

THE ZOIST.

No. XVII.

APRIL, 1847.

- I. *Extraordinary Effects of Mesmerism on a Gentleman, PERFECTLY BLIND for eleven years.* Communicated by DR. ELLIOTSON.

Dr. Elliotson begs to forward the following letter to *The Zoist* from Mr. Chandler of Rotherhithe.

Conduit Street, March 10th, 1847.

To Dr. Elliotson.

My dear Sir,—The following very curious and interesting case was introduced to my notice by Dr. Toulmin, of Blackheath, who, having witnessed some of my mesmeric cases, did not hesitate to admit that he believed his own eyes,—though perhaps he “knows human kind” quite as well as some others who suppose their retinae to act as flattering mirrors.

Of course this patient has been malingering for the last 14 years, on purpose to gratify any mesmerist with whom he might happen to come in contact.

Capt. Peach, æt. 55, has formerly commanded large East India ships, and, having three times circumnavigated the globe, has consequently been exposed to frequent alternations of climate, which, together with severe losses by a very protracted Chancery suit, have probably been the cause of the following severe and complicated diseases of his nervous system.

He has been completely amaurotic in both eyes for eleven years. This was about three years coming on; one eye going first, and afterwards the other. For about *eleven years he has not been able to distinguish the brightest light from total darkness*, except on one or two occasions for a few seconds only, when, under the influence of belladonna, he experienced slight glimmerings of light. He has suffered from *partial paralysis of*

the lower limbs for about the same time. When sitting, he has the power of moving the legs; and, when placed upright, he can balance himself, but cannot raise his foot from the ground. For about six or seven years he has been *constantly subject to the most severe intermittent darting pains* (of a 'Tic character) in his limbs; these pains have always been capriciously erratic, but never attacking the trunk or head: he has also had *spasmodic tension of the muscles of the lower part of the abdomen frequently to a most distressing degree*. But the symptom which he describes as causing him the most intense suffering, since last June, has been a *gnawing dull pain in the lower part of the spine, occurring generally on his awaking in the morning, of so desperate a character as to call for his being immediately got up and dressed*. The alteration of position appears to afford him some relief. These attacks will occur for several days together; he then may get a few days intermission. They appear connected with a very copious discharge of blood from the bowels, that has existed for three or four years, though the attacks and discharge are now noticed to be invariably simultaneous; and the latter has been observed to be much more copious since the lumbar pains have commenced.

These protracted and severe afflictions have at length produced a high state of *nervous irritability, destroying rest and appetite to such an extent that he is worn almost to a skeleton*. His pulse is always 100, and often 120; and he gets *no sleep* but what is produced by *narcotics*.

Mr. Watsford, of Greenwich, who has attended him for many years, has frequently told him and several members of his family, that medicine could be of no use to him;—but, however, when the pains have been exceedingly urgent, (giving occasion to screams which alarmed the neighbourhood), Mr. W. has been sent for, and has always administered strong narcotics, which, though they lulled the pains for the time, left him stupid for two or three days.

For several years he has been distressed by extreme flatulence after the smallest quantity of food;—indicative of greatly impaired digestion.

Dr. Toulmin, of Blackheath, who has paid him much disinterested attention for the last few months, and has tried various means, including belladonna and veratria, &c., asked me to see him in August last, and to say if I thought mesmerism would be likely to benefit him. After a careful investigation of the case, I pronounced it to be apparently a very hopeless one; but, knowing what wonders mesmerism had worked in many cases equally forlorn, I recommended that

it should be tried if any one could be found in the neighbourhood who would undertake it. Accordingly his mother, an old lady of more than 70, and the servant, an ignorant Irish girl, commenced mesmerising him, and produced, after a very few trials, a most decidedly soothing effect.

Shortly after, I had an opportunity of introducing the case to the notice of Mr. Holland, of New Cross, who is a most enthusiastic nonprofessional supporter of mesmerism, and he immediately took it in hand; and, as the wonders he has worked will be best related in his own words, I beg to subjoin his reports of the case to me, unabridged.

Laurie Terrace, New Cross.
5th December, 1846.

Thomas Chandler, Esq.

My dear Sir,—Your own personal observations, and our communications from time to time, will have made you aware, generally, of the favourable impression which mesmerism has effected in the, otherwise, desperate case of your Blackheath patient, Captain Daniel Peach, so long a martyr to a melancholy complication of ills.

In compliance with your wish I have now the gratification to communicate a connected statement of my proceedings in this case and their results.

After you had introduced me at the London Hospital, on the 26th August last, to Dr. Toulmin, as an amateur residing in the “neighbourhood” of the patient, to wit, something more than a mile and a half distant, I lost no time in waiting upon that gentleman, at his residence at Blackheath, with the object of being made acquainted with full particulars. These were frankly communicated, and I placed myself at his disposal. Dr. Toulmin is the Captain’s neighbour, both figuratively and literally, and I need hardly add that the application of mesmerism, in this case, has been with his entire sanction and approval and, occasionally, in his presence:—indeed, he has stated to me on our leaving the patient’s residence together that the *tranquillizing* effect which he had just witnessed exceeded what *he* could have produced by the largest “safe” dose of opium, at the same time adding that he was not aware of any ordinary means by which equal amelioration of the general symptoms could have been effected.

I commenced operations on the 11th of September last, and, after six sittings, up to the 21st, the following is the spirit of the remarks which I find in my notes, as regards the amount of mesmeric influence. A tranquil state of abstraction is induced, with more or less of the ordinary consciousness

remaining, accompanied by an *involuntary closing of the eyes* ; there is also a perceptible *dullness of sensation at the surface*, (and most probably deeper) with a continually increasing *indisposition to motion* of any kind. Towards the end of this series of sittings, the above effects have attained a species of intensity which promises the best results.

My mode of proceeding has been as follows.—The patient being seated, I have made downward passes, with and also without contact, before the face, trunk, and limbs, occasionally *pointing at the eyes*, or *intently looking* into one or other of them (it must be borne in mind that he is *totally blind*). Much to my surprise I found, at length, that the look alone produced some marked physical effects ; these, the patient describes as follows :—*A dry irritation in the upper part of the eyeball, as if the upper lid were raised and a hard pencil passed over the organ ; then a sensation of watering, as if occasioned by smoke, only relieved by a strong closing of the lids.* Sometimes the patient has felt as if a *fine pencil of wind, proceeding from a point, impinged upon the centre of the eyeball*, occasioning a feeling of heat and mixing with the other symptoms, all which continue to be increased the longer the process is persevered in, so much so that he has more than once exclaimed, while strongly closing the lids, “it is very sharp to night,” and on several occasions he has stated that the sensations amounted to positive “stinging,” similar to that produced by “mustard,” by “snuff,” or by an “onion.” Fluid collects in the corner of the eyes ; or eye perhaps, if one only is stared or pointed at,

After being demesmerised, the patient is assisted to an erect position, in which I make contact passes down the spine and limbs, down the latter before and behind.

I have continued similar proceedings up to this date, about three times in each week, from an hour to an hour and a half on each occasion, with only the following slight variations, of having the patient placed at full length on a bed, instead of being seated in a chair, and my manipulating the spine and limbs while he was in the mesmeric state,—the latter mode was suggested by Dr. Elliotson as more likely to be beneficial, the former (the recumbent attitude) had been prefferred all along by Dr. Toulmin and also by the patient. I elected to mesmerise him sitting, (to *him* an uneasy position, from the weakness in the lumbar region), in order to be able with certainty to distinguish the mesmeric influence from ordinary sleep, the latter not being so likely to supervene in an uneasy position : as soon as rigidity manifested itself, there was no longer any necessity for this precaution.

The result of continuing mesmerism has been an increased intensity of all the phenomena—great insensibility of mechanical injury on the surface—loss of either ordinary consciousness, or of the recollection after the mesmeric state is over of the occurrences which took place during sleep-waking—inability to describe correctly in his sleep-waking the position in which his limbs may have been placed, for he is beautifully cataleptic, *and his limbs obey attraction as distinctly as the limbs of patients whose organs of vision are perfect.**

Up to the present moment the good which has been accomplished is as follows :

Total cessation, since the first week of his being mesmerised, of that *excruciating pain* at the bottom of the spine that was wearing him to a shadow. His *shuddering* recollections of this pain, which was comparatively recent, is more vivid than that of *any other* of his afflictions : his mode of expressing himself, in allusion to it, is “no tongue can tell the agony,” &c. ; “it struck my very vitals,” &c. ; “if I had *had* the ability I should have made away with myself,” &c. &c.

The *hemorrhage* from the bowels (the consequence of internal hæmorrhoids in the opinion of Mr. Watsford of Greenwich) has been *entirely suppressed*, not even a *tinge* having manifested itself since the first application of mesmerism.

The *tension* at the lower part of the abdomen, as well as the *extreme flatulence*, have *entirely disappeared*.

The capriciously erratic, and *fierce darting pains* (spasms of the “tic” character) whose attacks were almost incessant of late, and, more or less, present for years past, have been *very considerably ameliorated* ; indeed, out of 85 days which have elapsed since he was mesmerised (from 11th September last) there have only been 13 on which these spasms have returned—one relapse continued for 5 consecutive days, the others were short, with two intervals of 14 and 19 days, respectively, on which there was no return of spasm at all. Immediately previously to mesmerism having been resorted to, and during the greater part of the preceding summer and spring, these spasms, together with the gnawing pain in the lumbar region, were so frightful, that the patient’s cries often

* This exquisite fact I witnessed myself on the two occasions of my being allowed the favour of visiting this gentleman. The whole affair was so striking that, after my first visit to Blackheath, I requested permission to go again. On the second occasion I was anxious that the mesmerism might be begun when there was no possibility of the patient being aware of it. Accordingly, while we were all in conversation, Mr. Holland began to fix his eyes upon the patient, our conversation continuing equally as before. Presently the captain’s eyelids twinkled ; he exclaimed, are you not mesmerising me ? A drop of fluid appeared at the corner of one eye, and he was soon in sleepwaking.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

alarmed the neighbourhood, and attracted the notice of policemen on duty near the spot.

On Friday the 27th ult. I found him suffering from a return of these spasms, and, as the relief derived from mesmerism, on that occasion, epitomised the whole ease in that regard, I add a verbatim extraet from one of my notes of that evening.

“The poteneey of mesmerism strongly evideneed this evening—a return of spasm yesterday morning (inside of left thigh) very severe through the day and night—less so since this morning, but quite suffieiently marked. I had to attack him in the midst of intermittent spasm, and it was full 25 minutes (instead of 6 or 8 ordinarily) before he came under the influence—the paroxysm still eontinued for a quarter of an hour more, as evideneed by strong startings, but less and less violent, which did not, however, occasion the usual eontortion of the eountenanee, and the ordinary exelamation. Finally, and for the last half hour up to being demesmerised, he had the appearanee of placidity personified, without the least motion of any kind. I dispersed the influence, as usual, by quiet transverse passes before the face—he awoke very gradually, eommeneeing with sundry very energetie gapes, aecompanied by various grimaces and contortions of the muscles of the face, as if each stood in need of being *stretched* (altogether indicative of the refreshing effect of deep sleep)—for some time he replied ineoherently to my questions, appearing to be solely oceupied with the process of awakening, and the first indiation (to night) of his senses being colleeted, was his exelamation, “*thank God, the pain is gone!*” When fully conseious, his eountenanee and manner were quite cheerful, and he entered into the spirit of some facetious remarks which ensued. This *contrast* was effected by mesmerism in less than two hours; he admitted that he had dropped off two or three times (in faet, the influence was very deep this evening) but, as usual, asserted that he was generally conseious of what was passing. In this he was wrong, as he was not aware that I had turned him on his side, in order to manipulate the spine; neither was he conscous that a young lady had won a pair of gloves of him, which she did very prettily at my instance.”

The *high state of nervous irritability* into which his afflie-tions had plunged him, together with its exponent, viz., a *weak pulse from 100 to 120, or even 140, have entirely sub-sided*; his *appetite*, with slight exeptions, continues *good*; his *spirits* are *improved*, his *strength increased*, and he usually *rests well*, the pulse ranging from 72 to 85, or very rarely 90.

He has partially discontinued the use of Batley's Sedative Drops, (wholly omitted on the nights of being mesmerised,) and entirely that of stimulants, (ale, wine, spirits, &c.) which Dr. Toulmin had recommended with a view to counteract the tendency to "sinking," which his late distressing symptoms occasioned.

The partial paralysis of the lower extremities remains much the same, as regards voluntary motion (or rather the want of it) in an erect position; nevertheless a tendency to increased power is also perceptible here.

In ordinary circumstances, it would be "hoping against hope," to expect a restoration of vision in this case,—but under the benign influence of the agent employed, what may not be accomplished! Already it has produced, on very many occasions, short intervals of "glimmer," so much so that the patient has been able to distinguish the return of day, as well as the "diffused whiteness," or "glare," from the fire or the flame of the candle. He has repeatedly enquired, "Is it not a very bright day?" "Is not the fire very bright?" I presume that these interruptions of the perfect blindness, (which is ordinarily so complete, that I have repeatedly, by means of a lens, condensed the image of the flame of the candle upon the pupil of his eye, so as exactly to fill it, of all which he has remained totally unconscious), indicates merely functional debility in the visual organs, without alteration in their structure; if so, let us hope on and persevere, looking to our polar star, which, in the teeth of adverse influences, has for the last ten or twelve years maintained its due elevation, and continued to shine with undimmed brightness, the centre of an increasing galaxy of similar intelligences.

If I could spare the time to mesmerise this patient every day, I have no doubt that matters would move faster, and therefore more satisfactorily. My avocations will not, however, permit this; and it is clear that cases of this description could only be fully met by a public establishment, devoted to the diffusion of the incalculable benefits flowing from the beneficent agent which we employ.

Believe me, very truly yours,

J. HOLLAND.

Thomas Chandler, Esq.

Laurie Terrace, New Cross,
6th March, 1847.

My dear Sir,—I have the pleasure to inform you that, notwithstanding the trying character of the season from which we are now about to emerge, our patient, Captain Peach, has, by the continued aid of mesmerism, been preserved in a

comparative state of ease, in the teeth of the debilitating tendency of his exotic mode of existence.

Since the 27th November last, he has had but one severe relapse (spasm) which commenced on the morning of the 12th January last, and tormented him incessantly through the whole day. I visited him in the evening; and, contrary to my expectation, he was fully mesmerised in less than one minute, advantage having been taken of a temporary lull. On this occasion the attack was in the upper part of the large muscle on the under side of the left thigh, and was proportionally violent, returning almost directly after he was mesmerised. Each spasm lasted from 2 to 4 or 5 seconds, and recurred at intervals of from 20 to 40 seconds (by my watch) with occasional lulls of greater duration. There was the ordinary expression of agony, accompanied by a suppressed inarticulate cry, but without the least tendency to rouse the patient from the mesmeric state; indeed his countenance relaxed into perfect placidity the instant the several attacks passed off. I manipulated incessantly, and it was only at the end of the first 50 minutes that there was a perceptible diminution of the symptoms; but at the expiration of 20 minutes more, he was sleeping like an infant, and continued so for other 20 minutes, when I left him, thinking that it would be more beneficial to suffer the influence to exhaust itself; besides which, I dreaded to awaken him lest the attack should return and the labour have to be recommenced. However, there has not been any return, but he was very much shattered for two or three days; still he came round more kindly than had been his wont on former occasions before mesmerism was resorted to.

None other of his late complicated afflictions have returned since the date of my former letter.

I may mention that the fixed look alone continues to produce a highly irritating effect on the patient's eyes; and, if continued for 10 minutes or a quarter of an hour, becomes totally unbearable; they water copiously, and put on a highly inflamed appearance; the nasal passages also sympathize. This treatment has been repeated perseveringly with the object of rousing the paralyzed optic nerve to natural action, and I am much disappointed at its not yet having had that result, more particularly as such high susceptibility to *nature's own* stimulus ought, one would think, to act in that direction. The main difficulty, no doubt, arises from the affection having been so long established, and being so deeply seated. This view is borne out by the fact that the late frightful pain in the lumbar region, which was of comparatively *recent* occurrence, yielded, almost instantaneously, to the mesmeric influence.

Independently of the grave afflictions mentioned in my former letter, he has suffered for a long time from various comparatively minor complaints, which have only been mentioned to me, when attention has been drawn to them in consequence of an amelioration having taken place. Among these may be mentioned an insensibility (of very long standing) in the parts administering to micturition, and also a chronic "weakness" in the inside of the left thigh. The latter has totally disappeared for some time past, and the former has been considerably relieved.

There is no indication in the mesmeric state of any exaltation of the senses or faculties in this patient, nor indeed of any other "high phenomena;" but it may be worth while to state that, in addition to the induced rigidity formerly mentioned, the sensation of thirst can *invariably* be brought on by merely placing the ends of my finger lightly under the patient's chin. This sensation is *always* indicated by a sucking and swallowing action, and *viva voce* if the question be asked. That this fact is not the result of "association" or "mental suggestion," was fully demonstrated by the following occurrence. On the first occasion of my trying the experiment, Mrs. Peach's notice was attracted to it, and a circumstance was thereby recalled to her mind, which to her had no significance at the time. Some time previously the servant was mesmerising her master (who was seated), in the course of which ordinary sleep was combined with the mesmeric influence, and his "jaw dropped." Her mistress directed her to "put it up." In performing this evolution, the captain called out, "What is Jane doing?" &c., &c.: at the same time *complaining of thirst*, and distinctly showing by the sucking and swallowing action, that the salivary glands were excited. Some surprise was felt at the time, but the occurrence had been altogether dismissed and was only recalled from witnessing my experiment.

I cannot note any decided alteration as regards the amaurosis, or the partial paralysis of the lower limbs. Still the fitful "glimmerings" continue to recur, and there is a very perceptible increase of strength, though voluntary motion (in the erect position) is not at command. However, his general health is certainly improved, his spirits are better, and his appetite is not to be found fault with; a bad night is now the exception.

He is making the attempt to discontinue opiates, and, hitherto, has succeeded better than could have been expected. His perseverance has been stimulated by having Miss Martineau's case read to him. This experiment was commenced on

Saturday, the 20th ult., since when he has abstained altogether. He has had three or four sleepless nights in consequence, accompanied by great restlessness, and craving; the effects of which have, invariably, been removed entirely, by the next dose of "nature's sedative," instead of "Batley's."

The patient has large expectations that the "advance of the sun," will tell in his favour. Hoping they may be realized,
I remain, my dear Sir, yours very truly,

J. HOLLAND.

What can be more beautiful and conclusive than this case? yet no doubt our *scientific* (?) profession will find something to cavil at. I do not complain of medical men refusing to believe mesmerism from mere report, it would, indeed, be unworthy of them to do so. But, when they see some of the first men, not only in our own profession but also in the church and at the bar, openly and enthusiastically advocating the cause, I think they might at least examine for themselves. And I do not hesitate to state that he must be a most unfortunate individual who, taking five persons indiscriminately for the purpose of experiment, does not find at least one of them susceptible at the first trial. I am quite sure the average is much above this in my own practice. I may instance an extraordinary circumstance which lately happened to me, by which a whole party became convinced of the truth of mesmerism. In January I went to Devizes to meet a party of relations and friends at dinner. Mesmerism was of course talked of and many a joke passed at my expense, but you shall see how I turned the tables. Having offered to mesmerise any of the party, (but without pledging myself to be successful) a lady volunteered. Her husband objected; I, however, left him with his wine and joined the ladies. The offer was soon renewed and I commenced: in ten minutes she became a living statue, though for the first five she was talking and laughing incredulously; I then called her husband and the rest of the party to see her, and much enjoyed their look of amazement and fright; they did not doubt her being asleep, and the next question was, how I was going to awake her, for she could not even smile when her husband spoke to her, though of a very lively disposition. After three quarters of an hour I convinced them that I could dissipate the effect as easily as I had produced it, and in a few minutes restored her to her former self. She described her sensations as having been most delightful. She had been perfectly conscious, but could not speak or move. She heard her husband cough, and wished to speak to him, but could not articulate.

The lady is not a *young hysterical female*, but the mother of a large family, some of them as tall as herself; she is well known to the whole neighbourhood, and I have no doubt the affair will make a little talk in the town.

Cases of this description make more converts than public exhibitions; indeed mesmerism had been much depreciated in the town of Devizes some years before by an itinerant mesmeriser, who could not of course inspire that confidence in his auditors, without which the most genuine phenomena appear like imposition.

In reference to the ether mania, which is now in course of finding its *proper* level, it may be remarked that mesmerists can have no objection to its monopolizing operative surgery. They would only wish to receive the same justice as regards their results, at the hands of the profession, that has been so eagerly accorded to the new agent.

I remain yours, very truly,

THOMAS CHANDLER.

58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe,
March 10th, 1847.

II. *Cure of St. Vitus's Dance.* By Dr. ENGLEDDUE.

DR. ENGLEDDUE states that he has sent us "the following case of cure of St. Vitus's dance, not because there is anything unusual in the course pursued, but because it is another instance of the value of mesmerism after the usual medical appliances had been tried in vain.

John C——, aged nine years, had been suffering for more than a month from St. Vitus's dance. His father consulted me in June, 1846. He presented the usual appearances, which it is unnecessary to enumerate. He could neither walk nor feed himself, and was in a truly miserable condition. After the administration of purgatives, he was placed under the influence of iron, and this was continued in gradually increasing doses for *six* weeks, at the expiration of which period he was not in the least degree improved, though no doubt further perseverance would have cured him. However, I persuaded his father to take the cure into his own hands, to abandon medicine and to try mesmerism, having witnessed its beneficial effects in other cases. He acceded to my wish and made passes before his son for half an hour, night and morning. At the end of a fortnight there was a slight improvement. In three weeks this was much more manifest,

and in *two months* he was quite well. *During the whole of this period he took no medicine.* While the disease existed he did not pass into mesmeric sleep, but so soon as this disappeared, his father was enabled to send him into the trance with the greatest ease. I believe this is not unusual. Sleep is not essential. Although in the majority of cases it is to be looked for, and to be wished for, nevertheless it is not necessary for the cure of disease.

Southsea, Hants.

III. *Cure of Tic Douloureux.* By MISS COLLINS.*

Dr. Elliotson begs to forward the enclosed to *The Zoist*.
Conduit Street, Jan. 1847.

Newark, Dec. 23, 1846.

Dear Dr. Elliotson.—The accompanying case I take the liberty of forwarding to you, as I feel persuaded it will afford you pleasure to know that mesmerism has again proved of infinite service in a most obstinate complaint, the sufferer from which had tried all means that the faculty advised for her recovery. But all was found to be alike unsuccessful, until she had recourse to mesmerism. About the same time that Miss Wolstenholme was afflicted and deriving benefit from mesmerism, a young lady, a friend of mine, was troubled fearfully with the same malady (*tic douloureux*), when my mother undertook to apply the same means, and which were attended with equal success. She was mesmerised every day for about a fortnight, when she was quite cured, and she has had no return of pain since.

I am happy to say I am quite well; and with grateful remembrances again apologizing for the intrusion upon your time,

I am, dear Dr. Elliotson,
Yours ever obliged,

John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.
London.

ELEANOR COLLINS.

Severe Case of Tic Douloureux.

On the 24th June, 1846, Mr. Wolstenholme, an officer of Excise, called upon my father to borrow an electrical ma-

* The cure of this young lady's contracted foot by mesmerism, and the history of the beautiful phenomena of her mesmeric state, will amply repay the perusal in Nos. xi. and xii.

chine, in order to employ it for his daughter, who is about 24 years of age, and was suffering, and had suffered for several years, with *tic douloureux*. As the instrument was not in Newark at the time, my father advised mesmerism to be tried, and I am happy to say it was employed with complete success. My father and I went to her house during the afternoon, and Miss Wolstenholme informed us that she had been suffering from *tic douloureux* in both sides of the face for nearly *five* years, and to so great a degree that she dared not, during the whole of last winter, venture into a room where there was a fire, but was obliged to remain up stairs in a cold apartment; and her sufferings were so great, that her life, she stated, was perfectly miserable. She had been under medical treatment for two months, but grew worse instead of better, though everything that could be thought of had been tried for her relief. I saw her this afternoon for the first time, in company with my father, who mesmerised her by downward passes for half an hour. In fourteen minutes she appeared drowsy, but did not go to sleep. At the expiration of the half hour the pain had diminished. My father then locally mesmerised her, which produced great pain in her arms and legs, more especially in the right arm, as well as pain under the left ear; but all was removed before we had been there an hour, and we left her feeling very comfortable.

25th. The patient came to our house this morning much better; she had had but little pain in the night, and *very* little this morning early. The effects by mesmerising her were the same as those produced yesterday, with the addition of pain in the neck. The general and local mesmerisation lasted for three quarters of an hour, when she said that she felt better than she had done for months; and she returned home quite free from pain. She called in the evening to be mesmerised, as slight pain had come on about five o'clock. She went away quite well.

27th. Has had no pain in the night, but she had a very little in the morning early.

28th. Her health and general appearance much improved, though sleep has not yet been produced. Violent pain returned for an hour at six o'clock in the evening, and for ten minutes at half-past nine.

29th. My father being obliged to leave home for a few weeks, she became my patient, and this morning *I* mesmerised her; she would have gone to sleep but for several interruptions. She had no pain at all on the 30th or following day, and only very little for a short time in the evening at the usual hour (five o'clock). Whilst mesmerising her on the

last-mentioned day, she experienced the sensation of hot water running down the left side.

