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ELECTRICAL THEORY OF HEALTH AND DISEASE,
OR THE DUODYNAMIC PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

(Continued from page 27.)

It will now be readily conceded that disease of whatever description it may be, whether physical or mental, accute or chronic, hereditary or otherwise, is an effect, which has been produced by some cause or causes. All we have to do, in completing our solution of this problem, is to enquire into the causes which produce disease.

We showed in our preceding researches on this subject: that organized bodies exist, and enjoy life in harmony with the law which governs organized beings, which we please to call the organic. This law requires that the organized body, shall "be temperate in all things"—that every organ which composes the body, shall be exercised to a reasonable extent, which would give it a healthy action. Should any organ of the body, even the least, be exercised too little, the organic law would be violated, and the body would suffer in proportion to the violation; or should any organ of the body be exercised too much, the organic law would be violated, and the body would suffer in proportion to the violation of the law.

The organic law demands, that we shall eat to live—to grow and thrive—It is the natural means by which the wasting of the body is replenished and health and vigor maintained; but, at the same time, it punishes us for eating too much.

Man is endowed with reason, for the purpose of judging of the quantity and quality of food upon which he should live. But, passion and not judgment is exercised in respect to satiating the appetite; and hence the thousands of ills, which are produced by the abuse of the organ of alimentiveness. What a host of diseases are caused and entailed upon the human family, by the abuse of this organ alone?—eating and drink-

ing to excess: This is one cause among the many, which produces the evil effects of which we complain.

Again, in order that we shall have a sufficiency to eat and drink, to preserve life and make us comfortable, the physical law demands that we shall labor; which also serves to exercise the body and mind—in-
vigorating both, and thereby producing health. Exercise is as necessary to health and longevity, as eating is to the replenishing, the wasting of the body, and the support of life. But, this law is too frequently violated by over working, and hence the punishment attached, disease, in proportion to the violation, and if carried too far, premature death is the result. On the other hand, if too little exercise is taken, the system becomes relaxed and feeble, and disease is the consequence.

The law of procreation, demands, "that we multiply and replenish" our species, and a prudent exercise of the organ of amity, is conducive to health. But the abuse of this organ either for the want of use, or the too frequent exercise of it, has produced ruinous effects on almost every human system. The legitimate exercise of the principles here referred to constitute the greatest amount of our happiness; yet, in their abuses, they are the most fruitful sources of disease and misery. Hence, we find that those things, which are most essential to our existence and our happiness—productive of the greatest amount of good, are the most liable to abuse.

We might refer to every individual organ of the mind or brain, and show the same results; but this would only be interesting to those, who delight in prying into the complex character of diseases originating out of such a complexity of causes. The mind and body are so intimately connected that one cannot be injured to any extent, without the other suffering more or less with it.

Any deficiency in the brain produces deficiency in the mind, and any deficiency in mind produces its corresponding deficiency in the body. The brain governs the whole, physically and mentally; and just in proportion as the brain is perfectly developed in every direction from the capital or top of the spinal marrow, called the *medulla oblongata*; will be the perfection of the physical and mental operations of the individual. A full development of the posterior base and superior occipital portions of the brain, comprising all that portion lying posterior to a line drawn perpendicular from the external opening of the ear, to the anterior portion of firmness, gives a fine physical development. A person thus organized would possess a fine constitution, and consequently capable of

resisting disease to a very great extent; although, his intellectual and moral faculties might be very deficient, which would lead him to be constantly violating the laws of his nature. These violations would in time ruin his constitution and disease would be the result. From observation in practice, we have found that patients possessing this configuration of head are more easily restored to health, than those who possess highly moral and intellectual heads, with deficient basilar and occipital brains. Hence, we discover that disease is produced in any organ, by the violation of the law which governs that organ.

All excesses in eating, drinking, sleeping, laboring, &c., or the want of regular exercise of the whole, or any one individually, serves to produce derangement—it weakens that part of the system upon which the abuse falls, and disease is the consequence. This solves our third proposition.

RAPIDITY OF LIGHTNING.

The incalculable rapidity with which the electric fluid passes from one place to another, not only as seen in our comparatively trivial apparatus, but so much more forcibly in the wilder phenomena of lightning, is so evident as to have become of general notoriety, and a powerful simile. Shocks have been passed through wires many miles in extent, without any appreciable time being taken up by its passage. Regiments of soldiers have been electrified at the same moment. The fluid has even been passed instantaneously through very long channels of water, although water conducts it with 400 millions of times less rapidity than iron, and this metal twenty times slower than copper. Miss Somerville in her far-famed work, "The connexion of the Physical Sciences," records as follows the experiments of Professor Wheatstone to ascertain, if possible, the velocity of the electric fluid in its passage from one body to another.

"The velocity of electricity is so great, that the most rapid motion which can be produced by art, appears to be actual rest when compared with it. A wheel revolving with celerity sufficient to render its spokes invisible, when illuminated by a flash of lightning, is seen for an instant with all its spokes distinct, as if it were in a state of absolute repose; because, however rapid the rotation may be, the light has come and al-

ready ceased before the wheel has had time to turn through a sensible space."

"This beautiful experiment is due to Professor Wheatstone, as well as the following variation of it, which is not less striking.—Since a sun-beam consists of a mixture of blue, yellow, and red light, if a circular piece of pasteboard be divided into three sectors, one of which is painted blue, another yellow, and the third red, it will appear to be white when revolving quickly, because of the rapidity with which the impressions of the colors succeed each other on the retina. But the instant it is illuminated by an electric spark, it seems to stand still, and each color is as distinct as if it were at rest. This transcendent speed of the electric fluid has been ingeniously measured by Professor Wheatstone; and although his experiments are not far enough advanced to enable him to state its absolute celerity, he has ascertained that it much surpasses the velocity of light.

