

# THE ZOIST.

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I. *Case of Insanity cured with the assistance of Mesmerism.*  
Communicated by the Rev. GEORGE SANDBY, Vicar of  
Flixton, Suffolk.

“ I consider the direct treatment of any form of insanity by mere medicinal application to be *very limited.*”—*Evidence of Dr. Conolly.*

“ Quod petis, *hic est.*”—*Horatii Epist.*, lib. i., xi.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Flixton, April, 1850.

SIR.—I was lately glancing over the *Report of the Commissioners on Lunacy, 1847*, when my eye fell upon that instructive passage in Dr. Conolly's evidence, which I have prefixed as a motto to this paper. The position which Dr. Conolly holds in Hanwell Asylum, the experimental knowledge which he must have acquired, and the reputation he enjoys within and without his profession, all give importance to his opinions on the mournful topic of insanity, and I therefore examined his observations with attention. They are short but cogent. And amongst other remarks, he states that “all *sedatives* are of uncertain effect, and sometimes of none :” “sedatives,” he repeats again within a few sentences, “are occasionally most efficacious, but also *most uncertain in their effect.*”\*

Now one of my first feelings, on the perusal of this evidence, was that of surprise (to say nothing of deep regret), that, under such circumstances, any single remedy, however unpopular or discredited, could be set aside or forgotten as not worth a trial or not requiring a thought. Of all the visitations, with which God's providence has afflicted man, insanity is, perhaps, the most appalling; and for the treatment

\* *Appendix to Report of Commissioners*, p. 444.

of this malady "*under any form,*" we have the assertion of Dr. Conolly himself—the most competent of witnesses, that the resources of medicine "*are very limited,*" and that "*sedatives are sometimes of no effect.*" If that, then, be the case, why should a humane man decline to make an *occasional experiment* with a particular system, which is said to be attended with successful results? Granted, for mere argument's sake, that an exaggerated estimate of its value may have been entertained by some of its advocates: still, why should the very existence of this alleged remedy be thus practically ignored? To me, this indifference respecting mesmerism, in the treatment of the insane, is inexplicable, unless a sense of what we owe to our fellow creatures is to be regarded as moonshine, compared with the ascendancy of our own opinions. If, indeed, the medical art were lavishly rich in its means and appliances for the restoration of the insane, the neglect of a superfluous novelty would be intelligible enough: or, if we were in the habit of exclaiming to practitioners in lunacy, "*Alter all your systems, destroy all your drugs, burn every prescription, and trust to mesmerism, and mesmerism only,*" such self-magnifying presumption might be very naturally met with silence; but we say nothing of the kind. On the contrary, the language of all true cerebral physiologists is that of cordial approbation and support of those moral and milder methods of treatment which of late years have obtained in the cure of the insane; and all that we say is, "*Add mesmerism to them.*" "You aim," we observe to Dr. Conolly and his coadjutors, "at calming and soothing your patients, and mesmerism is peculiarly calming and soothing in its effects: you require sleep towards the repression of cerebral activity, and mesmerism is eminently efficacious in inducing somnolency. Give, then, your patients every chance. Try mesmerism—if you so prefer it—conjointly with your narcotics, and as an adjuvant to them: try it occasionally without them: try it when they fail: try it silently and by yourselves, if a fear of the 'College' makes such a course expedient: only try it at some time or by some means, and do not, in the name of humanity do not, refuse a miserable victim even the faintest prospect of restoration from the heaviest of calamities, because your own prepossessions and education run so counter to the system."

Happily, these words of ours do not fall unheeded on every ear. Happily, there is a kindly physician here and there who will not despise the auxiliary hand of unprofessional assistance: and happily there are a few good and gentle hearts ready to surrender themselves and their time to a labour of Christian love, risking on the one hand all the blame and bur-

den of a failure, and reaping on the other none of the credit of success. And it is a tale of this description that I now propose to tell. I have received permission to communicate the following case, that the example it affords may serve as a stimulus to other parties similarly circumstanced; though I am not the less anxious to narrate it, that the readers of *The Zoist* may learn what benevolence and self-devotion can accomplish even under most discouraging circumstances. Before mesmerism was tried in the following instance, suicide or the mad-house seemed the only alternatives. Medical treatment had failed in removing the symptoms; and, though medicinal applications were not laid aside, as I believe, till a restoration to sanity was completed, so that, consequently, we are not enabled to decide to which of the different systems the main amount of the benefit received is really to be ascribed; still the point to notice in this case (and, let it be added, in many others also), is, that, *coincidentally with the commencement of the mesmeric sittings, the alleviation of the symptoms set in*, and that, in proportion to the labours and the care expended by the mesmeriser, in that same proportion the recovery of the patient seemed to advance. To the minds, therefore, of many persons, the strongest presumption will exist, that to the mesmeric treatment exclusively the following cure may be attributed: but mesmerisers can afford to understate their case, and to allow to other attendant systems their fair share of credit. Let it therefore be understood, that, in bringing forward the following particulars, I am simply directing the attention of practitioners in lunacy to the *auxiliary and soothing powers* of the mesmeric art; and, though, in attempting no more than even this, I fear that, as "only a clergyman," I shall stand amenable in their eyes to the charge of impertinence and ignorance, I venture, with every deference, to inform them that the following is no isolated case, and that, interesting and important as it is, the annals of mesmerism can yet furnish more of the same description.

It was, then, at the latter end of last summer, that I received a letter from a lady, with whom I have not yet the honour of being acquainted, and whose name, for obvious reasons, it is not necessary to publish: neither shall I state the part of England in which she resides; but shall admit at once that I have never seen the patient referred to, and that I know no more of the facts hereafter described than what I have learnt by letter. At the same time your readers may rest assured, from my guarantee, of the correctness of the statement. The family of the lady herself is of the very highest respectability in their own county; her own narrative

gives internal evidence as to her character; and the physician, whose letter is quoted at the end, and who was consulted in the case, is of honourable standing in his profession. Moreover, the lady herself says, "that any one desirous of knowing more of the details of the case, *with a view to the relief of the like misery*, may be referred to me by letter, and will receive all the information and encouragement that I can give." With these preliminary remarks, I proceed to the case.

*"To the Rev. George Sandby.*

"Sir,—A deep and mutual interest in the great cause of humanity must plead my apology for addressing you. I am just reading the last pages of your work, which treats of the powers and uses of mesmerism, which I have for some time past regarded as one of the greatest lights and most signal mercies yet vouchsafed to man. In your work you advise that it should not be practised, even as a remedy, without the superintendance of a medical man. But in how few cases is this possible! The medical attendant of the patient, to whose case I am about to refer, like many who have come under your lash, scoffs at mesmerism; and I might look long and in vain in this part of the world for support or guidance from the 'faculty' in such a cause. Will you, then, forgive me, if, not knowing where to turn, I venture to ask you, as a clergyman, and as the author of such a work as that I have been reading, to direct me under the following circumstances.

"A young woman in our village, 24 years of age, has been suffering for more than a month under great nervous excitement, describing herself as *compelled* to talk, and as having great misery at her heart, with a sense of physical deadness *there*, but with fearful thoughts in the brain. A religious tract, embracing certain strong opinions, was put into her hands some seven or eight years since. She disbelieved it—laughed at it—laid it aside—and forgot it till early this year, when it was recalled to her by a passage in the Bible, and she has ever since laboured under the conviction that she has, without knowing it, committed the sin against the Holy Ghost, and that her hope in eternity is quenched. The doctor, whom she saw in \_\_\_\_\_, said that it was 'religious monomania, and might end in suicide;' and *advised that she should be consigned to a lunatic asylum*: but whilst there is a hope of her recovery by other treatment I cannot bring myself to follow this advice. Her sleep fails of course; and she describes herself as having 'no feeling of a head.' She remains sometimes long silent; because, as

her sister says, she would rather bite out her tongue than speak the bad thoughts that arise. When she was first attacked, she spent all her time in prayer, never being without her prayer-book or hymns. She is weaker in body than she was. May I ask, then, if this is a case for the soothing powers which we both feel to be so precious? Is this the sort of case that has ever been cured by mesmerism? Might I venture to attempt it for her? You say that mesmerism is always safe in its results: is there, then, any reason which should deter me from applying it in her case, independently of whatever medicine she may be taking; and of course without mention of your name? If ever there were a case for benevolent exertion, this seems to be one: for nothing can be more sad than the thought of sending this poor young creature to an asylum,—to make her, perhaps, a confirmed lunatic. It seems to me, that, if she could have the sleep which you describe as of such healing powers, all might be well. Knowing you, as I do, through your work, I feel that perhaps I ought not to offer an apology for seeking your direction and encouragement. Let me hear from you, I entreat you, with the least possible delay, for days are most precious in a case of this sort.

“I am, Sir,

“Your obedient Servant,

“\_\_\_\_\_”

The point to notice in the above interesting letter, is, that the medical attendant thought that this case might end in *suicide*, and recommended that the patient should be sent to a lunatic asylum. Sleep, it will also be observed, had failed. I immediately replied to my correspondent, recommending that mesmerism should be at once employed, and in conjunction with the medicinal prescriptions; urging her to commence the case, and giving her instructions for the treatment; and authorizing her, if it could be of service, to make any use she wished of my name. Though I consider that in cases of severe illness medical superintendence is always desirable when mesmerism is tried, still it is not always attainable; and under such circumstances the mesmeriser must act on his own judgment, not superseding the “doctor,” but simply employing the power as a useful auxiliary. I very shortly received the following reply:—

“Dear Sir,—To say that I thank you is to say little. You have lightened my burden of anxious responsibility, and

I wish gratefully to acknowledge your letter, and your offer of farther suggestions. I have delayed answering you till after the first sitting, of which I shall now give you an account.

“After a few passes I bade my patient close her eyes lest she should take any alarm, and in about ten minutes her head began to droop, whether from natural sleep or otherwise I cannot tell. A sudden noise roused her. I continued the passes and she seemed again asleep, when some one came loudly and quickly into the room, causing a second disturbance; but, in compliance with your suggestions, I desisted at the end of the half-hour. The patient was not then asleep, but replied to my question of what she felt, ‘that it made her feel very sleepy, and took, as she thought, something from the lightness of her head.’ I told her to put on her bonnet, and return home with her sister, and go to bed as soon as she could; and she left me still feeling very drowsy, and slept well the early part of the night, which however is not the only instance.

“I remarked that my fingers trembled slightly at first, and I doubted whether I was a fit person to undertake the case. I was alone, and unsupported by any one around me; this, and the seriousness of the case, might, in a measure account for the trembling. However, I remembered that calmness was insisted upon, and as I commanded myself, and threw myself into my work, my hands grew steady. When as A. B. (as I shall call her) seemed to sleep, my feeling became one of the most earnest and calm joy.

“You may imagine that the interruption vexed me; but still more the consequences; for I have been remonstrated with as ‘doing a thing upon which I can scarcely ask God’s blessing,’—as ‘practising upon an unsuspecting creature who relies upon me with almost the simplicity of childhood,—as doing this without medical sanction, and tampering with new means, and being uncertain whether I am a fit person to undertake the case, and also *being uncertain of what amount of injury I may inflict, or may myself incur, &c., &c.*’ All these remarks, coming as they do from one whose feeling of right I have every reason to respect, are enough to shake me, being all alone in the matter; however, I have acted simply in the confidence of your assurance that ‘mesmerism was *safe.*’ ”

(My fair correspondent next put a variety of questions to me respecting sundry difficulties and contingencies, with which, like most young mesmerisers, she had been perplexing her-

self. Could I guarantee her against so and so? What was to be done in such a case? &c., &c. Several religious scruples were also adverted to.)

“But, supposing all my perplexities to be groundless, a point, in which you might yet help me, is this. A. B. is now going on with the medical treatment, which has been advised for her as a temporary remedy, till we could arrange for placing her in an asylum: at the close of this week, we shall have the opportunity of seeing a physician, who has the care of lunatics, and from whom I shall be able to obtain an opinion. Perhaps, if he could be assured of the safety of mesmerism, he might be glad of so good an occasion of seeing it tried; and, his concurrence being obtained, my friends probably would no longer oppose themselves to my endeavours, and I should feel justified in keeping the poor girl from the worst of imprisonments, and in mesmerising her daily. With a view to this, may I ask if you object to my stating on your authority that mesmerism has proved beneficial in cases of this description?”

“And thus, dear Sir, I have been drawn to trespass upon your time; but, as it seems to me that the fate of a fellow-creature is no mean thing in your eyes, I am sure that you will not consider it a trouble. May I repeat that I do not wish my name mentioned, for whatever good a woman may do or attempt should be done in silence; besides a matter of this sort, if known, is apt to be much and unkindly canvassed. Pray pardon this trial of your patience, and believe me, in anxious expectation of your reply, to be, dear Sir,

“Your’s gratefully,

“To Rev. George Sandby.”

“\_\_\_\_\_.”

I immediately replied to the above letter, expressing an opinion that the first trial, as far as it went, appeared promising, especially as it was followed by sleep at night; and I gave, as far as it was possible, an answer to the different enquiries. To this letter came a reply, from which the following is an extract:—

“August 29th, 1849.

“Dear Sir,—If you have thought it strange that your letter, so full and satisfactory, should have remained thus long unacknowledged, I trust that my silence will be excused when I tell you that my time and thoughts have been absorbed by the poor patient, who has kept me most anxious. My hands have been tied by the circumstance of the physician’s visit being delayed from day to day, and by my unwillingness to commence mesmerism regularly till I had received his

sanction,—A. B. all the time declaring that she should lose her senses for ever. At last, yesterday, finding myself alone with her, and seeing her suffering so much misery and excitement, I asked if I should soothe her, as I had done before: she assented, and for only ten short minutes I could work: when she became evidently soothed, and spoke to me more quietly than she had done for hours. This is all I have to tell you on this head. Dr. —, however, arrived yesterday and saw her in the evening: I have not myself been able to have an interview with him; but the Rev. — brought me his opinion that ‘he believes her curable,—and that the despair of an asylum might perhaps render her case hopeless.’ . . . My difficulties are many, and I must be guided by circumstances in a great measure. It is my intention to sound the good doctor, as soon as I find an opportunity, respecting his feelings on the subject of mesmerism. If he be ignorant of it, he should be induced to inform himself; if prejudiced, the oftener that his prejudice comes into collision with facts, the better: for the important charge that he holds in the asylum of ———— makes it desirable that he should be led to study ‘the medicine of nature.’ . . . I must thank you again and again for the advice and encouragement you have so freely and kindly given, and for your reiterated assurances of safety. With this assistance, though from motives of delicacy I may delay for the present, I shall not scruple to act, as the case may require, if I find people *unamenable* to reason. Kindly as you have expressed yourself relatively to the subject of my anxiety, I shall feel bound to write again a little while hence to tell you what has been done. In the mean while, believe me, dear Sir,

“ Faithfully and gratefully yours,  
“ \_\_\_\_\_.”

In answer, I expressed the opinion that this *second experiment*, short as it was, indicated a hopeful state of things;—it had proved “soothing and quieting:” and I earnestly pressed upon my correspondent the importance of giving mesmerism a full trial, and at as early a day as possible; and I offered to obtain any information, that was in my power, from parties more competent than myself to furnish it,—only begging, as a last injunction, that the poor sufferer should have every chance. To this letter I received no reply: and I feared that in this case—as in so many others—a want of perseverance on the part of the mesmeriser, or some untoward circumstances connected with the medical man or the friends of the patient, had stopped proceedings, and that there was an end of the



treatment, as far as mesmerism was concerned. What injustice I did to my correspondent the reader will now see;—though perhaps her silence rendered such an opinion not unnatural. At the end of five months,—when I had nearly forgotten all particulars,—to my great surprize and gratification, I received a long letter, written at intervals, containing most copious details as to all that had been taking place, and concluding with the delightful intelligence that A. B. was restored to health and to reason, and that mesmerism had been one of the means employed towards her restoration. What proportion of credit the mesmeric treatment is entitled to, the reader will now judge. I shall allow my correspondent in great measure to tell her own tale in her own words,—extracts being given from her letters and from her journal, (which I have been permitted to read, and which contains a most interesting account of the treatment,) in the order that the case proceeded.

“It would be ungrateful any longer to delay writing to you; for who will better share my satisfaction than one who so largely contributed to it? You will remember that I wrote to you some time back on the case of A. B., then under sentence of an ‘asylum;’ and that I received from you several letters of encouragement and advice by which you endeavoured to remove from my mind the doubts which some pious friends had raised respecting the use of mesmerism. I have been silent, but not forgetful; and often and often have your last words returned upon me, bringing strength and resolution when I faltered.

“Before I commence, I must state that there is one person of whom I would make most honourable mention,—I mean Dr. ———, the physician who superintends the lunatic asylum at ———. I spoke to him without disguise; asked him if he knew anything of mesmerism,—if he had tried it, if he thought it applicable to this case? His answer was: ‘I have seen it; I have never used it professionally: you can try it; it will do no harm.’ His absence of all prejudice,—of all professional jealousy, combined with his humane and constant attendance, whilst it was in his power, lead me to hope that ere long he may be prevailed on to introduce into the ——— asylum a remedy so simple and so availing.

“It was not long subsequent, then, to the receipt of your last letter that I began to act regularly upon your advice, and have continued almost without intermission up to this time. It is impossible for me to know how much or how little of the poor girl’s improvement is attributable to this source; I

only know that it has been most marked, and altogether beyond the expectations of three out of four of the faculty who have prescribed for her. But I should tell you that she has been taking medicine daily, and for many weeks constant opiates. *Before I began to work the opiates had lost their power*, though given in increased strength: afterwards I observed that they retained their influence, and for four nights last week, as well as three nights in the week previous, she slept well *without any opiate*; though I ought to add that there was a change in the medicine on this occasion. Be the cause, however, what it may, the result is all satisfactory. The once unceasing plaint is never heard;—she seems to shrink from speaking the word which night and day hung on her lips: the *fearful excitement has left her entirely*, and the low spirits and fitful weeping seem gradually yielding before means, which a God of mercy has been pleased to bless.

“She seems now aware, in some degree, of the physical nature of her miseries, but turns with awe and shuddering from the recollection of what she has suffered: ‘I dare not think of the state I have been in.’ She can now bear to sit in church, which was formerly insupportable to her; she speaks of her amendment with gratitude and *hope*, (hope, that seemed for ever banished from her mind), still, however, reminding me of her inward consciousness, ‘I am not well yet.’ And she can sit to any work, and be occupied with it for hours. In one thing I have been surprized, viz., that my power has not encreased in the way that I expected. I had imagined, that, when sleep had once been induced, it would have followed regularly with the mesmerism, and with diminishing exertion on my part: but that has not been the case; actual mesmeric sleep has not always ensued, and the longest duration of it has been two hours; but the constant soothing by the passes have *told*, though coma was not induced: and at the same time her rest at night has been generally and plainly influenced by the length of the sitting. But I ought to tell you here, that for some time I was myself fearful, and used to suspend my will, as soon as A. B. said that she felt ‘very sleepy.’ It was an indescribable feeling of which perhaps I might be ashamed,—I could not tell how she might be affected; and oppressed by my loneliness and inexperience, I dreaded beyond all things to see her ‘hand follow mine’—or indeed to elicit any phenomena connected with the science.” (It ought in explanation here to be stated, that, in one of her first letters, my correspondent had expressed great dislike of mesmeric phenomena, and a fear lest her patient might prove ecstatic. This absence, or suspen-

sion of "willing" during the first part of the treatment, is a material point to notice).

My correspondent then proceeded to mention an important change of arrangements and circumstances, under which she was glad to alter her feelings in the above respect. The circumstances were in themselves of a most disheartening nature, causing, in fact, a fearful relapse, and undoing all that had been effected. But great good resulted from the evil: for the kind mesmeriser removed the patient into her own house, where she had her constantly under her care: and though in the first instance the paroxysms of insanity were appalling to witness and difficult of treatment, still in the end the labours of mesmerism were greatly lightened, and the cure brought about much more expeditiously. It appears, that the poor girl, whose madness originally took a religious turn, was now being persecuted by a "Latter-day-Saint," with superstitious scruples on the subject of her baptism. It would be tedious to repeat the well known history of cases of this description. A. B. was now "crazy to be with the Saint,"—uttering words of despair and of horror: flinging herself frantically here and there, and for ever exclaiming, "lost, *lost* to all *eternity*." In a word, the mania was greatly aggravated, and the apprehension of suicide returned; and to this was shortly superadded an attack of jaundice. Many might have been discouraged at all this: but our mesmeriser, who had contrived to get the patient under her protection, and away from the religious excitement, shall again tell her own tale. "It was not till after she came to this house, and owing to a severe attack of jaundice, and the absence of all opiate, she became so fearfully excited that suicide seemed impending, that I *truly and heartily desired that she should sleep*; and then *sleep came*, or at least, a deep stillness that bore its semblance, though at first her frantic movements were so rapid that I could scarcely follow them as she flung herself from side to side in the bed. It was a fearful night, it was like standing in the presence and listening to the wailings of the lost; and a friend who sat up with me the night following, assured me with a look of awe, that her own nerves would give way under a repetition of such scenes. There are many things which I cannot account for,—as that I should have affected her *then*, and that I cannot always do it in the same degree,—unless by the supposition that my own earnestness rises higher in proportion to a great necessity. There are times again, when A. B. can distinctly feel the passes of my hands, and there are others, when she cannot."

The letter here suddenly stopped; and the writer did not

again take up the narrative, till after an interval of about seven weeks, when she resumed her pen, for the purpose of communicating to me the conclusion of the case, and the joyful intelligence that A. B. was "well." Before, however, we come to that part, I think that your readers would be much interested in returning with me to the "Journal," and in perusing a few of the passages which narrate the effects of the earlier sittings. A general idea of the case has been already given by the letter: and it must be remembered, that two trials of mesmerism had taken place before the treatment was systematically pursued under the sanction of a physician. I will begin, therefore, with brief extracts from what the writer calls the "third sitting," to which are prefixed the following observations.

*Journal :*

"I did not see her again till Sept. 18th." She was then in a very bad state: the malady beating the medicine, and the nightly opiate had lost all power. "My eyes are always wide open; there is no sleep in them night or day." Her mania prevailed through all the hours.

Third sitting: an hour. "Sleepy;" after some minutes "quite comfortable,"—"suffering at her heart quiet." Did not sleep I think: though at times the appearance of it both by breathing and slight movement of the hand.

Fourth sitting: twenty minutes. Had slept all night with only the usual dose of morphine, woke only once to tell her mother what a nice sleep she had had, and then slept again till morning: she told me, without being questioned, she thought it must be from my soothing her.

At the end of seven minutes, "felt she could lie down and go to sleep;" "quite curious, she had never heard of anything of that sort." She talked a good deal, though drowsy: I did not stop her: her mania, in short, running on in ceaseless volubility. At the end of twenty minutes, told me she felt quite comfortable.

Fifth sitting. Had not slept, but lay still.

Sixth sitting. Had slept from 12 till 8 in the morning. She had felt, when lying in bed, that I was near her. She had read to her father in the evening: the first time she had done such a thing since her illness. A visible improvement in her complexion and demeanour. This time she yawned twice, and sighed often. "More sleepy than yesterday;" talked less.

Seventh sitting. Found her very bright: greeted me with a fresh smile. Had got up at 7, and attended to the house.

Had slept only at intervals during the night, but "lay quite still, having no wish to stir." Had thought in the night, how sweet to be with me in heaven. She was sure, she ought never to forget me in all her life.

After twenty-five minutes, said, "she felt so strange, going somewhere, I am so drowsy:" here continued the passes, but ceased to will.

Sunday, no sitting. She had *slept all night without* waking, from 11 to quarter past 8: quite got rid of heart-feeling. Ate meat for breakfast (generally eats nothing) and went to church.

Eighth sitting. She had not slept at all, but had lain still. Remarked that her "spirits were much better:" and she looked bright and cheerful. During sitting, mentioned her lost state but once: and then sat serene and silent, then smiled and talked playfully; but I have lost ground by the omission of Sunday."

The reader will have observed, during these first sittings, the condition of the patient improving coincidently with the adoption of mesmerism. The opiates had ceased to have effect; but now the mesmerism seemed to give assistance to them; and A. B. was decidedly better. Just, however, as matters were thus advancing favourably, a slight relapse was occasioned by some friends of the young woman taking her a fatiguing day's journey for the purpose of shopping and of visiting relations; all which caused great labour to the mesmeriser: and before A. B. was restored to her previous condition, the fatal visit of the "preacher" occurred. The journal here gives a long but painful description of the results of this interview; but it is unnecessary to publish them: though, without their perusal, the reader can scarcely appreciate to their full extent the anxieties and the exertion that my correspondent passed through. It is sufficient to say, that she contrived to remove her into her own house,—where she was safe from the attacks of the "Saint;" and here the journal says,—

"Oct. 10th. Violently restless and despairing: eyes wild and glaring: flung herself about frantically, with words of despair. . . . *Willed* sleep most intensely; end of ten minutes, she sank down upon her pillow, and remained still. E. came in and roused her: she rose up from time to time raving wildly: then still again. After a time, worked only when she roused; latterly prevented rousing by making the passes the instant she moved."

About this time a sharp attack of jaundice supervened, and the mesmerism and opiates were discontinued for a cou-

ple of days. The journal says, "left her to the doctors till she should be out of her jaundice: perhaps wrong—a dreadful time. She would tear her sister to pieces, if she could get at her."

"Oct. 23rd. Again under opiates: 'see, if you can put me to sleep.' Began again to mesmerise her: in the night she slept better."

From this time, with a slight exception, the mesmerism was pursued steadily, till the cure was completed. Now and then the patient suffered a relapse; but on the whole the improvement was continuous and progressive, the unfavourable symptoms one by one abating and disappearing. A few extracts from the journal, taken here and there, may prove not uninteresting.

"Oct. 25th. Sitting an hour: said she felt strange: 'I feel quite different from what I did an hour ago;' slept twenty minutes after I ceased. Great improvement now become visible: the raging frenzy which *had* been through *all* the hours, *then* in the nights *only*, has now gathered itself into the beginning of the morning.

"Oct. 26th. Had intervals of good spirits.

"Oct. 27th. Still all night, look less wild, movements less restless; had not waked till dawn: good sleep.

"Nov. 3rd. Sitting half an hour: lay very tranquil: looked playful: lay in a kind of happy way such as I had never seen her in: not one word about 'soul' or 'tract.'

"Nov. 4th. Far less frenzied than I have ever seen her in the morning.

"Nov. 7th. Her bad fits now are like her best hours formerly.

"Nov. 8th. A bad day: she had heard something unkind said, which fastened upon her mind, making her restless and wretched, and anxious to go home. I made passes with my back to the door, to prevent her going out of the room. End of half an hour tranquil: slept and woke again, slept again, and woke: asked me to lay my hand on her ear (she had pain there), laid both hands upon her head, and bent my own down close. *She slept sweetly*: when she woke again at E.'s entrance, she said, she had slept, and her head was so heavy she could scarcely stir: and said no more about her soul or going home.

"Nov. 18th. Voice on waking more cheerful than I have ever heard. 'The best night of a long time.' Her sleep had been very sound. She lay perfectly still and silent, so long that I thought she would sleep without speaking; but at last she spoke, and told me such things as made my heart glad."

We then come to a succession of entries, of "no anodyne—" "a mild opiate,"—"better," "better,"—"a comfortable night:" "no anodyne—asleep in less than twenty minutes, lying in a most simple attitude," and so on, with constant records of improvement, and of the departure of unfavourable symptoms, till we approach Christmas.

I shall now return to the letter, where it was taken up, after an interval of seven or eight weeks, at the date of Feb. 14th, 1850, with a note prefixed, stating that the previous part had been "written some time in December."

"Time has again been stealing on, my dear Sir, since the above was written, and by my own shewing at the beginning, I stand convicted of ingratitude to you for not having finished and despatched my letter,—but perhaps if you could know all the circumstances by which our patient has been thrown upon my hand almost every hour in the day for some weeks together, your good nature would pardon such omission.

"To the preceding I may now add the best possible conclusion. A. B. is to all appearance cured. Excellent medical advice, constant watching, united to the means which you prescribed and the prayers of many friends, have by God's mercy been effectual to this end. She can now read her Bible without being painfully affected by it,—she can transcribe from it,—repeat from it, and dwell upon passages which speak of the Christian's hope. What need I say more than that she has received the Sacrament, and returned public thanksgiving at church for her recovery from grievous sickness?

"She is no longer an inmate of our house, but gone home to be a comfort to her old parents, and to say, 'If ever there was a good deed done, it was this.' I give you her own words; for you, who have had so large a share in her recovery, must read them with a silent but deep pleasure. Neither is she estranged from her poor sister,—which estrangement had been one of the sad symptoms of her derangement." And the journal concludes in saying, that from December 29th "she took no more opiates: but I continued to mesmerise her daily; and the sittings were marked more by their confidential tone than by sleepiness. For some time her low spirits would come on at twilight, but they would be subdued by a sitting, &c." And my latest accounts say, that A. B. "feels well, and looks the picture of health, and continues on the most friendly terms with her sister, never alluding to her past aversion, or seeming to remember it."

It will be remembered, that the sanction of a physician to the trial of mesmerism was given before that treatment was regularly entered upon. The reader will now be anxious

to learn, what was his opinion of its effects, after the cure was completed. Before, however, that we record his judgment, it may be desirable to state that out of four medical men who saw A. B., one declared that it was a deplorable case, an asylum or suicide being the certain alternatives. The second, the physician referred to, that by a long and careful domestic as well as medical treatment the case *might possibly* terminate in a cure at the end of *perhaps four or five years*. The third deemed an asylum most dangerous; and the fourth believed the patient "*incurable*." All these opinions were discouraging enough: and we will now turn to the physician's reply to my correspondent's question respecting his judgment on the assistance given by mesmerism in the case. His answer, though cautious, as it well became him to be, was at the same time clear, unprejudiced and truth-loving;—and by this answer alone I am content that the uses of mesmerism should, in *the first instance*, be estimated.