July 2nd. Had no pain since yesterday, except for a very few minutes this morning. After mesmerising her for twenty minutes, she fell into a light and quiet sleep, which lasted for seven or eight minutes, and was exceedingly sleepy the whole of the half hour. Extreme pain came on for an hour in the afternoon, which she attributed to having walked very quickly.

3rd. Went to sleep in a quarter of an hour and slept six minutes; experienced great stiffness, and a prickly sensation in the left arm and hand.

4th. She says her pain daily diminishes. I made only a few downward passes to-day, but kept my fingers pointing at her eyes, which made her drowsy in a very few minutes; she slept for a quarter of an hour much deeper than she has hitherto done. Excruciating pain came on in the neck and head, which was removed by breathing upon, and then blowing over, the seats of the pain.

5th. Had a deal of pain before she went to bed; did not rest quite so well, and suffered very much till I mesmerised her. She attributed these uncomfortable feelings to the change of weather. I locally mesmerised her for an hour and a half, when she assured me she was quite easy again.

6th. She went into the mesmeric state in a quarter of an hour, and remained in it for sixteen minutes. She could recollect everything when she awoke, but said that while asleep she could hear very indistinctly, and felt all over as heavy as lead, and that sometimes she fancied she was falling into some place, and at other times that some one wanted her and pulled her head to the left—towards the place where I was then sitting.

7th. I mesmerised her for half an hour, when she slept for twenty-five minutes. Went away quite well.

8th. Had a very good night, and no pain since she left me at twelve o'clock yesterday morning. She went to sleep in ten minutes, and slept for twenty minutes. In the evening, though she had had no pain, I mesmerised her again; she slept for thirteen minutes, when something in the street disturbed her; but in five minutes she again went to sleep, and remained for a quarter of an hour.

9th. Daily improves, and in ten minutes the sleep was induced, and she remained in it for twenty minutes, and for thirty on the following day. I locally mesmerised the face before she went to sleep, and removed the pain in two minutes.

11th. Did not succeed in getting her to sleep, but sent her home quite well.

12th, 13th, and 14th. No pain except for a very few minutes. Went to sleep in five minutes and slept for half an hour. I asked her several questions which she answered in a whisper.

15th. Pain gradually diminishing. In four minutes she was in a sound sleep, which continued for a quarter of an hour; again in the evening for twenty minutes. She had a severe pain in her head, which was greatly relieved by local mesmerism.

16th. Had no pain since I saw her yesterday.

17th. Has had pain in her face since yesterday afternoon. I took all pain away before she left, but it returned in two hours afterwards, and did not leave her till mesmerised this morning, when she went to sleep in five minutes and slept for twenty: she went away quite well.

18th. Much better to-day; has had no pain since I mesmerised her last evening. I got her to sleep in three minutes, and she slept comfortably for half an hour. She fancied, as has been usual lately, that her head was separated from her body.

20th. To-day my mother mesmerised her for me. She did not go to sleep, but said she felt as though hot water was running down her. The pain which comes on but occasionally, now lasts but a very few minutes, and then is so slight as not to be worth naming.

21st, 22nd, 23rd. Three minutes is now sufficient to send her to sleep, in which she remains happily and soundly for about half an hour, when it expends itself and she awakes spontaneously. If by any chance she awakes before the usual time, two or three passes will send her off again.

28th. Very well indeed, and came for the last time.

Dec. 23rd. I saw Miss Wolstenholme to-day, and she informs me that she has had no pain whatever since *last June*, and that she is now quite well.

ELEANOR COLLINS.

Newark, Dec. 23rd, 1846.

"I have carefully read over the above statement of my case, and declare that every part of it is strictly correct.

"MARY ANN WOLSTENHOLME."

IV. *Cases of Tic Douloureux and other Nervous Affections, cured with Mesmerism.* By DR. STORER.

27, Brock Street, Bath.
December, 1st, 1846.

CASE I.—A gentleman, residing at Lansdown Place, called in February last to consult me about his wife, who had been suffering for a long time from acute pains and restlessness; she had had no sleep for the last two or three weeks, notwithstanding opiates had been prescribed by her medical attendants. He wished to know if mesmerism would be of any use; I told him I thought it would, and made an appointment to see her at six o'clock in the evening.

I found the patient in bed, in great pain; she told me candidly, that she only consented to see me to oblige her husband; she had no belief in mesmerism, and therefore did not expect any benefit.

I proposed a trial, to which she consented, and though interrupted two or three times by her own remarks, I was enabled to induce sleep in less than twenty minutes,—by half-past six. She remained in this state until nine o'clock, when she awoke, asked the time, appeared surprized, turned her head, and again fell asleep, and continued in this state until the next morning, six o'clock. She told her husband how refreshed she felt, and how much better she really was.

This report I received when I called the next day.

The patient's appearance also corroborated this statement as regards her looks. I then proposed a second trial, she said it was perfectly useless, *then*, as she felt so much better and refreshed, that she was certain mesmerism could not produce any further effect. She wished the operation postponed; I urged the present time, as it would more decidedly test its power. She incredulously consented, and told me, whilst trying her, I was only wasting my time; but opposed to all this, in less than twenty minutes, she was again asleep,—about half-past ten o'clock. A conversation was held in the room that did not disturb her, and I left directions for her to be allowed to sleep on. This she did until past two o'clock,—when being told the time, she made an effort to rouse herself,—and having friends present succeeded. She awoke quite free from pains, dressed in the afternoon, and again passed another comfortable night. I wished to continue my attendance during the week, but a summons to the country prevented that; though I was glad to be informed some time afterwards, that the pains and sleeplessness were both removed, and her general health improved.

CASE II.—A lady, residing at Camden Place, Bath, sent for me in July last to see her. I was informed that she had been suffering from violent pains about her head and face for the last few weeks; she had been attended by two medical gentlemen who considered the case to be *tic douloureux*, and prescribed various remedies, but without any good effects. A friend of her's who had been greatly benefitted by mesmerism, advised a trial; the lady consented, but told me she expected no benefit, having no belief in its powers.

I saw her on Sunday about two o'clock for the first time, and found her suffering from acute pain, particularly on the right side of the face and temple. After a short time I proposed a trial of mesmerism, and in a quarter of an hour produced sleep, with apparent freedom from pain. She remained in this state for half an hour, when I demesmerised her. She said she was now certainly free from pain, but she could not believe that to be the effect of mesmerism, inasmuch as she had not been to sleep; she however requested me to see her again soon, as about six o'clock the pains were always more violent. I returned about that time; she had been better since I left, but was evidently fearing the threatened attack, which was however much slighter than usual. I mesmerised her in less than ten minutes. There were, as before, two friends of her's present, who, knowing her expressed denial of the first sleep, now requested me to adopt some plan to satisfy her own mind when awake.

I moved the arms backwards and forwards several times, and placed one hand for five minutes over her face. After the half hour I again awoke her, as her friends did not like my leaving her in the mesmeric state, which I wished.

When demesmerised she was quite free from pain; but again doubted having been affected until satisfied by her own friends of what had occurred. Monday morning, I was informed that the patient had passed a quiet evening, had refreshing sleep, and only a slight return of pain this morning when she left her bed-room. All her doubts had vanished, and she had been anxiously looking for me. I again mesmerised her about ten o'clock and left her to awake spontaneously, which she did about one o'clock, and remained perfectly comfortable during the day. I saw her again in the evening, and left her asleep. On Tuesday I was told she had passed an excellent night, and had no return of the pain in the morning. I mesmerised her about three o'clock, and though the sleep did not last very long, she continued free from pain, and passed a good night. I continued my visits during the week. She had no return of the pains, says she feels her

health generally improved, and intends next week going on a visit to some friends. I heard from this lady two months afterwards, and she says that she has had no return whatever of her pains, and that if they should again annoy her, she will lose no time in having applied the only remedy she has yet found successful.

CASE III.—*Most violent Case of Tic Douloureux greatly relieved.*

Mrs. West, ætat. 50, residing at St. James's Parade, was sent to me in January last by a medical gentleman residing here, with an opinion from him to the following effect :—that it was one of the worst cases he had ever seen and that he had exhausted all his means without doing any good. The poor woman states, that she has suffered severely for the last three or four years, that sometimes the pain is so severe as to cause her to bite her lips, that she has frequently been without sleep for two or three weeks together, her eyes are constantly suffused with tears, and her mouth drawn aside by the pain. She has had several teeth removed with the hope of relief, but all to no avail. She has been under several medical men, and her case has excited much commiseration.

I willingly consented to try mesmerism, and though it was commenced during the coldest part of last winter, after a fortnight's mesmerising there was evidently induced a remission of the more severe symptoms; for instance, the pain lessened, she slept better, she was much more placid during the mesmeric sleep though frequently awoke by spasm, and her eyes less watery. I steadily persevered for about six weeks, and had the extreme satisfaction of seeing a marked change for the better. From fear of being troublesome, she unfortunately omitted to attend, and in three weeks time she became worse; I then resumed mesmerism, and in a few days brought her round to her previous improved state.

I continued mesmerising for another month, making fully three months, when she was so much improved, that some who met her did not know her for the same person. She now slept well, ate well, and was altogether a different person. In the summer she went away for two months, and imprudently sitting on the grass after rain, caught severe rheumatism, but her tic did not affect her. When she returned to Bath, finding her still suffering from rheumatism, she was again mesmerised, and in three weeks greatly relieved. The tic has scarcely returned. Should it do so, I have no doubt but that mesmerism will soon relieve it. She is now very

susceptible of mesmerism, and when I am busy Mrs. Storer finds no difficulty in affecting her.

In such a very extreme case, with a disposition to rheumatism, I can hardly hope for an entire cessation; but the good already effected has gone far beyond anything yet accomplished by medicine.

The gratitude of the poor woman is extreme, and, what is equally satisfactory, the good effects of mesmerism have in this case been acknowledged by three different medical men.

CASE IV.—Case of great Nervous Debility affecting the Head.

Mrs. H. a respectable married woman consulted me some time since in reference to her general health; she complained of great general debility, which she described as making her feel quite exhausted, with a constant head-ache, rendering her unequal to her duties at home.

As she had taken a good deal of medicine and without any benefit, her husband recommended her to try mesmerism. I found her very susceptible to its influence, and after a few times mesmerising, her head-aches ceased and her general health became much improved. She is very liable to cold which generally affects the side, and has usually been treated by depletion; but her husband, perceiving the good effects of mesmerism in the first instance, when her next attack began, in July last, sent for me. I found her with pains all over her, particularly in the side, and viewed the case as pleuritis with rheumatism. Knowing her susceptibility, I at once mesmerised her and left her asleep; she continued in this state for nearly three hours, and when she awoke, expressed herself much freer from pain. I saw her in the evening, and put her again to sleep.

Her husband informed me the next day, that she had slept nearly all night, and that in the morning she was much more free from pain, and the side also was considerably better: I found her up in an easy chair and again mesmerised her. She remained in this position for two hours, and, when she awoke, expressed herself to be nearly well. I attended her for two days more, making only four during the illness. She is now quite well, and looking altogether improved. Her husband and herself assure me that her last attack was precisely similar to her former ones, and that she has generally been confined from two to three weeks, and always remained extremely weak for a considerable time, until the present occasion.

This individual has been mesmerised now by me a great many times. Her case presents, in a very marked degree, almost all the mesmeric states, and on each occasion, after mesmerism, she expresses herself better. I sometimes avail myself of her offer, when I wish to give a private demonstration on this subject, her object being, as she says, to extend the knowledge of so valuable a remedy.

P.S. *Note to my Epileptic Cases in No. xvi.*

The number of these and similar cases, occurring amongst the poor in every city, is very great, and yet even a trial of the most simple and the safest remedy, mesmerism, is still withheld from our public hospitals.

It was only a short time since, that a gentleman here recommended a poor epileptic youth to one of the hospitals, and, having seen the good effects of mesmerism in several cases, ventured to suggest it to the medical officers. The written answer was, and that from one of the leading (!) men, "That none of the medical men of the Bath United Hospital understood the science (so called) of mesmerism." Another was asked some time since, why, in surgical cases, he did not give the poor, at least, the benefit of a trial; his reply was, because he thought there was *nothing* in it.

This same individual's attention was again more recently directed to the subject in consequence of the many painless surgical operations which had been actually performed. He then said, he should be afraid of trying it, lest apoplexy should ensue. What! Apoplexy be induced by nothing. Certainly, between the two opinions, there is only one step from the ridiculous to the sublime.

In justice, however, to two or three of the medical gentlemen connected with the hospital, I beg to say that all are not unbelievers, and that it is only the existence of certain prejudices or obstructions that prevents them giving it a fair trial.

J. S.

V. *Cure of Injury of the Spine and Contraction of the Leg.*
By Mr. H. HUDSON.

Liverpool, 30th Dec., 1846.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Dear Sir,—I perceive in your publication several accounts of cures effected by means of mesmerism, and think it will

yet be made a great blessing to the community if properly applied. I cured a young woman in this town by means of it, whom I providentially met as I was looking for a place of worship. Perceiving she was quite lame and apparently in much pain, I proposed to mesmerise her. But not understanding what that meant, she did not know what to say, yet felt inclined to submit to anything calculated to do her good, but at the same time she said she had no money to pay me. I told her if I could cure her she would have nothing to pay. Upon enquiry she informed me that about seven months since she had fallen while cleaning the outside of a window, and had injured her spine, the doctors called it a bruise of the spine; that she had been in York Infirmary five months, when she came to the one here, where she underwent several operations without receiving any benefit. She also said that she had had upwards of 200 leeches on her back, and had consulted about a dozen different doctors, but they could none of them do her any good.

During that time her left leg became contracted at the knee, so that she had to walk on her toes, and with great pain in her back. Her parents being very poor, she was almost reduced to the necessity of going to the poorhouse, having spent all her money besides pledging her clothes for support. Her mother was present during our interview. I desired the young woman to sit down, and was enabled to put her into the trance in about four minutes; her mother thought she had fainted, but telling her she was asleep, I tried to make her sing by singing myself, when she immediately joined me. Having desired her mother to assist me, I took hold of her leg and brought it quite straight, without causing her the least pain. On trying if she could walk by exciting the organ of Self-Esteem she did so quite well, which alarming her mother, she ran out and left the girl with me. In a few minutes her sister and another person came in, apparently much excited and alarmed, and I awoke her. It took me about four minutes, as she was in a very deep sleep. On asking her to walk across the floor, she got up and immediately said, "What have you been doing to my leg? it is now straight," and then walked about very well; but I perceived her heel was not properly on the ground. Having asked her if her back was still painful, she said the pain was quite gone, but it felt sore. I put her to sleep again that evening and the day following; but the next day being the Sabbath, I left her till Monday, when I brought her leg into a rigid state, which stretched the sinew at the back of the heel. On waking her she said, "Thank God, I have got

my heel to the ground again." I put her to sleep several times. On the Wednesday following, she stood all day at the wash-tub, and was perfectly cured. This was about four months since. I procured her a situation with a friend of mine, (Mr. R. N., at Wallington, near Newcastle-upon-Tyne), where she has been ever since, without any return of her old complaint, and gives perfect satisfaction to her master and mistress. Her name is Elizabeth Harley, and she lived in Edmund Street with her mother. She lived last when at service (where she left on account of her lameness) at Mr. Garthorpe's House of Correction, City of York.

This case has already been inserted in the *Liverpool Mercury*, and copied into several other papers from that. I have mesmerised several persons, and have always found it to do good when it takes proper effect. I will not trouble you further, but hoping this will meet with your approval, I have the honour to remain,

Your humble Servant,

H. HUDSON,

Cor. Sec. of the Liverpool Seamen's Friend Society.

P.S. We have made *careful* enquiries respecting the above-related particulars, and have *ascertained* that she lived with Mr. Garthorpe; was injured in her back, and dismissed from both infirmary and hospital; that she was at Leeds for some time, and sent to the House of Correction at York, with a good character, and taken into Mr. Garthorpe's service, remaining in some time, and proving herself a most excellent servant. On leaving it, she was at York entrapped and engaged by a woman who kept an improper house, but no sooner discovered this than she determined to make her escape; the woman refusing to let her go and keeping her in the house by force. The poor girl watched her opportunity, dressed herself in the best clothes she could lay her hand upon, got out through a window and made the best of her way to Liverpool, to which she was traced by a police officer and taken back to York, and tried by the Recorder, Mr. Elsly, who was about to pass sentence of transportation for seven years upon her, when, in her defence, she detailed the whole story; and persons being present who could confirm it, her sentence was commuted to confinement for a short period in the House of Correction. She was taken by Mr. Garthorpe again into his service, but not liking her confinement she attempted to escape, fell from a ladder and injured her spine. She then gradually became unable to

work, entered the York Infirmary, and after remaining there unrelieved for a length of time, and finally pronounced incurable there and at the hospital, she went to some friend at Liverpool. All this information was given by Mr. Garthorpe himself, who declares she was a most excellent servant, and that he is ready to give her a character to that effect.—*Zoist*.

VI. *Mesmerism not to be trifled with, though it kills nobody; or, James Cook alive and hearty.* By Mr. W. G. SMITH.
Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

DR. ELLIOTSON forwards to *The Zoist* an authentic account which he has received of a lad unexpectedly sent to sleep with mesmerism two or three years ago, at Deptford, and whom the *Times* and other papers represented as incapable of being awakened; so that thousands now believe he never woke, and positively died, and many thousands fear mesmerism, lest the party mesmerised should never wake again, whereas *every* person who goes into the sleep wakes sooner or later spontaneously.

Conduit Street, March 10.

2, Deptford Bridge,
February, 1847.

My dear Sir,

In an interview I had some time since with Mr. Chandler, of Rotherhithe, he gave me to understand that various unpleasant and ill-founded reports were in circulation, tending very much to retard the progress of mesmerism, and produce a feeling of terror of it in those who would otherwise avail themselves of that great therapeutic agent. These reports are, "that the lad, James Cook, mesmerised by me, is now dead, and had died in consequence of his being mesmerised." I beg most positively to deny this statement, and thus publicly to declare that he is alive and well, has grown up a fine young man, and was never in better health than at the present time.

It is true that his sleep was of a prolonged character, and so excited public attention that the police deemed it necessary to investigate the case. I was therefore visited at 2 a. m. by a special commission of that enlightened body (grave fellows, by the way, to report on a case of mesmerism), consisting of an inspector sergeant and private of the force, who, like Dogberry of old, showed their profound wisdom in their mode

of examination, by summing up the evidence and promising all parties a lodging in the station-house. Not being thoroughly satisfied whether they were acting right or wrong, a messenger was despatched for the police surgeon. Myself and Mr. Taylor, awaiting his return, sat in suspense, the sable pall of night being for a time illumined with the presence of these worthy functionaries. ("We felt inclined to suspect their places and in good faith to write them down—") We reasoned for a time upon the imprudence of such a step, but they "*knew the law*" (they were good and true subjects). The worthy Æsculapius came. He very blandly and candidly assured us he was quite ignorant of the ills or benefits of mesmerism. After feeling the pulse, gravely shaking his head, &c., &c., he said he should advise the inspector to leave the case in our hands, for should anything serious happen we could easily be found. We were pleased enough to hear that decision, for the inspector's impressions a few minutes previous led us to expect something worse; and well for all persons it happened so, as the consequences of a separation from the patient at such a time would no doubt have been attended with serious results: and I take this opportunity of publicly thanking Mr. Downing, the police surgeon of Greenwich, for his favourable decision, and saving me from the ordeal of an examination before a magistrate.

It may be well here to narrate some few particulars in reference to this case, trusting it may serve as a warning to those who would tamper* with this agency, especially the timid and inexperienced, who have no idea of the many inconveniences in which the young experimentalist is placed, when he loses that great essential to a mesmerist—confidence, or of the care invariably requisite to prevent another person from coming in contact with his patient.

Having attended an experimental lecture in Greenwich, by a Mr. Taylor, and witnessed a young lady (the daughter of a much esteemed minister), mesmerised, after being casually selected from the audience, at the first sitting, in ten minutes, and some of the higher order of phenomena produced in her, I naturally experienced a desire to know something more. During the subsequent week I read one or two cases, and I asked myself, why, if those effects were real, I should not produce them as well as other persons? my curiosity awakened, impulse pointed to me a patient. I then called James Cook, a lad in my father's employment, asked him to stand before me quite still and look me in the face.

* Medical men are the most fit to practice it IF they would.

He complied with my request; I placed him with his back against an iron steam pipe, which was affixed to some brick-work; I passed my hands in the way I had seen Mr. Taylor, and after making the downward passes for two or three minutes, his eyes closed, his breathing became accelerated, he lost all consciousness, and would have fallen had I not caught him in my arms.

This very much alarmed me, and I called to a young man, (one of my father's workmen) to hold the lad while I procured a seat. No sooner had the man touched him, than he went into a state of complete frenzy: he rose, threw his arms in all directions, strided along the workshop, and in a few minutes became quite furious and dangerous to approach; he opened his eyes and stared wildly, uttering incoherent sentences and fancied he was pursued by some demon, saying, "*That he had run him through with his sword and had him under the drawbridge by the castle,*"* and at length he sank on the ground exhausted.

At this I became terrified. My feelings it would be vain to attempt to describe. So completely was I overpowered that I allowed the boy to do as he pleased for some time without making any effort to restrain him, having so completely lost my power over him.

It occurred to me that a second lecture on mesmerism was to be given that evening in Greenwich, by Mr. Taylor, and to him I despatched the young man who had innocently done the mischief, desiring him, under no pretence whatever, to return without Mr. Taylor. The interval was to me dreadful. Imagine, Sir, yourself alone with a maniac, and you have a description of my position for nearly two hours. At some times during this interval he would narrate with remarkable accuracy any event that had taken place in his life, or passages of tales he had read; he was performing mental journies with the rapidity of thought, accurately describing places as if he were present that he had never before seen.

Mr. Taylor, upon hearing the facts of the case, with a generosity and kindness I can never forget, resolved to attend immediately. He only stayed to explain to an audience of 150 persons his reasons for absenting himself so abruptly. They, naturally thinking he was playing them a hoax, questioned him, and were clamorous till they heard the name. As soon as my name was mentioned, a great part of the audience who knew me accompanied Mr. Taylor and beset the house. I allowed them to enter, and numbers who an

* He was rather fond of reading tales of chivalry which would account for his using such language.

hour before were sceptics, departed convinced. They communicated to their friends what they had seen, who doubting everything unless it was corroborated by the evidence of their own senses, begged as a favour to be admitted also. Thus on the first evening (though my inclination was to keep the affair secret), a chain of circumstances over which I had no control caused the reports to circulate, which produced an excitement and interest in the public mind almost unparalleled by any other case.

When Mr. Taylor arrived, the boy was on a mental journey to the Temperance Hall, looking for Mr. Taylor, and watching the young man's actions, and accurately described the place and persons there. I will affirm previous to that time he had neither seen the place nor the lecturer. The numerous persons continually pouring into the workshop, he did not notice. Having mentally travelled home, he cast his eyes about the workshop and pointing to Mr. Taylor from among a group of persons, said, "That is the gentleman Walton (the young man who had handled Cook) was talking to at the Hall." It was impossible he could have heard who was Mr. Taylor, for among all the persons who were continually arriving, there was not a word spoken, except by myself and the boy. We adopted many means of awakening him, but in vain: on our questioning the boy on his own condition, he said, "*If I do not wake in 20 minutes, you must take me to bed, and, if I am not awake in the morning, you must send for this gentleman.*" Precisely on the expiration of 20 minutes, he seized my hand and dragged me away as quickly as he could through a dark room, avoiding any obstacle in the way, and threw himself on the bed. Some of the most striking of his clairvoyant powers showed themselves during the night: and several severe and satisfactory tests were applied, convincing to all who applied them.

After a long, long, and wearying night the morning came at last; but with it no hope, no improvement: his eyes remained hermetically sealed: he rose, washed himself, and ate his breakfast, and could observe the most minute object with as great accuracy as if he was in his normal condition. The whole of Friday passed in unsuccessful attempts to restore him. Towards the latter part of the day he opened his eyes: but to me his aspect was more distressing than before: his looks excited pity in all who saw him. The great excitement caused in the town induced hundreds of persons to visit him, by which, from a desire on my part that all by seeing him should be convinced, I was little aware I was retarding his recovery.

Nothing particular occurred that day : but at night I was honoured with a visit from the police, as I previously narrated. When morning arrived the lad was conscious of all that had taken place, and added that had they taken us away he would have followed wherever I went : for separation from me would have injured him.

Throughout the whole of Saturday numerous persons visited the case, including several medical men, also a Mr. D. Hope, now keeping a small chemist and druggist's shop on Deptford Bridge, but then a medical student on board the Dreadnought Hospital Ship, all of whom declared the boy to be in a very extraordinary state. In their experience they had never seen such a case before. Mr. Hope also to test whether the boy was insensible to pain, slyly ran a needle into his foot, and declared before a company of respectable inhabitants in a neighbouring tavern he was in the habit of visiting, that there was not the slightest manifestation of pain, and from his conversation led every one to believe in the reality of the mesmeric trance. This Mr. Hope was not only exceedingly interested in the lad, but did all he could to persuade him to take a powder he had prepared, as there had been no natural relief from Thursday morning till Sunday morning. But the boy resolutely persisted that "medicine would do him no good." How true must have been the boy's prevision, as was subsequently shewn by the written communication you so kindly forwarded to me, and which in my then critical situation, although I had a firm belief in the boy's ultimate recovery, burst through the dark clouds of despondency, diffused a bright ray of hope, and cheered me in the severest moments of trial through which I had afterwards to struggle. At this crisis your kind advice raised my drooping spirits, imparted fresh vigour to my exertions, and nerved me to the task I had before me.

