did not possess sufficient talent to even make themselves generally known among the members of their own profession. Their opposition giving them, temporarily, an importance, which being as pleasing as new, caused them to be both blind and deaf to the proofs laid before them: they would not open their eyes lest they should perceive their own insignificance, or their ears, lest they should hear their stupid ignorance echoed by every candid and intelligent mind in the scientific world, that possessed like means of information. The judicious friends of the science, on the other hand, becoming disgusted at their dogmatical stupidity, left them to grope their way in the dark, until the sun of reason should enlighten their benighted understandings. In the transactions of the committee the public appear to have been wholly lost sight of, and the object for which they were appointed, entirely forgotten. A few individuals on both sides of the question, appeared to look upon the whole matter as an arrangement gotten up for their especial gratification—the one considering it a fit opportunity to show off to advantage their superior knowledge, while the others seized with avidity the chance of letting it be known that they were already too wise to learn any thing new. Thus was the whole subject *magnetically* put to sleep, leaving the public totally in the dark respecting the matter, and it would have probably remained in that condition if the Magnet had not thought fit to put it in communication with the facts, thus rendering it perfectly clairvoyant respecting the whole transaction.

The committee were not appointed to prove the truth of Mesmerism by a series of experiments, as that has long since been established to the satisfaction of every man that has made a candid investigation of the

facts; and the collection of those facts was the duty devolving upon the committee, which duty they never even made the attempt to perform; thus, by their gross neglect, paralyzing the efforts of the ardent friends of the cause. If there were no other proof of the invincible and unconquerable spirit of truth, the prosperity and progress of Mesmerism under such injudicious management, must have incontrovertibly established the fact.

But, this not being sufficient to put down the science, the celebrated Dr. Hume, (*Hum(e)-bug*), who first made his appearance in the city as a kind of Bombastes Furioso of a temperance lecturer; after having disgusted the city with his vulgar wit and drunken caricatures, until he was treated with that neglect and contempt which he so richly merited, found it necessary to change his field of operations—and Mesmerism was too fruitful a field to escape his notice. Being totally ignorant of the matter, it was necessary to gain some knowledge of the *modus operandi* necessary for a public exhibition. He accordingly gave an invitation to a few of the most active and efficient mesmerisers in the city to meet at his room, and bring their subjects, that he might learn them some new experiments. They, good, honest, unsuspecting souls, took the bait, brought their subjects, initiated the Doctor into the mesmeric experiments, and gave him such information as he desired on the subject. The Doctor, of course, was astonished to find that they had investigated the subject so deeply. He had no idea that any one in this section of the country had given it so much attention. He was astonished to find that their experiments were the most satisfactory of any ever performed in the United States.

Being pleased with themselves, they, as a matter of course, were pleased with the Doctor, and agreed to loan him their subjects for public exhibition, and render him what assistance they could.

Every thing now being in proper train, the following announcement appeared in the papers, and was conspicuously posted on the corners of the streets:

“CLAIRVOYANCE.

“Men turned inside out, or the wonders of organic life exposed.

“Ladies and gentlemen of St. Louis are respectfully informed that, at the earnest and repeated solicitation of many friends, Dr. Hume will deliver two lectures on the *wonderful subject of Animal Magnetism*, accompanied by various experiments in Magnetism, Phrenology, and Magnetic

Vision, or Clairvoyance, in *Concert Hall*, at 7 o'clock, on the evenings of Saturday and Monday, January 25th and 27th.

"Tickets 25 cents—to be had at the office of Dr. Hume, No. 3, second floor, Saint Louis Exchange, and at the door.

"N.B. Special seats for the Medical Profession, to enable them to observe every operation with the utmost facility."

On the appointed evening, a respectable audience assembled, and the Doctor delivered his lecture, which was made up of beautiful extracts from various authors, which, though delivered in very good taste, did not appear to be altogether satisfactory to the audience, for they soon commenced that quiet drumming with their canes and the heels of their boots which would be extremely annoying to any one with less brass than Dr. H.; but he stood it like an old and tried soldier—when it became too boisterous, he gave a specimen of Shakspeare, done up in real dramatic style—tiring of that, he gave them a specimen of the eloquence of Webster, then an Irish story, with the brogue well laid on, and, finally, as a last resource, he gave a few tricks of slight of hand, such as swallowing a dollar, and blowing it through the nose, &c.; but, finding that the audience would not be satisfied with either poetry, logic, blarney, or magic, he brought the lecture to a close, which gave unbounded satisfaction, as the experiments were to conclude the evening's amusement.

