

# THE ZOIST.

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I. *Cure of Cataleptic Insanity through Mesmerism, with interesting Phenomena.* By Mr. PARSONS, Royal Marine Library, Brighton.

SIR,—I forward the particulars of a curious case, which I hope will be found sufficiently interesting to deserve a place in your journal of mesmeric cures and experiences.

It was on Monday the 8th of May, at 12 o'clock, that I first went to see a lad, whose peculiar illness had much interested the medical attendants who were endeavouring to cure him. Mr. Wilton was the apothecary who had the care of him from the beginning, and Dr. King was the physician whose aid had been called in. From the latter gentleman I had heard many particulars which made him and myself class the case with those in which mesmerism had been successful when other means had failed; and he much wished that I should make trial of it, as all their skill had been exhausted without doing any good; on the contrary, the lad was *evidently sinking*. His disease was what I will designate cataleptic insanity, and was brought upon him by the following circumstances.

He had been for some months what is called a "pupil teacher" in the Rev. Mr. Drummond's St. John's Schools, where several hundred poor children receive instruction. The boy was very intelligent and ambitious of distinction, and had much interested those who have the management of the schools, by his conduct generally, as well as by his zeal and ability. His health had been suffering in consequence of close application, so that he had been under medical treatment occasionally for several months. But what I attributed his illness to, more than to the close application, was an

anxiety occasioned by the wish he had most at heart being disappointed or so hopelessly deferred as to amount to a disappointment. He had expected that he should be permanently and regularly engaged as a salaried tutor in the school, for hitherto his services had been gratuitous; the premium in expectation being his engagement when he had become qualified for it. His mother was very poor, and he felt that she could not keep him much longer without some assistance from himself; and, he being a boy of a proud disposition with much natural refinement, this was a continual weight upon his mind, and brought on an attack of liver complaint, which he had been suffering from during the month previous to his last illness. He had an engagement to read for an hour a day to an invalid, (his only remunerating labour.) About this time his mind was still more excited by the expected visit of an inspector, who was coming officially to examine the schools and test the capabilities of the teachers by the progress of the children. This he had looked forward to with anxious hope as an occasion of distinguishing himself and thus obtaining promotion. On the day the inspector came, he had been occupied closely with his class, preparing them for the examination, had left the school too late to go home for his dinner, and gone instead to read for an hour to the invalid. He then returned home, complaining of his head; but, before he could take any refreshment, a message arrived requiring his presence at the school. The inspector had arrived; the boy went; at once had to undergo a harassing examination, both of his class and of himself; and was so prostrated, by the fatigue and excitement, that he lost himself, and was unable to answer questions of the simplest kind and which he was fully equal to at other times. The boy returned to his mother completely knocked up; his mind humbled and crushed to the last degree, and his body in pain. He complained of severe pain in his head, and went to lie down on his bed; but had not been there long before he was very sick. His mother was going out for Mr. Wilton, when she was arrested by hearing a loud scream from him: she went up, and found him doubled up in a fit, his legs and arms contracted, and his face and hands almost black. She called to him, and he seemed somewhat to revive; but from that time he was continually either cataleptic or insane. The usual course of his attack was this:—He would rave of different subjects, walk about the house, chiefly imagining himself in the school; or he would mutter chapters of the bible, preach sermons, and in various other ways demonstrate his maniacal condition. This would last for an

hour or more, in which state he walked firmly and briskly about; but, towards the close of the maniacal state, twitchings in the knees would give warning he was about to fall, and down he would drop, utterly collapsed and flaccid; so that, if he went off while sitting in a chair, his head would hang down to the floor, while he still retained his sitting posture with the lower limbs and lower part of the body. In this condition, which lasted only a few minutes, he was sensible, but utterly without strength: he would speak in the feeblest whisper to his mother what he wished to say. Then the spasmodic stage came on, in which he would remain sometimes rigid for hours; sometimes convulsed violently; often purely cataleptic, the whole body plastic and easily controlled, but remaining fixed in whatever position he was placed. After a time the mania would come on, and the same order of symptoms recur continually. Thus had he been gradually getting worse for six weeks.

When I went up stairs I found him in bed. Dr. King was expected; but, as I had waited some minutes, I determined to begin at once.

His appearance was highly interesting. The head, which had been shaved when he was first attacked, was remarkably well formed and developed; the countenance, very intellectual; the forehead, broad; and the features, very regular and handsome. I should have thought him a pretty young woman, twenty years of age, (he is between 14 and 15;) and the strait-waistcoat which he wore, and which was full in the bosom, completed the resemblance. The strait-waistcoat was not controlling him, the hands being free; fair feminine hands with taper fingers.

He was quiet when I entered the room, but soon began to mutter fast, and presently to sing "Twinkle, twinkle, little star," in a childish way, as if he was imitating an infant; this was followed by "Greenland's Icy Mountains," in the same style. His face was turned rather away from me as he lay on his back, and he took no notice of me nor of what I did. His eyes were half closed, and, as they never moved, I believe they were unconscious.

I mesmerised him by passes for more than an hour; he lay quiet all the while; but his condition did not appear altered. Dr. King came in before I concluded, and *all present agreed that he had never been known to lie so quiet for half the time he had now done.*

He has taken aconite and digitalis during his illness, and he appeared under the influence of the latter drug. I left

him without perceiving that I had produced any *mesmeric* effect on him, unless the unusual tranquillity was such.

At six in the evening Mr. Wilton's assistant came to me; the mother had sent to him in great distress: the boy had waked up about four o'clock, and dressed himself in her clothes, and was walking about the house with a bonnet on and a parasol over his head, and she could do nothing with him.\* I could not immediately leave home; and when I went to him he had dressed himself in his own clothes again, all but the bonnet, which he still retained when I entered. This he took off, saying, "Dear me! what could Miss D—— mean by dressing me up in this ridiculous manner?" He now dressed himself entirely, put on his gloves, and rushed up stairs suddenly for his hat; his mother and a young woman following him in great perplexity. He put on his hat, took his cane under his arm, and with a most magnificent strut, and a volume of Shakspeare in his hand, paced up and down the room, the very incarnation of Self-esteem. From time to time he startled us by giving smart blows suddenly with his cane upon the wainscot or chairs, for the correction of imaginary boys, accompanied with arrogant reproofs. He took no notice of any one, but if any one touched him he gave a strange cry; so they got carefully out of his way. Before he had his hat on, I put *my* hand on his head, without at all disconcerting him; but afterwards, when I attempted to detain him up stairs, as he was about to run down, by taking his arm, he uttered the same wild cry.

He continued to walk about in this way, enacting the parts of teacher, master, and clergyman, till he betrayed, by the twitchings of the knee, that he was about to fall, having been nearly four times as long as usual in his *active* maniacal state. He now frowned and looked vexed, evidently struggling against the weakness which was overpowering him; and, after a staggering turn or two, sunk or melted down, supported by his mother and the young woman, who had watched for his fall. As he was now perfectly limp and insensible, I had him taken to his bed and undressed; and again mesmerised him.

He almost immediately put on a calm look, though he roused once or twice, champing with his lips and foaming at

\* When speaking with Dr. King at the bedside, I several times remarked how much I was struck with his appearance, and that he looked like a very pretty young woman. I have no doubt that this was *unconsciously apprehended* by the *brain*, and led to his dressing himself in female apparel, a thing he had never before done.

the mouth; and, at intervals, talking to the boys. I mesmerised him for more than an hour, and towards the end of half that time found his arms cataleptic. I lifted the arm up, and it remained up; the fingers also, in whatever position I twisted them, remained like wax; although after a time the arm would fall suddenly quite relaxed. As I did not yet know if this state was the result of the mesmerism or one of the spontaneous fits of catalepsy, I thought it would decide the matter if attraction existed. I, to ascertain this, made tractive pluckings above the arm, without contact, and raised it up by them. As I continued this test, the obedience was rendered more and more promptly.\* I next pointed my hand towards the pit of his stomach, as he lay in bed, at the distance of two feet: the body was slowly raised, without any apparent effort, projecting in an arched form till my hand was touched, when he remained immoveably fixed as long as I held my hands there. I now determined on an experiment, so decisive as to leave no doubt. I walked out of the room into the passage, and made tractive passes to draw him towards me through the partition. When I returned to the room, I found him with his hands thrown against the wainscot, and his body also thrown forward thither, in as awkward and irksome a position as can be imagined, and exactly at the spot to which I had drawn him from the passage. I now endeavoured to get him to speak, as I deemed the obedience a sign that I had him sufficiently under influence. I asked, "Frank, how do you feel?" He made a hiss in reply. This was encouraging. I asked him several other questions, to all of which he evidently made an effort to reply in the same hissing sounds. It now occurred to me that the organs of speech might be rigid: and I demesmerised the lips, opened the mouth, and blew upon the tongue. The result confirmed my conjecture, for he could now speak so as to be understood. "How are you, Frank?" "Better," was the answer. "Are you comfortable?" "Yes." "Will this do you good?" "Yes." "Will it be better to leave you asleep, or to wake you before I go?" "Leave me asleep." "If I wake you shall you wake sensible?" "No." "If I leave you asleep, will it hurt you for others to come near you?" "No." "How long will you sleep if I leave you?" "An hour." "How

\* I here observed a phenomenon I had formerly heard of in cataleptic patients, and in witches,—that the limbs appeared to be specifically lighter than ordinary:—if I lifted the arm, it seemed without weight, it came up as if it were only the sleeve of the shirt. This I attribute to the simultaneous but unconscious volition of the patient with my own efforts. See Mr. Sandby's instances, at p. 361 of his work.

will you wake?" "Sensible." "Shall I come again to you to-morrow?" "Yes."

He stated how long he would remain sensible before the mania returned: but I did not make a note of it, and forgot all, except that his mother told me the next day that he had been quite right to a minute in the time he had stated.

I had now achieved an important step: the patient, hitherto insane except at lucid intervals of a few minutes in the day, was now in that state that his sane powers of reflection could be appealed to at will.

Tuesday, May 9th. I found him sitting at 12 o'clock reading a book; he was dressed, but quite maniacal. He presently got up with a bounce, and briskly opened the cupboard in the room. I now made tractive passes from behind him; he started as soon as I began, looked fixed, and inclined towards me, moving his legs sideways till he touched me. I made a few passes over his head, led him to a chair and seated him. He was beautifully cataleptic, and his hands, arms, body or head obeyed perfectly my own hands, so that if I placed one hand in front to bring his body towards it,—and, while this was moving towards it, placed the other hand behind his head so as not to be observed, (a precaution only necessary for lookers on, for he could not see at all with his eyes,) his head would begin to move back, while his body still continued to project forward, till both points were reached. Nor did this depend on my will, for, sometimes when I was not thinking of producing such effects, the placing one of my hands accidentally near one of his arms or his head would immediately cause them to swerve in that direction. It will be seen in the course of the narration how wonderfully this influence was extended.

I now had again (and at all subsequent sittings) to demesmerise the organs of Speech before he could answer me. "How are you?" "Better." "How have you slept?" "Very well." His mother told me he had *slept all the night*,—a thing he had *not done till this time*.

Q. Where do you feel worst?

A. In my head.

Q. What part? He slowly raised his hand and placed it on the back part of his head, over Self-esteem. My view was yesterday, as I expressed, that the boy's Self-esteem had been much shocked: the reasons I have given in the introduction.

Q. What made your head bad?

A. Abuse; I've been abused at the school; I've been hurt by it.

Q. Has your pride been hurt in the failure with the inspector?

A. Yes; through my illness I could not acquit myself.

Q. Can you see your head?

A. Yes, a little.

Q. How does it look where it is bad?

A. It looks black.

I now mesmerised this part of the head, and he said that an alteration took place in the appearance from my doing so; I made it *whiter*; that is, I changed it from black to brown by the passes, which made it continually lighter in colour.

Q. Can you see anything not in the room; anything beyond this room?

A. Yes; I can see *human bodies*; nothing else.

A lady had come in, and went with his mother into the back room; I asked him if he could see into that room?

A. Yes; I can see Miss F—— and my mother.

Q. How do you see them?

A. I see their bodies.

Q. Shall I cure you by mesmerism?

A. Yes.

Q. How long will it be before you become sensible?

A. *Yesterday week I shall be so.*

Q. How often and for how long a time will it be necessary to mesmerise you?

A. Once a day, at 12 o'clock, for half an hour.

Q. How long will you be in this state when I leave you, and must I wake you or leave you as you are?

A. If you try to wake me it hurts my head; leave me asleep, and I shall wake up ten minutes after you leave me, sensible. I shall remain sensible five minutes, and then I shall become as I have been, maniacal again.

Any noise of talking hurts his head, and he starts if several persons talk in the room, unless I put my hand on the crown of his head, and then he is indifferent to it. Through the whole course of his attack he has manifested great sensitiveness to noise before I came to him, I am told.

Q. What will you have for your dinner?

A. Young spring onions raw, with bread and salt.

Q. When is this to be given to you?

A. In the five minutes while I am sensible.

I directed that these should be sent for and be ready in the next room, into which I led him. I had to breathe on his knees to remove the stiffness, and, while walking along the passage, he started at a noise and stood still.

Q. Why do you hesitate?

A. The noise has hurt my knees; they are stiffened.

I tried them, and found them perfectly rigid, and had again to release him as before. I put him into an arm-chair to leave him, as he said that when awake he should fall out of the common chair, being quite relaxed when sensible. He directed that he should have an egg with his tea; he was to be taken out into the air, when the sun was down; he would be insane, but not violent any more; his mother was to go with him, but be careful not to touch him; and he should walk quietly as far as the school and back very safely; he said, "I can see the carcass of the school-room now."

Wednesday, May 10th. On my arrival I found the house full of gentlemen waiting to see the case, and I feared my patient would suffer in consequence. The details of the day are as follows: He awoke yesterday after ten minutes; ate his onions and bread in the lucid interval,—which lasted just five minutes,—at the expiration of which he jumped up and ran up stairs as fast as he could go, as mad as ever, and in this state he ate the dinner which was prepared for his brother, and which ought to have been kept out of his sight. He took his walk as bespoken; went to the school and back; extended his walk considerably; and returned home without any accident or disturbance.

To-day I found him occupied with writing materials; his pen was in his mouth. He turned rapidly round and looked about him, but did not seem to heed people, and yet had a more *conscious* look in his eye to-day. Yesterday you *felt* that he did not see you; to-day you were not quite comfortable about it.

I brought him to me by tractive passes as before, and mesmerised him. In answer to my questions, he said he was much better; his head was not so dark-coloured; he had slept well; could see, but not very distinctly (*clairvoyant*); he saw the school rooms at Mr. Drummond's request, and described particulars which Mr. D. said were not correct. A messenger was sent to ascertain, and the boy was right and Mr. Drummond wrong, though the latter had seen the school-room only an hour before.

He was annoyed when any gentleman spoke to *another* in the room, but not when the conversation was carried on between such an one and myself. After a few minutes his sensitiveness so increased that he was annoyed if any spoke to me unless I had *first* spoken to *him*, and thus established a legitimate *rapport*; it communicated a shock to him like electricity. Altogether I perceive a growing disturbance from the number in the room and I must abate it for my patient's sake.

In making a *clairvoyant* inspection, he inclined his body

to the right. I only asked him to do it twice; once to see the school room, and afterwards to find his brother, who was at 54, Lavender Street he said. This was correct also.

I asked him how long I should mesmerise him, and he said half an hour. In the number of questions and answers I had overpassed the time. I noticed it to him, and said, "But that is of no consequence, it will not hurt you." His reply was, "Yes it will." He predicted he would awake in a quarter of an hour, and be sensible ten minutes.

As my wife said that, when she called an hour afterwards, she found several persons all around him, occasionally touching him, for the amusement afforded by the shock it produced on him, I was much annoyed, and wrote a note requesting that no person might be allowed to see him, or be near him after I left, or at any time except when I was there, as it might injure the boy. I went again myself at 9 in the evening; Frank was dressed in his mother's clothes, and sitting very calmly reading a book; he presently took down a bonnet with a veil on it, and proceeded in the most business-like *feminine* manner to pinch and pat it into shape on his head; he then took it off and smelt it, saying to himself, "Oh, I know who *made* this bonnet,—I *think* I know,—but I shall be more certain presently." He then twisted it round, smelt it more carefully, and at last decided that it was made by the daughter of a man who lives at the top of ——— Street; her name is B———. This was the young woman I had seen with his mother; she was in the room, and smiled, saying, "He's right; I *did* make the bonnet myself."

His mother tells me that he smells about for every thing he wants, and smells everything before he eats it; and, since he has been mesmerised, he passes his hands over his food before he eats it, as if that made it taste pleasanter; he also made passes before his own chest in which he felt pain. He told his mother, before I came, that on Sunday at 12 o'clock he shall be restored to his senses; he also made communications to her concerning her other son, who was expected and had not arrived, and about whom she was anxious; he said that his brother had met with some accident and been detained. It was afterwards discovered that it was by illness. He often expressed a wish that somebody might be with him, to whom he might impart some most important revelations that were made known to him, "which would do good to thousands."

He now put on a shawl and began to walk musingly to and fro in the room. When his back was turned, I mesmerised my walking stick, and put it down in his path. As soon as

his feet touched it, he started, and became cataleptic till I withdrew it, when he suddenly recovered after a minute, and, as if the peculiar thrill the shock had caused made him remember something like it, he began to sniff about the mantel-piece, taking up one thing after another, holding each doubtfully in his hand and then replacing it, till he found the letter I had written and which he had never before seen. As soon as his fingers touched it, a joyous smile broke over his face; he put it to his nose, nodded his head, and then became perfectly cataleptic, holding the letter folded in the envelope in his right hand hanging down at his side. He then gave a slight start, said "thoroughly right," as if the contents of the note had his entire approbation, and replaced it on the mantel-shelf; he had not attempted to open it, but he had read it through, as I found the next day, by questioning him, while he held it thus.

He now went to the cupboard and got some toast and water, and, after he had drunk one glass, I filled the tumbler again (his back was turned), carefully mesmerised it, and placed it on the table. He had turned to his book and taken no notice of it, but presently his eyes were attracted as if by something peculiar in the glass; he started, and gradually leaned forward towards it, precisely as if it drew him down without his own volition; he looked fascinated; nearer and nearer he went, till his face touched the glass, when he gave a slight start; gradually approached it with his hands, which, when they grasped it, were so affected with catalepsy that he could with difficulty carry them to his mouth. The glass rested when within an inch of his mouth, and he became apparently mesmerised; he, however, made a violent effort, and swallowed the whole down greedily, remaining mesmerised, with the glass upturned, in the drinking attitude for a considerable time. He then recovered himself, looked very merry, patted his chest laughing, and said, "Ah, that does my chest good."

I left him very calm and happy at half-past 9, his mother telling me he had announced his intention of sitting up all night.

Thursday, May 11th. I found him walking up and down the room. I made three passes on the floor behind him, and, when his feet touched the place, he became cataleptic; I drew him to a chair and mesmerised him.

He directed mesmerism for only twenty minutes, and said that he would wake twenty minutes afterwards, and be sensible a quarter of an hour; during which he was to have a slice of bread only for his dinner. He said that keeping him asleep longer than he directed yesterday had made him heavy,

overcharged him, and that my *wish* that he would lie down and go to bed (which I had more felt than expressed) and which he had done at 2 o'clock in the morning, instead of sitting up all night, as he otherwise would have done, *had hurt his chest*, for it would have been better if he had not lain down at all.

Dr. H—— who was present, wishing to ascertain if his eyes, which were only half closed (as they always were in his somnambulism), were incapable of vision, as I asserted, moved his fingers so near to him as to affect him with a nervous trembling, and, although I soon caused this to cease, his clairvoyance was interrupted during this *séance* by the disturbance.

I was careful to-day to leave him at the right time, and his waking and lucid interval occurred as predicted. He falls like a wet rag over the chair as soon as he quits the somnambulant condition, so that his body will double over the back of a chair as if there were no bones in it.

He told me to-day that I must come to him at 11 o'clock on Sunday, for he should regain his senses at 12 o'clock on that day. I asked if he would be cured; "very nearly," was his answer.

Friday, May 12th. I promised for the satisfaction of Dr. H—— that I would to-day, on my arrival, without going into the room where the boy was, draw him from his seat to any part of the wall Dr. H. chose to point out, by tractive passes, I being in the other room.

I made the attempt while Dr. H—— and Mr. H——, another medical gentleman present, remained at the door of the room where the boy was to watch the effect produced. I continued for some seconds; but, as no effect *appeared*, I first endeavoured by downward passes to mesmerise him and then renewed the traction. I now succeeded in drawing him from his chair at the opposite side of the room, he walking slowly backwards towards the wall behind which I was: but, not knowing how far I was succeeding, I left off and came to the other room, and he was immediately released from the spell and walked back to the chair.

As the time to mesmerise had arrived, I proceeded as usual. When in his sleep, he was much disturbed. "How are you?" "Not at all well." "Why?" "Because you called me." "When did I call you?" "With your hands just now." "Why did you not come then, when I called you?" "Because those persons who were standing at the door kept me in my seat." "Should you have obeyed me if they had not been there?" "Yes, certainly."

Dr. H—— was not at all satisfied with the experiment, though the boy had no previous knowledge of my intention, and yet in his sleep gave these precise reasons for not obeying an influence which he would have been quite ignorant of my having attempted to exercise over him if what I had contended for had not been true: namely, that I could influence the boy without being seen by him. From this time I made up my mind to a certain course,—to cure the boy, and eschew all experiments to convince unbelievers. There are so many circumstances which tend to vary the result when dealing with such a delicate instrument as a somnambule may be called, that we can never be sure of uniformity, and, if anything other than what has been promised should occur, sceptics leave out of the question all the startling things which *have* occurred, and which they are equally unable to account for, and call the whole experiment a failure. A mesmeriser only gets vexation, his patient disturbance, and the sceptic what he thinks a triumph, though the facts to an unprejudiced mind are fully convincing of the truth of what has been averred.

His sleep to-day was to be a quarter of an hour; his head looked much lighter coloured; his liver dark; he directed for that, on Sunday, “a pennyworth of jalap from Savage’s shop;” a common pennyworth at that shop, he called a “strong dose of jalap:” he would remain twenty-five minutes asleep, would have a slice of bread and butter for his dinner, would not eat in his insensibility to-day, and would require nothing for tea. He would sleep in bed if he sat up, but not if he lay down, because lying down will hurt him; he would require only ten minutes mesmerism to-morrow, “because he was full.” I took him into the other room and left him, and resumed a conversation with Dr. H—— and Mr. H——, in which the former stated he was very incredulous of the traction being a genuine matter, “as it had not succeeded as I promised it would.” In five minutes word was brought from the other room that Frank had fallen out of his chair. I went, and found him in a great trembling, and remained with him, as I found he was so agitated by the contention which I had taken part in, although apparently unconscious of it, that I could not leave him comfortably. The “*Atmosphère d’Incredule*,” had violently affected him: this I afterwards ascertained from himself.

I would never willingly shew a patient to any person but those conversant with mesmerism, when the health of the patient is likely to be affected. As the objections they make, from want of acquaintance with the ordinary phenomena, to

some simple unimportant irregularity in a class of facts familiar to every mesmeriser, draw the attention of the operator away from his business.

While my patient was under my hands, and the medical gentlemen had left the room, Frank's head became slowly turned over his left shoulder, and he explained that he was *drawn* there; that the passes I had made at the wall, or, as he phrased it, "the power I had left," had that effect. He trembled very much and was evidently not in his usual comfortable state after mesmerism; and at the end of twenty-five minutes from the time I left him he raised himself and looked fixedly with his eyes open straight before him. As the time was come for him to have his bread and butter, I asked his mother to speak to him. She did so and found him sensible; but evidently things were not going right. I demesmerised him to see if that would do any good; and it relieved him, and he fell relaxed, and began to eat his bread and butter. I then left him, but presently he got up again, and stood upright on a certain spot on the floor. I was called again; I went, and, at his direction as he pointed to it saying something drew him *there*, (it was where my feet had rested, while I was sitting in the room, till I moved more to the wall), I demesmerised the floor and his feet, and he seemed suddenly to melt down all to pieces again, quite relaxed.

It was thus that in the first instance was developed that intense attraction which afterwards became so conspicuous and indeed embarrassing. I now left the room again and retired to the next: but shortly he arose and walked to the door, shewing that while I was in the house he would be drawn towards me. I then demesmerised him energetically, although he had not directed it, and left the house with the doctors. I may here notice that on a subsequent occasion I made an attempt to demesmerise him entirely for a long time, thinking that it would be better to leave him so: but I could not succeed, and, as every minute of the attempt brought back some old symptom which the mesmerism had removed, without giving any indication of a better state, I discontinued, mesmerised him anew, and left him. I never afterwards did more than remove a superfluity when he said, "I'm a little too full Sir," which was the phrase he always used to express this condition.

As every thing which came from me or which I had touched now exercised a mesmeric power over him, I gave him a card from my card case, and of this and the letter I have already mentioned he made the following use:—whenever he wishes to find anything that he has been searching

for in vain, he gets the card and note and places them on his forehead; he becomes immediately cataleptic for a few seconds, and then darts away straight to the place where the thing is; a state of mesmeric clairvoyance is induced by these talismans, and by their assistance he can detect almost every thing. Thus, for example, he found two eggs in the cupboard; he put the card on his forehead, and each egg in turn against it, and told precisely where they came from, the two eggs having been sent from two different places. He applies this test together with smell to every thing he eats or drinks, and, during the intervals of his mouthful, he will, as if to himself, say in an under tone where it all came from, naming the place where the flour was grown, the man who made the bread, and the place where it was bought.

I have usually set my watch by the chronometer at Mr. Lawson's, where the true time by Greenwich is always kept, and I was consequently rather surprised to find the little Dutch clock in the widow's cottage exactly with me yesterday; to-day I observed the same coincidence and could not help remarking how very truly the clock kept time. His mother replied, "Bless you Sir!" *he* sets it after you are gone, and several times a day he will go out and look at the sun, and then come in and set the clock on (for it loses), and he said yesterday when he had done it, "There, that is the time by Greenwich: if you could see Greenwich Observatory time you would find that exactly right."