Several persons determined should any thing serious have occurred to have raised a subscription to prosecute me. Mr. Hope afterwards wrote an untrue and impudent letter in *The Times*, and refused to repeat his charges of deception before a meeting of medical gentlemen that was convened. The chairman of that meeting, Mr. Atkins, surgeon, affirming "*that there was neither delusion nor collusion in the case.*"

On Saturday afternoon my situation and that of my patient became to myself and all concerned very alarming. About this time, sir, my mother called on you, when you, in the most gentlemanly and liberal manner gave your valuable advice, which led to the boy's restoration, by our complying with your injunctions, much earlier than could otherwise have

been done. You will recollect, sir, you requested no one should touch the patient but the mesmeriser; that he should also have whatever he desired, provided it appeared not decidedly improper: but to give him no medicine unless he prescribed it himself, as he would be his own physician. These injunctions were strictly adhered to, and after the crisis, which appeared about 10. 30 p.m., a gradual improvement took place, and on Sunday, 6 p.m., (as the boy had predicted,) he returned to his normal condition, though he laboured under extreme nervous debility for two or three days afterwards, and it required great care to subdue any returning paroxysm.

During the trance he could relate with astonishing accuracy all the minutiae of the coming pains and paroxysms, the date to the very minute, and the nature of the pain and the means to remove it; water was his sovereign remedy, external and internal, with mesmerism, to his ultimate recovery. All his statements were verified to the letter in the presence repeatedly of a numerous circle of friends, who stood by me during my trials, and prevented that depression of spirits which might possibly have occurred had I been thoroughly deserted. Some of those gentlemen had the pleasure of meeting you at one of your mesmeric demonstrations some short time afterwards, who could testify to the genuineness of the statements I now advance, and whose names, a delicacy on their parts prevents me from publishing.

But to return to Mr. D. Hope, for I cannot allow such conduct to pass unnoticed, reflecting as it does on the characters of all persons concerned. Mr. D. Hope's letter was inserted in *The Times*, and all his *assertions* stereotyped in every brain as *facts*. But how was it they were never contradicted? They were replied to and flatly denied by me in an answer I wrote. Not only the editor of that public journal but the editor of *The Examiner* treated my communications in the most contemptuous manner—never noticed them; they published untruth, and denied me an opportunity of replying. So much for the liberty of the press.

Thus I have furnished you with a brief statement of facts that occurred in connexion with this extraordinary case; as I have given them from memory I have omitted a considerable portion; for from the excited state of my feelings at the time and want of rest, not having slept throughout the Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, a period of 88 hours, I was unable to take notes. The lad required my undivided attention, nor

could I attempt to use a pen in his presence, for his curiosity to know what I wrote was intense, and if unsatisfied would have produced immediate paroxysms, and yet I dared not read anything about his own case to him. Some accounts reached the newspapers greatly exaggerating the leading features of the case: many were correct, but no authentic statement has before been published.

I do trust this letter will remove the impression from the minds of all who have hitherto been misled as to the effects produced on the "boy Cook of Deptford," and make it generally known that mesmerism, instead of injuring him, has, when subsequently properly applied, contributed very largely to restore to health a previously weak and ailing constitution.* I have mesmerised him a great deal since in accordance with his own wish, as he continually was saying during his trance that he must be mesmerised a great deal before he "got quite well."

Thanking you sincerely for the interest you have taken in this case, and the courteous and kind manner in which you have always received me and imparted so cheerfully any information I have required,

I remain, my dear Sir, with respect and gratitude,
Yours very sincerely,

To Dr. Elliotson.

WM. G. SMITH.

VII. *Cure of Deafness and Dumbness of above nine years standing.* By M. LA FONTAINE.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Sir,—Having received from my friend, Dr. Bunnett, the accompanying letter by M. La Fontaine, and believing that the facts therein stated are of great importance, I forward it to you in the hope that it may be inserted in the next number of your journal.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
13, North Audley Street, JOHN ASHBURNER.
6th Nov., 1846.

Bagnères de Bigorre,
Aug. 30, 1846.

Sir,—Your letter of July 19, arrived but yesterday; I lose no time in complying with your request.

Miss Georgiana Burton, 11 years old, became *deaf and*

* He is a surviving twin—the last child, and has a sister subject to fits. The father and mother and nearly all the family are of highly nervous temperaments.

dumb at nine months, after convulsions. She had also a paralysis of the face, which was so drawn that the left corner of her mouth almost touched her eye. She heard only when her left ear was shouted into, and then could not distinguish sounds.

Drs. Donellan and Mesnier proposed an operation in the throat; but did not promise success.

On the 29th of January, 1843, her family brought her to me. Having ascertained that her case was what I have mentioned, I determined to mesmerise her without sending her to sleep.

In an hour there was some effect on her sensibility, and afterwards she heard and endeavoured to repeat all the vocal sounds.

I continued to mesmerise her every other day for three months. At the end of this period, her deafness was completely removed; as were also the palsy and contraction of her features; and by the 1st of May she was really a pretty child.

During the three months of treatment, her sisters taught her to read, write and reckon, and to speak. But for an individual to learn to speak who has been deaf and dumb, and who has been made to understand in any way, requires much time and patience. A child is a year old before it is taught to say papa, &c.

The last time I saw her was in June, 1844. Her hearing continued: she did not yet speak well. Her face was natural, except when she smiled, and then a little contraction appeared.

I trust, sir, that this account will be satisfactory to you. If you desire further information I shall be in Paris about the 19th of September, and at your service.

I have the honour to remain, &c.,

CH. LA FONTAINE.

64, Rue Neuve des Mathurins, Paris.

VIII. *Instances of Clairvoyance and Double Consciousness independent of Mesmerism, in a Father and his grown-up Children.* By one of the Parties; in a Letter to Mr. Clark, Surgeon, of York Place, Kingsland Road.

July 11th, 1846.

Sir,—The present very interesting number of *The Zoist** you have so kindly lent me for perusal has brought to my recollection cases of double consciousness in my own family.*

* This (the 14th) number contained some wonderful instances of double consciousness without mesmerism.—*Zoist*.

In the years 1841-2 my dear respected father was frequently attacked with mental derangement, originating greatly I believe from the knowledge of the unfortunate circumstances in which I, his beloved daughter, was placed, owing to the sudden death of my husband.

The various scenes of mental delusion I was called to witness are not uncommon to gentlemen of your profession. I therefore pass them over simply to relate his strange knowledge of events.

When he was first attacked, I went to see him, but it was only at times that he recognized me.

My attention was first excited by the following incident. So soon as the meat for dinner was brought from the butcher's, of which he could have no possible knowledge, being confined to his bed and out of the reach of either seeing or hearing, he exclaimed, (pointing to the floor underneath which was the room it was in), "What a nice rump-steak, I will have some." Struck with his manner and also knowing that it was not our intended dinner, I replied, "No father, there is no rump-steak; we are going to have mutton chops:" he went into a great passion, declared that there was rump steak, that he could see it, and described the dish. I went down stairs, and to my utter astonishment beheld it as he related.

In the morning, without making known my intention, I took a basket and went into the garden to cut some cabbages and gather strawberries. The garden being at the side of the house, where there was no window to look into it, it was impossible for him to see me by ordinary vision. However, he turned to my sister, saying, "That basket into which Betsey is putting the cabbages and strawberries had better be moved out of the sun or the fruit will be spoiled; tell her she is not gathering strawberries from the best bed; she had better go to the other. When I was told of it, I was completely puzzled. During the time of my visit, wherever I went, whatever I did or thought of, was open to his view. My sister afterwards informed me that his medical attendant lent her some books for her perusal; one morning my father said to her, "The Doctor sends his respects and will be obliged for the books." Supposing some message had been sent, my sister replied, "Very well." In the course of a short time after, the Doctor's boy arrived with his master's respects and request for the books. On enquiry she found no previous message had been sent, nor enquiry made for them. We have both come to the conclusion that he must mentally have travelled to the doctor's and heard the message: I should think the distance three quarters of a mile.

Another time he said to my sister, "There is a handsome young man and an old woman coming by the coach this afternoon to see me." Sure enough to her surprise, when the coach arrived, it brought my brother and a nurse for my father. No one had any knowledge of my brother's coming or of his bringing a nurse with him. The distance from whence they came was eleven miles. I wish to call your attention to the circumstance, that here he did not recognize the parties though both well known to him; calling my brother a young man and the nurse an old woman, instead of mentioning their names.

When in his senses he knew nothing of what had transpired, and had no recollection of my coming to see him. He wasted away to a skeleton and died, midsummer, 1842, in the 64th year of his age. He never, until the time stated, had any mental derangement, though he certainly was for years very nervous. At that time I knew nothing of phrenology, so cannot give his development. I know he was a talented and very active man, a kind and affectionate father.

My second case is that of my eldest sister, though in priority of time before my father's, yet not so interesting. She was in a bad state of health some years, I suppose what might be called nervous. The circumstance I am about to relate occurred during a severe illness in which mental derangement took place. At one time she would take no food, at another eat most voraciously. One day we had ribs of beef for dinner. How it came to her knowledge I could never ascertain, but so it did, and she insisted to have some for her dinner. I gave her some, she wanted more. Fearing to make her worse, I would not give it her: she declared she would have it, but soon after went to sleep. I went quietly down stairs, took the meat out of the kitchen, carried it down through the beer cellar into the wine cellar, covered it over with a tub, put a weight on it, went up and found her just as I left her. During the night through fatigue I fell asleep, and was awakened by her calling to me. What was my astonishment when I beheld her sitting in bed with a slice of this beef cut the whole length of the ribs, devouring it like a savage. I asked her how she obtained it, and she positively declared that she fetched it herself while I slept; that while lying in bed she saw me go down, take the meat, and she described every particular. I believe she never left her bed when I hid it; and had she, there were three doors which I closed after me, and I must have seen her. When she recovered she knew nothing about it, but on a relapse told me all the circumstances again, laughing heartily at the trick she had played me.

In 1833 she died of the cholera.

My next circumstance is different, not occurring under derangement; but accurately remembered to this day.

My youngest sister, when seriously ill a few years back, saw distinctly the saucepan on the fire, and the watch, and she told the time by it. She was terrified at herself, and mentions it now with a sort of terror.

I leave these cases for your consideration, wishing I had known formerly as much of mesmerism as I now do. I most certainly should have made use of its great benefits. I should more minutely have watched these singular phenomena. There was much more, but I cannot connectedly remember it.

To your professional friends you can make what use you please of this paper; I am willing to come forward before them at any time, but my situation prevents me having my name made public. I do not possess the firmness of an Elliotson, or I might not care about publicity: my three children hold me back; the day may come when it may not affect them, and then I should like nothing better than to declare publicly what mesmerism has done for me. I was thinking this morning what an infinite source of trouble I have been to you three years next week since you first mesmerised me. A waggon-load of vagaries you have driven out of my head, perhaps saved me from a miserable end. I think I was following in my father's steps. My extreme excitability was awful: now I have none of it: I am calm and take untoward circumstances quietly. But had I fallen into some mesmerists' hands, they would have been sick of me ere this. You have persevered, and I have gained the benefit. And what have you for it? just what your master gets, (Dr. Elliotson, I mean,) that is, nothing; and I have nothing to give you but my gratitude. Accept this then as all I have to offer.

I remain, Sir,

Yours respectfully,

Mr. Clark informs us that the writer of this account has experienced the very same affections, but in a less intense degree. Her name is attached to the account, but we of course omitted it.

Mr. Clark was a student of University College, and has for ten years fearlessly admitted the truth of mesmerism, practised it and advocated it, and would at this moment fearlessly cure by its means, were he allowed, some remarkable

cases in Shoreditch Workhouse, of which he is surgeon. But he is forbidden by the philosophical authorities, and nothing is done for the poor sufferers. We fear the Poor Law Commissioners are not without fault in this.—*Zoist*.

IX. *On the Art of making Madmen at pleasure.* A Discourse delivered at the *Athénée Royal*, in 1846, by Dr. Fossati, President of the Phrenological Society of Paris.

THE study of the phenomena of the human mind, in all the different phases of life, and under the innumerable influences which act upon it, is full of charms and instruction, and is inexhaustible. The most profound observers and thinkers of all ages have made it the object of their thoughts and bequeathed their results in their philosophy, their morals, their legislation, and their religion. Yet, since, notwithstanding all their praiseworthy efforts, they were not directed by the light of natural science, they have left us in the chaos of principles, proverbs, and maxims, for the most part in opposition to each other and of no utility in the business of life.

The pretensions of some philosophers of the present day to select from all this what is good and reject what is bad, are absurd and ill founded; for colours cannot be chosen in darkness, nor can true gold be separated from the false without the aid of physical and chemical science: without the light of natural and physical science, sound philosophy cannot be constructed. Natural science is the light, the touchstone, of the philosopher, who will find it in cerebral physiology only, —in the study of the nervous system and brain examined in their nature and under the influence of the different causes which call them into action.

While pursuing this course, and devoting myself to investigations into the different forms of insanity and their causes, I was struck, nay, almost overwhelmed, in discovering that *a very large number of men*, my brothers, my fellow-creatures, were plunged during *their whole lives* in a kind of *artificial insanity*, by which their reason and judgment were for ever perverted; and I found, that in all ancient times, as at present, the remedies of this were forbidden.

The truth which I have the honour to submit to your examination, viz., that madmen can be made and are made, at pleasure, is not a pleasantry, as you might almost believe; but is, on the contrary, a reality, as positive as it is distressing and frightful. To-day, and especially on such an occasion as the pre-

sent, I can merely sketch out this subject, however fruitful it is in practical applications, and however instructive to those who have preserved the possibility of rectifying their opinions and of becoming convinced that what I declare to them is a truth. There is no time for a more ample development, and yet nothing deserves the attention, the study, and generous efforts of good men so much as the knowledge of this truth. If my convictions were to become general, the makers of madmen at pleasure would soon disappear from the earth, to the great blessing of mankind; and to this result probably is tending the progress which is now making in all positive science. Listen to me, therefore, kindly for a few moments.

Do not imagine that I am about to speak of the artificial madness induced by various narcotic or spirituous substances, which, when taken into our stomach or otherwise conveyed to our organs, produce derangement in our brain. I will limit myself to mentioning the chief of them. When these substances are administered accidentally and at intervals, they occasion temporary delirium or heaviness and stupor; but never true madness. All are acquainted with the delirium of drunkenness: with the temporary exaltation of certain faculties by opium, stramonium, hyoscyamus, and some varieties of mushroom and other analogous substances. Hachisch, which is used by various eastern nations to stimulate and intoxicate themselves and produce a temporary insanity, is the extract of a species of hemp. M. Viray has proved that this drug was known to the ancients, and that the *Nepenthes* of Homer,—the draught which Helen gave to Telemachus in the palace of Menelaus, in order to destroy the memory of his sorrows, was hachisch. The intoxication by this substance, Michaud says, is characterized by a kind of ecstasy, similar to what is experienced by the orientals from opium. In Malabar, the beautiful and adorned virgins who repair to the temple to appease the God of plenty, and begin to dance and jump, sending forth cries all the time, to exhaust themselves, to contort their limbs and eyes, to foam and do horrible things, were under the influence of a species of electuary, into the composition of which enters the Indian hemp (*Cannabis Indica*), administered to them by the Brahmins to deceive the people. De Kempfer, who saw and relates many of these facts, participated in them with his friends, from having taken a ball of Bengal electuary at a feast. They had scarcely swallowed it, before they began to laugh, to embrace each other, and, mounting their horses, they fancied they were flying in the air upon the wings of Pegasus, and that they were surrounded with rainbows. Dr. Moreau, in a work

recently published, has also made us acquainted with the properties of hachisch, which consist in causing the highest gaiety, mad laughter, and a total derangement of all the faculties. He tried it upon himself, and observed the progress of all the psychological phenomena of insanity.

I might likewise describe to you the fatal results of the internal use of cantharides, that almost always leads to madness, fatuity, and death. I have witnessed facts of this nature in my own practice.

Thus all spirituous or narcotic substances given in certain doses, and at intervals, occasion certain forms of cerebral exaltation or a mental derangement, which ceases as soon as the action of the substance on the organization ceases. If this action is too violent, too prolonged, or too frequently repeated, the individual falls into a state of muscular and intellectual exhaustion, and at length into fatuity and stupidity. The Orientals, and in particular the Chinese, while refusing to be poisoned by the English, have become acquainted with the dangerous effects of opium and hachisch, just as we of the West have become acquainted with the injurious effects of the abuse of spirituous liquors.

Enough upon the temporary delirium, and madness produced by medicinal substances. I could say much more ; but this is not the object of my discourse. There is another direct way to the brain, and of this I now purpose to speak.

Cerebral physiologists maintain that the moral and intellectual man, such as we see him during the whole of his existence, is invariably the result of a twofold source of causes or determining circumstances. First : his organization, such as is possessed by every individual, more or less good, more or less perfect, and generally very different in different persons.

Secondly : all the ideas and notions acquired by the external senses, all the impressions and all the sensations, all the knowledge which is furnished by our instructors, by every one with whom we associate, or with whom we are in contact in life, from the day of our birth to the day of our death.

If this is the twofold source of our moral and intellectual existence, (and it is unquestionable), you will perceive how much liberty of action remains for the poor human being from the moment of his birth. He cannot choose his sensations, nor give himself ideas and notions different from those which have been given to him by the persons and objects around him. This is the reason the people speak Chinese in China ; French in France ; are Mussulmans in Turkey ; Christian in Spain ; Brahminists or Budhists in India ; and Jews every where. This is the reason that mankind is igno-

rant in Africa and Asia, and somewhat informed in Europe. This is, finally, the reason why men are wood-cutters or forgers of metal on mountains and in forests, and hair-dressers, cabinet-makers, or painters at Paris.

Nature in vain produces fine and vigorous organizations, fitted to display talents and capacities of the highest order, if the human being from the earliest infancy is in the hands of persons who prevent just and sound ideas from reaching his intellect; if, on the contrary, all sorts of false absurdity, extravagant ideas, are insinuated into him, this poor creature who does not yet possess reasoning power, who, with his innate craving for knowledge takes in with perfect confidence all the instruction which is given to him, will become precisely such a moral and intellectual being as you will have fashioned him, and nothing else.

First, consider what a human being becomes in the absence of all communication with the external world; in the privation of all impressions upon his perceptive faculties; in the negation of all kind of instruction. You have a more or less complete idiot, accordingly as he receives few or more impressions in his form of existence. This frightful crime has been committed, and I can prove to you that idiots have been made artificially at pleasure. Permit me to adduce two examples only taken from modern times; it is well for you to be acquainted with them.

The first is the child called the Nuremburg child, brought up in a dungeon from his earliest infancy; set at liberty when 16 years of age, and abandoned in the streets of Nuremburg, he excited the attention of the magistrates, who ordered him to be educated at the expense of the city. In May, 1825, this young man was observed at one of the gates of the town, standing motionless. He was silent, but weeping; in his hand was a letter addressed to an officer of the garrison of the city. This announced that from 4 to 16 years of age, he had been confined in a cell, where he had been baptized (the good and true Christians!) and was named Caspar Hauser. On being questioned, he proved dumb, and wept: the word which he most frequently pronounced was *haara*, in order to express his desire to return to his cell. He was below the middle stature, of a mild and open countenance, his eyes were weak, but his look had an agreeable expression. His cell was dark, about six feet long, and four broad, and he had been supplied with bread, a pitcher of water, and straw for a bed: his feet had been always bare, and his only covering a shirt. In his imprisonment he had suffered more from thirst than from hunger: he had no notion of time, and

therefore could not tell how long he had been in captivity. He knew no language, for the man who had charge of him never spoke more than a few words to him, the meaning of which he knew but imperfectly. When he joined the world, all his sensations were at first very acute; light, motion, noise, the variety of objects gave him indescribable annoyance. Music gave him the first agreeable sensation. He afterwards became able to notice a beginning of order in the impressions made upon him.

The other example is more recent, and occurred at Paris. In 1838 the newspapers announced that a young man, named Willand, had always been kept in solitude by his father, up to the age of twenty. The phrenological society of Paris appointed a committee to examine him and draw up a report. The committee met at the Hospital St. Antoine, where the young man had been placed, and I drew up the report. He presented much analogy with Hauser; but, his separation from society having been less rigorous, his idiotism was less perfect; and the knowledge which he had acquired, though scanty, enabled him to answer our questions tolerably. He spoke French pretty well, but was ignorant of almost every thing: he was ignorant of the meaning of amusing oneself and growing sick of anything, had some confused notion of God, king, and law, and had some idea of design, though not more than a child four years old. His father frequently spoke to him and read him the newspapers; and his mother spoke to him occasionally through the door of his cell: consequently his faculties had been cultivated to a certain degree.

Willand was short, of a lymphatic temperament, weak, unable to walk, pale and thin; but had an agreeable physiognomy. His voice had no pitch: he could not bear the light. His forehead was very good, and the rest of his head well developed. Our craniological observations agreed with his psychological manifestations; and we found in him the rudiments of the more or less energetic faculties which his organization indicated, but which had remained inactive through his forced isolation for so many years.

Now, let the adversaries of cerebral physiology affect as much as they please not to perceive the fact, which we proclaim; let them repeat to satiety that as soon as a man has the basis of crime—to use their miserable language—we must of necessity commit crime; we shall always answer them with facts in our hands, that it is not enough to have a determinate cerebral organization, for the intellectual and moral phenomena to be produced which depend upon it, but

that every organ must be excited, exercised and cultivated, for it to manifest its peculiar faculty more or less energetically.

If the art of making idiots at pleasure exists, the art of making madmen intentionally also exists. I must explain and make myself well understood upon this point.

Madness is a derangement of the functions of the brain. This derangement is usually of long duration and without fever. The ideas and sensations are either generally or partially at variance with the laws of the functions of a regular organization, and with the real condition of external objects. In madness, the organs of voluntary motion and those of nutrition are usually not affected, and consequently madmen walk and use all their limbs, eat and digest, like the rest of the world.

Now it is evident that whenever we cause erroneous ideas to enter into the intellect of persons, or give false sensations, impressions, or notions, which are not in accordance with the real state of things, we have the power of making madmen of them. If afterwards we employ all kinds of means, even the most violent, to prevent the intellect from becoming enlightened by the true knowledge of facts; if we exert ourselves to prevent the judgment from ever establishing itself upon anything but hypotheses and imaginary fancies, we shall prevent the reason of these unfortunate persons from ever being established.

To effect this, it is necessary only for a certain number of people to obtain possession of one or more of the young children of a country, before their reason and judgment are formed, and to introduce or inoculate into their feeble intellects false and absurd ideas of the phenomena which surround them: to make them believe, for example, that there exist an infinite number of invisible personages who are the cause of every thing which strikes them; to give these beings extraordinary powers, and caprices, and monstrous passions; then to say that they are charged by these beings to execute their wishes in this world; to avenge them, serve them, satisfy them in every thing. You will then see that those people will have created an immense power over these their unfortunate fellow creatures, deranged fellow creatures, whom they have thus fashioned, and may even lead them on through all degrees of fanaticism to assassination, arson, destruction, and martyrdom, that is to say, to suicide. Such monomaniacs, for they are mad in one order only of ideas, retain almost all their mental faculties, no less than the power of motion and the nutritive functions, with the exception of those only in

which they are deranged. We, therefore, see the difficulty of recognizing this kind of insanity; especially, if the majority have been taught the same things. The banker, mentioned by Gall, as believing that his head was made of glass, carried on his affairs very well, kept his accounts and conducted his correspondence correctly, and his insanity betrayed itself only when the nature of his head was spoken of. It is the same with artificial madmen: you do not perceive they are such unless you strike the diseased mental chord and are not mad like themselves. But it may be said; it is a gratuitous assumption to suppose that any persons can have the horrible design and a regular system of so training human beings that reason and judgment can no longer shine upon them: it would be the most atrocious of crimes, to deprive a man of reason and intelligence which are bestowed upon him in order to place him above all other animals: it would be a crime against God and man: it is impossible.

Is it impossible?

Now do I feel the shortness of the time allowed me to lay open to you the horrible plots of the numerous associations which have no other object than this, and to display the hideous picture of horrors perpetrated upon artificial madmen. I should like to inform you of the schemes of all the makers of madmen of all times and in all countries, and unfortunately of the present day likewise. Let us take a few instances only, and these from distant lands; from the east,—Turkey, India, and China,—countries of which I am more at liberty to speak. Consider all the wars and massacres committed by the believers in all false religions; consider whether there is not delirium and furious madness in the conduct of these unfortunate wretches. I will borrow from the elegant pen of a great philosopher of the last century the description of the preparation for a religious war.