The subject was brought forward, and a few passes made, when he was pronounced to be in a clairvoyant state. His eyes were bandaged, and an examination for disease was made, which was a failure. A phrenological examination was then made, which did very well, but was too general to give satisfaction. Clairvoyant experiments were then tried, and the time told by a watch, but the audience objecting to the watch being passed below the bandage, it was held over the head, when the time was accurately told, which was ten—but the Cathedral clock was just striking. Our opinion at the time, was, that the subject was not in the magnetic state. We are of the opinion that others had come to the same conclusion, as they came forward and took charge of the subject, re-magnetized him, and brought another subject forward, and took charge of the experiments, which it is not necessary to mention, as they were successful and highly satisfactory.

Now, we have nothing to say in respect to Dr. Hume, as he was a humbug by profession; but for men who occupied a position in the first rank—who were looked upon as leaders in the cause of Mesmerism, lending their aid by furnishing subjects, and their countenance, by their attendance upon the lectures, and assistance in performing the experiments, is, to say the least, strange and unaaccountable. If their own reputation,

only, was at stake, we should not consider that it concerned us in the least, but when the reputation of the science is involved, it is our duty, as its advocates, to let the censure fall where the fault originated, alike regardless of friend or foe. This is the course that we have marked out, and are determined to follow it independently, without bias or prejudice. If we unwittingly do injustice to any one, we are ready to make amends when we are satisfied of our error.

We have not space to continue this subject in the present number.

CORRESPONDENCE.

MESMERISM AMONG THE PURITANS.

FOR THE ST. LOUIS MAGNET.

Dear Sirs:—Noticing in the Magnet some allusion to the superstition of the Catholics in attributing Animal Magnetism to satanic agency. I considered that it was nothing more than fair that some of our good Protestants should come in for their share. If the matter is properly investigated, it will be found that all the superstitious people in our land do not belong to the Catholic church. We live too near Salem for the spirit of witchcraft to have become wholly extinct. The following anecdote is at your service, if you should consider it worthy of a place in your valuable publication. I also send you the names of the parties concerned, also my own, that you may retain them for the satisfaction of any one who should be disposed to doubt the correctness of the statements.

About two years since, when the subject of Animal Magnetism was exciting great curiosity throughout the country, a few

“Inquirers after truth, wherever found,

Whether on Christian, or on heathen ground,”

engaged a gentleman who had been lecturing in the adjoining towns on Mesmerism to deliver them a few lectures. The first evening the lecture room was crowded. After the lecture a number of most interesting and highly satisfactory experiments were given, through an excellent subject, who accompanied the lecturer. Much having been said about his power to examine persons, and determine the character of their disease, and to prescribe remedies, the Doctor of the village requested that he should examine one or two of his patients, to test his ability to find out the

diseases with which they were affected. To this the lecturer assented, and the subject was put into communication with a lady, one of the doctor's patients. Without delay, he commenced describing her case, which was a very marked one. After he had finished, the doctor stated that he was correct in every particular. Another lady was then put in communication with the subject, when he became violently agitated, and endeavored to run to the other end of the hall. The magnetizer inquired the cause of this strange conduct. His answer was, that "the lady has been troubled with fits from her childhood, and she will have one very soon, and so shall I, unless you take her into the open air;" and sure enough, the lady had every appearance of just going into a fit, which was prevented by taking her to the open air. I ought to have mentioned before, that no one in the audience, except the doctor himself, had any knowledge of his intention of bringing forward those two persons to be examined, and that during the experiments a double bandage was drawn tightly over the eyes of the subject, thus precluding any chance of deception or collusion. The doctor being questioned, admitted, before the audience, that the complaints of both the patients had been described accurately in every particular, and that such medicines had been prescribed as he should think very well adapted to their complaints. One would suppose that experiments like these would satisfy the most superstitious that the devil could have no agency in the matter; but such was not the case. The majority of the audience, the worthy doctor among the rest, could see no way of explaining these wonders, but by supposing that his Satanic Majesty was immediately concerned in it. The worthy clergyman of the village, who had long been of the same opinion, layed it all to the charge of the old gentleman in black, and suggested that an especial meeting of the members of the church should be held the following evening, to prevent, if possible, by prayer and other religious exercises, this device of the enemy of souls from exerting any influence on the minds of the good people of Pembroke. And certain it is, that a meeting was held on the appointed evening, and many a fervent prayer offered to the Almighty, that he would expel the devil and one of his imps from among them, who had made his appearance in their midst in the form of a magnetizer and his subject. Since that time I have conversed with the doctor on the subject, but he still held out that it was the work of the devil, and seriously advised me to have nothing to do with it.