Whenever he comes to any spot that I have stood upon, he stops and falls asleep. I bought him two sprigs of geranium as he is fond of flowers, and mesmerised them as I came along. I put them into his two little jars in which he had placed only a bit of mint in water, and, as he was out of the room when I did so, it was a fair trial. When he entered the room, he looked indifferently around till his eyes glanced on the flowers, when he started slightly and became fascinated, his fingers were drawn gradually towards them, and he went to sleep directly he touched them.

His divining talismans, my letter and card, were very highly prized by him, but he said the card had nearly lost its virtue. I therefore gave him a fresh one, and, as it put him to sleep whenever he touched it, it was amusing to behold the manœuvres he was obliged to have recourse to in order to prevent this. He took it up in the folds of his dressing gown or with his handkerchief, and once when he wanted to climb over the gate of the back garden, as he was obliged to lift up his dressing gown, he popped the card between his teeth, and immediately sank down fast asleep against the gate.

His mother was unable to prevent him from eating every thing he could find of an eatable nature; since, hide it where she could, he discovered it by the means I have described. The best place in this hot weather was the celler, but it was of no use to put any thing there.

This was very annoying, because he said in his sleep that things he had eaten in his maniacal state had done him harm occasionally. I said to him, in reply, "You must not eat it then!" "But I will eat whatever I can get hold of when I am in the mania; they must put things out of my way." "But they can't, you find them wherever they are put." "Then they must put the things in another house."

As this, however, was out of the question, I thought of a different plan. The descent to the cellars was from the kitchen, through a door at the head of the stairs. I made some strong passes over the sill of this door, with intention to prevent him from going down. He was in the garden when I did it, and could not observe me, for there was a building between us. I went again to him at nine o'clock in the evening and found him quiet. I had sent to him in the afternoon a letter which I wished him to read without opening: but he would not attempt it. He said it was to satisfy that person who did not believe, and he could not do it, because that person had doubted my word; and, what was remarkable, that letter was the only thing from me that did not seem to possess a soothing, or the ordinary mesmeric, influence upon the boy; it produced, on the contrary, an unpleasant feeling *directly he touched it*, before he had read what was outside,—"To be read without being opened."

His mother told me that he had tried in vain to go down the cellar stairs fifty times, and was very angry because he could not pass over the door sill. While I was there he suddenly seized the candle and made a rush at the stairs, as if determined to overcome all opposition, with such violence that I thought it impossible for him to avoid falling headlong down without such an effort of the reverse muscles as he was incapable of in his weak state. But, as soon as he reached the sill of the door, he rebounded back as if he had struck some firm obstacle. He then muttered to himself, "What the deuce is there. I *will* go down." He made another plunge, followed by the same recoil, and then shook his fist at it and gave it up.

As he drinks ginger-beer whenever he can get it and asked for some now, I mesmerised some water, with which he had filled a ginger-beer bottle, with the intention that it should seem ginger-beer to him. He took the bottle up and

shook it gleefully, as he had done before when it was only water to him; but this time the water in the bottle mesmerised him and he went fast asleep.

Every thing that I have touched sends him to sleep for a few seconds. But a piece of bread which I mesmerised plagued him sorely, for every mouthful he ate put him to sleep three times:—first when he touched it; after a few seconds he would arouse and bite a bit off and after chewing it a moment he was asleep again; again he aroused, and, as soon as it was fairly swallowed, again he was asleep. “What the deuce is it,” said he, “I like the taste of it, and yet I can’t help going to sleep: I must seem very unpolite.” I now took the plate away; when his back was turned, I blew strongly upon the bread that remained, and replaced it, and he ate it up without any more trouble. He now took up his ginger-beer bottle, poured from it into a tea-cup, and, as soon as he turned it up, on drinking it, he became fixed in that position for several minutes, fast asleep; and, when he was released, put it down, saying very gently to himself, “Delicious ginger-beer.”

Occasionally he collapses and falls together in a heap, with violent shakings all over him, and then, as suddenly, recovers himself and begins to move about briskly as before. He appears to take no notice of any body, and, if one speaks to him, gives a low cry as if in pain, and appears like a person frightened in a dream. And yet if he speaks first to his mother, or her young friend, Maria B——, by their names, he will hear their reply and make a pertinent rejoinder, but never hears them unless he has first addressed them; and, if they inadvertently neglect this precaution, he is seized with violent trembling. His mother he calls by a strange nick-name, “Old mother Bradget,” and his fancy is that she is a char-woman he has in to take care of his house. All the inmates of the family and household have also fanciful soubriquets, by which he invariably distinguishes each.

He was sensible for about an hour yesterday—from 7 in the evening till 8.

Saturday, May 13th. Mesmerised and questioned, “How are you?” “Not so well as yesterday.” “Why?” “That person made me ill: my head looks worse.” I removed the bad effects by mesmerising him carefully, leaving him comfortable. I asked him what I gave him yesterday; he answered, “Ginger-beer, and very nice indeed it was.” He was to be mesmerised half an hour, he would then remain half an hour in the state, and would be sensible half an hour

when he awoke, during which he was to have for his dinner bread and butter and some of *my ginger-beer*. I mesmerised with this intention some water for him; and after the half-hour he awoke, ate his bread and butter, and drank the water with great relish, calling it, "Excellent ginger-beer, and rather sharp," *when in his lucid interval or sensible condition*. He still adheres to his former opinion, that he will recover his senses to-morrow, at 12; and I am to come at 11.

Sunday, May 14. On my arrival at 11, his mother told me that he had been muttering something of having made a mistake, and that it was not to-day he was to come to his senses, but to-morrow; and when mesmerised he confirmed this in the following words.

"I have made a mistake in saying I shall be well to-day; the mistake was due to my being mesmerised too long, and becoming too full, I now see I shall not be well till to-morrow, at seven minutes past 12."

Q. How do you see it.

A. There is a book at my side, a large book, it is open, and I see written in it, "It is ordained that you shall be under the hand of affliction fifty-one days;" it says also that "I am to be under you ten thousand and eighty minutes to recover my senses," and that will be exactly at seven minutes past 12, on Monday, as you began on that day, at that time; but, being mesmerised too long one day, I became confused."

This is perfectly correct, as will be seen on reference. His first prediction was on Tuesday,—that he would be restored to his senses "yesterday-week," which would be the following Monday. On Wednesday, the 10th, he was mesmerised ten minutes longer than he directed; he said then, on my remarking it, that it would hurt him, and it was on the following day that he announced *Sunday* to be the day, so that he has now returned to the day which he named at first.

He says that it has been a *trance*, and it will last fifty-one days from his first attack.

Q. How will you awake at the expiration of the time?

A. Perfectly well, quite well, and restored to my senses.

Q. How long would the state have endured in which you have been, if you had not been mesmerised.

A. *All my life*.

Q. Do you ever see any other beings than living human beings in this state.

A. Yes, Sir; I saw a man in black this morning, before you came, in this room, very ghastly in countenance. He pointed to this book, which lay in the air: it was shut, and it was not opened till you came. I see your likeness in it,

and under it is written that I am to be under you ten thousand and eighty minutes, to recover my senses.

Q. Did you ever see any such beings as you describe before?

A. Yes, Sir; Mr. M—— tried to mesmerise me, and, although I did not go to sleep, I saw a figure clad in white, and I was very much frightened; it did me harm, it hurt my eyes.

(His mother told me that Mr. M—— had mesmerised him, and he has spoken *during* his mania about a figure which he saw, but he never mentioned it *before* the mania.)

Q. Did you ever mention this?

A. No, Sir; I do not *know* it when I am awake, not till I am in this state; I *now* know *what it was I saw*.

Q. Your mother says you set the clock right by the sun and a *glass of water*. How do you do that?

A. I only did it once, Sir.

Q. How did you do it *then*?

A. I took out a glass of water, and drew a dial with my finger over it, and I could see, by the shade which the sun casts, what o'clock it was, and I came in and corrected our clock.

He was to be kept asleep a quarter of an hour, would remain twenty minutes asleep, and ten minutes sensible; he would eat his dinner in his maniacal state, and it would be sent in to him at 1 o'clock.

All occurred precisely as he said.

I remained till nearly 2 o'clock observing him. He carries wherever he goes the little jars of geranium flowers which I gave him: he has put one of my cards on each bunch of flowers, and makes constant use of them in discovering any thing he wishes to know. He has never been down the cellar stairs since I made the passes over the sill; and, while I was here, he made an effort to go, and failed. He brought his two talismans in the other day, thinking by their means to get over the difficulty; but with them he could not approach within a yard of the door, and instantly ran back with them, exclaiming, "Good gracious! good gracious! it's worse than ever!" While I was still sitting here, however, he made another attempt just as Maria B—— was going down; and, whether that facilitated it, or the charm was worn out, (for this is the third day since I made the barrier with three strokes of my hand,) or whether any misgiving in my own mind while looking on assisted him, I know not, but he went down with apparent ease, and rushed to the bottom with a scream of triumph, quickly returning laden with spoils in the form of a plateful of provisions. But now he was to pay for his te-

merity. His feet ached so that he was obliged to take his boots off; and he observed that going down had "cut his feet so" that he did not think he would try that again. When his attention was otherwise directed, I made some fresh passes over the sill.

He gave to-day an amusing instance of the *electric* condition he was in. He took a cane to thrash Maria B——, for not doing something he wished; but, as soon as the cane touched her arm, he threw it out of his hand as if it had stung him, and began to shake his hand and rub it with my card to remove the effect. The cane had acted as a conductor.

Mr. W—— took up one of my cards inadvertently, while his back was turned, not aware of the mischief he was doing, for in touching it he had ruined one of his cherished talismans. Frank cried out, and turned sharp round, as if he had been struck; Mr. W—— instantly dropped it on the table. "Somebody's been touching my property," cried the boy. "I'll soon find out," and he got his vases and flowers, and, as soon as he touched this card, he lamented over it, tore it up, and tossed the pieces into the fire-place; but, quickly recollecting himself, said, "I'll find out *who* it is, though," and began to sniff about till he took up Mr. W——'s hat. He then raked in the coals for the bits of card, put them and the hat together, placed the flower jars over them, deciding thereby that the wearer of that hat was he who had touched his card. He then ran away and locked himself in the other room for a few minutes. When he came back he had cut the remaining card in two equal halves, and put one on each jar, to restore the symmetry.

He is now becoming very sensitive to the touch of copper and brass, and, if he accidentally touches either, is in a terrible agitation, and nothing will purify his fingers but the talismans.

He took up *my* hat when he was sniffing about; but that put him to sleep, and, when he recovered, he put it reverently down, and made an obeisance to it.

When I went in the evening, I found a grand display; for he had invited company to tea, and he had set the table forth with decorative arrangements, which shewed a great talent for it, considering the limited means at his disposal. The company, the inhabitants of the house, had then to go outside into the street, each in turn knock and arrive as company. I was admitted with Maria B——, whom I found outside the door, on that expedition, as Miss Holcombar; Lady Amelia Graystock had just preceded her, the name he gives to the lodger; and Old Mother Bradget, his mother,

and "Little Tommy Clutterbuck," his brother, were already there, being specially invited to Lord Ecclesfield's evening party, which is the name he gives himself, writing all his letters with that signature. It was really interesting to watch the boy.

The tea was to be wetted at 9, and as he was impatient he put the clock ten minutes on.

All was going very pleasantly when Mr. W—— (the delinquent of the morning) came in. This he should not have done, as he did not know I was there, and it was soon evident that things were now *askew*. The boy began to be very much disturbed. "Somebody was there not invited," and he went into the other room, calling out in addition, "and *unwanted* too." He now took his talismans round the room, then rummaged for the torn card, and discovered his foe of the morning by the identity of the fluid. As Mr. W—— did not take the hint, wishing to remain and witness the performance, the boy got more and more excited and violent, till at last he seized the tongs and rushed at him to drive him out; and I, fearing the boy would be injured, requested him to go.

After his departure the boy seemed much distressed, and his countenance had a worn and haggard look, which it was painful to contemplate. I placed my hand on him to calm him, and, as if he instinctively sought what was necessary to him, after this he was twice drawn towards me like a needle to a magnet, when he immediately sank into a deep and insensible sleep. I removed his agitation, but, not liking to mesmerise him out of the course, lest it should interfere with to-morrow, I put him into his chair and withdrew from him. I then tried his susceptibility by speaking to him while in his usual maniacal state, but, on my doing so he instantly fell forward mesmerised, with his face in the tea tray.

I left him rather anxiously.

Monday, May 15. At ten minutes to 12, having verified my watch by Lawson's chronometer, I went to him. He was lying on his back, with his head on the floor, on a bed which he had made of a blanket four-times folded, and a pillow at the end.

He was shaking violently, and the arms and legs twitching convulsively against the floor, as he lay *across* his bed. By and bye he began to draw long breaths and to be more still, drawing his breath more deeply, till, at the precise time he was to become sensible, he ceased and closed his eyes, remaining so for some minutes; at sixteen minutes past 12 he raised himself up (which he had been endeavouring to do

once or twice before) and spoke to his mother in a natural tone of voice.

His mother answered—he was quite sensible—and, when he had expressed his surprise at finding himself down stairs, she put her arm round him to prevent him from falling, and he immediately collapsed and became convulsed. I now came forward and mesmerised him.

Q. Well, Frank, how are you?

A. Quite well, Sir, *and I am very much obliged to you.*

Q. You are quite welcome, my boy, to my efforts for you; but are you now restored to your senses, as you said?

A. Yes, Sir. I shall not be insensible any more.

Q. But you were not quite to your time, were you?

A. Yes, Sir. I became sensible at seven minutes past 12 in my sleep, seven minutes before I awoke.

Q. Did you speak to your mother directly you awoke?

A. No, Sir. I was awake two minutes before I spoke.

This makes the event perfectly in accordance with his prediction; for that quite accounts for the nine minutes difference which my watch gave as the time of his speaking, beyond the seven minutes past 12.

Q. Shall you be able to touch any body now?

A. No, Sir. It will throw me again into the maniacal state.

Q. But how will *that* do? you cannot walk about if that is the case. You will not be *well*.

A. This will be only while the mesmerism is continued, which must be for some time yet: but these fits will only last a short time, and I shall come out of them well. In other respects I shall be quite well.

Q. How long must you be mesmerised every day, *now*?

A. For half an hour, if you will be so good, Sir.

Q. Will it signify whether I *now* exceed the time?

A. It will make me feel weaker when I awake, if you do; the mesmerism will make me heavy.

I now examined him (clairvoyant) concerning the state of his own body, which he described thus,—

His liver was lighter, but wanted relief, and he prescribed seven grains of jalap. His stomach, and underneath it, looked dark; the darkness began from the pit of the stomach downwards. My liver looked much lighter than his own, but he could not see my brain.

He would sleep 25 minutes after I left him and would awake sensible and continue so.

I saw him again at half-past 3; he was in bed. He had undressed himself because he found himself too weak to be

about. The excitement being removed, the actual debility was made manifest; he had been quite collected and sensible, but *exceedingly* nervous, so that he fell into a violent trembling when the door was opened. As he was in natural sleep, I placed my hand on him to mesmerise him sufficiently to get an answer and asked him if he would not be better altogether in bed for a time; he agreed to it. His mother suggested that he should occupy the room at the top of the house, as it was his own and he usually preferred it: moreover it was never passed or approached by any body else, whereas this was like a thoroughfare all day. He said it would be better he should remove to it. He continued to sleep when I came away.

Tuesday, May 16th. My patient was in mesmeric sleep when I came. I mesmerised him half an hour. He said he was quite cured and would now only want rest and the mesmerism to give him strength. His liver was quite well; the jalap had done good; but my putting my hand there had done more good, and the jalap might have been dispensed with if he had directed the local mesmerism for it. The stomach below was a little dark; but placing my hand over it made it lighter. His heart was much excited, and *that* I shall not be able to remedy. He has had disease of the heart all his life, and it is beyond the reach of any remedy; but it will not necessarily shorten life, unless combined with unfortunate circumstances; it will always make him unsafe, unless he takes great care to avoid sudden shocks, and strong and violent exercise. I could not cure it: his reason for saying so was, that *the smoke from my hand did not go to it, but seemed to be repelled from it.* "It was an incurable state, which has always existed. His mother is very nervous; I should do her good. Miss F—— is insane; I could do her good also, make her much better even if I did not cure her."

He sees a smoke and feels a wind from my hand, and sees this smoke enveloping me. He was not able to see beyond the room to-day, "because he is cured." He could still see the interiors of the bodies of all persons in the room. If I spoke to him when he was awake, it would instantly send him into the mesmeric sleep; not however if I spoke what I had to say to any other person in the room; he would hear it then without being so influenced. If I from my own house drew him strongly towards me, he would feel it, but not come to me, other things would prevent him now; he would come as far as the door, but not farther. My drawing him would have this effect from any distance, from the other side of the world. I could not *mesmerise* him from any distance, but could exert this influence.

Not many persons could mesmerise like myself; because they did not *believe* so much as I did; want of faith in many things prevented their action; it made a difference in the quality of the fluid. Wicked men could not mesmerise like good men, to do the same good to their patients. He will prefer to have all his meals brought to him and put down into the front parlour, where he will live and sleep also. He will take down his own bed there as nobody must touch it. He will be able to see people and talk with them without injury, if they do not touch him. In a week he will have recovered his strength and be less susceptible. He must be mesmerised daily for half an hour; he will sleep twenty-five minutes after I leave him.

His mother relates that she was in the room when he awoke, and that he was perfectly sensible. He asked if she had taken her tea, and he expressed a wish for some himself. She brought it to him and put it on the bed: but he was so sensitive that, when she had done so, he said, "I don't know how it is, mother, but I can't rest since you have put the tea on the bed: *I must get up*: I think in future you must always put my meals on the table and not touch the bed." He was obliged to leave the bed. He got up and dressed and went down stairs, was much struck with the alterations of the furniture (which he had himself insisted on), and with the decorations of the room, made by himself and consisting of coloured paper cut into various forms and pinned in systematic arrangements and devices on the walls and of flowers symmetrically distributed on the table and the mantel-piece: but more astonished at the slips of writing in his own hand. His mother explained that he had done all these things himself in those "*bad sleeps*" which he used to have sometimes, and which he had been having lately. "Well, I suppose it must be so;" he remarked, "but take all these flowers and put them into a basin, and put all these things away. I don't want any of this nonsense now." He appears then to have gone to bed and has slept nearly all the intervals of my absence; and he is better and stronger.

I went in the evening to him; but he was in a very unsatisfactory state, trembling in his chair, and seeming, as his mother said, "very strange."

He had been rational, but the least noise threw him into a nervous trembling, and, after I had been there a few minutes, his head fell and the usual shakings which were the precursors of his cataleptic fits came on. I mesmerised him, but still he did not become quiet at once. I asked him the reason of it. He did not know. It was on this occasion

that I made the effort to demesmerise him entirely, hoping by that means to remove the extreme sensitiveness he manifested to the approach of other persons. He neither advised nor refused it: did not know what effect it would have. I tried for twenty minutes to demesmerise him; with this result:—he seemed stage by stage to recede into the condition he had escaped from, till his head turned over one shoulder and his jaws began to chatter, as in his worst state; and as it appeared to me that I was dissipating all the good I had done, I desisted and mesmerised him afresh. In doing so I was *strongly conscious of a current of fluid* as I made the downward passes: as if in demesmerising I had given an upward tendency to them, and was now working against the stream. When he was fairly asleep and could reply to my questions, he said, "I am very poorly, and shall have a strong fit (cataleptic) soon after you leave me. I shall sit in the chair and be quite stiffened, so that I shall not fall out of it. I require air: taking the air out of doors will do me good."

He said he could go early in the morning before people were up, to avoid the evil consequence of meeting any body, but I thought that could not be allowed and promised to come for him at 7 in the morning myself.

Wednesday, May 17. I called for him, but he was too ill to get up. I mesmerised him and found him very weak and ill from the violence of the fit, which his mother described as the most severe one she had ever seen him in: it endured more than an hour.

I mesmerised him at twelve o'clock for half an hour. He said that he suffered from the effects of this fit, but that his recovery will not be prevented by it.

I have given him certain directions in sleep for self-management when I am away: but he does not appear influenced by these commands when awake, and I was therefore obliged to write a letter to him containing the directions I wished to give him—that, to avoid being constantly agitated by touching things which have come through other hands recently, he was to do all he could for himself, to get his own cup and saucer, plate, &c., to bring down his bed into the front room himself if he could, and, when anything had been touched by another, to blow on it strongly, and thus dispel the hostile influence.

He said that he did not foresee the fit till a little while before it came on. I asked him how he was enabled to foresee it at all. He replied, "By a general darkness in the nerves, particularly about the waist" (the solar plexus). I then asked,

Q. How long can you foresee one ?

A. (assuming an inclined position to the right) Two days.

Mr. H——, a medical gentleman, who has known the case as long as I have, remarks already *a great improvement in his appearance and an evident gain of flesh*. Mr. H——, by the way, is a remarkable person, by whose permission I hope to enrich the pages of *The Zoist* with an interesting instance of spontaneous clairvoyance which he himself was gifted with when suffering from disease. He saw his own interior and particularly the spinal marrow and brain ; but, as he has promised to give me a full description of the circumstances, I need make no more extended mention of it here, except to say that the internal vision was exercised in his natural waking state.

I saw Frank in the evening. When awake, he has expressed much annoyance at the directions which he himself gave in sleep. He said he could not possibly sleep in that room, he should be so cold ; and complained that he was so hungry that he wanted something more than bread and butter, which he had directed for his dinner. He is quite another individual when awake, and is opposed as much as possible to himself in the mesmeric state.

I now never see him except in his mesmeric sleep. I am the only person unable to compare the two states ; for the instant I enter the house he sleeps.

Thursday, May 18. He has slept tolerably well. I mesmerised him not quite half an hour, as he said he had enough. Much better to-day and more cheerful. Thinks it might be advantageous if he were mesmerised twice a day, a quarter of an hour morning and evening ; as, if mesmerised too long at a time, he feels heavy.

He could not see to-day : and, on my asking him a question, he assumed the inclined position. I asked him why.

A. When I do that I see a smoke, which enables me to see when I *can* see. I see the smoke when I do it now ; but I cannot see anything outwardly by it to-day.

Q. Is the smoke a light ?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. Shall you be able at some other time to see by means of it ?

A. Yes, Sir ; but I cannot say when.

Since he has been rational he has complained of the pain he suffers in going over the sill of the cellar-door. It quite hurts his feet, and he is astonished at it, wondering what can be the reason. This is an interesting fact, as establishing the reality of the influence of this, to ordinary perceptions, imaginary

barrier, which I had created to prevent him in his mania from descending the stairs.

I to-night put his bed up myself, as he is too weak for it, and it hurts him for any other person to touch the bed-clothes.

I am curious to ascertain *when* he goes to sleep on my approach; for he appears to have been some time in that state now when I see him.

As he had just had another fit, I mesmerised him ten minutes and questioned him.

Q. How are you to-night?

A. Not very well, Sir: the fit has made me feel ill.

Q. How was it that you did not foresee this fit in the morning?

A. I could not see anything this morning, Sir? *I could not come in contact with the light.* I can see *now* (he assumed an inclined position). I can see a house, an interior; there is a room with four ladies and two gentlemen in it, they are drinking wine—they are playing cards too.

Q. Where is the house, and what is there that brings it before you? has it any possible connexion with yourself?

A. I don't know where it is: it comes to me: I see it all at once, I don't know why, when I can touch the light.

Q. What is that light, and whence does it emanate?

A. It comes from you, Sir. This morning I could see it, but it turned away from me: now it falls on my body.

I remark here that, this being the only time he has spoken of this phenomenon in the *night time*, he calls it *the light*; at all other times, having seen it only in the day, he called it *a smoke*.

Q. Shall you have any more fits?

A. Yes, three more during the night.

Q. It is very embarrassing that I can never come near you without producing sleep. How long will this great susceptibility endure? try and discover.

He took the inclined position and twisted himself slowly in different ways: then sat up and replied,

A. Next Monday.

Q. How do you ascertain this?

A. When I get into the light, I see it written: the question is written and the answer under it.

Friday, May 19. Mesmerised at 12 for a quarter of an hour. He is not so well owing to the fits: he had the three he predicted: the first lasted twenty minutes, the second fifteen minutes, the third ten minutes. I asked him,

Q. Can you see the light, or come in contact with it?

A. No, Sir; I cannot see it even.

Q. Do you think you can tell me what this light is? and do you think if I move you into a different position it will assist you to come in contact with it?

A. I do not know, Sir. It comes from you and it is a sort of smoke with a light in the middle.

I now moved him so as to be in a line with me north and south. He could see the light now: it was *behind* him. I moved him again, so that *I* was *east* and *he west*: he now exclaimed, "I touch the light," and, immediately inclining his body *to the left* (he had always before inclined *to the right*), he said, "I can see the same party I saw last night: they are at breakfast now.

Q. Rather a late breakfast, eh? (it was past 12.)

A. It is a wedding breakfast.

Q. Oh! indeed, can you see the bride?

A. Yes, she is very pretty; 23 years of age; the bridegroom is 45; he is a dark man, with a scar on his cheek.

Q. How many are present?

A. There are 48 persons present. They are not relations, they are acquaintances; there are *no* relations: the lady's name is Whiteman, the gentleman's name is Oporto; he is a foreigner, she is English.

Q. Can you find out by anything *where* they are; is it in Brighton or any other place?

A. I have an idea it is at Hastings: I see a van at the door with "Hastings to Brighton" on the back of it. I cannot see any name: I can look out at the window into the street; it is dark, there is a *fog* I mean.

As his quarter of an hour (the time he directed) was expired, I ceased to question him, and left him.

His mother was much astonished at what he had uttered. She said there was a lady of that name married at Hastings whom she knew, and the ages tallied exactly. The lady was 23 and the gentleman 45. He was a dark man, and had a scar on his cheek, and was a foreigner; but she did not know his name, nor should she know it if it were mentioned to her, for she thinks *the event must have occurred 26 years ago*.

I asked if any circumstance connected it with herself, or if he had ever heard her speak of it. Her reply was, "Oh dear no, Sir; I should not have remembered it if he had not said what he has. I had nothing to do with the wedding: but I remember it being talked of at the time."