“A general warlike movement (says Volney*) took place in the two Tartar and Mussulman empires. On every side armed men were assembled; provisions, munitions, and all the murderous apparatus of war were displayed; and in both nations, the temples, beset by an immense multitude, presented a scene which fixed my attention. On one hand, the Mussulmans assembled before their mosques, were washing their hands and feet, paring their nails, and combing their beards; then spreading carpets upon the ground, and turning towards the south, their arms sometimes extended, sometimes folded, they made genuflexions and prostrations; and, in remembrance of the reverses which they had suffered in

* *Les Ruines*, p. 60.

the last war, exclaimed, 'MERCIFUL GOD! COMPASSIONATE GOD! has thou abandoned thy faithful people? Thou who promised to thy Prophet the dominion over nations and signalized their religion by so many triumphs, why dost thou deliver thy *true believers* into the hands of *infidelity*?' and the Imans and Santons said to the people, 'It is the punishment of your iniquities; you eat pork, you drink wine, you touch unclean things: God has punished you. Repent, purify yourselves, rehearse your creed, fast from morning to night, give the tenth of your property to the mosques, go to Mecca, and God will give you the victory.' Then the people taking heart, uttered loud cries; 'There is but one God,' they shouted furiously, 'and Mahomet is his prophet; cursed be ever one who believes it not. GOD OF MERCY, grant to us to *exterminate these Christians*: it is for *thy glory* that we fight, and our death is martyrdom for thy name.' Then offering up victims, they prepared for battle.

"On the other hand, the Russians on their knees exclaimed, 'Let us return *thanks to God* and celebrate his power: he has strengthened our arms to *humble* our enemies. MERCIFUL GOD, hear our prayers; to please thee, we will pass three days without tasting meat or eggs. Grant to us to *exterminate these impious Mahometans, and overthrow their empire*: we will give thee the tenth of the spoil, and build you more temples.' And the priests filled the churches with clouds of incense and said to the people, 'We are praying for you, and God accepts our incense and blesses your arms. Continue to *fast* and to *fight*: *confess to us* your secret faults; *give your property to the church*; we will absolve you from your sins, and you shall die in a state of grace.' And they sprinkled water upon the people, and distributed little bones of dead persons to make amulets and talismen: and the people *breathed nothing but war and battle*."

There is no necessity for me to quote the terrible executions of the Christian missionaries by the Chinese. They are well known. I need not remind you of the many millions of their fellow-creatures exterminated by Christians in America, Africa and Asia, in short every where.

A soon as a man fancies he will serve God by massacreing other men, he is ready for every atrocity. Have we not witnessed men in their furious delirium entering by night into the houses of those who held opinions and creeds different from their own, and, without having received the least injury, or provocation, or reason of complaint, nay, even without knowing them, murdering them in their beds or wherever

else they were found. You are aware that I allude to the massacre of St. Bartholomew.

Again, when people are made to believe that God takes pleasure in the sufferings, privations, and torments, which we inflict upon our bodies, the unfortunate wretches whose reason has been thus alienated are led from fasting and flagellations to suicide, that is, to the sacrifice of life amidst dreadful torments.

The Indians, believing that human sacrifices are agreeable to their gods, refuse to give evidence for the purposes of justice in questions of this nature. In different parts of Hindostan the efforts of the resident English have not succeeded in putting an end to human sacrifices. The Indian newspapers of last year report that the Rajah of Mogador having died on the day of a solemn festival, his corpse was carried to Marlesch, near Serampore, and burnt during the night: and his widow, sixteen years old, could not be prevented from perishing upon the same pile, firmly believing that the sacrifice would be agreeable to her gods and serviceable in the next world.* If this was not a genuine monomaniacal suicide, I know no other more real. But here, I beg you carefully to observe, it is artificial; for if others had not persuaded this poor creature that it would be very useful to her to be burnt alive, she certainly would not have acted thus. They made her mad, they deranged her reason, and she acted accordingly.

And when formerly, in our western countries, at the bloody ceremony, called *auto da fe*, the execution of the poor wretches convicted of heresy took place, and they allowed themselves, placed upon a pile in a public place, to be burnt alive, rather than give satisfaction to other madmen who had got possession of their persons, do you not perceive, in all these acts, ferocious, incorrigible madmen, rendered so artificially? We shudder at thinking of the madness of the spectators and executioners, of the kings and high officers coolly attending and even amusing themselves with such sacrifices. The miserable objects, in their frightful delirium, believed that it was a work very pleasant to God. To so enormous a degree of madness can men be artificially brought! Acknowledge with me, at least for the credit of our nature, that all these were in a true state of artificial insanity.

I could recite other instances without end, but I am contented to have proved to you, that man can make and does

* Within the last few weeks was a statement in the *Patriot* newspaper, that nearly 100 human beings were sacrificed at Calabar on the occasion of the funeral of a son of the late king.—*Zoist*.

make madmen at pleasure. I will add that I think no human being can escape this frightful condition, if he is placed early and entirely in the hands of those who are skilful in the art.

If any one satisfied of the justice of my observations should enquire the way to escape this insanity, since we are not able in our early childhood to give ourselves sound and positive notions of the truth of things, and may not be able to avoid those who make it their business to derange the natural order of our ideas and destroy our reason, I must own that the undertaking is difficult; for, in the East, those whose office it is to prepare entire generations of artificial madmen are associated with power and make common cause with it in turning the unfortunate wretches to profit. There they prevent every new and good idea from extending and propagating; they threaten and punish those who are enlightened and desirous of communicating their light to others; there, they bestow the greatest praise upon ignorance, and regard as perverse those who wish to reason upon every thing, and especially upon matters which concern them.

In the West, matters stand differently. There are countries in which reason can shew itself: but the difficulties to be overcome are still very great. There are *rooted prejudices, powerful conflicting interests, and great ignorance of positive truths in all classes of society. Those who sometimes seem well informed, are often truly ignorant, or are impenetrable madmen.*

The *only* mode of escaping artificial insanity is to devote ourselves to the study of *natural knowledge*; to admit nothing into our intellect that is not the result of *strict observation*: to believe nothing on authority when our own intellect can judge for itself and suffice for itself. If such is the tendency, Gentlemen, of the study of cerebral physiology, this science is destined to enlighten our fellow-men, to procure for them an increased amount of happiness by delivering them from the prejudices which surround them; it furnishes for all a pure morality, which flows logically from the natural and constituent laws of our intellect and moral feelings. Let the Orientals reject cerebral physiology as opposed to the interests of those who lead the flock; we comprehend this and regard it as natural on their part: *but in the West, where we witness the stratagems and fierceness of our adversaries, we are obliged to fancy that either they have the same interests as the Orientals to defend, or that they themselves are in a state of incurable artificial insanity.*

. This powerful and remarkable discourse, which deserves to be read and *pondered upon* night and day by every human

being, whatever his age, his acquirements, or his situation in life, and to be applied carefully to himself, was delivered at the great annual public meeting, at which visitors of both sexes are happily admitted, and was received, we understand, with absolute enthusiasm. Let those who are blind despisers of mesmerism examine their own condition dispassionately after its perusal.—*Zoist*.

X. *On the Art of suddenly restoring the Moral Feelings and Intellect to Activity in large Masses of Mankind.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

EVERY wellwisher of his species witnesses with indescribable delight the mighty change which has all at once come over the medical profession.

1. Up to nearly the end of last year, its members could not by entreaty or argument be induced to adopt a measure for preventing the pain of surgical operations, or even to listen with common patience for a single moment to any person who proposed or advocated one: and some went farther than mere indifference to human agony, and boisterously contended (in spite of common sense and the remarkable verse of the 2nd chapter of *Genesis*),* that agony in operations was an excellent thing. God was not thanked by the profession for having vouchsafed an escape from pain in surgical operations; nor were prayers offered to him to grant a mode of escaping it.

2. Up to nearly the end of last year, the possibility of preventing surgical agony was scouted by the medical profession; and the testimony of happy patients who by art had undergone an operation without any suffering was scouted too, as an impudent attempt at imposture, and those who listened to their testimony were treated as impostors or credulous blockheads. Some of those patients were supposed to be so constituted by nature that nothing could give them pain, though, except when they were in the mesmeric sleep, their agony was extreme; and the rest were declared to have only exerted a strong resolution and disguised their suffering, though many were fainthearted and unable to disguise their suffering when not in the mesmeric sleep, and all in the mesmeric sleep during the operation shewed no sign of resolution, neither grasped anything, clenched their hands, closed their mouths, bit their lips, nor held their breath, neither talked, laughed, nor sang,—made no muscular effort or any other

* See *Zoist*, No. xiii., p. 4.

kind of effort to prevent themselves from attending to their pain, nor displayed the physiognomy of determination, but lay placidly sleeping and breathing, perfectly *relaxed* and motionless from head to foot. Nay, their perfect relaxation and motionlessness were urged as a positive proof of their deception; for it was alleged that on whichever half of the body an operation was performed, the corresponding part on the other side would have moved during the incisions, ligatures, and avulsions, if the patient had really felt nothing! Some patients, as the lady whose breast was removed by M. Cloquet, and the man whose leg was amputated in Nottinghamshire, were unblushingly reported to have owned themselves impostors; nay the latter was reputed to have never existed.*

3. Up to nearly the end of last year, the medical profession persisted in displaying ignorance, not only of the difference between resolution and insensibility, but of the common phenomena of sleep-waking—a state which continually occurs as a disease no less than as the product of an artificial process called mesmeric. The fact of a person hearing who could not feel pain, of seeing and of observing the steps of an operation and not feeling pain, of being asleep in one faculty or external sense and awake in another, was too ridiculous to be talked of for an instant.

4. Up to nearly the end of last year, no variety or amount of testimony was regarded by the medical profession. Painless operations had been performed in America, the West Indies, the East Indies, France, Ireland, and Great Britain, aye, in England, abundantly; and in all amounted to nearly two hundred. They had been performed on young and old, and varied from the extraction of teeth to amputation of the limbs and the removal of tumors equal to the greater part of and even exceeding a hundred weight, and every operation had terminated successfully.† Of course these operations were performed by medical men; but, with two or three exceptions, these gentlemen were at the time little known, though able, and highly respectable, and not metropolitan hospital surgeons and teachers, nor even pure surgeons: to pure surgeons such matters were a stumbling-block and foolishness and even an offence. Teachers and practitioners in hospitals never alluded to these any more than to the other of the all-important facts of mesmerism before their pupils, except in

* See my Pamphlet, p. 81, 82, 83, and *Zoist*, No. ii, p. 210. A Nottinghamshire Surgeon of high reputation declares to this hour that the case was a fudge, got up to please Lady Mary Bentinck! but then he adds that he would not have believed the facts had he seen them!

† See my paper in the 16th No. of *The Zoist*, art. ix.

contempt and ridicule : no surgical books condescended to notice them ; the medical journals, however great their rivalry and mutual hatred, all agreed in preserving a dead silence in regard to *The Zoist*, though its contents are infinitely more important than those of the medical journals during the same period in a physiological and curative point of view, and will be referred to as records of authority and high import in the next half of the present century. In vain *The Zoist* presented its facts, proved them, and urged their deep importance to the man of science and the philanthropist. Assumed contempt, and positive hatred and injury, were the reward of all the disinterested labourers in this holy cause.

1. But, as the last year was closing,

—Quod optanti Divom promittere nemo
Auderet, volvenda dies en adtulit ultro.

The whole body of surgeons, public and private, great and little, lithotomist and dentist, metropolitan and provincial, suddenly felt it a solemn matter of conscience to prevent the agony of their operations, and all operators now glory in this benevolent anxiety, saying it has become a pleasure to operate as this can be done without torture, and they collect noblemen, clergy,* and barristers around their hospital tables to witness the most frightful exploits of surgery without a pang to the patient.† The possibility and duty of this are laudably urged upon the pupils ; and all medical journals laudably exert themselves to the utmost in the dissemination of the facts and the inculcation of the duty. The profession rushes in crowds to every hospital where a painless operation is about to be performed : and rushes from the most distant parts. Dr. Copland and Sir Benjamin Brodie are set perfectly at nought : the latter in the very building where in October last he laughed to scorn the idea of people expressing much pain from surgical operations, the idea of people not suffering pain although they seem to suffer none, and the idea of an hospital to prevent the pain of surgical operations.‡ Yes,

* The reverend Mr. Scobell, who last spring exerted himself to the utmost to prevent the patients of the Middlesex Hospital from having the agony of operations prevented (*Zoist*, No. xiv., p. 227), was this spring seen at St. George's Hospital witnessing the various painless operations !

† When these classes requested permission of me to crowd into the operating theatre of University College Hospital to witness, not bloody shows, but physiological and psychological phenomena of deep interest to every reflecting man, this was thought absolutely outrageous and improper by the persons who were my colleagues and by the council of University College, who refused me an *unoccupied theatre in the College for this purpose*.

‡ See *Zoist*, No. xvi., p. 596. See also my Pamphlet, p. 36, &c., &c.

in his own hospital, where so lately he made so remarkable a figure in attempting so strange a purpose in so strange a way; and is set at nought by those who, as in all other things, so in contempt and vilification of mesmerism, had always humbly obeyed him. For this every good man will respect the surgeons of St. George's Hospital: and will now respect Sir Benjamin Brodie, for he himself has just been there, though it is said after much entreaty, (but this part must be forgiven,) to witness painless surgical operations! Nay, some have had more than their benevolence excited; the effect on Mr. Wakley has been a deep religious feeling. He cannot be happy unless thanksgivings are publicly offered up to Almighty God for putting it in these latter days in the power of man to operate without pain upon his fellow-creatures. This combination of benevolence and piety will make Mr. Wakley universally beloved and respected; and no doubt is the forerunner of charity that never faileth, of gentleness, of peace, and universal goodwill in all his actions and in every page that he will henceforth pen. The *Lancet* must in future beam with heavenly-mindedness.

2. As the last year was closing, the medical profession suddenly admitted as reasonable men the possibility of preventing pain in surgical operations: and suddenly admitted as reasonable men that the absence of pain is capable of clear proof by the absence of signs of pain, no longer ascribing this to resolution; and suddenly believed implicitly, as good men thinking no evil, every poor patient who declared that he felt no pain. No patient was from this moment doubted: it was presumed beforehand that every one, though never seen before, would be honest. It was too ridiculous to think he could either sham or tell an untruth. Nay, if the patient screamed ever so much and declared he felt no pain, he was believed: if he winced, or made any movement, great or small, few or many, these movements were all called automatic, reflex, or excito-motory, and declared to be no proofs of pain. Nor were they, necessarily, any more than screams or groans. These movements might be automatic, or, as Prochaska called them, reflex; such as are seen in frogs when their limbs are pinched after their heads have been cut off. If these motions do not occur, the person very properly is not thought an impostor; as the poor man in Nottinghamshire was pronounced because he was universally motionless while his leg was cut off. If they do occur, it is not thought a proof of imposition when they do not occur in the opposite limb; an occurrence which was declared in the Medical and Chirurgical Society to be an unfailing test,—the

very phenomenon *crucis*. In the amputation of legs and arms no attention is paid to the opposite member: the fancy is wisely not thought of. Then cries are ascribed to simple fear or to frightful dreams. But the moaning of the poor Nottinghamshire peasant *after* his leg was off, though clearly owing to a dream, was ascribed to pain, nothing, during the amputation, that could be construed into an expression of pain, having taken place. To suppose the patients insensible of pain was at that time treated as too ridiculous an idea.

3. As the last year was closing, the profession not only suddenly became acquainted with the difference between resolution and insensibility, but with the phenomena of the sleep-waking state. Patients, it was now admitted, might not only suddenly groan and shrink and yet not feel, but they might hear and not feel, they might converse and not feel, they might talk as in a dream and not feel, they might see and not feel. If at the time they proved that they knew all that was going on, and they said they heard and yet felt nothing, this excited no surprise, and no doubt was excited, as had been the case with the members of the Medical Society because the poor Nottinghamshire man honestly said he recollected hearing once a kind of crunching, thereby puzzling the assembly and working his own condemnation and that of his mesmeriser and surgeon.

4. As the last year was closing, a brief account from America of a new mode of preventing pain in operations was at once, and properly, believed, fully relied upon, and thought worthy of immediate and general verification,—a generous compliment to our own countrymen who had laboured so perseveringly and set forth their own happy results for above three years! In vain the first medical journal that gave the account—the *Medical Gazette*, stated at the same time that it was said to have produced apoplexy in one patient and killed another, and denominated the process,—poisoning.

—— Sublatus ad ÆTHERA clamor.

Every one was wild to distinguish himself in benefiting his fellow creatures by the new means, and become

—— Super ÆTHERA notus :

suddenly coinciding with the hint given in *The Zoist*, for October, 1845, p. 311, by my learned and excellent friend, the author of *An Essay on the Xanthian Marbles*, Mr. W. Watkins Lloyd, who, after alluding to the mesmeric phenomena of Delphi and the influence of gases, said—"These instances suggest the question, whether experiments may

not be advantageously directed to test the efficacy of the gases in inducing mesmerism, coma, or somnambulism, or influencing it when induced." Dr. Collyer, another mesmerist, in a pamphlet published simultaneously in Boston, New York, and Philadelphia, in 1843, and quoted by me the same year in *The Zoist*, No. iii., p. 236, referring also to the Delphic oracle and the vapours from the earth at the spot, mentions that trance, somnambulism, &c., may be induced by various causes, and among the rest by "the *inhaling of narcotic and stimulating vapours.*"*

WE MESMERISTS HAVE NOW WITNESSED A COMPLETE VICTORY OVER ONE OF THE MOST REMARKABLE PREJUDICES WHICH EVER SIGNALIZED THE MEDICAL PROFESSION. If it is proved that the inhalation of sulphuric ether produces the insensibility to pain and the other phenomena which are alleged with one voice by medical men, it is proved that mesmerism does the same,—that mesmerism is true. *For the proofs of insensibility and the other realities common to the mesmeric and the ether state are the same.* The various high phenomena and the curative advantages of mesmerism must now be investigated by the medical profession, as all the ground-work is conceded in the case of ether.

BE IT REMEMBERED that mesmerism is perfectly innocent, never killed anybody; and never produced inconvenience except from ignorance and mismanagement! That, though not universally of easy application, it, when it takes, secures quiet nights after an operation, may be repeated whenever the wound is dressed or the least pain is felt, accelerates the cure, improves the health, and renders many operations unnecessary.

Having recorded a wonderful instance of the sudden restoration of the moral feelings and intellect to activity, on a certain individual subject, in a large mass of mankind, I shall postpone to the next number the consideration of the art of effecting this: and shall be happy to receive in the mean time the suggestions of all thinking men who make human nature their study, and especially shall I feel obliged for a

* *Psychography, or the Embodiment of Thought, &c.*, p. 26. In the *Jersey Times* for January last, Dr. Collyer states that in 1842 he made trials of the inhalation of stimulating and narcotic vapours combined, in above twenty persons; with entire success, the unconsciousness lasting from half an hour to two hours; that these experiments were the topic of conversation from one end of the United States to the other; and that above a thousand copies of his pamphlet were sold.

conscientious and searching account of the *personal experiences* of those of my professional brethren who have just gone through this wonderful change. The phenomena of their own consciousness observed conscientiously and detailed conscientiously will be invaluable to the science of human nature and the art of improving the character of mankind.

(To be concluded in the next number.)

XI. *Report of the Committee appointed by Government to observe and report upon Surgical Operations by Dr. J. Esdaile, upon patients under the influence of alleged mesmeric agency.* Printed by order of the Deputy Governor of Bengal. Calcutta, 1846.

"It (the *Rue Chantreine*) was scarcely built, when the two heroes of *modern quackery*, Cagliostro and MESMER, did it the honour of making it the scenes of their oracles, the precursors of PERFORMERS ON A LARGE SCALE."—*Edinburgh Review*, p. 98.

WE have received the Report of the Calcutta Committee mentioned in our last number (xvi., Jan. 1847), pp. 563, 4, 6, to which we beg our readers to refer.

The history of this Report is, that, in January last, Dr. Esdaile reported 75 mesmeric operations to the *Medical Board*, and offered to give this every facility for personal observation. *The receipt of his letter was not even acknowledged.* He waited till he had accumulated 102 cases, and then reported the fact direct to the *Government*, offering to satisfy any number of persons, in whom they had confidence, of the correctness of his statements.* Upon this the Deputy Governor ordered a Mesmeric Committee to be formed to *observe and report upon surgical operations to be performed by Dr. Esdaile in their presence*, and three members of the Committee were chosen for their well-known hostility to the subject, on the principle that one sinner's conversion is more convincing than the salvation of a thousand saints.

The members were,

J. ATKINSON, Esq., *Inspector General of Hospitals,*
Chairman of the Committee.

E. M. GORDON, Esq.

J. JACKSON, Esq., *Surgeon, Native Hospital.*

D. STEWART, Esq., M.D., *Presidency Surgeon.*

W. B. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., M.D., *Secretary of*
the Committee.

JAMES HUME, Esq.

A. ROGERS, Esq.

* In the report of the 11th sitting, the Committee say, "Dr. Esdaile

The Report is dated Oct. 9, 1846. We shall extract portions of it, and make occasional comments.

“Dr. Esdaile stipulated for the exclusive medical charge of whatever hospital wards might be devoted to the proposed experiments—for his having his own subordinate hospital establishment, those employed as mesmerisers in Hooghly—and for a daily sitting of the Committee. He further repeated his intention of restricting his experiments rigidly to native patients of the class usually received in Jail and Charity Hospitals, and he declined to perform mesmeric manipulations himself, on the ground of this being needless and detrimental to his health.”

Dr. Esdaile's object being merely to repeat in Calcutta, if possible, what he had done at Hooghly, it was necessary that he should be placed in like circumstances, as far as attainable, and the inmates of the Government Jail and Charity Hospitals had been almost exclusively his patients hitherto.

“The Committee have accordingly assembled on 14 successive days, and have had under their observation 10 surgical cases taken by Dr. Esdaile from the general wards of the Native Hospital, all needing operations of more or less severity.”

They were *given* to him by Dr. Jackson, and were *all* the cases requiring operations in his hospital; 4 were received during the sittings of the Committee.

“The patients treated were all native males, from 18 to 40 years old, Hindoos and Mahomedans, in all conditions of general health from extreme emaciation to ordinary strength. Their diseases are specified in the annexed roll.

“*List of Patients subjected to Dr. Esdaile's Mesmeric Experiments.*

No.	Name.	Age.	Admitted.	Disease.	Duration.
1	Cheedam	40	7th Sept. . .	Double Hydrocele ..	Several months
2	Bissonath	20	7th Sept. . .	Tumor of Scrotum ..	Ditto
3	Nilmoney	45	7th Sept. . .	Tumor of Scrotum ..	Ditto
4	Neelchul	35	7th Sept. . .	Phimosis	Ditto
5	Decloo	40	7th Sept. . .	Double Hydrocele ..	3 years
6	Jahiroodeen ..	33	7th Sept. . .	Hypertrophy of Colis.	2 years
7	Dohmun	40	10th Sept. . .	Hyper. of Scrotum..	Several months
8	Ramchund	18	13th Sept. . .	Hyper. of Scrotum..	2 years
9	Hyder Khan ..	30	16th Sept. . .	Mortification of Leg..	15 days
10	Murali Doss ..	30	14th Sept. . .	Hyper. of Scrotum ..	6 years

“W. B. O'SHAUGHNESSY, *Secretary.*

handed in an authentic copy of his first letter addressed to Government regarding his mesmeric operations in Hooghly. (Letter read and recorded as he desired.)” Why is this not printed? It was the foundation of the whole affair, and the origin of the Committee. From all that here appears, the reader might suppose that Dr. Esdaile had been dragged before the Committee, instead of his having dragged them before him by this letter to Government.

“The mesmerisers employed by Dr. Esdaile were young men, Hindoos and Mahomedans, from 14 to 30 years of age, most of them compounders and dressers from the Hooghly Hospital.

“To each patient a separate mesmeriser was assigned. The room in which they operated was darkened, but from time to time the Committee were enabled to witness, through small apertures made in the door panels, the manner in which the processes were carried on. The patient lay on his back, the body naked from the waist upwards, and the thighs and legs bare; the mesmeriser seated behind him at the head of the bed, leaning over him, the faces of both nearly in contact, the right hand being generally placed on the pit of the stomach, and passes made with one or both hands along the face, chiefly over the eyes. The mesmeriser breathed frequently and gently over the patient's lips, eyes and nostrils. Profound silence was observed. These processes were continued for about two hours each day in ten cases, for eight hours in one case in one day, and for six hours in another case, without interruption. Three cases of the ten, *Bisonath*, *Deeloo*, and *Nichul*, were dismissed without satisfactory effect; *Bisonath* suffering from slight cough which Dr. Esdaile considered to render the mesmeric manipulation ineffectual; *Deeloo* on the 5th day for having taken spirits, and *Nichul* having resisted the mesmeric processes during eleven days without conclusive result.”

Bisonath laboured under chronic bronchitis, which compelled him to clear his windpipe every ten or fifteen minutes; he was therefore physically incapacitated from sleeping long under any influence. This the Committee seemed to recognize, and the account of the impediment is too slight. It appears further on that this man was finally operated upon when sound asleep from 90 drops of laudanum; yet when the incision was made, he shouted, struggled violently for some minutes, talked loud, and his pulse rose to 120.

“In seven cases, in a period varying from one to seven sittings, deep sleep followed the performance of the processes above described.

“This sleep in its most perfect state differed from ordinary natural sleep, as follows.

“The individual could not be aroused by loud noises; the pupils were insensible to light; and great, and in some cases apparently perfect, insensibility to pain was witnessed on burning, pinching, and cutting the skin and other sensitive organs.