Yours, truly,

M. B.

Pembroke, Mass., July 20th, 1845.

INDIANAPOLIS, JULY 25th, 1845.

Messrs. Editors:—I am receiving your invaluable paper, which I hope will meet with a welcome reception in all quarters of the West. Information on the subject of Magnetism is all that is wanted to bring the science into high repute in this place. Since I was at your city last Fall, I have been applying myself to the study of the system of Magnetism, and have applied it to a number of chronic diseases, and I have been successful in removing them in almost every instance. I have given it a trial sufficient to satisfy myself that Magnetism will cure diseases that medicine cannot; and, consequently, it is one of the best curative agents ever discovered by man. All that I have done has been done without charge, notwithstanding I have almost raised some from the dead.

Unfortunately, my circumstances will not warrant my devoting my time to the cause without compensation, and I can scarcely get the consent of my mind to give up the practice while there are so many around me whose sufferings I have the means of relieving. I have some of the most influential men in the place with me, and I have no doubt of the success I might meet with in devoting my whole attention to its practice, but would be glad to counsel with some person who has had more experience in the cause. Any advice you may see fit to give, in relation to making a public business of applying Magnetism to diseases, and the course I had better pursue in general, will be thankfully received by

Your friend,

JOHN LISTER.

In reply to our friend, we would say, that we are decidedly of the opinion, that the practice of Mesmerism should be confined to the hands of practical professional men, who make its application their business, and the understanding of the laws by which it is governed their study. Much injury has been done the cause by ignorant and enthusiastic individuals, who, in their zeal, losing sight of facts, have run into many wild vagaries, and adopted fantastic theories, alike revolting to good sense and sound reason. Men of the medical profession appear to be the legitimate hands into which this new discovery should have fallen; but, unfortunately, the great majority of that profession are so wrapt up in self-conceit and vain-glory, that it is impossible for them to learn anything new. They are already too wise to be of any practical utility, and more learning would make them as mad as Festus imagined St. Paul. It therefore appears necessary for men who are willing to devote their entire energies to the cause to step forward and qualify themselves to apply this science for the mitigation of

disease; for there can be no doubt that it is destined to prove one of the most powerful agents for the relief of suffering humanity. We are pleased to see men of talent taking hold of this matter with the right spirit; when they do so, success must crown their efforts as certainly as truth triumphs over error.

The qualifications necessary for the application of Mesmerism for the cure of disease are, an anatomical and physiological knowledge of the human system, to enable the operator to effectually reach the seat of the disease, which must be done through the nervous system, the nerves being the conductors of the vital fluid. If any portion of the nervous system is affected, the manipulations should be made from the origin of the nerve affected to its termination. Not understanding this general principle, is the cause of many failures, and the uncertainty with which many look upon the result of mesmeric treatment. It is also necessary to have a knowledge of the agent to be employed, and the analogy between it and Electricity, Galvanism, and Mineral Magnetism, and the general laws by which they are governed. The analogy between these different modifications of one common principle is so perfect, that the proper understanding of the one enables us to overcome those difficulties and perplexities which may often arise in the other. Much useful information on this subject is contained in the article on the Magneto Electric Machine and the laws of Galvanism, in this number of the Magnet. These, with a sound judgment for their application to the various cases that may arise, with an accurate knowledge of the nature and symptoms of disease, would be all that is required of the practical mesmerizer.