"An insulated copper wire, half a mile long, is so disposed, that its centre and two extremities terminate in the horizontal diameter of a small disc, or circular plate of metal, fixed on the wall of a darkened room. When an electric spark is sent through the wire, it is seen at the three points apparently at the same instant. At the distance of about ten feet, a small revolving mirror is placed so as to reflect these three sparks during its revolution. From the extreme velocity of the electricity, it is clear, that if the three sparks be simultaneous, they will be reflected, and will vanish before the mirror has sensibly changed its position, however rapid its rotation may be, and they will be seen in a straight line. But if the three sparks be not simultaneously transmitted to the disc—if one, for example, be later than the other two—the mirror will have time to revolve through an indefinitely small arc in the interval between the reflection of the two sparks and the single one. However, the only indication of this small motion of the mirror will be, that the single spark will not be reflected in the same straight line with the other two, but a little above or below it, for the reflection of all three will still be apparently simultaneous, the time intervening being much too short to be appreciated.

"Since the distance of the revolving mirror from the disc, and the number of revolutions which it makes in a second, are known, the deviation of the reflection of the single spark from the reflection of the other two can be computed, and consequently the time elapsed between their consecutive reflections can be ascertained. And as the length of that part of the wire through which the electricity has passed is given, its velocity may be found.

"Since the number of pulses in a second, requisite to produce a musical note of any pitch is known, the number of revolutions accomplished by the mirror in a given time is determined from the musical note produced by a tooth or peg in its axis of rotation striking against a cord, or from the notes of a siren attached to the axis. It was thus that Professor Wheatstone found the velocity of the mirror to be such, that an angular deviation of 250 in the appearance of the two sparks would indicate an interval not exceeding the millionth of a second. The use of sound as a measure of velocity is a happy illustration of the connexion of the physical sciences."

(To the Editor of the St. Louis Magnet.)

WHITEHALL, ILL., MAY 30, 1846.

Sir—by the request of H. S. Fitch Esq., I write you on the subject contained in your note to him of the 16th ult. The subject or science of animal magnetism, is one to my mind of vital importance. It is a truth as susceptible of clear demonstration as any great truth ever presented to the human family; and notwithstanding this, there are many who oppose it. Nor should we wonder at this when we recollect that no important truth has ever been presented to the world without strong opposition. It has not been two years since animal magnetism was first introduced into our village by Dr. Underhill. At that time the subject was new to me, and I had in common with my fellow citizens, the usual objections to all such mysterious things. I thought, however the subject worthy of a candid and impartial investigation; though I must confess the Doctor left me rather sceptical. After his lectures closed there were some of my neighbors in connexion with myself, who concluded, that we should unite for its mutual examination. So we appointed a place for our first meeting, and on the first, I succeeded in magnetising a Miss Church, daughter of one of my intimate friends. This encouraged us to go ahead, and we soon found several that were very susceptible. After this we began to think of seeing what we could do in Clairvoyance. The first thing I attempted in that, was to me truly interesting, I willed the young lady whom I had thrown into the clairvoyant state, to be at my wifes fathers in Cass County, Illinois. After waiting a few moments I asked if she was there, she replied in the affirmative, I then asked her if she

saw my wife's father, when she replied she did; I asked what he was doing, she said he was sitting in the kitchen doing nothing; I asked her how he looked, and she described him as well as I could have done myself, although she never has seen him. At this time she made a deep sigh and seemed inclined to weep; I asked her why she did so, and inquired of her if any thing had happened since I was last there; she answered that Lucy one of my wife's sisters was dead; and in a few days we received a letter confirming it. This of course interested and astonished me, and of course still induced me to persevere and see what we could do, the more fully to develop the truths, which I began to think it capable of unfolding.

Some interest seemed to be taken in the subject, and many began to be anxious to witness our experiments; among others Mr. S. H. Culver, Methodist minister now at Alton; and who was rather opposed to believing all the pretensions of magnetism; came over one evening to witness a private examination; and make some tests of the thing himself. So after I had magnetised Miss Church and thrown her into the clairvoyant state, Mr. Culver proposed to propound through me some questions for the clairvoyant to answer. He first asked how many letters his family had received from their friends in New Hampshire, in one year; she answered two, he said that was true; he then asked who of his family got the last letter; she replied Ann, his daughter, this he said was the fact; next he asked, who the letter was from, whether a man or woman, she answered from a young woman; then he asked what the girl's name was from whom she had the letter; she immediately gave her christian name, but to give her maiden name seemed in some way to be difficult for her to give, though it confirmed Mr. Culver in the belief that a great deal of useful information might be derived from its proper use. She also described the girl as well as he could have done himself, and also the kind of a house in which her father lived, with great precision. We then wished her to be in your city, St. Louis, when she described the St. Louis Exchange as minutely as any person who was well acquainted with it could possibly have done, although she has never seen it. About the time we were experimenting in this way, Dr. Taff was taken violently ill; after remaining so for some time his lady came up to my house and said she was in search of a doctor and wished me to go down and see what was best to be done for him; I accordingly went and found him in truly a very bad state; congestion to the brain

and lunge with great prostration of the physical powers, and too far gone to prescribe for himself with any certainty; we commenced and by a proper course of treatment partially relieved him for the time. I was apprehensive however, that a similar attack might take place on the succeeding day, and I determined in my own mind, that if it should, I would test the clairvoyant in an examination of his case. As I had apprehended, the next day the disease made its appearance at the time we were looking for it, I then told his lady what were my intentions, and notwithstanding she is a strong believer in magnetism, she smiled at what I supposed she considered my fanatacism. I sent and had Miss Church brought, her father also came, and there were several other persons present; among the rest Mr. Wallace, our methodist minister in this place, who considers magnetism the works of the devil, and those who practice it his prime ministers. I put Miss Church into the clairvoyant state, examined the doctors case most minutely and scientifically, then asked if she could give a prescription which would be likely to relieve the doctor, she said she could. She then gave the prescription in a beautiful style. It was given and he recovered with great rapidity, and was restored to perfect health in a very short time.