I have made enquiry by letter at Hastings to ascertain if any such wedding had *recently* taken place, but nothing is known of it.

As my patient is invariably asleep when I arrive, I made an arrangement with Mr. H—— to ascertain to-morrow when he begins to feel my approach. He was to be there a few minutes before the time of my arrival, watch the boy, and note when the change took place.

He has been very flighty in his manner to-day, and, when I went up at nine in the evening, his mother told me he had previously a strong fit. I mesmerised him and turned him to the east. He saw the light directly: but it looked darker, and presently he gradually inclined himself so much that he would have fallen out of his chair if I had not saved him. I then questioned him,

Q. How are you to-night, Frank?

A. Not so well. I have had another fit. They weaken me.

Q. Try and find out how this is, and what is the cause of your going back so, (the clock now struck nine, and he gave a sharp scream which almost electrified us all.) What is the matter, my dear boy?

A. (much agitated) I see it *point!*—the *hand!*—a very white and ghastly hand—to these words,

“ —— The hand that struck before,  
Strikes again, but strikes no more.”

I see more writing—it says, “You are ordained to be under the hand of affliction three thousand six hundred minutes from 12 o’clock to-night.” It means, Sir, that I shall be a maniac again. The time will expire at 12 o’clock on Monday, when I shall be quite well.

Q. What is the reason you are not yet cured? and why does the time point to that hour always?

A. I have an idea that I was first taken ill at 12 o’clock: and this second attack has been hanging about me all the week: the brain looks dark also in the same place as before.

He was now so agitated with the light which followed him, he said, the hand still pointing to the same words, that I altered his position to take him out of the line of magnetic relation, and he lost sight of it. But, as he still continued much disturbed, I laid him on the bed, which being nearly in the magnetic line, he touched the light again. I asked him about this light once more, and he rose in his bed, and said, “The light is the virtue of the mesmerism. I can see it *written* now with the question.”

While he was on the bed I made a few long passes to the feet, and he almost lost his power of answering.

He said he would get up soon after he became mad again, and walk about the house, but he would not come to any

harm in that state. His bowels have been much relaxed, but it had done him good; it was the seltzer water, and this was much better than the jalap: *this* mania he thinks is the remains of the trance.

I mesmerised him 25 minutes, when he said he was quite full.

Saturday, May 20. Exactly at 12 o'clock last night, he got up quite mad, but went to bed again at half-past 2 and had a pretty good night's sleep. His mania is much less violent than formerly, and he sometimes rationally answers questions put to him.

As agreed between Mr. H—— and myself, I started from my house, observing the time when I did so; it was just five minutes to 12. When I got to my patient I found Mr. H—— there, watch in hand. I looked at my watch: I had been four minutes walking thither: the boy was asleep.

Mr. H—— reported that, on his arrival, Frank was walking briskly about, evidently quite maniacal, and continued so till just four minutes before my arrival, when he suddenly started, shuddered, and, staggering, fell into his chair fast asleep as I found him.

On mesmerising him, he said that he went asleep as soon as I left my home to come to him; he knew it because he was in union with me from that time.

He directed mesmerism twenty minutes, particularly to the head, which looked very bad. When the time was up, he said, "That will do, Sir; I'm quite full."

He tried to-day to get out of the light, as he said it was too strong for him and was so hot; it came from me, (I was myself feverish and bilious that morning, and felt altogether unwell). The feeling was abated when I threw my head back to a distance from him. He saw the same words he had seen last night; the light was so strong he could see nothing else, not even me.

Sunday, May 21. In the morning he fell asleep at the time I left the chapel to go to him. But in the evening I caught him awake. He was talking when I entered, and was very merry. He had just boxed Maria B——'s ears for fun. He did not seem to notice me; and it was only when I *looked* at him that his eyes closed, and then, slowly rising, he came towards me till he touched me, like a needle to a magnet.

He had risen to-day at four in the morning and walked for two hours and a half on the Race-hill. This had done him good. His mother and the lodger went with him. He was very merry.

Monday, May 22. As this was the day on which his attack was to terminate, I waited for the development of reason at 12 o'clock.

He was writing when I arrived, and, as I passed into the back room, he did not cease but became very sleepy. Presently he cried out twice. I went to him and found him with his head hanging nearly on the floor, his jaws chattering. I lifted him, not wishing to mesmerise him till 12 o'clock.

I sat still, endeavouring to remain passive; but he was attracted towards me, and stood between my knees in front of me. Mr. Wilton, the assistant, came in about two minutes before 12; and he staggered back into the chair at 12 precisely. He then gave a cry, stood upright with his eyes open and a strong squint in them, and came to me. I now mesmerised him with a few passes and placed him as usual.

In answer to my questions, he said he was much better, and that he was out of the *trance*, but that he would not know any body for three days, and on Thursday, at 12 o'clock, he would be quite recovered; he must be mesmerised a quarter of an hour.

Q. You told me you would recover your senses to-day at 12.

A. I shall be out of the *trance*.

He reminded me that there was other writing which he could not see, when he told what he did see beginning with "The hand which struck before, &c.," but now he saw that he was to be three days in a sort of dream, only the madness.

I told him the madness appeared to me the important thing to be got rid of, and that I was disappointed as I expected he would be quite recovered. His rejoinder was, "It is much better as it is, for in my irrational state I recover my strength much faster than if I were sensible, and I shall be better now than I was even before I was taken ill."

Q. How long will your great susceptibility remain?

A. As long as you continue to mesmerise me. I shall not need it now any longer, and it will go off in about a week.

In the evening I again mesmerised him and questioned him; and he gave as his reason, that it was better for him to be in his maniacal than in his rational state, while the mesmerism was continued, "the fluid entering more perfectly into my system in that state and in the *trance*, (out of which he says he now is, though the alteration is not noticeable,) and in the *sensible* state it goes away from me, and by entering more perfectly it strengthens me so much more than if I were sensible."

When I left him, I told him not to get up and follow me

He replied, "I can't help it, Sir; I wish I could sometimes: you are like a loadstone to me."

Tuesday, May 23. When I went to him, I heard that he had not been to bed all night. When asked the reason, he said, "I cannot lie down, Sir; it hurts me; the mesmerism fills my chest."

Q. Can you see to-day?

A. Yes, Sir, I see the light.

Q. Who is that at the door, (somebody had knocked).

A. (*slowly*) It is R—— H—— H——; I cannot see the last name; it is Richard Holmes something; it is the school-master; he teased me very much last night, asking questions.

Q. Do you know the gentleman in the room?

A. Yes, Mr. H——. (It is to be remarked here that he pronounced this name differently from myself or any other person I had heard speak it; and Mr. H—— immediately said, "The boy has pronounced my name correctly, which no one else has done since I have been in Brighton.")

Q. How do you know it?

A. I see it written under the question.

Q. He has had something remarkable the matter with him: what was it that occurred?

A. Yes, he saw his own back. (Mr. H—— remarked that he thinks he said this once in the boy's presence.)

Q. Anything else?

A. Yes, he saw his own brain. I see it written. (This also Mr. H—— said he had mentioned before him, and suggested that I should ask how long he had been ill.) I did so, and he replied;—

A. A long time; nearly six months.

This was quite true, and Mr. H—— confirmed it by saying that it was not *quite* six months, and he was, moreover, quite sure that he had not mentioned *this* in his hearing.

His susceptibility to my presence is now so great that I am compelled to leave the room quickly and pull the door to after me, in order to prevent his escaping with me.

His mother was to-day speaking to me something concerning himself, when he shrieked out, and said, "It is wrong, Mrs. Bradget has made a mistake." Mrs. *who?* said I, for I never heard him call his mother by this name, except in his mad state. "Mrs Bradget,—I mean Mrs. Walker, Sir."

It struck me here that the mad state was in some degree confusedly mixed up with the mesmeric state, and for this reason:—I had left a lady and gentleman in the room when I made my hurried exit, and, when I got to the end of the street, I reconsidered that it was improper to leave any body

with him, especially strangers; and I returned. He said, I had not been far, for he had not been able to wake quite,—in consequence of my near neighbourhood: so that the mad state supervened without the mesmeric being dissipated. His mother says that, a minute after I left the room and he had rushed against the door to follow instead of going to his chair as usual, he suddenly darted to the opposite corner of the room, (which was nearest in the direct line to the end of the street where I paused to deliberate before I returned,) and, on her speaking to him, he had been able to hear her and annoyed at what she said; so that, when I arrived, I found the two states *fused* as it were, and his hallucination mingled with his reasonable replies to myself. I asked him if he still kept to the opinion that he would be well to-morrow.

*A.* Yes, Sir; if nothing *opposite occurs*,—nothing to put me back. (He now came so close to me as almost to push me off my chair.)

*Q.* Where do you want to get, Frank?

*A.* I want to come close to you, sir: I can't help it.

*Q.* Close!—one would think you wanted to get inside of me.

*A.* (*smiling*) Well, sir, I *do* seem to want to get there.

*Q.* But that is inconvenient, my boy: this makes it less comfortable for me to come and see you.

If a young woman had shewn this mesmeric attachment, it would doubtless have been attributed by opponents to an impure motive. I have mesmerised young women who have shewn it very strongly, but never so strongly as this lad manifested it, *because of the difference of sex*, oddly as it may read. The lad yielded at once to the instinct. The young woman felt the same impulse, but the innate modesty and reserve, as conspicuous in this state as in the waking state, restrained her, for fear of misconstruction. "None were ever so fond of me as this boy," I said, smiling. The boy now came and put his arms round me, as if what I said had influenced him to shew his love. Yet, as I did not speak to him, and as he always says he has never heard a word in such cases, when I have questioned him, it may have been *unconsciously* apprehended. This is often the case when talking is going on around, and the patient will manifest afterwards that the matter *has* been apprehended, although *not conscious at the time* of hearing *any* thing.

This makes them liable to the charge of duplicity and falsehood, and of keeping up a fictitious state,—a charge often enough brought against them by persons not conversant with mesmeric phenomena.

That *his* brain is perfectly impressed with anything which occurs in the *mad* state, is proved by his narrating to me in sleep-waking what has occurred during his mania, such as—who have been to see him, and what he has said.

Thursday, May 25. As I half expected, the boy has disappointed me; he has not only not recovered his senses, but he appears farther from it than ever: he looks ill, and says that his sleep last night hurt him very much, for the fluid runs into his chest when he lies down.

He shrieked several times, and was in fits before 12 o'clock, and afterwards; but no other changes took place.

I began to mesmerise him a little before 12, to calm him, leaving him again to come to his crisis.

His mother had heard him say that he felt very dreadfully, as if he was going to be disappointed.

After the time was overpast two minutes, I asked him if he was come to his senses. His reply was, "It is not 12 o'clock yet." I waited till he said, "It is four minutes past 12 now," and looking at my watch found it *six* minutes. I noticed this, and he rejoined, "Your watch is wrong, sir."

I asked him now if he could see any direction in his case, and he said, "I can only see this: 'My ways are not your ways, nor my thoughts your thoughts: for as high as the heavens are above the earth, so are my ways above your ways, and my thoughts above your thoughts.'" He also saw, "By faith Abraham, when he was tried, offered up Isaac."—"Well," I remarked, "what application is there of these passages to your case? I cannot see any bearing at all."

This was all I could get. So having followed the *ignis fatuus*, as I now was disposed to consider his predictory power, notwithstanding the many correct hits he had made up to this point, till it left me in the swamp of disappointment, I had now no resource but to follow my own judgment, and to trust that the case would yet develope favourably with *patient mesmerism*.

It was evident the lucidity had *fallen through and failed*, and there was an end of it. The alteration on Monday had prepared me for this, and, though I hoped it *might* redeem itself, I no longer *trusted* it.

Mr. H——— says, that to him, as a medical man, the case would be clear; the boy *cannot live*, and he expects there will be *effusion on the brain*, particularly as he has had heart disease: and, as to those shrieks, if he had heard them from the street, he would have said they were uttered by a child suffering from hydrocephalus. The case will either ter-

minate in *death or madness*; this is his opinion *medically*: what *mesmerism* might effect was another thing.

He now and for some days directed that I should demesmerise him slightly before going from him, as this enabled him to touch others without discomfort.

Saturday, May 27. Had another fit, but says he is better. His mother asked if it was not wrong to play with the boy so much, for he is very much inclined to it. I told her that *following* his humour was much better than *opposing* it, and it would do no harm to have as much merriment with him as he *invited*; but that they should avoid *leading* him to it. I then asked the boy himself, and he confirmed this, adding, "it would be much worse if they refused."

If his mother is talking of him in the room, it hardly ever fails to throw him into the trembling fit: so that I have forbidden her to do so.

Sunday, May 28. Complained of tooth-ache, which I removed in a minute by putting my hand on his cheek.

Monday 29. More lucid to-day; could see others in the room, but very dimly. His appearance is much improved, but he is very *fitty*, as he calls it. He had a cataleptic fit in the night.

Tuesday 30. Skin much hotter again. His lucidity *outwardly* returning. Thinks he is gradually and surely recovering.

Wednesday, May 31. Found him pen in hand as usual; for he has lately been incessantly so employed. His occupation is writing verses, which he transcribes into little books of lace paper, tastefully interleaved with coloured tissue and tied up with silk ribbon. These he letters outside, "Fugitive Poetry, by Frank Ecclesfield"—his fancy name.

He has written many pages of this poetry, which bear the stamp of originality, and which he says he has composed himself, during his mania. Certainly they are not copied from any book, and, if not original, are written from memory; and, as none of them are known to the teachers of the school, with the exception of one poem, which he says was taken from a magazine, four years ago, the circumstance is interesting in whatever way it is viewed. Moreover his mother assures me that in his sane state he never cared anything about poetry.

I suspected that some activity in the lateral portions of the brain accounted for this, and directed his attention to it. "The sides are darker than they should be," he said, placing his hand on the region of Ideality. I found the parts very hot to the touch, and mesmerised them accordingly.

Thursday, June 1st. As he said he could see to-day, I directed him to the school-room. His description was as follows: "They are deserted; No, there are some boys in the boys' school. Oh, I see; the rest are in church. I can see the *infants* coming out now. Miss Dixon is standing at the school room door, seeing them go; she has a card in her hand with the residences written on it: now she is calling to one of them. I cannot hear what she says. I am *full* now, Sir."

As I left him immediately and the school was in the direction I intended to walk, I determined to *verify* this clairvoyance. I enquired for and found the school, which I had never before seen, and it occupied such a situation as made the beholding it with the natural eye a feat utterly impossible from my patient's house or street.

I found the last of a stream of infants coming out of the door; and, as a bigger girl came to the door, I asked her which was Miss Dixon. She pointed to a lady at the far end of a long passage, who presently came herself to the door, and I saw that she had a card in her hand.

I made myself and the object of my visit known to her. She was much astonished and interested, for all that Frank had said was as precisely correct as if he had been on the spot.

She said that she was much later than usual in getting the children off, and, as she was sending the children off herself, not the usual course though not unfrequent, she got the card because she did not know their residences without it.

*The rest of the boys were in church*, because it was Ascension-day; otherwise, they never went to church on that day of the week. When I mentioned the circumstance of her *calling* to some girl, she smiled and said, "Yes, I was calling to Jemima."

Friday, June 2. To be mesmerised only five minutes. When it was up, he told me exactly to a second. He was much better. In the evening I went and found his mother in trouble, for he had avowed his determination to see the fair. I asked him, when mesmerised, if he still so intended.

A. I do'nt want to go in *this* state, but I do in my mad state.

Q. It will not do for you to go: you cannot avoid touching people and it will hurt you?

A. Not if you demesmerise me a good deal. It is a good thing you came: for if I had gone as I was, it *would* have hurt me.

Q. Can you see the fair?

A. (turning himself, like a bottle-jack, first one way, then another) Yes, Sir.

He then described the fair accurately, from beginning to end; mentioning the names on the booths and on the signs of the drinking and dancing booths, some of which were peculiar. I walked through the fair afterwards, and was highly interested at recognizing the names and situations which he had named with such particularity as left no room for doubt.

Saturday, June 3. He had been to the fair last night and returned without accident. I asked him how he liked it, he replied, "I liked seeing it with you best. I saw it much better with you *here*, than I did when I was *there* last night." This I can believe, as he was *sane* during one inspection, *insane* during the other.

Q. Well, see it again now, and tell me what you see.?

He began to describe till he came to a booth where was a learned pig, and then he said, "He is telling the time of day,—he grunts it, (he then nodded his own head as if counting the pig's grunts;) he has grunted twelve times, (he nodded again;) now he has grunted again nineteen times; he means nineteen minutes past 12. The man shews him the watch." (I here took out mine, which shewed *nineteen minutes past 12 precisely*.)

He now went into Wombwell's wild beast show, and beginning at the left hand side, he described the animals and the situations of their dens throughout. I went afterwards myself and compared the reality with the description. He was wrong in *one* particular only. He mentioned a giraffe,—a very young one,—in a certain situation; and there was no such animal. But in that situation was a lama, an animal with a long neck, and which I have no doubt he *saw*, and mistook for a giraffe. It was odd that he saw the large den at the end, with a bell at the top and a little gate to it, but could not see the elephant *in* this den. He said it was empty, till at last he started and said, "There is a man coming out of the den; it is the same that I saw at the entrance. Oh! I see now, it is the *elephant's* den, and I can see *him* too." Had he been guessing, he would have guessed the *elephant* before the *den* and its *peculiarities*, one would think.

He was also singularly accurate in describing, in one den, *two lionesses*, but afterwards corrected himself, that one was a *lion*, but it *had no mane* and *looked* like a *lioness*. This was perfectly correct, as was every other part of his description.

Monday, June 5. Mesmerised seven minutes. Much better. But he has had two fits,—one last night, another this morning. He says they worry him by talking about him whenever he goes into these fits: for he can hear all they say.

He knows he is getting well by the dark appearance of himself getting gradually lighter.

Tuesday, June 6. Various feats of clairvoyance, concerning the school which we verified: and, strange to say, the things had been accurately described, but had happened and ceased half an hour before he described them to us as passing at the moment.

I got him to search for the married couple we are acquainted with in these pages, and to find out *where* the breakfast took place. He found it was in London, in a street which has a view of St. Paul's Cathedral.

This would account for the darkness which he said was owing to a fog; for, on the day he said this, it was a fine bright day in Brighton.

The couple were gone to Scotland: they were near some canal. This was all he could see *to-night*.

June 7. Out of sorts, owing to a great rage he had put himself into, because Maria B——, who has hitherto given up all her time to him, is obliged to leave him and go to work.

June 8. Much better, and reading *Æsop's Fables*. Found the married couple: they had passed the Cheviot Hills, and had got down to the sea side: they were now in a sailing boat which was going in the direction of Ireland: but, as the vessel was small and there was no luggage in it, they could not be going *to* Ireland. The lady was dressed in a shot silk (he named the colour), a white shawl, and a "bird's eye straw bonnet:" she wore a curious brooch with hair in it and the word "Lucy" engraved on the back: she was reading a book: it was bound in leather, and on the back, *White's Travels*: on the page open before her, he could read these words,—

"He raised his weary eye."

He thought it was part of a piece of poetry in the book. There appeared to be three other volumes of the same set: on one of them was *Asia*, on the lady's, *Africa*. The lady felt sea-sick.

The gentleman wore striped trousers and dancing pumps, a white waistcoat, and curious straw hat: had a gold chain round his neck with an eye-glass attached, and on the handle of the eye-glass the word "Lucy" engraved. There were four others in the boat in blue jackets and white trousers and straw hats: one of them had a sort of cocked hat on, something like Napoleon is represented with. Now he lost sight of it all.

June 9. Found them again: they were in a house in a small, dirty street, in some town in Scotland, a much smaller and

meaner house than they had been in before. He thought they were making a call. Yes, it was a relative of the lady: she was telling them that they were about to leave in an hour's time: they were going to make a voyage to Germany. The name of the person living in the house was Withersfield: a picture was hanging in the room with J. Withersfield under it: he was not Scotch, but it was a Scotch girl who was waiting on them. They were drinking wine. The name of the street was *Scott* street. While he was trying to find out the name of the place, it all went away.

His mouth is always rendered rigid when he has to say the name of any person or place, and I am obliged to free it by transverse passes continually while he makes the effort.

June 13. Going on steadily to this day.

His mother tells me that, for the last twelvemonth, Frank has exhibited a flightiness of manner, just before or about the full of the moon; and that for two or three days after the full he was sullen.

June 14. Had a fit yesterday: his head is much lighter, and he is each day quieter: there was some pressure on the top of the head: *the blood rushed there since he was cupped: the cupping made it do so: this would gradually come right: it did*, while in the mesmeric state, but went back again when I was gone, but with daily decreasing force.

Knows nothing about coming to his senses, but thought he would come to them out of a fit.

June 16. His head nearly as light as it used to be when he was well: the sides still rather dark, (these have felt hotter for several days, but were nearly cool to-day.)

June 17. Was seized with a trembling in his sleep, which he said would have been a strong cataleptic fit, if I had not been there. He was annoyed because he could not get in the money for his poetry which he copies out and sends his mother out with to sell among his friends. She, to quiet him, pretended to have got it, and gave him the eightpence from her own money. But the nice perceptions of a cataleptic were not to be so deceived: he smelt it and threw it indignantly back to her, saying angrily that it was her own money and did not come from the place she said.

I was sent for in the evening to see him as he was so odd they could do nothing with him: I was surprized as he was so quiet when I left him.

It then occurred to me that the moon might have some influence. It was full moon at nine in the morning.

His peculiarity now was, that he would get into the privy

and put his head down the opening ; and he said he felt certain he was to be smothered there : he was very violent, and they feared he would smother himself.

As I could not leave home, I sent a line written on a piece of paper, desiring him to copy out his verses for me ; and, as soon as the messenger left me, I made an effort to mesmerise him till she should get home with it.

I went to him half an hour later and found that he had dropped asleep at the time I mesmerised him ; and, as soon as he had the paper I had written, had become quiet : and he told me that this hallucination ensued on it.

He thought that he was urgently desired by a brother nobleman (Lord Emery—myself) to write this poetry, and that he *must* do it to-night.

His explanation of his previous state was, that these were the cataleptic fits, “deformed” by the mesmerism : he felt drawn towards different places instead of the fits acting on him as before.

To prevent his egress at the back door, I make passes to prevent his going over the sill into the yard where the privy was.

He says that he has twice seen me in his irrational state, and that, before I came to him to night, he had seen me moving my hands as I do to mesmerise him, but he could not see any thing besides myself. In truth when I mesmerised him from my own house, I had made use of the passes to rivet my attention more firmly to him.

June 17. His head at the top quite well ; at the sides nearly well. He is affected by the full of the moon ; but that has passed off : he will be liable to this influence for some time after his cure : his diseased condition of brain dates from last September, and was then caused by disappointment : this was still greater in the affair of the examination, and, although his madness would have come on, it would not have come so soon but for that.

The passes had prevented him from going into the yard, till he got over by *jumping* across : but still the influence was felt, for he went to sleep directly he came to the ground on the other side of the door.

While in the mesmerism, a sort of fit passed over him, which he said was not *cataleptic* but *epileptic*. He had many epileptic fits during the six weeks before I came to him : his *bodily health is now better than ever it was before in his life*.

He told me that he saw in his irrational state, last night, a little girl, Miss Pepper, in George-street Gardens, in a most deplorable state, with abscesses about her head, and that unless

they broke, she would die: if a blister were placed on the top of her head, it would draw away the *serum*, which was pressing on her brain and made her *flighty*, and the abscesses would burst, and she would be cured.

This was the truth as to the child's state, (he had known the child when both were well.) Nothing was done; and the child died a day or two afterwards.

Sunday, June 18. To-day he told the name of a stranger who was in the room.

June 19. Found our married couple again; on board a ship, a large ship with five masts: he could not tell the name of it, but the name "Loudovice" was on one of the sails, though he did not think it had anything to do with the name of the ship: the lady and gentleman were in bed in a sort of hammock—he thought they were coming from Germany, and the sailors were Germans.

June 20. He told the name of a gentleman to-day who was a stranger to him, to the gentleman's great wonder: he thinks he shall recover his senses next Monday.

June 23. Steadily advancing to this day. He says that he had yesterday several times loss of consciousness and bodily strength, not exactly fits: he thinks these are signs of reason returning. He still continues to write poetry, and says that he has another piece in his head not yet written. The sides of his head rather hot.

June 24. The thunder in the air has much affected him: (there was a thunder-storm yesterday,) but he is much better since it has burst.

In the evening he went out and had a fit in the Old Steine and was brought home in a fly, screaming because he was interfered with.

June 25. Much better. The fit he had yesterday was a good sign, it much forwarded his cure: it was one he has spoken of,—a loss of strength and consciousness: he predicted two more fits, one at five, another at six: and he had them as he said.

June 26. Much better, but not recovered.

June 27. I took a stranger with me: one I had never seen before to-day. Frank told him his name.

June 28. A gentleman and four ladies were there. He told the names of all the ladies, but could not tell that of the gentleman: three of the ladies are known to him, the fourth was an entire stranger from London.

He looked at the school, and saw that in the house the furniture had been moved and that they were going to paper the rooms, and the bed-rooms had been whitewashed.

This was quite true and the rooms were never papered before.

He saw the gentleman again we have mentioned : he was riding down a long street on a pie-ball horse.

His health improves : the sides of the head cool, and *he has left off writing poetry*. This *he* says is a good sign.

He predicted two fits, one at half-past two, another at seven ; they both occurred at the times foretold.

June 29. As usual—had one convulsive fit.

June 30. He is to have another to-day.

July 1st. No better to-day, because the fit of last night which he predicted was so violent : he says that he was partly rational at one time yesterday and to-day.

July 2. His mother says he was rational several times yesterday, but he says *no*. He has now a very strong fit every evening and sometimes two : he cannot see, that is, he is not lucid : and once yesterday he lost his vision after the fit for a time.

Monday, July 3. He is better and predicted two fits ; one at a quarter-past four, another at thirteen minutes past seven. He describes the sides of the head as misty, the other parts clear.