THE LOCATION OF DISEASES ELECTRICALLY CONSIDERED.

We learn that two new journals, devoted to the electric, galvanic, and magnetic treatment of disease, are published in the city of New York, under the auspices of societies. They are the "Guide to Health, and Journal of Galvanopathy," edited by J. King, M. D., and the "Herald of Health and Journal of Electro-Magnetic Medicine," edited by an association, and published by N. D. L. Mullison, and A. S. Jones, M. D. The following article is from one of those journals, but as we receive it second hand, we are unable to give the proper credit for it:—

"That the two hemispheres are in different electrical conditions, is a fact well known to scientific men, and it may be easily ascertained by a very simple experiment. Take any unmagnetized bar of iron, and hold it in a vertical position, that it may be magnetized by induction from the earth; now present a compass needle to the lower end of the bar, and the south pole of the needle will point to it, while the north pole will point to the upper end; the ends of the bar may be reversed as often as may be, yet the results will be the same.

In the southern hemisphere, opposite results will follow; that is, the south pole will point to the upper end of the bar, while the north pole will point to the lower; proving the northern hemisphere of the earth to be, at *this present time*, in a negative magnetic condition, and the southern in a positive.

Now it is an immutable law, that the negative force repels the negative and attracts the positive, while the positive repels the positive and attracts the negative. Hence, in the northern hemisphere, when there is an excess of negative matter in the human system, in consequence of its being repelled *upwards* by the negative power of this hemisphere, a predominance of the negative will be found in the upper or superior portion of the body; while in the southern or positive hemisphere it is attracted *downwards* to the inferior or lower extremities of the body.

Consequently, the nearer we approach the north magnetic pole, disease, as a general rule, will be more liable to attack the superior extremities of the body; and the nearer we approach the south magnetic pole, the inferior extremities will be the most liable; while in the equatorial regions, where these electric forces are more equally balanced, disease may attack any part of the body, but more generally the central portions.

In accordance with this we find that in the northern hemisphere, diseases of the scalp, eyes, nose, ears, neck, lungs, head, etc., are the most common; in the southern hemisphere, enlargement of the testes, and of the legs, as elephantiasis, white-swollings of the hip, knees, ancles, etc., are the most common; while in the equatorial regions, the stomach, bowels, liver, spleen, kidneys, etc., are the most subject to disease, and *generally* in proportion to the distance from either of the magnetic poles. It must be borne in mind, however, that disease will sometimes attack organs which are exceptions to this general rule, and which depend upon local electrical influences; thus, as a general rule, the compass needle will point north and south, owing to the magnetic action of the earth upon it, yet any local influence, as a bar of iron, or a magnet, will cause it to deviate from its regular direction; in the same manner may the location of disease be determined by local or planetary electrical influences; such

as are, however, comparatively rare. By equatorial regions we understand not above forty-two degrees, at the farthest, north or south latitude.

Thus, then, it will be seen that the electricity of the earth has a powerful action upon disease and its location in the system; and in Consumption, especially when unconnected with an affection of the liver, and where it is deemed advisable to adopt a change of climate, the proper course would be to remove some distance below the equator, not merely for a year or two, but for a permanent residence. Buenos Ayres, or about that latitude, would, undoubtedly, prove the best residence for a consumptive person. Many have been benefitted by going in the immediate equatorial regions, where those forces are more equally balanced, thus giving an opportunity for an equilibrium to become established in the system. Such, however, generally die when they return to the higher latitudes of this hemisphere. Every physician who recommends a change of residence for this disease should insist upon its being permanent.

MEDICAL REFORMER.

We have received the July number of this ably conducted Journal, devoted to the Reform of Medical practice. That a radical reformation in this department of science is necessary, is becoming every day more evident. Notwithstanding the Old School may kick and squirm; cry humbug and quackery, under the lash of truth so ably applied—still they must bear it, for facts are stubborn things, and the public are becoming enlightened in respect to these matters. The assurance that their friends have been killed scientifically—by rule, or according to the books, will soon cease to be a satisfactory explanation to the bereaved relatives who are left to mourn their loss. A Medical Institute, on the Reformed system, has been chartered by the legislature of Ohio, and goes into operation under flattering auspices, in Cincinnati, this fall. We bid them God speed.