"As you do not mention the results produced by the mesmerising beyond sleep and tranquillity, I assume that they were confined to producing *sleep and insensibility*, and I have no hesitation in stating my belief that the results thus produced must have aided in the recovery. I also think that there was present *functional* disorder of the nervous system as well as *physical* disease, and that the mesmeric sleep acted favorably on the former."

It has been already stated, that the case, which has been here given, interesting as it appears, is by no means an isolated one, and that the records of mesmerism can furnish many other instances, in which insanity has been cured or kept in abeyance by its means. And let this statement be repeated again and again for the guidance and information of the medical world. The pages of *The Zoist* abound with cases of the kind, showing what has been done in England: and in India, Dr. Strong of Calcutta and Dr. Kean of Berhampore have pursued a mesmeric treatment for insanity with marked success.\* Dr. Kean says that in his institution out of seventy-four insane persons sixty-four were discharged cured; and I sometimes am half inclined to think, that, efficacious as mesmerism has proved to be in neuralgic and rheumatic disorders and as an agent for anæsthetic operations, its greatest triumphs

\* See No. II., pp. 161, 180, 186, 190, 191; IV., p. 429; V., p. 133; VI., p. 267; X., p. 193; XIV., p. 238; XV., p. 379; XVIII., p. 142; XIX., pp. 234, 300; XX., p. 364; XXI., p. 40; XXIV., p. 321, 390; XXV., p. 9; XXVI., pp. 135, 201, 360; XXVIII., pp. 391, 392, 393; XXIX., p. 94.—*Zoist*.



will yet be obtained through its alleviation of cerebral excitement and by its introduction into all hospitals for the cure of the insane.

I remain, Mr. Editor, your humble Servant,  
 GEORGE SANDBY.

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\* \* \* It appears, in a quotation at p. 214, 215, No. XIX., from Dr. Wigan, that, as to blood-letting in insanity,

Dr. Pinel says bleeding is always injurious :

Dr. Cullen approves of bleeding :

Dr. Esquirol condemns it :

Dr. Haslam recommends it :

Dr. Rush bleeds to the extent of thirty or forty ounces at a time :

Dr. Foville doubts about it, but uses it in the intermittent form :

Dr. Joseph Frank has a high opinion of it :

Dr. Fodéré, I think, condemns it :

Dr. Pritchard approves it :

Dr. Rush took away 200 ounces from a man sixty-eight years of age in less than two months, and from another man 470 ounces in the course of seven months.

Dr. Wigan declares with perfect truth that "a large proportion of the works on insanity are the most perfect trash that ever a man wasted his faculties in reading:" yet in this state of things Dr. Conolly, whom many must have seen in the army as a recruiting officer about England after our present middle-aged medical men were already in practice, glories in advertising his disbelief of mesmerism, and denies his patients the benefit of it. See No. XXIX., pp. 94, 95; also XXVIII., pp. 383, 384, 392; XXIV., p. 369.

In the very first volume, No. II., Dr. Elliotson, when detailing five mesmeric cures of insanity and giving his opinion of the present treatment of the insane by insanity doctors, says, p. 186, "Seeing that other medical treatment, bleeding, blisters, drugs, are of so little avail in the majority of cases, and that we possess so powerful an instrument in mesmerism, shewn not only by its general influence as in the case just related, but in acting upon the individual organs of the brain, according to discoveries made in America and England, and as I have seen proved beyond all dispute in four cases of my own,—it is the duty now of all who treat the insane and fatuous to give these unfortunate beings the chance of benefit from mesmerism. On many I know it can do no good: but many I am persuaded it would calm and improve; and many it would cure."

And in Vol. VII., No. XXVIII., p. 384, he says: "The immense majority of cures of insanity are spontaneous: and, if more cures take place now than formerly, it is because doctors do less mischief than formerly. All who have friends insane should insist upon an ample trial being made of mesmerism, notwithstanding Drs. Conolly, Munro, Morrison, and nearly the whole band of insanity doctors, childishly sneer at the mention of mesmerism."—*Zoist*.

## II. *Illustrations of the silent power of the Will and sympathy of Brains.* By Mr. Henry Stafford Thompson.

“A writer in *The Zoist* for April foams with indignation on account of the article on that journal that appeared in our number for the 16th of February. In particular, his wrath knows no bounds when he touches on the tender subject of mesmeric feats, so sorely at a discount in our pages. He suspects Dr. Bushnan to be the author of the article in the *Medical Times*, and charges him with ignorance and impudence. We wonder a mesmerist could be guilty of so every-day a feeling as mere suspicion. Surely he had an Okey at hand to point her telescopic eye into the midst of any man's thoughts, and wrest from him the inmost secret of his bosom! Doubtless, some one of the Okeys of Dr. Engledue's or Dr. Elliotson's *séances* might have pried into Dr. Bushnan's breast at the very moment he was said to be concocting his sarcasm on the vignette of the cover of *The Zoist*, and picturing it to himself as representing ‘Dr. Elliotson, disguised as a bearded sage, sitting down between the two Okeys, pondering on the book of Fate!’

“Dr. Engledue quotes with much anger most of the sentence in which the passage just cited occurs; but his courage failed, and he did not encounter the whole. At the name of Okey it appears that the audacity even of a mesmerist evaporates. Dr. Engledue, however, is right—though he cannot boast of owing his knowledge to anything superior to vulgar rumour. Dr. Bushnan—the last man who would desire to shelter himself under the protection of the anonymous—is the author of the article in question; and we further inform Dr. Engledue that his opponent will not hesitate to enter the lists with him. Unless we are much deceived, Dr. Bushnan will supply him with facts tougher and more difficult of digestion than the flimsy and tender morsels with which Dr. Elliotson and his friends are accustomed to feed their fancy. In the meantime, we propose to afford our readers a specimen of the kind of facts which grow up under the fostering wing of *The Zoist*; and we beg to ask the Diocesan of the Vicar of Flixton, whether he thinks it becoming in a minister of the Gospel to countenance such things as we are about to quote? We would, also, ask the Earl of Carlisle whether it be seemly that one who, like him, stands high in the councils of the earthly Head of the Church, should have his name employed to strengthen such a cause? Here is the specimen of the fruits of mesmerism to which we refer:— ‘Lately published. *The Celestial Telegraph*; or, *Secrets of the Life to Come*, revealed through Magnetism; wherein the existence, the form, the occupations of the soul after its separation from the body are proved by many years' experiments, by the means of eight ecstatic somnambulists, who had eighty perceptions of thirty-six deceased persons of various conditions. A description of them; their conversation, &c.; with proofs of their existence in the spiritual world.’

“This work was favourably reviewed in the January number of *The Zoist*, by the Rev. George Sandby, Vicar of Flixton, Suffolk, who, at page 417, distinctly states, ‘*I can see no reason to question either the good faith of the author or the credibility of his witnesses.*’”—*Medical Times*, April 6th, 1850.\*

Fairfield, near York,  
Nov. 1, 1849.

My dear Elliotson,—In complying with your request that I would communicate to you the observations I have made on sympathy and the power of the will, I can do little more than transcribe my notes of the curious phenomena which I have witnessed, and must leave explanation to those who are more skilled in the occult operations of the brain. Some persons

\* See Mr. Sandby's reply in a subsequent part of the present number.—*Zoist*.

will no doubt ridicule the experiments I am about to relate, and deem the results the mere fancies of my own brain : but they will prove themselves to have paid not the slightest attention to the subject. I am convinced that the sympathy which has been believed in every country and in every age, though denied by some calling themselves philosophers, is to be attributed to neither superstition nor deception, but is a law of nature that very slight observation and experiment can make distinctly manifest.

I so continually observe in society instances of sympathy of feeling and thought occurring spontaneously, that I should have supposed no one would have disputed this sympathetic relation between human beings, except indeed those philosophers who require everything to be mathematically demonstrated before they can admit it.

Whether we turn to the page of history, or merely consult our own experience, do we not frequently find whole masses of human beings propelled by a simultaneous feeling or idea, too often indeed when there is little of truth or reason to recommend it? How often do we not find the insanity, the delirious folly, of the few infecting all around them, until entire nations have appeared composed of little else than of frantic madmen. There must be some cause, some law for this; I do not think it could happen among us if a silent sympathetic relation did not exist among us.

Again, does it not continually happen that persons in conversation are simultaneously impressed with the self-same subject or a similar idea? Do we not sometimes meet in society persons with whom we immediately and instinctively know that we have a similarity of sentiment and feeling? Indeed, the existence of this sympathy is pretty generally admitted, even by those who reject the idea that one human being can intentionally influence another by his silent will, or impress him at pleasure with distinct sensations. However, the experiments I am about to relate are within the compass of every one who desires to obtain conviction, or to test the accuracy of what I state : for there are everywhere to be met with parties, though all unconscious of it, who are so delicately sensitive that their brains will reflect nearly each thought and idea as it passes through your own, if you steadily fix your attention upon them and they are not engrossed with any absorbing subject at the time. As I am often asked what effect the will has in mesmeric manipulations, and whether it is not sufficient without manipulations, I will, as far as I can, answer this question, and state the conclusion to which my own experiments have led me.

Some mesmerisers are of opinion that the exercise of the will is always necessary to produce an effect upon another person. I do not think this is always the case; although it is true that when we make mesmeric passes over a patient, even while our minds are occupied on other matters, there still is a certain amount of will exerted, or else we should not continue to move our hands even mechanically over the patient. Is it not clear that the will is capable of performing several functions at a time? My will, for instance, at this moment directs my thoughts, recalls to my memory words in which to express them, and the forms of the letters of which these words are composed, and guides my hand in tracing them. The first operation is the only one which seems to me as if my will determined it; the other two appear like mere mechanical and involuntary actions: and yet no one, I should think, would dispute that my will determined and carried into effect the last operation as well as the first. Thus when an operator asserts that his will is not exerted in moving his hand over a patient while his thoughts are engaged on other subjects, he errs.

But that an effect may be produced on individuals, independent of the will or intention of another party, I feel satisfied. For, in the course of observations which have now continued for some years, I have repeatedly met with cases in which one person has affected another without any intention on the one side or expectation on the other. In illustration of this, I will mention two examples.

A patient, whom I had been mesmerising for a neuralgic pain in the foot, that was easily removed for a time by a few passes, was sitting in a room where there were several persons. She had felt her foot rather uncomfortable for some time, when one of my children accidentally placed himself on the ground by the foot that was affected. The patient was engaged in conversation, and told me that she should not have observed where the child was had she not felt the pain entirely cease. After this, whenever she was suffering pain in the foot, the child could invariably remove it by placing his hand on the foot. Apparently, in the first instance of the removal of the pain there was neither imagination on the one side nor intention or will on the other to account for it. Another instance I knew in which a lady was attended by two medical men for a neuralgic affection; and she invariably had an increase of pain when visited by the one, and a diminution of it when attended by the other, though their opinions and treatment were exactly the same. This lady afterwards became a patient of mine, and we frequently found that

she had an increase or diminution of pain in the society of different persons, more particularly if they sat near her. She was entirely cured by mesmerism, though she says that to this day some persons make her feel uncomfortable when they are near her. I mention these two examples only, and think every practised mesmerist must have met with many similar instances, in which the will or intention had nothing to do with the effect produced. Whilst I admit thus much, I nevertheless am convinced of the powerful agency of the will; and, with few exceptions, I have found success in the removal of pain, in producing sleep, and in giving strength to the patient, to correspond with the will and attention that was employed, and that less effect has numberless times been produced by performing the operation of mesmerism in an inattentive manner for an hour, than in a few minutes when it has been accompanied by the concentration of the thoughts and the will of the operator.

I think, then, that there is a sympathetic relation existing between individuals entirely independent of intention on one side or expectation on the other: and I am fully aware that pain may be removed by the imposition of the hand, gentle friction, or even in some cases by the mere presence of another party all unconscious of this influence, without any expectation on either side of the relief that ensues. But in the generality of cases I think that the passes or manipulations of a mesmeriser more readily produce the phenomena of sleep, the soothing of pain, &c. Yet I think, with those who call themselves psychomesmerists or magnetizers, that the manipulations are not absolutely necessary; that, when there is the power of concentrating the attention for a length of time, all the phenomena may be produced without any manipulations whatever and that the simple will of the operator is sufficient.

Every mesmerist is aware that, when a sympathetic relation is established between himself and his patient, the latter will frequently have the same sensations of feeling, hearing, tasting, and smelling, simultaneously with himself; and also that the patient's thoughts and ideas are often in accordance with his own; and, by the experiments which I am about to relate, I think it will be clear that the fixed attention of one party upon another is sufficient to establish a sympathetic relation. I have on many occasions fixed my attention upon persons whom I had never seen before, and found that in a short time they have either performed some trifling act I have thought of, or have been impressed with ideas similar to my own. For example,—

I met a gentleman last summer at Dr. Ashburner's, who the doctor had informed me was very sensitive. Without my being introduced to him, I fixed my attention upon him, and willed him to come and speak to me. In a few minutes he did so. I kept my attention rivetted upon him, willing him to sleep. In a minute or two he said, "You must be powerfully magnetic; I have been mesmerised a few times, and talking with you gives me the same sensations as when I was mesmerised, namely, a tightness across the brow, and a feeling of extreme drowsiness; you must excuse me, but I must sit down at the other end of the room." This he did. I still kept my attention directed towards him, though, from the position in which I stood, I think he could not have observed it. In a few minutes he went to sleep. I tried several curious experiments upon him. Perhaps the most successful and striking were the following. When I thought of light, he said his sensations were delightful, that "he saw everything around him;" on the contrary, when I thought of darkness, he complained immediately of being in darkness, and of not being able to see anything. I awakened him, as I had put him to sleep, by will. On his leaving the room I stopped him instantly and recalled him, by will. I have no doubt Dr. Ashburner will recollect what I have related, as well as those who were present and who were much struck with what they saw and what we explained to them at the time.

Some months ago I was staying at a house where few of the persons present had ever witnessed any of the phenomena of mesmerism, and they were most anxious that I should shew them some experiments. I refused this unless they could find me a subject upon whom the experiment might be beneficial. I object to making experiments for mere amusement's sake, as I have frequently seen very uncomfortable effects produced, and as experiments generally fail to convince the sceptical, however successful they may be. I was twitted very much by some of the party present on my refusal, particularly by the lady of the house, who at once decided that all mesmeric experiments must be humbug; especially the effects, she said, which she had heard were produced by the will. There was a very interesting little girl present, the youngest of the family, and I said to the lady, "Though I object to putting any person into a mesmeric state, if you wish very much to witness a simple experiment of the will, and will give me leave to try an experiment on your child, I think I can probably convince you that it is not altogether humbug." She consented, and it was agreed that, without the child's knowledge, I should sit on a sofa, and that the child should

come to me, take hold of my hand and begin to ask me questions about mesmerism; that in five minutes she was to get up, sit on a particular chair in the room, come back again and sit on the contrary side of me on the sofa to that on which she sat formerly, take hold of my hand and begin to talk again on the same subject; I was then to get up and she was to follow me, and appear to interest herself in whatever I was occupied in. The experiments were perfectly successful.

I will give an example of another kind, in which the will only has been employed to remove pain, and I will then proceed to other experiments.

I was at a theatre with a party, and noticed one of the ladies putting her hand frequently to her head, as if she was suffering from headache. I observed to her that I feared she had a headache. She said, "Yes, and the noise and heat have made it so much worse that I think I shall be obliged to leave." I was sitting immediately behind her. I said nothing, but fixed my attention upon her head; and in ten minutes she said, "It is very curious, but since you spoke to me the pain has left my forehead, and I have a sensation as if my head was drawn backwards to you."

One of the most exquisitely sensitive and interesting subjects I have ever met with was a young lady suffering from an affection of the eyes, brought on by "brain fever." I was consulted about her case. At our first interview, without an attempt to mesmerise her or an idea of mesmerism on her part, I willed her to get up, come across the room, and sit upon a sofa near me. I then by will put her to sleep, and when in that state every question I proposed to her mentally she answered aloud, sometimes saying, "Why do you ask me that?" On one occasion I willed her to come to a house where I was calling. I was not able to remain to see the result: but she nevertheless went, and her mother informed me afterwards that she told her she must go and call at that house, for she knew I was there and wanted her. On another occasion, having seen her in a crowded ball-room without being observed by her, I willed her to come to me. I concealed myself and avoided her in the crowd. I saw her walking about looking anxiously in every direction. When she saw me she exclaimed, "O! I knew you were here; if I had not found you soon, I think I should have gone to sleep or fallen down; I felt something draw me so strongly in the direction I found you." One day, when calling upon her, I willed her to let a favourite bird out of its cage which was on a table near the spot where we were sitting. She rose and stood looking at the bird for some time; then took up the cage, and

removed it to another table at the end of the room. I still continued to will her to take the bird out of the cage. She opened the door and put her hand into the cage. Upon this I asked her what she was going to do. She replied, "I really don't know; I had a strange fancy to take my bird out of the cage, in consequence of which I removed it to the other end of the room: still I had the same wish, but why I do not know." The last time I saw her she was travelling with her family to the south. I called upon them at the hotel in York where they were staying for the night. I tried some experiments, which succeeded as usual and were very interesting; but from some cause or other, probably from persons coming into the room, uncomfortable effects remained upon her. When she reached her destination she wrote to me that she had been most uncomfortable ever since she had seen me, feeling exceedingly cold and wretched, and in a half-dreaming state, in which she could not bear to be disturbed by any one. I wrote to her that, at 11 o'clock p.m. of the day she would receive my letter, I would will her to sleep, and, if possible, emancipate her from the uncomfortable state she was in. I did so. A friend of mine, to whom I had communicated my intention, suggested that I should make some experiment to try whether my thoughts or will would really reach her at that distance, or whether the sleep was merely the effect of imagination. I agreed to try whether I could impress her with a desire to write me an account of her sleep in verse. I did so; and she sent me by the next day's post some very pretty and droll lines descriptive of her sleep and her sensations and imaginings in that state.

I have frequently met with patients who, though they did not possess the power of thought-reading so distinctly and perfectly as in the case I have last related, have unwittingly displayed great sympathy, and in whom it was possible by the will to alter completely, for the time, their thoughts and sentiments. On one occasion when I asserted this to be my opinion to some persons, amongst whom was a very sensitive patient of mine, and betwixt whom and another young lady, who was also present, there existed a great sympathy and attachment, both these parties said, "We do not dispute what you are saying, but we defy you to change our feelings and sentiments towards each other." I could not resist this challenge, though at the hazard of making them temporarily uncomfortable. In the course of the day, they had quite a dislike and repugnance to each other's society, nor did this feeling subside for some days, not until I had placed the young lady in relation with my patient when the latter was



in a mesmeric sleep. The varied phenomena in this patient were extraordinary. She displayed on various occasions perfect clairvoyance. She could always be acted upon more or less by the will. I have frequently taken away pains from the chest and side by my will, both when she was awake and when in a mesmeric sleep. In both states she always said that she felt a great heat in her chest and side whenever I directed my attention to them. I think pain in some instances was relieved more rapidly by the will than when I made use of passes. She has been put to sleep by will, both by myself and also by another friend who used to mesmerise her, when we were in another room and when she had no knowledge of our intention. Sometimes she was unwilling to be mesmerised, but, on fixing the attention upon her for a few minutes, this repugnance soon vanished and she would request to be mesmerised. Though I have never been able to get a distinct answer by mentally proposing a question to her, yet my own sentiments and feelings were beautifully reflected. When watching her I could observe an immediate change in her countenance as my thoughts varied. She would sometimes give utterance to the ideas that were passing in my own mind. On one occasion, after suffering much pain, which I had relieved her from, and falling into a sleep with an expression on her countenance of perfect happiness and repose, the change from the previous one of anxiety and anguish was most striking and at the moment recalled to my mind the very beautiful lines of Shelley, entitled—

“THE MAGNETIC LADY TO HER PATIENT.

“ Sleep on! sleep on! forget thy pain :

My hand is on thy brow,  
My spirit on thy brain ;  
My pity on thy heart, poor friend ;  
And from my fingers flow

The powers of life, and like a sign,  
Seal thee from thine hour of woe ;  
And brood on thee but may not blend  
With thine.

“ Sleep on! sleep on! I love thee not ;

But when I think that he  
Who made and makes my lot  
As full of flowers as thine of weeds,  
Might have been lost like thee ;  
And that a hand which was not mine,  
Might then have chased his agony  
As I another's—my heart bleeds  
For thine.

“ Sleep, sleep, and with the slumbers of

The dead and the unborn ;  
Forget thy life and woe ;  
Forget that thou must wake for ever ;

Forget the world's dull scorn ;  
 Forget lost health, and the divine  
 Feelings that die in youth's brief morn ;  
 And forget me, for I can never  
 Be thine.

“ ‘ Like a cloud big with a May shower,  
 My soul weeps healing rain,  
 On thee, thou withered flower ;  
 It breathes mute music on thy sleep ;  
 Its odour calms thy brain !  
 Its light within thy gloomy breast  
 Speaks like a second youth again.  
 By mine thy being is to its deep  
 Possess.’ ”

“ ‘ The spell is done. ‘ How feel you now ?’  
 ‘ Better—quite well,’ replied  
 The sleeper.—‘ What would do  
 You good when suffering and awake ?  
 What cure your heart and side ?—’  
 ‘ ‘Twould kill me what would cure my pain ;  
 And as I must on earth abide  
 Awhile, yet tempt me not to break  
 My chain.’ ”\*

As these lines passed through my brain, I saw her lips move, and a moment after she expressed herself as nearly as I can recollect in the following terms. “ How happy you have made me ! What is it that gives me such pleasurable feelings ? Every thing I think of is immediately realized. If I think of *music*, mute music (as it were) falls upon my ears ; if of flowers, I see the most beautiful, and smell the most delicious *scents*. I seem surrounded by a glorious *light*. I now view every thing differently. There is nothing to regret in the past, and the present is *delightful*, for it seems as if sickness and sorrow could touch me no more. If you do not see and feel all this, how do I feel it ? or am I really in another state of existence ? ” She frequently went into an ecstatic state, and then would express the greatest happi-

\* Written in 1822. *The Poetical Works of Percy Bysshe Shelley*. Edited by Mrs. Shelley.—p. 304.

How strange and humiliating to reflect that Shelley wrote these sweet lines in 1822, on witnessing mesmeric effects, having no idea of doubting the evidence of his senses, and that in 1850 the medical world, the attendants of royalty and aristocracy, no less than of the cottage, cellar, and garret, the president, fellow, examiner, lecturer, the journalist and medical penny-a-liner, consider it the height of philosophic sagacity to toss up their heads with contempt when the name of mesmerism is mentioned, and exert themselves to the utmost to keep mankind from its blessed powers of healing and assuaging. The bright and just\* president of the College of Physicians of the present moment, Dr. Paris, in speaking of Dr. Thomas Mayo's *Treatise on Medical Proof*, in which such observations were made as called forth reprobation,† finds great fault with him for favouring mesmerism, of which Dr. Paris knows as much as he does of the stethoscope which he laboriously decried for twenty years and does still whenever he dares.—*Zoist*.

\* See No. XXIV., p. 404. † No. XXIV., p. 378 ; XXV., p. 44 ; XXVIII., p. 380.

ness and pleasure. She thought she was surrounded by those who had long been dead : she fancied she saw her own friends, and described them to me most accurately, as well as some of mine, though she had never seen these when alive, and said they looked most bright and happy. However, I found these happy phantoms would generally communicate what I wished them ; that is, whatever I strongly thought of she told me they had communicated to her : and therefore I have every reason to suppose that excitement of some of these higher organs of the brain, and the strong sympathy existing between her brain and the brains of those who were *en rapport* with her, was the cause of these hallucinations. Besides, when I questioned her as to whether she really saw these things or not, she always said, "They seem real to me now, but I think you have made me see them ; and they must be merely the effect of an excited imagination." I have not time to enter much into this subject at present ; but all the ecstasies who have been my patients, or have come under my own notice, have expressed themselves pretty nearly alike ; and, from my observations upon the ecstatic patients of other mesmerisers, I have come to the conclusion that they all, from sympathy, adopt more or less the thoughts and opinions of their mesmerisers or of those by whom they are surrounded ; and that this, in addition to the ecstatic delusion they are in, will in a great measure account for the extraordinary revelations of a future state of existence that some sleep-wakers have professed to make. I will here also make a brief observation upon *consulting-somnambulists*. I have availed myself of every opportunity of witnessing their performances and attending to their prescriptions. That there are many who possess great clairvoyance and an intuitive perception at times of the diseases of their patients, I am quite convinced ; but, at the same time, I feel equally certain that they as often sympathize with the thoughts and ideas of those who are put *en rapport* with them as with the state of the patient, and that it is often impossible for them to distinguish between their own perceptions and the impressions of those *en rapport* with them, however truthfully they may be inclined. I am sorry to see this branch of the higher phenomena of mesmerism become a money-getting matter, because it is thus certain to stimulate the cupidity of many impostors, and humbug and charlatanism will be practised and tend to throw discredit on this most curious and useful faculty of some sleep-wakers. As to the treatment they prescribe, I have never yet seen a somnambulist who has not adopted modes of treatment according to his own previous ideas and opinions,

or those of his mesmerisers or the persons with whom he has much associated.\*

I think I have succeeded in producing by will all the phenomena which I have been able to produce by manipulations. I have induced sleep: and in both the sleeping and waking state stiffened the limbs, made muscles of the limbs and body by concentrating my attention upon them perform the most extraordinary convulsive motions, have drawn to me or repelled from me the hand or foot, without the person having any knowledge or idea of my intention, and, in some instances where the person was awake and had never been in the mesmeric sleep, his *own* volition or determination has not been able to control the action of the limbs or the motion of the muscles produced by *my* will. I have succeeded in arresting spasms and taking away every species of pain, and in producing intense heat and perspiration, by the will only; and in many instances without the knowledge of the patients, who have been all unconscious of the power I have been exerting until after the results have occurred. On several occasions, when all manipulations to produce sleep or take away pain have been unsuccessful, I have succeeded by a strong and continuous effort of the will. At the same time, as I have before observed, I have generally found that the passes in combination with the will or attention most readily produce the results we desire, that manipulations are much less fatiguing to the operator than the continuous exercise of the will, and that I have often succeeded in removing pain by passes or laying the hand on the affected part when the will has failed or even produced a degree of irritation. A young man of the name of Fenwick, who had lost the use of his arm from a cart passing over him, and whose case I will send separately to *The Zoist*, exhibited some of the most striking and beautiful phenomena. By the will I could put him to sleep or awaken him, could make the muscles of the arm vibrate as if they were under the action of a galvanic battery, without any effort on the patient's part, and with little or no motion of the shoulder, hand, or elbow; in fact the muscles

\* Dr. Elliotson, in his long article on mesmerism, common sleep, dreaming, sleep-waking, &c., in his *Human Physiology*, says, "I observe that the remedies always depend upon the country and the period,—that, in Paris, leeches to the anus and vulva, ptisans, baths of Barèges, and extract of nux vomica if the person has heard of Dr. Fouquier's treatment of paralysis, gummed water and gummed lemonade, diet drinks of borage, and M. Dupuytren's remedy of mercurialized milk procured by milking a goat previously rubbed with mercurial ointment, are ordered: and suppose that calomel, sulphate of magnesia, porter, and port wine would be called for in England; and that neither quinine for ague, nor iodine for bronchocele, were ever commanded before Pelletan and Dr. Coindet had made known their virtues." p. 662.—*Zoist*.

working without any movement in the position of the arm. When he was asleep I could make him come to me or go from me, stand up or sit down, by the will alone. The attractive power of the will over him was extraordinary. In the experiments I made upon him, I never found that he had any idea of what I willed him to do, or inclination to perform it. He very frequently denied that the muscles of the arm were moving until he saw them himself, and said that he had no wish either to get up or sit down, to come to me or go from me, but that he felt something drawing him which he could not resist. I never could discover that there was any difference in the results, whether I exercised the will or the passes upon him. He seemed equally affected by either, and always said that he had a sensation of great warmth.

A gentleman who was suffering from the asthma, and used to be speedily affected by mesmerism, though rarely going into an unconscious state, was, when his eyes were closed, relieved quite as readily by the operator fixing his attention on the chest as by passes. He used to say that the warmth he felt was very extraordinary, and the relief from spasm was almost instantaneous. In numerous experiments we thought that the effects produced by the will only were more powerful than those by the passes.

A woman at Fingall, in Yorkshire, suffering from tumors under the arms, swelling of the joints, hectic fever, profuse perspirations, and decided consumptive symptoms, a friend of mine asked me to visit, in the hope that she might derive temporary relief and sleep, which had long been denied her. I did so. I found her a most sensitive subject. A few passes sent her to sleep, though she was moaning as in great pain and scarcely seemed to notice what I was doing. After sleeping a few minutes her face became composed, and she shewed no symptoms of pain; but, as I could not get her to speak in her sleep, I awakened her. She looked very much surprised, and said that she felt quite comfortable and free from pain. I told my friend that she was so sensitive that I thought she might be put to sleep by the will in a few minutes. The bed curtains were drawn, so that she could not see or know what was going on. I fixed my attention upon her, willing her to sleep; when we looked at her two minutes afterwards, she was fast asleep. It was agreed that the following day, though I should be thirty miles off, the experiment should be tried again. A lady went at the time fixed upon. I purposely postponed the time half an hour, thinking that the woman might become acquainted with my intention and go to sleep through the power of her imagination. The lady's account was, that she called upon the woman at the time

agreed upon, and at first thought that the experiment was going to fail, as she saw no symptoms of sleep: but that in half an hour the patient went into a deep sleep, which lasted some time. After this she went to sleep every day for a fortnight at the same time, though I did not will her to sleep. She says that she felt in a dreamy and happy state for some days after. I have mesmerised her four or five times: the effects were always very lasting, and she is now in tolerable health, and all her old symptoms are gone: yet at the time I first saw her she was thought past recovery. It is eighteen months since I first mesmerised her. I might bring forward many cases similar to these, for it has rarely happened to me of late not to have a patient who could be sent to sleep as readily by the will as by passes; and in some cases the limbs have been made to move and rigidity been produced by will in the same way as by passes. A rat-catcher in this neighbourhood had a terrier which was very sagacious, and almost as sensitive to the will as any human being. If it was sleeping before the fire, and any one fixed his attention upon it, it would immediately awake up, and come to him, or go to some other part of the room, as though annoyed at the disturbance. If it were ranging at some distance, I have seen it stop instantly on its master fixing his attention upon it, and then go to him; on my noticing to the man the sensitiveness of his dog, he said, "Oh dear! he is cunninger than any Christian, for if I looks at him he stops."