Saturday, July 8. Going on to this day favourably, when he had a strong fit in the evening.

Monday, July 10. Predicts that he shall recover his senses on Monday next.

There is a remarkable circumstance connected with this boy's lucidity. He is more clairvoyant in the maniacal than in the mesmeric state. He saw (by *seeing* I always mean *clairvoyance*) before he was mesmerised at all a little ; but not near so well as he has seen since I mesmerised him. He can see the interior of any person in his mad state : and yesterday when a woman, a friend of his mother, came in, he told her that she was not well, and why,—because she had not digested what she had eaten, and he named it. He sees very decidedly in this state, whereas lately in his mesmerism the lucidity has been only the faintest outline or altogether absent.

July 11. I went out in a boat and remained some hours, and was away from him at the time I usually visit him. I thought a little anxiously for a minute about him when I found that it would be impossible to be there ; and this mesmerised him for the time.

July 12. The head much cooler, but, on keeping my hand on the sides, heat was soon felt, showing inflammatory action

to have not yet ceased. I hear for the first time to-day that he complains of pain in his irrational state where the heat is felt—at the sides of his head.

July 13. He had two more violent shaking fits than I have yet seen, while in the mesmeric sleep: but they were speedily calmed and removed by placing my hand on his head.

July 14. Several still more violent shakings in the sleep, and while his mother was mentioning something which might be suspected as disagreeable to him.

This I begin to find is a common circumstance, and explains what occurred yesterday as I was then listening to her. I believe they are caused by this, although he says that he did not hear what she said. But, if I ask him to try and discover, he will incline himself and then tell me, as if his brain had unconsciously recorded the impression and he turned to the record for it.

July 16. He has lately taken no interest in his writing or in his flowers, and looks much better.

Monday, July 17. He predicts that he will come to his senses at 12 o'clock to-night; and has advised that he be sent into the country as soon afterwards as possible; for, if he remains here, the impression of the circumstances which caused his madness will be as fresh as ever and will bring it back again, *from want of change of scene*. It is arranged that he shall be sent to his aunt at Bishopstown if she can receive him: and a letter was written with that inquiry.

To-morrow when I see him he will be rational, but the attraction will continue strong, and nobody must touch him. He will be asleep when I see him.

Tuesday, July 18. Maria B—— called on me at nine in the morning to tell me that Frank came to his senses at 12 last night, and asked where he was. He did not speak again till seven o'clock this morning, when he remarked on the flowers and ornaments which profusely decorated his room, but would not have them taken away. He also said that they might talk to him, but not touch him, nor come near to him.

I saw him at 12. He was asleep, and he has been quite rational all day. I did not mesmerise him more than by sitting near him and making a few passes over the temples, which were hotter than they should be. I remarked this to him, and he replied, "They are always so—but I am quite free from pain there now."

He says that it will *not* hurt him *now* if others touch him: mention of the school must be avoided, and he must remove as soon as possible: *his strength is greater and his general*

health better than it ever was in his life before, but he is not out of danger of a relapse from the same causes operating which produced the disease in the first instance.

I thought it would be better to continue the mesmerism for a week before he was removed, to *assure* his recovery. He admits that it would *do him good*, but says that the *danger* from his remaining, where he will be subject to excitement, will be greater than the *benefit*, **now** that he is so far cured.

July 19. Frank told me to-day that he did not come to his senses at 12 but at seven in the morning: he thinks that he was rational, but as he was asleep he could not tell: if he had awoke after 12 he would probably have awoke rational. He recollected that it was on Friday night that he went to bed rational, and his impression was that this was the following morning Saturday. A bottle of lemonade had been bought for him on Friday, which he had not drunk, and he asked for it on Tuesday morning, saying, "I left a bottle of lemonade *last night*: I should like to have it *now*." The *last night* was the 19th of May: and what appeared to him as *next morning* was the 18th of July. *The two months were to him as one night.*

As I am unknown to him in his rational state, I asked him what his feelings were towards me. He said there was an impression on his mind as if he had known me a long time, without being conscious of the nature of the acquaintance. A similar feeling was associated with Maria B——, the young woman who has been so extremely kind to him: she continually came into his mind.

July 20. I found him worse and his head hotter: he worries himself because he has not received a reply from his aunt. He says that all things about him bring back the old feelings, and that the longer he stays here the worse his head will become. I think so too, and have advised that his wish be complied with: that he be taken to Bishopstown tomorrow and be left there, if any arrangements to receive him can be made.

I mesmerised him till he was quite cool. His mother, while talking to me about removing him, incautiously replied *directly to him*, instead of *through me*, in answer to something which Frank said to me; and the effect was quite alarming. He was thrown into a violent universal shaking, which was not calmed for a considerable time.

I suspect now that the cause of the former similar attacks was her talking *at him*, and as much *to him* as *to me*: for, on those occasions, she was always anxious to tell me of some-

thing in regard to which she wanted my aid to hinder him from doing what annoyed her, or to induce him to do what she wished: and the poor woman has been so long tormented by his freaks that she cannot at all times remember that he is mad, and feels as angry with him as if he knew what he was about: and, although she will correct herself when reminded of his condition, she requires to be reminded now and then.

July 21. He went into the country, and was left there with his aunt, very comfortable and happy and quite rational.

September 7th. I have received several letters from him to this date, and have had satisfactory accounts: but, being alarmed by the information that he had a very bad fit on Friday week, which lasted for several hours, I determined yesterday to go and see him myself.

I did not write to warn him of my coming; and, when I arrived at his aunt's house in Bishopstow, she expressed great regret, as Frank had been sent off by her to Newhaven only half an hour before, and he was told by her to take his time, saunter about when there and amuse himself, and not be back before 12 o'clock, as she feared it would fatigue him to return too quickly. The distance from Bishopstow to Newhaven is two miles and a half by road, but one mile less by the hill-path. It was now half-past ten.

I was curious to know if the extreme attraction which he manifested was yet removed, (he having been away from me six weeks,) as, if not, I conjectured he would soon be drawn irresistibly back without being sent for. I therefore declined the offer of his aunt to send a boy for him, and walked over the hill myself.

When I had walked about half way to Newhaven, I saw, at a distance, Frank coming quickly back through the meadows, and, as I drew nearer to him, something mechanical in his manner of walking made me suspect he was still asleep. But, to give him a chance, I swerved away some yards from his path as we drew near to each other, that I might observe him without embarrassing him, and whether he were awake. I wished also to see if he would betray any knowledge of me in any way, as he does not know me in his waking state. As we passed each other he staggered, but went on, and I saw that his eyes were nearly closed, as they always were in his somnambulism. His pace instantly diminished like that of a person who was before in a great hurry to go somewhere and had suddenly remembered something left behind. I turned back and followed him; and, when I had nearly overtaken him, he staggered and edged away

backwards towards me, till he touched me with his shoulder, and stood still as fast asleep as ever. He could not answer any question till I had removed the rigidity of the organs of speech: and, as I took his arm and led him home over the hill, he told me all about himself that I wished to know.

Q. Well, Frank, how are you?

A. Very much better, Sir, thank you. (Indeed he has grown so fat he can scarcely button his coat, and he is quite brown with health and exercise out of doors.)

Q. What made you in such a hurry to come back? Your aunt told you not to return till 12 o'clock.

A. I could not help it, Sir: I felt drawn home as fast as I could come.

He then detailed as follows,—When his aunt told him to stay at Newhaven so long, he felt that there was an *inconsistency* in this request that he could not reasonably account for and had never before felt (I was then very near to Bishopstow): and as he was walking over the hill (I went round by the road) at one point he must have lost his senses, and he was nearly drawn off the road into a ditch, (this was probably when the interval between us was shortest,—the time of his *perihelion* as it may be called :) he recovered himself, however, and went on to Newhaven. When there, he thinks his manner was odd: he could scarcely do what he went to do, a strong anxiety to return overpowering every other thought,—a vague influence urging him back to Bishopstow without any delay. He was nearly asleep (mesmeric) when he left Newhaven and was quite so when he met me in the meadow.

Q. Does not this extreme susceptibility shew us that you have not been sufficiently cured?

A. Yes, Sir, it does. I must be mesmerised again when I return home.

Q. Can you see yourself inwardly now?

A. Yes, Sir.

Q. How does the head look?

A. Dark at the top rather, not at the sides.

He has had several fainting fits and cataleptic fits since he has been here, and on Friday week was the worst: but he had been rapidly gaining ground in every way, and all these symptoms would gradually fade as his health became more established: he has occasionally a head-ache: and the walk with me in this state would do him a great deal of good.

I mesmerised his head for a considerable time. He now described the operation thus,—“There is a *dark mist* surrounding and penetrating the part which is affected, and,

when you make passes a *white* mist comes from your hands that makes the dark mist *browner* or of a *lighter* colour: when you make tractive passes from the part, the white mist seems to combat with the dark mist and draw it away from the part."

When I left him I feared that he would follow me, and I mentioned my fears. "Will me to sit still," was his reply. I did so, and he remained in his chair while I left the cottage, fast asleep, as, it seems, I am ever to see him.

Before I left him I desired him to write me a letter containing a narrative of his sensations on this day. He said, "You had better leave word for me to do it, Sir, or I shall not know anything about it." "No," said I, "you ought to be sufficiently impressed in the waking state to do it, whether you are told or not: I will leave it so and try."

It will explain the narrative to state that, soon after I quitted the Newhaven station to walk to Bishopstown, to which place I had inquired my way, I was overtaken by a gentleman in a cabriolet, who invited me to ride, having heard my inquiry, as he was going there himself. I got in and rode the rest of the way.

On the following day I received from Frank this letter.

" Bishopstown, Sept. 7.

"My dear Sir,—Words cannot express the surprise and astonishment I felt when I awoke yesterday. How I came there I could not tell for several minutes: at last I thought of the strange incidents which occurred whilst going to Newhaven. I felt a strange reluctance to going there till I came within sight of Mr. Farncombe's carriage: I then lost my consciousness for some time, and, when I awoke, was a considerable distance from the place where I last remembered. I instantly gave in I had fainted; and walked on to Mrs. Liffard's, and asked for every thing very strangely.

"I remember their asking me several times about my health. I would not stop, as was my intention, but instantly walked on very fast. At last I felt as if losing my consciousness, and knew no more till I awoke.

"I then fancied you had been here, and inquired and received an answer in the affirmative. I felt very curious till bed-time, and, after committing myself to God, fell asleep.

"When I awoke this morning I felt that I must write to you: and I instantly set about it.

"With my prayers for your health and happiness,

"I remain,

"Your most obedient servant,

"FRANK CLIFFORD WALKER."

With respect to what I have stated, that he does not know me in his waking state, there are two testimonies.

When Maria B—— went to see him, he was much interested about me; and, among other questions, put *this*, “What sort of a gentleman is he in appearance, for I have never seen him?”

The other is a passage from his third letter, written Aug. 28, which was in answer to one from myself giving directions for his own management and containing a promise that I would some day go and see him. The letter is very well and sensibly written, and in reference to that promise he says,

“Rest assured, dear Sir, it will be one of the happiest moments of my life, if the mesmeric influence will not be an impediment, to behold that instrument in God’s hands which has so mercifully restored me.”

In the early days of my treatment of him, he told me in his sleep that he had once seen me: he had been sent with something by a lady to my house, and had only to leave it in the Library. Of this visit and of my person, however, he does not seem to retain any recollection when awake,—a thing there is no difficulty in believing, as I did not exchange a word with him on the occasion.

He is now walking and riding on a pony several hours every day, and his health daily improving: his countenance is ruddy: he is very much stouter, and continues perfectly rational: and, although I do not myself think he will perfectly recover so as to be safe without continuing the mesmeric treatment for another course, yet, when it is remembered that I found this boy in a hopeless condition, as admitted by his medical attendants, and that all the skill and appliances of medicine had utterly failed, the result hitherto will be deemed satisfactory; for the treatment has been purely mesmeric, no other aid (except once seven grains of jalap) was ever resorted to after I took him in hand.

I have had fears that my narrative would be too long, but, in endeavouring to curtail it, I could not do so without omitting many curious phenomena which I hope will be found interesting to the readers of *The Zoist* as sincere students of nature.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

Sept. 20, 1848.

W. H. PARSONS.

(To be Continued).

\*.\* From a misapprehension the case was headed, *Cure*

*of Cataleptic Insanity, &c., instead of A Case of Cataleptic Insanity treated mesmerically, with interesting phenomena.—Zoist.*

## NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

The case of Miss Emma Melhuish, of Bedford Street, Red Lion Street, recorded at great length by me in the Fourth Number of *The Zoist*, p. 429, was very similar to this, and deserves to be compared with it. She had paroxysms of delirium, sometimes furious, sometimes mild and cheerful, in all which she recognized no one, and had a nickname for every body: she had violent paroxysms of convulsions, or of rigidity, and at other times had extreme muscular debility. By means of mesmerism that degree of clairvoyance was induced which amounts to the power of foretelling the events and change of the disease and indicating suitable measures; unless indeed these appearances of clairvoyance were explicable by mental impression or imagination really producing what was expected;\* and by means of mesmerism she was always drawn out of delirium into rational sleep-waking.

The case of Miss Melhuish, like so many others in all the volumes of *The Zoist*, deserves the careful study of every medical man in the present general state of unacquaintance of the medical profession with the phenomena not only of mesmerism, but of the more exquisite and complicated nervous diseases, which are only stared at and forgotten, and called by the convenient and silly unmeaning name of hysteria,—so convenient a term to cover ignorance and save the trouble of observation and investigation.

Mr. Parsons's remark in the foot-note at p. 324 is sound,—that a speech of his had no doubt been unconsciously apprehended by the brain. It cannot be too frequently repeated that in the deepest sleep-waking, amounting apparently to coma, and in many cases not of sleep-waking but of mere coma, impressions on the senses that seem altogether unheeded may be unconsciously noticed by the brain and at a subsequent period give proof that they had been perceived and treasured up in the brain.†

Mr. Parsons's experience, mentioned at p. 325, that the effect of traction was increased by repetition, has been my own in all cases from the very time of the Okeys, now eleven years ago. I have always contended that this bore no analogy to inanimate, physical attraction, but was the result of a

\* See my *Physiology*, pp. 1168—1170, and *Zoist*, No. IV., p. 440.

† *Zoist*, No. XXIII., pp. 222—224.

mental impression and a volition, though both the impression and the volition might be unconscious, and the latter irresistible also. The more frequently we drew the limbs, heads, or bodies of the Okeys by tractive passes, the more readily and strongly we drew them; and we sometimes could draw them, as Mr. Parsons did his boy, when in another room. I well knew that, as the phenomena of the Okeys were genuine, they would occur at all times and in other countries when mesmerism became studied as a science and practised as an art: and so it is, though the short-sighted Wakleys, Sharpeys, Conollies,\* Forbeses, &c., &c., saw no farther than half an inch before them.

The testimony of Mr. Parsons at p. 326 to mesmeric effects, where will was impossible, confirms my own experience. Among the strange mistakes committed in some mesmeric books is the assertion that mesmerism is all the result of will. All my most experienced friends, however mighty we acknowledge the power of the will to be, are satisfied that every effect may be produced without willing, and frequently is not increased by the utmost efforts at willing in addition to the mesmeric means of manipulation, contact, fixedness of look, &c.

\* When I spoke some years afterwards to Dr. Conolly of the disgraceful attack upon mesmerism and myself in the journal of which he and Dr. Forbes were the editors (see *Zoist*, No. VII., p. 275, 6-7), he attempted a palliation by protesting that the article was far worse till he had cancelled certain passages in it before its publication.

Dr. Conolly, observing in a newspaper report of a mesmeric lecture at Bristol by Dr. Storer that this gentleman had mentioned him as a convert to mesmerism as well as Dr. Forbes, his former partner in the journal, sent the following advertisement to the paper:—

“*To the Editor of the Bristol Gazette.*”

“Bath Hotel, Clifton, Nov. 30, 1848.”

“Sir,—Happening to read your paper of this morning’s date, I found my name mentioned, in a report of Dr. Storer’s Lectures at the Albert Rooms, among the believers in mesmerism. I beg you to do me the favour of contradicting this assertion, which must have originated in mistake.

“I am, Sir,

“Your very obedient Servant,

“J. CONOLLY, M.D.,

“Physician to the Hanwell Asylum.”

In his reply Dr. Storer very justly says, “If Dr. Conolly has not thought fit to investigate the subject in the hope of better understanding the nature and treatment of insanity, considering what has lately been done in this and other departments, it is deeply to be regretted for the sake of those under his charge.”

I BOLDLY TELL DR. CONOLLY THAT, WITH THE MIGHTY MASS OF FACTS RECORDED IN THE ZOIST ALONE, THE MEDICAL MAN, BE HIS DEPARTMENT WHAT IT MAY, WHO IS NOT ACQUAINTED WITH MESMERISM, CONVINCED OF ITS TRUTH, AND IN THE HABIT OF EMPLOYING IT IN HIS MOST IMPERFECT ART, WILL SOON BE CONSIDERED EITHER TO NEGLECT A SOLEMN DUTY TO HIS PATIENTS, OR TO BE INCAPABLE OF INTELLIGENT, HONEST, OR AT LEAST OF DISPASSIONATE EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE.

The appearance to the boy's inward vision, mentioned at p. 327, of parts loaded with blood becoming paler under mesmerisation, is precisely what has been visible to others when mesmerising and curing inflamed visible parts of patients.

The declaration of the boy at p. 327, that attempts to wake him hurt his head, agrees with my experience that patients should never be awakened from their mesmeric sleep unless they direct this, or evidently suffer from a long sleep, as at p. 330 it appears that he did.\*

The remarkable circumstance, recorded at p. 328, of the boy being right and Mr. Drummond wrong, is an instance of what has frequently happened. Colonel Gurwood, not believing in mesmerism, tried the clairvoyance of Alexis Didier at Paris. Among the numerous perfectly true descriptions given by Alexis, the youth detailed every particular of Colonel Gurwood's study in Lowndes Square, and said he saw seven engravings on the wall. The Colonel maintained that there were only six: but Alexis persisted that he saw seven. On the Colonel's return to London, he found there were seven, and that he had forgotten one behind the door.† If this was all cerebral sympathy rather than clairvoyance, then we have the fact of cerebral sympathy with ideas existing unconsciously in the brain. For Colonel Gurwood of course knew originally that there were seven engravings, and, though he had forgotten one, a greater excitement of his brain by stimulants, fever, very great exertion of memory, or spontaneously increased action of his brain, at even some distant period, would have brought forth the dull and latent impression of the seventh engraving: just as a man has forgotten a language for many years, and in fever, or insanity, or inflammation of his brain, remembered it again perfectly, the proof being clear that the impressions were all along in his brain.

Mr. Baldock, of Chatham Dockyard, who has contributed valuable cures to *The Zoist*‡ and been one of the most undaunted and active promulgators of mesmerism, mentioned to me that he was in the habit of mesmerising a clairvoyant man, and a sceptical gentleman present who had put every thing in confusion in his study before leaving home begged that the man would go clairvoyantly to it and relate what he noticed. The man mentioned every thing, but every thing

\* *Zoist*, No. XVI., p. 471-3.

† The ample proofs of clairvoyance afforded to Colonel Gurwood and others by Alexis are well worth perusing in No. VIII., p. 481; No. XI., p. 389.

‡ See Mr. Baldock's cures in No. IX., p. 79; No. XI., p. 337.

in its place. The sceptic chuckled ; but wrote to Mr. Baldock, the next day, that on his return he found his servant had entered the room and put every thing in order as soon as he had left home.

The determination expressed at p. 332 by Mr. Parsons to cure his patient and eschew all experiments made with the view of convincing unbelievers was perfectly right. If we do sceptics the favour to spend an hour or more in shewing them mesmeric phenomena,—as I stupidly did many years ago to almost every one, taking it for granted that all loved truth,—the greater part consider themselves absolved from all modesty, consider themselves fully acquainted with the subject, though quite ignorant of it, and therefore feel at liberty to state, not their ignorance and difficulties, but their own views forsooth, and to set you right. When persons attend a lecture on chemistry or mechanics, they conceive the lecturer knows more of the matter than they themselves, sit in modest silence till the lecture is over, and then presume not to argue or propound their own superior views, but solicit explanations of what they did not fully comprehend. The suffering of patients from the cruel and false accusations of ignorant sceptics is such that we ought not to allow any rudeness. The tone of the world has, however, undergone a great change. There is a general conviction that mesmerism is true, and the majority now behave like people of good sense; only a certain number, and those for the most part medical men, but *of every degree*, continuing blind to their own ignorance and the possibility of their looking ridiculous. Even Mr. Wakley, the professors of the fallen and still-falling Medical School of University College, Dr. Forbes, and some others, will not now venture to conduct themselves in reference to demonstrations of mesmeric cases as they did a few years since. Very few of this class are now insensible to the position of our science and art.

The necessity of leaving persons to protract their sleep-waking, as Mr. Parsons did, p. 333, or of sending them into it again, and deepening it as much as possible, if they awake drowsy and disposed to sleep more, or delirious, or strange, or cross, or in any way uncomfortable, cannot be too generally known. I learnt this from the cases of the Okeys, and have verified it ever since, and found that the experience of all my friends coincides with mine.

Two striking illustrations of mesmeric influence rendering the taste of articles perfectly different to reality, were given by me in No. III., p. 346, and No. XII., p. 461. Thomas Russen munched with infinite relish wormwood

which I gave him as something very nice, although the moment I awoke him the bitterness of it still in his mouth nearly caused him to vomit and made him very angry. Miss Collins, as long as I had my fingers over one or both her organs of Alimentiveness, munched aloes with equal relish, believing it to be sweet cake as I told her it was. I made her relish water, nay, essence of wormwood, as wine: and, contrarily, I with ease made her mistake plain water for essence of wormwood or for brandy. I produced the effects by the force of imagination: Mr. Parsons apparently by an exertion of his mere will, p. 336.

The boy's predictions were fancied by him to be communicated to him by a book in which they were written, and to which a ghastly being in black pointed, p. 337.

Such a statement is likely to excite the ridicule of the ignorant: but is in perfect accordance with nature. Certain excitement of various portions of the brain, if not of other divisions of the nervous system, gives the appearance of unexisting or absent beings and inanimate objects, gives the impression of unreal sounds, tastes, smells, and feelings, to use the term feelings in the signification of all sensations included in the generic word touch. Any of these phenomena may occur singly, or in combination with one or more of the others, or with different diseases of the nervous system. A madman may believe their reality, as he does the reality of all his fancies; and so may a person not mad but ignorant—unacquainted with their true nature, which is diseased nervous action. The ignorant suppose such appearances of beings to be supernatural beings or real souls of terrestrial men separated from the body for the moment. However, the appearance of their clothes, of books, and of all the other inanimate objects, is not to be so explained,—not by supernatural clothes, books, trees, &c., &c., nor by separated souls of clothes, of books, trees, &c.: and these appearances may be produced by narcotic poisons, blows on the head, indigestible food, &c. &c., and be dispelled by emetics, bleeding, &c., &c. Clairvoyance is sometimes, but not necessarily, attended by this sort of hallucination—by an appearance or impression of some unreal being or inanimate object, which seems to make the communication. In the highest form of the sleep-waking of the elder Okey, when she had a degree of clairvoyance and presented such an extatic appearance as no one could assume, she fancied her communications, whether true clairvoyance or illusion is not the present question, were made by a beautiful negro. If a question was asked her, she was observed to whisper as if to some one with her—then to pause, as if re-

ceiving an answer,—and then to answer the question. This idea I traced to her having seen a handsome young New Zealand Chief, brought to the hospital by Mr. Gibbon Wakefield to witness her phenomena. Her sister Jane at one time fell into an analogous state without any true clairvoyance, and she fancied she saw a gentleman. Subsequent reading informed me that these delirious ideas were often recorded by authors who have described the cases of clairvoyants that fell under their own observation. At the very time the two Okeys were in University College Hospital, a young lady was in an analogous condition at Neufchâtel under Dr. Castell, and subsequently at Aix in Savoy under the care of Dr. Despine, senior, who has detailed her most interesting case.\*

It was not till the following year that I met with the work, presented indeed to me by Dr. Despine, and found that the *impositions* of the Okeys, as the deeply learned British medical journalists, Mr. Wakley, Dr. Conolly, Dr. Forbes, Dr. James Johnson, and professors and practitioners termed them, had been performing at the same time, in a little Swiss town. Miss Estelle was but 11 years old, five years younger than Elizabeth Okey, and yet devised almost the same set of phenomena. Of course Estelle and the Okeys had laid their heads together and had daily correspondence by post. Estelle's clairvoyant communications were generally made with the appearance of a good angel whose name was Angeline. Like the Okeys she would address the imaginary being in a whisper, wait for an answer, and, after appearing to receive it, speak again and declare it. Metals and crystals had peculiar effects on her. She saw globules of light, and blue and red lights: could be sent to sleep by electricity: and had the power of inducing her own somnambulism. Socrates appears to have been a clairvoyant, but to have had one tinge of insanity with it. He fancied that a certain being attended him. This hallucination justifies Mr. Lelut in pronouncing him so far a monomaniac.†

As monomaniacal delusion is only a casual accompaniment of clairvoyance, so it sometimes ceases to attend it. The Okeys lost it while still exhibiting as much approximation to clairvoyance, if such it should be termed, as ever. They afterwards were satisfied that it had been an illusion, and explained it by saying that a degree of delirium had been at

\* *Observations de Médecine Pratique faites aux Bains d'Aix en Savoye.* Anneci. 1838.

† *Du Démon de Socrate, Specimen d'une application de la Science Psychologique à celle de l'histoire.* Par F. Lelut. Paris, 1836.

one time united with one of their mesmeric conditions. The peculiar modes of detection mentioned at pp. 338—40, as employed by Mr. Parsons's youth, appear to me to be the result of an insane condition: and his mode of telling the time by an imaginary dial, p. 338, to be the result of at least eccentricity. I conceive that Frank had an extraordinary faculty of judging of time,\* but went through certain unnecessary processes, which, however, he sometimes made necessary, and yet not always, for he sometimes judged accurately without them (p. 355 and perhaps 353). Not comprehending the history of the dial, I wrote to Mr. Parsons, and received this answer.