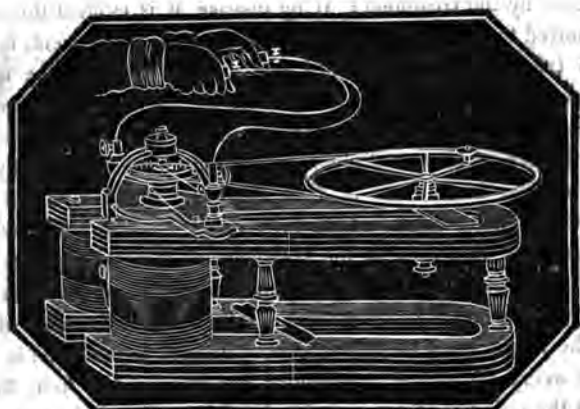
The Reformer is published monthly, at one dollar per annum, by B. L. Hill & Co., Cincinnati, Ohio.

We give the following extract from a correspondent of the Reformer, as his remarks respecting the opposition of the Old School to the Reformed practice are equally applicable to their opposition to the application of Mesmerism as a remedial agent:—

"In these times of peril, when so many cases treated with mercury are terminating fatally, well may we inquire—Are such results caused by disease or by the treatment? If by disease, it is evident the curative agents resorted to are wholly inadequate. If by the treatment, it is high time such treatment was abandoned, and a more rational one adopted. That I have been vilified by those members of the faculty who were the first to avail themselves of my experience, none will deny. To such I will say: I have, at least, a diploma, conferred on me in 1825, by one of the best medical institutions of New England; that I have had twenty years' practice in medicine, which fully entitles me to judge what are and what are not remedies in the treatment of diseases. Such I shall endeavor to select—such I shall always use, discarding those whose operations are uncertain or dangerous. I shall use my utmost efforts to disabuse the public mind on this subject. Reform in medicine is of vital interest to every individual. Mercury has become the first, the last, and almost the only remedy resorted to by the faculty of the Old School. Reform is as essential in the practice of medicine as any of the professions, and perhaps more so; yet the moment any of its members attempt to adopt measures which are not wholly orthodox, however high in his medical attainments, he is instantly discarded, shunned, detested, vilified—every epithet in the universal vocabulary applied to him but that of a gentleman. Are these things right? are they just? is such a course calculated to inspire confidence in the responsible character of the medical profession? are the medical quarrels common amongst us fraught with benefit to the sick? are the high dignitaries of the profession of this city, who not only refuse to meet me in council, or to exchange common civilities, adding laurels to their high medical and scientific attainments by such a course? Let public opinion answer. I have chosen to abandon the use of mercury, because I have learned a substitute: a better and safer remedy, not used by the Old School."

Logansport, July 25, 1845.

JOHN F. MERRILL, M. D.



MAGNETO-ELECTRICAL MACHINE.

The discovery of Professor Faraday, that a current of Magnetism would produce electrical effects, and the wonderful and before unknown powers of this science displayed by his experiments, supported as they were by Mr. Forbes, at Edinburgh, who first witnessed the magnetic spark, has shown the intimate connection, if not the positive identity, between Magnetism, Galvanism, and Electricity. The facility with which one is converted into the other has led to the almost universal opinion among philosophers of the present day, that they are different modifications of one general principle. The wonderful effects produced by these changes or modifications has rendered all who have the least pretense to class themselves with the scientific, anxious to witness the spark, shock, decomposition of water, deflagration of metals, and rotary motions produced by the magnet only, independent of that chemical action always attending Galvanism. The machines capable of accomplishing this are called Magneto-Electrical, of which there is a great variety, as Clark's, Wagstaff's, Saxon's, Sturgeon's, Bachhoffner's, Pikes, &c. The above cut represents one, the construction and invention of which is claimed by Daniel Davis, philosophical instrument maker, Boston.

It is composed of two compound magnets, each consisting of four common horse shoe magnets of great power, one placed horizontally above the other, about three inches apart, connected by brass pillars. The poles of one of the magnets are reversed, so that the north pole of one is over the south pole of the other.