“This sleep in its general character differed from that which would be produced by narcotic drugs, in the quickness with which, in eight cases out of ten, the patient was awake, after certain transverse passes and fanning by the mesmeriser, and blowing upon the face and on the eyes; in the natural condition of the pupils of the eyes and the conjunctiva in all the cases after awaking; in the absence of stertorous breathing and of subsequent delirium or hallucination, and of many other symptoms familiar to medical observers,

and which are produced by alcoholic liquors, opium, hemp, and other narcotic drugs. It is right, however, to add that in two cases the patients shewed much confusion and disinclination to answer, and complained of giddiness for some time after being suddenly aroused."

The Committee, being ignorant of mesmerism, were not aware that this effect is common when the patient is suddenly awakened; and sagaciously suspected *bang* had been taken!

"In seven cases surgical operations were performed in the state of sleep above described.

"In the case of *Nilmony Dutt*, there was not the slightest indication of the operation having been felt by the patient. It consisted in the removal of a tumor. It lasted four minutes. The patient's hands or legs were not held. He did not move, or groan, or his countenance change. And when awoke after the operation, he declared he had no recollection of what had occurred.

"In another case, *Hyder Khan*, an emaciated man, suffering from mortification of the leg, amputation of the thigh was performed, and no sign of its causing pain was evinced.

"In a third case, *Murali Doss*, (the operation he underwent being very severe,) he moved his body and arms, breathing in gasps but his countenance underwent little change and the features expressed no suffering, and on awaking he declared he knew of nothing having been done to him during his sleep.

"A case of tapping one side of a double hydrocele is passed over as insignificant and inconclusive, for although apparently painless, the operation was repeated on the other side, while the patient was awake, with the same result. The operation too is one daily borne without material suffering, by numerous patients in all our hospitals."*

"In the three other cases observed by the Committee during the performance of operations in the state of sleep above described, various phenomena were witnessed, which require to be specially pointed out. While the patients did not open their eyes, or utter articulate sounds, or require to be held, there were vague and convulsive movements of the upper limbs, writhing of the body, distortion of the features, giving the face a hideous expression of suppressed agony, the respiration became heaving, with deep sighs. There were in short all the signs of intense pain, which a dumb person undergoing operation might be expected to exhibit, except resistance to the operator."

In no instance did any patient require to be held, or appear to know the *source* of his annoyance; and when the spectators wished to restrain their hands, Dr. Esdaile said it

* The case was most significant. After the operation, the man, being awakened and told all was ready, rose, took off his cloth, and in astonishment exclaimed, "God knew how it was done, he knew nothing of it." (p. 9.)

was unnecessary, While dissecting the scrotum off Ramchund's testes, his limbs, which were widely separated, remained perfectly rigid, and were never in the smallest degree approximated, nor did he ever approach the injured part with his hands. The movements described were as objectless as the fluttering of a fowl after its head has been cut off.

"But in all these cases, without exception, after the operation was completed, the patients expressed no knowledge or recollection of what had occurred, denied having dreamed, and complained of no pain till their attention was directed to the place where the operation was performed.

"It therefore becomes a question whether the writhings and distorted features, in the three cases above described, are to be regarded as proof that the operations occasioned, at the time, the actual agony of which such symptoms are the usual evidence, or whether they were mere 'instinctive movements,' as Dr. Esdaile represents them. But our province is only to record facts, and not to enter upon that of the physiologist or the metaphysician.

"The general result arrived at then, on the question of pain during the mesmeric surgical operations we witnessed, amounts to this, that in three cases there is no proof whatever that any pain was suffered, and that in the three other cases *the manifestations of pain during the operation are opposed by the positive statement of the patients that no pain was experienced.*

"The following table shews the curious fact that in the three cases in which there was no evidence of pain the pulse rose remarkably during the operation. But in the cases in which there were the symptoms of pain described above, the pulse continued exactly the same before and during the operations.

STATE OF PULSE.

Patient.	Disease.	Before.	During.	Immediately after.	Operation.
Nilmony ..	Tumor	84	124	Natural .	Apparently painless
Ditto.....	Dressing changed on 12th Sep.	80	108	Natural .	Apparently painless
Domun....	Tumor	72	72	Natural .	Doubtful.
Jahirudin ..	Excision of thickened prepuce	60	60	Natural .	Doubtful.
Ramchund .	Tumor	68	68	Natural .	Doubtful.
Hyder Khan	Amputation of thigh.....	108	112	100	Apparently painless
Murali Doss	Tumor	68	108	72	Apparently painless

"The Committee having been satisfied, by the cases above cited, that by the mesmeric method sleep could be so deepened in some instances, as to permit of the performance of severe surgical operations without pain, *according to the declarations of the patients*, considered that their next duty 'in testing the efficiency of Dr. Esdaile's mesmeric processes' was to ascertain the *ratio of susceptibility* to the influence in a large body of cases."

Why is, "and the evidence of our own senses," not added and added in *italics*? The Committee had both.

“Dr. Esdaile was accordingly invited to take 100 *individuals at random* from Dr. Jackson's wards, subject them to mesmeric manipulation before the Committee, and shew what number of the 100 could be brought into the condition of insensibility to pain. This experiment Dr. Esdaile declined to undertake.”

Dr. Esdaile no doubt looked upon this as a trap to smother his positive successes in hoped-for failures.

“With respect to the amount of bleeding during operations performed in the mesmeric sleep, and which Dr. Esdaile considered as being very much less than in ordinary operations, three of the four medical members of the Committee have expressed their opinion that there is no material difference observable.”

This is contrary to experience.

“Neither do the medical members consider that the after treatment of the individuals operated on, was in *any degree ameliorated, or the cure accelerated*, by the operation having been performed in the mesmeric sleep.”

The Committee had no means of *knowing* this even if true. By their journal it will be seen that their opportunities of observing 6 cases, which required a month or six weeks for their cure, were,

8 days in	1
6 „	1
5 „	1
4 „	1
2 „	1
0 „	1

The last case was the removal of a scrotal tumor 16 lbs. in weight, which left a wound 38 inches in circumference, and the Committee never saw the man again!

“To the capability of removing or the renewal of dressings during the mesmeric sleep, without disturbing the patient, Dr. Esdaile attached much importance, as, by avoiding pain, he considered the cure to be accelerated. The Committee witnessed the painless removal or application of dressings from extensive wounds during the mesmeric condition in four cases, but the gentleness and care with which the process was performed left it *doubtful* whether the patients would have made any complaint had mesmerism not been resorted to.”

Why was this left in doubt? The Committee had daily opportunities of observing the conduct of the men when dressed without the aid of mesmerism, and in Dr. Esdaile's absence. Is not this *wilful* ignorance?

“But in one case, *Ramchund*, an examination of the wound, of a peculiarly painful nature, was required, involving two separate

incisions; just as the first was completed (it lasted about a quarter of a minute, and caused writhing of the body and distortion of the face) he awoke, and on proceeding to the second step, he shouted aloud in pain and terror, and struggled so violently that the operator could not proceed.

“The uncertainty of the time required in producing the intense condition of the mesmeric sleep, in the majority of the cases now under notice, appeared very unfavourable to the general introduction of mesmeric manipulations in the practice of surgery, *especially in hospitals*. But Dr. Esdaile states positively that by frequently changing the mesmerisers, and performing the manipulations without interruption, the same result may possibly be produced within one day, which would, in the manner pursued before the Committee, have been necessarily extended over several days. In the cases of *Hyder Khan* and *Murali Doss*, several mesmerisers were successively employed, and the result seemed to the Committee corroborative of Dr. Esdaile’s statement.”

All the Committee knew about mesmerism was what Dr. Esdaile had shewn them during fourteen days; and what did they see? that he operated on *seven* out of *ten* men given to him, without one of them knowing anything about it; and these were *all* the cases requiring operation in the largest hospital in Calcutta during a fortnight! *Quem Deus vult perdere, &c.!*

“The Committee further apprehend that a serious practical obstacle to the *universally useful* application of mesmeric processes exists in the resistance to the sleep, which, Dr. Esdaile acknowledges, is given by cough, by pain, by mental excitement, by fever, and by the sinking state of the vital system induced by protracted and dangerous disease.”

One would suppose they were sitting in judgment on the philosopher’s stone.

“The case of *Bisonath* is referred to on this point, who was dismissed from treatment by Dr. Esdaile’s desire on the 5th day, in consequence of his having a slight habitual cough, which Dr. E. considered to interfere with his mesmeric treatment, and to disturb that of the other cases in the same room.

“There are further and serious considerations involved in this subject, to which the Committee deem it their duty briefly to advert. Admitting the existence of a natural power of producing the mesmeric sleep, there are strong grounds, even in the facts before the Committee, for supposing that persons thus treated are rendered subsequently more and more susceptible to its influence; their nervous systems are, it appears, brought into a morbidly impressible condition. The professional members of the Committee regard this point as one deserving of attentive notice. If this increase of sensibility and susceptibility exposes the patients to numerous nervous

maladies, too much caution cannot be observed in extending the practice to the ordinary and often trivial exigencies of surgical diseases. It is, however, only by prolonged experiments skilfully practised and faithfully recorded, that conclusive evidence can be gathered on this most important question."

They saw nothing but the beneficial effects, and had no business to speculate upon the subject. They were a Committee of *observation*. Their speculations are ludicrous.

"The Committee deem it necessary to represent most respectfully to the Government that, impressed with a strong conviction of the importance of observing with the strictest possible scrutiny every case or experiment brought before them, they have found it requisite to meet daily for fourteen successive days from 7½ to 10 a.m., during the observation of ten cases of which three were inconclusive. The Committee respectfully submit that the responsible public duties on which most of the members are employed, must suffer serious interruption were the enquiry to be followed up under their observation and *with equal strictness*, to the requisite extent for the decision of the doubtful points they have indicated. At the same time the Committee feel that the subject is one demanding the most accurate and authenticated observation of every experiment which is brought forward. The Committee also solicit the instructions of Government whether, should further enquiry be resolved on, it is to be limited strictly to such experiments as Dr. Esdaile wishes to perform, or whether the Government wish the Committee to extend the investigation as they think desirable.

"In conclusion, the Committee are unanimously of opinion that great credit is due to Dr. Esdaile for the zeal, ability, and boldness with which he has taken up and pursued this enquiry. His sphere, however, has been hitherto limited, but the Committee hope that his further investigations may be extended to medical as well as surgical cases, to European as well as native patients, and to the elucidation of the several questions which have been adverted to in the course of this report."

One of the non-medical members of the Committee saw so much that he disapproved of in this report, saw that some of the opinions of the medical members were so silly and unsupported, that he drew up one for himself. This must be allowed great weight, because, as editor of a newspaper, he had rained all kinds of abuse on Dr. Esdaile and mesmerism (knowing nothing about either, as usual) from the beginning; but he is a manly independent person.

It is well known that the other lay members agreed with him, and only signed the whole for the sake of peace.

"MINUTE BY MR. HUME.

"I have signed the Report, because I agree with all its facts: but the paragraphs 27, &c., (of p. 56), I objected to when they were

under discussion, and, as on further consideration my opinion remains the same, I desire to express it. I think the paragraphs in question calculated to create an unfavourable impression of mesmerism as a surgical and medical agent, neither warranted by what we have seen, nor by the reasoning applied to what we have not seen.

“I desire, in the first place, to make an observation on paragraph 22 (1st of p. 55). The proposition therein alluded to I was not aware of until after Dr. Esdaile's reply had been received. I should not have supported it, considering the position in which Dr. Esdaile was placed by the Committee. He had distinctly declined to do more—before anything was done—than attempt to substantiate the fact of painless operations by virtue of mesmerism, and the question of ratio of susceptibility, however important in itself, was beside *that* question. I think it right to say thus much, because the Report does not state whether the Committee considered the reasons assigned by Dr. Esdaile for declining the experiment sufficient; I think they were.

“Para. 27 (1st of p. 56). I dissent from the opinion expressed at the commencement of this paragraph. I do not think the uncertainty of the time required for producing the intense condition of the mesmeric sleep ‘very unfavourable to the general introduction of mesmeric manipulation in the practice of surgery, especially in hospitals.’ I think if a severe operation can be performed without pain, it is a very secondary consideration whether the patient has to be mesmerised one hour or twenty-four hours. So far from the objection being specially applicable to hospitals, it seems to me that it is much less so than to operations out of hospitals, for where there is a large establishment there may be mesmerisers without inconvenience, and the cost I throw out of the question. If the introduction of mesmerism into our hospitals necessarily involved the abolition of some existing system, it might be at present a questionable change; but why it should not be *introduced* if it be once proved that painless operations can be performed by its means, I am at a loss to imagine.

“I did not consider the Committee was called on to report on the question of introducing mesmerism into hospitals, but as an opinion is given unfavourable to its introduction, as at present informed I must record my dissent.

“Para. 28. I object to this paragraph, because the Committee was not called on to report on the ‘universally useful application of mesmeric processes;’ because I have never understood that mesmerism was asserted by Dr. Esdaile, or by any body else, to be universally applicable or infallible; and because it appears to me, after other portions of the Report, to be setting a possible failure under some circumstances against positive success under other circumstances,—as though a person were to descant on the invaluable properties of quinine, and then complain that it could not be turned to account while a patient was in a high state of delirium and fever.

“Para. 29. The case of Bissonauth, referred to in this paragraph, is a weak one; in fact it proves nothing. At the end of five days he was dismissed from treatment because he had not been

mesmerised and had a cough: but another patient was dismissed after *eleven* days because he had not been mesmerised,—and he had no cough. The Report speaks (para. 28) of what Dr. Esdaile ‘acknowledges’ about the causes which do, or may, give resistance to the mesmeric sleep, and those specified might appear to have naturally that effect; but we have seen so much that is *unnatural*,—such as a man bearing a red-hot cinder on his breast without flinching, and this simply because a boy had breathed on his face and made some ‘passes,’ that I, for one, am not prepared to say that mesmerism cannot quiet a cough, soothe mental excitement, allay fever, and defeat the hostility of pain. *Resistance* to the mesmeric sleep is one thing, the power to defeat it another: to assert that because there is *resistance* there is ‘a *serious* practical obstacle to the universally useful application of mesmerism’ is not logically correct; but if it were, what is there under heaven of which we can declare the ‘universally useful application’ to assuage the ills that flesh is heir to,—except patience.

“Para. 30. This paragraph expresses the opinion of the medical members of the Committee on a point of much interest; certainly on one calculated to create distrust, if not alarm, of mesmerism. Being however a portion of the Report which the non-medical members are to sign, I may be permitted to say a few words upon it.

“It is said there are strong grounds for believing that parties who have been once mesmerised ‘are rendered subsequently more and more susceptible to its influence, their nervous systems are, it appears, brought into a morbidly impressible condition. If this increase of sensibility and susceptibility exposes the patients to numerous nervous maladies, too much caution cannot be observed in extending the practice to the ordinary and often trivial exigencies of surgical operations.’ All that the Committee has had an opportunity of *observing* is, that patients become gradually more susceptible of the mesmeric influence: we may take it however that the results of constant and prolonged practice on a mesmeric patient would be seriously prejudicial, but why suppose the abuse instead of the use of this agent! I am not aware that any one would see occasion for extending the mesmeric process beyond the accomplishment of the operation and subsequent treatment of the patient, and there is no evidence, that I am aware of, to show that in the ordinary period required for these purposes the nervous system is likely to be prejudicially affected.

“The paragraph alludes to surgical cases: it may be most important as regards the application of mesmerism to purely medical cases.

“JAMES HUME.”

We can fancy the wry faces of the doctors: “they eat their leek, and eke they swear.” But their wry faces can only convince the spectators that the compelling power must have been irresistible which forced them to make so distasteful a meal.

The following is the Government's acknowledgment of the Report of the Committee.

"To J. ATKINSON, Esq., *Chairman*; and W. B. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., *Secretary of the Committee appointed to observe and report on Dr. Esdaile's Mesmeric Experiments.*

"Government of Bengal,
Judicial—~~the~~ 4th No-
vember, 1846.

"Gentlemen,—I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated the 9th ultimo, forwarding the Committee's Report, with Minutes of their proceedings and various documents referred to, the whole of which have been perused by the Hon'ble the Deputy Governor of Bengal with much interest and attention.

"2. It appears from this Report that ten persons requiring surgical treatment were subjected to the supposed mesmeric process; that of these, three were dismissed without effect, and the other seven patients, after various intervals, were thrown into a deep sleep, which however, according to the Committee, differed from natural sleep in as much as 'the individual could not be aroused by loud noises; the pupils of the eyes were insensible to light; and great, and in some cases apparently perfect insensibility to pain was witnessed on burning, pinching, and cutting the skin and other sensitive organs.' On the other hand this sleep differed from that produced by narcotic drugs 'in the quickness with which in eight cases out of ten the patient was awoke, after certain transverse passes, and fanning by the mesmeriser, and blowing upon the face and eyes; in the natural condition of the pupils of the eyes and the conjunctiva in all the cases after awaking; in the absence of stertorous breathing, and of subsequent delirium, or hallucination, and of many other symptoms familiar to medical observers, and which are produced by alcoholic liquors, opium, hemp, and other narcotic drugs.'

"In the seven cases in which deep sleep was produced, operations were performed during this sleep; and the result is stated to be that three operations and one dressing were, to all appearance, perfectly painless; and in the other three there were 'all the signs of intense pain which a dumb person might be expected to exhibit, except resistance to the operator.' 'But,' the Committee add, 'in all these cases, without exception, after the operation was completed, the patients expressed no knowledge or recollection of what had occurred, denied having dreamed, and complained of no pain, till their attention was directed to the place where the operation had been performed.' It appears from the following table given by the Committee, that the state of the pulse in these cases was not what might have been expected; being raised greatly in the apparently painless operations, and remaining unaffected in those which were accompanied by symptoms of pain.

" 'The general result arrived at, then,' say the Committee, 'on the question of pain during the mesmeric surgical operations we witnessed, amounts to this, that in three cases there is no proof whatever that any pain was suffered, and that in three other cases the

manifestations of pain during the operation are opposed by the positive statement of the patient that no pain was experienced.'

STATE OF PULSE.

Patient.	Disease.	Before.	During.	Immediately after.	Operation.
Nilmoney ..	Tumor	84	124	Natural .	Apparently painless
Ditto.....	Dressing changed on 12th Sep.	80	108	Natural .	Apparently painless
Domun....	Tumor	72	72	Natural .	Doubtful.
Jahirudin ..	Excision of thickened prepuce	60	60	Natural .	Doubtful.
Ramchund .	Tumor	68	68	Natural .	Doubtful.
Hyder Khan	Amputation of thigh.....	108	112	100	Apparently painless
Murali Doss	Tumor	68	108	72	Apparently painless

"The Committee conclude their Report by adverting to the necessity for an extensive as well as accurate observation of the phenomena attending mesmeric agency, of the existence of which they seem to entertain little doubt. They attribute great credit to Dr. Esdaile for the 'zeal, ability, and boldness with which he has taken up, and pursued this enquiry;' but they remark that his sphere has hitherto been limited, and they 'hope that his further investigations may be extended to medical, as well as surgical, to European, as well as native patients; and to the elucidation of the several questions which have been adverted to in the course of this Report.'

"3. The Deputy Governor concurs entirely with the Committee in thinking that though the investigations upon which their Report is founded have been upon a scale too confined to warrant any definite conclusion as to the existence and applicability of mesmeric agency to surgical cases, yet the results hitherto observed are of sufficient importance to warrant a further prosecution of the enquiry. At the same time, His Honor is fully aware of the value of the time of the members of the Committee, and that, as they have themselves observed, the responsible public duties on which most of the members are employed, must suffer serious interruption, were the enquiry to be followed up under their observation, and *with equal strictness*, and to the requisite extent for the decision of the doubtful points they have indicated.

"4. Under these circumstances, the Deputy Governor is unwilling to tax unnecessarily the time and convenience of the gentlemen forming the Committee; and in releasing them from the necessity of further attendance, I am instructed to convey the acknowledgments of the Government, and to express the satisfaction of the Hon'ble the President in Council as well as of the Deputy Governor of Bengal with the manner in which the Committee have performed their part in these important proceedings.

"5. The Committee's Report has been ordered to be published, and the Deputy Governor entirely concurs with the remark of the President in Council, that it is sufficient for the present that it should be allowed to work its own way towards producing conviction among the profession and the public; and that, at this stage, any more direct encouragement on the part of Government to the

general introduction of the mesmeric practice would be premature. But so far has the possibility of rendering the most serious surgical operations painless to the subject of them, been, in His Honor's opinion, established by the late experiments performed under the eye of a Committee appointed for the purpose, as to render it incumbent on the Government to afford to the meritorious and zealous officer by whom the subject was first brought to its notice such assistance as may facilitate his investigations, and enable him to prosecute his interesting experiments under the most favourable and promising circumstances.

"6. With this view His Honor has determined, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, to place Dr. Esdaile for one year in charge of a small experimental hospital in some favourable situation in Calcutta, in order that he may, as recommended by the Committee, extend his investigations to the applicability of this alleged agency to all descriptions of cases, medical as well as surgical, and all classes of patients, European as well as native. Dr. Esdaile will be directed to encourage the resort to his hospital of all respectable persons desirous of satisfying themselves of the nature and the effect of his experiments, especially medical and scientific individuals in or out of the Service; and His Honor will nominate from among the medical officers of the Presidency, 'Visitors,' whose duty it will be to visit the hospital from time to time, inspect Dr. Esdaile's proceedings, without exercising any interference, and occasionally, or when called on, report upon them, through the Medical Board, for the information of Government. On these reports will mainly depend what further steps the Government may deem it expedient to take in the matter.

"I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

"Your most obedient Servant,

"(Signed) FRED. JAS. HALLIDAY,

"*Secretary to the Govt. of Bengal.*"

The account of the wonderful painless mesmeric operation of the removal of a tumor weighing 112 lbs. is printed by Government, though it was performed after the Committee had adjourned—a high compliment on the part of Government to Dr. Esdaile. Our account of it in our last number, p. 563, &c., was carried down to only the second day after the operation. But we here find it continued to the ninth, when the man was doing well and had every prospect of a good recovery.

It is clear that but for the good sense and firmness of gentlemen not of the medical profession, the Report would have been more wretched, more unfair, more the result of miserable feeling than it is, and that no mesmeric hospital would have been established. The Government Secretary deserves high praise and thanks. He witnessed the facts and judged for himself, like an honest, intelligent, and wise man.

The editors of the Indian newspapers saw the matter in its true light and did themselves honour. The following are passages in some of them :

“ We have received the report of the Mesmeric Committee, which we intend to publish to-morrow, together with the minute of one of its members, Mr. Hume. The report itself reminds us of a coat made by a fashionable tailor, but patched by botchers with cloth of a different quality and colour. Its very title is an impertinence. It states itself to be a report of surgical operations upon patients, under *Alleged Mesmeric Agency*. These three words being printed in far more conspicuous types than any others in the title. What would the Chairman think of a criticism of certain drawings, *alleged to be from the pencil* of Dr. Atkinson or the Secretary, of a review of a Manual of Chemistry, *alleged to be by* Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy. The term might have been very properly though not very courteously used before the investigation, but after signing the report in which the fact of mesmeric agency is admitted, the term *alleged* is wholly out of place. To save the trouble of reverting to the report to-morrow, we shall make a few observations on it at present. In paragraph 5th, the committee say, that they have had under their observation ten surgical cases, ‘taken by Dr. Esdaile from the general wards of the native hospital.’ This expression would induce the reader to believe that Dr. Esdaile had selected these cases as being peculiarly favourable to his mode of treatment ; but it is not stated, as it ought to have been, that these cases were received from Dr. Jackson, and *were all the* cases in the hospital requiring operation. In the ninth paragraph, the committee say, that ‘The room in which they [the mesmerisers] operated was darkened, but from time to time the committee were enabled to witness’ the manner in which the processes were carried on. They have omitted to state that they could look whenever they pleased. In the same paragraph they state that one patient, Bisonath, suffered from slight cough, which ‘Dr. Esdaile considered to render the mesmeric manipulation ineffectual.’ It should have been added that this patient laboured under Chronic Bronchitis, which compelled him to clear his wind pipe every 10 or 15 minutes and that therefore uninterrupted sleep could not be expected.

“ In the 12th paragraph, the committee admit that ‘This sleep in its general character differed from that which would be produced by narcotic drugs,’ and mention ‘the absence of such symptoms as are produced by alcoholic liquors, opium, hemp and other narcotic drugs.’ But they qualify this by

saying.—‘It is right however to add, that in two cases the patients showed much confusion and disinclination to answer, and complained of giddiness after being suddenly aroused.’ They do not add that they had been warned of this, nor do they seem to be aware that it is a common and well known effect of mesmeric agency.

“In the 17th paragraph, they say of one patient, who was tapped for a double hydrocele, that his case “is insignificant and inconclusive,” because, though the operation, under mesmeric influence, performed on one side was “apparently painless,” it was repeated on the other, when the patient was awake, with *the same result*. We are informed that the patient had no pain whatever till tapped the second time, when awake, when he felt the usual pain in the loins.

“In the 21st paragraph, the committee state. ‘The general result arrived at then, on the question of pain during the mesmeric surgical operations we witnessed, amounts to this, that in three cases there is no proof whatever that any pain was suffered, and that in the other three cases *the manifestations of pain during the operation are opposed by the positive statement of the patient that no pain was experienced.*’ To this it might have been added in fairness to the operator, that in no instance did any patient require to be held or appear to know the source of his annoyance.