Her prescription was purely botanic, which is to my mind strong proof against the common practice of giving that to a sick person, which would, if given to the well, kill them. I would give you many other interesting cases, though my space will not permit. Yours,

E. R. METCALF.

This is an interesting letter, containing facts of great value, to the afflicted, and also to the physician. It is well worthy the consideration of the skeptical part of community. We should be pleased to have all who take an interest in advancing truth, for the welfare of the human family, report us those interesting facts which go to strengthen the claims of a new and interesting, but much abused science, which comes within the reach of their observation. This course would soon place this invaluable science upon a foundation which would bid defiance to snarling demagogues, who oppose every thing which is not confined within the narrow limits of their own understanding.

30 Oct 1964

MAITLAND CONT'D

ST. LOUIS, May 9th, 1846.

Dr. T. J. McNair :

DEAR SIR:—I feel it my duty to you, to the science of Magnetism or Mesmerism, and suffering humanity, to present you with the facts, in respect to my case, which you have lately had under treatment for publication, should it meet your approbation.

My case, with which you are well acquainted, you will recollect, was *Bronchitis*, and that when I first called upon you, the disease had so far advanced as to almost entirely destroy my voice. In the early part of the year 1843, I caught a severe cold, which terminated in *Asthma*; from that time until last fall I have been subject at all times, but more particularly in damp weather to severe paroxysms and difficulty of breathing and continued delicate health, which rendered me scarcely able to pursue my business. I continued to seek a remedy, having consulted and taken the prescriptions of some of the most eminent physicians of this city, all of which had the effect to increase my suffering. Finding no help, I resorted to the use of some of the *cure-all* patent medicines of the day, and having given them a trial without success, I last fall called upon an eminent surgeon of this city who operated upon me for an elongation of the *wvula*, and for two or three weeks afforded temporary relief, but my disease again returned, and in a few weeks became so severe, that I could get no rest at night; my Bronchial tubes being so much effected that my voice was gradually leaving me, when I called upon you in March last. In a few days after you first applied your Magnetic Machine, my voice began to improve, and my rest at night got better. I have gradually improved under your treatment, until now my voice is entirely restored—my disease is gone—and I regard myself as permanently cured.

I would take this occasion to caution the public, so far as my experience may be relied on, against the use of Patent Medicines for diseases of the lungs, all these medicines I have used have done me injury. I would also state that I believe your system of treatment of diseases is likely to be abused, and "Magnetic Remedies" brought in bad repute by Magnetic Machines falling into the hands of unskillful persons, or those unacquainted with Human Anatomy, such a result for the sake of suffering humanity, I should deeply regret.

I am, with due respect, yours, truly,

JAMES MAGEHAN.

The Magnetic Machine, together with Mesmerism, has invariably proved successful in our hands, in every case of derangement of the lungs, where the disease had not produced organic or structural derangement to such an extent as to render a return to health impossible. In all cases of consumption, we have very little confidence in any other remedial agent. All who try this agent experience immediate relief, and we are confident there are few—very few who may not be cured.

LEBANON, OHIO, May 23d, 1846.

DR. MCNAIR—*Dear Sir*: I have received the first volume of the St. Louis Magnet entire, with which I am much pleased. You have favored me with the first number of the second volume before I forwarded you the subscription. I am pleased to have your confidence. I here enclose you one dollar for the second volume, and when it closes, if you send me the first number of the third volume before I forward the amount, it shall be forthcoming, and shortly after its reception. I am highly pleased with the work, and expect to patronize it as long as it sustains its present character.

Yours, respectfully,

JOSEPH C. HAFFIELD.

We publish this letter because it is common sense, and common honesty—the *rarest* sense and honesty with which earth is blest.

We have furnished the St. Louis Magnet to a great number, from its first commencement, who have not thought the confidence we have placed in them worth the *dollar*, nor the Magnet either, as neither have been paid for. We still have unbounded confidence, however, that all who receive the St. Louis Magnet will *fork over* in due time!!!

It would be folly for us to praise *the* work, when its bitterest enemies are free to admit, that it contains more original matter and useful philosophy than any work of its size published.

In looking over a contemporary Medical Journal of this city, we were forcibly struck with the amount of editorial matter which it contained, and for the especial benefit of our liberal readers, we copy the article entire:

“The Editors of the Journal would again very respectfully solicit the subscribers who have not paid, to forward the amount of sub-

scription as soon as practicable. A LARGE MAJORITY HAVE NEVER PAID A CENT; and as the publisher requires prompt payment, it devolves upon the Editors to sustain the Journal, to no inconsiderable extent, by their own means. We trust that all will see the propriety of immediate compliance."

Our subscribers do not require such editorials as this; consequently we have time and room for articles on science calculated to interest and instruct their minds.

We gave a short statement of this operation in our last number, but not having room for the particulars at that time, we now take a pleasure in copying the article entire from the New York Beacon.

MESMERISM.

In the infancy of this subject we gave it our support, as far as we could; that is, to the extent of our own experience. This is the limit we thought should be stopped at; but some in their zeal swallowed all the miracles on the subject, which they were afterwards unable to sustain, and thus injured the cause; others condemned the whole as humbug, without proper scrutiny, and thus exposed themselves, and offered impediments to science; for such it will become. In the pursuit of philosophy, these two errors greatly impede progress; a too ready belief subjects the parties to impostors, and one impostor imposes the necessity of producing a tenfold quantity of facts; while an absolute scepticism, in the face of the wonders of nature, is almost absurd, for nothing is more, wonderful than Nature's operations, of which we know only a very small part, and *nothing* of first causes. We believe that Mesmerism will powerfully aid our researches into Nature, and doubtless serve to enlighten us.