“About the *dial*, I am as much at a loss as any one can be; I have given his answer, although I laughed at it at the time. The fact remains, that he did set the clock astronomically right on several occasions, and I am not aware of any method by which he could do it, except by *guessing* or seeing Greenwich time—or the chronometer at Lawson's—in his clairvoyance; there would be no difficulty in this *latter*: but the boy chose to give another way of arriving at it, which is utterly puzzling. In striving to make the solution meet his explanation, I have thought thus: the boy's magnetic state might so polarize him, that he could by his own sensations place himself due south; his keen perceptions might enable him to see an emanation from his fingers when he (as he says) drew a gnomon over the glass of water, (the boy was for some months acting as assistant and errand boy to an optician, and may have there picked up something,) and the bright sunshine may have to him cast a shade; but this leaves the correction of the equation of time to his unconscious calculation. Altogether I can make nothing of it that satisfies myself, and I put the answer in as he gave it; it may have a value hereafter.”

Some peculiarities of mesmeric subjects are independent of the intellects and feelings: such as the peculiar effect upon various patients from various metals and other inanimate objects. To which class the peculiar effect of posture in exciting this lad's clairvoyance (p. 345) belongs, I cannot say. The effect of taking the hands in different ways in a patient of mine who professed clairvoyance will be found in No. VIII., p. 480.

The circumstance of feelings suggesting images is a part of our cerebral constitution, and resolvable into the general fact of all ideas suggesting images: and is a great distinction of the poet. The poet illustrates *all* his descriptions by imagery: in our dreams the existence of different feelings suggest corresponding images. If unhappy, we dream of dirt and difficulties, insects and rats, &c., though not of the real

\* See my case of the extraordinary activity of this faculty in the mesmeric state, No. IX., p. 65-6.

cause of our misery : if happy, of charming landscapes and all kinds of beautiful objects and delights. If clairvoyance takes place in dreaming, it may give rise to imagery ; and so commonly was this known in ancient times that professed interpreters of dreams were consulted. When I reflect upon the unquestionable unconscious working of the brain, upon its unconscious reception of knowledge from without—upon its unconscious acting upon this knowledge, upon its unconscious and irresistible willing,\* I can conceive that a clairvoyant may not understand his clairvoyance : and another sagacious person, perhaps another clairvoyant, may be required to interpret for him.

Independently of clairvoyance, imaginary appearances sometimes occur in sleep-waking as in common sleep. Elizabeth Okey was affected very uncomfortably when she saw any one she thought dying or in danger of death. Such a person so affected her that an image of death was conjured up to her imagination. It was a skeleton partly enveloped in a sheet, such as we see in some illustrated religious books. The nearer death seemed in her view, the taller was the figure. In conversing with her about it, as she was terrified and I wished to spare her distress, I refrained from calling it Death, but, to make her laugh, nicknamed it Jack. When the interesting psychological fact and the nickname became known, the herd of ignorant persons in the school, and those who wrote and conversed about her case, could do no more than laugh at her as the prophetess of St. Pancras and Jack as her imposition. To a philosophic mind the whole was a subject of most interesting thought.

Of all this she was perfectly ignorant in her waking state ; and regarded it as nonsense when it was related to her. For nothing that passed in her various mesmeric conditions was

\* Though I have always contended that what appears the attraction of parts is an act of the will, I confessed that if I stiffened Miss Barber's arm in her waking state, and drew it by tractive passes, the movements of the arm were excited unconsciously, and to her astonishment, p. 221. But they do not occur, unless she knows of my tractive passes : and I had a patient, Miss Emma Melhuish, who did anything that I said she could, though she did not if I requested or commanded. "Whatever movement I said would occur of any part, it did occur. I asked her how all this happened ; and she replied, in the gentle voice which had always characterized her mesmeric sleep-waking, that "she did not know,—that she heard what was said, and that she knew her arm went up, but could not tell why,—that she did not try to lift it up,—she could not help it,—and when it was up she could not put it down again ; but, when I said it would go down, it did." No. IV., p. 434. That will was exerted, was proved by seeing being required in Miss Barber's case, and hearing in Emma's case, though the willing of both was unconscious. But the fact in Miss Melhuish's case was an *experimentum crucis* ; for, as no tractive pass was made, there could be no physical attraction,—nothing comparable to magnetic attraction. The brain heard and willed—and this was all. See No. V., p. 70.

remembered in the natural state. Among the falsehoods propagated by the ignorant and designing respecting these two interesting cases is that of Elizabeth having confessed this illusion of Jack to be an imposition. In truth she could know nothing of it but by hearsay. In their sleep-waking the sisters would prescribe repeated cupping and blistering and severe open blistering for themselves, and their advice was always taken by me with decided advantage: but in their natural state they did more than laugh at their own prescriptions—they implored me on their knees with streaming tears and piteous sobs that I would not execute the painful measures; just as Walker felt annoyance, p. 336.

The curious circumstance of clairvoyants communicating a knowledge of things as now occurring which had occurred just before is well established. What is stated at p. 357 as having happened on June 6th is similar to what was noticed by Capt. James at Dover in one of his clairvoyants. I recollect being informed of it by Capt. James at the time; but, wishing for minute particulars, I requested the Captain to give me an account in writing, and he did so upon the 17th of the present month.

“With respect to the case of clairvoyance to which you allude, I will endeavour to give you as correct an account as possible of what occurred.

“About three years since, a servant in my employ exhibited during the mesmeric sleep very extraordinary clairvoyant powers. Some friends having one day desired to witness my experiments, the servant was mesmerised, and, after giving various proofs of the possession of the faculty of clairvoyance, I suggested that two of the party should withdraw to another room, in order to prove whether the patient could describe what they were doing.

“After the lapse of a *few minutes*, I desired the patient to look into the room in question and to tell me what she saw. After a *short pause* she said, ‘I see a gentleman and a lady in the room; the gentleman has got a bonnet on his head.’ Another pause; she then exclaimed, ‘Oh! now the gentleman has got upon the table with a candle in his hand.’

“Soon after this my friends returned to us, and I asked them what they had been doing. Their account agreed in every particular with the patient’s, except as to the time. It appeared that the gentleman had actually put on a bonnet *on first entering the room*, but took it off again *immediately*; and, after some *considerable delay*, at length got on the table with a candle in his hand. I perfectly remember that, on comparing notes, we found there must have been a lapse of nearly five minutes from the moment my friend removed the bonnet from his head and the moment my servant declared she saw it on him.”

The particulars respecting the wedding, detailed at pp.

346-7-9, 357-8, 360, may have arisen partly from cerebral sympathy with his mother, whose brain may unconsciously have had in it many of his ideas upon the subject, partly from true clairvoyance, and partly from insanity.

The intense attraction of the youth to Mr. Parsons calls to my mind the attraction of the youth, Mr. Griffiths, to his mesmeriser whoever this might be, recorded in the Fourth Number of *The Zoist*, p. 407. He at one time pushed so closely to Mr. Parsons, that that gentleman exclaimed, "Why one would think you wanted to get inside of me." Of Mr. Symes's patient I remarked, p. 418,

"Mr. S. went up to him, and he then followed Mr. S. about the room, and all over the house, like a child that would not be left. He was not satisfied with following and being near to Mr. S., but pushed against him when standing still or sitting; endeavouring, as it were, *to be in the very same point of space*, and, as soon as he had pushed Mr. S. away from the spot where that gentleman was, he still pushed against him to occupy the fresh spot. The same thing once was manifested in Master Salmon's sleep-waking, mentioned above at page 324.

"Whatever Mr. Symes did, he did. Sat down, walked, kneeled, stood on one leg, ran up or down stairs, put his leg over the balusters, assumed all sorts of attitudes, lay along a table, got under the table, precisely as Mr. S. did, and as near to Mr. S. as possible. Then, as soon as the desire to imitate was satisfied, the attraction would break forth, and he would push against Mr. S. again; endeavouring to sit in the same chair and push Mr. S. out of it, and, as soon as he had pushed him out of it, pushing on again."

In my account of Master Salmon's case, No. III., p. 324, I said,

"I have two female patients, one of whom approaches as near as possible, but *never touches* her mesmeriser, and the other puts her head forward, and, *as soon as it touches, she withdraws it and stands fixed*. The child (Master Salmon) now attempted to drive against me, while standing, but soon gave up and yielded to his propensity to imitate all I did."

Mr. Parsons most justly remarks at p. 352,

"If a young woman had shewn this mesmeric attachment, it would doubtless have been attributed by opponents to an impure motive. I have mesmerised young women who have shewn it very strongly, but never so strongly as this lad manifested it, *because of the difference of sex*, oddly as it may read. The lad yielded at once to the instinct. The young woman felt the same impulse, but the innate modesty and reserve, *as conspicuous in this state as in the waking state*, restrained her, for fear of misconstruction. 'None were ever so fond of me as this boy,' I said, smiling. The boy now came and put his arms round me, as if what I said had influ-

enced him to shew his love. Yet, as I did not speak to him, and as he always says he has never heard a word in such cases, when I have questioned him, it may have been *unconsciously* apprehended. This is often the case when talking is going on around, and the patient will manifest afterwards that the matter *has* been apprehended, although *not conscious at the time of hearing any thing.*"

I have *never once* noticed the faintest sexual emotion in any of my patients, however strong their attachment to me. It has been Gall's pure faculty of attachment that was excited. They have manifested the same degree of it whichever their sex, and the same degree whoever, or how many strangers soever, were present. It has invariably been that of a little child to its mother; of a pet animal to its master. There is however this difference, that boys, unconscious of impropriety of appearance, have shewn no reserve, but, like Frank Walker, sat close to me, taking my hand in their's, or placing their heads on my shoulders; while females have invariably abstained from any outward demonstration of friendship that any but the depraved and malignant could construe into an impropriety.

But, without the ordinary demonstration of the *sentiment of friendship*, or plain attachment, there may be a manifestation of attraction to the mesmeriser from the strength of the mesmeric susceptibility of the patient. The influence of Mr. Parsons upon Frank, described at pp. 364-5, when between Bishopstow and Newhaven the boy was nearly drawn off the road, is parallel with the drawing which was felt by Miss Aglionby from even the unknown proximity of her medical attendant and mesmeriser, Mr. Nixon. If Mr. Nixon took hold of the hand of Miss Aglionby's aunt, Miss Aglionby was "alternately repelled from and attracted to both," p. 240.

With sorrow I saw in the *Medical Gazette* of Dec. 8, p. 969, which declares that none read *The Zoist* except the impostors who publish their cases in it,\* the following statement by Dr. Mayo:—

"With respect, then, to mesmeric therapeutics, beside other questions which would spring out of an inquiry, one question would arise peculiarly appropriate to this subject—namely, whether a certain measure of beneficial results being conceded to mesmerism, the extent of benefit is commensurate with the contingent mischievousness of the means employed. In reference to this point, I may call the attention of my readers to a case published in the last number of the *Zoist*. It is that of Miss Aglionby, communicated by herself. In that statement it appears to me that 'weakness remaining after an attack of fever,' which constituted the complaint, is removed by the substitution of a kind of *possession*, which any father, husband, or

\* *Zoist*, No. XXII., p. 210.

brother, would consider far more undesirable than the weakness removed by it. Here, as in many other points which I could adduce, or which my reader's imagination may suggest, it should be remembered that the removal of physical evil may be effected by processes ethically objectionable.

“Now the public has a right to demand, and to demand of us, some answer to the questions, whether the asserted removal of disorders on mesmeric principles has been truly effected—whether the objections above hinted at to their removal on these principles, may be over-ruled—whether, in regard to this latter point, a line can be drawn between legitimate and illegitimate use of the expedients of the science.”

By possession is understood the residence of an evil spirit in man or brute. Dr. Mayo ascribes a simple mesmeric phenomenon to *possession*! Does he know no better? And is he so ignorant of mesmerism as not to know that the phenomena of mesmeric attachment, *when they happen to occur*, are perfectly pure:\* and that the phenomena of mesmeric attraction may exist, as they did here, without even the sentiment of friendship and attachment? His assertion that this simple and innocent natural fact, which he, for reasons known to himself, styles possession, is what any father, husband, or brother would consider far more undesirable than the disease removed by mesmerism, is worse than absurd. Miss Aglionby is well: and the phenomena ceased with the mesmerism. And if they and the mesmerism were to be repeated, what then? What was there undesirable in them? When any one draws the mesmerised arm of a person wide awake, and mesmerised in no other part than the arm, is this possession, or a bit of possession?—a bit of an evil spirit in a bit of a body?—and are these experiments undesirable things? Out upon such stuff!—out upon it! When men talk thus of virtuous and refined females, call them possessed, say that they have submitted to what is undesirable in the eyes of fathers, husbands, brothers,—the only feeling excited is one of unutterable disgust.† Suppose that such specimens of charity, candour, delicacy, and purity as Dr. Mayo should succeed in their views,

\* I said in 1845, *Zoist*, No. IX., p. 55, “Those who think they have seen any thing else must have seen with the eyes of a prurient impure imagination, unless,” &c. Dr. Mayo might read the Rev. G. Sandby's work with profit,—at pp. 229-31.

† To shew that I have no personal feeling in this matter I beg to quote the rest of Dr. Mayo's passage.—“For great, indeed, is the curative effect held out by these practitioners, and held out with no slight degree of proof. The talents and high scientific position of Dr. Elliotson are well known. It would be superfluous, and, therefore, impertinent, to say, that his veracity is unimpeachable, but for the unscrupulousness with which charges of insincerity have been brought against professors of mesmerism. Now Dr. Elliotson has recently published a case of cancer, apparently absorbed under mesmeric treatment. Its cancerous nature

and virtuously make the community afraid of a great and holy blessing, still all females could be mesmerised by fathers, husbands, brothers, or by women, and males by men. If there had been the slightest ground for Dr. Mayo's remarks, this should have been his suggestion. He well knows that he would not object to have his own daughter mesmerised. The treatment of Miss Martineau and of the Okeys by the open foes of mesmerism was bad enough, but Dr. Mayo —.

I am happy to hear from Mr. Parsons in a letter dated December 18th,

“The boy has quite recovered again, and shews evident signs of more perfect convalescence than heretofore. Each day now diminishes his susceptibility to my influence, so that to-day he arose and took my hand and answered my question—‘How are you?’ before he went to sleep. Yesterday and the day before he arose and spoke to me, but could not resist the contact with my hand, which instantly sent him off. His fits are all gone, and his appearance is more natural and healthy.

“He says (asleep), that his diminished susceptibility is a sign of his cure, and that he shall soon be quite insusceptible and cured.”

II. *Major Buckley's Clairvoyant Patients.* Communicated  
by Dr. ASHBURNER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—One of the most miserable exhibitions which the present competing system of society displays, in our days, always excepting the dire condition of approximate starvation of multitudes of our fellow-beings, is the envy, hatred, malice, and all uncharitableness that characterize the conduct of the medical profession. I have had occasion repeatedly to deplore the unmanly—the cowardly aims of the moral assassin; but offences against personal character are of trivial consequence compared to cunning and deliberate efforts to wound the cause of scientific truth for the unholy purposes of a system of self-glorification, adopted by those who, pretending to respect high feeling, knowingly and basely pander to the brutal prejudices of the vulgar herd. Phrenology, a science promulgated by the illustrious Gall, proved to be in all its had been recognized by Mr. Symes, Mr. Samuel Cooper, Dr. Ashburner, as well as by Dr. Elliotson. But in fact the cases of cure, less marvellous in kind than this, of various diseases under mesmeric agency, are too numerous to be put aside without inquiry. They are numerous to an extent which will induce the public to accept the *methodus medendi* with *all* its presumable evils, unless we place it before them after investigation in a harmless form, if such a form can be devised, or convict the whole system of vice or imposture.”

details absolutely true by the facts which mesmerism has developed, explains to us how no man can endeavour to crush truth basely without having a most unenviable head. It is a proved fact, that every cunning physician who endeavours to give to phrenology or to mesmerism a malicious sneer—or an inuendo—or a whisper, that has been calculated to excite the ignorant prejudices of a patient or of any other equally uninformed person, must have an organization of the head that is incompatible with the existence of large—or of correct—or of logical views; that is quite incompatible with the indulgence of pure charity; that is quite incompatible with the exercise of philosophical humility. A not exalted, but retreating forehead—a large organ of cunning, with an amplitude where the love of gain resides—a caution or timidity amounting to cowardice—a large share of Self-esteem, form the characters of a mind to which Bishop Wilberforce's remarks well apply, when he says that "on such a mind there soon settles down the thicker darkness which is bred by all the storms of envy, captiousness, jealousy, and hatred." Mesmerism teaches, that the fluids which emanate from such heads, when several are at work cogitating together in conclave, produce on each other forces of sympathy, that—to use the language of an author ignorant of the depths of his subject, and adopting most erroneous views—create a *possession* which of a *necessity* determines false conclusions. Charity would lead us to treat the aberrations of such minds with tenderness on the same principle that we should spare pain as much as possible to idiots; but the philosophy of human conduct as dependant upon the *force* of motives offered to the mind, must teach us in the cause of scientific truth to cut with an unflinching hand.

I may ask how much longer will medical men go on wallowing in their ignorance of phrenology and of mesmerology? Are they to wait until Mr. Faraday has, before the Royal Society, read a few more Bakerian lectures on what he truly termed "mysterious subjects?" Are physicians always to take physiological physics at second hand? Are they to wait for the magnetic mysteries of mind until it shall please some accepted professor to sidle the crystalline facts of Reichenbach to the magnetic phenomena of Galvani's electric battery? Peddlers in physiology—peddlers in logic—peddlers in mental philosophy—peddlers in electricity and magnetism, their presumption in any efforts at arbitrating between the professors of a knowledge their pride and ignorance incapacitate them from comprehending and that part of the public which is *humbly willing to learn*, is preposterous. Mr. Craig, from

Sheffield, would, for threepence a head, undertake to give them a kind of information that should better qualify them for abitrators, and put them in respect of a true philosophy of mind more in the way of reaching to a level with many of the operative mechanics, to whom they may now look up from a deep abyss.

I am quite aware that numerous whisperings have gone forth against the facts which Major Buckley exhibited to me and to others, some of them have been propagated with not very good faith towards a most distinguished cultivator of mesmerism. But however individuals may err, the *truth* must go forward. The experiments with the nutshells have been so often repeated under various circumstances, that the facts may defy the incredulity—the sneers—the whisperings of all the physicians in the world; let alone the poor creatures who would like to lead the gobe-mouches of London to assist in their self-glorification. Major Buckley continues to repeat his experiments, and having lately convinced a very intelligent medical practitioner at Brighton of the truth of clairvoyance, he has been kind enough to send me the statement I now forward to you.

I remain, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

JOHN ASHBURNER.

65, Grosvenor Street,  
Dec. 12, 1848.

“ My dear Dr. Ashburner,

“ On the 22nd of Nov. I had the pleasure of being introduced to Mr. Mott, a man of powerful intellect—a zealous advocate in the cause of truth, a believer in clairvoyance, and (like yourself) possessing moral courage to avow that belief, alike regardless of the opposition of the interested and the ridicule of the ignorant. At my request he purchased four motto nuts (not touched by me), which he placed in muslin bags—two in each—fastening these bags by inserting the staples of puzzle padlocks, which were fixed by him, in my absence, at letters known only to himself. With the large lock, having seven cylinders, 10,460,353,203 combinations of letters may be formed. With the small one, having five, 3,200,000. They were delivered to me on my calling for them by Mr. Mott himself. Learning from my clairvoyant friends that it would be convenient to them to see me on the 29th, I went to town on that morning, returning the same evening. On my assuring them that the nuts had been placed in the muslin bags by a gentleman *who firmly believed in clairvoyance*, they requested me to make a few passes over them, after which they wrote down

the words of each motto. It appeared that when the shells were opened the following morning by Mr. Mott, some trifling mistakes had been made in writing down the mottos. Both read at the same time—both used the same pen, consequently they could not write down *immediately* what they had read. They have told me the contents of many hundred shells, without missing a single letter; one clairvoyant, 68 mottos in succession, without one mistake. Up to the 29th November, the mottos contained in 3,453 shells, the words amounting to 47,731, have been read by thirty-four clairvoyants. Many have been read, untouched by me, while in the hands of those who purchased them; many, although marked inside as well as outside by yourself and others; a very large number with seals affixed to the shells themselves or to the paper, muslin or gauze enclosing them. Four clairvoyants have now read the mottos in eleven shells secured in bags by puzzle locks. Sceptics may say, and truly say, with regard to seven of these, that I knew at what letters they would open. Be it so; let them judge of others by themselves; but with respect to the four, Mr. Mott, and he alone, knew how to open them—he remained here, while the mottos were read in town. The last experiment proves beyond a doubt that I have produced clairvoyance. Had I not possessed that power, many would now be on sick beds—some in their graves.

“ I rejoice to say that since my introduction to Mr. Mott, he has not only mesmerised with success, but has produced in each case clairvoyance. He has been engaged in the duties of his profession half a century; had he been earlier aware that he possessed such power, how greatly would he have added to the list of suffering fellow-creatures restored to health by his means. I send herewith his statement, together with the muslin bags, and with best wishes,

“ Believe me,

“ Very sincerely yours,

“ W. BUCKLEY.”

“ Brighton, November 22nd, 1848.

“ This morning Major Buckley very kindly called on me with Mr. Edward Maitland, and after some conversation on the subject of vital magnetism, he placed on the table two puzzle locks, (I had never seen locks of this kind before, and was some time before I understood the construction of them). Two muslin bags the Major also produced, and proposed that I should get some of the motto nuts and enclose them in the bags, lock them securely myself, no one being present. I placed two nuts in each bag and securely tied and locked

them, keeping a copy of the letters to which each lock was put together, and keeping the paper in my lancet-case, no person knowing anything of the paper but me. The bags were sealed up in paper and given to the Major. On the 30th of November the bags, locked as I had parted with them, were returned, and I carefully examined them. They could not by any possibility have been opened till I opened them. This I did by unlocking the puzzle locks by the letters before named. I then took out the nuts,—they were cracked,—the mottos taken out,—read and found quite correct, except in one paper, in French, the first word in the second line omitted. In all other respects they were read and correctly copied.

(Signed)

“ W. B. MOTT, Surgeon,  
 “ Formerly Surgeon of the 2nd Battalion  
 “ 47th Regiment of Foot.

“ 10, Devonshire Place, Brighton.”

### III. *Cases of the removal of Pain with Mesmerism.*

By Mr. ARTHUR TREVELYAN.

“ Truth by her native beauty is sure to charm ; yet from her repugnancy to most men’s interests, she is seldom welcome. Politicians are afraid of her, parties detest her, and all professions agree that she is mad and very dangerous if suffered to go about in public.”—JENYNS.

It is a duty owed by man to man not to hide anything which by publication may have a tendency to draw attention to a power likely to assuage by its exercise the moral, mental, and physical miseries endured by suffering humanity ; and that power is MESMERISM—*nature’s best gift to man* : and, when we consider the conduct of the majority of medical men in opposing this great truth, I feel the more anxious to give my humble testimony in support of a great natural truth, in justice to that noble advocate of this great gift to man—Dr. John Elliotson, M.D., who, lamentable to say, in the last number of *The Zoist*, at p. 317, states his fears—from symptoms in different organs of his frame—that his useful life stands in jeopardy every hour—a life rendered illustrious by benevolent acts and rational deeds.

The testimony of such a man to the truth of mesmerism, was alone sufficient to induce me to become a firm believer in that most important of all sciences.

We cannot blame our opponents. Not being free agents, they must involuntarily obey nature’s laws, which laws have stamped their craniums deficient in the moral region. Thus

not having a sense of justice—a true feeling of benevolence, they are led by their animal feelings to oppose a great truth, eagerly embraced by the honest and benevolent, but decried by the malevolent, *i.e.* the moral idiot, who fear, that, should that science be generally believed, their pecuniary interests would be endangered.

#### Case I. *Relief of Pains.*

E. M., married, aged 36; temperament sanguine nervous, nearly equally balanced; has had seven children, six of whom are now living. She has passed the last six years in very indifferent health, which period intervened between the sixth and seventh child; the former was still-born, and the latter is the strongest child of the whole set. Nursing this infant seems quite to have broken down her previously weakened constitution. The functions of all the organs of her body are more or less impaired, and, for several years past, a tender spot has been felt in the inside of the right leg, between the lower part of the calf and the ankle. Latterly inflammation took place in that part of the leg, accompanied by acute pain, intense itching, and a tightness of the skin over the part affected, the veins very varicose and tendons knotted. On the 5th December, 1847, a small spot of the skin, less than a quarter of an inch in diameter, broke over the tender part, showing apparently a deep-seated wound, with acute pain cutting to the bone: pus and a watery discharge followed the opening of the wound. The itching at the same time disappeared. On the 14th December I called and found her in a sad state of suffering: she could not place her foot to the ground without experiencing great agony, and her nights were passed nearly sleepless. The wound at this date had increased to two inches in diameter. I made a few mesmeric passes over her head, and found her very susceptible. She said she saw dimly coloured light proceeding from my finger ends. I did not continue the passes at that time on account of her timidity on the subject, but I left her drowsy, and, though she afterwards tried to shake off the drowsiness, she passed another sleepy night. The next day I called again, and found her suffering from all the previously-mentioned symptoms, besides a numbness of the right thigh and a coldness of the affected leg. Just previously to my calling, by the help of the back of the chairs she had contrived to walk across the room, but the agony was so great that she could not help bursting into tears. I proposed local mesmerism, to which she assented. *The first five passes caused a glow of warmth in the leg, and in five minutes it was of a natural heat: in three minutes more*

*the pain had descended to the heel, thence passed to the sole of the foot, in a short time longer it arrived at the toes, from thence a few more passes dissipated it altogether.* At the same time the tightness of the skin, the knotted veins and tendons were relaxed. I now requested her to walk across the room, *which she did with ease, and declared she felt no difference between the two legs.* I continued the passes until a numbness of the leg was produced: but at the same time it remained of a natural warmth, had not a cold numbness as before commencing the mesmeric passes. In case the pain recurred, as I expected it would from over exertion in the desire to fulfil her household duties, I requested her husband and children to make the mesmeric passes. *She stood the next day at the washing-tub, with but little inconvenience from her leg.* On my next visit I found that after I left her the pain had returned, but was soon removed by passes made by her daughter, who is only thirteen years of age. She described the passes made by her child as not so powerful as those I made, but those made by her husband produced a cold current, which aggravated the pain: so I requested him to desist. I have since found that with a magnet held in his hand the current produced by his passes is warm and therefore beneficial.