“In the 25th paragraph, the Committee mention that they witnessed ‘the painless removal of dressing from extensive wounds during the mesmeric state, but the gentleness and care with which the process was performed left it doubtful whether the patients would have made any complaint had mesmerism not been resorted to.’

“The Committee would have done well to have witnessed, by way of removing their doubt, the same process in the natural state.

“In the 22nd paragraph, they mention having invited Dr. Esdaile to take 100 cases at random from Dr. Jackson’s wards, and they state that he declined this experiment, but do not give his reason in their report,—that it was because he has made a rule of never mesmerising those who did not need it. The Committee were requested by him to mention his original report to government of 102 operations performed without one death. This, however they have thought proper to omit, though the proportion of deaths in similar operations under ordinary surgery, is a most important consideration.

“The Committee having thus declined to do what they were requested, proceed to do what they were not asked, by reporting in paragraph 28, against the *universally useful*

applicability of mesmerism, because certain enumerated diseases resist it.

"They also object, paragraph 30, that there are strong grounds for supposing that persons mesmerically treated acquire an increase of susceptibility and sensibility, which 'exposes the patients to *numerous nervous diseases*.' Why do they not propose to banish opium and prussic acid, and a hundred other poisons from the pharmacopœia? Is there any powerful agent which may not be misused?

"The Committee having thus performed their duty to mesmerism, we hope they will admit that we have performed ours to them. There is one member, however, who having signed a separate minute, deserves a special notice, and we give it with the greater pleasure, because we think his difference with his colleagues highly creditable to him. This gentleman is Mr. Hume. Our readers know that while he was editor of the *Star*, he lost no opportunity of ridiculing mesmerism and its promoters. He might, therefore, have been expected according to the usual pride of human nature, to have been ashamed to avow his previous errors, and to have obstinately adhered to first convictions. On the contrary, it will be found that he has candidly yielded to evidence, and though, like St. Thomas, he was not satisfied till he had put his hands into the wounds, he has yielded to sufficient testimony with far more candour than his colleagues. We abstain from extracts, because we intend to publish the whole minute to-morrow, but we beg particularly to refer our readers to it, because the testimony of a witness who has previously been a determined opponent is particularly valuable. We had nearly omitted one point which requires notice. The committee say, paragraph 23, that three out of four of the medical members think that there is no difference in the loss of blood by patients operated on mesmerically, and those in the ordinary manner. But Dr. Stewart, in opposition to them, positively asserts that in the common operation for the removal of large tumours, 'the bleeding constituted the chief, nay the only difficulty;' but in the mesmerised cases, though the first discharge was large, 'the flow immediately stopped,' and he adds, that in one case not a single artery required to be tied for at least 10 or 12 minutes along the whole surface of a wound measuring '38 inches in circumference.'

"Surely the reporters ought to have noticed this fact, and not merely stated a difference of opinion with their colleague.

"The Deputy Governor entertains a different opinion of the importance of the enquiry from that held by a majority of the committee, for he desires the Bengal Secretary to

inform them that 'So far has the possibility of rendering the most serious surgical operations painless to the subject of them, been in His Honor's opinion established by the late experiments performed under the eye of a committee appointed for the purpose, as to render it incumbent upon the Government to afford *to the meritorious and zealous officer* by whom the subject was first brought to its notice, such assistance as may facilitate his investigations, and enable him to prosecute his interesting experiments under the most favourable and promising circumstances.'"—*Englishman*, Nov. 10.

"When some time since we published a long series of extracts from Dr. Esdaile's work on mesmerism, we understood that the Government at Bengal had given orders for an official inquiry into the efficacy of the mesmeric influence in the case of surgical operations: the impression on our minds being at the time, that the investigation would be of sufficient duration and extent to satisfy the mind of every rational man upon the subject, who should think proper to inquire into it.

"In this last particular we have been disappointed. The investigation, it appears, was limited in duration to the period of *fourteen days* only, whilst the persons to be experimented upon were restricted to the very inconsiderable number of *ten*.

"The result, however, has been all that the advocates of mesmerism can desire. For, of the ten persons forming the subjects of investigation, three only could not be mesmerised at all; whilst of the remaining seven—all of whom were subjected to surgical operations of considerable severity—three, who, from "distortion of feature," *appeared* to suffer, neither required to be held, nor offered any resistance whatever to the operator, and on awaking declared themselves to be wholly unconscious of what had been done to them. A fourth case was deemed "inconclusive," in consequence of the same person having, in another instance, borne a similar operation without showing any sign of pain; whilst in the remaining three not a symptom of feeling was displayed, the insensibility to suffering being apparently most perfect.

"It is remarkable enough to find in the face of facts like these, that the *medical* portion of the Committee of Investigation was still disposed to throw cold water upon mesmerism, as an agent in the surgical hospital. But as *their own report* of the *facts* submitted to them was found to be in direct opposition to their expressed "*opinion*," as to the importance of this new surgical agent, *the Government* of Calcutta has

very wisely, as we think, given much more weight to the *facts*, upon which the Committee were instructed to report, than to their mere *opinions*, which appear to have been rather impertinently *thrust* into the report in the face of the instructions.

“And accordingly the Government has now determined on giving Dr. Esdaile a much wider theatre for the demonstration of his experiments, namely, a small hospital for that express purpose; and a much more competent set of judges than two or three prejudiced men—namely, *the public*, who, under proper regulations, are to be admitted to the Mesmeric Hospital under the charge of Dr. Esdaile.

“In concluding his observations upon the subject, the editor of the *Bengal Hurkaru* says:—

‘These results are considered by the public as ‘completely establishing the pretensions of Dr. Esdaile, and as proving the efficacy of the mesmeric agency. The Report of the Committee, however, which is considered as that of the medical members who formed the majority, is generally considered to display much of jealousy and prejudice against the new power. It has been much criticised by the local press, which is unanimous in its condemnation. The Committee, however, though evidently bearing no good will to the science, has been constrained by the facts elicited to recommend further investigation, and the Government has, as already mentioned, determined to place Dr. Esdaile in charge of a small hospital, to which the public is to be admitted to witness his operations.’ ”—*The Ladies' Own Journal*.

“We are glad to observe that Dr. Esdaile satisfied the Government Committee, and that he is immediately to be put at the head of a Mesmeric Hospital. What will the English persecutors of Dr. Elliotson say to this act of the Government of India? *It is of little consequence what such persons now may say or think. Truth has prevailed in spite of them.*” —*Ceylon Observer*, Nov. 19, 1846.

“The new hospital will be advantageous, for mesmerism as a remedial agent is applicable to a vast variety of cases, which do not fall into the hands of the surgeon, and though the effects on these are less striking than in such terrible operations as those which we have had to record, yet they are not less important; and considering the great advantages possessed by a public institution, we can scarcely doubt that the foundation of the intended hospital will prove an era in the medical annals of India.”—*Englishman*.

“The *Hurkaru* gives the following summary of the opinions of the Calcutta press.

‘That the conclusions of the Report, as distinguished from the record of facts, have been dissented from by the whole local press our contemporary will hardly deny. Our own verdict we need not repeat.’ The *Englishman* looked on the Report ‘as a coat made by a fashionable tailor, but patched by botchers,’ and he straightway pulled it to pieces. The *Calcutta Star* concurred with Mr. Hume in his objections to certain paragraphs which were ‘calculated to create an unfavorable impression of mesmerism as a surgical and medical agent, neither warranted by what was seen, nor by the reasoning applied to what was not seen;’ and it subsequently admitted—we quote the words for the last time—that “a certain degree of jealousy is no doubt to be detected in the Report;” and that this had led to ‘weak and illogical conclusions.’ The *Eastern Star*, though as our contemporary says, repudiating the attempts made to identify the motives of the majority with that of professional jealousy and bias of educational routine, expressed its ‘concurrence with the general public opinion against the impropriety of certain paragraphs appearing as a portion of the Committee’s Report;’—and then followed the steps of its daily brother in controverting the conclusions embodied in those paragraphs. And lastly, the *Friend of India* speaks of ‘the evident reluctance which the members of the Committee, with one exception, have manifested in admitting the facts established by these experiments.’ If, then, the press has not been ‘unanimous in condemnation of the Report,’ it certainly has been most wonderfully unanimous in its *disapprobation* of that part of it which, as Mr. Hume well expresses it, was ‘calculated to create an unfavourable impression of mesmerism as a surgical and medical agent, *neither warranted by what we* (the Committee) *have seen, nor by the reasoning applied to what we have not seen.*’ ”—*Delhi Gazette*, Dec. 24th, 1846.

In a letter to the editor of the *Star*, December 20, Dr. Esdaile, after giving an account of the institution of the mesmeric hospital, and the directions given to him, ending in these words,—

“His Honor expects too, that you will encourage the resort to your hospital of all respectable persons desirous of satisfying themselves of the nature and the effect of your experiments, especially medical and scientific individuals in or out of the service,”—

subjoins the following remarks :

“The last paragraph only recommends a continuance of the

course I have pursued from the beginning, that of making all who took any interest in the subject, welcome to witness the daily routine of my hospital practice, and I shall, of course, be happy to continue it.

"I beg leave to take this occasion to indicate to the public the cases which, in the present state of our knowledge, are considered the most likely to be benefitted by mesmeric treatment.

"1st. All persons requiring serious surgical operations will, if possible, be reduced to a state of insensibility before being operated upon, but this usually requires a considerable time, varying with each person's constitution. A very great majority of the natives who require surgical aid, may have the advantage of painless operations—during the last eighteen months, I have operated on 120 persons without one of them knowing anything about it.

"2nd. The action of mesmerism is also beneficial in many medical diseases; it has been found very effectual in nervous pains—debility of the nervous system—palsy from functional derangement of the nerves—rheumatism—muscular contraction of the limbs. But people are too apt to imagine, because mesmerism has done so much that could not be done before, that it can do anything, and in consequence, I am daily expected to perform all kinds of impossibilities. Like every other natural power, it has its appropriate and limited sphere of usefulness, but this has still to be determined by experiment to a great extent.

"I hope that the editors of the native newspapers will be good enough to explain the nature of the new Institution to their countrymen, who are principally interested in it.

"I am, your obedient servant,

"J. ESDAILE.

"Calcutta, 19th Nov., 1846.

"P.S. If any one supposes that this is only a Government Charity Hospital, I beg leave to correct this wrong impression at the outset.

"The Deputy-Governor wishes all classes of the community to benefit by this institution; and rooms will be set apart for rich persons to be mesmerised in. I should neither have the means nor the time to conduct their cases at home, but they can resort to the hospital daily to be mesmerised, and when prepared, they may be operated on in their own houses, if they prefer it.—J. E."—*Delhi Gazette*, Dec. 24th, 1846.

XII. *More painless Surgical Operations in India.*

THE *Bombay Bi-monthly Times* gives the following report of Dr. Esdaile's surgical operations for the month of January.

"Dr. Esdaile's mesmeric report for the month of January has been published. It is a highly interesting document, and fully proves the inestimable value of mesmerism as an aid in the performance of surgical operations. The scirrhus

breast of a woman, aged 50 years, weighing seven pounds, has been removed, and the patient cured. A tumor of the scrotum, of thirty years' growth, weighing forty pounds, has been cut off and the patient cured. Another of thirty pounds, a third of one hundred pounds, and a fourth of small size, have all been excised with perfect success—the whole of the operations being performed during the mesmeric trance, without in most of the cases the slightest knowledge on the part of the patients of what had been done to them till awakened by the operator! Dr. Esdaile concludes his report as follows:—"From the foregoing facts I consider myself entitled to say that it has been demonstrated that patients in the mesmeric trance may be insensible to the loudest noises; painful pricking and pinching; the cutting of inflamed parts; the application of nitric acid to raw surfaces; the racking of the electro-magnetic machine; and the most painful surgical operation, and yet be aroused into full consciousness by the exposure of their bodies, for a few minutes to the cold air. All the persons admitted last month for operations have been disposed of except one." We are sorry we have not room for the report entire. Dr. Esdaile deserves to be ranked amongst the greatest benefactors of the human race."

It gives also, from the *Crescent*, an account of a painless operation by another gentleman, and at Madras.

"We understand that a successful case of mesmerism occurred in this place, on Saturday last, in which the patient was relieved of a large tumour, situated on the upper part of the back, by the skilful operation of the mesmerist, Dr. Johnstone. The entire operation occupied about a quarter of an hour; during the whole of which period the patient remained in a state of perfect insensibility. We believe Dr. Johnstone was assisted by Superintending Surgeon D. S. Young, and Assistant Surgeon George Smith, M.D.: and that there were present besides the lady's husband, the dressers and the nurse. Professor Key was to have witnessed it, but was prevented, much to his disappointment. The tumor weighed upwards of three pounds after extraction.' "

We must here repeat the words of the editor of the *Bombay Bi-Monthly Times*: "*Dr. Esdaile deserves to be ranked amongst the greatest benefactors of the human race.*"

XIII. *Explanatory Letter from the Rev. Edward Bickersteth.*

Watton Rectory, Ware,
February 1, 1847.

Sir,—A friend having pointed out to me the remarks in *The Zoist* on a passage in my *Signs of the Times*, I frankly admit that an expression which I used in that passage was unguarded and improper. The words “supernatural and therefore diabolical,” conveyed an idea far from my mind; but I think that the general tenor of the paragraph, which you fairly gave at the head of the article, would shew that I was only alluding to those peculiar powers claimed by the mesmerist, which discovered, in a supernatural way, things that no human sagacity could discern, without any apparent advantage. But I frankly acknowledge, that I have seen in Mr. Pyne’s work on *Vital Magnetism* and elsewhere enough to make me think that, though mesmerism may be fearfully abused as I have noticed, it may yet be one of those powers which God gives for the benefit of the human race. The powers of the steam engine may illustrate this; infidels have ventured to say that its miracles are superior to those of our blessed Saviour; and yet we must not on that account deny that it is an immense blessing from our God. True religion is very far from being unfriendly to the legitimate pursuit of knowledge: I can heartily, therefore, wish success to all legitimate efforts for attaining fresh discoveries in medicine or science in the spirit of the following prayer of Lord Bacon, “To God the Father, God the Word, and God the Spirit, we pour forth the most humble and hearty supplications, that He, remembering the calamities of mankind and the pilgrimage of this our life, in which we wear out our days few and evil, would please to open to us new refreshments out of the fountains of his goodness for the alleviation of our miseries. This also we humbly and earnestly beg, that human things may not prejudice such as are divine; neither that from the unlocking of the gates of sense and the kindling of a greater natural light, any thing of incredulity or intellectual night may arise in our minds towards the divine mysteries. But rather that our mind being thoroughly purged and cleansed from fancy and vanities, and yet subject and perfectly given up to the divine oracles, there may be given up to faith, the things that are faith. Amen.”

Allow me to add a caution against lightly treating the temptations of Satan. It is perfectly plain that the Holy Scriptures have revealed to us a mighty, malignant, subtle, adversary, the devil, the leader of evil spirits, permitted to

tempt us, and ever vigilant and active to seduce and destroy our souls. It is needful to our eternal welfare not to be ignorant of his devices, who can transform himself into an angel of light, and it is needful to resist him, that he may flee from us.

You are at full liberty to insert this.

I am, yours faithfully,

EDWARD BICKERSTETH.

To the Editor of *The Zoist*.

We have unfeigned pleasure in publishing this letter, which refers to the third article in No. xvi. of *The Zoist*, and in thus proving to the world that Mr. Bickersteth is a candid man.

He will, we are certain, not feel offended at our seizing this occasion for pointing out to the world how wrong it is to use expressions carelessly—without fully weighing their meaning and applying them according to their meaning, and to give opinions on matters which we have not fully investigated. To use expressions loosely so that they may possibly lead to erroneous impressions, is bad: but to give opinions on matters on which we have not bestowed due study is absolutely a great sin, though one committed hourly by men in general in the pride and self-satisfaction of their hearts. Few would venture to deliver any opinion at all upon a hundredth part of the subjects on which they do not hesitate to assert cagerly, if they were reflecting and conscientious.

We must remark to Mr. Bickersteth that mesmerism has no “*miracles*,” does nothing “*in a supernatural way*,” that all its effects are *natural* phenomena, and by *natural* means. It competes not with miracles any more than a man ascending according to the *laws of nature* in a balloon by means of an inflammable gas lighter than atmospheric air competes with the account of Elijah’s *miraculous* ascent to the skies in “a chariot and horses of fire.”

We regret that Mr. Bickersteth has spoken of the devil in his letter; because *The Zoist* is devoted to natural science, and has always made it a point to abstain from supernatural matters, which are as unfit for it as for a treatise on chemistry or astronomy or for the philosophical transactions to which *The Zoist* is analogous, but treating of two sciences which the Royal Society at present rejects though adopted and studied by many of its members; or for any other scientific work written for Jews as well as Christians, for Mohammedans and Hindus as well as Jews, and for Atheists and Pantheists

as well as Mohammedans and Hindus, and should be reserved for theological works,—works professedly upon matters supernatural, matters always to be carefully distinguished from natural science and art.—*Zoist*.

XIV. *Cure of Palsy of Thirty Years' standing, Deafness, Asthma, &c.* By the Rev. L. LEWIS.

To Richard Beamish, Esq.

Dear Sir,—If you think the following case deserving of public notice, you are welcome to send it to the Editor of *The Zoist*, for its insertion, if he pleases, in that periodical.

Yours truly,

L. LEWIS.

Gateacre, March, 1847.

On the 6th of July last, I was requested by Miss M. Brownhill, of Hale Wood, near Liverpool, to try the effects of mesmerism upon her, as she was suffering great pain day and night. I learnt from her that, at the age of between two and three years, her *left leg* became paralysed and continued quite powerless during 7 months. In that time various remedies were applied by the late Dr. Brandreth and Mr. Park of Liverpool, and a degree of strength was restored, but the paralysed leg continued weaker and smaller than the other, and *always cold* up to the time of its being operated upon by mesmerism, a period of more than THIRTY YEARS! In conjunction with this," added Miss B., "my health was always delicate, manifested by *pain in the left side, cough, asthma* and frequently *violent pain in the head*." Besides this, it may be stated that frequently in the course of her life, she underwent many painful operations, such as *bleeding, blistering, issues, &c., &c.*, but was *never long* relieved from suffering. When I first visited her, one of her ears was *quite deaf*.

The first time I mesmerised her was only for a quarter of an hour, and she did not go into the sleep. During the first fortnight, I mesmerised her nearly daily for half an hour each time, but she did not appear much better, though her natural sleep at night which had been sadly broken by her sufferings began to return. In the third week, a considerable discharge of offensive matter from the deaf ear occurred, which greatly relieved her head and breathing, and the paralyzed leg which had been icy cold, began to feel a little warm. In the fourth week, I directed some passes over this leg, and in a few days it was so improved as to become

nearly of the same temperature as the other. One day after mesmerism the leg swelled very considerably, but the swelling subsided by the following day. Miss B. had been advised to clothe herself in flannels, and she continued to do so till some time after I commenced to mesmerise her. I then persuaded her to leave them off and also the fur that she always wore on her chest. She dreaded the change; but, after a few days' trial, she felt much more comfortable without them.

Aug. 3rd. About a month from the commencement of the treatment, her general health was much improved *without having had recourse to medicine of any kind*, though previously to her mesmerism she never spent a week or scarcely a day without taking physic.

4th. After an hour's mesmerising to-day, Miss B. became very drowsy, and became unconscious for the first time. Her hearing is better and there is discharge from both her ears.

6th. She complained of some pain in the head and chest, the weather having become suddenly very hot, but after a few passes she was relieved. I breathed into her ear through a tube, which produced very uneasy sensations; and similar effects were produced when I touched the spine with one finger and the chest with another. For a few days some engagements prevented me from seeing Miss B., and on the 10th I found her rather worse than usual from pain in the head and chest. I mesmerised her as before, directing the magnetic influence into the ears particularly, and diffusing it as well over the head and down the spine. There had been no discharge from the ears for a few days.

11th. Found Miss B. in better spirits and much more free from pain. The ear had again begun to discharge copiously a fluid of a whitish colour. The leg not so warm.

12th. Mesmerised her along the spine and sides, which affected her most powerfully. I also made the usual passes over the chest and leg, and left her much refreshed.

14th. Found that the leg mesmerised yesterday had resumed its former warmth, her cough was better and her hearing improved. This day I tried the effect of drawing a knife over her hand instead of a crystal. In drawing it from the wrist downwards to the top of the fingers, she felt a cold air; and on the contrary way, warm air and the mesmeric influence up to her shoulder.

15th. Mesmerised Miss B. to-day. No discharge from the ear. The knee-pan of the paralyzed leg, that had hitherto been *quite loose*, was reported by her sister to be getting firm like the other. Miss B. had been in the habit

for years of placing her weak leg in her arm on her lap whenever she chose ; the knee-pan, not being fixed, appeared to sink in on those occasions between the joints. Her sleep not so well, but her asthma better. Up to the

22nd. I mesmerised her as usual without any apparent change. Breathing warm breath on the top of the head thrilled her whole frame. Sleep not good. Some headache, but her *hearing is now quite restored*.

25th. Miss B. went into the mesmeric sleep for the first time. She had a curious sensation in her leg after last mesmerism, but it ceased before bed time and she slept well. Her sense of smell which had been lost for a long time is now restored. *Bowels are regular, though before mesmerism even medicine affected them but little*. I mesmerised her with various effects to the end of the month. The discharge from the ear still continuing.

Sept. 2nd. Mesmerised her and she slept for half an hour ; still the ear discharges a thin fluid. Leg much stronger, the foot instead of turning out is now straight like the other.

8th. Miss B. is much improved in health. She *can stand upon the weak leg*. The ear not so painful though a great discharge. Nights good.

15th. Discharge from the ear stopt, and Miss B. had an attack of asthma at night for three hours. When the ear discharged again, the breathing was relieved. Left off mesmerising her till

21st. When I found her worse and the asthma had returned. Did not go into the sleep to day. The discharge partially ceased. The knee-pan looser again.

24th. Mesmerised again. The discharge of the ear increased and the asthma gone. Sleep good.

26th. Miss B. went into the deep mesmeric sleep and became rigid in her limbs for the first time. Discharge from the ear not so copious. Leg stronger ; the knee-pan not quite fixed.

30th. Mesmerised her. Great discharge from the ear. A touch of the cholera in the morning, but felt no return of it after mesmerism.

Oct. 3rd. Mesmerised her. Much discharge from the ear and a slight swelling in it from a cold. Cap of the knee *firm* again. Much pricking pain in the leg occasionally.

8th. Mesmerised Miss B. She is much stronger. Walked about 4 miles to-day. Great discharge from the ear with a little blood.

10th. Sent her into the mesmeric sleep in five minutes. Discharge from the ear diminished. Health better.

16th. The right ear, which had been deaf, now quite well, and the discharge stopped, and the *left* ear begins to discharge much like the other. Discharge from one of the toes of the weak foot. A boil rising on the left shoulder and great soreness on the left region of the head.

23rd. Mesmerised her again. Owing to a large gathering behind the ears Miss B. did not sleep well. Great discharge from both ears. Leg growing in size, tendons appearing in their proper places. She is now unable to place the weak leg on her lap, the patella being quite fixed.

Nov. 3rd. Mesmerised Miss B. Some discharge still from the ear. The great toe which had been loose for years she can now raise at will, the cord over being so much strengthened.

7th. Continues better, though she has three boils on the face that give her no pain after mesmerism.

12th. The boils heal *without* pain. Went into the deep mesmeric sleep. Ear does not discharge. Made the weak leg *rigid* by passes over the knee and under the sole of the foot. She felt a cramp in that leg for the first time the preceding night.

17th. She went into the sleep in five minutes. Advised her to poultice the boil and thus cured it without pain. I touched the organ of tune and *willed* the tune called the "Sicilian Mariner," when she said she heard the most delightful music but at a great distance. On my eating some sugar she said the taste was acid; she does not like sugar, and it turns acid in her stomach.

20th. Mesmerised her in three minutes, and every part of her frame became free from pain. The boils are all healed after a great discharge. Left her in good spirits.

23rd. Rendered her very comfortable by sending her to sleep. The lame foot which was a little *longer* than the other, is *contracting* and getting thicker in the instep. Awoke her with the will alone, but she did not feel comfortable.

Dec. 3rd. Sent her into the sleep for an hour. Removed all pain from the head and chest, side and hip. The leg much larger and stronger, and she can now lift her foot to the scraper without any difficulty, instead of raising it for that purpose, as she used always to do, with both her hands.

30th. The dense fog affected Miss B. in a slight degree, but by mesmerism the difficulty of breathing was effectually removed. The asthma is nearly subdued.

Jan. 13th, 1847. A few days since I mesmerised Miss B. and her sister; the latter for a fit of influenza accompanied with a bad cough. The sister was relieved by the operation,

but Miss B. was affected with an influenza and had a bad cough and appeared to have taken it from her sister, as I had mesmerised them together and at the same time. For two nights she never slept at all but continued in a state of high excitement, describing herself at night as if the bed was floating under her. She could not endure the sight of her friends. Before the third night, the delusion vanished in an instant, and she felt as if a heavy weight fell from her head, and was immediately quite well.