Between the poles of the magnets stands the mandril, or spindle, spindle, in a perpendicular position, with a pulley on the upper end, which is connected by a belt to the multiplying wheel, which is seen at the other end of the machine. Attached to the mandril are two coils of fine insulated copper wire three thousand feet in length—the centre of each coil contains some fifty or sixty iron wires. These coils are attached to the mandril by a belt of thin hoop iron, which passes around them, and is fastened to it by a bolt. This iron hoop answers to the armature in Clarke's and Pike's machines. The commencement of each helix, or coil, is attached to the armature and spindle, and the termination to two pieces of brass which compose the break pieces, insulated with ivory. Attached to the cups with which the wires are connected that are held in the hand are four springs, which are so arranged that when the machine is put in motion they form and break the magnetic circle twice in every revolution. The machine, when put in motion by turning the multiplying wheel, to which is attached a crank, will cause a person holding the handles as represented in the cut to feel a quick succession of shocks, which can be increased or diminished at the pleasure of the operator, by varying the velocity of the machine. It is to be observed, that the effect takes place only at the moment when the magnetic circle is formed and broken, and for this reason it is not the fluid contained, or rather disturbed, in the battery itself which passes through the coil of wire; but in Magnetism, as well as in free Electricity, when one body is charged it influences and fresh arranges the fluid with which those bodies in its neighborhood are charged. Thus, the whole latent fluid in the coil is disturbed at the moment of contact with the battery, and to produce a constant succession of such disturbances an equal rapid breaking and forming again of the magnetic circle is necessary. This, it will be perceived, is easily accomplished with this machine by the arrangement of the springs on the break piece. The effects produced by the machine are of two kinds: one effect arises from the quantity of the fluid excited or put in motion; the other is not according to quantity, but intensity. Increasing or diminishing the number or size of the magnets increases or diminishes the power of the machine, or adding to the coil or increasing the velocity of the motion increases the intensity of the action; consequently, a machine of great power is required where a number of individuals are to be acted upon at the same time, as a portion of the power is expended upon each person; but as the intensity of the action allows of no modification from this source, those of less power and greater intensity are much better adapted for medical purposes, as they possess sufficient power for one individual, while the intensity of the action is under the control of the operator.

The following laws of Galvanism are according to Professor Grantham, of England, and will be found worthy the attention of every medical practitioner, most especially those who use the Electro-Galvanic battery or the Magneto-Electrical machine, as these apparatus must be used in harmony with the laws of the fluid which they excite into action, otherwise injury may be produced instead of good; at least, no beneficial effects would result from their use. Even in using Mesmerism, the same information is requisite to successful operations. Hence, when those laws are studied and understood, we will be prepared to explain why Mesmerism is frequently unsuccessful in the hands of the unskilful operator, or, in other words, those operators who are unacquainted with every physiological principle pertaining to the human system. It must soon be understood and known, that the mesmeric power will require as much physiological knowledge as any other practice which has ever been wielded.

1st. Galvanism is identical with the vital action of the nerves of organic life and the nerves of volition.

2d. Its action is determined by the healthy condition of the brain and spinal marrow.

3d. The brain must possess a normal sensation as well as temperature, before the galvanic action can affect the muscular fibre.

4th. The positive plate, or pole, should be applied over the region of the organ or nerve diseased, and the negative to the termination of the nerve.

5th. The galvanic influence, when passed along the spine, will be most active in the paralyzed limb.

6th. Galvanism is assisted by the alkalies and mercurial action.

7th. It restores diminished temperature, decreased circulation, and muscular action in the following order: 1, temperature; 2, circulation, and, lastly, muscular action.

8th. It has no effect in disease which alters the structure of the nerves.

9th. It supersedes manual friction, and in most cases the mesmeric passes.

10th. It is assisted by immersion of the effected limb in a warm bath, into which the negative pole should be placed. In passing the current from the head through one-half of the body, the foot should be immersed in warm water.

11th. It is injurious when great pain is caused in the muscles by its application.

12th. It may be carried to an undue extent, which would tend to produce congestion of the brain.