I shall only mention one other phenomenon of the will. It is the sensation of light which can frequently be produced by the will upon some sleep-wakers. Many sleep-wakers say they perceive a light emanating from their mesmeriser.\* If the passes are employed, the light appears streaming from his fingers; if the will only, the light is usually observed to proceed most strongly from his head. On some the effect of the will is very singular in producing these phenomena. I have frequently by will produced upon a patient a sense either of darkness or light, as I pleased. Often, when I have been intently watching or willing a patient, he has exclaimed, "What a bright light I see around your head, and how bright and clear I begin to see things!" I have sometimes found that, by looking upon any object, I have illuminated it for the patient, and enabled him to see it though he could distinguish nothing else. This may be attributed in many cases to sympathy of brains, and the patient may see through the medium of the mesmeriser's perceptions: but I have reason to think

\* See Dr. Ashburner, No. XIII., p. 127; XIV., p. 262; XXI., pp. 100, 106, 108; Dr. Elliotson, No. XXIII., p. 225.—*Zoist*.

this is not always the case, for I met with the following very curious instance in a blind girl. She was nearly quite blind from amaurosis; the sight of one eye was entirely gone, and that of the other nearly. She rapidly recovered the sight of the eye which was least affected, but it was by slow degrees that the sight of the other eye (in which she had been blind for two years, I believe) was restored. During the progress of recovery, I frequently had to test the improvement in her sight by presenting differently-sized letters to the eye. I observed one day that she saw some letters distinctly which I had been holding in my hand, whilst she could scarcely see the form of such as I had not touched. I then found that, by putting my finger on some of the letters in a large handbill, she instantly selected those, whilst she could not distinguish the others. I then fixed *my attention only* on a particular letter or word, and she was enabled to see that letter or word. This took place when the girl was awake.

I have witnessed some very curious and similar phenomena produced by Dr. Ashburner's will. By the will he would place a line of fire on any part of the floor pointed out by one of the company. The patient, on being requested to walk across the room, would, on reaching the place where he had willed this line of fire to be, instantly stop, and say that she could not cross the bar of fire. I have seen him also surround the patient by a circle of fire by will, out of which circle she could not move.

The experiments and observations on the will and sympathy that I have now sent you are only a small portion of what I have made and witnessed; but at the same time I think I have said enough to direct the attention of others to this very interesting subject. If any persons doubt these things, and wish to be really satisfied whether my statements are accurate or not, I recommend them to use their own powers, and try experiments which are easily within the reach of all.

If this sympathy and power of the will really exists, there are many who, though the utility of the knowledge of the fact may be questioned by some, will think that every natural truth is worthy of attention and investigation. If it does not exist, is not a fact, as I have stated, I will thank any one who will free me from the hallucination which I at present labour under.

HENRY STAFFORD THOMPSON.

\*\*\* Observations by Mr. Thompson on the silent power of the will may be found in No. XI., p. 319; XIV., p. 262; XIX., p. 253; and by Dr. Ashburner in No. XIX., p. 260.—*Zoist.*

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III. *Notes on the Phenomena of the Will.* By Mr. WILLIAM CATTELL.

“ A melancholy spectacle is presented on the publication of each succeeding number of *The Zoist*; persons grave by years, by position in society, by education, by profession, vieing with one another which shall most outrage common sense. It makes the heart sick to see men who, by courtesy at least, are still deemed to be possessed of reason, guilty of so much folly. By unanswerable evidence, mesmerism has been proved, again and again, to have little other foundation, in all its most striking features, but trickery and delusion. On many occasions Mesmer himself was convicted of imposture. He set the example of that impudent trick which has so often been imitated by his followers, namely, a collusion with parties who pretend to have been cured. There is, in particular, one early memorable instance, in which he miscalculated his power of imposing on the public. It is not surprising that it required some experience to attain the necessary dexterity in this kind of deception. The less hazardous secret of getting people to counterfeit diseases which he might afterwards represent as cured, he did not at first understand. He was, in consequence, foolish enough to choose the case of a girl known to the public of Vienna to be blind, in the expectation that his assertion of a perfect cure, backed by the suborned testimony of the patient, would escape detection, and swell the roll of his dupes. This is the famous case of the Vienna musical girl, Mademoiselle Paradis, who was known to have been blind for a number of years. Apparently with her own consent, she was pronounced by Mesmer to be completely cured; and when a public exhibition was insisted on, he rested the proof of his success on her being able to name different colours presented to her in succession. At first she succeeded; but it being discovered that Mesmer, in the meantime, made private signals to her, she was rescued by her father from her thralldom, found to be as blind as ever, and wholly unable to distinguish colours. Public indignation obliged Mesmer to leave Vienna about 1778. After this he began his career at Paris, where he had the address to persuade a person of some note, namely, Count de Gibelin, a man of letters and a *savant*, that he had been cured of a serious disease, and this gentleman was induced to put forth an appeal to the public on behalf of Mesmer's treatment. Shortly after, however, and while still undergoing a course of magnetism, he was arrested by the fell serjeant, Death, who took the cure into his own hands. An ardent partisan of Mesmer, at Paris, was Monsieur Campan, a gentleman belonging to the court. Being taken ill, he was removed to Mesmer's own house to be cured; and Madame Campan tells us, in her Memoirs, that this time, her husband having symptoms of pleurisy, was secretly bled and blistered by Mesmer, who notwithstanding received a certificate from the patient that he had been cured by magnetism. Madame Campan, on being questioned by their Majesties as to her husband's case, declared Mesmer to be a barefaced quack, adding the proof just mentioned, and henceforth he was discountenanced by the French court. Among the other tricks which Mesmer practised at Paris, was the introduction of accomplices among his patients—perhaps the first ‘thimble-rig’ on record. One of his juggles was to make his patients stand or sit in a circle, sometimes of two or three rows, around a wooden case or bucket (*baquet*) two feet high, in which were contained vessels of magnetised water. It was covered with a perforated lid, and each person in the circle was furnished with a polished iron rod, alternately long and short, which could be passed through one of the apertures into the bucket, while the other end was to be directed towards the supposed seat of the disease with which the patient was affected. There was also a cord, which seems to have been differently arranged at different times; sometimes being attached to the extremity of the rod next the bucket and coiled about the affected part of the body, at other times being made to pass round the whole circle of patients, encircling once or oftener the person of each; sometimes the



whole company also joined hands. At first a mysterious silence reigned in the Hall, and the light was feeble; then, from time to time, from an adjacent chamber arose solemn sounds of music, vocal and instrumental—sudden changes being made on their character. Sighs and suppressed groans began to prevail; the patients often felt oppressed and parched with thirst, to allay which they were supplied with copious draughts of what is called Imperial, namely, cream of tartar water. After a time an excitement arose; the patients sought to embrace each other; rapid involuntary motions of the extremities and trunk occurred; hic-cough, starting, immoderate laughter, piercing cries, wildness of the eyes, were often added; and then followed languor, reverie, dejection, and drowsiness. At the beginning Mesmer did not appear; but he had secret confederates in the circle who directed and encouraged the necessary degree of excitement among the unfortunate dupes. When he did appear, it was in an imposing robe, and holding in his hand a rod, which he waved to and fro, while he frequently condescended to apply his hands to various parts of the person in particular patients, or else played with his fingers on the forehead or on the neck, at the same time that he fixed a steady gaze on the patient, who, by whatever cause, had earned his attention for the moment.

“ I will not say, ‘ *ex uno disce omnes,*’ because it is very certain that many partisans of mesmerism are sincere and conscientious believers in its powers, being themselves dupes; still more common probably it is, that, having first suffered themselves to be deceived, they become enthusiastically desirous to seduce others to the same idolatry. I do however affirm, that Mesmer was, beyond all doubt, an adventurer, who, like many other unprincipled men before and since his time, had no higher motive of action than the desire to render the easy credulity of a certain proportion of mankind the means of his own aggrandisement. With this settled purpose in his mind, he did not so much invent a system, as he ransacked the mystical writers who preceded him, to extract from them whatever might most forward his design. Whoever is acquainted with the writings of Paracelsus, Van Helmont, Wirdi, Maxwell, Kircher, and Santenelli, as well as with the several publications of Mesmer himself, must acknowledge how much he is indebted to such authorities for the ideas which he propagated.

“ It is true that mesmerism, as it exists at present, differs considerably from mesmerism in the hands of Mesmer himself and his immediate followers, in the last century. I say in the last century, because, though Mesmer lived to the year 1815, he and his system fell into complete obscurity after the French Revolution broke out. The country of his refuge seems to have been Switzerland. Different, however, as are the views and practices of the present day, as compared with those of Mesmer and his immediate followers, it is not too much to assume, that the Mesmerists of our time—for example, of *The Zoist*—think ‘ that he produced real effects, though he was ignorant of the cause.’ These are the words of Mesmer himself,—the words he employed in speaking of his predecessor, the Curé Gassner, a parish priest, near Coire, in Switzerland. Gassner, just before Mesmer rose to fame, created a sensation in Switzerland and Germany, by the reputation which he acquired for the cure of diseases of the same character as those in which mesmerists chiefly boast their success. Gassner held, that human diseases in general result from the agency of the devil; and his method of cure consisted in a species of exorcism, in which, by the appalling use of the name of Christ, he threw his patients into violent convulsions, and produced other effects on weak people, not unlike those with which mesmerists are familiar. The bishop of his diocese dismissed him in the early part of his career, as employing exorcisms not sanctioned by the rules of the Popish Church; but, having attracted the attention and favour of some of the Bishop-Princes of Germany, he was restored to his parish. It was in consequence of the sensation produced by Gassner’s alleged success, that the illustrious De Haen, then the Imperial Physician at Vienna, was led to publish his Inquiry into diseases said to be the result of ‘ possession.’ But to return to the mesmerism of our times; it should never be forgotten that a system, the beginnings of which were raised with the unclean hands of fraud and deception, can hardly remain free in its superstructure from the taint of the like disgraceful

instruments. If the same amount of deliberate imposture cannot be brought home to the mesmerists of our time, it is not owing to there being a greater allowance of truth in their system, but because self-deception exists among the professors to a greater extent, and probably because the dupes being the very *élite* of human weakness, yield their belief without the trouble of much lying.

“ ‘ How long, ye simple ones, will ye love simplicity !’

“ This subject will be continued next week.—7, Nottingham-place, Regent’s-park.”—*Medical Times*, April 13, 1850.

It is not my intention to advance any opinions on the abstract nature of volition ; but simply to view its relation with mesmerism as a power seen only in certain effects, some of which it is my present purpose to relate. When first made acquainted with this agency by reading the experiments of Dupotet at the Hotel Dieu in Paris, that the report of a private case by a friend tended to confirm, I resolved to avail myself of the first opportunity to try the effect of my own will. This soon presented itself in the person of Arthur P., whom I had mesmerised but once previously, and failed to pass into the sleep. When he left me after a second failure, I commenced willing by intensely thinking of him for a few minutes, by which time I concluded he would have arrived at home. When I saw him at eleven o’clock next morning, he appeared very drowsy ; and complained of headache and stupor, unlike anything he had ever experienced before ; the former was soon removed by breathing, and, after being awakened in mesmeric form, he felt quite well and comfortable again, though for some time he had a horror of being mesmerised. His relation of what occurred after leaving me on the previous evening was exceedingly ludicrous. The weather being cold, he attempted to run ; but his running soon subsided into a walk, for there came over him a tremor which he could not control, accompanied by a dread both of falling down and having his jaw locked. As the agitation increased he became frightened, and thought of returning, but was fearful of the stupor overcoming him by the way. On arriving home, being unable either to sit quietly or eat any supper, he was accused of inebriation or some terrible fright, and in this state then retired to rest, sleeping soundly till late in the morning—a period of almost twelve hours, when he was with difficulty aroused. This case fully convinced me that the silent will could exert an influence over persons even in the waking state, under certain conditions ; for, though this Subject has never slept or shewn much susceptibility to my manipulations, yet, when the will alone was concentrated upon him immediately after the demesmerising process and whilst walking home, he was conscious of my endeavouring to throw

him into the sleep, and felt the same sensations as the passes had before induced, but in a greater degree, so that he had great difficulty in resisting the stupor which was creeping over him and wished to return and have it removed, yet dared not through fear of falling asleep on his way. The space through which the will here acted was inconsiderable. That it can produce effects at great distances is now an established fact, but what the boundaries are at which its palpable action ceases—though these must exist—will for some time remain uncertain, since they would vary with both the operator and subject. Frequently when Master Tims was in the room have I impressed him to come to me by silently willing, when he did not suspect it; or thrown him into sleep-waking though busily employed. However, if he had any suspicion, his own will was usually sufficiently powerful to resist me with success.

The following case is the only one where an opportunity has presented itself of using the independent will on a more extensive scale. A young lady, the sister of a surgeon, had long been the subject of rheumatism, and was compelled to keep her right hand constantly covered in consequence of the fingers being so swollen that she was unable to use it, and the forefinger was rigid. I mesmerised her nine times, and the last time she became sleep-waking: the use of the hand was restored and her general health improved, and she returned into the country to her residence, *about ninety-five miles from London*, promising, at my request, to compose herself upon the sofa for the next few evenings at seven o'clock, when I would endeavour to mesmerise her. A week afterwards, her brother informed me that *my patient had regularly obeyed these instructions, without feeling the slightest effect: and, in fact, I had hitherto been unable to keep my engagement.* One evening—a fortnight having elapsed—it was suggested that I should attempt to mesmerise my absent subject, as she could now have no intimation of my design; and, it being then seven o'clock, I willed her intensely for ten minutes. Two days afterwards her brother shewed me a note written by her late on that same night, saying, "I felt Mr. Cattell mesmerising me this evening: I was writing to London, but was obliged to put down my pen, and then asked if it were seven o'clock; they told me it was a quarter past, so I went to lie down, but did not sleep, though my head was very hot and painful."\* This case was thus rendered accidentally very conclusive; for, when the lady prepared herself night after night

\* See Mr. Thompson's effect upon Miss Collins in Fludyer-street, Westminster, while he was at Nerot's Hotel in Clifford-street, No. XII., p. 477.—*Zoist*.

at the same hour in expectation of being sent to sleep, as the result of an operation which she believed I was at that moment performing in London, there was no effect; yet when, some time afterwards, imagination being precluded and the mind engaged in correspondence, I did operate by directing the will upon her, a visible effect which made her conscious of being mesmerised was the result.

Latterly my attention has been directed to series of what I once termed peculiarities, which accompany my dreaming state. It is always associated with the consciousness of being in a state of existence differing from the normal one, and which I can withdraw myself from and exchange for some other similarly dreaming state by a simple energetic act of volition, usually signified by apparent self-destruction, such as throwing myself from a precipice, into a well, &c., &c., which acts are also deprived of their disagreeable and painful sensations by a benumbing influence of will. If the dream be very vivid and obscure the consciousness, this is restored in any emergency or danger; and, when nightmare has raised me in the air and I am falling, the will deprives the contact with the earth of any sensibility to pain. Again, if before falling asleep the mind be earnestly directed upon certain circumstances or a particular train of thought, my dream, if any, will usually correspond with and be moulded upon these; so that the will here forms the dream. It is not unusual for a person who wishes to awake at a certain hour, to fall asleep with that desire existing in his thought,\* and I know two or three who signify this volition by marking the intended time upon their pillows, and the expected result almost invariably follows. This power of volition is seen where—especially with women and children—some rare event is about to occur on the morrow long before their accustomed hour of waking, but which they have a strong desire to witness. Who does not remember that when a child he, on such a morrow, surprised himself and falsified the predictions of his nurse, by waking in time?—because as he fell asleep the desire was uppermost in his mind. There is an evident similarity between these cases and the obedience of a subject in his normal state to commands received in sleep-waking.† In both there exists in the brain an idea or command of which the individual, through a different state being superinduced, is for a specified time unconscious, and which comes forward and imperatively directs him at a certain moment prefixed. The following cases

\* See Dr. Elliotson, No. XXII., p. 223.—*Zoist*.

† See Dr. Elliotson, No. XI., pp. 361—379; XXII., pp. 222—224.—*Zoist*.

are selected from many others in my possession, as illustrative of this power of sleep-waking commands.

Robert B., æt. 19, being in sleep-waking, I desired him to come at half-past one (exactly an hour after) and ask a particular question which was specified to him at the time, first of myself and immediately afterwards of a Mr. C. whom I expected would then be present. I awoke him, and, as usual, he replied to my enquiries that he did not recollect anything which had occurred in sleep-waking. I noted the time exactly, and about two minutes before the half-hour Robert came and entered into conversation with me, saying he had a desire at that moment to do so. As I recollected the command, a smile crossed my countenance, which he remarked, and he asked, "What are you ——." There was a momentary pause, after which he put the question I had specified; but I failed in detecting any change in his countenance, and, looking immediately, found the minute hand exactly upon the half-hour. Meanwhile Robert went to that part of the room where my friend Mr. C. had been lately sitting, and, expressing regret at his absence, *presently entirely forgot the circumstances, though he always remembered it in sleep-waking.* One morning, about twelve o'clock, I requested little Tims, who was then in sleep-waking, to convey two messages at five minutes past two in the afternoon, and shortly afterwards awoke him. The gentlemen who were to be the recipients of these commissions being warned of the experiment, in order that they should not express any surprise or anger or irritate the subject by a laugh, we quietly awaited the result. As we expected, he delivered the messages at precisely five minutes after two o'clock, but did not await a reply to either or stay for what he requested. He returned, and presently, when charged with his folly in going on so ridiculous an errand, strenuously *denied that he had even moved from his chair for some time previously.* In this case both gentlemen believed the boy to be awake, and noticed no change in him except an appearance of vacancy about the eye, which did not seem to move when he addressed them. In his succeeding sleep-wakings, Tims remembered these missions perfectly, but declined executing any similar errand, because it subjected him to ridicule; so that when at another time he was commanded to come to me at fifteen minutes before three (it being then twelve o'clock), he positively refused. However, as the time approached, our hero became drowsy, and in a few minutes came to me complaining of headache: his head drooped and sleep-waking supervened. He did not again object to similar experiments, stipulating that, if in their execution there was

anything to excite a laugh, it must not be indulged in before him, as he was keenly sensitive to ridicule. With great readiness, therefore, he promised to request the presence of my friend, Mr. Douglas, after the expiration of three hours and three quarters from the time of his waking, as that gentleman would probably be in an adjoining room at that hour, though it was necessary, he said, for him to be told *the precise moment*, which I accordingly named. On this occasion I confidently expected the performance of the promise, and was therefore not surprised when at *the appointed minute* Tims entered the next room, and, finding Mr. Douglas still absent, requested he might be informed that I wanted him *the instant* he arrived. When shortly afterwards Mr. Douglas, having received the message, came and was confronted with Tims, the latter earnestly denied that he had left the room, and thought it exceedingly strange that we had a second time combined to make him doubt the evidence of his senses! In this case, I had taken the precaution to occupy him, so that he was busily engaged when the expected moment arrived; but this in no way interrupted the execution of the command.

In order still further to test these half-waking phenomena, I one day desired a sleep-waker to deliver three messages at a distance, and arranged that several persons should meet and speak to him on the way; while I placed myself so as to obstruct him as he returned. He did not heed or seem to hear them speak, but passed quickly and rapidly by, apparently awake, his eyes being fixed, and looking straight before him with a vacant gaze, as though he were absorbed in urgent business. As he approached I addressed him, and, suddenly arousing himself as if from a reverie, he could not comprehend how he came there, except I had willed him to sleep and just awakened him. It was remarkable, in all these experiments, that the sleep-wakers invariably, upon receiving the answers to their messages, replied, "Very well," but did not deliver them to me, though it is true that this was never specified in the command. All the patients in sleep-waking remembered these occurrences, and agreed that on such occasions they were somnambulant, though any command which had for its object the special induction of this state at a certain time invariably failed, and caused intense and peculiar headache which only my breathing on the head removed. I once expressed to the last subject in a succeeding sleep-waking my wish that he should remember the above journey in his normal state, an event which occurred very much to his surprise. Such phenomena are occasionally met with in disease, especially if a blow have been received upon the brain, as Abercrombie and

others have beautifully illustrated, and an instance occurred many years ago in my own person.\* Whilst I was running one afternoon with a companion, my foot caught in a tuft of grass and I fell, striking the back of my head, though without feeling pain at the time. We continued our walk home, a distance of more than a mile, through fields in which there were fences to climb; but, after passing through a postern door, not many yards from the place of my fall, my memory forsook me, and I remained in this state of want of recollection till we had finished supper, which it seems I had been heartily enjoying. The circumstance so alarmed me at the time that I feared to mention it; and next morning, observing with surprise that a dead crow was hanging on one of the cherry-trees, I asked who had placed it there, and was told I had done so myself, having brought it with me last evening, and related that after a long race I had overtaken and killed it. The circumstances which occurred between passing through the postern door and sitting at supper remained an oblivious blank for some years, though I was conscious that so much time had elapsed of which my memory could recall nothing; till one day, as I was wondering over the anecdote of my race with the crow, both each circumstance which they told me and several others gradually seemed to identify themselves with my memory, so that it really became more strange that I ever forgot them.†

There are many beautiful effects in mesmerism which may be produced by the silent will. I have often suddenly suspended and as quickly restored the hearing and speech of a sleep-waker; either isolating him completely, or only in reference to a certain person. In like manner the patient would be unable to lift a chair, or book, or even the hat on his head, until the previous act of volition were repealed. I used sometimes to awaken my sleep-wakers by the silent will, or by command. One of these however told me in sleep-waking that the influence was not in this way so perfectly removed as by passes, and he felt stiff and uncomfortable afterwards. The effect of pure water upon patients, that has been subjected to an impression of the will and presented as some other substance, is too notorious to require more than a passing notice. The numerous examples which have from time to time appeared in *The Zoist*, together with the beautiful experiments so often shewn by Dr. Ashburner, require no confirmation, and fully prove that the will can so powerfully act upon

\* See Dr. Elliotson, No. XII., p. 476.—*Zoist*.

† When persons have forgotten events or acquirements after a blow or disease, the whole has often at length returned to the memory.—*Zoist*.

the sleep-waker as to produce in him all the ordinary effects of a similar draught of whatever the water represents. And, further, by a sleep-waking command, he will also take water for wine, milk for coffee, or be deceived as to the individuality of any person or object according to the will of the operator. These facts have been brought forward in a recent work,\* as suggestive that lycanthropy,—that monstrous effort of mediæval magic and record of ancient superstition and mythology,—may have had its origin and chief support in this power of the human will, in certain organizations, to change the personality of the magician or witch and so deceive the spectator's senses, as these would swear they had witnessed the transformation of a fellow-creature into the dreaded shape of a cat or wolf. I have many times been present when a susceptible subject has been unable to identify her mesmeriser, who she supposes has left her with some other person; and, whenever this occurred, he acknowledged that he was thinking of the individual with whom his identity was for the moment exchanged. A frequent immediate cause of this phenomenon was the absence of a ring which the operator almost always wore; and, on this being replaced, the mistake in his identity would not be discovered by the sleep-waker, who on the contrary believed that the imaginary individual had gone away. As regards lycanthropy, the stories of it as handed down to us are by no means to be received either as credible or unvarnished; else why reject the more modern freaks of certain mysterious inhabitants of haunted houses, where the keenest vigilance has failed in detecting human agency or trick? However, the records we possess of the existence of a belief so astounding, while they fail in carrying conviction to the mind, still leave upon us a strong impression that it did not strengthen or flourish for ages upon imposture, though much of this may have been reported as truth. *Ex nihilo nil fit*, said the Latin proverb, and no great or widely extended belief ever existed which was not partially true and founded upon truth; and it were far more credulous to acknowledge the wide-spread imposture which could hold its terrors alike over Europe and Asia, America and the Indies, and intimately interweave itself with the myths of ancient Greece and Rome, than accept it as an exaggerated and ignorant account of certain operations of the human will or some similar agency. As there was ignorance of the nature and object of wonders, as well as of a great many natural laws by which they may be produced, the question of their credibility resolves

\* *Night Side of Nature*, vol. ii., p. 7.



itself into little more than a question as to the credibility of the witnesses. A man may appear ridiculous if he expresses his belief in any story of this sort; and yet, to say that all such wonders are false, would be an extravagant boldness of assertion. The accounts of wonders, then, from Livy's prodigies downwards, *I should receive*, according to Herodotus's expression when speaking of one of them *οὔτε ἀπιστέων, οὔτε πιστέων τι λίαν*: sometimes considering of what fact they were an *exaggerated or corrupted representation*, at other times trying to remember *whether any and how many other notices occur of the same thing*, and whether they are of force enough to lead us to search for some law, hitherto undiscovered, to which they may all be referred, and become hereafter the foundation of a new science.\* It is probable that these wonders of lycanthropy and mediæval magic were liable to be witnessed more readily and frequently then, than could ever be again; the ages in which they flourished were those of ignorance and impressibility, and so unsusceptible are the present generation to sudden mesmeric effects that we are led to infer some psychological change in the race. We know that when a state has once been induced in the organism, the latter is liable at any time to enter into it again by the exciting influences of association or imagination,—a word of many meanings and comprehending various phases of mind. Fear predisposes us to the reception of external impressions: as also wonder, the excitement of novelty, and expectancy of something strange and powerful, whose cause is moreover invisible. These all operate from without, and act with increased energy as habit and temperament shew a preponderance of the nervous system. Hence few among the possessors of witchcraft were males; and their victims were most of them women. The more educated and powerful mind of the man led him to the higher aspirations of alchemy and the dawning sciences; while women were left to their household duties, with much time and but scanty food for reflection or mental exercise beyond the reception and transmission of fables, anecdotes, and occasionally exaggerated accounts of passing great events. Knowledge was local and traditional, books scarce, or, if known, sealed to the mass of the people. The ignorance of mistaken but fervent adoration invested natural laws with the importance of immediate emanations from the Deity or a demon; tales of wonder were credulously sought after, dreaded, and as extensively circulated, forming the current conversation of the age. How then can we wonder that

\* Arnold's *Lectures*, p. 129. The whole of these lectures are well worthy of perusal, and their lamented author was deeply interested in mesmerism.

the nervous excitability of woman, aided by her pure and cherished faith, itself attested by numerous miracles and relics, should fall a victim to the spiteful and energetic will. The Witch of Endor, Roman Venefica, and all the Pythiæ, were female; and Tacitus records of the Gothic women and other tribes in the north, the Druidesses, &c., that they were the great instruments of such arts in his day. In Europe all the decrees were directed against women, who were not permitted to be present at the coronation of Richard Cœur de Lion. The witchcraft of Thessaly, and indeed of all Greece, was attributed to women, and this same belief in the feminality of the art existed among the negroes of Africa, the Scands of the North, and the North American Indians.

From a belief in the power, the transition was easy to the exercise of the art; and many were doubtless taught that the power resided in them. Thus Elizabeth Savage complains:

“Some call me witch,  
 And being ignorant of myself, they go  
 About to teach me how to be one; urging  
 That my bad tongue (by their foul usage made so)  
 Forespeaks their cattle, doth bewitch their corn,  
 Themselves, their servants, and their babes at nurse.  
 This they enforce upon me, and *in part*  
 Make me to credit it.”—*Witch of Edmonton*, Act ii., Scene i.

This faith in the powers of a reputed witch, while it increased her confidence, induced in the believer that state of susceptibility on which she may readily work.

Probably many recorded transformations were the result of cerebral disease; we find in modern times persons who will assert that they are always accompanied by some animal, as a dog, and even by a human being.

There is a work on Incantations, ascribed doubtfully to Galen, in which the author, alluding to the then prevalent system of therapeutics, says, “When a man’s mind is pre-convinced of the healing power of magical ceremonies over his disease, their application will cure him.” Magic and physic were then handmaidens; the priest or seer was a physician; and Galen tells us that for the use of herbs, their formularies, introduced originally from Egypt, were magical, thus connecting them with a country whose priesthood were mesmerists and used therapeutic clairvoyance in the subterranean chambers of the temples of their brilliantly illumined Isis. The further we penetrate their history and push our research, the more this truth becomes confirmed; and the figures in their hieroglyphical paintings, like many ancient Indian statues, are in mesmeric postures; the three first fingers are extended, and the others bent under the hand or

broken off; and the Isiac table, which Champollion thinks was executed in the reign of Hadrian, presents a group in mesmeric attitudes. Among the Nadvessis and Chippeways, and even now among the Osages, the offices of priest, magician, and physician are inseparable; in Mexico the physicians were also priests, and the Pegoodinavian virgins were simultaneously instructed in magic, physic, and surgery, and were also therapeutic clairvoyantes. In the *Ile des Saintes* were formerly magicians, who were healers of the incurable, according to the fashionable authority of the day, and they combined other arts, whence we may infer that clairvoyance was not unknown among them. (*Pomp. Mela*, vol. iii., chap. vi.)