In February I had not many opportunities for mesmerising her, though towards the middle of the month I mesmerised her three days successively for a swelling in the face, brought on I believe by my having omitted mesmerising her so long. The swelling was soon reduced, the violent headache accompanying it subsided, and she feels much strengthened.

March. I consider that Miss B's health is now re-established without having had recourse to wine or any other stimulants whatever, without her having tasted any physic in any form, without bleeding, or leeching, blisters or issues. The weak leg and foot which had been in a cold and withered state for 30 years, are now as warm as any other part of the frame, much larger in size, and strong enough to bear her whole weight without any pain. The patella is firmly fixed and never turns round as it used to do, when, the leg giving way, she instantly fell to the ground. Her countenance has resumed a healthy colour. She can walk many miles. Has no trace of the asthma left. Can bear foggy weather without inconvenience. Has good spirits and seems to enjoy existence.

L. LEWIS.

Gateacre, near Liverpool.

March 11th, 1847.

XV. *Cure of Deafness of very long standing in a very old Man.*

By Mr. ALEX. WALKER, of Bainsford.

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE FALKIRK HERALD.

“Sir,—The following account of the successful application of local mesmerism may, perhaps, be interesting to your readers:—

“James Roberts, residing in Stenhousemuir, having heard that I had operated (privately) upon some individuals for partial deafness, and that it had proved effectual in restoring their hearing, called upon me, in November last, and stated that his father, residing in Linlithgow, had been afflicted

with deafness for forty-five years, and that, for a year back, his hearing had entirely failed him,—and he begged me to try the effect of mesmeric treatment in this seemingly hopeless case. I informed him in what instances I had been successful, and recommended him to make a trial, by operating himself, in the way which I explained to him. How far he has succeeded the following testimonials will shew. I have given names and residences, so that it only remains with the public to enquire.

“Bainsford, 1st Aug. 1846.

“ALEX. WALKER.

“Stenhousemuir, 29th June, 1846.

‘Sir,—From the instructions you gave me how to operate on my father with local mesmerism, for deafness, I am happy to say that the result has been that his hearing has been restored.

‘I must say that I felt very exhausted after operating, which was twice every day for upwards of eight days.

‘I am yours, &c.

‘Mr. Alex. Walker, Bainsford.’

‘JAMES ROBERTS.

‘Linlithgow, 29th June, 1846.

‘Sir,—I cheerfully comply with your request in giving a certificate of my hearing being restored by local mesmerism.

‘When my son told me of the means he meant to employ, I was very sceptical of any good result, as I was then in my 71st year; but, notwithstanding, I resolved to make a trial, and went to Stenhousemuir for that purpose. He commenced operating on me *two hours in the morning and two hours at night*, or thereby, for I think eleven days, at the expiry of which time my hearing came back, so that I can now enjoy that social intercourse with mankind from which I have been so long debarred by my affliction.

‘Yours, with gratitude,

‘GEORGE ROBERTS.

‘Mr. Alex. Walker, Bainsford.’ ”

XVI. *Great benefit of Mesmerism in Affections of the Chest, Gout, Strangury, Asthma, and Whitlow.* By Mr. H. S. Thompson.

Dr. Elliotson begs to forward this letter to *The Zoist*.

Fairfield, York, March 20th, 1847.

My dear Elliotson,—I should like very much to have your opinion of this ether discovery. I have no doubt that you, and many others interested in mesmerism, have been watch-

ing with intense interest the result of the ether experiments ; and I feel confident that neither you nor any other persons, who have practised mesmerism from benevolent and disinterested motives alone, will admit that there can be anything like rivalry between the two discoveries ; but, on the contrary, will be most anxious to hail this new mode of applying ether as one of the greatest boons to mankind, and as a most valuable auxiliary to mesmerism, in the event of its effects proving as beneficial as could be hoped for from the certainty of its operation. In its more general success in producing coma and insensibility to pain, its superiority over mesmerism seems to be proved, but there also its superiority appears unfortunately to end ; for as far as I have been able to ascertain, it seems that the average fatality attendant upon severe operations has been by no means diminished by the application of ether, and that in some instances its exhibition has been attended by fatal results. On the contrary, operations performed on patients under the influence of mesmerism have rarely, if ever, been fatal ; and I think we can challenge the world to point out a single case where *death* has been the effect of mesmerism.

So far then we are forced to conclude, that, whilst the ether is more certain in its action than mesmerism, it is at the same time attended by risk in its application, and altogether unattended by those sanative and curative effects that are so peculiar to the latter. But perhaps this is an early day to decide upon the respective merits of the two discoveries, and probably there may be improvements in the preparations of the ethers, and in the modes of application, that may somewhat do away with the objections I have stated.

The reception of the ether discovery by the faculty has been curious, entertaining, and instructive. The anti-mesmeric professionals have gulped down this ether remedy with such avidity, that the effects of it have been very apparent in themselves ; and, intoxicated with the draught they have taken, seem in the highest degree elated with the idea that this new discovery will entirely supersede that of mesmerism. But in the haste with which they have imbibed this ether, the bane of mesmerism, the insensibility produced has been so complete, that they have swallowed all unconsciously every objection they have hitherto urged against the truth of, and the benefit to be derived from, mesmerism. I trust when they awaken from the stupor that their inebriation has caused, they will be led to examine more dispassionately the merits of not only these discoveries, which I believe may be so beneficial to our species, but will calmly

investigate every other discovery that is submitted to them and has for its object the alleviation of pain and human misery.

I send you a few cases which have been benefited by mesmerism. I have not lately met with anything very striking, or perhaps worthy of particular notice, but what I send is sufficiently so to stamp and confirm my belief in the utility of mesmerism *in a great variety of diseases*, if not the beneficial application of it *in all*.

It has been often urged against mesmerism, that, as the cures are the effect of the imagination, they are less real than apparent, and that therefore they are not permanent. For that reason I always think it advisable to mention where experience has proved the reverse of this; and I can with pleasure state, that, in those tedious and long-standing cases of neuralgia that were described in former numbers of *The Zoist*, the cures continue permanent, though mesmerism has been discontinued in some of them for more than a year and a half; and I must add, that, as far as my observation goes, the cures of different diseases by mesmerism have been at least as permanent as those by any medical means, and in some cases the very constitution of the patients has appeared to have changed, and those who were naturally delicate and weakly, have become robust and strong. Mesmerism, like all other remedies, in some cases can but alleviate or mitigate suffering, and cannot cure disease; but how often does it succeed in doing the former, when all other means have failed!

CASES.

I have had a good many slight and recent cases which have been almost immediately relieved by mesmerism, but I pass over them, and will mention a few of a severer character.

Affections of the Chest.—The efficacy of mesmerism in relieving and removing affections of the chest I have sometimes found very extraordinary. I met with three cases of this description within the last year. In two of these the symptoms were very similar, being fixed pains in the chest and left side, difficulty of breathing, a short cough, attended in one case by spitting of blood. These symptoms were removed by mesmerising the back and chest from an hour to an hour and a half a day. Great relief was experienced the first sitting, and the patients were perfectly well after the fourth day.

The third case was not quite similar, but was cured still more expeditiously. This was the case of a lady, upwards of 45 years of age, who had had a very severe attack of influenza

in the spring of last year; it had left her in a very debilitated state, and with constant pain in her right side, chest, and between the shoulders. It was one day in the latter end of October that I saw her, when she felt rather worse than usual. I had not made passes over the chest and back for more than a quarter of an hour, when she said that all pain was gone, and that she felt in an extraordinary manner refreshed and revived. I continued the passes for about an hour. From that day, she has told me, there was never any recurrence of the pain, nor of the same degree of languor and debility from which she had so long suffered, and she quickly recovered her usual strength.

Gout.—In gout, I should imagine, mesmerism would sometimes be found very useful, from its effects upon the only two persons I have had an opportunity of trying it upon. The first was a gentleman suffering in both feet, and scarcely able to walk about: by mesmerising the feet and legs for half an hour, I removed all pain, and enabled him to walk about easily. I had not an opportunity in this case of continuing the treatment long enough to effect a cure; it was one of long standing and severe; but the effects were always the same the few times I tried mesmerism upon him, viz., removing the pain, enabling the patient to walk easily, and rendering him comfortable for some hours afterwards.

The other case was that of a lady, who had been attacked about three weeks before I saw her with severe inflammation in one foot, and the disease appeared to be on the increase, and her general health suffering. The pain was removed in a similar manner as in the former case, and the lady enabled to walk an hour after I commenced mesmerising, though she could not put her foot to the ground previously. This patient I continued mesmerising every other day. The case was steadily progressive, and at the end of three weeks she was quite well. The lady told me, the last time I saw her, that she had no return whatever of any pain; all inflammation was gone; and that she had been walking about a great deal, and felt better and stronger than she did before the attack.

Strangury.—In a case of strangury, mesmerism was of great and immediate service. In the early part of November last year, a gentleman, upwards of seventy years of age, had been suffering from severe obstruction, and for four days had been able to pass nothing but a few drops at a time of a bloody secretion, and that with the greatest agony. I mesmerised him for about three quarters of an hour, by making passes over the abdomen; he was completely relieved of all spasm and obstruction, and has not had a return of the complaint since.

I mesmerised him for half an hour a day for a few days afterwards, as a precautionary measure.

Asthma.—In the first week of January last, I was called in to see a friend who was suffering from a severe attack of asthma, brought on by cold. He says that he never suffered so much from a sense of suffocation before, and certainly I never witnessed so distressing a case. By making passes over the back and chest, in less than ten minutes the severity of the spasm was very sensibly lessened, and within three quarters of an hour the attack was over. He had no return, and he gradually and steadily improved in health, though I had not an opportunity of mesmerising him more than three times.

Whitlow.—In January last, a female servant in my family had a very bad whitlow; the back of the hand was much inflamed, and she said she felt great pain up her arm to the shoulder. It had caused her two or three sleepless nights, and I was requested to see it. I made passes down the arm, and over the finger; in ten minutes all pain was gone, and she could bear it to be touched without feeling any pain. Seeing that she was inclined to fall into the mesmeric sleep, I made a few passes over her head; she was soon in a state of insensibility. Having some friends who were sceptical staying in my house, I sent for them. The girl was asleep and smiling; I opened the whitlow, expressed all the matter, and bound her finger up. The smile on her countenance never changed. When she awoke, she was quite unconscious of the operation; she assured me that she never felt another throb or ache in the arm or finger, and felt nothing but a little soreness from the wound, which was healed in a week. She lost the nail.

Yours sincerely,
H. S. THOMPSON.

XVII. *Physical Well-being, a necessary preliminary to Moral and Intellectual Progression.*

“Let your aim be to make this country *the model-school for the world*. Purify your institutions and your laws, and proclaim to the tyrant and the despot by the peaceful grandeur of your examples, that the only use you, as legislators and governors, make of your power, is to increase the happiness and freedom of your people. Let all nations as they move on in the great struggle of human improvement, quote England as an authority for the course they should pursue, as the pattern to which they should conform, as typical of the enjoyments they would wish to realize.”

Two years have elapsed since we wrote the above sentence, and great and important have been the changes in our laws

bearing upon the physical well-being of the people. The corn laws have been repealed, and Lord John Russell in the House of Commons but a few months since stated that we were not to discuss such questions on any narrow and impolitic consideration of the course pursued by other nations, but that we were to support what was right and just, and to trust to the example and to the moral power such a line of conduct would give us for the purpose of converting and winning over neighbouring countries to a just and liberal policy. We hail this as an effort in the right direction. This is opening up a new path, and if it is followed boldly and resolutely, it will truly make England the model-school for the world. We shall not enter into details on this matter, because such would give to this article more of a political character than we desire, but we shall simply remark that the recent victory gained by the common sense of the many over the prejudices and selfishness of the few, must be recognized as the first real effort to improve the physical well-being of rapidly increasing millions. We have legislated for the purpose of increasing the quantity and improving the quality of the food of the people, and this is the grand fundamental requisite on which to build moral and intellectual attainments.

If we did not wish to enter on this question merely as physiologists and philanthropists, we could indulge in the speculations of the politician and discuss the interesting problems of the political economist,—we could picture to ourselves the agricultural labourer raised from the condition of serfdom to comparative independence, and the manufacturing operative engaged in his necessary routine of labour, unchecked by those fearful periods of rest, the sure harbingers of destitution and crime,—we could prove that the legislative change, which will bring the great necessary of life in proper quantity to every man's home, will bring as a necessary consequence, most of those other physical comforts which we have been in the habit of considering as essential items for a civilized people, but of which a large portion of our population are lamentably destitute,—we could, as it were, measure the strides of advancing civilization, and show how far the people of distant climes may be assisted or retarded in their progress by the just and liberal tendency of our own legislative enactments, and then by a glance into the future, at our own presumed condition, we think we could hazard a calculation of the increase of virtue and happiness amongst our own people, and show that moral power, that reason, persuasion, and kindness are the monarchs to govern men and to rule the world.

The recent effort made by this country—we allude to the progress of free trade legislation—is a subject for sincere congratulation. It is one of the tests of our advancing civilization, but there are many important points requiring our attention before we can legitimately rejoice in the designation of a civilized people. The being whose powers are undeveloped is an imperfect being, and when the great bulk of the population of a country is in this lamentable condition, that country cannot be said to be civilized. If we wish to know the stage of civilization reached by a people, let us ascertain whether they are obeying the laws governing their organism, whether they have acquired the important knowledge of the connexion between them and their own happiness. Civilization is not to be measured merely by the amount of luxury, by the increased accumulation of comforts, or by the numerous victories achieved by science, annihilating time and space, and really, in fact, rendering the whole race members of one community. No. The great test of civilization is the progress made by a people in those refinements of social intercourse which result from moral and intellectual improvement—the extent of the inculcation of those laws and those principles which tend to elevate the many and not the few, which have for their object and embrace in their fullest scope every circumstance calculated to impart the greatest amount of happiness and freedom. Yes, “the greatest happiness of the greatest number,” seems to be the motto which reason and benevolence would prompt us to place over the portico of the house of the people,—it seems to be a practical commentary on the great moral axiom, “Do unto others as ye would they should do unto you.” How lamentably deficient we have been as a people in rendering obedience to this law, is abundantly seen by recalling the numerous schemes at present under discussion, all tending more or less towards the alleviation of the miseries of a neglected population. But we have scarcely yet done more than enter upon the right path; there is much to be accomplished, and whether we move swiftly or slowly, in a course characterized by justice, or the reverse, will mainly depend on the intelligence and integrity of our rulers. It is our duty to show how far our science will promote the rational and benevolent movements of the age.

We can now as physiologists come to some conclusion regarding man’s capabilities and his wants; not, be it remembered, altogether from what has been done; not from a survey of the remnants of antiquity, whether they be the idle efforts of successive generations to raise a pyramid, or

the chronicled thoughts of the intellectual giants of their day, but, thanks to the labours of the illustrious Gall, by a knowledge of humanity, by knowing the peculiar powers inherent in man, as well as the laws governing his formation and the exercise of his faculties. We have an unerring gauge which enables us to measure the capacity for thought, whether we survey an individual or a race. We have the power of analyzing the cerebral organism of the beings we are daily brought in contact with, and of predicating their capacity for the fulfilment of their various duties. We can indicate to the legislator, the moralist, and the philanthropist the course they should pursue; for, since we possess a philosophy which demonstrates, so to speak, the component parts of humanity, we necessarily arrive at a conclusion regarding the rights of humanity, the laws by which men should be governed, and the efforts which should be made to elevate their condition. But how numerous, how endless the applications of our science! There is not a subject appertaining to man, either with reference to his present state or future progress, or as regards his formation, his education, or his government, which is not dignified and enriched by the illustration it affords, by the clear and philosophical views it enables us to take of difficult and intricate questions. It builds a foundation on which we must erect the machinery which is to propel onward and onward our race; it affords the means by which we are to remove all the impediments to our advance; it insists on the adoption of principles and laws applicable to all nations and all climes, and will accomplish for sentiment and feeling what the physical sciences promise to effect with regard to space—the consolidation of mankind into one universal brotherhood. It advocates freedom, and abhors tyranny; it recognizes the free and unrestrained manifestation of thought; it matures all views, and patronizes all schemes calculated to increase man's happiness, and would banish at once and for ever the remnants of barbarism, the relics of a debasing animalism.

Physical well-being, a necessary preliminary to moral and intellectual progression.

It seems to us who have been in the habit of reflecting on the condition of the labouring classes of this country, that it is scarcely necessary to insist on the truth of the statement that their moral and intellectual advancement must bear a strict relationship to their physical condition. If we did not know the great amount of ignorance which prevails on this subject,—if we did not witness in every town the fearful accumulation of evils, all tending to produce a serious demo-

ralizing influence on the inhabitants, and the slow progress which has been hitherto made towards the alleviation of these evils,—if we did not hear the occasional enunciation of prejudices, the offspring of ignorance and selfishness, and therefore capable of retarding progress, we should scarcely consider it necessary, we repeat, to insist on the reception of a truth, which to us is so self-evident, that physical destitution has much to do with the prevalence of misery, recklessness, and crime.

From statistical returns it appears that *a seventh* part of our population, now upwards of 28,000,000 is in a state of destitution and supported by legal relief. It also appears, that while the population from the year 1805 to the year 1842 has increased about 70 *per cent.*, serious crime has increased 700 *per cent.* CRIME THEREFORE HAS AUGMENTED TEN TIMES AS FAST AS THE NUMBER OF THE PEOPLE!

Mr. Alison states that in London, one tenth of the whole population are paupers, and 20,000 persons rise every morning without knowing where they are to sleep at night; at Glasgow, nearly 30,000 persons are every Saturday night in a state of brutal intoxication, and *every twelfth house* is devoted to the sale of spirits;* and in Dublin, 60,000 persons in *one year* passed through the fever hospital. The number of individuals charged with serious offences is in England *five* times greater than it was thirty years ago; in Ireland *six* times; but in Scotland *twenty-seven* times. The cost of punishing and repressing crime is calculated at above a million and a half sterling in England and Wales. The annual cost of vicious characters, of both sexes, throughout the country, is estimated at *ten millions*; the cost of 4,700 vicious characters in Liverpool alone was reckoned at £700,000 per annum.

Can any individual read these statements and not feel convinced that there is a cause at work which men in general have hitherto overlooked? Can any individual look into this “Slough of Despond” and not become impressed with the desire to do all that in him lies for the purpose of alleviating such a mass of misery, destitution, and crime? Every *seventh* individual in the United Kingdom a pauper! At the present moment our population is increasing at the rate of *one thousand* per day over and above the deaths, and serious crime during the last forty years has increased ten times as fast as the population! What are the limits to this fearful progress?

* In London, the proportion of public houses to other houses is as one to fifty-six.—*Alison*.

If we are to continue in this state, if population and crime are to hold always the same relationship, it requires no great amount of foresight to perceive that the character of our people will soon be altogether altered, and that our boasted advancement will prove to be a delusion. "If," says Mr. Porter, "while wealth has been accumulated and luxuries have been multiplied, vice has been thereby engendered, and misery increased—the advantages of our progress may well be questioned." Of what advantage is it that we increase in numbers if we progress ten times as fast in crime? Our increase under such circumstances is a curse, if it but proclaim a deeper moral degradation. But there are limits to such progress, and it is in our power to define them. *Education, preceded by the diffusion of the necessities and comforts of life, will restore moral health to our people.* And here is the proof. "The early settlers of the province of Nova Scotia were so fully impressed with the necessity of imparting instruction to the people, that ample provision was made for them, and has been continued by their descendants to the present day, for the support of schools, so that not a child is brought up in the province without receiving a considerable amount of instruction combined with moral training. When Mr. Young, a barrister and member of the provincial parliament, was asked regarding the state of crime within the province, he gave this striking answer. 'Crime! we have no crime.' He said, 'I do not mean that people never quarrel in Nova Scotia; brawls do sometimes occur, although not very frequently; but as to crime, understanding by the term offences for which men are brought to the bar of justice in England, I repeat that it does not exist.' The cause of this truly enviable state of society was made apparent when he described the means employed for imparting universal education, and added, as a consequence of the high degree of intelligence thereby developed, *that every person could find employment, and could support himself and his family upon the fruits of his industry.* The return made to the Colonial Office in London in 1841 confirms these statements, for we find it stated 'There is at least one gaol in each county, under the jurisdiction of the superior court, superintended by the high sheriff or his gaoler, *but there are not any officers of prisons appointed.*' " *

The population of Nova Scotia, in 1838, amounted to 178,237,—we number 28,000,000, but the same measures which have produced such beneficial results in one of our

* *Porter's Progress of the Nation.* Vol. III., p. 261.

colonial possessions, would go far towards remedying the miseries which afflict our own land. The great difference in the numbers to which the educational means are to be applied, affords no argument for not adopting them; on the contrary, the rapid multiplication of our numbers should excite us to exertion, and point out to us that the only prudent and safe course is to hasten the adoption of a national system of education. We cannot prevent the accumulation of the people;* but we can prevent and remove the demoralizing influences which lower them in the scale of being, for it is manifest that there is something fundamentally wrong in the system of legislation, when we permit crime, *which can be altogether prevented*, to increase in a greater ratio than numbers. Is there not something to be improved in the social arrangements of a people, when their natural increase is dreaded by their rulers, and called "*redundancy*,"—when this increase, the most essential element of their greatness, is considered an evil to be deplored, and if possible prevented? If our rulers understood man's nature, and legislated in accordance with the principles deduced therefrom, they would perceive that the true wealth and power of a nation consists in the numbers of its people, and it is only when our legislation and our social arrangements are in accordance with these natural laws, that this increase, instead of being a source of dread and despair, will be considered a proof of advancing civilization and a sure sign of our increasing national prosperity.

There is not the slightest fear of our being unable to produce the sustenance required *for any increase of population*. We hear it frequently asserted, even now, that population tends to increase faster than the means of subsistence, and the Malthusians have been arguing upon this fallacious doctrine for years; but there is no danger of our ever being in this unfortunate predicament, if we take care that the land receives back again that which has been removed from it in the shape of food.† For as Dr. Guy has said, "A very

* The progress of our population has gone forward with a continually accelerated speed.

Between 1801 and 1811	the increase was	1,492,255.
„ 1811 and 1821	„	2,108,028.
„ 1821 and 1831	„	2,189,970.
„ 1831 and 1841	„	2,278,381.

† This is not a mere assertion without proof, but an assertion which will bear the most rigid investigation. Here is one instance:—

"The recent urine of one cow is valued in Flanders, where liquid manures are highly esteemed, at 40s. a year. It contains on an average, as we have seen, 900 lbs. of solid matter, and this, estimated at the price of guano only, is worth

slight alteration of the favourite dogma, *population tends to increase faster than food*, will convert a dangerous fallacy into an important and useful truth. If, instead of asserting that population tends to increase faster than food, we say, *population tends to increase faster than human skill and economy applied to the cultivation of the soil*, we substitute a motive to exertion for one of the most depressing and paralyzing theories which the wit of man ever yet devised.”* We shall not here enter upon any lengthened statements regarding the amount of food which the land of the United Kingdom is capable of producing. The powers of man over the soil do not diminish as agriculture improves and society advances; on the contrary, they are greatly increased. There seems good reason therefore for believing that if only the present improvements in agriculture were universally adopted, and the reclaimable waste lands cultivated, every acre of arable land might be made to produce three quarters of wheat, *which is less than the average of many of our counties*; and it would then follow that from 120,000,000 to 180,000,000 of human beings might be maintained with ease and comfort from the territory of the United Kingdom alone.†

Is there not then something humiliating in the reflection, that in a world groaning under the riches of nature, there should exist a country which possesses the largest number of the elements of happiness,—a country which is capable of making the greatest exertions by means of its scientific and

at present £4 sterling. Multiply this by eight millions, the number of cattle said to exist in the United Kingdom, and we have thirty-two millions of pounds sterling, as the value of the urine, supposing it to be worth no more than foreign guano. It is impossible to estimate how much of this runs to waste, but one-tenth of it will amount to nearly as much as the whole income tax recently laid upon the country.”—*Johnstone's Agricultural Chemistry*.

“Taking a general view of the subject, we may assume a clear revenue from the sewer water of all towns of £1 for each inhabitant, either in a direct money return, or partly to the inhabitants in a reduced price from the increased abundance of produce.”—*J. Smith, Esq., Report of Health of Towns Commission*.

“The value of town manure may be estimated by the fact, that a portion of the drainage of Edinburgh spread upon certain level lands towards the sea, has increased the value of these lands by more than £5,000 a year; and that if the whole drainage of London could be so used, at a sufficient distance from the town, the value would exceed £500,000 a year.”—*Dr. Arnott's Report on the Fevers of Edinburgh and Glasgow*.

It is more than probable, therefore, that the refuse of towns, which is now allowed not only to run to waste, but too frequently to poison the inhabitants, would *far exceed*, after the cost of its application to the land has been defrayed, the value of all the corn and manure which we import. The very means, therefore, which we ought to adopt for the purpose of increasing the means of subsistence, would tend materially to increase the health and physical well-being of all town populations.

* Lecture on the Health of Towns.