January 19th. I still continue to mesmerise, but, finding her very weak and suffering from pain in her back and other parts, instead of local passes I now mesmerise from the head to the feet, and with considerable benefit.

*Since the first day of applying mesmerism she has had no more sleepless nights.*

I occasionally substituted the magnet for the five fingers, and sometimes think the power is increased by the employment of that instrument.

When the magnet was held for a short time over the wound, the sensation occasioned by it was precisely similar to that felt by the application of nitrate of silver, and caused a drawing feeling, and an increased discharge from the sore; and if held until the pain ceased, the magnetic effect was conveyed over the whole system, apparently equally well as by the passes.

The burning pain caused by caustic, which at the request of her medical attendant I applied to the wound, is easily removed by the passes, but it takes a different route from the natural pain of the sore; the former moves over the ankle and upper part of the foot to the toes; the latter takes a longer line, by the heel and the sole to the toes.

The numbness commences as soon as the pain is removed:

beginning at the toes, it passes down the foot, and up the leg and thigh, and spreads over the whole body, provided the mesmeric passes are continued long enough. Previously to the numbness commencing, she feels as if there was an accumulation of heat in the part where it begins. After the limb or other part of the body has become numbed, the warmth of the passes are only faintly felt.

The inflamed surface gets pale, and the wound at times has appeared to heal over, under the influence of the passing fingers or magnet.

Strong passes commencing at the nape of the neck, over the head and face, and down the person, produce a much greater heat on the affected leg, than the short local passes.

*It is important that the passes be made very slowly, as quick passes have scarcely any effect—sometimes a contrary to that wished for.*

The mesmeric effect is much easier induced in a warm room free from atmospheric currents, than in a cold room with drafts of wind.

If the operator with one hand holds the hand of an individual, whilst making passes with the other hand holding a magnet, there is an increase of magnetic heat, and there is an increase, by every additional individual to the number holding each other's hands: but, if the patient is connected either with the operator, or with any of the individuals holding his hand, the effect ceases: or, if a metallic connection is made, the same result follows.

A magnet placed on the foot, pointing towards the instep, the foot resting on a stool, created an increase of heat when the passing magnet came near the other: but, the moment the ends were passed, the sensation of heat ceased.

A powerful effect was produced by the operator making the passes with a magnet in each hand, but I am not quite sure whether the hands alone are not as powerful.

The pain and the numbness from the leg were conveyed temporarily to her daughter's thighs and legs, by having the affected limb in contact, resting on her lap, whilst she was making the passes: and this took place a few times, till the warning was attended to, and she desisted from taking her mother's leg into her lap.

February 24th. For some time past, soon after commencing the passes, a drowsiness comes on, but in a short time goes off again, and the patient feels as if she had awoke out of a refreshing slumber.

Rock crystal when first employed produced in this patient cold currents.

Being indisposed, I was obliged to neglect my patient for several days. On the 2nd April I called and found her confined to her bed with a bad head-ache, which was quickly removed. Having the rock crystal in my pocket, I thought I would again give it a trial. The passes made with it this time were quite warm and soothing, and again on the 29th the passes made with it were better than either the magnet or fingers could produce.

On her daughter, who was lately very ill for some weeks, the crystal passes were always warm, and the prism held before her eyes sent her quickly to sleep, though the mesmeric sleep could be induced by no other means.

Silver tips put on the middle finger of each hand, I think, from what I observed, increased the power of the passes.

Sometimes the one method of inducing the magnetic effect seems the more powerful, sometimes the others above mentioned; probably the various results are owing to a difference in the patient's nervous system, which in bad health is very variable.

By making local passes herself with a small magnet, the pain in her leg has been assuaged; also by placing it beneath her heel when in bed, the same effect has followed.

My patient lately went to the sea-side, where she remained for a fortnight, but did not bathe, as cold bathing disagrees with her. Whilst there, she suffered much pain from the sore in her leg, and the change of air did not seem to benefit her at all. On her return, she appeared healthier in her face, but complained of not being any stronger. Probably however the change to total rest from very active habits has been beneficial, as there was daily improvement, and the wound in her leg was nearly healed. After her return I only occasionally made the passes, using the quartz prism with beneficial effect, removing pain, &c., and causing a natural glow of heat in her leg. I now think her in a fair way of recovery.

The foregoing was written about the end of July. I afterwards left home for a month; on my return I found the wound in her leg not so well as when I went away, but her general health continues better. During my absence she called in the aid of a clever hydropathist lately come into this neighbourhood, who is sanguine as to her recovery by means of cold water and galvanism, and I rejoice to add that there is both a great improvement in her general health and in the state of the sore on her leg.

I send this case (and the following) to shew with what facility pain can be removed—not having attended regularly

enough to be warranted in attributing the cure, if perfected, to mesmerism alone.

Case II.—M. D., stone-mason, who has been long subject to tooth-ache, was lately troubled with that complaint for three consecutive weeks. He dreaded going to rest as the pain was always more acute when warm in bed. I made passes over the head and down his face with my hands for ten minutes; the pain ceased, and a good night's rest followed without any return of the pain. The following night the pain returned, but the next night I made some passes, and he has not since (several months) been troubled with that destroyer of comfort.

Case III.—William Farmer, domestic assistant, æt. 21, has had rheumatism for seven years, not very severely, principally tormenting him at night when getting warm in bed; sleep much disturbed. On the 9th of January last, I made the passes with a  $\frac{1}{2}$  lb. magnet down the affected thigh and leg previously to his retiring to rest; in ten minutes the pain was relieved. I continued the passes for half an hour longer, when the thigh, &c., became numbed. He went to bed and had an excellent night's sleep, without the usual pain coming on; and now several months have elapsed without his being again troubled with rheumatism. Sleep easily induced, but not cataleptic.

Case IV.—Ann C.; married; the mother of three children; since the 8th of January has had severe pain in her teeth, which pain shifts occasionally to the upper portion of her cranium, where it was when I called on the 12th. I made passes over the head and down the face with the magnet; in five minutes time the pain was removed, and a numbness of the nerves of the head followed. Sleep easily induced. Called four hours after and no return of the pain.

Case V.—Mary M., aged 11, subject to a bad tooth-ache; removed in a few minutes by the passes made by her sister Jane, æt. 13. Months have now elapsed without any return.

Case VI.—Thomas Wilson, aged 44, labourer, temperament sanguineo-nervous, suffering for several days past from severe tooth-ache. Saw him at work on Oct. 20th; complained of the intense pain. I said to him, "Tom, come into Handysides' kitchen, and I will remove your agony in ten minutes." He came in and sat down, and with my hands I

made passes over his head and down the face; in ten minutes the pain was much abated, and in five minutes more was quite removed, and has not recurred up to this date, Oct. 29th, 1848. Drowsiness was induced.

Case VII.—James Boyd, aged 30, tailor, cambo: temperament lymphatic-fibrous-nervous. On the 2nd inst., at 3 30 p.m., I called at his cottage; found him suffering from a cold in the head, accompanied by acute head-ache, and dimness of vision, to such an extent that he could not see to follow his employment. Made passes over his head and down his face; in eighteen minutes nearly all the above symptoms were completely removed—a slight cold only remaining: drowsiness not induced. Next morning at his work as usual, and no recurrence up to this date, 7th November, 1848.

ARTHUR TREVELYAN.

Wallington, Morpeth.

IV. *Cure of Insanity with Mesmerism.* By Mr. CHARLES TIMINS, Surgeon.

IN a work on Persia it is related that when the British Embassy visited that country, an electrical machine, which they had brought with them, excited great wonder and delight among the natives. But a renowned doctor and lecturer of the college, envious of the fame and popularity which it enjoyed, contended that the effects produced were *moral*, not *physical*; that it was mere mummery that was practised; and that the state of nervous agitation excited produced an *ideal shock!* How similar the opposition to mesmerism by some of the learned doctors of our colleges! But the incredulity and scorn which has been manifested towards this, in common with all remarkable advances and discoveries that have ever been made in the “vast unexplored ocean of truth,” is fast waning before the aggregation of facts and experiences which every day accumulates, and we have perhaps no reason to feel surprised or mortified that a similar reception is accorded to it as attended the discovery which has immortalized the name of Harvey. Though I must at the same time express my belief that the discovery of animal magnetism will be attended with far more important results than that of the circulation of the blood; affording, as I conceive it to do, a clue to the better understanding of both the psychological and physiological nature of man: to say nothing of the wonderful power of mesmerism as a remedial agent, more especially in the relief

of those maladies which have hitherto chiefly baffled the skill of the physician. Its beneficial influence in the treatment of insanity has been experienced and attested by many, and I trust ere long to see it employed in all our lunatic asylums. In illustration of its remedial agency in these disorders, I offer the following case, which exhibits, 1stly, The extreme facility and rapidity with which relief was obtained by simply *local mesmerisation* without inducing somnolency; and 2ndly, The correspondence between phrenological development and mental manifestation.

Miss E. T., age 22, of sanguineo-lymphatic development, has suffered from spinal irritation for more than five years, during which period she has had recourse to mesmerism for relief, and has experienced great alleviation of her sufferings, and benefit to her general health from its use. When in the mesmeric state she manifests phreno-mesmeric and other phenomena, with exaltation of all the senses except vision. Her head exhibits very full development of the organs of the *moral* sentiments, with fair development of the *perceptive* and *reflective* faculties. The govermental organs (*Firmness* and *Self-esteem*) are small, their functional deficiency being perhaps in some respects compensated by the organ of *Caution*, which in her is very large, as are also the organs of *Love of Approbation* and *Adhesiveness*, particularly the latter. Some months ago she experienced a disappointment of her affections, that proved a source of great mental suffering, and seriously affected her health. Indeed she exhibited all the signs of a broken heart, and frequently in her *sleep-waking* state thrilled all who beheld her with the emotions which some suggestive incident would excite in her. On the evening of 28th July, when present at a large party at a friend's house, the sight of a gentleman, who presented some fancied or real resemblance to him who had proved false, greatly affected her, and while speaking of the subject to a female friend she was seized with a violent hysterical paroxysm, which, though for a time subdued, continued to recur; and on the subsidence of the paroxysms she remained in a state of mental derangement, which was manifested in *extravagant expressions of regard and affection, and epithets of endearment towards all who approached her*, chiefly female friends, several of whom had been complete strangers to her till this attack called forth their sympathizing kindness towards her; and to every one she seemed most ardently attached.

On the 1st of August, four days after her seizure, I accompanied a friend to visit her, and found her in the state above described, *her mind being incessantly occupied by one*

*feeling—that of affection for each and all who came near her.* She complained of great pain in the back of her head, and burning pain in her spine, describing the latter as if a red-hot poker were thrust down her spine, and, during the exacerbations, this spinal pain appeared to be of the most agonizing kind, her hands and feet being at the same time cold and clammy as those of a corpse, evidencing the imperfect distribution of the nervous energy. On my asking her to point out the situation of the pain in her head, she placed the ends of her fingers on the *organ of Adhesiveness* on the right side. I then endeavoured to relieve the pain by making passes from the part affected, but I must confess without anticipating the striking result which followed my manipulations. These had not been continued more than five minutes when she expressed herself relieved, and said the pain was going into her neck and shoulder, in which direction I was making the passes. In five minutes more her countenance expressed surprise and bewilderment, and sinking back on the pillow, she exclaimed, “*I feel changed.*” Before fifteen minutes had elapsed from commencing the passes, she sat up, her countenance and manner evidently changed, and, addressing us *with reserve*, in place of the childish epithets of endearment she had just before applied to those around her, requested to be informed *where she was*, and why so many people were around her bed. In fine, she manifested the most *complete obliviousness* of every thing that had taken place during her state of mental derangement; the latest incident that maintained a place in her memory being the party she was present at just previous to her hysteric seizure. It was evident her mind had been brought into *another state* than that in which we had seen her only a quarter of an hour before, for even the incidents that had occurred only that brief time previously had all been erased from her mind. Some kind female friends, whose acquaintance she had made during her insane state, and towards whom she had expressed herself most warmly attached, *she now failed to recognize*, and it was evident they were as entire strangers to her as they had been previously to her attack.

Astounded and incredulous as I could not but feel at such marvellous and unlooked-for results following such slight and apparently insufficient causes, I was compelled on the evidence of my senses to believe, what I confess I could scarcely have avoided doubting on the testimony of another, that *by these simple manipulations the deranged condition of a mental organ had been relieved, and the mind restored to a sane state.* On detailing to her all that had happened to her,

she evinced, as may be supposed, much emotion, and at length exclaimed, "Long have I suffered from trouble of mind, and been compelled to wear an aching heart under a smiling aspect; but now I feel as if something had been removed from my mind that oppressed me: I feel as if I was a changed being, and am now going to be a happy girl."

To this plain unvarnished statement of facts, I will merely add that she has since continued perfectly free from mental derangement; and that her general health benefitted so rapidly by daily mesmerising that she was at the end of a fortnight able to travel a very long journey to visit her friends.

CHARLES TIMINS, F.R.C.S.  
1, Jersey Place, Cheltenham, Sept. 26, 1848.

\*.\* We beg Drs. Conolly and Mayo to study this case.—*Zoist*.

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V. *Dr. Esdaile's progress in India.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"Mr. Wakley says he is resolved that Mesmerism shall no longer be employed in this or any other hospital."—*Speech of Mr. Wakley's Clerk to Dr. Elliotson in the ward of University College Hospital, where he was allowed as a favour to see Elizabeth Okey, November, 1838.*

Resolved—"That the Hospital Committee be instructed to take such steps as they shall deem most advisable, to prevent the practice of Mesmerism or Animal Magnetism in future within the hospital."—*Resolution of the Council of University College, December 27, 1838.*

"No man worth any thing is ever hunted to death. A myriad of Peels could not hunt Lord John Russel to death."—*Examiner, June 20, 1846.*

IN the *Delhi Gazette* for Feb. 20, 1848, I read the following passage:—

"Nobody yet knows what is to be the fate of the mesmeric hospital. I have heard a good story of an interview between the Governor-General and Mr. Halliday, in which the former began by expressing his astonishment that the Bengal Government had committed itself to any connection with a piece of quackery that had long ago been exploded in Europe, but ended with informing the Secretary that he was rather curious to see a mesmeric operation.

"If the Governor-General had happened to fall into the hands of the medical board at the outset, it is probable that the hospital would have been knocked on the head at once."

In the *Eastern Star* for June 3, 1848, is this article:—

"*The Mesmeric Hospital.*—A number of gentlemen favourably disposed towards the re-establishment of this institution met last evening by invitation at the residence of Mr. James Hume. The attendance was, in all respects, very gratifying,

both Europeans and Natives being largely represented. Rajah Radakhant Deb was placed in the chair, and opened the business of the meeting by stating its object. Mr. Hume then, in a clear and perspicuous speech, pointed out the benefit that would accrue not only to practical medicine but to physiological science if an opportunity were afforded for a further study of mesmeric truths to one now so practised in it as Dr. Esdaile. He lightly sketched the progress of mesmerism from its beginnings, when unhesitating sceptics covered its doctrines with obloquy and denied its facts, till the present day when many of its furious antagonists are become its apostles, and others who have not become converts have at least entered on the path of unbiassed inquiry. Mr. Hume next dwelt upon Dr. Esdaile's personal labours, and the part played by government in affording him a fair opportunity for the establishment of his assertions respecting painless surgery, which led to the temporary hospital of last year. The good effected by that Hospital had been warmly recognized by the native community especially, and a petition was preferred to government to re-suscitate it, as well as commemorating Dr. Esdaile's great services. Government had accordingly made Dr. Esdaile a Presidency surgeon, and in his minute on the occasion, the Governor-General in Council had written as follows,—“The Governor-General in Council approves of the mode suggested by the Government of Bengal to acknowledge the success of Dr. Esdaile's experiments in the mesmeric hospital by appointing him a Presidency surgeon, as this will enable the natives to avail themselves of a system of cure which they seem to appreciate.” It was thus—Mr. Hume proceeded—to the native community especially, that Government had delegated the opportunity to re-establish the hospital and prove their sense of Dr. Esdaile's services. But there would be no withholding on the part of the Europeans. The hospital should be established; it could be established whether the natives helped or no, and it would: but it was most desirable on all accounts that they should shew themselves active and liberal in the enterprize. No sum was too small in so good a work: and Mr. Hume went on to shew how, by the associative principle superintended by those really sympathising in the prosperity of the institution, there was not a house of business but could make itself responsible for a very praiseworthy contribution towards the funds, yet pressing very lightly on the contributors.

“Baboo Ramgopaul Ghose then read a series of resolutions describing the plan of the new hospital, naming its committee, &c. They were unanimously agreed to in the gross without

being formally proposed to the meeting. The spirit of those present was so hearty that we cannot but augur very favourably for the success of the scheme. The iron was struck while hot, and donations to the amount of Rs. 1200 secured, as well as monthly subscriptions of the value of Rs. 200. Dr. Edlin suggested that a definite day, say the 1st of next month, be fixed for the opening of the hospital, that people may know exactly when patients will be received. Captain Engledue also proposed that the committee should put itself in communication with the principal stations in the country, in order to obtain pecuniary assistance towards the support of the institution. It is calculated that monthly subscriptions amounting to Co.'s Rs. 500 are required to meet the expenses, and we have not the smallest hesitation in stating our belief that if the gentlemen, who so liberally came forward in the room in their own persons, exert themselves in the same spirit in their private circles, that amount will easily be secured. We have reason to believe the site of the hospital will be on the old premises, which were very favourably situated.

“Among the parties present were Rajahs Radakant Deb, Kalikrishna, and Apurva Krishna; Baboos Ramgopaul Ghose, Muddoo Mohun Addy, Comarkally Kishen Roy, Rampersad Roy, Radapersad Roy, Ramchunder Mitter, Nundkishore Roy, Modoosooden Roy and T. H. Chatterjee; Syud Keramat Allee, and Abdool Sannud; Messrs. H. M. Elliott, Evelyn Gordon, A. Grant, J. Hume, Scott Thomson, Engledue, Wagentreiber, Martin, Blyth, Wilby, Butcher, Heatly and A. Kemp; Dr. and Mr. Edlin, Dr. and Major Hough, Drs. Webb and Fitzpatrick, and others whom we cannot at this moment recollect. Letters,—among them an eloquent one from Dr. Duff—were received from several gentlemen whose previous engagements necessitated their absence.

“We cannot but congratulate Dr. Esdaile on the prospects now open to him, and hope most sincerely that nothing may occur to disappoint them. His imperturbable patience, his extensive research, his genial enthusiasm have now a field before them which none can appreciate more than himself, and if anything can add—not to his consciousness of pleasure—but to the pleasure of his friends, it is the sense that he has achieved the opening by his own unwearying labour. Step by step he has conquered public opinion, and he is rewarded by finding his umquhile antagonist transmuted into the irresistible agent.

#### “RESOLUTIONS.

“1. That it is highly desirable to realize the expectations of Government in appointing Dr. Esdaile a Presidency Surgeon.

"2. That for this purpose, a notice be issued to all the signers of the Petition to Government for a Mesmeric Hospital, inviting them to support by donations and subscriptions the formation of such an Institution.

"3. That the Hospital shall be on the same footing as the late Government establishment, open to all descriptions of cases, medical as well as surgical, and all classes of patients, European as well as Natives, and that all persons, desirous of satisfying themselves of the nature and effects of the treatment, be encouraged to resort to the Hospital.

"4. That if sufficient support be obtained from the Native community to bring the Hospital into operation, the public in general shall be invited to assist in the execution of a scheme which is of common interest to all mankind, that the Government be also requested to afford assistance by furnishing medicines, instruments, furniture, &c., with a view to the establishment of a General Dispensary in connection with the Hospital.

"5. That Rajah Radakant Deb, Rajah Suttuchurn Gosaul, Rajah Kalikishan Bahadoor, Rajah Pertub Chunder Sing, and Baboo Ramapersaud Roy, H. M. Elliot, Esq., the Rev. Mr. Fisher, Mr. Hume, the Rev. Mr. La Croix, and Dr. Martin be requested to form a Committee of co-operation, and Baboo Ramgopal Ghose to become Treasurer—the Treasurer to be a member of the Committee, *ex officio*.

"6. That the Newspapers of Calcutta be requested to publish these resolutions, and to receive donations and subscriptions for the formation and support of a Mesmeric Hospital in Calcutta.

"Subscriptions and donations will also be received by the members of the committee and by Dr. Esdaile, 12, Russell Street."

On the 1st of September, 1848, Dr. Esdaile thus wrote to me:—

"My dear Sir,—A mesmeric hospital supported by public subscription has been opened this day. Government have given us medicines, instruments, and furniture.

"Yours sincerely,

"JAMES ESDAILE.

"Calcutta, 1st September."

On the 5th of September, Dr. Esdaile wrote to me again:—

"You will see from the newspaper I send by this mail, the proposal of a mesmeric hospital by public subscription that was made some months ago. It was opened on the 1st September, and I have just returned from performing a successful mesmeric operation to-day. Nothing could more impressively shew the effect produced upon the public mind by my proceedings, than the realization of such a scheme at *this*

*time.* The most thriving merchants are ruined, trade is paralyzed, and a great proportion of the gentlemen of the public service in Calcutta are involved in the far-spread misery caused by the failure of the Union Bank. In a word, the whole community is panic-stricken, and those who have not suffered make the losses of their neighbours a cloak for covetousness. Nevertheless, I have received the necessary support for the hospital, and doubt not that our means will increase with our fame. My late medical visitors, unmindful of the hospitable trouble I took with them, fondly flattered themselves that they had asphyxiated me and mesmerism with chloroform, and are now crying in amaze, 'What! Mons. Tonson come again!' You have characterized the parties mentioned in your letter so justly, that those best acquainted with them can add nothing to the description. Cunning, like ambition, is always over-leaping itself, and I never yet saw one of your very cunning fellows who did not get into the dirt at last\*—there let us leave them. I sometimes wish that you had my sense of the ludicrous, and then your justly-excited contempt and indignation would find vent and relief in an explosion of laughter. Nothing is such a sedative to irritation as a hearty *suffaw*."

On the 6th of October, the *Delhi Gazette* had this extract from the *Templar* :—

"The mesmeric hospital is in full operation, Dr. Esdaile having as many patients as he can manage. The other day an old patient came back to him with a foul ulcer extending from knee to heel; the fellow was sent to sleep and fell into a cataleptic state in five minutes, after which the ulcerated surface was deliberately sponged with nitric acid. He felt it not! though the flesh had been turned perfectly white by the cautery. ELLIOTSON has devoted a whole number of *The Zoist* to a sarcastic examination of the opinions given by our Calcutta doctors upon the hospital, when under their visitation. It is amusing reading, but not calculated to benefit the cause. Mesmerism is now steadily gaining ground, and for the retreating foe one ought to build a bridge."

Mesmerists all feel that the time is come for laughing at our opponents outright with our arms a-kimbo. They are thoroughly beaten, and ridiculous. Still look at the atrocity of their conduct. Perfectly indifferent not merely to the most splendid facts in living nature—(dulness and obstinacy one can bear with)—but perfectly indifferent to the sufferings

\* We beg Mr. Wakley to read this.—*Zoist*.

of their fellow-creatures from incurable and even unrelievable diseases, or from the tortures of surgical operations—(inhumanity one cannot bear with)—they did not remain neutral as becomes all men upon all subjects of which they know nothing, but at once, in perfect ignorance, pronounced mesmerism to be a falsehood and a cheat, and scandalized and injured in every possible way those humble enquirers after nature's truths, those lovers of the happiness of their fellow-creatures, that had been at the trouble to investigate the subject, and, on finding it true, possessed the conscience and courage to say so before all men. For years the facts were quietly presented to them: and when at length, those who calmly ventured to demonstrate these facts received nothing in return but unremitting injury and insult of the grossest kind, as the medical journals, the quotations forming the headings of so many articles in *The Zoist*, and my pamphlet on *Operations without Pain in the Mesmeric State*, have imperishably recorded, it became us, it was absolutely necessary for us, to castigate them, just as scribes, pharisees, and hypocrites were denounced, and as the money-changers were scourged out of the temple. To this severity only they proved themselves sensible: and to this, not to the love and perception of truth, can the conversion of the worst of them be ascribed. I will not assist in building a bridge for them: let them swim across to us manfully, as they will if they are sincere—penitently confessing their transgressions on their arrival at our shore. Unless they come over thus, they will be regarded not as converts and allies, but as miserable deserters from the losing to the victorious side, whom we care not to have among us.

Honour enough cannot be given to Dr. Esdaile, who stood absolutely single in our eastern empire.

An Oxford friend of mine has just published the following verses in a collection of most intellectual, elegant, and heart-touching poems:—

#### GENIUS.

Poursuis ta sublime carrière,  
Poursuis : le mépris du vulgaire,  
Est l'apanage des grands cœurs.

*Lamartine.*

Alone, alone, alone,  
Yet not in the grove or glen,  
But alone, alone, alone,  
'Mid the crowded haunts of men.

Offering thoughtful years  
For a late, sepulchral fame,  
While the torch of life burns on  
With a self-consuming flame :

Calling his fellow-men,  
With the eager voice of youth,  
From the gloom of error's ways  
To the sunlit paths of truth ;  
Sorrowing with the cares  
Of a deep, unwavering zeal,  
For the eyes that will not see,  
And the hearts that cannot feel :  
Oh ! thus, on a thorny track,  
By the fire of love divine  
Is the child of Genius led  
To his rest in Glory's shrine !  
He hath hope in his lonely heart,  
And he bears on his furrow'd brow  
The light of the living truths  
Which the world receives not now ;  
Toiling early and late,  
With a slow and wasting toil,  
By the beams of the rising sun,  
By the glare of the midnight oil ;  
Alone, alone, alone,  
Yet not in the grove or glen,  
But alone, alone, alone,  
'Mid the barren hearts of men.