One rather curious method of magical therapeutics, intimately connected with our subject, was the healing of diseases by the sound of musical instruments. Thus Democritus says that this power of the flute and the trumpet was used by Asclepiades to cure sciatica; he affirmed that its continued sound made *the nervous fibres palpitate and the pain vanish*, thus recognising also the immense controlling power which resides in the nervous system. This method seems closely connected with the traditionary stories of Orpheus, the musician and charmer, soothsayer, and it would appear physician also, since it is recorded that he made many discoveries in medicine.\* (*Pliny*, N.H. xxv. 2.) He is considered as the founder of the Grecian mysteries, whose import is supposed to have been explained in the ancient Orphic poems. He moreover received his mystical knowledge from the Dactyli (fingers = finger-men possibly = hand-men) of Mount Ida, so celebrated as magicians and such skilful physicians, that their name became synonymous with that of healers; these were thought to be connected with the Corybantes, or priests of Cybele, who, like the modern Turkish dervishes, induced sleep-waking delirium by frantic gestures, and the beating of cymbals and drums, &c. So vast was the application of this magic,—comprehending charms and ceremonies appealing to the cerebral power over the frame, clairvoyance, mesmeric manipulations, the frictions, and gentle touchings or stroking of the diseased,—that almost the whole art of therapeutics was composed of its formularies. The charms have some of them descended down to figure as curiosities in our museums, with the wonderful crystal of Kelly; they consist variously of artificial substances, as scraps of writing, rough unpolished stones, *amber* (of electrical notoriety), jasper, agate, &c., or wrought into beetles and reptiles, into eyes, fingers, &c., and

\* Among the works ascribed to him are *Ἱεροὶ λόγοι* (sacred legends), *τελεταὶ* (mysteries), *χρησμοὶ* (predictions), and a book on the magical properties of stones.

quadrupeds. There can be no doubt that in the selection of stones for rings and other ornaments the ancients were chiefly guided by a reference to their magical virtues as amulets. The ring, indeed, has often been noticed in connexion with mesmerism. Above I have related a case of loss of individuality restored by one which the operator was accustomed to wear; and, in a former number of *The Zoist*, I mentioned the use of it in cross-mesmerism.\* In ancient history we find it reported of Prometheus, the purloiner of divinity and intelligence from the gods,—who taught mankind the properties of medicinal herbs, the method of divination by sacrifices, as it was called, *ιερομαντεία*, and the taming of animals, (a physician and mesmerist,)—wore a ring set with a stone.† Among many others equally celebrated, was that of Charicleia, the ring which Gyges found on the giant's finger in the earth, by the powers of which he rendered himself invisible at pleasure; and the iron one of Eucrates, mentioned by Lucian.‡ Whilst upon this subject of rings, I will relate the extraordinary effects of an emerald which a clairvoyante elected in sleep-waking. The lady had for years been subject to morning nausea and headache; and, though mesmerism had relieved, it had not cured these distressing symptoms. One afternoon, about twelve months ago, she foresaw a serious illness which she should shortly suffer, and, so far as her present knowledge extended, there appeared no hope of recovery. About six o'clock that same evening, being again sleep-waking, she was earnestly requested by us to look for more certain information which might enable us to prevent or palliate this approaching malady. She for some time positively declined, became very dejected and melancholy, and told us that death had no terrors for her; but, after a while, becoming more cheerful, she said that if it were possible to obtain an emerald ring which, when presented to her in the sleep-waking state, would induce coma, three months' illness might be prevented and her life saved! In her expressive language, "Death was at that moment standing behind her chair!" At our request, she then mentally visited several jewellers' shops, in succession, and was again becoming low-spirited and fatigued, when fortunately she discovered such a ring in a jeweller's window in Oxford-street. From this place we accordingly procured several emeralds, that she might elect the proper one. By her express directions the magnetizer and myself joined our right hands; and each ring, being taken separately, was placed so as to rest *on both hands*, and thus presented. Neither the

\* *Zoist*, No. XXVII., p. 229. † *Zoist*, No. XIX., p. 278.

‡ *Philops.* xvii.

first nor second produced any effect; and our anxiety was not a little relieved, when, on presenting another, the sleep-waker fell back in a deep sleep. This same result followed three times in succession; but the other rings induced no effect at all. *This ring, she joyfully told us, would be the means of saving her life.* It was a fine emerald, of a pale hue, and she directed that it should be placed on her finger *daily at noon precisely*,—if possible a minute before, *but on no account later*; at night it must be mesmerised and laid under her pillow, and during her sleep-waking every evening removed, but replaced before her mesmerist attempted to awaken her. However, notwithstanding all our care, she was one night awakened before the emerald had been put on her finger again, and there resulted a continuous sick headache, which lasted the three following days. At another time we removed it after the first awakening pass was made, and her body instantly became rigid,—in this case an extraordinary and very rare state, which her mesmerist had not the power to induce. One night the magic emerald was not placed beneath her pillow, and the following morning it was forgotten till three minutes after twelve. On the two succeeding evenings, in sleep-waking, her usually brilliant clairvoyance was in abeyance,—“all was dark, and a black veil obscured her vision.” When these two days and their darkness were over, she directed that, after the expiration of ten days from the first application of her emerald,—a period she had named from the beginning, it must be mesmerised across each way, and still worn daily after twelve o’clock, though there was no longer a necessity for her mesmerist himself to place it on her finger, or that the time should be so exact, since all danger had now disappeared. During her sleep every evening she had elected the presence of two intimate friends, who with her mesmerist would form the mystic three,—a number just now essential to her recovery. Of these three I constituted one, and, though she neither saw, nor was otherwise conscious of, our presence, and spoke of us as absent, this sleep could not be induced in the absence of one of us; since, when only two were present, she saw and heard them both, but, on the entrance of the third, coma ensued, and she awoke unconscious that any one but her mesmerist was near. One evening I chanced to leave the room for a few minutes immediately that she fell asleep, and it was found that the ring could not be removed, for when force was applied her fingers closed together, became rigid, and swelled above and under the emerald, which *was rather too large* and loose, so that she had complained of being fearful of losing it. No sooner, however, did

I enter the room, and *the mystic number thus become complete*, than the rigidity and swelling instantly disappeared, and the ring was easily drawn off. The effects of this talismanic emerald would appear to be marked and beneficial, since, under its application, not only was the three months' dangerous illness prevented and her life saved, but there entirely disappeared those distressing symptoms—morning headache and nausea—which had afflicted her for many years, notwithstanding the steady and continued use of mesmerism. Her general health has since been better than she had experienced for a period of thirteen years, so that I trust her malady has been effectually removed. In another case a ring had great power, for, when the mesmerist had occasion to leave his patient sleeping for a short time, she requested that he would give her his ring, which accordingly she wore; and on his return declared that so long as it remained on her finger *she should continue asleep!*

The majority of charms were used by the ancients negatively as prophylactics against the evil eye\* (*οφθαλμος βασκανος*), whose reputed powers of fascination were, if possible, more terrifying than in Italy and Hindostan at the present day. With this intent, a Roman suspended the phallas or fascinum, and probably also the bulla, from the neck of his child, and placed it in his garden as a symbol of the fertility of nature; while Pisistratus, the Grecian, in front of the Acropolis, erected the figure of a grasshopper. Fascinus, in obedience to the prevalent custom among all nations of propitiating that which they dreaded, became a deity, and was worshipped by the vestals with the Roman sacra. Children and cattle were, and still are in the East, most liable to the impress of this dreadful influence. Hence the Mantuan poet,

“Nescio quid teneros oculis mihi fascinat agnos.”—*Virgil*, *Ecl.* iii., 103.

And Ovid† relates of the Telchins (*Τελχειν*, to soothe with magical influence), that their gaze was poisonous. These Telchins were also capable of transformations, and exercised other magical arts. The origin of their name is well shewn in these lines of the *Iliad*,

Εἶλετο δὲ ῥάβδον, τῆ τ' ἀνδρῶν ὄμματα δέλγει,  
ὧν ἐδέλει, τὸς δ' αὐτε καὶ ὑπνῶντας ἐγείρει  
τὴν μετὰ χερσίν ἔχων πέτετο κρατὺς Ἀργειφόντης.”

*Iliad*, xxiv., 343.

“And he (Hermes) wields his caduceus, and with it seals the eyes of men in sleep; and of those who are sleeping, re-

\* See *Zoist*, No. XI., p. 308.

† *Metamorphoses*, vii., 365.

awakens whom he pleases; and, carrying this wand in his hand, powerful Hermes flies away." The magic wand here introduced was a frequent instrument, as in this case, in the mystic operations of antiquity: the renowned enchantress and magician Circe employed one in her transformations: the blind Tiresias received the gift of foreknowledge, and with it a staff which conducted him as safely as though his natural vision had not been destroyed, from Minerva, who herself is represented with a wand, (*Odys.* xvi., 172.)

According to John of Salisbury, Mercurius or Hermes Trismegistus, an early Egyptian magician, discovered the art of fascinating the eyes of men, so as either to render persons invisible, or cause them to *appear as beings* of a different species.\* This Hermes was chief adviser of Isis during the benevolent expedition of Osiris to all parts of the earth, and was therefore contemporary with the Exodus. Hence he has been named as one of those magi who performed before Moses. Among his attributed works are *Asclepius*, a dialogue between Hermes and this grandson of Æsculapius, an astrological production on disease; and one called *Curanides*, treating of the medicinal virtues of plants, animals, and precious stones. The historian Manetho chiefly drew upon the writings of this Hermes, who became in time a deity, and was worshipped as Thoth; and Manetho states that all the Egyptian gods had once been mortal. His connexion with medicine is another instance of the intimate association of divinity, magic, and physic, among the ancient nations.

There is a legend which attributes to the great Pythagoras powers of fascination similar to those of Orpheus, so that he thus preserved himself from the most dangerous animals, (*Iamblic. Vita*, cap. xiv. and xviii.) Among the negroes of Dutch Guyana are female diviners who fascinate the papa; and the jugglers of Cairo make their asp (*vipera naje*) rigid like a rod, and restore it to animation by throwing it upon the ground,—thus explaining the tricks of the ancient Egyptian magi.† In Italy, during the 16th century, men claiming descent from St. Paul braved the bites of serpents; and the frequent accidents which happen to spectators of the Indian charmer, together with the multitude of deaths which followed the attack of those snakes set at liberty in the Roman circus, by command of Heliogabalus, after the Marsii had fascinated them, fully prove that some powerful influence was exerted over these venomous reptiles, capable of controlling their destructive propensities, which, however, were not, as

\* *Polycraticon*, i., chap. 9.

† *Exodus* vii.

has been asserted, eradicated, but could again be used so soon as they were released from the influence of the magician. Hasselquist, Bruce, Lemprière, and many others, have borne witness to the exercise of this power in Africa, Asia, and South America. Altogether this connexion of the snake with fascination seems remarkable. For Æsculapius held a rod entwined with serpents: the form of one of these reptiles was figuratively and medicinally erected in the wilderness: it was this which betrayed our first parent into a knowledge of good and evil. The wand of Circe who presided over magic, as also that of many other magicians, is represented entwined with serpents, who were sacred to the god of medicine, and of clairvoyance, and prophecy.

That mesmerism powerfully affects animals has been proved by many operators.\* I have heard the case of a youth who, though ignorant of mesmerism, felt that there resided in his gaze a power of calming enraged animals. My informant once witnessed this effect upon a large dog, which, through mistake or neglect, was unchained: the youth advanced steadily towards it, and the dreaded animal, cowering beneath his powerful gaze, came forward and licked his hand, in token that for the first time it had really met its master. The dog continued fawning and obedient so long as this youth was near, or fixed his eye upon it. According to Lindencrantz, the Laplanders exercise a similar power over their dogs. A young nobleman recently induced sleep in a cat; and the renowned feats of the Irish whisperer and many other horse-breakers, together with the control maintained by Van Amburgh, &c., over the fiercest beasts in their collection (which they always keep before them under their eye), are all illustrative of the immense power vested in man over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth! An interesting account has lately appeared of an enraged bear that was subdued to sleep by mesmerism before some members of the British Association at Oxford.† I was once enabled to fascinate a young sparrow by intently gazing upon it for a few minutes. Until our eyes met, no effect seemed produced; afterwards its eyes rolled to and fro, and became finally dull and fixed opposite mine: but from this position it could not be moved by noise, intimidation, or enticement; and was so completely paralysed that not even a tremor was observable,—it appeared stiff in death. In this way the little creature was fixed upon

\* See Dr. John Wilson's *Trials of Animal Magnetism on the Brute Creation*. London. 1839.

† Chambers's *Edinburgh Journal*, Oct. 27, 1849.



the perch and wires of its cage, the swinging of which rapidly about did not make it tremble. Being placed on the table and held till our eyes met, it became rigid as before, until released by being breathed upon, when it flew away through the opened window.

Witches not unfrequently employed some physical *embodiment* of their will, to increase its effect by sustaining the requisite confidence: hence waxen images of the victim were pricked, tortured, or melted, according to the intentions of the operators. They are undoubtedly not a modern innovation; Theocritus mentions them (*Idyl.* ii. 22), and Ovid:

“Devovet absentes; simulacraque cerea figit,  
Et miserum tennes in jecur urget acus.”—*Heroid.* vi. 91.

Duffus, a traditional king of Scotland, was thus slain; as also Ferdinand Earl of Derby in Elizabeth's reign, though other accounts infer the assistance of poison.\* Sometimes a glove of the victim was obtained and buried in the earth with the wish that it and his liver might simultaneously rot away, and other physical aids to give force to the will were at times invoked. It is related of the Marshal d'Ancre's wife, that she was beheaded as a witch for having enchanted the queen to dote upon her husband, and in her closet was found an image of the young king in virgin wax, with one leg melted away. At her trial, when questioned about the arts she had employed to secure so great an influence, she replied, “That ascendancy only which strong minds gain over weak ones.”† Her explanation is highly truthful, and may be applied to many similar cases, especially where a blinded ignorance invested the slightest pretensions to learning with the dreaded attributes of magic.

The fact of one person being able voluntarily, that is, by the will, to convey his thoughts, and even his image or apparition, to another at a distance, was known in very early times. Here then is the germ of a host of marvellous phenomena and ghost stories;—that an earnest volition can impress a bodily image with the power of reality upon the susceptible mind of a person at a distance. This mostly occurs at the moment of death; but there are a few cases where the same has occurred during life and health.‡ Far from pressing such an explanation to the solution of every occurrence of this

\* Is there any connexion between these images and the waxen Osiris which was given by Isis to every priest in Egypt?

† Seward's *Anecdotes*, vol. iii., p. 215.

‡ *Night Side of Nature*, vol. i., pp. 229—240, 306—317, &c. See a remarkable instance in a friend of Dr. Elliotson, recorded in the last *Zoist* (No. XXIX., p. 70).—*Zoist*.

kind, or to the denial of spiritual re-appearances (comprehending those that occur after death), still I am inclined to believe it affords a satisfactory theory which will include every case where a desire or earnest longing, on the part of a dying person, impressed his thought or image upon an absent friend. There is most satisfactory evidence of such a wish existing, and being expressed by the person seen, at the moment of appearance; in others there is some connecting tie, as of relationship or intimate friendship (constituting a *rapport*), that occupied the mind and directed the thoughts. Among many such personally known to me, are the following similar illustrative cases of this power of the will.

Mr. S. was lying dangerously ill in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, being almost constantly delirious. His children, consisting of Mr. William (my authority), an elder sister, and little brother, were staying with his sister at Highgate. In the evening, at 6 o'clock, candles being lighted and the children playing about, there appeared on the opposite wall, as though steadily projected from a magic lantern, the dim outline of their father, which gradually grew more distinct and the face became vividly luminous. The figure lasted scarcely a minute, but was so distinct that the little boy ran towards it with open arms, crying, "Why, there's father!" All saw it except Miss S., but her brother believes she refused through fear to turn and look towards the wall. The aunt, being what is called superstitious, hastened to the hospital, and, stating the fears she entertained, was allowed admittance. She found her brother delirious, but every expression that had fallen from him during the afternoon related to his children. In a few days he died; and he is remembered as a fond and excellent father. This aunt was one night awakened by hearing her name pronounced in the well-known voice of her bosom friend, Miss M., whom she beheld dressed in her ordinary attire and standing at the bedside. She instantly awoke her husband, who at once recognised the figure, and this immediately vanished. The young lady was lying ill—but not seriously—at an opposite house; and the aunt, impressed that she was required, hastily dressed, and was soon at the bedside. The invalid was much worse, and had been earnestly longing to see her friend, having expressed such a wish about the time her image appeared. She sank rapidly from that night, and died in a few days. At another time the shadow of a relative who resided in a neighbouring town, and whom she believed to be very well, passed through the aunt's room; and, with a similar dread of mishap, she hurried off to his house, and found that he had died at the time of this appear-

ance from the effects of a sudden accident, of which there was not time to inform her, and had thought of her in his last moments. Mr. Allen H., being in London at a private asylum, in consequence of mental derangement brought on by an unsuccessful business transaction, was one day, in the autumn of 1848, observed to be more than usually excited when his keeper entered the room, and he presently in a firm voice declared to the man that his mother, then residing at East Sheen, had just died.\* The keeper laughed and was retiring, when Mr. Allen calmly but earnestly asserted that "he had a feeling his mother was dead;" and this impression, which not unfrequently is communicated to those whom delirium or some insane state of the brain renders more susceptible, was perfectly true. At that moment his mother died at East Sheen!†

The extraordinary case of an American seer entrancing himself, and meanwhile appearing in and obtaining certain required information at a London coffee-house, which Jung Stilling‡ has related, on what he considered satisfactory testimony, shews a still more extraordinary power of the human will: and the feats of Brahmins who rendered themselves somnolent for years; the complaints of executioners and inquisitorial judges that sorcery or the devil made their victims sleep insensibly through agonies of torture;§ the well-known fact that the excitement of battle destroys the sensibility of wounds; the want of feeling displayed by Ethiopians to wounds and torture; death occasioned without physical cause, but by a moral influence—one person being struck across the neck with a wet cloth on his way to the scaffold, on which he would have been pardoned, according to Fienus, and another, according to Charron; another, by the trickling of water, which the person believed was his own blood, in one of our hospitals;|| all these examples, and numerous others which might be mentioned, demonstrate that the mind concentrated in its action by the directing power of the will can overpower and suspend the senses. There is a remarkable case related of the Hon. Colonel Townshend in Cheyne's *English Malady*. This gentleman was greatly emaciated by organic disease of the right kidney. One day he discovered that by an "odd sensation he could expire and reanimate himself at pleasure;"

\* As the insane are equally mesmerisable with the sane (No. XXVIII., p. 361), and the insane are sometimes clairvoyant (No. XVII., p. 30; XIX., pp. 311, 347), this phenomenon also is to be expected in them as in the sane.—*Zoist*.

† See *Blackwood's Magazine*, May, 1847, pp. 541-2.

‡ *Theory of Pneumatology*, p. 74.

§ *Fromaun de Fascin*, pp. 593, 810; Nicholas Eymeric *Directoire des Inquisiteurs*, part iii., pp. 481-3.

|| See No. 1X., p. 47.—*Zoist*.

—a feat which he successfully performed in presence of three medical attendants, Drs. Cheyne and Baynard, and Mr. Skrine. “All three felt his pulse first; it was distinct, though small and thready, and his heart had its usual beating. He composed himself on his back, and lay in a still posture some time. I found his pulse sink gradually, *till at last I could not feel any by the most exact and nice touch.* Dr. Baynard could not feel the least motion in his heart, nor Mr. Skrine the least soil of breath on the bright mirror he held to his mouth; then each of us by turns examined his arm, heart, and breath, *but could not by the nicest scrutiny discover the least symptom of life in him.*” They waited some time, and, the body continuing in the same state, were about to leave, under the impression that the *colonel was actually dead*, when a slight motion in his body reassured them; upon examination the pulse and heart were found again in action, and he gradually restored himself. His death-like state lasted half an hour, and occurred at nine in the morning; after which he transacted business with his attorney, and quietly expired at six o’clock in the afternoon; and the body, when examined, presented, with the exception of its right kidney, no signs of disease. Carden, the Italian physician, astrologer, mathematician, and magician, boasted that he had two gifts,—the power of separating *his soul from the body and senses*, similarly to the priest in Celsus, and the faculty of seeing what he pleased with his eyes, “*non vi mentis.*” C. Marius, the Roman general, when suffering from a swollen leg, was advised by the physician to have it taken off; during the operation he shewed no susceptibility to the pain, and not a muscle of his face moved, or a groan escaped him; so that the physician requested the remaining leg, and it was removed under the same composure. *Insensibility to pain is then no novel or modern invention or discovery.* Like all other mesmeric, artificial phenomena, it has existed and often been noticed in all ages. It occurred most readily, and therefore oftener, among the African negroes, whose natural sensibility, being least acute, was soonest overcome; and at this day they are not subject to nervous diseases.\* Next to these the Romans shewed a small development of the nervous system, which in the Greek became highly organized and nurtured those philosophic, poetic, artistic, and intellectual endeavours which have given birth to the thoughts and guided the taste of the scholar, the poet, orator, and sculptor of every succeeding age; the depth of whose learning, shrouded in mystic phrases

\* Moseley’s *Tropical Diseases.*

and double-meaning words, fully comprehended only by the *τελειται*, the perfected, initiated, because these alone held the key (the mesmerism and clairvoyance of their inner temples), must now be fathomed in a new spirit, as travellers con over the sacred letters of Egypt, convinced that their language conceals a profound and mystic knowledge.

The rationalistic tendency of modern science has thrown undeserved and censurable discredit upon whatever it cannot understand or reduce to the test of practical experience. However credible a man may be, no sooner does he transgress the limits of this test, than, having entered on superstitious ground, he must no longer be believed. Just as a modern philosopher, whose strength of mind elevates him above the narrow prejudices of the schools, observing the truth which these *wilfully* overlook, and, acknowledging it, becomes the mark on which the ridicule of his age is exhausted; all previous acquirements are forgotten; friends call him infatuated and grow ashamed of his name; the imitators and enviers denounce him to their own level as an impostor: and it remains for the next generation calmly to award him that palm which justice demands and universal gratitude upholds.\* The many discredited relations of olden authors, which the growth of modern research has brought within the pale of science, or rendered probable, ought to lead us patiently to await that evidence which, sooner or later, must arrive, ere our prejudice rashly condemns what we cannot or will not understand. Science, or rather the overstretching of its deductions, has fought the universal belief in apparitions with little success. Time after time, well-evidenced facts, whose accumulation not even Walter Scott was able to resist, are presented, and all learned disproof is powerless to remove the conviction of their truth. So the existence and use of amulets and charms, being perpetuated by facts, require explanation and inquiry, not contemptuous rejection, at our hands. From the days of the great Bacon downwards, children have had warts charmed away, or transferred from one to another at command; and these are not easily convinced that this was only imposture and delusion. Ferrarius cured the ague in a Spanish lieutenant and fifty others in one year, by giving them scraps of paper on which were written the words *febra fuge* with the command or will that as they daily cut off a letter so should the ague disappear. The Spaniard was quite cured by the time he came to the sixth letter!† The *Pharmacologia* contains similar testimony to the power of the will in a suffi-

\* See *Zoist*, No. II., p. 102.

† Skipton's *Low Countries*.

ciently susceptible system, and there is one by no other than Sir H. Davy. The talisman in this case was a thermometer which Davy placed under the patient's tongue to shew the temperature during the intended application of nitrous oxide, with which he hoped to effect a cure. The patient was a paralytic, and, fully impressed that he was about to receive his cure, so soon as he felt the thermometer touch him was greatly relieved, and, this being daily repeated for a fortnight, he was dismissed as cured, the nitrous oxide never having been required. Every one has read the account which Judge Holt gave to the jury sitting upon trial of a witch, that the slip of paper in their hands had been given by himself to cure a child afflicted with ague, and that the disease returned no more. A gentleman recently related the appropriate case of his brother, who used as a boy to suffer from violent and frequent toothache, a disease to which all his family are subject. There was then living at Kendall a professed vendor of charms for this complaint, and to her he applied; receiving in answer a letter which he was to preserve but by no means to open. The toothache disappeared at once, and never returned; what is more curious still, while the rest of his family have suffered from decayed teeth, his, after a lapse of twenty years, remain as sound as ever! At the instance of a sleep-waker, I once gave him mesmerised wool to place in his ears at night; happening to apply it for the first time before he had finished undressing, and then kneeling to prayer, he forgot everything that occurred afterwards,—in fact, sleep-waking supervened. During its use, his natural sleep was always prolonged, and he could not easily be awakened. Its presence occasioned, as he had predicted, pains similar to those caused by the approximation of my fingers. Before this application he did not fall asleep in less than twenty minutes from commencing the passes; afterwards five were sufficient, and he rapidly became very susceptible. The occurrence of such phenomena in modern mesmerism is but an application of the charms and amulets of witchcraft, and the relics and religious talismans of the Christian ages immediately succeeding paganism. In all there may be traced the same curative power;—*an action of the brain over the general system, directed and concentrated by the will.*

W. CATTELL.

23, Duke Street, Grosvenor Square,  
Feb. 1, 1850.

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IV. *Cures of various Diseases, by Mr. Capern of Tiverton.*

“Simple as are the dupes of mesmerism, it is impossible to suppose that even they could be long deceived by a *system altogether destitute of truth*. It must, however, be freely confessed, that there is some sprinkling of truth in mesmerism; and thereby it is that it becomes the readier snare to the weak and inexperienced. There are two unquestionable axioms, which should be ever present to the thoughts of those who feel themselves exposed to be drawn into the vortex of mesmeric delusion: the one is, that when a statement false in the main is mixed up with one or two propositions, not at once obvious, yet proved at the moment to be true, a man is in danger of believing the whole that is affirmed. The other is, that strong and repeated assertion, even by a person of the smallest possible pretensions to authority, can hardly be resisted by the human mind, when it turns on points on which the individual addressed has no previous experience. These are two antidotes to mesmerism. Let the first be adopted as a guide till the experience referred to in the second be attained—that is, till some knowledge has been acquired of the nature of the phenomena in the human economy over which mesmerism pretends to hold control.

“What, then, is the amount of truth in mesmerism? It is true that there are some mysterious parts in the mental constitution of man and woman kind which may be acted on by various causes, often in appearance of no great power, so as to originate effects very different from the controlled orderliness of thought and feeling observed in the minds of the same individuals when engaged in the ordinary intercourse of society. These mysterious parts of the human mental constitution are brought into operation in reverie, trance, dreaming, nightmare, sleep-walking; in the alternate bursts of sobbing and of laughter, and in the mimotic phenomena in general of hysteria; in the leaping-ague, in the aberrations concomitant on the epileptic paroxysm, and in other convulsive and imitative diseases. The power with which slight causes operate on a susceptible nervous system, to the production of powerful effects, is illustrated by the irresistible fits of laughing and other convulsive movements produced by tickling some of the more sensible parts of the surface of the body. There is, perhaps, nothing more wonderful in the production of the trance, termed ‘mesmeric sleep,’ in susceptible persons, by a few passes made before the eyes, than in that of the violent state of excitement sometimes observed by so slight an act as tickling the soles of the feet. But, as to the pretended clairvoyance, and the transference of sense, there is nothing more in them than what results from chance coincidences between real circumstances or real events and the drowsy fancies excited by substantial impressions made on the senses in the mesmeric trance, analogous to the well-known accidental coincidences—particularly when dreams are cultivated—and the actual circumstances or events with which the individuals concerned are familiar when awake.

“The only important admission, then, that can be made in favour of mesmerism is, that it is highly probable that in susceptible individuals a state of insensibility may sometimes be produced so great, that even the pain of surgical operations is not felt. Chloroform produces a more perfect insensibility to pain, with greater certainty, and, as it would seem, in every kind of constitution; and, while it is entirely safe when in a state of purity and rightly administered, it has this advantage, that it may be made to operate at once on the nervous system without the excitement of such mental feelings as may have after ill consequences. It is needless to raise the question, whether the insensibility produced by chloroform be identical with that of the mesmeric trance. It is at least certain that the mesmeric trance is not natural sleep, and that the mode in which it is brought on is, in a medical point of view, highly objectionable. Long before mesmerism arose, the state of trance was known as a morbid condition. It plainly is allied closely to nightmare and sleep-walking, as both these are to epilepsy,—one of the most dreadful diseases to which mankind is subject. Epilepsy, and some allied diseases, are well known to be brought on by mere imitation, and to be perpetuated by habit. Nor is there any precept in medicine better founded than the injunction, by every possible precaution to protect those endowed with an unusual

susceptibility of the nervous system from the operation of all those causes of excitement by which morbid habits of action, as readily happens, may become established in their constitutions. The mesmeric trance is not merely analogous to hysteria; it is, in fact, a form of hysteria; and it is well known, that nothing serves so much to increase the frequency of hysteria as indulgence in the feelings to which the over-susceptible are unusually prone, and the neglect of those efforts of self-control which every woman who escapes hysteria must have so often exercised. For a woman to subject herself to the passes of a mesmerist, is to reverse this precept.

“So much of truth, then, there is in mesmerism: the rest is all delusion, collusion, fraud, and imbecility.

“As to the cure of diseases by mesmerism, it is contemptible: as to the diagnosis by the same, it is worse than contemptible. The latter implies a supernatural clairvoyance, the grossest delusion that ever entered man’s imagination; the former, in its most limited sphere, namely, as a means of exciting the imagination, may have sometimes a temporary success in mere functional paroxysms, on the same footing as the swallowing of live spiders, millepedes, or mice,—remedies not unknown in former ages. But, even within this limited range, the risk is greater than the advantage. And no one who knows the great truth, that it is Nature that cures diseases, when the patient happens to be, or is designedly placed, in circumstances favourable for the unembarrassed exercise of the healing power inherent in the human constitution, need be at any loss to understand the slight foundation on which the partizans of mesmerism claim credit for it in occasional cases of recovery.

“I have throughout treated clairvoyance—the favourite hobby of the mesmerists—with simple contempt, as I cannot but think it deserves. If they complain of this treatment as unphilosophical, why do they not apply their pretended illumination to some case which the public can understand and participate in. An excellent opportunity exists, at present, for an *experimentum crucis* on the subject. The whole country trembles with interest as to the place and condition, at this moment, of Sir John Franklin and his companions, as well as for the success of the several expeditions now dispatched, or about to be dispatched, for their relief. Let the mesmerists publish daily or weekly accounts of the proceedings of Sir John and his companions, or, if unfortunately they are no more, of the expeditions now in search of them; and surely, if their boasted clairvoyance be concentrated on this one point, they cannot fail, if there be any truth in their so oft-repeated assertions, to mitigate the public anxiety in the meantime, and to establish their doctrine to the satisfaction of all, when, on the return of the ancient mariner, or those in search of him, the ship’s log shall be found to tally to the letter with the declarations obtained through clairvoyance.