Every thing is for use, and good in its place, when judiciously applied,

but it is equally true, that there is no principle in nature, however simple or complicated it may be, which is not liable to produce bad results when wielded by ignorant or designing persons. Patients should therefore know into whose hands they resign their lives and their health. It is a very mistaken notion into which many have fallen, and one from which much injury must result, that men unacquainted with the laws of the imponderable agents of nature, can play with lightning in any of its modified forms, as boys do with kites. Professor Grantham has very ably alluded in these laws, to the identity of electricity, galvanism, magnetism, and even mesmerism, or animal magnetism. This is very easily done by showing with what facility one is converted into the other, and that they all possess similar qualities, and produce like effects — one being merely a modification of the other. What a host of error this must correct in medical practice, as well as in mechanical operations, when it becomes generally and practically understood! How many hitherto insolvable difficulties in the arts and sciences will be brushed away with the facility of a fog before the powerful rays of the morning sun! With what ingenuity have physicians tasked their brains to keep the public in ignorance in respect to medical practice; and at the same time make themselves appear wise by assuming a dignity supported only by high-sounding titles, with an unqualified abuse of every progressive improvement calculated to make innovations upon their rotten and already tottering fabric! How long will the credulous public thus resign their stomachs, a repository for poisonous nostrums and drugs, alike destructive to health and aggravating to disease? When will people learn to think for themselves, and judge of causes from their effects?

All disease originates in the nervous system. This is admitted by all practitioners, and cannot otherwise be, for there is neither sensation, motion, nor life, in the animal economy, save through the nervous system. Therefore, laying aside all medical science, common sense should teach us, that those remedies which may be applied immediately to the source of the derangement, must be most effectual in removing the cause of the disease. And, how can this be otherwise, when we know no effect can be produced upon any organ of the body save through the nervous system? The old school practice is to throw their drugs into the stomach, leaving chance to direct them to the diseased organ, thus involving the healthy organs in the general catastrophe, as all medicines thrown into the stomach when in healthy action, produce disease, by this means distributing the disease through the whole system, to enable nature to overcome and conquer the enemy in detail, which withstood all her efforts, when concentrated and fortified in a single point. But experience teaches us

that as the diseased organ is relieved by this general distribution, and approximates a healthy action, the whole system proportionably sinks towards the diseased state of that organ, and a general debility is the consequence. If the patient possesses sufficient vital action to throw off this effect, a radical cure is effected; but, unfortunately, in a majority of instances, this is not the case; though raised from his sick couch, disease is left lurking in his system; his constitution feeble and broken, exposed to fresh attacks from every point; each relapse being more complicated and virulent in its character. The miserable victim thus being destined to drag out a miserable existence in this novel contest between death and the doctors!!! But it will be perceived by referring to the laws of Magnetism, and the magneto-pathic system of treating disease, that the remedy may be applied immediately to the origin of the disease, thus leaving the healthy organs to perform their functions unmolested. When this is duly considered, the remarkable cures which have been performed through the agency of magnetism, animal or mineral, whether by means of the manipulations, or the magneto-electrical machines, will cease to be a wonder. We copy the following from the New York Dissector:—

ALOPACIA—*loss of hair, baldness.* The effects of the magnetic forces in producing the most rank vegetation from the earth, suggested their employment in the production of a luxuriant vegetation from the skin, which has been found perfectly successful.

Among the cases in which magnetic machines have been used for this purpose, is that of a gentleman who having lost every hair from his head, commenced magnetising it with one of our vibrating instruments, in February last, and, on the first of June, had already cut two heavy crops of hair from his head!

APOPLEXY.—The magnetic machine reduces the apoplectic state in a more safe and powerful manner than any other means that have been heretofore adopted.

ULCERATED LEGS AND VARICOSE VEINS.—Nothing can be compared to the action of the magnetic machine in these cases, or in acute or chronic diseases of the skin.

PROLAPSE UTERI.—*atonic.* These cases from feebleness or debility are quickly restored by the action of the instrument, or by the mesmeriser. In cases, however, which are the consequence of tubercular disease of the uterus, the remedies for chronic tubercula are required to aid the action of the instrument.