† Alison on Population, vol. i., page 48.

mechanical appliances for the accumulation of wealth and the diffusion of the necessaries of life, but whose inhabitants in many instances, especially in Ireland, continue in the most wretched condition; so wretched, that travellers tell us nowhere, not even amongst the peasants of oppressed and crushed Poland, or amidst the wandering tribes of the wilds of Tartary, have they seen people so badly nourished and provided for: and the chairman of the Health of Towns' Association (Lord Normanby) contrasts even this wretchedness with worse specimens from Liverpool, the second metropolis of the kingdom, for, after stating that he had visited hundreds of negro huts in the West Indies and many Irish cabins, he declared, "he would rather pass his life in any one of the first or in most of the last, than he would inhabit one of those dens or cellars too often used as dwellings by the industrious poor of this country—those upon whom the prosperity and quietness of this country so greatly depended." Mr. Chadwick has affirmed that, in the cellars of Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds, he had beheld amongst the operatives more scenes of vice, misery and degradation than those which, when detailed by Howard, had caused the sympathy of the world.* Mr. Freeth, of London, states, "The great majority of respectable persons appear to me to be in profound darkness as to the masses of misery, filth and wretchedness, which are, in many cases, only separated from their own comfortable houses by a nine-inch wall; behind some of the first streets in London scenes may be found at which humanity shudders."

With such evidence before us, need we ask what are the causes at work to produce the low physical condition of our people? Need we look about for the hot-beds of crime, or for the fountains from which those impure streams which flow through the length and breadth of our land emanate? Paradoxical as it must appear to those who have not looked into the subject, the *depôts* of wealth and luxury are the great

* In Liverpool, according to Dr. Playfair, there are the vast number of 7,892 cellars, with a computed population of 39,460 inhabitants; whilst in Manchester there are 4,443, with 18,217 inhabitants.

Dr. Duncan also states that in Liverpool there is a district containing 12,000 inhabitants on a surface of 105,000 square yards, being a ratio of 460,000 inhabitants to the square mile. Mr. Farr had previously selected, as an instance of the greatest density attained in the heart of English cities, a small portion of London, where the inhabitants were in the proportion of 243,000 to the square mile.

"It is impossible," says the Rev. T. Milner, "to bring a people thus situated into a good physical or moral condition; and it excites painful thoughts to reflect upon the splendid liberalities of the town in question for foreign objects, the welfare of Bushmen and Caffres, with home-dwellers abandoned to a position in comparison with which that of Wombwell's lions and bears is enviable."

centres of misery and crime, and the capitals of the empire which dictates laws to half the world, contain within their walls beings almost as degraded as the uncivilized tribes of our colonial dependencies. It is high time, then, that men awake to a sense of their danger. It is high time that the rich bestir themselves and use their exertions to sweep away the accumulating materials of social discord, and to remove from the land which they occupy the deep stain of infamy which attaches to it. It is time that the selfish feelings which have been so long predominant should give way to the dictates of benevolence and justice, and that all *thinkers* who can bring aught to the general stock of progressive ideas, should cast them before the world, and thus add their mite towards aiding the efforts of oppressed humanity. Selfishness has gained its numerous victories, such as they have been; it has had its days of rejoicing, such as they were; it has for ages crushed with a giant's strength the many and exalted the few, and refused to listen to the oft-repeated appeals of the distressed and oppressed. The festering sores, the natural result of such treatment, are now afflicting our population; and the descendants of those who have been the cause of all this, have been told that the crimes and miseries we have referred to, "are but the representatives of the mischief—spawned by the filth and corruption of the times."* But the day of retribution is at hand. We are sure that the day has dawned which is to give the death-blow to that power, which, with raised front and brazen brow, has so often attempted to defend the right of the strong to oppress the weak. The banner of justice has been unfurled, and men have been taught, and *are beginning to feel*, that "PROPERTY HAS ITS DUTIES AS WELL AS ITS RIGHTS." We hope to see this truth universally recognized and adopted as a national maxim; for, when *all classes* fully appreciate it, there will be some hope of advancement, some prospect of our beholding the realization of those aspirations which all good men have so ardently desired, but so few have considered it probable we should attain.

Men of wealth! ye who by money-power have been enabled to elevate yourselves above your brethren, reflect that ye hold your property for other purposes than mere personal aggrandizement. Reason, benevolence, and justice tell ye that it is held in trust, that ye possess power not for the purpose of elevating yourselves above your neighbours—not to increase the strength of the barriers which separate class

* Lord Ashley's Speech in the House of Commons.

from class, but to endeavour to remove these remnants of a selfish policy, and thus to bring your neighbours nearer yourselves,—not, as heretofore, to carry out a system of class-legislation, but to assist the development, instead of retarding the growth of that natural longing for elevation inherent in all,—not, as ye are engaged at present, in dealing forth with the cold hand of charity your surplus wealth to prevent absolute starvation, but by placing the necessities and comforts of life within the reach of all by the removal of restrictions, and by striving to make the poor the improvers of their own condition by promoting their intelligence and freedom. *Help the poor to help themselves.* Teach them *their* duty by *your* own example, and shew them that the only true, rational, and benevolent way of assisting them, is to make them agents in bettering their own condition. Listen not to the selfish, coward cry of those who would refuse their aid from fear of the result, because by the adoption of such a course of policy all that is good *must* be attained. Dread not the elevation of the people, rather reflect on the consequences of a prolonged degradation and debasement. Remember it is no rhetorical flourish—no *ad captandum* statement of Mr. Chadwick's, that he had seen more vice, misery, and degradation in one town, than the labours of a life had enabled a Howard to accumulate and thereby arouse the sympathy of the world.

But let us look a little deeper—let us enquire into the minute anatomy of the disease which is so sorely afflicting our country. Since we cannot all visit the localities where these horrors abound, let us familiarize ourselves with the statements of those philanthropists who have done so, and who tell us that the districts of “dens and wigwams” contain “a fearful multitude of untutored savages;” that “the moral condition of the people is unhealthy and even perilous;” nay more, that “moral feeling and sentiments do not exist among them.” “The condition of the lower classes is daily becoming worse and worse in regard to education, and *it is telling every day upon the moral and economic condition of the adult population.*” “Their horrid words, their ferocious gestures, their hideous laughter, their brutal, bloated, mindless faces, appal and amaze the stranger.”* This is the language of civilized men, describing their impressions on visiting the leprous spots on the fair surface of our country, and if we require any other stimulus to arouse us to exertion, not only

* *Vide* Report of Factory Commissioners. Lord Ashley's Speeches in the House of Commons. Children's Employment Commission. Report on Health of Towns' Population, and the several pamphlets published by the Health of Towns' Association.

to enquire into, but to remove and sweep away for ever the sources of such pollution ; if the progress of crime already alluded to be not sufficient,—let us imagine the effect on our own children, supposing they were compelled to reside amidst such scenes,—let us reflect on the slow but steady deteriorating influence which must be exerted on character,—the gradual sapping and overthrowing of virtuous resolves and lofty and generous aspirations,—the daily familiarity with all that degrades and brutalizes humanity, and then say how long a space of their childhood would pass away, ere we should have to rank them amidst “the fearful multitudes of untutored savages.” And then let us consider how different might have been the result ! If we had placed them far away from the haunts of misery, destitution, and crime,—if we had made them attend to habits of personal and home cleanliness,—if we had enforced the observance of domestic decency,—if we had increased the number of social comforts, and removed all the preventible sources of disease,—if we had located them from their infancy under the most favourable physical circumstances, and then by all the educational means in our power, we had inculcated habits of virtue, and trained the various faculties, each in its proper sphere, why then, we should not only have performed a duty, but we should have fulfilled all the requirements essential to the production of a rational and virtuous being. But what are the signs of a rational and virtuous being ? What is the chief end of man’s being ? “When I see,” says the eloquent Mr. W. J. Fox, “the senses so alive as to thrill at every sight of beauty and sound of harmony, so quick that nothing escapes them, so active that they range around, and bring home like bees to their hive, all the treasures and diversities which nature and art without us can provide,—when I see the memory piling up the records of past ages, of the discoveries of science, in its ample storehouse, classifying and arranging them there, so that everything is ready for use, and can be properly applied at the moment it is wanted,—when I perceive thought and reason operating like a skilful architect, laying deep the foundations, and piling high and firm the structure of intellectual character,—when I witness affection flowing out richly and freely, having returned back again into its own bosom the good it bestows upon others,—when I see the active powers and principles working good alike for the individual and the community, and man growing himself rich in thoughts and recollections of the past and hopes of the future, just in proportion as he is ministering those same thoughts and hopes to his countrymen or fellow-creatures,—when I

note progress made from year to year; the mind able to take a loftier flight; the thought exhibiting grandeur, variety, and richness; affection flowing more clearly, free, and strong, and the sum of usefulness augmenting on all sides;—why then I think I see something of a fulfilment of the end for which man was created; I behold objects worthy of his powers and mental operations,—and trace their reasonable adaptation to the end which is to be accomplished by them—something upon which one can rest, towards which every individual should aspire,—in that aspiration realizing the good which the lightened burden of class-legislation, or the interference of opinion to mitigate the pains of humanity, may give him an opportunity of doing; but for whom the opportunity is worthless unless there be also the disposition.”

Since then man is a progressive being, and since our object is to improve and elevate him as high as his nature will permit us, and thus to endeavour to realize all that the above eloquent writer has portrayed, it follows that our rulers should do all that in them lies for the purpose of improving educational means, and removing the causes of vice. And we think from what we have already advanced, it must begin to appear pretty evident, that our position—the necessity which exists for attending to the physical well-being of a people, before we can expect to make much progress in their moral and intellectual advancement, is not only correct, but of paramount and fundamental importance. This being so far conceded, we have to keep constantly before us the astounding fact, that there are between 3 and 400,000 added every year to the general aggregate of the dwellers on our soil. How important then the enquiry, for the purpose of ascertaining the state of those already in existence, in order that we may make some provision for the rapid increase,—that we may remove obstructions, and add to the machinery by which our object is to be promoted. The great mass of these beings annually produced are destined to be workers—wealth-producers; and unfortunately legislators have always hitherto considered them in this light only; they have looked upon them as the means by which immense wealth may be produced, and disregarded the all-important concomitant, the amount of happiness. There are two important questions involved in this discussion, very different, and yet mutually bearing upon each other; they are, How do our people live? Where do our people live?

In regard to the first, Mr. Austen, the assistant Poor Law Commissioner, says,—

“In Wiltshire the food of the labourer and his family is wheaten

bread, potatoes, a small quantity of beer, but only as a luxury, and a little butter and tea. To this may sometimes be added (but it is difficult to say how often or in what quantities), cheese, bacon, and, in the neighbourhood of Calne, a portion of the entrails of a pig,—a considerable trade being carried on at Calne in curing bacon. I am inclined to think that the use of bacon and those parts of the pig only occurs where the earnings of the family *are not limited* to those of the husband; or, if his wages form their sole means of support, then it depends upon the number of his family. In more than one cottage, where the mother went out to work, or two of the boys were earning perhaps 3s. or 3s. 6d. a-week between them, I saw a side of bacon hanging against the wall; *but nothing of the kind was visible when the only earnings were those of the husband, or the family was numerous and young.* “At Stourpain, a village near Blandford, I measured a bed-room in a cottage consisting of two rooms, the bed-room upstairs, and a room on the ground-floor in which the family lived during the day. The room was *ten feet square*, with one small window fifteen inches square. There were *eleven in family*, and the aggregate earnings in money were 16s. 6d. weekly. They all slept in the same room, *in three beds.* *There was no curtain or any kind of separation between the beds.* This, I was told, was not an extraordinary case; but that, more or less, every bed-room in the village was crowded with inmates of both sexes, of various ages; and that such a state of things was caused by the want of cottages.”*

Where do our people live? Here is an example from the vicinity of royal palaces and ducal residences, not far from the house in which the wealthy have been meeting for centuries for the avowed purpose of legislating for the people,†

* Mr. Sadler stated, in a speech in the House of Commons, that in 1690 there were 47,537 houses in the county of Suffolk, but only 42,773 in 1821, the population *having been almost doubled in the interval!* The Rev. E. Dawson, vicar of Alford, gives a history of fifteen parishes in his own neighbourhood, in which, between 1780 and 1830, there were 175 cottages demolished, and only 12 new ones built!

† Even now, when a terrible calamity has befallen us, and we have at least a *fifth* part of our population in a state of starvation, what are our legislators doing? At their command, at the present moment, whilst we are writing, thousands and tens of thousands of the wealthy are mumbling forth, with a kind of lip-service, prayers, and calling upon their God to avert the misery which is existing; misery, which many men foresaw, nay, which one man, Cobbett, *absolutely foretold.* What hypocrisy is this! If those who, by their neglect, have brought about this state of things, think it right to deprive themselves of a day's provisions, and thus by an outward sign proclaim to the famishing millions that they are about to pursue a wiser and juster policy, why we have nothing to say to it, albeit, we should much prefer that their moral resolves should be presented to us clothed in the language of a vigorous intellect, for in truth we have no faith in any system of gastronomy. By a vicious system of legislation, the people have been permitted to increase and multiply surrounded by physical evils, and supported by a species of food which ranks very low in the scale of nutriment; the natural result ensues, and then, instead of seeking for and removing the *causes* of the evil, they publish a form of worship, and command the *people*

but who till a very recent period have been almost entirely occupied in advancing their own selfish interests, leaving the masses, the producers of the wealth they have been purloining, to increase in numbers—ranking them as mere hewers of wood and drawers of water; their social position uncared for, their moral and intellectual advancement disregarded, till, as we have read, their very form, almost the only semblance of humanity they possess, has undergone most serious deterioration,—“they are decayed in their bodies; the whole race is rapidly decreasing in size.”

“There is a district situated near the very centre of the metropolis, on the north side of Holborn Bridge, and to the west of St. John Street, which might be not unaptly compared to Bunyan’s Slough of Despond, for here is collected a large portion of the natural and social pollutions that flow from the surrounding neighbourhoods; and to those at all acquainted with the topography of London, the names of Field Lane, Saffron Hill, Cow Cross, and Sharp’s Alley, present no other ideas than those of much wretchedness and more vice. This populous mass of streets, courts, alleys, and yards, probably contains not fewer than 60,000 or 80,000 inhabitants. Generally speaking, the people seem to have no higher and no other ideas than those connected with their servile occupations, and the appetites and passions of their animal nature. With the exception of a more or less imperfect acquaintance with the art of reading possessed by some, it may be said that the march of intellect has never found its way down their narrow lanes, and that the stream of knowledge has passed by them without leaving a drop amongst their congregated habitations. Shut up within a labyrinth of brick no interruption occurs to relieve the miserable monotony of their existence, except what arises from the brutal excitement of a drunken brawl, or the frequent visits of the police in search of offenders against the laws of the realm.”

Dr. Gilly observes of the confined huts of the Northumbrian hinds:—

“How they lie down to rest, how they sleep, how they can preserve common decency, how unutterable horrors are avoided, is beyond all conception. The case is aggravated when there is a young woman to be lodged in this confined space, who is not a member of the family, but is hired to do the field-work, for which every hind is bound to provide a female. It shocks every feeling of propriety to think that a room, and within such a space as I have been describing, civilized beings should be herding together, without a decent separation of age or sex.”

to pray that the natural course of events may be altered; that, in truth, the soil which has not been tilled may produce its fruits. “May not that be defined as *superstition*, which trusts to any other influence to effect a desired object than the *natural cause* appointed to produce it?” We say that the command to observe this fast is rank superstition, and we have that faith *in progress*, that we think we may hazard the opinion,—*we shall never have another fast.*

The Rev. S. G. Osborne, the rector of Bryanstone, in Dorsetshire, states,—

“Whatever attempts at decency may be made,—and I have seen many most ingenious and praiseworthy attempts,—still there is the fact of the old and young, of both sexes, married and unmarried, all herded together in one and the same sleeping apartment. Within this last year, I saw, in a room about thirteen feet square, three beds; on the first lay the mother, a widow dying of consumption; on the second, two unmarried daughters, one eighteen years of age, the other twelve; on the third, a young married couple, whom I myself had married two days before.”

Mr. Toynbee, one of the surgeons of the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary, states,—

“In the class of patients to our dispensary, nearly all the families have but a single room each, and a very great number have only one bed to each family. The state of things in respect to morals as well as health, I sometimes find to be terrible. I am now attending one family, where the father about 50, the mother about the same age, a grown-up son about 20, in a consumption, and a daughter about 17, who has a scrofulous affection of the jaw and throat, for which I am attending her, and a child, *all sleep in the same bed*, in a room where the father and three or four other men work during the day as tailors, and they frequently work there late at night with candles.”

Mr. Spooner, of Blandford, says,—

“Two years ago typhus fever occurred in a neighbouring parish which I attend; there was one cottage which consisted of one room on the ground floor and two small bed-rooms up stairs. In this cottage lived an old man, with his wife, his two daughters, middle-aged women, and his son and wife, with three children,—in all *ten* individuals. The whole family had the fever, some of them very severely. The son's wife with two of her children were on a bed in an outhouse; in the outhouse was a well, and a large tub containing pig's victuals, and was the general receptacle for everything. The floor was earthen, with no ceiling but the thatch of the roof.”

Mr. Baker, in his report on the condition of the population, gives the following description of the houses of many of the working classes:—

“Broken panes in every window frame and filth and vermin in every nook. With the walls unwhitewashed for years, black with the smoke of foul chimneys, without water, with corded bed-stocks for beds, and sacking for bed-clothing, with floors unwashed from year to year, without out-offices; streets elevated a foot, sometimes two, above the level of the causeway, by the accumulation of years, and stagnant puddles here and there, with their fetid exhalations, causeways broken and dangerous, ash-places choked up with filth,

and excrementitious deposits on all sides, as a consequence, undrained, unpaved, unventilated, uncared for by any authority, but the landlord, who weekly collects his miserable rent from his miserable tenants."

What education can avail under such circumstances as these? Mr. Chadwick was informed by a gentleman in the manufacturing districts,—

"That in every case of personal and moral improvement the successful step was made by the removal of the party from the ill-conditioned neighbourhood in which he had been brought up." "If a young workman married and took up his abode in the old neighbourhood, the condition of the wife was soon brought down to the common level, and the marriage became a source of wretchedness."

So wretched and degraded is some portion of our population that Mr. Walker, the stipendiary magistrate of the Thames Police Office, made the following statement:—

"I have often said that if empty casks were placed along the streets of Whitechapel, in a few days each of them would have a tenant, and these tenants would keep up their kind and prey upon the rest of the community. I am sure that if such facilities were offered, there is no conceivable degradation to which portions of the species might not be reduced. Allow these tub-men no education and you would have so many savages living in the midst of civilization. Wherever there are empty houses which are not secured, they are soon tenanted by wretched objects. Parish officers and others come to me to aid them in clearing such places. I tell the police and the parish that there is no use in their watching these places, that they must board them up if they would get rid of the occupants. If they will give the accommodation they will get the occupants. If you will have marshes and stagnant waters you will then have suitable animals, and the only way of getting rid of them is by draining the marshes."

Without going too much into detail, we have now from official documents answered the two queries,—How and where our people live? Whether we walk through the by-ways of our towns, the districts of "dens and wigwams," as they have been called—survey the villages in our agricultural districts, or look into the lonely cottage of the peasant, the same fearful truth meets us, and we become convinced that the monster evil, the cause which retards social improvement, is the low physical condition of our population. *Virtue and happiness can never be found where physical misery abounds.* Can we wonder when beings are surrounded by all that renders life miserable, if they become reckless, improvident, dis-

solute, and *criminal*? Can we wonder at the drunken brawl* which is always to be heard where physical misery is seen? Amidst the filth and wretchedness of a crowded court, the condition of the inhabitants is always undergoing a process of deterioration; the impure air which they breathe, and the absence of sufficient light and water, renders them predisposed to disease, induces a recklessness of character and an indifference to the common decencies of life, which are the sure precursors of a career of dissipation and debauchery. Horrible as are the accounts we have given, we could have selected worse, we could have described scenes which occur daily in most of our large towns, that are not to be surpassed amongst the most debased communities of savage life. Aye, and amongst agricultural labourers too,—“the bold peasantry their country’s pride,” who are so frequently compared with the manufacturing artizan, and whose life is said to be so much more happy and contented by those who never take a peep into their mud-walled cottages, or reflect on the small amount of comfort which can be purchased by the pitiful earnings of a week’s labour, we could present actual pictures, at the bare recital of which the least sensitive amongst us would recoil with horror. Hear it, lords of the soil! Within a few yards of your mansions, where ye enjoy the comforts of civilized life, and indulge in the luxuries peculiar to a pampered appetite, your cottagers live, surrounded, too frequently, by all the causes calculated to debase and brutalize humanity. Yes, the wigwams of Wiltshire and Dorset can compete for the display of misery with the cellars of Liverpool and Manchester; and the people who till the soil and produce the *necessaries* of life, are reduced to a far lower state than many of the operatives who wait upon the steam-engine, and in numerous instances administer only to our *luxuries*.

We must, however, bring our remarks to a close, and defer to another opportunity the consideration of other facts bearing upon this important subject. There are several features which we have not displayed—several considerations which we have not yet touched upon. We have not yet enumerated the diseases which are the sure visitants of the abodes of the wretched, or given the least idea of the fearful mortality amongst the labouring population. The diseases which attack the inmates of the peasant’s cottage are seriously destructive of life, but the mortality is very much greater amongst the working classes in our large towns. If we com-

* The outlay in drunkenness and in the use of spirituous liquors injurious to health (after every allowance for reasonable conviviality), is above *fifteen millions* per annum, throughout the United Kingdom.

pare one million of the inhabitants of large towns with the same number of the inhabitants of rural districts, the inhabitants of towns lose nearly 8,000 more every year than the inhabitants of the country. The mean duration of life in Surrey is 45 years; it is 37 for London; *and only 26 for Liverpool*. The inhabitants of the metropolis, therefore, taking one with another, when compared with those of Surrey, lose 8 years of their lives, and the *inhabitants of Liverpool 19 years of their lives!* This mortality increases with the over-crowding of the inhabitants, and attains its highest point in the most densely peopled districts. Here is an example of this fact. "Thus," says Dr. Guy, "to take a single metropolitan parish, that of St. Giles' and St. George's, Bloomsbury,—while the gentry who inhabit the open squares and broad streets, live on an average *forty* years, the working classes, who inhabit narrow lanes, blind courts, and dark cellars, live only *seventeen* years; that is to say, they lose, one with another, just twenty-three years of their lives. In Shoreditch the loss amounts to *twenty-eight years!*"

In Manchester and Liverpool, half the population born are cut off under the age of *five years*; and *seventy-six* out of every *one hundred* die before the age of *nine months!*

In Preston, in the *well-conditioned streets*, the mortality among children under one year old is 15 in the 100; in *moderately-conditioned streets*, 38 in the 100; and in the *worst-conditioned streets*, 44 in the 100, being, as nearly as possible, three times the mortality of well-conditioned streets.

The overcrowding of our population, conjoined with the defective cleansing and sewerage of our towns, are the chief causes of this mortality. These are the preventible causes of disease,—causes which in Lancashire alone produce 398,000 cases of preventible sickness yearly, and 14,000 premature deaths, of which 11,000 are of adults engaged in productive labour! "*The annual slaughter in England and Wales from preventible causes of typhus fever alone, which attacks persons in the vigour of life, is double the amount of what was suffered by the allied armies in the battle of Waterloo.*"

Such then is the progress of disease and death amongst our neglected population. But what, let us ask, is the state of those who struggle through all the dangers of infancy, and escape that death which is making such havoc amongst their neighbours? Consider their weak and deteriorated bodies, with all their functions improperly performed, and of course their brains losing power amidst the general wreck. Consider them living to the age of 30 and 40, and becoming the parents of children, not only inheriting all their diseases, but

doomed to live, and die in their turn, surrounded by all the causes calculated to still further depress their physical energies. Sir A. Carlisle stated that, where the father and mother were both town bred, the family ended with the third generation. But we shall most probably return to the discussion of this physiological portion of the question in the next number.

L. E. G. E.

Dr. Davey in Ceylon.

If we had room we should wish to refer, in a more becoming manner, to the exertions of our intelligent friend, Dr. Davey, at Ceylon, who is endeavouring to enlighten the inhabitants of that island on two most important subjects—cerebral physiology and mesmerism. We have received several newspapers containing articles relating to these subjects. One gave a very lengthened account of a paper read by Dr. Davey to the Royal Society, “On the cerebral development of the Ceylonese.” It contained many important observations; but it appears that the colonial society is in a similar predicament to our own, the metropolitan, and is afflicted with the presence of a supervisor of the same calibre as Dr. Roget. This paper not only met with considerable opposition, but was refused insertion in the transactions of the society, because its character was phrenological! Dr. Davey will perceive a statement in our last number, that the same illiberal course was pursued at the last meeting of the British Association. We trust he will not relax in his efforts. There is a wide field open to him, and although his observations do not find a ready insertion amongst the philosophical papers in the transactions of the society, the opposing party cannot prevent the accumulation of facts, nor the ultimate application of the physiological truths deduced from them. We shall have another opportunity for referring to this subject.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Mesmer and Swedenborg: or, the relation of the Developments of Mesmerism to the Doctrines and Disclosures of Swedenborg. By George Bush. New York. 1847.

Phrenological Journal. Edinburgh. January, 1847.

Humanitas. The writer of the rhymes inserted in the *Lancet* to ridicule the Mesmeric Infirmary is Dr. Badely, of Chelmsford, a *Fellow* of the College of Physicians and a Graduate of the *University of Cambridge*! Thus Mr. Wakley, like Mr. Moses, has a poet!!