“But there is another phase in which it behoves us to regard mesmerism, as advocated by its professors; and I propose to take an early opportunity of considering the infidel and impious doctrines propounded with so much unblushing effrontery in *The Zoist*.—7, Nottingham-place, Regent’s-park.”—*Medical Times*, April 27th, 1850, p. 313.

#### *Rheumatism.*

Samuel Chudleigh, aged 68 years, parish of Coleford, near Crediton, was suddenly seized five years ago with pains all over his body. On the second day he was compelled to go to bed. The doctor of the union attended him, but without any benefit. In a *fortnight*, being much worse, he was removed to the Exeter Hospital. While there he continued getting worse, and at the end of a *fortnight* requested to be sent home, as he thought he should die if he staid any longer. He was conveyed home with *great difficulty*, and was then confined to his bed for a year and ten months. He was again



attended by the union surgeon, who, however, did him no good: indeed often told him that his case was *hopeless*. During this time he suffered great pain: his legs and arms became contracted, and he felt as if they were chained together; and, the disease attacking his eyes, he lost the sight of the right. At the end of that time, however, he improved a little and was able to leave his bed. His legs still remained contracted, and he was quite unable to move without crutches. In that state he remained for *three years more*, when his son, who resided at Tiverton, advised him to apply to Mr. Capern. He accordingly came to Tiverton, a distance of 16 miles, and on the 26th February Mr. Capern mesmerised him for the first time. He felt considerable warmth in the limbs and *slept better that night than he had ever done since he was first ill*. After *six* mesmerisations he was able to *walk without crutches and go up and down stairs* in the ordinary manner, which he *had not been able to do for five years*. He now sleeps well and feels no pain, and, though the limbs are still contracted, he is able to walk without any inconvenience, and expresses great gratitude to Mr. Capern for the good he has done him.

A remarkable fact connected with this patient is that he has been practising "mesmerism" unconsciously from the day of his birth up to the present time. A popular superstition exists in Devonshire that every seventh son possesses the power of curing disease by the simple application of the hand. So firmly is this believed, that persons were waiting anxiously for his birth in order to be touched by the new-born infant, should it be a boy, for the cure of this disease. This power he exercises every Sunday only—the day of the week on which he was born. At the time of operating he mentally repeats what is believed to be a portion of Scripture; but on this point he was not communicative. He commences by making seven passes over the diseased part precisely in the mode adopted by mesmerists, decreasing the number of passes every Sunday by one until he comes to the last, always, however, taking the same time in making each lesser number of passes that he had previously taken in making the seven, so that the one pass on the seventh Sunday occupies as much time as the seven passes did on the first. Should the cure however not have been effected at the termination of the seventh Sunday when the last pass is made, a second course is commenced the Sunday following, seven passes being again made and the number decreased each Sunday as before. During his stay in Tiverton, whilst under Mr. Capern, he was visited every Sunday by persons suffering from scrofula, on

whom he operated in his usual manner. Two of these, Mr. Upton, of Bickleigh, and Mr. Clarke, declare themselves much benefitted, and their cases are hereto appended as they came under my own observation. His father, being also a seventh son, practised the cure of disease in the same manner: and my patient was believed to possess extraordinary powers of healing because he was the seventh son of a seventh son.

In addition to his operation, a sixpence or other piece of silver is sewn into a small bag, and that again into another, and worn round the operator's neck during the last of the seven weeks. It is then given to the patient, who wears it for the next seven weeks, and it is afterwards deposited in a box to be carefully preserved from wet or the touch of a needle. Should this not be carefully attended to, the disease will return, and he states that he has known cases where, the above precautions not being properly attended to, the disease has returned.

#### *Enlarged and Suppurated Glands.*

James King, tea-dealer, Tiverton, received a blow in the neck about eight years ago, which caused the glands to swell, and he experienced very great pains in consequence. He applied to surgeons and physicians at Tiverton, Exeter, Teignmouth, and Plymouth, and was under medical treatment for *eight years*. From one surgeon alone he took no less than *eighteen quart bottles* of medicine, but neither this nor any thing that was done for him by the doctors was of the slightest service. His neck had become frightfully diseased, there being as many as eighteen open wounds in it at a time; for as fast as one wound suppurated another formed. There was a constant large discharge of matter. Happening to be present when a Mrs. Teasdill was in a state of sleep-waking, she called Mr. Capern's attention to King's case, and informed him that he might cure King by mesmerism, at the same time giving directions in what manner the passes were to be made. Mr. Capern followed her instructions, and at the end of about *twenty* applications of about *five* minutes each the wounds closed and were *perfectly* healed, and have remained so ever since.

#### *Tic Douloureux.*

Jannetta Tout, aged 45 years, wife of James Tout, agricultural labourer, Manley, Tiverton, states that she had the tic douloureux for nearly *sixteen* years: she consulted at various times eleven surgeons and two physicians, and was

for sixteen or seventeen days an in-patient of Barnstaple Hospital, but *without the least benefit*; and grew worse and worse, the attack lasting sometimes twelve or thirteen hours, and the pain being extremely severe. In September, 1849, she was induced to apply to Mr. Capern to be mesmerised. There was an *immediate* improvement after the first operation. She has been mesmerised about six or seven times since, and each time with increased benefit, and *seldom suffers* any pain now, except when something happens that worries and makes her anxious. The pain, when it does occur, is much less severe than formerly, and lasts a shorter time. She was also subject for many years to soreness of the breast: this complaint has been much better since she applied to Mr. Capern.

Some years ago she injured her left arm and shoulder, and subsequently suffered from rheumatism in the same part, and for the last three years she has been unable to put her left hand behind her, or even to get it so far back as to put it in her pocket. Until the 5th January she had never mentioned it to Mr. C., who had therefore almost entirely confined his passes to the head. A rock crystal being drawn down the arm, not with any intention of benefitting the limb, but merely by way of experiment, a strong sensation of warmth was produced, and in a few minutes she was able to place her hand quite behind her, and move the fingers and arm with greater ease. She also experienced powerful effects from the rock crystal being placed opposite her eyes for a few minutes, —a strong sensation of warmth in the temples, with a feeling of greater lightness and comfort. At the first mesmerism she swooned completely away; and on every subsequent occasion she experienced great faintness, and it was necessary to support her in the chair or she would most certainly have fallen to the ground.

#### *Chronic Tooth-ache.*

John Vickery, hair-dresser, West Exe, Tiverton, had suffered for about *five* years from severe tooth-ache, which frequently rendered him incapable of attending to his occupation, and he often passed several nights in succession without any sleep. Various attempts had been made by different surgeons to extract the tooth, but they all failed. Having heard that Mr. Capern had cured a case of tooth-ache, he was induced to apply to that gentleman, who, meeting him accidentally in the street while in a state of great suffering, took him into the shop of Mr. Wellington, a druggist, before whom Mr. C. in about *two or three* minutes relieved him from all pain and *completely cured the tooth-ache* by merely looking at him at

the distance of three feet. This occurred nearly three years ago, and he *has not had the slightest return of it since.*

Mr. Capern, having heard of cures being made by mesmerists by the mere will, without passes, was desirous of making the experiment for the purpose of ascertaining their truth, and from the success of this experiment is convinced that with sensitive patients a cure may often be performed in this way.

*Head-aches for nearly half a century.*

Mary Taylor, West Exe, Tiverton, aged 54, had been subject to severe head-aches ever since she was 10 years old. For some time previous to her applying to Mr. Capern a week never passed without their occurring two or three times. The attack usually lasted twenty hours, during one half of which time she was very sick. She was reduced to a state of great weakness, and almost entirely disabled from performing any household work. As soon as the attacks came on, she was completely prostrated, and, when in service, was often (to use her own expression) carried to bed like a dead person. She slept little, and never knew what it was to awake in the morning without a pain in the head. About two years ago she was induced to apply to Mr. Capern, by whom she was mesmerised about forty times. She has derived great benefit. She does not now suffer from head-ache more than once in three or four months. At the present time she has been six or seven months free from an attack. When the attacks do occur they are of a short duration, and less severe than formerly, seldom lasting more than eleven or twelve hours. The household occupations, for which she was formerly obliged to employ hired help, she now performs with her own hands. She sleeps well. During the last two years she has several times sat up as a nurse with sick persons. On one occasion for ten successive nights, on another for eight, on another for eight, and on a fourth for six. Only on the first of those occasions did she suffer from head-ache: even then the attack did not come on till the last morning, when she was obliged to return home. She declares that she has not been as well as she now is since she was a little girl 10 years old.\*

*Nocturnal weakness of the Bladder.*

Copy of letter received from Mr. Colquhoun:—

“Tiverton, May 3, 1850.

“Sir,—My son, George Arthur, being now cured of his

\* The cure of so inveterate a case as this might demand daily mesmerism for a twelvemonth: and we see no reason why a perfect cure should not be obtained by strenuous perseverance.—*Zoist.*

troublesome complaint, viz., non-retention of urine at night, (he will be ten years his next birth-day,) I think it but just that mesmerism should have my testimony as to this cure. The boy had previously been under medical treatment by the most eminent surgeons and physicians in London.

“On my return from India, I found his complaint most offensive, and, after sea bathing, tonics, and sleeping on hard mattresses had failed, I had recourse to you, *knowing, from what I had seen in India of mesmerism under Dr. Esdaile*, that the system would be strengthened, even if a cure was not effected. The result has been a *perfect cure* in my opinion, no return of the complaint having occurred for three months, and this without medicine or any attention to diet in particular, except mesmerised water.

“Pray accept my sincere thanks for the trouble you have had. The cure was effected in *seventeen days*, operating once for half an hour daily.

“I remain, dear sir, yours faithfully and truly,

“H. COLQUHOUN.\*

“Mr. Capern.”

*Blindness from opacity of the Cornea for many years.*

John T. Tindall, a native of Yorkshire, but now a settler in Somerset, Niagara County, New York, had the misfortune fourteen years ago to have both eyes most severely injured (more particularly the left) by the bursting of a bottle of aqua fortis, a part of which entering the eyes caused the most excruciating pain and a high degree of inflammation. He was attended by three medical men at the same time, and continued under medical treatment for a period of *eight* years: they were in constant attendance upon him. He was cupped regularly three or four times a week for three months, and had seven blisters on him daily for a like period. He was also bled from the arm profusely so as to induce fainting: on one occasion five pints of blood were taken from him, and used when cold as a poultice to the eyes. The left eye was in so deplorable a state, that the doctors never gave him hope of sight being restored to it, but confined their attention to the better of the two (the right).

Amongst the remedies used, in addition to the above, during the last two years of the medical treatment, were the following; lunar caustic, corrosive sublimate, blue and white

\* Gentlemen from the East are now telling all over England the cures and the painless surgical operations they have witnessed in India, and shaming the proud medical profession.—*Zoist*.

vitriol; he had also snuff, burnt white loaf sugar, and pounded glass blown into the eyes, and other remedies; sometimes the glass was mixed with a cerate and used as an ointment. He was under the treatment of no less than seventy medical men, visiting the following places in order to consult oculists of celebrity, viz., Flycreek, Copestown, Vinstown, Usaka, Geneva, Collodig, Buffalo, Albany, Johnston, Kingstown, New York, Toronto, Nidby, Upper Canada, Candon, Roum, Syracuse Somerset, *but he derived no benefit whatever, remaining totally blind*: the right eye quite destroyed by the remedies used, and the lid closed on an empty socket. He therefore, for the last six years previous to his coming to England, gave up doctors and treated himself.

In the autumn of 1849, he returned to England for the purpose of consulting some of the London oculists, but first went into Devonshire to visit some friends from whom he had been parted for more than twenty years. Early in the month of November last, when on his way to London, he stopped at an inn (Red Lion) in Tiverton, and the landlady informed him that she herself had suffered from bad eyes, but had been cured by Mr. Capern, and recommended him strongly to try that gentleman before he proceeded farther. On more enquiry he was induced to place himself under Mr. C.'s care, who mesmerised him two or three times a day for the first two months, and, extraordinary to relate, he derived benefit the very first mesmeric operation, though this was only of about five minutes duration.

Mr. C. took him to Dr. Jervis, an oculist of Tiverton, who told him it was *in vain to attempt anything with his eye, as it was beyond the power of mortal man to restore the sight, nearly the whole of the cornea being covered with a thick white film*. Notwithstanding this damper upon their hopes, Mr. C. determined to persevere: and his success has been beyond their utmost expectations, as the patient can now read the signs over the shop doors, distinguish articles in the windows, and walk to any part of the town in perfect safety. The film is not removed, but the patient feels satisfied that it will be so eventually, and regrets that his means will not admit of his staying longer in this country. This patient is a man of Herculean strength and stature and of strong nerves, yet has become so susceptible to mesmeric influence, that his mesmerist can place him at any time in a state of deep coma by merely holding one of his thumbs for less than ten seconds.

This case being altogether so extraordinary and incredible, Mr. Capern deemed it prudent to have the above statement verified by the patient upon oath before Mr. Coles, a

magistrate of the borough of Tiverton, as the patient, being about to return to America, could not hereafter be referred to.

*Sprained Ankle.*

Betsy Isaac, wife of William Isaac, lives in West Exe, Tiverton. Was taken giddy about seven weeks ago, and, losing her sight, fell down; the left leg turned under her, and the ankle became strained, so that she could scarcely move the foot, and in getting up stairs had to go upon her knee for several days for the first fortnight. She suffered a great deal of pain; since that time the pain has become less severe, but she suffers from it at night as well as in the day.

She met Mr. Capern in the street on 10th June, being in pain and limping from the state of her ankle, and requested Mr. Capern to try if he could help her. He took her into the Three Tuns Inn, and commenced making passes down the knee and ankle. She declared she felt a change at the second pass, and in about three minutes she declared the pain had entirely ceased, and she could walk across the room with apparent ease and without any suffering.

Mr. Capern had, about three months previously, relieved her of a severe toothache.

Betsy Isaac × her mark.

This took place in the presence of Mr. Mowatt, an American gentleman, who was on a visit to Tiverton at the time, and made a memorandum of the woman's statement.

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V. *Medical Dishonesty versus Clerical Credulity; which is the worse? and what is the fact?* By the Rev. GEORGE SANDBY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

June 1st, 1850.

SIR,—My attention has been directed, by several correspondents, to a paragraph, headed "Clerical Credulity," that has appeared in a few London and provincial newspapers, being founded on a statement which was made by an anonymous writer in the *Medical Times*, of April 6th,\* and in which my name was brought prominently forward by that journal.

The paragraph refers to a review which was written by me, and appeared in *The Zoist* for last January, of M. Cahagnet's French book, called *Arcanes de la Vie Future*, which work has been since translated into English under the absurd title

\* See the whole article as our motto to Art. ii., p. 126.—*Zoist*.

of the "Celestial Telegraph:" and professes to give a description of the spiritual world, of the state of the soul after death, and of sundry other strange particulars, on the authority of several deceased persons, whose ghosts are said to have appeared to some ecstatic somnambules, and to have held conversation with them.

Those of your readers, who took the trouble to peruse my paper, will be amazed at hearing that a writer in the *Medical Times* has had the impudence to assert that I wrote a "favourable review" of Cahagnet, and that he implies, moreover, through a dexterous separation of a single sentence from its context, that I expressed my belief in the alleged apparitions and revelations, when it is notorious to all who interested themselves on the subject, that *I did the very opposite*.

You are aware, Mr. Editor, that so far from having written a "favourable" review of the work, I wrote a most *unfavourable* one, and enlarged at some length on the erroneous conclusions which the author had arrived at: and my reason for noticing the work at all, was to shew to the public that the students of mesmerism in its scientific relations had no communion with the wilder and less philosophic views of some of its votaries, and that, to estimate the subject rightly, a line of demarcation ought to be drawn between the two classes of opinions.

You remember also, that so far from having expressed any belief in the apparitions and disclosures of the *soi-disant* spirits, I explained their character and nature upon certain physiological principles with which mesmerists are familiar. I shewed that the ghosts in question were sensorial, or rather cerebral, illusions; that the mysterious conversations were but creations of an excited brain; and that the divine "secrets" which were thus revealed, were little else than the transcripts of other men's thoughts, or, in other words, a very inferior specimen of Swedenborgianism. And respecting Emanuel Swedenborg himself, the great founder, as he may be called, of modern psychology, I proceeded to offer the opinion, that mesmerism presented the key which solved *his* condition, for that all his heavenly disclosures were evidently little else than the dreamings of a highly superior intellect, when placed in a state of exaltation under the action of a self-induced ecstaticism.

Now, whether I were right or wrong in my argument, is another question; and upon this point there may be fairly a difference of opinion: but there can be no mistake as to the line of argument that I took. Either, then, the writer in the *Medical Times* never read my review, and was therefore guilty



of a most dishonest action in passing a judgment upon it; or, if he did read it to any extent, he must have seen its tendency, and is in that case guilty of a wilful misrepresentation of the truth. He may make his choice between the two offences.

One thing, however, it should be now added, I did not do: and for this omission, as it would appear, I have incurred the displeasure of an unscrupulous writer. I did not, in medico-critical jargon, call M. Cahagnet a "knave and a liar," or his associates "impostors and tools;" but I declared (what I still believe to be correct) that the author appeared a conscientious man, and that "*I saw no reason to question his good faith or the credibility of his witnesses,*" though their alleged facts might be explicable upon a very different hypothesis to that which the book maintained. Upon that single sentence—a grain of praise out of a bushel of adverse judgment—the *Medical Times* fastened, and, printing it apart and alone, and with a total suppression of the decided language with which I had expressed my disbelief of the apparitions and of the colloquies, had the audacity to assert that my review was a "favourable" one; or, to use a common illustration, that I had called a thing "black," when the whole tenor of the article was to prove that it was "white."

Are these things common in medical journals? Is such mendacity, even though it be anonymous, regarded as respectable, or as excusable, or as a *good joke*? Does not a writer, who can be guilty of such a *suppressio veri*, lose caste in his profession? Is he not looked at with suspicion, if his name oozes out? Is not an editor rather shy of his contributions? And is not the journal itself which receives them liable to sink in professional estimation? They tell me, not; for that everything is considered fair against a mesmeriser; and that, though a man will not perpetrate such a falsehood himself, he may wink with an obliging good-nature at those who do. I sincerely hope that such is not the case. I trust that in a highly-educated and liberal profession, such as my experience has found the medical one to be, a wilful misstatement, like the one described above, is an exceptional instance, and that high feeling and an honourable bearing are still the characteristics of the physician. If our facts be false, let them by all means be exposed; if our reasonings be erroneous, let them be corrected; if our conclusions be hasty, let them be set right: *truth is our motto and our object*, and for truth only do we care, be the issue what it may: but let not a system of suppression or perversion be patronized and upheld in a critical journal which aims at respectability, even though it may give

the friends of mesmerism a temporary blow and cause a successful laugh against a humble writer like myself.

Of course it is so very unimportant to the world what are the private opinions of a retired clergyman, living in a distant village of Suffolk, on the subject of ghosts and mystic revelations,—whether I believe in them or not, that, when several of my friends, who had seen or heard of the paragraph about my “credulity,” asked what it all meant, I smiled at the question and intended to take no notice of the misstatement; but, on second thoughts, it may be as well to let the public learn the way in which mesmerism is generally attacked, and see the weapons with which its promoters have been pertinaciously assailed. The above is but a sample of the whole system; *ex uno disce omnes*: and I would suggest to the editors of those newspapers who inserted the misstatement of the *Medical Times* and added their comments upon it, whether, in the stead of “Clerical Credulity,” the more appropriate heading of their paragraph might not have rather been, “Medical Dishonesty and Mesmerisers Misrepresented?”

I remain, Sir, your humble servant,

GEORGE SANDBY.

VI. *A few Facts in Cases successfully treated by Vital Magnetism.* Extracted, in a brief form, from the journal of W. R. MOTT, Surgeon, 10, Devonshire-place, Brighton, and formerly Surgeon 2nd Batt. 47th Regt. Foot.

*Wry Neck.*

*First Case.*—June, 1848. A youth, about 16 years of age, assistant to a soda-water manufacturer, laboured under constriction of the muscles on the right side of the neck, *inclining his head to the right shoulder and causing great agony.* By making passes for five minutes on the opposite side downwards, and on the affected side upwards and backwards towards the occiput, he was *effectually relieved and all pain ceased at once.* No return of the affection occurred.

*Monomania.*

*Second Case.*—July, 1847. Mrs. R., the wife of a clergyman, 68 years of age, had been subject to periodical attacks of monomania, generally in the month of June, and continuing until the following winter. Was brought to me after being attacked about a fortnight. Medicine was given to relieve constipation of bowels. Magnetism was then resorted

to, and in a short time she recovered. This patient was again attacked in the same manner the following summer, about the same period, being June, 1848; when, by re-adopting the use of magnetism alone, she perfectly recovered, and has had no attack since.

#### *Deafness.*

*Third Case.*—January, 1848. Mrs. W., of Ringmer; *completely deaf*, but from no discoverable cause, and therefore probably from some affection of the auditory nerve. This patient went to sleep in two minutes at the first sitting: slept fifteen minutes, then awoke spontaneously, *as I supposed*, when I found she had recovered her hearing and that a sudden noise had awakened her. She was afterwards put to sleep for six consecutive mornings, awaking each time in fifteen minutes; and then returned home with her hearing *perfectly restored*. She had been deaf three years.

June, 1850. No return of deafness has ensued to this patient, and her health has been perfect ever since.

#### *Spasms of the Chest.*

*Fourth Case.*—Nov. 25, 1848. Mrs. W., housekeeper to Lady B., was seized with violent spasms which brought on premature labour, after which the spasms returned with greater violence and were chiefly confined to the respiratory muscles; and, what is most remarkable, the attack returned each afternoon about five o'clock. The usual remedies utterly failed to give relief. Magnetism was then resorted to with complete success, the patient going off into a quiet sleep in less than ten minutes, and awaking up free from pain or spasm. This was continued for about a fortnight, and she left Brighton *perfectly well*.

#### *Dropsy.*

*Fifth Case.*—January, 1849. Mrs. P., wife of a tradesman in this town, suffered under disordered liver with dropsy of the abdomen. Was so sensitive that she went off to sleep in less than half a minute. In the course of one fortnight she completely recovered, passing the fluid away by the kidneys.

#### *Inflamed Eyes.*

*Sixth Case.*—February, 1849. Margaret McD., nearly 70 years old, a very strong Irish charwoman; inflamed eyes. Magnetized two minutes in the evening; came next morning, eyes so much better could see; went to sleep again in two minutes and a half. Slept fifteen minutes; awoke by a knock at the door. *Her sight quite restored; inflammation all gone.*

*Ulcerated Uterus.*

*Seventh Case.*—Mrs. ———, had been an invalid for *three* years, her disease not having been discovered; came under my care in October.

I found she had diseased uterus, with *ulceration of the neck of the organ*. The usual caustic applications were made use of for some weeks, producing but slight benefit: when, on the 23rd Nov. 1848, I magnetized her for the first time. She went to sleep in about five minutes, and slept two hours; on awaking felt considerably relieved, but, residing thirteen miles from Brighton, she could only be visited at irregular intervals of from four to six days each. Magnetized each time with sleep from one to two hours. At the end of four months the disease had *wholly subsided*; she was then able to walk two miles, viz., from her house to the adjacent village, without inconvenience; *whereas, prior to being magnetized, she was utterly incapable of walking, even from the sitting-room to her bed-room.\**

*Deafness.*

*Eighth Case.*—John Baker, 75 years of age, completely deaf, was made to hear by magnetizing the ears with point of forefinger for one minute, and continued to hear while in my presence; when absent, his deafness invariably returned.

*Curved Spines.*

*Ninth and tenth Cases.*—Miss N., suffering three years from curvatures of the spine: the dorsal vertebræ passing under the right scapula in a curve the base line of which would be about 8 inches, and deviating at least  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches from the normal line of the spine; and the lumbar vertebræ in the opposite direction forming a sharp curve to the base of the spine.

This patient was unable to maintain an erect position, and could only walk without assistance by placing her back against a wall and thus moving with great difficulty sideways. She was placed upon a couch with her face downwards, and magnetized along the spine. I commenced at the occiput, and brought my hands down slowly to the sacrum.

In this manner she was manipulated every day for three

\* We refer our readers to No. IX., p. 82, for a remarkable mesmeric cure at Brighton of ulceration and other diseases. Such a cure, being new, surprised us; but the evidence of the nature of the disease was too strong to resist, and we published the narrative, and now heartily rejoice that we did. The details are minute. What long worry and disgusting and painful applications of caustic might not poor women be spared, if ladies' doctors would but condescend to study mesmerism. Mr. Mott relates another striking cure of this kind at the close of the present account.—*Zoist*.

months, at the end of which period, 15th April, 1849, the spinal column had become *perfectly straight*.

At the commencement this patient's pulse ranged to 104 in a minute, but was soon reduced to 84, and ultimately became established at a healthy standard.

This lady was about 40 years of age, and had a sister, about two years younger, suffering from the same complaint, the curvatures being in an opposite direction, but similar in character. She was not incapable of walking, but suffered much from general debility, and was subject to great nervous excitement, her pulse averaging from 110 to 130 the minute. She was treated in the same way as her sister, when the pulse invariably became reduced and strengthened, generally subsiding to about 80 in the minute.

This patient also *quite recovered* in about four months, July 15, 1849, and continues *perfectly well*.\*

#### *Inflammation of a Dislocated Elbow.*

*Eleventh Case.*—Miss E. C., about 38 years of age, in making a false step fell backwards and fractured the left elbow; the joint, although not dislocated, was so much injured that it became immoveable, and there was great pain, swelling, and inflammation of the whole joint. The part injured was magnetized every day for about a fortnight, with *instant relief and speedy recovery*.

#### *Delirium Tremens.*

*Twelfth Case.*—J. P., Esq., about 50 years of age, occasionally intemperate. I was suddenly called to him; found him labouring under *delirium tremens*; he was very violent; his pulse at 130. After some trouble I induced him to recline on a sofa, and magnetized him for half an hour, when the pulse fell to 64 in a minute. He soon became *perfectly*

\* These diseases depend upon debility and give occasion to most tedious and troublesome treatment and immense expense: and thus offer as fair a field for legitimate quackery as uterine affections. Cases of mere debility are constantly treated with issues, setons, &c., as if there was diseased bone; and exercise and fresh air are denied the unfortunate patients. Apparatuses are often employed which make matters worse: and with apparatuses curvatures take place which might be prevented by well-regulated exercise of the various muscles.—Where the spinal bones *are* diseased, and a point of bone projects, the horizontal posture and setons and issues are the old and unsatisfactory remedies, though many of the best living surgeons reject these drains, which formerly were never omitted; abscess often takes place, and then almost always death. Mesmerism is the best remedy in even diseased bone: and a beautiful cure is recorded in No. XXII., p. 201.—A third kind of spinal affection is simply morbid sensitiveness of more or less of the spine, and its treatment is often most barbarous, and founded on a mistake of its nature. Mesmerism is almost a certain remedy for this. See cures in No. V., p. 82; XIII., p. 95; XVII., p. 20; see also XXVI., p. 171; XXIX., p. 49.—*Zoist*.

*tranquil and rational*, saying, "He never could have believed it possible that one could be changed in so short a time by such means."

*Enlarged and Ulcerated Uterus.*

*Thirteenth Case.*—Mrs. H., a lady about 25 years of age, mother of three children, applied to me in 1849 to be magnetized, by the advice of a clairvoyante whom she had previously consulted, for uterine disease. Upon examination with the speculum, the correctness of the clairvoyante's report was confirmed. This lady had been under the treatment of a celebrated surgeon in Paris for a considerable time, who, with other remedies, had used the *actual cautery*, from which she had derived but little benefit. Magnetism was then resorted to, in compliance with her clairvoyante adviser's instructions. I commenced magnetizing her at the beginning of July, 1849, every day at 12 morning, by passes from the forehead to the feet for fifteen minutes; then from the occiput down the spine to the heels for a like period.

In the course of a few weeks the *ulceration healed, the tumefaction subsided*, and by the end of September she was able to walk from Kemp Town into Brighton,—better than a mile! She subsequently left for Paris; continued in good health; and has written me two notes expressing her gratitude for being cured; and, to use her own words, "she possesses the enjoyments of life and feels as well as ever she did."

VII. *A selection of thirty-one Cases treated by Mesmerism.*

By Mr. JOHN BATTISHILL PARKER, Surgeon, Exeter. [Painless extraction of 3 teeth, 1 painless bleeding, 1 accouchment, 1 expulsion of the placenta from an hour-glass contraction of the uterus, 1 case of great benefit after amputation, 2 cases of severe uterine hæmorrhage, 1 apoplectic collapse, 1 removal of splinter under the nail, 1 obstinate constipation, 2 chorea, 1 abscess of the ear, 1 sciatica of seven years duration, 2 rheumatic fever, 1 nervous palpitation of the heart, 3 cases of tic douloureux, 1 case of chlorosis, 1 case of delirium from typhus fever, 2 cases of threatening phthisis, 2 cases of gout, 1 inflammation of the bladder of 6 years duration, 2 cases of violent hysteria quieted in less than a minute, 1 case of loss of voice.]

*Extraction of Tooth with appearance of pain, but no consciousness or recollection of it.*

ELIZABETH LONG, æt. 13, a little girl, whom I had frequently mesmerised, came to me one morning to have a molar tooth

extracted. I produced mesmeric sleep in less than a minute, and within three minutes proceeded to extract the tooth with the forceps; but, the tooth being much decayed in the centre, the whole of the crown crumbled to pieces, and this appeared to give her much pain. I then took the key instrument and immediately extracted the tooth. I then produced deeper sleep and left her for half an hour, and on my return found her still asleep. *I then awoke her, and she had no recollection of what had been done.\**

#### *Extraction of two Teeth.*

Mary Hanger came to my house a few days since to have two teeth extracted. She had been mesmerised a few times at my mesmeric *séances*. In three minutes I produced mesmeric sleep, and I then extracted the two teeth. During the operations she remained perfectly motionless; and, on my waking her ten minutes afterwards, her first enquiry was whether I had extracted the teeth.