MAGNETIC SLEEP.—There are now a great many persons who have gone into the magnetic sleep, under a very slight but steady action of the magnetic machine, some of whom have been clairvoyant. These facts, with the increased susceptibility to mesmeric influence by the action of the instrument, are strong evidences of the identity of the influences from these different sources.

LIFE OF A PLANT.

The ripe seed, when put into the ground at the proper season of the year, soaking up the moisture around it, throws downwards a *radicle*, or young root; then there rises upwards the *plumule*, or future stem, bearing upon it the two lobes of the seed. These expand, become green, and furnish the plants with nourishment, till the roots increase, and it gets young leaves of its own. The stem shoots upwards, and is furnished with buds, which throwing out leaves and branches, the whole becomes a perfect plant, capable of fixing itself, and taking up moisture by its roots, growing towards the light by its stem, and decomposing the air around it by its leaves. The various organs it now has, conspire to produce flowers; these expand, delighting us by their fragrance and their beauty. The stamens become ripe; their anthers burst, and scatter the pollen with which they are stored; this is taken up by the stigma, and conveyed to the young seeds, which are thereby endowed with the power of growth. The parts of the flower, being no longer useful, fall away, while the seed increases in size and perfection, until at last, when thoroughly ripe, the parent plant either dies, or becomes dormant until the warmth of a future season again calls it into a vigorous and renewed existence.

During the progress of these various developments, many curious phenomena present themselves to our notice. The sap, or moisture, passes upwards and downwards through the veins, or sap-vessels; it is exposed to the air at the leaves and flowers; and it deposits in its course wood, resins, gums, starch, sugar, and numerous other products. One part becomes green, another pink, a third white, yellow, or brown; one yields a fragrant oil; another a nauseous drug; one becomes a nutritious vegetable, another a virulent poison. Some plants have a natural provision against drought, others by their shape remain uninjured by either wind or rain; some open their flowers only when the heat of the day is past, while many more expand their petals, and elevate their heads only at the light of the sun, closing them again, and folding them carefully up at the approach of rain or of night. This is called the *sleep of plants*, and is in many instances so regular in its recurrence, as to indicate the time of the day.

“Thus in each flower and simple bell,
That in our path untrodden lie,
Are sweet remembrances which tell
How fast their winged moments fly.”—SMITH.

Plants may pass through the various stages of their existence in a few weeks or months; such as these are called *annuals*. Others spring up, grow, and produce their conservative organs one year, and their flower and fruit the next—these are *biennials*; while trees, shrubs, and many herbs are *perennial*, that is, of many years' growth, increasing continually in majesty, utility, strength, and beauty.

But these, no less than their most fleeting companions, must at last arrive at the same termination; and although all are equally without a sense of feeling to appreciate the changes that constantly take place, plants are liable to many privations and casualties which might be thought to appertain alone to animal creation. Plants live and grow, though they cannot move; they select and take their food, though they have no mouth; their food digests, though they have no stomach; they breathe, yet without lungs; they sleep, yet know not that it is night; they have a natural and fluid circulation, yet without a heart; they are benumbed by frost, yet revived by warmth; are killed by poison and by deprivation of nutriment; grow plethoric by superabundance; become more vigorous by stimulants, and during the whole period of their existence are subject to injury, disease, and death.

TO PHYSICIANS.

Jacob Blattner, an ingenious mechanic of this city, has just completed for us a Magneto-Electric machine of great power and beauty, fully demonstrating that apparatus of this character can be as well and cheaply constructed in St. Louis as in New York or Boston. He is also prepared to fill orders for the rotary or vibrating electro-galvanic machine, equal in every respect to Pike's, for three dollars less than New York prices. Orders for any of the above machines will be promptly filled by forwarding orders to Mr. Blattner, No. 17 North Second street, or to the Magazine office. We will pay especial attention to all orders forwarded to this office, that the apparatus is complete and perfect in every particular.

PRICES.—The magneto-electric can be furnished from \$35 to \$50; vibratory or rotary electro-galvanic from \$14 to \$20, according to size and power that may be desired.

DR. J. B. DODDS.—We have received a circular containing serious charges against the moral character of this gentleman; but as the circular is anonymous, and the charges of some twenty years' standing, we are disposed to suspend our judgment respecting the matter until we get more definite information.