*Poems by H. W. Freeland.*  
The Albany, Nov. 1848.

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VI. *The London College of Physicians and Mesmerists.* By  
Dr. ELLIOTSON.

WHEN it became my turn to deliver the Harveian Oration, I received the following letter from the Registrar or Clerk of the College.

“ 18, Bolton Street, Piccadilly,  
“ June 26th, 1845.

“ Dear Sir,—I am desired by the President of our College to inform you that it has devolved to your turn to deliver the Harveian Oration in the ensuing year ; and he hopes, and I am sure the wish will be generally and strongly felt, that you will accept this ancient and honourable office.

“ It is my duty to mention, (although, in your case, I trust it is unnecessary,) that, by a standing order of the College, each Fellow, when thus informed by the President that the office of Harveian Orator has fallen to his turn, must signify, within a fortnight, whether he accepts or declines it. If he declines it, he must pay a fine of £10 to the College: on the other hand, there is a *honorarium* of £10 for the Orator.

“ I hope I shall soon have the satisfaction of reporting to the President that you will oblige the College by undertaking to deliver the Oration on the 25th of June, in 1846.

“ I am, my dear Sir, yours, very faithfully,  
“ FRANCIS HAWKINS.

“ To Dr. Elliotson, F.R.S., &c., &c., &c.”

On preparing for my task, I learnt that Harvey had founded the oration in these words.

“To maintain friendship, there shall be at every meeting once a month, a small collation, as the President may think fit, for the entertainment of such as come; and once a year a general feast for all the Fellows; and on the day of such feast shall be an Oration, in Latin, by some Member, to be appointed by the President, two eldest Censors, and two eldest Elects, so as not to be appointed two years together, in commemoration of the Benefactors by name, and what in particular they have done for the benefit of the College, with an exhortation to others to imitate: *and an exhortation to the Members to study and search out the secrets of nature by way of experiment, and for the honour of the profession to continue mutually in love.*”

I accordingly in the first place enumerated the benefactors by name, setting forth all they had done for science and for the College, and expressed my satisfaction that the liberality of all the living fellows was such as to render “an exhortation to imitate” superfluous; and in the second place I exhorted “the members to study and search out the secrets of nature by way of experiment, and for the honour of the profession to continue mutually in love.” I showed how all the greatest discoveries in medical science and the greatest improvements in practice have been opposed by the profession in the most violent and unprincipled manner—the discovery and re-discovery of the lacteal vessels, the discovery of the thoracic duct, the discovery or re-discovery of the sexual system of plants, the discovery of the circulation, the discovery of the true physiology of the brain by Gall, the discovery of the morbid sounds of the chest in diseases of the lungs and heart and their coverings,—the improvements of the employment of antimony, the employment of Peruvian bark, the employment of inoculation of small pox, the employment of vaccination, the employment of mild dressings to gun-shot wounds instead of boiling oil, the employment of a ligature upon a bleeding vessel after amputation instead of burning pitch or red-hot irons.

“Never,” said I to the College, “Never let us forget these things: never allow authority, conceit, habit, or the fear of ridicule, to make us indifferent, much less to make us hostile, to truth: and thus, being single-hearted lovers of truth, and prizing it above everything else, we shall all love one another. Let us always have before our eyes that memorable passage in Harvey’s works:—‘True philosophers impelled by the love of truth and wisdom never fancy themselves so wise and full of sense as not to yield to truth from any source and at all times; nor are they so narrow-minded as to believe any art or science has been handed down in such a state of perfection to us by our predecessors

that nothing remains for future industry. Many contend that the greatest part of what we know is the least part of what we do not know; and philosophers do not permit themselves to be so slavishly led by the assertions and precepts of any man as not to believe their own eyes, nor do they so venerate antiquity as to desert beloved truth in the sight of the world: but they consider that instantaneous admission and belief is no greater proof of credulity and folly than not to discern what is manifest to the senses, and not to see broad daylight, is of stupidity and fatuity. They think the fables of the poets and the wild opinions of the vulgar not less deviations, than the hesitation of sceptics, from the path of philosophy. For studious, good, and honourable men, never allow themselves to be so overwhelmed with indignation and envy as not patiently to hear what is advanced as truth, and not to admit what is clearly proved; they are not ashamed to change their opinions, when truth and demonstration make this their duty; nor do they feel it disreputable to desert errors of even the longest standing; for they know full well that it is the lot of human nature to err and be mistaken, and that chance has discovered many things which any one may learn from any other,—an old man from a youth, a clever man from a fool.’

“ In another part he says:—‘ Some are clamorous with groundless and fictitious assertions on the authority of their teachers, plausible suppositions, or empty quibbles: and some rail with a torrent of expressions which are discreditable to them, often spiteful, insolent, and abusive, by which they only display their own emptiness, absurdity, bad habits, and want of argument (which results from sense) and show themselves mad with sophistries opposed to reason.’ ‘ How difficult it is to teach those who have no experience or knowledge derived from the senses, and how unfit to learn true science are the unprepared and inexperienced, is shown in the opinions of the blind concerning colours and of the deaf concerning sounds.’ ”

Knowing that the physiological facts of mesmerism and the application of it in disease are of the very highest importance, I proceeded, from a stern sense of duty and in opposition to my interest, to solicit the attention of the College to it, though without the smallest hope that I should make any impression at the time, continuing thus:—

“ Never was it more necessary than at the present moment to bear all these things in mind. A body of facts is presented to us not only wonderful in physiology and pathology, but of the very highest importance in the prevention of suffering under the hands of the surgeon and in the cure of disease. The chief phenomena are indisputable: authors of all periods record them, and we all ourselves witness them, some rarely, some every day. The point to be determined is, whether they may be produced artificially and subjected to our control: and it can be determined by experience only. The loss of common feeling,—anæsthesia, is but a form of palsy, and in it wounds give no pain. If this condition can be induced temporarily

by art, we of necessity enable persons to undergo surgical operations without suffering. Whether the artificial production of those phenomena, or the performance of the processes which so often induce them, will mitigate or cure disease, can likewise be determined by experience only. It is the imperative, the solemn duty of the profession, anxiously and dispassionately to determine these points by experiment, each man for himself. I have done so for ten years, and fearlessly declare that the phenomena, the prevention of pain under surgical operations, the production of repose and comfort in disease, and the cure of many diseases, even after the failure of all ordinary means, are true. In the name, therefore, of the love of truth, in the name of the dignity of our profession, in the name of the good of all mankind, I implore you carefully to investigate this important subject."

I found fault with no body, but stated simply the result of my experience on a medical topic, and most respectfully invited the College to an examination of alleged facts of overwhelming interest and importance.

Nothing could be better received. There was such an assemblage as I had never witnessed at an Harveian Oration. I was listened to with perfect silence, and two distinct rounds of loud applause were given at the termination—a circumstance altogether novel; for a little fluttering was the utmost I had ever heard, and in general the Oration is received without any mark of approbation.\* A disturbance had been anticipated, on account of repeated paragraphs of the most savage nature that had appeared in the *Lancet*, having for their object the prevention of my Oration.† The president,

\* An utterly untrue account was published in the *Lancet*. See *Zoist*, No. XVI., p. 599.

† "On the 27th of June, the commemoration-day of the illustrious Harvey, the Harveian Oration is to be delivered by Dr. Elliotson. So then, the visionary follower of Mesmer, the bitter enemy of legitimate medicine, the professional pariah—he who for years has been performing such fantastic tricks as might well make the angels weep, is to stand in the place of honour, to assume the orator's robe, &c. Who can have meditated and compassed this great wrong? this black infamy for the future archives of the College? &c. This outrage will be enough, &c. This outrage is proposed to be perpetuated in a manner glaringly and peculiarly offensive. It was not enough that the mesmerist should be allowed as a matter of routine to harangue the bare walls, &c. Some of Her Majesty's ministers and of the heads of the church and of the law have been specially invited to witness this imperishable professional humiliation, &c. It will constitute a vital blow to legitimate medicine, &c. This unnatural alliance between Mesmer and Harvey will be interpreted into a recognition by the College of physicians of the quackeries perpetrated in the name of Mesmer, &c. The only hope is that some and a goodly number may be found among the Fellows having enough of courage and of reverence for great names to protest against these enormities, &c. We trust some of them who have already given their names to the dinner will withdraw, &c. Whatever is to be done, should be done quickly. We can hardly believe that the younger Fellows particularly, the fresh blood of the College, will suffer this thing to come to pass. Will they suffer the

Dr. Paris, called upon me one evening, a few days before the delivery, to express a hope that, on his account, I would not hit my antagonists hard, since he had taken a great responsibility upon himself in appointing me as orator in the midst of the extraordinary efforts which had been made by many Fellows to induce him to pass me over. He stated that, fearing a disturbance on account of what had appeared in the *Lancet*, and it being impossible to prevent any decently-dressed person from entering the College on this annual occasion, he had provided the attendance of some policemen. I replied that my oration was completed, and what I had written I had written and could not alter, but that he would not find any part objectionable. He had asked my opponents whether they had anything to urge against me on the score of knowledge or conduct: and they had replied, Nothing, only that I advocated mesmerism:—an objection which he regarded as invalid, because he considered that every one had a right to his own opinions.

There had not been an Harveian dinner for five and twenty years, nor could a dinner be got up by any effort the following year when Dr. Southey gave the oration. The dinner was very numerously attended and my health most cordially received by the company, as well as my speech of thanks. Every one expressed his satisfaction at the whole affair. From that time I generally attended the various meetings of the College for dispatch of business, but was absent at the last Harveian Oration. From the short printed reports of it I learnt that Dr. F. Hawkins had aimed a blow at mesmerism, though it must have been *telum imbellè sine ictu*. I considered that, if he had acted thus, it was not in good taste after my oration, especially as he knew nothing of the subject, and what was not to be expected from one paid by Harvey to urge all the Fellows on that day to continue in mutual love and friendship.

arms of the College to be degraded with the absurd and often obscene pointing and passing of the mesmerists? Will they suffer one who in a trumpery publication has been slandering the profession for years, the hero of ribbald street ballads to represent them on this august occasion," &c.--*Lancet*, June 13, 1846.

The next week Mr. Wakley wrote again in the same strain, quoting passages of rebuke to the profession as mine, which I had not merely never written but never read, and he ended thus: "At the eleventh hour, at the last minute of the eleventh hour, something should be done to extricate the College from this threatened degradation." So dreadful must have been his rage that I wonder he did not entreat the College to go a step further and imitate the gentleness of the Emperor of Russia, by a recent order of which constitutional monarch the punishment of a convicted incendiary is decreed to be, "Running the gauntlet six times before 1,000 soldiers, and in the event of his surviving (!) twenty-one years' labour in the Siberian mines."

The *Medical Gazette* (editor, Dr. Alfred Taylor) worked at the same object, June 19, 1846.

I did not suppose he could have said anything not expected from a gentleman or even one reputable person in reference to another. I resolved to wait till the oration was printed and I could really know what he had said. Then it appeared that what he said was this,—

“Do not QUACKS hunt out the vices or infirmities of mankind to turn them to profit, some selecting one and some another for their purpose? Among quacks, the IMPOSTORS, called MESMERISTS, are in my opinion the especial FAVOURITES of those, both male and female, in whom the SEXUAL PASSIONS BURN STRONGLY, either in secret or notoriously. DECENCY FORBIDS ME TO BE MORE EXPLICIT.

“From these and similar ARTIFICES, the physician should be carefully removed and guarded: and this can hardly be accomplished except by a sound education, which will teach him to thoroughly abhor all DECEIT AND TRICK.”

I immediately wrote the following letter to the President:

“Dr. Elliotson, as a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, presents his compliments and begs to direct the attention of the President to the following portion of the Harveian Oration just received by him from Dr. Francis Hawkins.

“‘Quin etiam vitia, sive infirmitates hominum, nonne aucupantur, et quæstui habent, alii alia, Circumforanei? De genere hoc, præstigiatores, quos vocant, *Mesmerici*, ni fallor, iis præcipue arrident, quos, utriusque sexus, Mater sæva Cupidinum aut cæcis urit ignibus, aut palam exagitat. Sed ex quibus hoc subintelligi potest, ea pudoris ergo, sunt reticenda. Ab his, et talibus artificiis, segregandus est Medicus et sepiendus sedulo. Quod vix præstari potest, nisi recta et bona institutione, ita informetur, ut a dolis et fallaciis prorsus abhorreat.’

“Dr. Elliotson is universally known to have asserted the truth of the greater part of the mesmeric phenomena and of their production by artificial means, as well as the inestimable advantage of mesmerism in the alleviation and cure of diseases and the prevention of pain in surgical operations, and to have done this in his Harveian Oration, and continually to prescribe, and sometimes, though always gratuitously, to practise mesmerism.

“August 9, 1848.”

I received no answer for three months, and then thought it time to address the following note to the President:—

“Dr. Elliotson presents his compliments and takes the liberty of requesting to be informed whether the President of the Royal College of Physicians received a note from him in August last, pointing out some passages in the last Harveian Oration relating to mesmerists, of whom he is universally known to be one.

“Nov. 15.”

I received this reply:—

“Dover Street, Nov. 16, 1848.

“Dr. Paris presents his compliments and informs Dr. Elliotson that he did receive from him, in August last, a note in which he directed his attention to some passages relating to mesmerism in Dr. Hawkins’s Harveian Oration, but as Dr. Paris must decline becoming a party to any controversy upon the subject, whatever opinion he may entertain privately, it is his determination to act with that impartiality which led to Dr. Elliotson’s appointment to the oration.”

To this I wrote the following reply :—

“Dr. Elliotson presents his compliments to the President of the Royal College of Physicians of London, and begs to remark that he did not request the President’s attention to passages of Dr. Francis Hawkins’s Oration relating to *mesmerism*, or of a controversial character, for there are none such; but to passages relating to *mesmerists*, of whom he, a Fellow of the College, has for ten years openly been one—passages stigmatizing mesmerists as quacks and impostors and the especial favourites of both males and females whose sexual passions are secretly or notoriously violent, respecting which point Dr. Hawkins declared that decency forbade him to say more.  
“Conduit Street, Nov. 17, 1848.”

To this I have received no reply. The matter is now for posterity.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

Dec. 30, 1848.

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VII. *Case of Surgical Operation and the application of caustic to an Inflamed Eye without Pain, in mesmeric sleep-waking. Together with Clairvoyance.* By Mr. TUBBS, Surgeon. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

“Mr. Monckton Milnes is an incurable mesmerist. Between quackery and science there can be no friendly feeling.”—Mr. Wakley, *Lancet*, Nov. 4th, 1848.

“Hydrophathy is, in fact, but one head of the great hydra quackery,—and is sprouting up at the expense of its scotched sisters, mesmerism, phrenology, and homœopathy. They are all the offspring of the same stock—phantasies of overwrought German abstraction; which, long after they had ceased to trouble the parent mind, are imported at second hand for the amusement of us English.”—Mr. Dilke, editor of the *Athenæum*, May 13th, 1848.

“I repeat, that to charge the delusions of mesmerism as the fruit of “God’s holy power,” is closely allied to that terrific and unpardonable sin,—blasphemy against the Holy Ghost.”—*Corfe’s Mesmerism tried by the Touchstone of Truth*, p. 26.

DEAR Sir,—Miss Stafford, aged 19 years, of a strumous diathesis, menstruis suppressis about 14 months from a sudden shock to the system by her losing her father, has been the subject of neuralgia in the legs, spine, and head, ending in strumous ophthalmia. When I was called in, I found the

sclerotic coat affected, and two ulcers on the central cornea with much adjacent inflammation. I used every means in my power. She was cupped four times, had thirty-six leeches, several blisters, an issue in the arm, the croton oil and tartar emetic ointment, she was salivated, and put on low diet. She could not keep the eye-lid open without supporting it with the fore finger; she could not bear the light of a candle. After three months' trial with very little benefit, her aunt recommended her to go to consult Mr. Alexander, in London. I was agreeable, but wished her to give me another week's trial. On my next visit, which is about five weeks ago, while my patient was absent, her sister said, "Do you think you could mesmerise her?" I said, "I do not know." "If you could, would it benefit her?" My reply was, That it might, and that I felt assured it would do her no harm. I added, "I am glad you proposed it, for the public prejudice is so strong against the science that I never name it first." "How are we to manage it, as she has a great objection to mesmerism?" It struck me at the time that, as the patient had been nearly three months wearing a green shade over the eye, and its position was downwards, I would advise her to throw off the hood, and look upwards at objects with a view of strengthening the eye and relieving the inflammation by unloading the vessels by gravitation. This answered my purpose very well. She said, "What am I to look at?" Seeing a hook in the ceiling, I said, "Look at that hook for twenty minutes a day." She stared at it, supporting the upper lid. Finding it made her eye ache, I told her to hold her two fingers over her eyes; "Oh, this is worse than the hook." "Well, could you bear my fingers?" "Yes, she thought she could." So holding both her hands in my left, and *pointing* my two fingers of the other hand over her eyes, *in ten minutes she was entranced; her countenance changed to a marble appearance, and hands became like those of a cholera patient.* In fact, I found her fit for any operation. Her sister and brother being alarmed, I had to awaken her. She turned chilly, and remained so for some time. On calling the *next morning*, I was pleased to hear that the *long-suppressed menstrua had returned.*

I sent in for Dr. Burt, having Mr. Bowie (who has been over the last few days as medical inspector amongst many cases of Asiatic cholera, being sent by the Board of Health) with me. I proposed the division of the whole vessels on the internal canthus. Mr. Bowie, (who knows you, and is a perfect convert to the science,) with Dr. Burt, concurring with me on the propriety of such treatment, I soon threw

the lady into a state of insensibility. *I divided the mucous membrane and vessels, laying bare the sclerotic coat.* The eye was kept open by Mr. Bowie. The lady slept about twenty minutes, and *assured us she did not feel the operation.* This was done on Friday noon, December 7th. The next day, Mr. Bowie assisted me again. We proposed touching the thickened membrane with a piece of caustic. Who should come in but the Rev. Mr. Wills, curate to the Rev. William Gale, Towerley; Dr. Burt was absent. I demesmerised the affected eye, (having found some difficulty the last time in keeping it open from the rigid state of the eye-lid;) the lids were easily separated, and the *caustic applied well*; cold water was frequently dropped in the eye, to remove the superfluous caustic and prevent it from getting on the cornea. This astonished the reverend gentleman, who appeared to evince a disposition to belief in mesmerism. I recommended my patient to remain in the sleep-waking three or four hours, which she did. We took our departure to visit our cholera patients.

Mr. Bowie has sent me the following note.

“Upwell Isle, December 9th, 1848.

“My dear Sir,—I certainly was very much struck with the result of your mesmerising Miss Stafford, as it is quite impossible that she could have endured the acute pain which must have been excited by the application of caustic to the eye without shrinking, had she not been in a state of insensibility. I will candidly confess, although I believed that sleep could be induced by what is termed the mesmeric influence, I never was so fully satisfied before of its phrenological effects.

“I remain, my dear Sir,

“Yours faithfully,

“W. J. Tubbs, Esq.”

“ROBERT BOWIE.

On the 18th instant, Mrs. Tubbs tried to produce the mesmeric sleep, but was unable on account of the painful state of the eye and a shooting pain in the course of the supra-orbital foramen. I then took my wife's place, and made passes over the cerebellum, and requested Miss Stafford to look on the ground. In a short time the sleep-waking was induced. Still her countenance indicated pain. I enquired where the pain was felt. She instantly pointed to the spot. I breathed on the part, and she told me the pain was gone. Finding her languid, I did not operate on any part of the head except the eye. The Rev. Mr. Evans, Mrs. and Miss Evans were present. I requested them to leave, that I might take her out of the sleep. In about half an hour they returned. Miss Stafford was quite unconscious that they had seen her. She came out of the sleep-waking quite cheerful,

and said the pain was gone, took her usual walk, and sat most part of the afternoon, assisting my wife to pick plums for Christmas. In the evening, I advised her being sent into sleep-waking by the back of the head. This was done. I then touched Benevolence, when she handed me her pocket handkerchief. I still kept my finger on the organ, when she took off her brooch and gave me. I proposed that she should do some crochet. She said she would try. She commenced in the usual way by making a chain, 120 loops long, and worked a few stitches of a second row: but, the needle not being of a proper size to please her, she laid it down. She talked to me upon different subjects while at work, with her head resting on a pillow and eyelids down. I sent for the Rev. Mr. Wills, who came. We fixed two handkerchiefs over her eyes. Still her work went on quite as well as if her eyes had been open. I took my seat at the music and made tractive passes for some time before there was any perceptible movement. At last she rose from her seat and came in close contact with me, I having to put my hands to keep her from falling on me. I requested her to play a tune. Being only a beginner she was some time before she could make out a tune, but managed to play a few notes of "Sich a gitting up stairs." While she was engaged in playing, I made passes from the shoulder to the fingers. I said, "Why do you stop?" "Because I can't get this hand off the keys—it is quite frozen." The Rev. Mr. Wills now tried to take her hand from the keys, but could not; the arm being as stiff as a piece of wood. I then made transverse passes, and the fingers gave way, then the arm, and her hand fell by her side. She then returned to her chair and was found in as profound a sleep as at first. Mr. Wills then left. Miss Stafford was demesmerised, having been asleep three hours. She this morning wrote a letter to Dr. Elliotson in her sleep-waking.

"To Dr. Elliotson.

"Dear Sir,—I have great pleasure in stating that my eye is greatly improving since I have been under mesmeric treatment. I have undergone two operations since I have been at Mr. Tubbs's. Wishing that mesmerism may be more generally known, there would be fewer cases for the medical professors. No wonder so many of the medical men should be so opposed to the science.

"Allow me, dear Sir,

"To subscribe myself yours respectfully,

"MARY ANN STAFFORD.

"Upwell, December 19th, 1848."

"Upwell.

"This is to certify that we, the undersigned, witnessed Miss

Stafford writing the accompanying letter while in a state of mesmerism, and with a scarf bound over her eyes, and we are perfectly satisfied that she had no power of vision, and that she acted completely under the effect of mesmerism.

“ Hugh Gwynne Evans, Rector of Outwell, near Wisbeach.

“ Edward Wandby, Upwell.

“ John Wallis, Upwell.

“ William John Tubbs.

“ December 19th, 1848.”

On the 20th Miss Stafford became as good a clairvoyant as Alexis. On that evening she played at cards blindfolded, and never failed in one single experiment; Dr. Burt, Mr. Mackean, Mr. Hugh Whatly, Mr. Ward, &c., were present. There was a Mr. Russell of the National School, who brought with him a letter he had received from a friend on cholera: it was put into my patient's hands who read it out perfectly, clearly and distinctly. Dr. Burt took out a card from his pocket, and she read every word correctly. She then looked over an album and made her remarks in every page. I am truly astonished with her: she can tell anything in the sleep.

On the 23rd, She dined with me at a friend's, at Wisbeach. After dinner, being thrown into the sleep, Mr. Healy, our entertainer, gave her the following bill; her eyes being covered as usual with flannel, and a loose handkerchief over all, with the ends secured at the back of her neck. “ Thomas Bird, Dr. to James Markham, 14lbs. 2ozs. cheese, at 9d. per lb., 10s. 7d. :” which she read in the presence of four ladies and Mr. Heald, silversmith, of Wisbeach. She also played a game at cards. At this time came into the room, Mr. Gardiner, a stationer and editor of the Wisbeach newspaper, and the Rev. J. King, Curate of Wisbeach. She read the following card,—“ A. W. Healy, Wisbeach, agent for the sale of Vergett's waterproof-cloths for cart and waggon covers;” ending by pushing the card away and saying it did not concern her.

Cards were again introduced. She played a short time. A watch was shewn her, but she failed to tell the time by it; she said she was tired. Mr. Gardiner gave her his pocket-book. She correctly read the title page.

The loose handkerchief was taken off her face about the time Mr. King and Mr. Gardiner arrived, for she complained of being too warm and faint; consequently they were not satisfied, thinking it possible for her to see.

She said she thought Rush's pistols were thrown into the pond on the right side.

One evening, in the presence of Dr. Burt, five other gentlemen and four ladies, a likeness of a young lady was shown Miss Stafford. She could not see through the case, but, when open, she could; and said the lady had a book in her hand, wore a cameo brooch, blue ribbon to fasten her collar, whose likeness it was, and the manner in which the hair was dressed. Another likeness was then placed in her hand; when the case was opened, she knew it as being that of a gentleman she had seen but once. An extract of a letter from John Bowker, Esq., upon the treatment of cholera, was given her. After reading a few lines, she put it away, saying it did not concern her. Then a small box, in which was a slip of paper with four figures written on it. This she failed to see through the lid; when opened, she quickly read the figures, but *read them backwards*. Two cards were given her, and she read them. I played a game of cards with her,—“Draw the Well Dry.” In the midst of the game, Dr. Burt took my seat, to play with her, when she immediately said, “I think I shall not play any more.” I resumed my seat; then she was quite willing to proceed. She commenced writing a note, but complained of fatigue; so we did not press her to go on.

When asleep, she complains of her eyes feeling cold; wishes to have several folds of flannel tightly tied round her head, and, until her eyes become warm, she has no clairvoyance. On the 22nd, her extra vision was not so good, which circumstance we attribute to its being about a year since her father died suddenly.

I am, dear Sir, yours truly,  
W. J. TUBBS.

Upwell Isle, Cambridgeshire,  
December 25th, 1848.

\*.\* As I was not sure that the eyes were bandaged in the instance of Miss Stafford's perceiving the portraits, I enquired of Mr. Tubbs, and received the following answer.—  
J. ELLIOTSON.

“To Dr. Elliotson.

“Sir,—Mr. Tubbs has shewn me your note of yesterday's date, and, as I was present at the meeting alluded to by you, he has requested me to answer it.

“Miss Stafford was unable to see the likenesses through the cases in which they were enclosed; but she recognized them almost immediately upon their being opened, when her eyes were covered with a piece of flannel and several (I think four) pocket handkerchiefs.