What we now want is, *numerous undisputed facts*, from which to draw the principles of Nature; for Mesmerism is only one of her properties. The following from the Herald, must, we think, be indisputable: *besides*, we know personally the respectability of several of the parties present.

G. V.

[Published for preservation.]

SURGICAL OPERATION ON A MESMERIC PATIENT.—We, in company with a number of other persons, were yesterday witness to a surgical operation performed on a patient while in the mesmeric state, which, to

say the least, entirely puzzled us. The patient was a colored servant girl, named Emeline Brown, about 33 years of age, who had been living in the family of the Rev. Dr. Higbee. She had been for some time past afflicted with a large tumor upon her back, immediately under the left shoulder blade, and had tried various remedies to cure it. She at last concluded to have it cut out, and for that purpose called on Dr. Homer Bostwick, of No. 75 Chambers-street. Dr. Bostwick, who has always been sceptical upon the subject of magnetism, thought this might be a good case to test it, and called upon Dr. Oltz, a magnetic practitioner living near him. Dr. Oltz, after seeing the girl, expressed perfect confidence in his power to put her in the magnetic sleep, so that the operation could be performed without the patient's experiencing any pain. Dr. Oltz commenced magnetizing her, and succeeded in putting her asleep; the first time in half an hour. Between that time and the operation, (some few days) he had magnetized her five times. Dr. Oltz assisted by Dr. E. J. Pike, commenced in the usual manner to magnetize her about half past 3, and by 4 o'clock the girl was sound asleep, and apparently insensible. Dr. Oltz now said the patient was ready, and left the room, leaving Dr. Pike holding the hand of the girl, with one hand upon her forehead. The girl, before being magnetised, was sitting in a chair with her head lying forward upon a pillow on a table. The upper part of the dress was removed, and Dr. Bostwick prepared to commence. He first made a longitudinal incision, eight inches in length, through the flesh over the tumor, and then cut round it. When the knife was first put in, we were watching the face of the girl closely, expecting to see her start and hear her scream; but there was not the least motion. She lay as still and motionless as a marble statue. Not a quivering of the lip or of the eye-lid could we observe. Dr. Bostwick, assisted by Dr. Childs and Dr. Stearns, continued cutting away upon the tumor, and in three minutes it was taken out, there being, during the whole time, no motion on the part of the girl.

During the whole operation, Dr. Pike sat with his hand upon the patient's head. Several physicians examined the pulse, and said it was apparently in a natural state. Dr. Bostwick then, with a large darning needle, sewed up the incision, there still being no motion of muscle or nerve on the part of the patient. After placing adhesive plaster upon the incision, and bandaging it, Dr. Oltz was called in to wake up the girl. This he did by making passes over her face; and upon waking she was told that the operation had not been performed, and that she must now

have it done. This was done to see whether she would know anything about it. "Well" she said "she was sorry, but she wanted it taken out." "Do you feel no pain?" asked Dr. Bostwick. "None," said the girl. "Have you felt none?" "None" was the answer again. She was then shown the tumor, and seemed to be very glad to see it out: It was an adipose tumor, and weighed 10 ounces; We then left the house extremely puzzled. The persons present who witnessed the operation were Dr. Homer Bostwick, Dr. John Stearns, Dr. Samuel R. Childs, Dr. Eleazer Parmly, Dr. Sherwood; Dr. E. J. Pike; W. H. Stinemets, E. L. Fancher, M. Hart, Oliver Johnson, John R. Van Vleit and Edward Gould Buffum. The time from which the operation was first commenced, till she was awakened, was just thirty minutes.

SWEDENBORG'S ANIMAL KINGDOM—PRINCIPLES OF MOTION.

We shall commence in our next number a series of articles from the Translator's Introduction to Swedenborg's "Animal Kingdom," believing we cannot better interest our readers in the important subject of Anthropological Science, than by thus calling their attention to one of the profoundest writers, who has ever been recognized in the scientific world.

This introduction by the translator, a medical scholar of distinction, probably gives a better synoptical and analytical view of the whole of this wonderful work, than could be presented by any one, less thoroughly acquainted with the great value of its contents.

This is a work which connects the past science of ages with the present, and the present with the future. It is one of the great connecting links in science, which seems to have been prepared long before the series closed for which this link was designed, to unite that series to the next. Showing how bountiful *Nature* is in performing her part in the drama of progression. More than a century has rolled round since the work was ready to take its place in the scientific world; but alas! the scientific world was not prepared to receive it. The preceding series had not been wound off, of the great ball of motion, by one hundred years. And, therefore, it lay in store, ready to unite two great cycles

in science, when the proper time arrived for the fulfilment of its mission.

Believing from the present symptoms—the pulse of Nature, that *that* time has arrived, we unhesitatingly set about presenting our readers with a synoptical view of this beautiful link in nature's progression.