#### *Painless Bleeding.*

Mrs. R., having been suffering from considerable tenderness of the bowels for some time, and other remedies including mesmerism having been tried without much relief, I suggested bleeding from the arm,—an operation which I had practised on her several times before, but not during mesmeric sleep. On my arrival at her house she fainted at the thought of it. I left the house, requesting the husband to mesmerise her, as he had been accustomed to. At a time agreed upon I returned, tied up the arm, removed twenty ounces of blood, bound up the arm, and left her before she became acquainted with the fact.

#### *Accouchment with slight consciousness only.*

Mrs. —, who in her first and former accouchment had convulsions and subsequent mania, was again pregnant, and, being naturally very anxious to avoid the former distressing occurrences, requested me to attend her and conduct the delivery during mesmeric sleep. With this intention a female friend, who had been accustomed to mesmerise her previously

\* The want of recollection of pain is of course no proof that pain was not felt. But when there are signs of pain, they are not always a proof that pain is felt; because they may arise from apprehension solely, the patient being conscious that the operation is to be, and perhaps that it is being performed, and fearing excessively, but suffering no pain. In the present case, no pain might have been felt if means had been used to deepen the sleep, such as keeping the points of the fingers upon the patient's eyes for a long while, or the hand on the forehead, or continuing the passes, or breathing slowly on the eyes, or into the nostrils and mouth.—*Zoist*.

to my seeing her, was engaged. When the premonitory symptoms of labour began, she was mesmerised; and, in the course of half an hour, was delivered of a fine healthy child, *being slightly conscious only of three pains*; and everything afterwards proceeded as in the most favourable accouchment.\*

*Expulsion of the Placenta from an hour-glass contraction of the Uterus.*

William Nichols, for whom I tied the radial artery during mesmeric sleep, resumed his work within a few weeks from the date of my former communication to *The Zoist*.† The nails of the four fingers were shot off by the injury his hand sustained from the sponge having remained so long in the neighbourhood of the wounded radial artery.

In January, 1849, his wife was delivered of her first child, and, after waiting an hour and a half for the expulsion of the placenta, that might have been expected from the repeated vigorous contractions of the uterus, and no portion of the placenta being near the os uteri, I concluded, from my experience in these cases, that there was an hour-glass contraction of the organ or an adherent placenta. Mesmerism continued for ten minutes caused the placenta to be expelled. I have now attended more than *two thousand cases of midwifery*, and have lost only one patient from the effects of labour. The death in this case arose from adherent placenta, which was not discharged for eight days and produced typhus fever, under which my patient sank. I have performed every operation in midwifery, except the Cæsarian and symphysotomy, with perfect success to my patients; and for several years during the beginning of my career performed nearly all the instrumental deliveries for the city midwives of Exeter. I have made this digression, as antimesmerisers may not consider me qualified to give an opinion in such a case as the present.

*Benefit from Mesmerism in a case of Amputation of the Leg below the knee.*

Mr. B., who had suffered from an extensive and excessively painful ulcer of the leg for many years, was anxious to see me; and, on my first visit, it was evident the tibia had been quite severed by the disease. He submitted to the amputation in May, 1849. As he was impatient to have the leg

\* See similar cases in No. V., p. 121; XV., p. 415; XXI., p. 59; XXII., p. 208.—*Zoist*.

† See No. XX., p. 389. Nos. XVIII. and XX. contain each a valuable series of cases of mesmeric benefit by Mr. Parker, whose manliness we have already praised (No. XVI., p. 362) but not enough.—*Zoist*.



removed, we had only a few days to try the effects of mesmerism, and we had not much success. But, as soon as the stump was dressed, local mesmerism was had recourse to with great benefit. The stump healed in a few weeks by the first intention without the slightest inflammatory symptom or suppuration, and there is no doubt the patient was spared much suffering in the healing of the stump.

*Benefit from Mesmerism in a case of severe Uterine Hæmorrhage.*

Mrs. — was delivered of her first child after a very natural labour; and, as I was about to leave the room, full an hour after the placenta had been expelled, she was suddenly taken faint, and, on making an examination, I found this was occasioned by hæmorrhage. The uterus was contracting firmly; considerable pressure was applied; the fainting was followed by vomiting, then by a renewal of the hæmorrhage; then fainting and again vomiting; all which continued in succession for nearly three hours. It was then necessary to give brandy, eggs, broth, &c., which were almost immediately rejected. In this state I was resolved to try mesmerism by breathing over the heart. All the family were quite prostrate at the long-continued fainting, followed by the repeated vomiting and hæmorrhage. But, in a few minutes after the breathing, my patient began to whisper and say it had saved her life. In fact, it appeared to act as transfusion, and no doubt it did, of the vital principle: and from that moment we had no further trouble, and she recovered as after the most favourable accouchment.

*A case of Menorrhagia that was much relieved by Mesmerism.*

M., having left her drawing-room, remained absent for a much longer time than was expected. Her mother, on going to fetch her, found her daughter dead faint from the loss of blood; in fact her whole dress was saturated with blood. On my arrival I found her quite insensible, and as soon as her consciousness returned I gave her some Matico,—the most effectual styptic I am acquainted with. This was immediately rejected, and there was a repetition of the hæmorrhage, faintness and vomiting, which nothing appeared to relieve until I breathed over the heart with vigour. My patient in a few minutes began to feel the effects of the transfusion, and whispered that it had saved her life. We had no further trouble.

*A case of Apoplectic Collapse completely restored by Mesmerism.*

A little girl, aged 13 years, of very poor parents, had been engaged to wash the floor and tables of a small shopkeeper;

and, no doubt having a great appetite from living badly at home, ate a very full meal of sprats, which were then very plentiful. She was left in the kitchen at her work, while the mistress was engaged in some other part of the premises. At the expiration of an hour her mistress went into the kitchen and found her quite prostrate on the floor, and in this state I found her at 5 o'clock p.m., quite insensible, with her pupils dilated, and with stertorous breathing. She had vomited a little; the whole body was very cold, in a state of complete collapse. I immediately administered, with the stomach pump and a tube introduced through the nostril, a tablespoonful of flour of mustard in a quart of warm water. The whole of this operation was performed without the slightest consciousness. In the course of twenty minutes she vomited a little, and was then put to bed, and was surrounded with jars filled with hot water. At the end of an hour no reaction or consciousness had taken place. I then had her mesmerised most vigorously with passes through the whole length of the body, and within half an hour she began to shew symptoms of returning consciousness. The mesmerism was continued and she was quite restored by the morning.\*

*Splinter of wood under the Nail; all the pain after the extraction entirely removed by Mesmerism.*

Mr. Reed called on me early one morning to extract a splinter of wood which had penetrated the whole length under the centre of the nail of the second finger. There was excruciating pain. I extracted a large portion of the splinter; but a portion, being separated, still remained under the centre of the nail. I then advised him to try the effect of mesmerism for an hour. He returned to me in an agony. In the meanwhile he had nearly scraped a hole through the centre of the nail, that I completed, and I then extracted the remaining portion of splinter. He was in an agony during the whole of the operation. After its completion, I advised him again to be mesmerised. This was done, and soon gave him relief; and in the evening he was quite free from pain and had no further trouble.

*Obstinate Constipation completely relieved by Mesmerism.*

Mrs. B. for many months had been troubled with constipation, which disturbed the whole system and appeared likely to produce some organic disease. Having been under my care for many months without much benefit, she consulted several other medical men with no better result. I then proposed using the œsophagus tube of the stomach pump, as

\* See Sydenham's Practice, No. XXIII., p. 260.

there seemed to be a contraction or stricture with a very great dilation above it. This appeared at the time to be of service, and was repeated on many occasions. Eighteen months had now passed without any permanent benefit, she being just in the same state as at the commencement. She now consented to mesmerism, and it was practised daily by her husband and daughter: and at the end of a month she was restored to such a state of health and such regular action of the bowels as she had never before experienced; and now nearly two years have elapsed without a return of constipation.

*St. Vitus's Dance, with partial Paralysis, completely cured by Mesmerism.*

J., aged 11, was walking with her brother and another little boy by the side of the river, when the two boys fell into it. The other little boy was drowned, but her brother was taken out and resuscitated. The shock produced such an effect that she remained insensible for some time. After her return to sensibility, the left arm and left leg remained in a great measure paralyzed, and her whole frame was incessantly, except during sleep, agitated by involuntary movements to such an extent that she was unable to hold a small cup, and was frequently falling down if allowed to walk without holding some person by the hand. The parents, having tried other means without benefit, were recommended to try mesmerism; and, after two month's mesmerism, she was quite restored to her former state of health.

*St. Vitus's Dance completely cured by Mesmerism.*

T., a little girl, 10 years of age, had been the subject of St. Vitus's dance for several months, and been under the medical man of the family without any benefit. When she applied to me she could scarcely stand or even sit still from the incessant involuntary action of the whole muscular system. She was mesmerised daily, and at the end of two months was quite restored.

*Abscess of the Ear preceded by discharge of 7 years' duration, with very considerable dullness of hearing; completely cured by Mesmerism after other treatment had failed.*

T., 12 years of age, had been subject to frequent abscess of the ears followed by constant discharge upwards of seven years. Considerable dullness of hearing had resulted; and, at my first seeing him, he was suffering from the formation of a fresh abscess, which made him heavy, dull, and stupid—a state the opposite of what was natural to him. He was

mesmerised for one week, when all his sufferings, including the discharge, were removed, and his hearing was quite restored.

*Acute Rheumatism most successfully treated with Mesmerism.*

A gentleman's servant, three years previously had a severe attack of rheumatic fever which quite incapacitated him for more than three months, and he was able but slightly to move his limbs at the end of two months more. On my first visit, January, 1849, I found him quite unable to move either hand or foot from an attack of very acute rheumatism of several days duration. I procured a very vigorous man to mesmerise him twice a day. Immediate relief was obtained after a few passes, and at the end of ten days he was quite convalescent.

*Acute Rheumatism most successfully treated with Mesmerism.*

A fine healthy countryman, who had come from the north of Devon to work at the early harvest in the immediate neighbourhood of Exeter, felt himself on the third day of his work unable to move any of his limbs, and in this state I found him. He had had a similar attack two years previously, and was incapacitated for above three months. Other treatment combined with mesmerism on this occasion continued for the space of *six days only* quite restored him, so as to enable him to resume the very laborious work of reaping.

*Distressing Palpitation of the Heart of three years' duration completely cured by Mesmerism after every other treatment had failed.*

Mrs. B — consulted me for severe palpitation of the heart that had been produced by a terrific hæmorrhage after her confinement three years previously. Her nervous system was so disturbed that she could not remain alone in a room even by day. Change of air, as well as change of treatment directed by various medical men, had all failed to give her the least relief: and as a last resource she was advised to try mesmerism. This was persevered in for three months by her maid-servant with complete relief, and she has now been quite well for nearly two years.

*Sciatica of seven years' duration cured in a week.*

— Beer, a mason, aged 57, had left the Exeter Hospital the week before he applied to me. Whilst there for nineteen weeks he was treated with hot baths, &c., without any relief. He had done *one week's* work only for sixteen months, and had not been free from pain for seven years.

The continuance of the pain had caused a shortening of the limb. After four days' mesmerism he returned to me almost free from his *old enemy*, and at the end of the week he was quite well.

*Tic Douloureux of almost every part of the body of fifteen years' duration completely cured with Mesmerism.*

Mrs. — had been afflicted with tic douloureux in almost every part of her body for *fifteen years*. Her face was partially paralyzed, and one eyelid drooped. She had been submitted to various plans of treatment by different medical men without any permanent benefit, and, in consequence of her disease resisting every other treatment, she was *driven*, being an *unbeliever*, to try mesmerism as a last resource. *Although no mesmeric sleep was ever produced*, its daily continuance for three months restored her to such a state of freedom from pain as she had never experienced under any former treatment: in fact she has expressed herself quite cured.

*A Case of Tic Douloureux of fifteen months' duration cured by Mesmerism in a week.*

Mrs. —, who had suffered from tic douloureux of the head and face for fifteen months under the care of several violent antimesmerisers, sent for me in October, 1849, when I found she had been delirious from pain the whole of the night and was then in agony. A quarter of an hour's mesmerism sent her to sleep. She woke up quite free from pain: the mesmerism was continued for a week and she was quite cured.

*Case of severe Tic Douloureux of the Face for eleven years or more, that had resisted every other kind of treatment, quite relieved by Mesmerism.*

Mr. — who had suffered martyrdom from tic douloureux of the face for eleven years or more, and had tried every remedy which could be suggested by a multitude of medical men, as well as by non-medical men and women whose nostrums according to their own accounts had never been known to fail, *was almost compelled* by his family to give a trial to mesmerism, in which he had no faith or belief. He sent for me in March, 1846, to know if it was possible for him to be relieved with mesmerism, at the same time saying he had no belief in the reality of such an agency. The whole of his face was shining and of a deep red; he could scarcely speak two words in succession without the greatest pain; the act of swallowing was positive torture, and during it a portion of

food appeared frequently to lodge near the glottis or opening of the air passage. Even when he was at all relieved from pain and taking a short walk, he would rather avoid than encounter his nearest relatives, the act of saying, "how do you do?" being attended with agony. Mesmerism was now tried, and continued daily for eighteen months, when he told me he was quite free from pain, and had no further necessity for mesmerism. The pain in a less degree returned at times, but has invariably been relieved by repeating the same process.

*Obstinate Chlorosis in a young woman 22 years of age, completely cured by Mesmerism.*

E., aged 22 years, whose system had never been *periodically* relieved, was in a very languid state. Her countenance was of a yellowish white: there was frequent palpitation of the heart and almost breathlessness in attempting to go up stairs: her appetite was very bad: and she was quite unfit for any active occupation. She had tried the various remedies which are daily prescribed for such cases without the least effect. She was now advised to try mesmerism, and after a month's trial her system became *regular* and all the other sufferings were removed: and now, at the expiration of eight months, her health continues very good.\*

*Delirium of Typhus Fever completely removed by Mesmerism, and convalescence soon established.*

A little girl, aged 13 years, was put under my care one evening, when I found her in a state of delirium with typhus fever. She had been ill for a fortnight, but the mother sent for me in consequence of the delirium. Her case would not admit of bleeding or leeches. She was soon put into mesmeric sleep, and woke up free from delirium. The mesmerism was continued daily with appropriate remedies, and her convalescence was as rapid as under the most favourable case of simple fever.†

*A Case of Chronic Pneumonia with threatening Phthisis, completely restored by Mesmerism.*

August, 1849. A little girl, 11 years of age, had been suffering considerable pain in the chest for two months. On

\* See a similar cure by Mr. Tubbs, No. VI., p. 258.—*Zoist*.

† If in every case of affection of the head in the fevers of children, and in that disease called water of the head, mesmerism were freely used, whether alone or in addition to the ordinary *useful* means, practitioners would be astonished at the result: multitudes of leeches and blisters and loads of calomel would be dispensed with, and countless children would be saved who now sink under their diseases or are killed by the treatment. In truth, there is no disease of children in which free mesmerism should be omitted.—*Zoist*.

my arrival I found her much emaciated, with frequent cough, and expectoration at times streaked with blood. The whole of the chest was very tender on percussion, and respiration very puerile: the pulse 120. She was too much emaciated for any active treatment. Mesmerism combined with soothing treatment continued for six weeks has quite restored her, and she has passed through this winter without any trouble.

*A case of Chronic Pneumonia with threatening Phthisis completely cured by Mesmerism.*

This patient was a little girl ten years of age, and the whole of her case resembled the preceding as much as possible. Having witnessed so much benefit from mesmerism in the former case, I adopted the same treatment with the same happy result.

*A case of Gout in a Lady 82 years of age much relieved by Mesmerism.*

Mrs. —, who had been subject to attacks of gout from an early age, and been accustomed to be laid up for two or three months at a time almost every year, was now attacked with gout in each foot and hand. Mesmerism was tried, and produced almost instant relief. Her convalescence was as far advanced at the end of a fortnight as on previous occasions at the end of two or even three months.

*A case of Gout, from which the patient at times had been confined to his bed for three months, cured in five days, and the patient able to take a long journey with his ordinary shoes.*

S— has been accustomed to attacks of gout for many years, and at times has been confined to his bed for months; he was now attacked very severely, his left foot and toe being extremely painful and much swollen. A quarter of an hour's mesmerism entirely removed the pain. The following day the other hand and foot encountered the attack. Mesmerism produced a similar effect. It was continued several times daily, and at the end of five days he was able to put on his ordinary shoes and take a long journey without any more inconvenience.

*Loss of Voice for nearly three months completely restored on a second Mesmerisation.*

Robert Haydon, joiner, had lost his voice from a cold for nearly three months, when he applied to me. I then ordered him an emetic and a mustard plaster to the throat, with aperients and diaphoretics, which latter were continued for several

days, the inhalation of warm medicated vapour, and the insufflation of finely powdered burnt alum. All the above were tried without the least effect. I then mesmerised him in the presence of more than forty persons. On my mesmerising him the following day, in the presence of several persons, he sang the 16th or Devonshire Psalm in a very audible tone; and on my demesmerising him he was astonished to find his voice quite restored. It has remained perfectly well ever since.

*Case of violent Hysteria without the least consciousness for two hours relieved by Mesmerism in less than a minute.*

At ten in the morning of May 31, 1850, I was requested to go to the house of a poor woman whose daughter had been in violent hysteria for nearly two hours. She had beaten herself and pulled out her hair most violently, and even the united efforts of three of her friends could not keep her still. I then learnt that she had been subject to such attacks ever since a most narrow escape from drowning six weeks previously. She having been mesmerised at my evening *séances*, I at once placed my hand on the organ of Benevolence, and she immediately smiled: then told me for the first time that the accident had happened whilst in a boat on the canal and during the violent struggle she had bruised herself very much. By her instructions mesmerism relieved her, and in half an hour I woke her up quite well. She only recognized me as if I had just come into her house. She has had no return since.

*Case of violent Hysteria without the least consciousness for nearly two hours relieved by Mesmerism in less than a minute.*

In the evening of the 31st of May, 1850, I was called to my carpenter's daughter, who had been subject to similar attacks of hysteria with catalepsy for some months previous, and had found great relief from mesmerism. It is strange that two such cases should occur in one day. Her father about five in the evening went into the house covered with blood. The daughter was the first who saw him, and, before she had time to make any enquiry fainted away, and then violent hysteria with catalepsy set in. She lost her consciousness, and struggled violently; the limbs would remain where they were placed. At the expiration of two hours I arrived. I placed my hand on the organ of Benevolence, when she immediately recognized my mesmeric influence; talked to me, gave me a description of her sufferings—such as very violent headache, pain in her chest and sides; and gave me



instructions how to relieve her. I followed her instructions, and, when she expressed herself quite free from pain, I put on my hat and woke her up. *She said she did not know that she had seen me during the day before that instant.*

*A case of Inflammation of the Bladder, with sufferings of the most distressing character, of six years' duration, completely cured by Mesmerism after every other treatment had failed.*

Mr. Beynon applied to me in May, 1846. From a cold which he had caught six years previously, he had very severe inflammation of the eyes for two months. The bladder was then attacked, and he had excessive pain in its region, with a very frequent desire of micturition, which gave him the sensation of melted lead and was followed by a discharge of matter. From the complaint proving so intractable, he consulted various medical men; went to London, and remained under the care of an eminent surgeon for two months; returned to Exeter in the same wretched condition, but more emaciated. When he consulted me he was obliged to walk with a stick, as it would have been extremely difficult for a man to walk so much bent forwards without one. He was then obliged to relieve the bladder every 20 minutes, and only a table-spoonful came away at a time; and such a state of suffering and want of refreshing sleep of course disturbed his general health, so much as to make life a burthen to him. Mesmerism was now tried daily with other appropriate remedies, and continued for three months, when he found himself quite relieved. The bladder, which must have been thickened like a gizzard, has now expanded to such an extent as to contain at least twelve ounces of fluid. He walks as erect as any man, and his general health is quite restored.\*

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#### VIII. *Mesmerism in India in 1850.* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

*"The avoidance of pain.*—This we need scarcely say, is an object of the highest importance; not merely in order to lessen the amount of physical suffering attending operations, but also because severe pain has a most serious tendency to depress the nervous system, and induce death from exhaustion; and because many patients have so great a dread of the knife that they put off applying to the surgeon till their case is almost hopeless. Up to the end of 1846 we knew of no means for effecting this very desirable object save the previous administration of narcotics and long-continued compression of the nerves supplying the part to be operated on; means both of which are so uncertain and inefficient that no one ever thought of employing them. We do not include mesmerism in the list, because this so-called science is so intimately connected with *quackery*,

\* For the benefit of mesmerism in affections of the bladder, see Mr. Weddel's striking cure, No. XIV., p. 187; see also Mr. Thompson's cases, XVII., p. 81; XIX., p. 289; and Mr. Jacob's cure, XXVIII., p. 437.—*Zoist*.

*obscenity, and imposture, that very few respectable persons would consent to meddle with it, even for a good purpose. . . .* Whilst this work was being printed, there arrived from Boston, America, the account of a method of rendering patients insensible to pain during operations by means of the vapour of ether, invented by Drs. Jackson and Morton of Boston, first promulgated in England in January, 1847, by Dr. Boott of Gower Street."—From the fourth edition of the *Surgeon's Vade Mecum*, by Robert Drutt, F.R.C.S., p. 548.\*

I HAVE received the following letter from Dr. Esdaile:—

“ My dear Dr. Elliotson,—Sir John Littler, the Deputy Governor, has seen three mesmeric operations in my hospital in the last six weeks, and has always expressed himself astonished and delighted. On the last occasion he brought Sir Frederick Currie, Brigadier Eckford, and other gentlemen with him, and I presented them with a tumor weighing *eighty pounds* in two minutes and a half, the man being *as passive as a gourd during and long after the operation*. He is doing *perfectly well*, and I expect to be equally successful in a still larger case to-morrow. Brigadier Eckford, after the operation, congratulated me on ‘being the honoured instrument in God’s hands to work such wonders.’ It is certainly a great privilege, for which I am very thankful. A Government hospital and dispensary having fallen vacant, Sir John has made them over to me, for the express purpose of combining mesmerism with the common practice of medicine. I did not consider my task complete till mesmerism was fixed in the Government hospitals of Calcutta. It will now be sufficiently the *interest* of many to be my successor. It only now remains for me to write my mesmeric testament, in which I shall leave legacies to some of my brethren here they will not be in a hurry to administer to.

“ Yours, very sincerely,

“ Calcutta, 8th April, 1850.

“ JAMES ESDAILE.

“ P.S. In my last report, the summary does not seem to be clear. There were—

31 capital mesmeric operations,

1 ditto non-mesmeric,

2 deaths,

362 minor non-mesmeric operations, as hydrocele, &c.”

The following is the account in the *Calcutta Star*, of February 27th:—

“ We paid a visit yesterday to the Mesmeric Hospital to witness an operation, in which Dr. Esdaile succeeded in removing, in the most successful manner, a tumor of 70 lbs. in weight.

“ The patient, who had come all the way from Delhi, attracted

\* The moral and intellectual state of the medical profession may be appreciated from one of its members daring to publish such a paragraph.—J. ELLIOTSON.

hither by the fame of Dr. Esdaile, was a fine hale old man of very respectable standing in native society, and had been afflicted with his disease fourteen years. The operation was performed in the doctor's usually skilful manner. He was kindly assisted by Dr. Webb. It occupied exactly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  minutes; and, a short time after the tumor was removed, the patient being rather faint from loss of a large quantity of blood, he was demesmerised, and after sipping a small quantity of ammonia became quite talkative, and, as usual in these cases, was perfectly unaware that the operation had taken place until informed of it.

“His Honour Sir John Littler, the Hon. Sir F. Currie, Brigadier Eckford, Major Colebrooke, Captain Mayow, Captain Sayers, and Drs. James Thomson and Allan Webb, were present, all of whom expressed their gratification at the entire success of the operation.”

I have received the *Calcutta Star* of January 1st, and make the following extract:—

“We understand that a remarkable and very successful operation was performed at the Mesmeric Hospital yesterday. The patient was a young woman of 23, one of whose mammæ was so large that it rested on her thigh when she sat up. The disease commenced only a year ago, and this rapid growth produced the following singular results. The tumor, larger than a man's head, was attached to the body by an isthmus, a foot long, and it was evident that the mammary gland, or true breast, had left the chest altogether and was lodged in the tumor. Dr. Esdaile, before proceeding to operate, pointed this out to the spectators, and thus accounted for it. He supposed that the mass was a fatty tumor that had involved the mammary gland, which however had not become diseased and contracted adhesions to the neighbouring parts, but by the sudden and great growth of the tumor he believed that the mammary gland had been loosened from its natural connections, and, as the skin was lengthened by the depending weight, it altogether left the body, and was lodged in the centre of the tumor at the distance of a foot from the chest. This woman was so sensitive to the mesmeric influence, that she was fit to be operated upon the first day, in a quarter of an hour. Her picture was taken in the trance the second day, and yesterday the tumor was removed without the slightest disturbance of the body from head to foot; and at the end of an hour, when our informant left the hospital, she was still sleeping as tranquilly as a healthy child.

“The tumor weighed 10 lbs., and when cut open was found to correspond very exactly with Dr. Esdaile's theoretic description of it. The mammary gland was enclosed in the

centre of a fatty mass, and quite healthy in structure, but considerably enlarged."

Also the *Calcutta Star* of March 6th, in which the following account appears:—

"We understand that one of the first objects of the Minister of Nipal's curiosity has been mesmerism, whose fame had reached Nipal even. We are told that this gentleman is actually the Prime Minister, and leaves the country to be governed by his brothers in his absence, so secure is he of his influence. He is described as a slight, active, intelligent looking man of 32, and of pure Hindoo blood.

"At his desire, Dr. Esdaile granted him a private mesmeric demonstration, taking three of his patients who had been operated upon along with him. Two of these were Calcutta Baboos, and the third was a woman whose breast, weighing 10 lbs., was cut off about six weeks ago. The people having all told the Minister the same tale of total insensibility to the operation, he desired to see how the thing was done that he might be the means of introducing so wonderful and beneficial a power into his own country. The woman was thrown into a state of insensibility by a few passes; fire was then applied to her knuckles, and a pin stuck into her nose without a sign of sensibility. She was then awoke by a few reverse passes, and said that she had been asleep, and that nothing had annoyed her. One of the Baboos was next reduced to the same state as easily, and any part or the whole of his body was made rigid, as desired. Being restored to his senses, Dr. Esdaile informed the Minister that any limb might be made rigid and insensible, or any organ of sense rendered insensible in this man, while the general consciousness remained perfect.

"Dr. E. having detached his watch from its chain, put it into the man's closed fist, and having made a few passes along the arm and hand, he desired the Minister to order him to dash it on the ground, or to bribe him to do so, if he pleased. Order and persuasion were equally tried in vain, and at last he was offered Rs. 1000 to do so with as little effect; the man saying that a *lac* might be offered him safely, as '*his arm felt like a stick.*' Being blindfolded, his arm was pricked all over, he saying all the time that he felt nothing; but the moment the pin was applied to any other part of the body, he immediately shrunk and cried out. Each of the senses was torpified in succession in like manner. A bottle containing carbonate of ammonia was handed to the Minister and

his suite, who all made violent contortions on applying it to their noses. The Baboo's nose was mesmerised, and his eyes blindfolded, and the minister was requested to apply the bottle to his nose. That there might be no mistake, he seized the patient by his lips and held them closed, so that he could only breathe through the nose. He continued to breathe with perfect ease however, saying that he smelt nothing; but the moment his nose was demesmerised he showed as much disgust as any of the party. His ears were next experimented upon, and at a given signal he was desired to go away, and talked to by every one without the smallest sign of intelligence. Nipalese cymbals, most clamorous instruments, were clashed at his ears without his minding them, and a pistol was fired off behind him without disturbing him in the least. His ears being freed, he said that he had heard nothing for some time back.

“The Minister then asked if it was possible for him to learn this art, and was told that any healthy willing man might do so after a few minutes' instruction. He accordingly attacked the Baboo, and in a few minutes threw him into the trance, the reality of which he very effectually tested by gouging his nose unmercifully with a pin. He expressed himself perfectly satisfied, and begged to see the first operation that was to be performed.

“The Minister having been informed of the opposition Dr. Esdaile had encountered in the introduction of this new art, exclaimed, ‘Opposition! I should not know how to reward such a man sufficiently.’ Such is the difference between *civilized* and *uncivilized men*—which do the gentlemen of the Medical College belong to?”

Greatly to the credit of the editor of Woolmer's *Exeter and Plymouth Gazette* of June 8th, for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Janson, the following information appears under the head of *Foreign Intelligence* :—

“MESMERISM IN INDIA.—*The Englishman*, of the 10th of April, says :—‘We are glad to learn that the Government has at last decided upon supporting the Mesmeric Hospital. Dr. Esdaile has requested us to inform the subscribers that he will not require an extension of their liberality beyond the present month, as the Sarkea's Lane Hospital and Dispensary has been put at his disposal, for the express purpose of introducing mesmerism into regular hospital practice.’ Upon this the *Hurkaru* remarks :—‘We most cordially congratulate Dr. Esdaile, and all those who have so constantly supported him through good report and evil report, on what must be regarded as the triumph of truth and humanity, wrought out by a patient continuance in well-doing. Professional incredulity

has been convinced,—professional prejudice has been overcome or shamed away, and mesmerism, alike victorious over argument and sarcasm, now stands, supported by an impregnable array of facts, practically acknowledged by a cautious Government as a means of mitigating human suffering.’”