“I have no hesitation in stating it to be my belief, that Miss Stafford, when she recognized the likenesses, was unable to see in the usual way, or rather, that she was incapable of exercising her organ of vision in a natural way, upon the objects placed before her.

“I may also add my opinion, that neither Mr. Tubbs, the operator, nor Miss Stafford, the patient, has any interest or desire to practise deception; and that in many instances of clairvoyance, which I have witnessed, it would have been impossible for them, or either of them, to have done so with success, however strong their desire to deceive might have been.

“I am, Sir,

“Your obedient Servant,

“Upwell,

“R. A. WARD.

“Dec. 26th, 1848.”

VIII. *Rapid Cure of Diseased Knee with Mesmerism.* By Mr. W. J. TUBBS, Surgeon. In a letter to Dr. Elliotson.

“An old friend and admirer is deceived. The *quack* publication to which he refers is not extensively read, and we believe that it is, for the most part, in the hands of *fools* and *impostors*. We have requested a gentleman, on whose judgment we can rely, to examine the report of the case in question. Hitherto we have found that the mesmerisers are *perfectly unscrupulous*. The *humbug* appears to be *nearly, if not quite, exploded*.”\*—Mr. Wakley, *Lancet*, Nov. 4, 1848.

“I have watched the proceedings of mesmerists and phrenologists for thirteen years; and the terrific events which have passed before my eyes compel me to say, beware how you plunge farther into this awful delusion of the devil’s chicanery; and that God may mercifully furnish you with grace to recover yourself out of the snare of the devil, before you are taken captive by him at his will, if it be His holy pleasure, is the sincere prayer of

“Your faithful friend in the Lord,

“GEORGE CORFE.”

*Mesmerism tried, &c., p. 44.*

HARRIETT Bell, aged 19 years, had inflammation of the synovial membrane of the knee joint. Every treatment was adopted. She kept her bed four months. At that time, being on the sick pauper list, she was about being sent to the Cambridge Hospital. But stepping in one day, I mesmerised the knee, and it twitched and was evidently affected by the passes. I entranced her: she could bear pinching and pricking without evincing any appearance of feeling, though before her sufferings were very great. In a fortnight, she walked

\* Mr. Wakley means *The Zoist*, but dreads to mention its name, lest he should contribute to make the work more known. The passage is an answer to a correspondent who begged him to look at the case of cure of cancer in our last number.—*Zoist*.

up to my house. Was mesmerised twice a week. *Is well,* and the parish have put her now to a dress-maker as an apprentice. *She is perfectly cured.*

W. J. TUBBS.

Upwell Isle, Cambridge,  
Dec. 22nd, 1848.

\*.\* Here is a cure which would cause the heart of any one to overflow with joy who does not make it a rule to stigmatize all sufferers cured with mesmerism as impostors, or possessed, or unscrupulous enough to submit to what fathers, brothers, husbands must object to.—J. ELLIOTSON.

IX. *Remarkable benefit of Mesmerism in Organic Disease of the Heart, Palsy, Rheumatic Neuralgia, and Acute Rheumatism.* By Mr. H. S. THOMPSON, of Fairfield House, near York. With an account of two of the cases by Mr. Palmer, Surgeon, York.

“It would be far more consistent with the sacerdotal character of some few clergymen, who are tainted with these delusive principles, to take heed to this solemn warning from Holy Writ, than for them to practise mesmerism in their parishes, and by fair speeches deceive the unwary who are committed to their pastoral care; and not so unadvisedly to take up the pen in defence of a system which, to say the least of, they can only judge by the representations of worldly-minded persons, and not by the sober opinion of the truly evangelical portion of the community.”—CORFE'S *Mesmerism tried by the Touchstone of Truth*, p. 34.

### I. *Disease of the Heart.*

IN No. XIX., p. 289, I gave a short account of wonderful benefit in a severe case of diseased heart. The woman “had been confined to her bed for six weeks, suffering great agony in her head, shoulders, and back; constant ‘palpitation of the heart and fluttering in the chest;’ a sense of suffocation so great that she was constantly obliged to be raised; her legs and body had been much swollen for some weeks; she had been unable to use them. She was instantly relieved from her pain, and half an hour sufficed to restore use to her legs; she gradually from that day improved; *in a month she was able to walk daily from her house to mine and back again,* which is rather more than a mile—a thing which she could do with difficulty a year ago. She enjoys herself, can attend to her family, and seems daily to gain strength. This case was pronounced by the profession as incurable from the first; but, as we have already overcome so much that was then pronounced impossible, I hope that in a short time I may be able to add that she is quite returned to health.” Her name

was Mary Hatch. Her medical attendant, Mr. Palmer, told me he did not expect her to leave her bed alive. The pains were instantly removed, and the dropsical symptoms shortly disappeared. Even after this, the medical men who saw her thought it would be impossible for her to get about, or use the slightest exertion, as a very little matter brought on the palpitation of the heart and choking sensation. However, she has steadily though slowly progressed, and now, after rather more than a year and a half since I first saw her, she has been able to work in the hay and harvest field, which she had been unable to do for four years. She is still improving, though occasionally subject to palpitations. These are speedily removed by mesmerism.

Mr. Palmer will communicate his own account.

## II. *Paralysis.*

This was a case I met with in January last. The patient is John Waterworth, of Shetton, near York—about 45 years of age—his habits had been rather intemperate. For six months he had threatenings and symptoms of paralysis, and, about two months or more before I saw him, he had had a fit and remained for some time insensible. It was then found that there was insensibility of the right leg and arm, his face rather distorted, a thickness of speech, &c. When I saw him his symptoms were as follows,—insensibility of the right leg and arm, and occasional loss of power of moving them—constantly recurring slight attacks of paralysis of, or drawing down of the muscles of the face, with inability to move his jaws, and a difficulty of speech; these attacks were slight and of short duration, but occurred five or six times a day; he was extremely nervous, with a slight tremor of the limbs and body; depressed, and complained of head-ache and soreness of the mouth and throat, stiffness of the neck, and rheumatic pains in the back; his pulse weak, irregular, and sometimes intermittent. I do not know what his previous treatment had been. He was then undergoing a severe course of mercury, his teeth were loose, and he was severely salivated. Indeed, I thought many of his symptoms might be from the effects of mercury. He said that he had not found any of his symptoms improve, but felt every day growing worse. Mr. Hill, surgeon of the Pauper Lunatic Asylum, York, was his medical adviser.

His wife told me that Mr. Hill, three days before I saw the patient, had requested her not to let him go out of her sight, as he, Mr. Hill, feared that there was *softening of the brain, and her husband might drop down dead at any*

*moment.* I mesmerised him by passes from the head downwards, resting my hands for a minute or two on his head and shoulders. I continued this for an hour. At first I observed an increase of the nervous twitchings and tremors; but this soon subsided, he looked more lively, had no tremors, and said that all pains in the head, back, and limbs were gone, and he had recovered the natural sensation of his limbs.

The following day I found him much improved, he was more composed, had had no return of insensibility or numbness in the limbs, nor any paralytic symptoms; but complained of the pains in his hip and back, and the soreness of his throat and mouth. The pains were again removed. I made him gargle his mouth and throat with mesmerised water, which he said felt very warm in his mouth, and made him feel much more comfortable. The following day he walked to my house, half a mile, and continued to do so until he had quite recovered, and felt strong enough to go to work again, which was in the course of three weeks. He had been at work about three weeks or a month, when, after long exposure to wet one day, he was attacked with shiverings, great pain across the loins, and the following day a swelling of the lower part of the abdomen. I found him feverish and in great pain. By mesmerism, in an hour, he felt perfectly relieved; he had a little pain the following day, but in the course of four or five days the swelling had subsided, and he returned to work. He has now been at work four months, and says he *never enjoyed better health.*

From the time he commenced mesmerism he took no medicine whatever. This patient never went to sleep during the process of mesmerising. He said he had a sensation as if streams of warm air passed over him as I drew my hands over him, that removed any pains he had at the time, and was most exhilarating and refreshing—that after the process was over he always felt extremely drowsy, and slept soundly for several hours immediately on returning home.

Mr. Palmer addresses the following letter to the editor of *The Zoist* on these two cases,—

“York, Sept. 19th, 1848.

“Sir,—Having noticed the beneficial effects of mesmerism on two cases which have lately come before my notice, I would wish, if not occupying too much space in your valuable journal, to place them before your readers. As they are both cases of every-day observation, and attended with the ordinary symptoms, I will not enter into any lengthened his-

tory, but merely give briefly the outlines of each, and the termination.

“The first which I will notice is one of disease of the heart. The patient is a middle-aged woman, mother of several children, and has been labouring under its effects for some years. She was when I first saw her (about March, 1847) suffering from the general symptoms of hypertrophy of the left ventricle, which had latterly very much increased, and rendered her unable to make the slightest exertion without severe oppression and very great difficulty of breathing. She has been several times under medical treatment without any material relief, and for the last nine months has consulted no one. She was treated in the usual way, but still the impulse of the breast and the difficulty of breathing remained without any apparent improvement, as did also the anasarca and the other accompanying symptoms. This condition continued for near a month or six weeks, when she was visited regularly by Mr. Thompson, and mesmerised for several months, all medicines during the time being discontinued. I saw her occasionally, and her health appears recovering, although very slowly; but when I first visited her, she was unable to use the slightest exertion, and now she can perform her usual household duties without much inconvenience, and describes herself to be in better health now than she has been for *some years past*.

“The other case is one of paralysis. The subject of it being a man about 40 years of age, generally enjoying good health, had been suffering from palsy of the left side for nearly six months. He had undergone a long course of mercury along with counter irritants, &c., with apparently little benefit, and discontinued their use about six weeks, when he was again placed under the effects of mercury and severely salivated, and continued so for some time. But still his symptoms were in no way relieved. At this stage he became the patient of Mr. Thompson, and underwent the usual mesmeric treatment. I had not seen him for several weeks, when I accidentally met with him. He had regained the use of his limbs, and described himself as quite cured of his “sore mouth” in two or three days: and the power and sensibility of his leg and arm gradually returned without any other treatment. It is now nearly six months and he has had no relapse. I ought here to mention also that, about six weeks or two months after he was first mesmerised, he became exposed to cold and wet, and in a day or two after was affected with hydrocele of the left side,

that was also relieved without any medicinal remedies, and he now shows not the slightest trace of the affection.

“These few remarks respecting the result of the cases above quoted, although very imperfectly drawn up, may not prove uninteresting to your numerous readers. But as Mr. Thompson has supplied you with the particulars of his treatment regarding them in a former number, I was induced to send you this brief outline in corroboration of his statements. Apologizing for taking up so much of your valuable space,

“I remain,

“Your obedient servant,

“J. PALMER, Surgeon, York.

“To the Editor of *The Zoist*.”

### III. *Two cases of Rheumatic Neuralgia.*

John Waterworth, who had received so much benefit from mesmerism, asked me to see his father, who had been suffering for several years from violent pains, which had so increased lately that it was with difficulty he could crawl about for a few yards. The patient's age was near *eighty*; he told me that 20 years ago he had a dislocation of the thigh, which was never properly reduced, and that consequently he had been lame ever since; but that about six or seven years ago he began to have rheumatic pains in his loins and the leg which was not injured; that these attacks became more frequent; and that when I saw him the pain was so severe, particularly when he lay down, that he generally passed his nights in a chair; that he was never free from pain; and that he was now so lame that he could not get about at all. I found him extremely sensitive, *he went to sleep with a few passes; his head, arms, and legs were attracted by passes in any direction*;\* he was *freed from all pains*, and has had no return now for many weeks, and walked up to my house the other day to show himself to some persons who were anxious to witness a case of mesmerism.

The second case was that of a young woman, whose hip joint had become distorted four or five years ago, from a severe rheumatic attack and inflammation in the joints. She has since been subject to repeated attacks of neuralgia in her hip and thigh, for which she could obtain no relief. Mesmerism immediately relieved her of all pain, and she has since been able to walk better, and feels stronger, than she has ever done since her illness.

\* The old gentleman was clearly possessed!—*Zoist*.

IV. *Rheumatic Fever.*

Mr. W. Brow, Tailor, Skelton, about two months ago was relieved of a severe attack of rheumatic fever by mesmerism. All pain was *immediately* removed, and in *four or five days the patient was well.*

V. *Congestion of the Lungs, Sickness, and Low Fever.*

A little girl, three years of age, the daughter of my steward, had an attack of congestion of the lungs. She had been under the medical treatment of Mr. Palmer of York, and had been ill for some time; her pulse was quick and feeble, her breathing was laborious, and she complained of pain in the chest; the medicines prescribed had not relieved her, and the child was fast losing its strength. By mesmerising the chest for about one hour and a half, the breathing was relieved, and the pulse much improved, the child sleeping quietly during the process. In two or three days the child had got rid of these symptoms. I left home about this time for a fortnight, and on my return I found the poor little creature had relapsed into a sort of low fever, with most distressing sickness, which nothing seemed to alleviate, every thing she took, either of food or medicine, being instantly rejected from her stomach. Mr. Allen, of York, had been called in, and recommended her spine to be rubbed with croton oil. I returned home just as they were about to apply it. I requested to be allowed to try mesmerism first; and in less than an hour she was enabled to drink a cup of milk, which was not rejected from her stomach; she had little or no return of sickness, and recovered her strength and health in an almost incredible manner in a few days.

H. S. THOMPSON.

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*X. Clairvoyance of Alexis Didier.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

IN the 8th and 11th numbers of *The Zoist* such examples of the clairvoyance of Alexis Didier were given as compelled me, with all my prejudices, to be satisfied of his possessing this faculty at times.

I received the following account from M. Marcillet.—

“On May 17, 1847, Alexis and myself went to the apartments of Lord Frederick Fitzclarence, at the hotel Brighton, Rue Rivoli, and the trials of Alexis’s clairvoyance were begun in the presence of Lord Normanby, the English ambassador, who, like Lord Frederick, had no belief in mesmerism.

“‘Can you describe my country house in England?’ said the ambassador to Alexis, who had been sent into sleep-waking. After reflecting a few minutes, Alexis replied, that it was on a height. Then, having detailed its situation and all the particulars of the grounds, he accurately described the furniture of the house, and finished by saying, that certain windows looked out upon the sea. So unexpected a description astonished the ambassador.

“A young and handsome lady, encouraged by the lucidity of Alexis, put some questions to him. He told her her name and her rank; ‘you are a *dame d’honneur* of Queen Victoria,’ added he; and it was true.

“Lord Normanby took up one of Lord Frederick’s books, and, having stated the number of a page, Alexis read a sentence in it, though the book was not out of Lord Normanby’s hands. This experiment was repeated several times and always with the same success.

“Lord Frederick had, up to this moment, been a mere spectator: but now broke silence, took the hand of Alexis, and, with his characteristic kindness of manner, asked the following question,—

“‘Can you tell me how I was employed the day before yesterday with that gentleman?’ pointing to one of the company.

“‘I see you both,’ replied Alexis, ‘going to the Rue Lazare in a carriage: there you take the train and travel to Versailles; you then get into another carriage, which conveys you to St. Cyr. You visit the military school, and it was the other gentleman who proposed this excursion, he having been educated there.’

“‘All this is admirable, Alexis,’ exclaimed his lordship. ‘Go on, Alexis.’

“‘You return to Versailles; I see you both enter a pastry-cook’s. Your companion eats three little cakes: you take something else.’

“Lord Frederick, perfectly astonished, said, before Alexis had time to think, ‘You are right; I ate a small piece of bread.’

“‘You next take the train again and return to Paris. However, let us thoroughly understand each other. You started by the railroad on the right bank, but you returned by that on the left.’

“The latter circumstance astonished his lordship so much, that he not only congratulated us before the whole party, but offered us his high patronage on every occasion.”

Soon after M. Marcillet had sent me word of these wonders, a friend of mine—Mr. Bushe, son of the late Chief Justice of Ireland, and intimate with Lord Frederick, called upon me, and offered to apply to his lordship respecting the truth. His lordship immediately desired his secretary to write me word that he was at that moment too busy to write to me himself, but that, if I would procure a detailed account, he would peruse it, and, if he found it accurate, certify to its truth. I applied repeatedly to M. Marcillet, who is the most unmethodical and dilatory man in the world, and it was but lately that I procured from him the statement which I have translated. I transmitted the original to Lord Frederick by means of our common friend, and the following was his Lordship's answer,—

“Portsmouth, Nov. 15, 1848.

“My dear Bushe,—I have read the statement you sent me relative to the séance that was held at my apartments when in Paris, in 1847, in mesmerism. It is quite correct in every particular; indeed nothing could be much more extraordinary than the whole thing was in every respect.

“I hope I shall see Dr. Elliotson here, as he is a great friend of our first physician here—Dr. Engledue, whose acquaintance I have lately had the good fortune to make. Come down, my dear Bushe, and see your old friend,

“FRED. FITZCLARENCE.

“I return the letter.”

I have had no means of verifying the following account, which was sent me at the time of the occurrence. But the substantiation of M. Marcillet's perfect accuracy by Lord Frederick, in reference to the one, removes all doubt from my mind respecting the other.

“Alexis is more brilliant than ever. The saloons of the aristocracy are eagerly opened to us. The following facts of the lucidity of Alexis have done this. I have a séance with Alexis at my house every Saturday evening, at eight o'clock. Last Saturday week my party was very select. A lady presented her closed hand to Alexis, and begged him to tell her what was in it. ‘It is hair in a paper.’ ‘True.’ ‘The hairs are light: they belonged to a great personage who is abroad; he limps a little; they are the hairs of the Duc de Bordeaux.’ The lady, astonished at the answer, said before the whole party that she was Madame de Queney, first *dame d'honneur* of the Duchesse de Berry.

“Last Wednesday, the 24th instant, your ambassador, Lord Normanby, desired to see us a second time, and was

again astonished. 'In this box,' said he to Alexis, 'I have placed something, can you tell me what it is?' 'It is a bracelet with a portrait; the likeness is of Queen Victoria!!!' 'That is astounding: you lately described my English country house to me; I have another, can you see it?' 'Perfectly well. It is not in England. It is in a warmer climate. I will stand at the window. I see a great city situated a league off; a little river flows near your garden. The city that I see is Florence! You have lived in this city also, for I see your house also; it is in the *Place* opposite a large church. You had, likewise, a terrace. You had your portrait taken in this city.' 'Yes.' 'This portrait is placed in the saloon of your country house!' 'This is overpowering,' said the ambassador.

"Last Monday, we were at the house of the Comtesse de Paris. A person asked Alexis what was in a parcel tied with string that he held in his hand. 'It is a letter without signature, and bears the date of 1809: he who wrote it was assassinated ten years afterwards; it is the Duc de Berry.' The person who asked the question was the Comte de la Ferronnais.

"Yours faithfully,

"MARCILLET.

"May 31, 1847,

"Paris, 48, Rue de la Victorie."

#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Journal of Psychological Medicine and Mental Pathology. Edited by Forbes Winslow, M.D. No. IV., Oct. 1, 1848.

Ethnological Journal, October, November, December.

Popular Theology tested by Modern Science, in a series of letters to a friend, by a Well-wisher to Society. London: John Chapman, 142, Strand. 1848.

This *little* book contains reflections calculated to make *large* brains think. The "Well-wisher to Society" has clearly expressed thoughts which must be presented to all those who reflect on theological subjects. Many of the thoughts bear the impress of originality, and we would willingly extract a few specimens if our pages were open to the discussion of such topics. We fully expect to hear that this unpretending volume has received a large circulation.

#### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

We regret being obliged to postpone to our next number the interesting papers by Mr. Roffe, Non Wist, Mr. Jaffray, Mr. H. S. Thompson, Mr. Barth, Dr. Elliotson, Dr. Storer, the late Capt. Bagnold, accounts of several painless extractions of teeth, and others—some of which have been already announced.

Non Wist's former communications are all carefully preserved, and not yet made use of because we have not seen our way into the subject.

Mr. Pasley has written to us in answer to our remarks upon his pamphlet. But we must decline entering upon the argument, as it relates rather to philosophy in general, than to our own department: all we have to observe in reply is, that, in our notice, we *did not* express either "surprise or alarm at the philosophy of the sages of antiquity being disputed," neither did we "think that time and consent make old practice unquestionable:" we said and say nothing of the kind; on the contrary, our motto always is, "This is truth, though *opposed* to the philosophy of ages." But, in the pursuit of that truth, we implied our love of facts over an indulgence in hypothesis; and while we smiled at the boldness, not to say rashness and positiveness, with which the author pronounced upon what he here calls the "fall of the sciences," and the success of his own theory, *i.e.* the fall of Newton, and of Bacon, and of Priestley, &c., and the success consequently of himself,—we still gave him a welcome into the field of investigation, and admitting the ingenuity of his views and the ability with which he maintained them, we simply called for further proofs, and recommended more hesitation and self-distrust, an advice, we regret to observe, which has been received with a sensitiveness that was scarcely needful.

*London Medical Gazette.*—The paragraph alluded to at p. 403, is the following:—"It is with surprise and regret we learn that Dr. Elliotson has been appointed to deliver the Harveian Oration at the Royal College of Physicians on the 27th inst. Considering the notoriety which the orator elect has acquired as a patron of mesmerism, we should have supposed that a more appropriate selection might have been made. We cannot bring ourselves to believe that the majority of the Fellows concur in the step which has been taken by the College, and we feel confident that it will create great dissatisfaction in the profession."

*Mr. Wakley.*—The publication of the cure of the cancer seems to have had as violent an effect upon Mr. Wakley as the delivery of Dr. Elliotson's Harveian Oration. We fear his frame will hardly stand many such shocks. He thus writes:

"*An old Friend.*—The pretended cure of a cancer by mesmerism, as announced in a pamphlet, is one of the *grossest puffs* we have ever seen. It cannot deceive any medical practitioner who is acquainted with his profession. It appears that the treatment commenced in 1843, and the tumor did not disappear until 1848. *Hundreds*, and even *thousands*, of similar tumors, supposed to have been cancers, disappear from the breasts of females in half those years, and under every variety of treatment that can be named. Under the system of pressure, as practised by the late Mr. Young, tumors of double the size were completely absorbed in less than six months; some in two or three months. Mr. Young published scores of such cases, and the attestations to his accuracy were respectable and conclusive. Many tumors, apparently of a true scirrhus nature, have been promptly absorbed under the admirable system of pressure first adopted and recommended by Dr. Neil Arnott. In a few weeks beneficial effects have been produced, the patients have been relieved, both from their sufferings and their swellings. It is time that the obscenities of mesmerism should engage the attention of the heads of families, and all persons who uphold the character of English society for its purity and morality. The statements which are occasionally sent to us are descriptive of scenes which are highly disgusting. Why do not its

medical advocates transfer the practice to the hands of females, since in nineteen cases out of twenty, the patient, alias the victim, alias the particeps criminis, is a female. This of course would not suit the object of the benevolent masculine mesmeriser. Whatever may become of the delusion called mesmerism, we are resolved, provided we are duly aided by our professional brethren, that the obscenities of mesmerism shall be no longer practised with impunity."—*Lancet*, Nov. 11, 1848.

Why did not this delightful man at once say millions of cancers have been cured : for this was a genuine cancer ? His favourite, Professor Samuel Cooper, had no doubt of this : nor has one medical man who saw the case or has read the account. Why is not pressure used every day by all surgeons to remove cancers, and why are any tumors cut away, as they are daily in all our hospitals, if pressure succeeds so admirably ? The truth is, that pressure does not answer and is not employed. Let Mr. Wakley give us an account of all the cases cured, and with them all the histories of mesmeric obscenities : and we will publish them forthwith.

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*All communications must be addressed to the care of Mr. Baillière, 219, Regent Street, for the Editors : and it is earnestly requested that they be sent a month before the day of publication.*

# MESMERIC INFIRMARY.

A MEETING held at the Earl of Ducie's, No. 23, Belgrave Square, July 9th, 1846, being convinced of the vast benefits derived from Mesmerism in the cure of Diseases, even the most intractable, as well as in the prevention of pain in Surgical Operations, and being desirous that its benefits should be more widely extended to the Poorer Classes than individual exertion can accomplish,

*Resolved—*

1. That with this view a Mesmeric Infirmary shall be established by voluntary contribution, for the cure of Diseases and the prevention of pain in Surgical Operations.

2. That this Infirmary shall be under the management of a President, Vice-Presidents, Trustees, a Treasurer, Secretary, and Committee.

3. That the RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DUCIE be PRESIDENT.

## VICE-PRESIDENTS.

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	Dons.	Ann.	Subs.		Dons.	Ann.	Subs.		
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Clarkson, Miss R.	5	0	0										
Collier, Miss, 15, High-street, Camden Town	2	2	0										
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Cook, Rev. Joseph, Purley Hall	5	0	0										
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Davey, Mr. W.	1	0	0										
Deverel, Mr., Purbrook Park				2	2	0							
Dodsworth, Sir. C., Bart.	5	0	0										
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Ducie, Earl of	100	0	0										
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Ellis, Mr. J. A., Dresden	5	0	0										
Enfield, Mr., Nottingham				1	1	0							
Ewart, Mr. M.P., Cambridge-sq.	5	0	0										
Flintoff, Mr. S., Surgeon, 73, Gt. Titchfield-street	5	0	0										
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Frere, Mr., Stamford Brook, Chiswick	10	0	0	3	3	0							
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Hamilton, Mr. Wm. H., 10, St. Andrew's-place, Regent's-park	5	0	0										
Hands, Mr. J., Surgeon, Duke-street, Grosvenor-square	5	5	0										
Hands, Mr. D., Surgeon, Thayer-street, Manchester-square	5	5	0										
Hayman, Mr. S. Sidmouth	1	1	0										
Hennen, Mrs., Denmark Hill				1	1	0							
Hewes, Mr. J. T., East Lodge, East Greenwich				1	1	0							
Hoare, Mr., Deptford				1	1	0							
Hodgson, Captain Ellis	1	0	0										
Holland, Mr. James, 6, Laurie-ter. New-cross				1	1	0							
Hussey, Mr. Edward, Scotney Castle, Lamberhurst	5	0	0										
James, Captain, Littlebourn Rectory, Kent				2	2	0							
James, Captain John, Dover	5	0	0	1	1	0							
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