We subjoin an extract from the work itself:

“It is a truth constantly presented to us as the result of all our analytic investigations; that every action of the cerebrum and cerebellum is determined through the fibres; and that the fibres cannot be determined into act, excepting by their beginnings or principles; in short by the organs that are prefixed to the fibres. The latter must certainly be excited to motion by their principles, and commence and describe their motions in this way. It is absurd to suppose that any action can begin in the middle of a fibre, and not in its first terminus. If, then, it begins in the first organs, it must inevitably begin in the cortical glands; for the fibres commence, and are conceived and produced, in those glands, and the arterial vessels of the cerebrum terminate also in them. Hence, if the principles of motion exist in them, according to all physical and philosophical laws, as mutually confirmed by and confirming each other, those principles must necessarily commence by a kind of active, living, or locomotive reciprocal force, that is, by a kind of expansion and constriction, or systole and diastole, such as we observe in a gross form in the lungs and heart; for the same conditions are involved, whether the spirit is to be driven through the fibres, or the blood through the vessels. The blood cannot be driven through its arteries without the reciprocal expansion and constriction of the heart; nor can the spirit be driven through the fibres, which are little canals and vessels analogous to the arteries, only more pure, without the reciprocal expansion and constriction of the cortical glands of the cerebrum, which on this account deserve the appellation of pure corcula, or little hearts. Assuming or granting these points, the necessary consequence is, that every time the cortical and cineritious substance of the cerebrum, cerebellum, medulla oblongata, and medulla spinalis, contracts or constricts itself, the whole mass of those parts sinks down, and undergoes systole; but, on the other hand, undergoes diastole, when the same substance, I mean the whole congeries, expands. This is the animation of the cerebrum—using the term cerebrum in its widest acceptation—that corresponds to the respiration of the lungs. We must now proceed a step farther. If the animal or nervous spirit, at the intervals of the constriction of these or-

ganic substances—of the little hearts of the cerebrum—is expressed by the cerebrum through the nerves and nervous fibres, of course it is expressed by the cerebellum into its grand sympathetic nerves, the par vagum and the intercostals : and granting this, it follows that these nerves act during the same intervals upon the fibers of the pulmonary plexus, and upon the fibers of the costal nerves ; which cannot fail on the instant to act upon their muscles and membranes ; nor the latter to act upon the ribs, and this upon the internal structure of the lungs. Hence, it follows that the animations of the cerebrum (using the term here again in its widest sense) must necessarily be coincident with the respiration of the lungs ; and the fact is still more plainly declared by the influx of the fibres of the above-mentioned cerebellar nerves, the par vagum, and the intercostal, into all the viscera of the abdomen ; and by the motion of those viscera agreeing exactly, and keeping perfect time, with the respiratory motions of the lungs, as proved in detail in our Analysis.”—*Animal Kingdom*, vol. ii., pp. 158-9.

Each convolution of the brain or phrenological organ, is divided into equal halves, by a very thin nurilema, on the opposite sides of which the different, or diverging and converging fibres are attached. Swedenborg, a hundred years ago, called the convolutions of the brain, organs, cortical glands, and corcula, or little hearts. He was also familiar with the fact, that motion is produced by the action of two forces. Wonder how many hundred years it will require to beat this knowledge into the heads of the professors of our medical colleges!

DE OBFUSCATIONIBUS.

[Continued.]

“On the 11th of January following, the boy was again examined before the same Justices at Shepton Mallet, and upon sight of Jane Brooks was again taken speechless, but was not so after when Alias Coward came into the room to him.

“On the next appearance at Shepton, which was on the 17th of February, there were present many gentlemen, ministers and others; *the Boy fell into his fit upon the sight of Jane Brooks, and lay in a man's arms like a dead person; the woman was then willed to lay her hand on*

him, which she did, and he thereupon started and sprang out in a very strange and unusual manner. One of the Justices to prevent all possibilities of Legerdemain, caused Gibson and the rest to stand off from the boy, and then the Justice himself held him. The youth being blindfolded, the Justice called as if Brooks should touch him, but winked to others to do it, which two or three successively did, but the boy appeared not concerned. The Justice then called on the father to take him, but had privately before desired Mr. Geoffrey Strede to bring Jane Brooks to touch him, at such time as he should call for his father; which was done, and the boy immediately sprang out after a very odd and violent fashion. He was after touched by several persons and moved not; but Jane Brooks being caused to put her hand upon him, he started and sprang out twice or thrice, as before. All this while he remained in his fit, and some time after; and being then laid on a bed in the same room, the people present could not for a long time bow either of his arms or legs." [Here is the proper close of the authenticated facts as ascertained by the two magistrates, in the actual presence of "many gentlemen, ministers and others;" and it is upon this portion of the story that a mesmerizer might claim that a judgment ought to be founded.] What follows is given in order that the whole story may be told, and though very marvellous, it ought not to be regarded as a discredit to the facts certified as witnessed by the magistrates themselves.

"Between the mentioned 15th of November and the 11th of January the two women appeared often to the boy, their hands cold, their eyes staring, and their lips and cheeks looking pale. In this manner on a Thursday about noon, the boy being newly laid into his bed, Jane Brooks and Alice Coward appeared to him, and told him that what they had begun, they could not perform, but if he would say no more of it, they would give him money, and so put a two-pence into his pocket. After which they took him out of his bed, laid him on the ground, and vanished; and the boy was found by those that came next into the room lying on the floor, as if he had been dead. The two-pence was seen by many, and when it was put into the fire, and hot, the boy would fall ill; but as soon as it was taken out, and cold, he would be again as well as before. This was seen and observed by a minister, a discreet person, when the boy was in one room and the two-pence (without his knowledge) put into the fire in another; and this was divers times tried in the presence of several persons.

"Between the 8th of December and 17th of February in the year

mentioned, divers persons at sundry times heard in the boy a noise like the croaking of a Toad, and a voice within him saying Jane Brooks, Alice Coward, twelve times in near a quarter of an hour. At the same time some held a candle before the boy's face and earnestly looked on him, but could not perceive the least motion of his tongue, teeth or lips, while the voice was heard.

On the 25th of February between two and three in the afternoon, the boy being at the house of Richard Isles at Shepton Mallet, went out of the room into the garden; Isles' wife followed him, and was within two yards when she saw him rise up from the ground before her, and so mounted higher and higher, till he passed in the air over the garden wall, and was carried so above ground more than 30 yards, falling at last at one Jordan's door at Shepton, where he was found as dead for a time. But coming to himself told Jordan that Jane Brooks had taken him up by the arm out of Isles' garden, and carried him in the air as related.