Read this, all ye medical practitioners of all ranks, ye lecturers, hospital medical officers, journalists and writers of books in England, Scotland and Ireland, and hide your faces in your hands, and, when your contrition is complete, lift them up and implore forgiveness for your misdoings!

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

37, Conduit Street, London, June 21st, 1850.

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IX. *Mesmeric Cures of Scrofulous Ophthalmia, Dropsy, Contractions, and Rheumatism.* By Mr. TUBBS, Surgeon, Upwell Isle, Cambridgeshire.

*Violent strumous Ophthalmia.*

ON Saturday, Mrs. Bates, a farmer's wife, of Exmore Drove, called upon me with her child, Hannah Bates, between 5 and 6 years of age. The child's eye was covered with a handkerchief. There were infiltration and swelling of the whole left eyelid. The stimulus of light prevented my minutely examining the eyeball. I saw the cornea had a haziness, with an indentation about the size of a pin's head. There was also visible lymph between the laminated texture of the cornea and enlarged congested vessels surrounding the cornea. As the mother said she was going to Wisbeach, I recommended her shewing the case to Dr. Whitshed.\* On her return she called with a prescription, from which any medical man would be enabled to decide that the most active treatment was necessary. I proposed to the mother to delay the remedies until the next morning, the case having gone on a fortnight by itself, and to let me mesmerise the eye; and then, if she was no better, to have recourse to the doctor's prescription. I locally mesmerised the eye, and after a short time the little patient fell asleep, and slept nearly an hour. I saw a decided improvement, and said, "Now, Mrs. Bates, I think I can cure your little girl's eyes without the prescription. The next morning the *tumefaction was lessened*, the eye *not so cloudy, less painful*, and the light caused *no pain*. Either the mother or daughter brought the child to me every day afterwards.

To-day (June 14th) the eye is as *clear* as the *other*, the *nebula gone*, and, with the exception of a slight white speck

\* Dr. Whitshed is the wise old gentleman who called mesmerism an "illusory and visionary imposture" and "sinful." His ridiculous letter to Mr. Tubbs, with that gentleman's high-minded answer, will be found in No. VI., p. 254.—*Zoist*.

on the cornea, she is *well*. I never saw a case do so well in so short a time. The child is brought four miles to be mesmerised. I shall mesmerise it for a week longer. The doctor's prescription I value as a memento, because of my success in the case.

I have so many cases now in hand that I have turned a part of my coach-house (the granary) into an infirmary, after the Bristol plan.\*

\* Mr. Tubbs has forwarded to us Dr. Whitshed's prescription. We translated it, and our readers will see that the case was considered very severe, or such powerful and painful measures would not have been ordered. Calomel and grey mercurial power night and morning; compound tincture of iodine twice a day; and a solution of lunar caustic and wine of opium to be dropt into the eyes every other day:—for how many weeks these sharp measures were expected to be required, we know not. But the poor little child was spared all this severity by Mr. Tubbs having the intelligence, honesty and moral courage to simply make passes before it.

“ Take—Calomel, 10 grains,  
Mercury and chalk, 15 grains.

“ Mix thoroughly, and divide into 10 powders: to give one of the powders every night and morning in a very little treacle.

“ Take—Compound tincture of iodine, 3 drams,  
“ Direct.—‘ Drops.’

“ ‘ Give 5 drops in a little water sweetened with a little sugar every forenoon at 10 o'clock, and every afternoon at 4 o'clock.’

“ Take—Lunar caustic, 2½ grains,  
Rose water, half an ounce.

“ Dissolve and add—  
Wine of opium, half an ounce.

“ Direct.—‘ Drops for the eye.’\*

“ ‘ One or two drops (not more) to be carefully dropt into the eye every other day.’

“ The eye to be bathed twice a day for 5 minutes with a linen rag wet with water just warm.

“ Mary Baker's child, ophthalmia† strumosa.

“ J. W.

“ I have not time to write to Mr. Tubbs.”

See as remarkable cures of ophthalmia in a patient of Dr. Elliotson's, No. VI., p. 239; and by Mr. Parker, in his own child, No. XVIII., p. 154: one by Mr. Kiste, No. IX., pp. 24, 33-4; four by Mr. H. S. Thompson, No. XI., p. 326, XIX., p. 290; five by Miss Wallace, No. XVI., pp. 458-9, 461-2-3; one by Mr. Hazard, No. XXVI., p. 179.

When we consider the suffering of this disease, and the suffering caused by the remedies habitually employed by medical men, we have a right to demand their serious attention to our cases. When did they effect such a cure of blindness as those by the wife of the Archbishop of Dublin, No. XXV., p. 81; by Mr. H. S. Thompson, No. XI., p. 325, XIX., p. 290; and by Mr. Capern in the present number, p. 169?

We shall one day see mesmerism in daily use in eye infirmaries as well as in insane establishments: and we hope such cases as our present number furnishes will soon put an end to the twaddling of those medical men who, feeling that they must come round, and hoping to lessen their disgrace, are so kind as to say they have no doubt there is use in mesmerism, but this is in nervous diseases only.—*Zoist*.

\* “‘ Guttæ pro oculis.’”

† Dr. Whitshed seems not to be a learned leech, or he would know that an *h* should come after the *p* as well as after the *t*. The omission is common among the uneducated.

*Case of enlarged Liver with Dropsy and Rheumatic Fever with total loss of the power of locomotion.*

Thomas Day Wainwright, aged eleven years, has been afflicted ever since he was three months old. At that time he had two enlarged glands in the neck about the size of a hen's egg, which suppurated and left him very weak; has had the measles and hooping cough. After that he had five sores from the knee to the groin that discharged so much as to add to his already weakened state. Then followed dropsy of the abdomen, that continued up to the time of his coming to reside in my locality. Here he had an attack of rheumatic fever, which so affected his joints as to disable his lower extremities, and his mother had on every occasion to carry him in her arms. Having attended him several months without the slightest improvement, I told the mother to let him try mesmerism.

On the 28th May, 1850, he was brought up to my house by his mother in a small carriage; and mesmeric passes were made daily until the 4th June, when his mother discontinued coming, thinking it was of no use as he could not be sent to sleep. As I was passing the house on the 7th of June, I saw the mother, and urged her coming again with the child. She did on Monday morning, June 10th. Two of my mesmerisers operated without inducing the sleep. She came again in the evening, and said she was induced to do so in consequence of seeing Bates's child operated on in the morning and so much better. The Irishman operated for an hour and succeeded in producing the state of coma. I was much delighted on reaching home from Downham in the isle (sixteen miles off, where I had been mesmerising a lady) to find the little patient with stiffened limbs and truly asleep. On the 11th his mother brought him up in her arms, not being able to procure a conveyance. I operated, and then made him *walk* from the parlour into the kitchen, where he soon attacked some meat and bread, saying he was very hungry. He had not been on his legs until *this day* for EIGHT WEEKS. In the evening the mother drew him up in the carriage, and he was operated on by the Irishman and slept an hour; again walked from one room to the other, and heard my daughter play on the piano.

12th. Slept well, walked *alone* after the sleep across to his father; had passed a great quantity of water; is always calling out for something to eat. Mesmerised by Parker; slept an hour and a half.

13th. Operated on by myself with four others, every one of whom was in a fit state for surgical operations without pain,



and amongst them a poor old lady of 82, who has quite lost a rheumatic affection of the shoulder by mesmerism. I ought to have stated that, at the time the mother left off mesmerism, she observed the child was passing a great deal of water and the swelling of the body had greatly diminished. This was not from the sleep but the passes.

14th. Sent to sleep by May, and *walked* while in that state *quickly* up and down the room in the presence of Mr. John Key, our butcher. His mother says he sleeps soundly, and is better in every respect. It being a rainy day, I had him all day at my house, and he amused himself by walking up and down the kitchen after the parrot.

The following was sent to a local newspaper, with a private note to the editor:—

“MESMERISM.

“ ‘It is a sleepy language, and thou speakest  
Out of thy sleep. What is it thou didst say?  
This is a strange repose, to be asleep  
With eyes wide open, standing, speaking, moving,  
And yet so fast asleep.’ *Shakespeare.*

“To the Editor of the *Independent*.

“Sir,—The science of mesmerism is making rapid strides in this locality, notwithstanding the opposition it receives from many influential individuals. Whether such adverse views arise from prejudice or interest, it is not for me to decide. Either of them singly is, in some, a powerful opponent; but, when united, they become almost invincible. It is from those who possess minds capable of being exercised with liberty, and from those who have witnessed the healing effects of mesmerism, that the writer of this article expects attention.

“The following statement is a fact witnessed by myself.

“A boy, named Thomas Day Wainwright, living at Outwell, about eleven years old, has been afflicted from his infancy with general prostration of the system, a strong tendency to dropsy, and for the last two months complete loss of the power of locomotion, his mother being obliged on every occasion to carry him in her arms. During the present week he has been operated upon by W. J. Tubbs, Esq., surgeon, and such were the effects of the mesmeric influence with two operations only, that the boy is now able to walk unassisted, the dropsy has disappeared, and there is every apparent prospect of a speedy return to good health. During his sleep he is able to answer questions and talk on any subject as when awake; and, however strange this statement may sound upon the ears of the sceptical on mesmerism, ‘it is no less strange than true.’ But this is only one of the many cases where affliction has been relieved by the benevolent disposition of Mr. Tubbs. If you, Mr. Editor, think with me on this matter, you will give it publicity in your much read and

intelligent journal, that the many who read it may not any longer remain unacquainted with the happy effects of mesmerism.

“I am, Mr. Editor, yours respectfully,  
“Upwell, 13th June, 1850. AN OLD CORRESPONDENT.”

“Sir,—This is and must become known. I assure you there is no high colouring in this statement, and I hope you will find room this week, if not, in your next.

“Yours frequently obliged,  
“W. HOPKINS.”

*An instance in which pain was communicated from the patient to the operator.*

Mrs. Tubbs, having violently sprained the muscles of the right side of the neck and those of the shoulder, had them locally mesmerised for about half an hour by Harriet Bell who was in the mesmeric sleep, and was greatly relieved. In a few hours all pain was gone. Three days afterwards Harriet Bell came up, and said she had been suffering from pain in the very muscles of the same side of the neck, and thought that she had caught Mrs. Tubbs's complaint, and wished that Mrs. Tubbs would take it from her by mesmerising her. This Mrs. Tubbs did. Bell was in the trance during the time, and, feeling the pain leaving her, requested Mrs. Tubbs to shake the *darkness* well off her finger-ends after every pass, that it might spread about the room. In the course of a quarter of an hour Mrs. Tubbs awoke her, and she left the house quite free from pain.\*

*An old lady of 82 years relieved of a Rheumatic Pain in the Shoulder by the first sleep.*

Mrs. Holborn, aged 82, who has been a noted and most successful midwife in the parishes of Outwell and Upwell for fifty years, came into the room while I was attending to my operators, on the 11th June, 1850, to be mesmerised. I said, “What for?” “This here shoulder; I can't get my hand only up to my neck. When I *do so* I have so much pain down the arm.” I now tried to raise the arm, which seemed a fixture, and made the poor old dame call out. I told her to sit down. She said, “You have put that girl James's neck right, which made me come.”

I affected her by the passes instantly. Her head fell backwards, and her wrinkled features changed from the tawny gipsy hue to dead paleness. I raised her head and spoke to her. She told me she was very comfortable. I proceeded to

\* Whenever a mesmeriser has contracted the pain, &c., of his patient, the affection is readily dissipated by mesmerism. See No. XIX., p. 246.—*Zoist*.

relieve the affected arm, and then requested her to place her hand on the top of her head; and she did. At her age I thought it better now to wake her, when she had perfect use of the arm and raised it as high as the other.

12th. Mrs. Wainwright is here, and states that Mrs. Holborn's arm is well.\*

#### *Inflamed Knee.*

Sarah Swan, living at Lot Bridge, near Welney, came limping into my surgery this morning (May 22nd, 1850). She said, "I was at work for Mr. Bates on Wednesday, when I felt a stiffness of my left knee. I continued my work until I was so full of pain as to compel me to return home. I found in the evening that there was a redness and swelling of the part. The next two days I kept at home: part of the time I was in bed. I applied brown paper soaked in vinegar. Not being better I managed to get to my home, a distance of five miles." I at once persuaded her to be mesmerised locally, for which purpose she followed me into the parlour, where two mesmerisers were employed on two obstinate patients. Mr. Waghorn at once made passes over the knee, and, without my assistance, in about *twenty minutes she got up perfectly free from pain*, and walked into the adjoining room for me to examine the knee. On my viewing it she declared it was as right as the other. In the course of the day, on my way home, I met her, and she said, "Sir, I am very much obliged to you; I can walk now."†

#### *Severe inflammatory Headache.*

On Tuesday (May 21st), I was sent for to attend John Holt, aged 17, of Wellfen, near March, labouring under severe febrile symptoms and dreadful pain in the head. His pulse was rapid and full; skin hot and dry. He took saline aperients with a purgative dose of calomel and colocynth. The following day when I called, I was told to go as quietly as possible into the room, for his head was considerably worse. Such I found to be the case. He could not bear the stimulus of light, had a tremulous coated tongue, and every unfavourable symptom. His bowels had not been moved. The pain of the head was confined principally to the temples and forehead, which were exceedingly hot. Cold evaporating lotion had been constantly applied. His mother was standing at the

\* That age is no impediment to mesmeric susceptibility was shewn in No. XI., p. 398.—*Zoist*.

† See Mr. H. S. Thompson's cure of a diseased knee, No. V., p. 84; cures of inflamed knees, V., p. 126; VI., p. 266, in patients of Mr. Tubbs.—*Zoist*.

foot of the bed. I said to her, "I have often relieved pain in the head by making passes over it with my hands. I'll try and do so now." Silence in our part of the world we consider gives consent. So I mesmerised locally for a short time, when he said, "I feel better." I sat down by the side of the bed and operated for some time, and, on breathing over the eyes and temples, he was *quite free from pain*, and called to his mother to pull the blind up, for the light did not hurt his eyes. At 8 o'clock in the evening the servant came up for medicine, and stated the *pain had not returned and the fever had left him*, but his bowels had not been relieved. On visiting him to-day, I found him dressed, in another room, apparently well. I said, "Well, how come you to be up to-day?" "Oh, Sir, I soon got better after you cooled my head with your hands." His mother asked, "Is that what they call mesmerising?" "Yes," I replied. "You must do something to your hand," she said. Having Mr. Barth's excellent little book in my pocket, I left it for the family to peruse and took my departure.

The following was written by the father, who is a Welchman, and a contractor for an immense business going on in Cambridgeshire, in the middle level draining:—

"Upwell, Norfolk, 24th May, 1850.

"Gentlemen,—My son was afflicted with a violent fever and distracted with pain in his head. I called Mr. Tubbs in for advice, and he sent a bottle of medicine; the following morning my son's head was no better. I sent for Mr. Tubbs again, and he came immediately and moved the pain out of his head into his leg, and out of his leg away altogether, by the motion of his hand. Shortly after he parted with a large substance that was collected together on his stomach of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  inches long and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  diameter of an oval shape, and another one about 2 inches long.

"Gentlemen, this is the truth.

"I am yours, &c.,

"CHARLES HOLT."

#### *Acute Rheumatism.*

Mary Stevens, aged 17, a servant living in Upwell, called me in on the 28th April, 1850, complaining of pains in her elbows and right knee. The latter had a rosaceous and tumid appearance, and was exceedingly sensitive to the touch; a shower had taken place during the night, and, from her mother being a martyr to rheumatism, I had a mind to nip Master Rheumatism in the bud by local mesmerism. In some few minutes my patient was relieved of all pain, and got up and

walked. I have often since seen her, and there has been no attack of rheumatism up to this day (May 23rd, 1850).

*Wry Neck.*

“ March, June 9th, 1850.

“ My dear Sir,—I have been so much occupied (it being near the holidays), and have had so many interruptions, that I have been prevented from giving that attention to your remarkable cure of wry neck which it deserved, and which I desired to give. You request me to write you an account of what I witnessed in the case. I consider it a fortunate privilege for me that I happened to be at your house at the time. I was trying if I had any mesmeric influence over a man in your parlour when you called me into the surgery to see Susannah James in the trance. The first thing I saw you do was to breathe on the neck, and to work the head in various directions to exercise the muscles. When I came into the surgery indeed the muscles of the neck had been already relaxed. On your trying whether she was a subject to exhibit phreno-mesmeric phenomena, she awoke. I then observed a very remarkable and wonderful occurrence. When asleep she sat with her back to the surgery door, but on her awaking, and when I saw her countenance, the whole left side of the face was higher than the right, the mouth, cheeks, and eyebrows being greatly distorted and drawn upwards. But immediately I noticed that the distortion was becoming less, the muscles seemed to give way, and the features of the left side to descend nearly to a level with the other. The change in the appearance was sufficiently astonishing, and the next morning after a second mesmerisation I should not have noticed anything awry either in the head or face if I had not looked for it. Being anxious to understand the whole truth of the matter, I on Sunday, May 26th (the day after your first trial of her), waited on Susannah James’s mother, and learnt the following particulars. The mother said her daughter was born September 15th, 1835, and seized with fever May 10th, 1843, which left her nearly deaf and wry necked. You mesmerised her then, but did not succeed for a week or so in producing anything; but after that you produced sleep, and then raised the head to its proper place. She was not operated on any more, and the neck soon became nearly as bad as before through the mother’s neglecting to send the child to be again acted on. The head was about 45 degrees out of the perpendicular; any effort to put it straight caused violent pain, and even the little motion involuntarily produced in washing her often made her cry out. She could only lie

on one side, and was obliged to have her head supported to prevent its aching. She is also exceedingly deaf. Such is what I know of this remarkable affair, Sir. There would be few unbelievers in mesmerism if all could see, as I did, the distortion of the girl's mouth, which, when she laughed, seemed set diagonally across her face, gradually disappear and the symmetry of the whole countenance perceptibly return. Wishing the science a speedy triumph over the prejudices of others as well as myself,

I am, my dear Sir, most truly your's,  
 "To W. J. Tubbs, Esq. JOHN WORDEN."

"We, the undersigned, have known Susannah James, of Outwell, for several years; she has had a twisted neck, with her face much out of order. We have seen her the last few days, and find that she can carry her neck up as right as it should be, and her face is greatly improved since she has been mesmerised by Mr. Tubbs, Surgeon, Upwell. She was very deaf, and that is also improved.

"William May, farmer, Outwell,  
 Hannah Yallup, grocer,  
 James Hobourn, gardener, Outwell,  
 Robert James, the girl's father, Outwell,  
 William Hunt, labourer, Outwell,  
 Smith Goddard, baker, Outwell,  
 Joseph Booth, innkeeper, Outwell,  
 John Hill, farmer, Outwell,  
 Richard Andrews, blacksmith, Outwell,  
 John Goddard, farmer, Outwell."

The girl is mesmerised every evening. I can now produce a rigid state of the muscles of the neck by willing, and often shew her as a wry neck case artificially produced, which has astonished many. The neck keeps perfectly *natural*. I had forgotten that years ago I tried to mesmerise her.

#### *Painless Extraction of a Tooth.*

I extracted a firm tooth from a poor woman's jaw (Mrs. Wright, off the Bedford Bank, near Wilney) some time since, without her feeling the slightest pain.

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X. *Mesmeric Infirmary.*

THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING of this society was held on Monday, May the 6th, at the Infirmary, 9, Bedford Street, Bedford Square.

Mr. J. A. Gordon, of Bristol, in the absence of the Earl of Ducie through ill health, was called to the chair.

The CHAIRMAN said that it was a subject of deep regret to him and the Committee that the Earl of Ducie was unable to attend that meeting. That nobleman was one of the best friends and supporters of the spread of mesmeric science, and he was sure would share with them the regret felt at his being unable to attend on that occasion. (Cries of hear, hear.) He was sorry that the place of the noble earl should be so ill supplied, as he was aware he was unable to fill it so well as the noble lord; but he trusted to their kind assistance in the performance of its duties.

The Rev. G. SANDBY then read the report of the Committee of Management, which says:—

“A few friends of mesmerism, considering the establishment of an infirmary for the treatment of disease by its means as a very desirable object, met at the Earl of Ducie’s, in the year 1846, and passed some preliminary resolutions to that effect. Among the steps taken at that meeting was the appointment of a committee, to whom was entrusted the power of carrying the plan into operation. Sundry circumstances, however, delayed its immediate execution. But in the course of last year it was felt that the time was at length arrived, when any further delay would be undesirable. The progress that mesmerism had made in public opinion, the encreasing number of its advocates, and the growing demands on the part of the sick and the suffering for assistance and advice, all led to the conviction that the Infirmary could be at once opened with every prospect of success. Funds for this purpose were not wanting; for the liberal donations and subscriptions of many kind friends and patrons had afforded the means of taking the necessary initiatory steps. The committee, therefore, met on the 24th of last July, and, having taken some communications and calculations, that were placed before them, into consideration, came to the resolution of looking out for, and of engaging, a house suitable to the purpose, and of placing it under the superintendence of a resident Manager or Secretary.

“In the course of the month of January the Infirmary came into operation; patients have been attending daily, and are encreasing in number; and an additional mesmeriser, William Fisher, recommended by Mr. Tubbs, Surgeon of Upwell Isle, Cambridgeshire, was appointed at a salary of sixteen shillings per week.

“The Committee have agreed upon several rules and regulations for the direction and management of the Institution, copies of which have been sent to the donors and subscribers, and which are submitted to the consideration of the General Meeting for approval and confirmation.

“The Committee beg to state that a sum, amounting to £903:17,

in donations and subscriptions, has been paid into the hands of the Treasurer, and that promises of still further assistance, amounting to about £200 have been also made; to which must be added the sum of £23:0:2, for interest on exchequer bills, making a total of £926:17:2 received.

“The Committee have examined and paid the bills incurred for the furnishing of the Infirmary, and have also paid the first quarter’s rent, and the first quarter’s salary of the Secretary, amounting in all to the sum of £121:11:6, consequently leaving a balance in the hands of the Treasurer of £805:5:8, of which £506:9:11, has been invested in the purchase of £500 in exchequer bills.

“The Committee have the pleasure of announcing that they have received from P. Baume, Esq., the donation of a freehold estate at Edmonton, which has hitherto been let for a rent of £40 a year, and also of five railway arches at Stepney, which may be estimated at the yearly value of at least five pounds each.

“The Committee, in presenting this their first report to the donors and subscribers to the Infirmary, cannot but congratulate the friends of mesmerism generally on an important step being at length *publicly* taken for the progress of scientific truth, and for the promotion of the great cause of humanity, towards the support of which good and useful work the co-operation of every philanthropist is earnestly invited. The institution, whose recent opening is herein briefly recorded, already shows a promise of growth,—and, if conducted with energy and judgment, and with a due regard to those important considerations, which have respect to the choice of mesmerisers and to the management of its internal arrangements, may prove a source of inappreciable blessings to numbers, and seems, moreover, as an example of practical benevolence to other and older societies, of which it is impossible at this early day to calculate the full results. Doubtless, there are always difficulties connected with the first establishment of every hospital; and there are some to which a mesmeric hospital, more than any other, is peculiarly liable: still, if encountered steadily as well as zealously, and in a spirit of prudence, union, and good-will, these difficulties are anything but insuperable; and if the regulations, which are adopted by the governors for the daily conduct of the institution be but carefully and uniformly enforced, the success of the Infirmary may be pronounced certain and permanent. To this latter point, however, the Committee attaches considerable weight; and towards a due observance of which they strongly request the assistance of every true friend of mesmerism. By these means, the cavils of the sceptic will be silenced,—the prejudices of the scrupulous be removed,—the misrepresentations of the calumniator be answered,—and the cause of truth grow stronger and stronger every hour. With these observations the Committee beg to close their report, in expressing every confidence in the future prospects of the institution, and in looking forward to a year of encreasing activity and usefulness.”

Since the report had been drawn, an addition of £13:8 had been received.



Mr. JANSON had great pleasure in moving the adoption of the report, having come a distance of 200 miles to attend the meeting—(Cheers)—and he believed that had all their friends done the same they would have had great difficulty in accommodating them. One principal reason of his attending the meeting was to submit to the subscribers of the institution a manuscript, drawn up by Mr. Capern, of Tiverton, who he believed was the most successful mesmerist since the days of Greatrakes. The manuscript contained reports of upwards of 100 cases, and would be extended by about 50 more, when he hoped it would be published, as containing most surprising and convincing proofs of the truth of the science. (Cheers.) He would now merely move that the report be adopted and circulated among the subscribers to the institution.

Mr. LUXMOORE seconded the resolution. He had for years looked with anxiety to the time when they would be enabled to have an establishment like this in London, feeling convinced that this was all that was wanted to prove the truth of mesmeric science. (Hear, hear.) He believed that mesmerism would prove of great assistance to medical science, though he did not mean to say that it would supersede it. He had himself seen the beneficial effects produced by it in alleviating the sufferings of those afflicted with rheumatism, tic douloureux, paralysis, &c., and he believed that no philanthropist who examined into mesmerism would deny that it was a great addition to the science of alleviating pain and curing disease. The professors of the science had been met with derision and calumny, but he felt that the day would arrive when its success and its truth would be universally acknowledged and the calumnies of its opponents for ever silenced. He felt that they were under a deep debt of gratitude to the gentlemen who had taken an active part in promoting the establishment of this institution, and he had therefore great pleasure in seconding the motion for the adoption of the report.

The motion having been put and carried unanimously,

The SECRETARY read the proposed laws of the institution, to which the following is the preface:—“This Infirmary is established for the alleviation and cure of diseases, and for the relief and prevention of pain, by means of mesmerism. It is supported by the voluntary contributions of those persons who, having faith in the remedial efficacy of mesmerism, or being desirous to be assured of the truth of the extraordinary cures alleged to have been effected by its agency in the hands of many credible and respectable persons, are anxious that the poor should have the opportunity of availing themselves of the advantages it may afford. There is another object which the originators of this new establishment have in view. They desire to extend the field of observation in the science of mesmerism, and to encourage the promulgation as well as the cultivation of its truths without favour to any party or to any limited or individual interests.”

[The proposed laws for the management of the institution were then read.]

Mr. MONCKTON MILNES, M.P., moved the adoption of the

proposed laws, and trusted that it would go forth to the public that the friends of mesmeric science were now prepared to put the truth of their principles to the test in the heart of the metropolis, through the agency of a public hospital. He believed that, through the agency of such an institution, mesmerism would take its fair position as a branch of medical science, and he was sure that this was all its real friends wished. (Hear, hear.) They all knew that mesmerism exhibited some most extraordinary psychological phenomena, and perhaps no subject could be of greater interest to philosophical inquiries than those phenomena; but, at the same time, he thought it most important that this institution should as little as possible interfere with those inquiries, and confine their attention as much as possible to the application of mesmerism as a curative agent in diseases which might come under their notice. (Hear, hear.) He thought it very important that it should go forth to the public what were the real objects and intentions of the institution, so that it might avoid as far as possible any imputation of quackery, which, no doubt, would be brought against it. If, however, the society quietly carried on its operations under the eye of the public, under the notice of the press, but excluding idle curiosity from interfering with its patients, he had no doubt that it would make its way and establish itself in public opinion. (Hear, hear.) He considered that nothing could more clearly show the progress that their science—of the truth of which he had long been convinced—was making than the fact that the *Edinburgh Review*, in an article upon Mr. Cornewall Lewis's work, *On the Influence of Authority in the Formation of Public Opinion*, had devoted three or four pages to the recognition of the truth of mesmeric science. (Hear, hear, hear.) It was most important to the spread of their science that medical men had recently adopted various anæsthetic agents for producing insensibility to pain during the performance of operations; and he did not think they need look upon these with any degree of jealousy as rivals to their progress. (Hear, hear.) Indeed, mesmerism might be found peculiarly adapted to some constitutions, while other anæsthetic agents might be adapted to other constitutions. He could not help feeling that they ought to take some shame to themselves for not having before put themselves into a position to have the agency of mesmerism acknowledged by the medical profession, through the establishment of an institution of this description, and allowing the advantages of the other anæsthetic agents to be acknowledged while they were doing nothing. It was a most remarkable circumstance in the history of all physiological discoveries, however important, that they were ignored for years until their importance forced them upon public attention: and so it was with mesmerism—it was undergoing the ordeal to which all great and valuable truths were subjected, and he considered that they had no reason to complain of this, as the importance of their science must be ultimately acknowledged and the truth prevail. (Cheers.) After again urging upon the company the necessity of the institution strictly confining themselves to the use of mesmerism as a curative operation, and

eschewing experiments, the honourable member concluded by moving the adoption of the rules.

The Rev. G. SANDBY seconded the resolution, agreeing as he did with every word uttered, and the recommendation given, by Mr. Monckton Milnes. He had had an opportunity of observing with his own eyes the soothing effects and curative influences of mesmerism, and he felt convinced that they had only to be brought prominently under the notice of the public, through the means of an hospital, to be generally and fully acknowledged. (Cheers.) It was a most remarkable fact, and one of which they ought to be ashamed, that a Mesmeric Hospital had not been established in civilized Europe—had not been established in the centre of this great metropolis—had not been fostered in scientific society, but had been established in what Shakespeare called “the furthest steppes of India.” He thought all honour was due to Dr. Esdaile, who had established that hospital, and to the Governor General and other Indian authorities who had fostered it, it having proved eminently successful in alleviating human pain. He perfectly agreed with Mr. Monckton Milnes in his observations that the science had made and was making great strides, and was proved by its being acknowledged as a science by so important and cautious an authority as the *Edinburgh Review*. That journal said that, after inquiry, no doubt, “its errors, which probably are many, will be separated from, what we may be sure are also many, its truths.” No doubt they might have errors, as other sciences had in their infancy, but Mr. Cornwall Lewis had called theirs a “mock” science. It might be a “mock” science in one respect, but this was that it “mocked” all the ignorant attempts of their opponents to put it down. (Cheers and laughter.) But the editor of the *Edinburgh Review* said, in speaking of the phenomena of mesmerism—“No one can doubt that phenomena like these deserve to be observed, recorded, and encouraged; and whether we call by the name of mesmerism or by any other name the science which proposes to do this, is a mere question of nomenclature. Among those who profess this science there may be careless observers, prejudiced recorders, and rash systematisers; their errors and defects may impede the progress of knowledge, but they will not stop it; and we have no doubt that before the end of the century the wonders which now perplex almost equally those who accept and those who reject modern mesmerism will be distributed into defined classes and found subject to ascertained laws; in other words, will become the subject of a science.” Now, that was just what they had been saying for years, and it was to prove their science that their infirmary had been established. (Hear, hear.) They wished to extend the advantages of mesmerism to the very poorest of their fellow-subjects, and to shew to the world the truth of their principles. He would not further detain them, but second the resolution for the confirmation of the rules of the society.