"The boy at several other times was gone on the sudden, and upon search after him found in another room as dead, and at sometimes strangely hanging above ground, his hands being flat against a great beam in the top of the room, and all his body two or three feet from ground. There he hath hung a quarter of an hour together; and being afterwards come to himself, he told those that found him that Jane Brooks had carried him to that place and held him there. Nine people at a time saw the boy so strangely hanging by the beam.

From the 15th of November to the 10th of March following, he was by reason of his fits much wasted in his body, and unspirited; but after that time, being the day the two women were sent to Gaol, he had no more of those fits.

"Jane Brooks was condemned and executed at Charde Assizes, March 26th, 1658.

"This is the sum of M. Hunts narrative, which concludes with both the Justices' attestation, thus:—'The aforesaid passages were some of them seen by us, and the rest, and some other remarkable ones not here set down, were, upon examination of several credible witnesses, taken upon oath before us.

(Signed,)

ROBERT HUNT.

(Signed,)

JOHN CARY.

Upon the conclusion of this relation Mr. Glanville remarks:—"This is good evidence, I think, of the being of witches; if the sadducee be not

satisfied with it, I would fain know what kind of proof he would expect. Here is the testimony of sense, the oaths of several credible attesters, the nice and deliberate scrutiny of quick-sighted and judicious examiners, and the judgment of an Assize upon the whole. And now the security of our lives and fortunes depends upon no greater circumstances of evidence than these. If such proof may not be credited, no fact can be proved, no wickedness can be punished, no right can be determined; Law is at end, and blind justice cannot tell how to decide anything."

This account is from the edition of 1681, and Mr. Glanville proceeds with other witch stories, most of which are derived, as he states, directly from the magistrate Mr. Hunt.

We are accustomed in this age to think of witchcraft as something ludicrous, and forget that our ancestors, not very far removed, regarded it as an awful verity, while many poor creatures, and those mostly females, fell victims to the delusion, the common mode of execution being that of the stake. It is singular that it seems not to have occurred to any one engaged in the examination of the case of Jane Brooks, that there was a moral impossibility in her consciously and voluntarily exercising diabolical powers in the very presence of the magistrates assembled to decide upon her guilt.

"The next case recited by Glanville is that of one *"Elizabeth Style, widow."* The affidavits in this case are all reported at length, and run through many pages, there being several of them, agreeing in three main particulars with each other. The first witness is Rich. Hill, examined January 23, 1664, who swears that his daughter Eliz. Hill, 13 years old, has *"fits which have held her an hour, two, three and more,"* in which the girl said that *"one Elizabeth Style of the same parish appeared to her, and is the person that torments her. She also in her fits usually tells what clothes Eliz. Style has on at the time, which the informant and others have seen and found to be true."* This may pass for clairvoyance.

Another witness swears that *"in her fits the child's strength was increased beyond the proportion of nature and the force of divers men;"*—Another, that in her fits six men could not hold her down in her chair in which she was sat, but that she would raise the chair up in spite of their utmost force :—"And this may pass for the rigid power.

Poor widow Style was finally induced to make a confession; as people under prosecution, and in the extremity of wretchedness, will often confess, not what is true but what they know to be suspected of them.

The case of Alice Duke is full of clairvoyance.

The case of Florence Newton, who bewitched Mary Longdon by a *kiss*, is also full of clairvoyance. Mary, after the kiss, had "fits or trances, which would take her on a sudden, in that violence that three or four men could not hold her;"—she said that "before the said Florence gave her the kiss, she never had any (fits,) but believes that with the kiss she bewitched her" * * * "Mary Longdon (the account reads) having closed up her evidence, Florence Newton peeped at her as it were betwixt the heads of the bystanders that interposed between her and the said Mary, and lifting up both her hands together, as they were *manacled*, cast them in an angry violent kind of motion (as was seen and observed by W. Aston) towards the said Mary, as if she had intended to strike at her if she could have reached her, and said '*Now she is down.*' Upon which *the maid fell suddenly down to the ground like a stone*, and fell into so violent a fit that all the people that could come to lay hands on her could scarcely hold her, she *biting her own arms* and shrieking out in a most hideous manner to the amazement of all the beholders; and continued so for about a quarter of an hour (the said Florence Newton sitting by herself all that while *pinching her own hands and arms*, as was sworn by some that observed her): the maid was ordered to be carried out of the Court and taken into a house."

Poor Florence was accused of using some threat which she denied, "though many in the Court heard her say the words, and she said, if she did, she new not what she said, being old and *distracted with her sufferings*." In the remarks at the conclusion of the Widow Newton's case it is said, that "all the mischief this witch did was by *kissing or in some way touching the party* she bewitched, and she confessed that unless she touched her she could do her no hurt, which may be called a magical venom or contagion."

But here is *quantum suff.* of these cases. If I believed in mesmerism as a cause of these phenomena, and were asked why there was so much pain and distraction in the subjects, I should urge, first, that 'the agent in acting, as it were blindly, would not produce the regular effects perceived in our days, when it is directed by the will under tolerably well defined opinions as to its powers, modifying the feelings of all parties; and, secondly, that in cases of supposed witchcraft, not only the assembled multitude were prepossessed against the supposed witch, but she on her part was conscious of persecution and felt disposed perhaps to wreak vengeance upon the authors of her distress.

I do not insist that a proof of Mesmerism is here adduced, but stating the question conditionally, it may be said that, if Mesmerism be considered as proved, it offers a ready explanation of many witchcraft stories; and, vice versa, if the accounts of witchcraft embrace with considerable uniformity, facts assimilated to those of Mesmerism, they may facilitate our reception of the theory of Mesmer—or rather incline us to believe that his practice and that of his followers or advocates has a real foundation in nature.

"I think," says Sir Wm. Temple, "that a clear account of enthusiasm and fascination from their natural causes would deserve very much from mankind in general, as well as from the commonwealth of learning; it might perhaps prevent so many public disorders, and save the lives of many innocent, deluded or deluding people, who suffer so frequently upon account of witches and witchcraft.

The salvation this age has reached in this respect has not been through any clear account of the natural causes of enthusiasm and fascination:—it has been through an undiscerning doubt of all reality in the one, and an absolute denial of all reality even as a basis of the other, the very notion of the power of fascination being held to be ridiculous and absurd in the highest degree; but whether this promises any protection for the future may be reasonably doubted.

With regard to enthusiasm—the chapter in Locke's Essay, on this subject, may satisfy those who receive and are deeply imbued with the principles of knowledge advanced in the Essay; but there is a class of persons, who require a different account of this matter, and among this class are all those who have ever felt a touch of enthusiasm themselves, many of whom are possessed of quiet, unobtrusive and even reserved manners, who are nevertheless dreaming of infinite things and listening, in the spirit, to mysterious harmonies not accessible to mortal ears. These people will not give their attention to an account of this subject upon Locke's principles: they will not only say, as Locke supposes, but they will insist upon it, that "they see the light infused into their understandings, and cannot be mistaken; it is clear and visible there, like the light of bright sunshine, shows itself, and needs no other proof but its own evidence. * * It is its own proof and can have no other."

MEDICAL.

Clairvoyant Examination of Mrs. ———, a female patient, who was placed under our care about the 12th of last April.

"This patient's nervous system is very much deranged, and originates from a diseased condition of the uterine organs. Falling of the womb, blood determines to the head; and there is a torpid condition of the liver. There is a great deal of pain in the head and ears. The principal derangement consists in the uterine organs, which has been conveyed sympathetically to the balance of the system. There is no other derangement recognizable in her system."

Prescription.—"2 oz. of Spear-mint; 1-2 do. Lady Slipper; 1-4 lb. Dogwood Bark; 2 oz. Queen of the Meadow; 1 do. Lobelia herb; 1-4 do. Blood-root; 1 1-2 drachms Capsicum—make into half gallon syrup, add sufficient loaf sugar and brandy to preserve it; take half a wine-glass full three times per day. The dose may be gradually increased, as the stomach will bear it."

2dly. White oak Bark, Crane's Bill, Witch-hazle leaves and Sumac berries; take equal quantities of each, except the Crane's Bill, of which use one half—make a decoction, and inject up the birth place once per day for three weeks."

3dly. "Mandrake root pulv.; ex. Dandelion; Gum Myrrh; ex. White-Walnut and Blood Root pulv.—make into five grain pills—dose, one evening and morning three times a week for three weeks."

4thly. "A mustard plaster may be placed back of the ear until considerable irritation is produced."

5thly. "Laudanum, Oil Sassafras and Sweet Oil may be combined in equal quantities; and one drop may be dropped into the ears every evening until the pain is removed."

6thly. "The action of the Magneto-Electrical Machine should be passed through the region of the uterus. The positive pole in front, and the negative pole to the spinal column; also through the region of the liver, and down the spinal column, and from the back of the neck to the bottom of the feet."

7thly. "Should bathe the feet three times per week in hot ley water. The head and back and uterine regions should be bathed in cold water every morning."

8thly. Should be careful in dieting. The patient may eat what her appetite craves; but must be careful to eat but little at a time. Little or no meat, however, should be eaten. This course being rigidly pursued the patient will recover rapidly."

The prediction of the *Clairvoyant* was particularly verified. The patient improved rapidly, and soon recovered; although she had been in this deranged condition for seven or eight years, and had successively passed through the hands of the regular mineral practitioners, and the Thompsonians. The patient stated to me that, while under the mineral treatment, she had gradually grown worse; but that her condition had been very much improved by the Thompsonian treatment. The patient is a woman of strong mind and fine judgment. I observed many of the Thompsonian works in her possession, and she informed me, that she had given the subject a great deal of attention. She observed, that she rarely met with any disease in her own family, which she had not successfully treated, except her own case and her youngest daughter's, which was determination of blood to the head, and which was frequently so severe as to produce fainting. This we successfully removed by three applications of the battery. No other remedy was used by me in this case.

We tried the action of the machine on a child of some six years of age, who was laboring under the very severest attack of congestive fever. We found the child perfectly stupid and insensible, apparently to every thing with which he was surrounded. No effort of the parents had proved successful in arousing him. Upon examining him, we found his feet cold up to his knees, and his nose and chin as cold as ice. In this condition we applied the battery. The patient soon raised up—a copious perspiration was immediately produced, and with the aid of a little medicine, the patient immediately recovered.

THE HUMAN SKIN.

Very few of us indeed are at all aware of the nature of the covering of our own bodies. We see a "soft smooth pliant membrane, which invests the whole of the external surface of the body, following all its prominences; but we know not till the researches of science, which have reached only a few, inform us that the whole of the interior body, all its cavities and bumps, are invested with a similar, or rather the same covering. The skin passes as at the lips or eyelids, into mucous membrane, and one becomes the other, as it is wholly excluded from, or exposed to the free action of the atmosphere. By its surface in the interior and on the exterior are all the functions of nutrition and decay, of health and disease, of appetite and sensation, carried on. Its chan-

ging action, according to circumstances, in every climate and temperature, keeps the body at one nearly uniform heat. It is subject to many diseases. Life has been sustained by food imbibed at its exterior pores; the disease which kills and the medicine which cures, may both enter the same openings. It conducts electricity, that mysterious, invisible, and intangible agency, by which we are surrounded, and on the diffusion of which health is dependent, into or out of every part of the frame. It is at once the great enveloping and secretory organ of the whole body, and the immediate means except as to color, by which we communicate with the external world. It can become accordingly the substitute for our least glorious, but not the least useful organs, such as the kidneys, and is the means of conveying to us nearly all that we have ever learned of the glorious universe.

Its structure is not less wonderful than its uses. It is composed of two layers; one horny and insensible, the other highly sensitive; the latter being the actual and universal organ of feeling, and the other varying in thickness as it covers an exposed or hidden part, its ever-attendant guard and protection. Each of these layers is of a different, though analogous structure, and performs different offices. Both are continually renewed, yet each preserves forever its own distinct properties. The sensitive skin is so full of nerves and bloodvessels, of which the scarf-skin is digested, that it is scarcely possible to insert a needle in any part of the whole body without causing pain and a flow of blood. Its surface is uneven, to increase its strength and multiply its power. Its papillæ, microscopic in size, by which the enlargement of the surface is provided for, and each composed of a hair-like vessel and a minute nerve, several times bent upon themselves. In every part of it there are perspiratory tubes with attendant glands, terminating on the surface in a pore. To give one striking example of its extraordinary structure, we may mention that Mr. Wilson has counted 3,528 of those pores in a square inch on the palm of the hand; and each tube of which the pore is an opening, being a quarter of an inch long, it follows that, in a square inch of skin on the palm of the hand, there exists a length of tube equal to 882 inches, 73 feet. In other parts of the body the pores are not so numerous. "Taking 2800 as a fair average for each square inch surface in a man of ordinary height, the number of pores will be 7,000,000, and the length of perspiratory tube 175,000, or nearly 28 miles." Well may Mr. Wilson ask, what will be the effect if this drainage be obstructed? Well may every man say, that of this wonderful covering, which ignorance and brutality even yet fetter, scourge and brand, we are wo—

fully ignorant, and science cannot be better employed than in ascertaining its properties, and in teaching us how it may best be preserved. The former has been for several years the great object of Mr. Wilson's assiduous researches; the latter is the immediate object of his present work. He has here methodized his own discoveries and the discoveries of other physiologists and anatomists, and given us a practical treatise on the means of procuring and preserving a healthy skin. When we remember that to this end we erect and preserve dwellings and manufacture clothing—a large proportion of the labors of the community, having that for his object, it being in importance second only to supplying us with food (if, in the wonderful economy of nature, any one part can be said to be only secondary)—we conclude, that we can scarcely overrate the value of such researches as those of Mr. Wilson, and the practical lessons he has successfully deduced from them.—[Journal of Health.

BATHING.

The importance of bathing as a means of preserving and regaining health, is engaging the attention of all classes to a much greater degree than at any former period. The people, no longer looking up to the physician as the Alpha and Omega of their duty on the subject of health, are becoming engaged in an earnest enquiry after physiological truth, and aided by such writers as Combe, Graham and others, they are even now forcing their physicians into an acknowledgment of the valuable benefits of those very practices, which they have neglected to teach and even affected to despise. There has been a great change in the public mind within a few years on this subject. In England, a revolution is progressing, which, if persevered in, must be of incalculable benefit, for when once the importance of a free and unimpaired action of the surface is realized, and the necessity of bathing to secure that object, there will be but few, however elevated or degraded in social life, but what will enjoy its benefits. Baths and washhouses are being erected in London, Liverpool, and many other large places, for the common people, and even now the truth is being perceived, which one day will be more fully acknowledged, that there is an intimate connexion between physical and moral purity. In this country the prejudices existing against the practice, and which have been cherished and often produced by the medical profession, owing to certain influences which excited their bigotry and selfishness, are fast being removed, and the vari-

ous forms of bathing are being much more extensively practiced by all classes of our citizens. Still there are thousands among us who do not practice entire ablution at all. They are probably ignorant of the physiological truths which demand its observance, and certainly strangers to its pleasant and invigorating effects both upon the body and mind. When administering the bath, we have often seen persons astonished at the amount of impurities collected on the surface, and the resolution at once formed, that they would no longer do such manifest injury to their bodies, by neglecting a practice fraught with so much pleasure and benefit.

Dr. Thomson was the first physician in this country practically to exalt the vapor bath into an important station in the removal of disease, and the opposition it has met with from the Medical profession, the vile misrepresentations and slanders that have been circulated in order to prejudice the public mind against it, show us how completely a Medical despotism would silence any attempt to improve its practice or expose its errors, unless introduced under its own auspices.

But too much light has now been cast upon the subject to prevent further concealment; its good effects are becoming too palpable to be longer denied, and scores of physicians who a few years since would have hazarded their reputation, in allowing even a suspicion to go forth, that they were so heterodox as to be in favor of vapor bathing, can now very courageously recommend it, many of them even, from "personal experience of its benefits."—Medical Enquirer.

NOTICES.

Mr. G. GRIMES, has laid upon our table two pamphlets, containing each some ninety pages. One, entitled "A SECRET WORTH KNOWING," and devoted to the subject of Insanity. The other, the "LILY OF THE WEST;" and devoted principally to Human Nature. These works were written under peculiar circumstances by Maj. G. GRIMES, while an inmate of the Lunatic Asylum, of Nashville, Tennessee. The Major, through his writings, has manifested a great deal of *Pathos*; and, we are sorry to say, but little philosophy.

We have received the MEDICAL ENQUIRER, edited by J. M. ALDRICH & T. W. WOOD, A. M. This is a spirited little sheet, devoted to the reformed practice; and what pleases us best, is that it is filled up principally with original matter, which savors strongly of correct philosophical principles.