The resolution was carried unanimously.

Mr. TUBBS proposed that certain noblemen and gentlemen should be officers and members of the committee for the ensuing year; and

observed that he felt incompetent to give expression to the pleasurable sensations he experienced in having the honour of being present at an assemblage of gentlemen, who not only claimed distinction from the high position which they held in society, but from the great talents they possessed as to the business of the meeting, and as to every other subject of interest which related to the well-being of mankind generally, or to the pleasure he felt on being spared (through all his trials) to visit that establishment for the progress of a science so long abused as it had been. He (Mr. Tubbs) had been located in an obscure (as he might call it) village in Cambridgeshire, whose leading and most influential members had not been celebrated for being foremost in the promotion of philosophical enquiries, and whose opinions on such enquiries had been sufficient to give a death-blow to everything they might consider to be in opposition to their prejudices. He could assure the meeting that he had met with those whom the world called educated men, abounding with the strongest and most invincible prejudice, and not to succumb to them would be thought the worst of heresy; but fortunately for him and the cause of mesmerism the spot contained a few spirits as ardent in the cause as himself, some as deeply metaphysical and as capable of judging of the truth of mesmerism as anywhere existed; and though they could not rank with princes, they were, he was happy to say, justly entitled to rank with men of genius; aided by whose encouragement, the pen of one friend and his own convictions, he had, under all the frowns of the rich, the sneers of the vulgar and illiterate, for a time pursued the favoured science with unabated zeal. But such were the effects which slander had upon the public mind, that his (Mr. Tubbs's) practice diminished, his enemies were triumphant, his *best friends* deserted him, and even his sanity was questioned. At length he succumbed to their prejudices, and like the apothecary in *Romeo and Juliet* could say,

“ My *poverty*, and not my *will* consents.”

But as time rolled on and more auspicious circumstances surrounded him, he was enabled to defy the effects of that public venom which he had before given way to. He again entered with redoubled vigour into the pursuits of mesmerism, and had the gratification of stating that many had become converts, through him, who had strongly denied every phenomenon that he produced; and though formerly drones in the hive, were now become industrious bees in the cause of mesmerism. Supported as the science was by the gentlemen he had the honor of addressing, many of whom were in themselves a host, he should remain in future a dauntless promoter of its cause. Mr. Tubbs then expressed a hope that the meeting would be the means of giving to mesmerism a local habitation and a name. He also alluded to the advantages he had had over the Devonshire Greatrakes (Mr. Capern) in having performed minor operations in the sleep, and mentioned the case of Margaret Francis whose leg he attempted to amputate, but was prevented by the interference of the sister, and sooner than it should be called a failure under mesmerism he took it off under chloroform, but after the operation always dressed

the stump under mesmerism without her knowledge. Having expressed his determination to pursue the same straightforward course for years to come that he had hitherto done, and wishing success to the establishment, Mr. Tubbs resumed his seat.

Mr. CAPERN said he rose with considerable diffidence to second the resolution, from a conviction that the assembly was composed of individuals of rank, station, and high attainments, and that his situation in life made him the humblest person there; but although diffident and inadequate to do justice to so important a science, to propagate which was the object of the meeting, yet he had confidence because of its value and importance. He had therefore great pleasure in seconding the resolution of Mr. Tubbs, and begged respectfully to explain what first influenced him to pay attention to the mysterious power of mesmerism or vital magnetism. About four years since, having attended a lecture given by the talented mesmerist Mr. Davey, and observing the great phenomena produced, he was induced on his third lecture to ascend the platform and assist in the operations by demesmerising one of the persons who had been placed in a state of coma. From that period he became subject to severe remarks and unjust criticism. On further investigating the subject, and after some suggestions from Mr. Davey as to the application of mesmerism as curative, he commenced his operations, and was pleased with some cases in which relief from pain was the result. The first case of importance was that of John Rowden, whom he met accidentally as he was going with difficulty to his labour.\* On being questioned as to the nature of his disease, Rowden stated that the limp in his walk was occasioned by his having had severe rheumatism for thirteen years, and that he was never free from pain. Mr. Capern invited Rowden to accompany him into the lodge of Mr. Heathcoat's manufactory, and, after a few passes made on his leg, he felt a glow of heat, much more so than he had for a long time, and then walked with him nearly to the residence of his master, Thos. Talley, Esq., on the road-side a few more passes being made down the thigh and leg. From that time he dates his cure, although he occasionally experienced slight pains on sudden changes of weather, or after exposure to heavy rains. Such was his improvement after the first passes that Mr. Capern was put in a state of perspiration in walking with the poor labourer, who before had frequently stopt and cried from his inability to keep pace with his fellow workmen. Having thus succeeded, Mr. Capern extended his operations, and has devoted nearly the whole of his time to them, and been instrumental in affording relief to hundreds of persons. In so doing he had been subject to misrepresentations, abuse, and insult, even when returning from visiting the sick chamber. He had been pointed at with a sneer. The words "madman" and "maniac" and "humbug" had been used, and most frequently by persons who had known him from his childhood. As to the terms madman and maniac he was careless about them, for the brain may be diseased or there may be a defect in the organiza-

\* See No. XXVI., p. 169.—*Zoist*.

tion ; but the term humbug he did and would repudiate. However, he was determined to persevere, knowing that the science was based on eternal truth, and would prevail when its calumniators were laid low and forgotten. To find his nearest relatives determinedly hostile to it gave him very great pain ; but nothing would prevent him from proving its importance ; no sacrifice would have been too great. Having proved this at Tiverton, he now stated it in the metropolis, amidst two and a half millions of human beings, and was desirous to promulgate that such a power existed. Notwithstanding so many proofs were adduced, scepticism prevailed, and in order to furnish the public with information, he had invited the whole of the clergy and dissenting ministers, the medical and professional gentlemen, the authorities, and the principal families of Tiverton, to meet at the mayoralty room, for the purpose of investigating the phenomena of mesmerism as a remedial agent. Nearly forty persons were severally introduced and proved its efficacy to the satisfaction of that very respectable assembly. By far the greater number had been under medical treatment, and they had all been cured of almost every variety of diseases to which we are subjected. Previously to this explanation many of those present would not have allowed the word "mesmerism" to be used at their residences ; and one gentleman, who came to the room to laugh it down, stated that he had visited, in his character as clergyman, one of the patients who had been cured of paralysis, and whom he believed at the time to be on his dying bed ; but the patient was, however, there to tell by whose instrumentality he was restored. Since that time several have made the "*amende honorable*." The cases referred to will appear in the work, the manuscript of which Mr. Janson had kindly introduced. The whole would amount to 150 cases ; and, had it been necessary, a large number might have been added, say hundreds : he had never kept a list. Suffice it to say that he has been at all times ready to assist any one, and frequently does not know the parish they are from. The statements will bear any investigation.\* He should have no objection to his cases being examined by a commission, of which Mr. Wakley should be one. His patients were all strong and healthy. His operations were not confined to weak enervated persons. A great number were muscular agricultural labourers who in the west of England, particularly in Devonshire, from sudden changes of temperature are subject to very severe rheumatic pains, and these generally disappear after two or three applications of the sanatory influence. Some of them have walked a distance of sixteen miles in order to have a sitting of about ten minutes. He has more pleasure in assisting them who need it than the richest baronet in Devonshire has in the enjoyment of his estates. Having probably been rather irregular, he said, in his observations, he apologized to the gentlemen and ladies present for occupying their time : but it afforded him infinite pleasure to be in the building applied to such holy purposes, and see persons daily engaged in diffusing health and strength to those who need it, by a power which we all possess.

\* See No. XXVI., p. 165.—*Zoist*.

Mr. LUXMOORE proposed thanks to the committee and medical officers.

Mr. W. G. SMITH, jun., of Greenwich, (who will be remembered as the mesmeriser of the boy, James Cook, of Deptford, some six years since,) seconded it, and begged to add his testimony to the truth of mesmerism. He said he was not a professional man, but an amateur in mesmerism. His first essay was the result of accident. Having attended a lecture and seen persons he knew thrown into the sleep, he, out of curiosity, tried his father's shop boy. The effect produced, every one conversant with mesmerism at the time will recollect. The patient remained in the mesmeric state for three days. His motive for now mentioning the case was that an impression had got abroad, prejudicial to the cause, "that the boy James Cook was dead." Mr. S. had been induced some three years since, in consequence of those reports, and at the request of Dr. Elliotson and Mr. Chandler, to publish the case in *The Zoist*.\* Mr. Smith was happy to state the last account he heard of James Cook was that he was well and hearty. Mesmerism, instead of injuring him, had been the means subsequently of greatly improving his health. Mr. S., since that event, had ample opportunities of testing the benefits of mesmerism. A case of St. Vitus's dance of the very worst description, where the patient had lost his speech and the use of his limbs, and after trying every remedy medical aid could suggest, was at the present time, by a judicious application of mesmerism, quite restored. The case was known to Dr. Elliotson, who was consulted by the parents of the child, and recommended mesmerism. Mr. S. wished the institution success, and pledged himself to use all his influence in making its benefits known.

Mr. Heath, Dr. Macdonald, and several other gentlemen addressed the meeting, and adduced instances to shew the advantages of mesmeric science, the whole of them stating that they were originally opposed to it until convinced by enquiry of its truth; and also detailed the difficulties they had had in promulgating it among society generally.

Dr. ASHBURNER proposed a vote of thanks to the chairman, and the meeting broke up.

## XI. *Bristol Mesmeric Institute.*

THE second Annual Meeting of the members and subscribers of the above Institute was held on Tuesday, May 14, at the room of the Institute, Park-street, when, in the unavoidable absence of the President, Earl Ducie, the chair was taken by one of the Vice-Presidents, J. A. Gordon, Esq.

The CHAIRMAN, in opening the proceedings, said, doubtless there were many present who had at some time been very much amused at the idea of mesmerism, who had laughed at it and been most sceptical as to there being any such power. He frankly con-

\* See No. XVII., p. 23; XXVII., p. 242.—*Zoist*.

fessed that he had himself been one of that number, and that he had considered it a great triumph whenever he had been able to deride and ridicule it. It happened, however, that after seeing many failures he attended in the drawing-room of a man whose name would be ever illustrious in the annals of science, and held in unfading regard by the disciples of mesmerism—Dr. Elliotson. (Cheers.) He entered the room perfectly incredulous, and met some fifty or sixty of the highest society in London. Among several cases brought forward in proof of mesmerism was one of a young girl, between 12 and 13 years of age, Rosina Barber; Dr. Elliotson put her into a state of trance and seated her in a chair; he then excited her phrenological organs, and, on touching that inducing devotion, she clasped her hands firmly together; Dr. Elliotson then invited the strongest men in the room to try and separate her hands, and several of the stoutest persons present made the attempt, but wholly in vain. After a time Dr. Elliotson said, “Now I will go and stand at a distance from her; let two of the strongest persons here stand by her, one on one side and one on the other; I will disengage her hands by the force of my will: let them try to keep them in their present position, and they will find that in spite of all their force she will unfold them.” The challenge was accepted. The Duke of Marlborough, a man of strong physical power, stood on one side of the girl, and Mr. Atkinson on the other; Dr. Elliotson went on the other side of the drawing-room and made certain passes; the girl began gradually to disengage her fingers, the men used all their power to prevent her, but, without altering a muscle of her countenance, she unfolded her arms and drove those two strong men behind her chair. (Hear.) When the girl was awakened she was wholly unconscious of what she had been doing. He (Mr. Gordon) felt that at that time he could not resist the evidence before him; but he afterwards went to Paris and saw Alexis—this was seven years ago—and the wonders of clairvoyance which he then saw fully confirmed his mind. Blind his eyes or do what you might with him, Alexis would see. He could see into parcels; he described to him a friend of his at Aberdeen, the suspension-bridge, Clifton, and many other matters. He also saw a young woman who was clairvoyant, who, among other things, told him to what street he was going in London, and spelt it letter by letter, and who, upon his asking her how she knew it, replied, “O, I see it written up at the corner of the street.” Last year he was in Paris with a relation of his, who had great scruples (on religious grounds) about going to Alexis. He consented at last, and went with him (the Chairman) and a captain in the navy: Alexis told him all the circumstances of his family—where they lived, what was taking place at the time in their room, how many pairs of boots and shoes he had, and described all the furniture of his bed-room and even the contents of his drawers. Before going to see him this gentleman had thrown a bit of chocolate into an egg-cup and placed it in his drawer; Alexis could not state what it was, but he drew the shape of the egg-cup and said he had a vessel there of that shape, and he could see some chocolate in it. He told him who his father was, and in whose com-



pany he was at that time (a fact which they verified on coming to England); he told him likewise how many orders his father had, and from whom he received them, and also that he had lost one eye. He was asked how he had lost it, and the question being put in regard to a distinguished officer in the navy, one would have expected—had there been any guess-work in the matter—that he would have replied, in battle; he however said, “It was shot out by accident by a duke, and that duke was of the blood royal;” which was the fact, it having been shot out by the late Duke of Gloucester. (Hear.) He was then asked to write his (Mr. Gordon’s) friend’s name; he tried at first and said he could not do it, but then said he could write it backwards, and at once wrote “evargedlaW”—Waldegrave, which was right. (Hear.) Many believed mesmerism to be a new and mysterious power, but there were many allusions to it in the old Greek and Latin authors. A hundred and fifty years ago there was a person named Greatrakes, in Ireland, who performed many wonderful cures, and to whom the greatest philosophers of that day—the day of Newton, and Locke, and Boyle—sent a deputation to see the cures he effected. Boyle, who was celebrated among philosophers for his strong sense of religion, went over and saw Greatrakes, who could not tell him however how the cures were made, but only that they did take place. The Chairman having referred to the wonderful powers possessed by the calculating boy, and which he believed were allied to mesmerism, contended for the antiquity of the science, and in proof that many things now considered new were not unknown to the ancients, he referred to the fact that the electric telegraph was described in a Latin poem, written in 1617, and was mentioned by an English author, Arthur Young, in 1687. He then adverted to the curative powers of mesmerism, and said a gentleman at Tiverton, named Capern, had performed more than 450 wonderful cures, and, after Greatrakes, must be considered one of the greatest known mesmerisers. It is very gratifying, in looking back upon the past history of mesmerism, to find those who had been its most inveterate opponents, now ranking amongst its strongest supporters; to see those who had ridiculed and almost persecuted its advocates, now coming round and beseeching them to cure their sufferings. (Applause). A recent case of remarkable cure occurred to him—it was that of a very leading member of the lower house of parliament (Sir Benjamin Hall), who avowed that he had received very great relief from mesmerism. He was thrown from his horse, which rolled over him, and pushed his eye very nearly out from its socket—so nearly indeed that the pupil was forced round close under his nose. For a year he suffered exceedingly, and was in the greatest pain. He tried all the means which wealth would command, but in vain, and he then bethought him of mesmerism. He first of all sent a lock of his hair to a person in London, a well-known clairvoyante (Mdlle. Julie), and on perceiving it she at once said the person to whom it belonged was affected in his eye. He afterwards went to see her himself, and upon touching him she said he was the person to whom the hair had belonged. At first she would not undertake his cure, saying that she

had twenty-two patients daily, and they quite exhausted her ; but at length she was prevailed upon, and he (Mr. Gordon) knew that for thirteen days—after having previously passed sleepless days and nights, and suffered intense agony—he was entirely without pain. By mesmeric treatment this gentleman was relieved in a most extraordinary way, and although the pupil of his eye was now not exactly straight, yet it was nearly so, and he was able to attend to his duties and make speeches in the house almost daily. After relating a case which had been told to him of a remarkable cure of the late Duchess of Gordon by Dr. Mesmer, the Chairman read letters of apology, but expressing sympathy with the movement, from W. J. Tubbs, Esq., surgeon, Upwell Isle, T. W. Saunders, Esq., Temple, London, the Rev. G. Sandby, &c. He concluded by expressing a hope that the Mesmeric Institute would be cherished by the Bristol public and flourish under their auspices and kind wishes.

Mr. S. D. SANDERS, honorary secretary, in presenting the report of the committee, said—Having had six or seven years' experience as a mesmerist, and mesmerised a large number of individuals, he was perfectly convinced that every disease not arising from organic malformation could be either thoroughly cured or greatly relieved by mesmerism, when judiciously and perseveringly applied. When they found that that horrid disease, cancer of the breast, had been cured by Dr. Elliotson, and when he told them that he had more than one case of cure, or in progress of cure, by himself in Bristol, they would admit that its supporters had a right to say that mesmerism was a valuable agent.

#### REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

The Committee, in presenting their present report, cannot but congratulate the subscribers on the success which has attended their past efforts.

The Institute, though existing only in the present form from the date of its public recognition last year, is enabled to present three important considerations—

- 1st. The absolute necessity of such an Institution.
- 2nd. The good which has already been accomplished.
- 3rd. The continued claims, and the contemplated extension of the same.

The necessity of the society has been proved by the large amount of applicants.

The good already accomplished will be shewn by the Medical Report, which will be read by Dr. Storer.

The Treasurer's Report will prove how large an amount of good can be accomplished with moderate means and a fixed purpose ; but, in saying this, the Committee are desirous to state how this has been accomplished. Independently of the services of a paid operator, they have had the fullest assistance from their medical officer, with two or three gentlemen of the Committee, and from one or two ladies, who have devoted much time in furtherance of the cause. This the Committee feel cannot but be expected to be continued ; and they are now the more desirous of increasing the funds of the Institute, so as

to enable them to engage further assistance to meet the increasing demands of patients.

What has been already accomplished, has been through the immediate friends of the cause. The subscriptions during the past year have amounted to about £43, and the disbursements, including rent, a paid mesmeriser, advertisements, stationery, &c., and two or three unpaid bills, have been somewhat about from £45 to £50.

The Committee have hitherto refrained from a general appeal to the public, until they were in a condition to prove, by the actual operations of the Institute, that such an establishment was really required, and that some good results would follow. Being now in this position, they the more confidently make this appeal, and think, after the various corroborations of these statements, that the public will be equally ready and willing to assist in the carrying out of such intentions.

Dr. STORER presented the

MEDICAL REPORT.

This report contains an account of 47 cases, which have come under treatment at the Bristol Mesmeric Institute; there have been besides many other applications, but the patients being unable to leave their homes, it was with regret that the means of the Institute would not allow of the necessary aid being extended to them. In some few instances, however, this has been accomplished, and the patients visited at home.

When it is considered that almost all the cases received have been of the most extreme character—some of years' standing—and that many of them have been rejected as hopeless under ordinary treatment, the actual amount of benefit conferred ought to be the only just criterion. Amongst these cases are comprised several of the most severe forms of epilepsy, of paralysis, of hysteria, of extreme nervous debility with depression; cases of tic douloureux, with rheumatism, in all its varied shapes; spinal disease, with scrofulous affections of the hip and knee joint.

There have been also several cases of nervous dyspepsia, sleeplessness, nervous headaches, acute inflammation of local parts, such as the eye, ear, and throat, which have been subdued by mesmeric influence. Several minor painless operations have been performed, such as the extraction of teeth, and the application of caustic to various parts of the body.

As regards epilepsy, the results are as follow:—Four of the cases, though of a most intractable nature, are considered quite cured; four have been considerably relieved, but did not continue their attendance long enough to have had a larger amount of good: and there are six cases now under treatment, all more or less progressing. The cures and relief of tic douloureux and rheumatism have been of a most encouraging nature; also of those more generally known as nervous disorders.

There have been a few cases of deafness and imperfect vision, in which great good has been effected; some of these are still under treatment.

Dr. Storer then gave details of some cases cured by him. One was a case of severe mental depression, with a greatly impaired vision; second, of severe mental affliction, with great despondency and inability to sleep; and a third a case of tic douloureux. Many minor operations in surgery have been performed under the influence of mesmerism, and were their Institution on a more extended scale capital operations might be performed. At present they were only doing in a nutshell what Dr. Esdaile was doing in India on a grand scale, because he had the support of the government and the public. If they had a mesmeric hospital in Bristol, and a proper relay of mesmerisers, there would not be a case which might not, in twelve or twenty-four hours, be brought under mesmeric influence for surgical operations. (Cheers.)

Mr. JANSON, of Pennsylvania-park, Exeter, in moving the adoption of the report, bore testimony to the great importance of mesmerism as a therapeutic agent. He regretted that the medical profession should oppose it, because he was satisfied that it was the long-wanted desideratum. Medical science had done a great deal for mankind, but there were certain complaints not within its reach which mesmerism did reach. Mr. Capern, of Tiverton, had performed a great number of cures, in many of which medical treatment had failed, while others had been discharged from the Exeter hospital as perfectly incurable cases. The speaker then read the following letter addressed to Dr. Storer, by the celebrated oriental traveller whose name it bears:—

“ Dear Sir,—If I had not imperative engagements in London, which I can neither forego nor postpone, it would have given me the greatest pleasure to have attended your meeting to bear my testimony to the value and importance of mesmerism as a means of cure for many cases of disease in which every effort of medicinal treatment has failed to give relief. I am now giving the best proof of the sincerity of my belief in its efficacy by placing Mrs. Rogers under your care at Bristol, and my own daughter under the care of Mr. W. Wilkinson, surgeon, in London, for the same purpose, and in both cases I entertain the strongest hope of success. The subject first attracted my attention in Philadelphia, in the year 1837, and in my work published on that country in 1841, I have given a detailed statement of the mesmeric operations witnessed by me in that city, in the presence of some of its leading inhabitants of great intelligence and respectability. Ever since that period I have taken the liveliest interest in its advancement, and have seen so many cases of successful cures of various ailments and infirmities that my greatest astonishment is to witness the ignorant and interested opposition to its progress by the majority of the medical profession, who, had it been as profitable to them as it is likely to be otherwise, would have been the most zealous in propagating its virtues and adopting it in practice; and the apathy and indifference of the general public, who, if they could be made acquainted with its powers, and were not deterred by a stupid dread of innovation from examining the subject

for themselves, would hail it as one of the greatest blessings and most valuable discoveries which Providence has permitted to be advanced by man for the last century; notwithstanding both these hindrances, however, it will eventually overcome every obstacle in its path, and confirm the old adage, that truth is mighty and will prevail. I enclose a small donation of two guineas to your fund, regretting that my limited means will not allow me to make it two hundred, which would be still an insufficient test of my estimate of the value of mesmerism to mankind.—I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

“To Dr. Storer.

J. S. BUCKINGHAM.”

(Great applause.) Mr. Janson went on to remark on the antiquity of mesmerism, instancing that in one of the pyramids of Egypt a hieroglyphic depicted a priest or physician in the act of mesmerising a patient, thus shewing that it was practised 3000 years ago. A remark made by him at the former meeting in this city, avowing his belief in prevision, had brought down upon him the remarks of a host of periodicals, one of which had called him a blasphemer. Now the most tender conscience need not be offended by any fear that mesmeric phenomena could interfere with anything sacred. There were in certain cases—they were very few he admitted—the power of foretelling events, but then it was in a very limited sense indeed, and had no relation at all to the prophecies of Scripture. A great deal of ridicule was cast upon the science, but it should be remembered that the mind could not receive truths for which it was not prepared. If any one were to tell the inhabitants of the north pole that they travelled in England by steam at the rate of a mile per minute, that they did not confine themselves to earth, but took voyages among the clouds, that they made the sun take likenesses, and conversed by lightning at hundreds of miles distance, and in a second of time, some witty Greenlander would smile at the relation, and ask if it was expected that he should believe in such a rhodomontade? The difficulty under which mesmerists laboured was this—they were placed in advance of the world, and must put on good faces and be prepared to battle for the truth. (Cheers.)

Mr. G. CUMBERLAND seconded the resolution, which having been adopted *nem. con.*,

Mr. LANE rose to address himself immediately to the subscribers, feeling assured that they would, with one accord, join with him in a vote of thanks to the medical officers of the Institution; and although all had most eminently deserved, yet it was but justice to notice the rare talents and indefatigable zeal which Drs. Elliotson, Storer, Engledue, and Ashburner, had betrayed at all times and in all places, through evil and through good report. Dr. Elliotson, indeed, “what can speak him home:” his great and supreme powers in medicine he had endeavoured, with a genuine philanthropy, to render more complete, by adding to it the powerful agent of mesmerism: amalgamating the two, pain at once flies, and life and vigour of life restored. Thus, then, how could they withhold their praise and thanks to such men as Drs. Elliotson, Storer, Engledue, and Ash-

burner; and, if he might dare to make use of an expression employed on a much more solemn subject, would say, "that neither were afore or after." It seemed an inherent infirmity in the human mind, to receive with extreme caution and even suspicion, all great innovations, or even vital improvements. Galileo was persecuted and imprisoned when he published his vast discoveries in astronomy; and Jenner, in our own day, derided and scoffed at, for, as it was termed, innoculating the disease of an animal into that of the human system. It could not, therefore, be matter of wonder if mesmerism, in its turn, should be sneered at by those who—too indolent to witness a demonstration, or too elevated in their own conceit—wilfully shut their eyes and steel their senses to its salutary and astounding results, and would, therefore, without mercy, give mesmerism "to the winds." He could adduce many facts that had fallen under his own notice, and that too ratified by concurring testimony, which would at once dispel all doubt, and silence all opposition, to the unbiassed; and it was not a little consolatory to find that mesmerism was wending its way to the shores of the Bosphorus, and returning to the country of the Ptolemies, in which its great discovery was first developed—Egypt, 2500 years ago. The paintings in the tomb or pyramid of Sesostris speak in higher or lower strains of its adaptation and practice in the curative art, by the ancient Egyptians. Mesmer only revived it. In the district of Pera (Constantinople), an amateur applied it with effect on a native, but as might be easily imagined, the fatalists ascribed it to Satanic powers. The Egyptians had an overwhelming example, in the case of Miss Martineau, the celebrated and useful writer, whose sedentary habits produced such derangement of the system as no medicine could reach: her physician left her, intimating that nothing remained but to smooth the descent to death. Here then, was genius, and taste, and talent, consigned to the tomb, when mesmerism came, and with a bland and reassuring smile tendered its aid. In a month, her nightly doses of narcotics were rendered nugatory, excruciating pains subsided, the animal functions gradually returned to their wonted vigour, and in about a twelvemonths after, she was discovered writing a letter on the great pyramid, having ascended to its summit without anything more than the ordinary fatigue of climbing to so vast a height, over steps at least two feet and a half high. What a mighty triumph for mesmerism! But still greater remained; to get down is infinitely more difficult than getting up,—a task fraught with pain and much danger. *Men* glide from step to step by the seat, but women prone on the chest; and then they have to jump six or eight inches to reach the step below, and woe to the she or he who shall lose their equilibrium; if you topple over, no earthly power can save you from destruction; bang, bang, you go from step to step, till you reach the bottom a shapeless and crushed mass; and all this was accomplished by Miss Martineau by mesmerism!!

Dr. STOKES, in seconding the proposition, eulogized the character of Dr. Elliotson, and adverted to the efficiency of Dr. Storer.

The resolution having been passed,

Dr. STORER, in acknowledging the compliment, said the Bristol Institute had, indeed, reason to be proud of such names as Drs. Elliotson, Ashburner, and Engledue. Dr. Elliotson was known wherever science and humanity were recognized; the other gentlemen by their writings, also, as practical physicians; personally, he felt the honour of such association, and his best endeavours would be to promote, as far as in his power, the object of the Institute.

Mr. LUXMOORE, a Devonshire magistrate, in moving a resolution inviting the co-operation of the public, avowed his firm belief, as the result of eight or nine years' investigation, in the truths of mesmerism, which ought to go hand in hand with mesmerism in the cure of disease. He firmly believed in clairvoyance and in the power of clairvoyants to discover the seat of disease, and see in effect into the interior structure of man. He believed it because he had seen it in many extraordinary cases. (Hear.) He had seen Mdlle. Julie give, upon touching a lock of hair, and without any previous knowledge of the party, such a true account of his or her condition as compelled him to place implicit confidence in what she stated, and he was convinced that no mesmeric hospital would do the greatest amount of benefit without a clairvoyant.

Mr. HAZARD having seconded the resolution,

Mr. W. LOWE, of College-green, avowed his conversion to a belief in mesmerism, from having mesmerised his servant girl, who, while under the influence, told him what disease she was afflicted by, and foretold some fits by which she was attacked.

Mr. BARNES, surgeon, of Bath, said he had been in the medical profession twenty-six years, and for a long time had had strong doubts of the truth of mesmerism. His first impression was received from a visit to a woman in a state of madness, whom two powerful men were unable to hold. He advanced to her, fixed his eye upon her, took her hand, and she at once fell down under the influence. Afterwards he was sent for to a man whom he found with one side completely paralyzed, his arm and leg being perfectly lifeless. He made some passes over his person, the capillary vessels at once began to fill, the warmth returned, and he was soon restored, and a few days ago carried two hundred weight for a mile and upwards. Four days ago he (Mr. Barnes) was called to see a child who had been in fits for a fortnight, and under the care of the hospital surgeons. She was insensible, kept incessantly rolling about her head in a shocking way, and had not spoken for many days. The moment that he touched the top of her head the rolling motion was stayed, she soon became perfectly still, and smiled at him, and directly afterwards she spoke. He left her greatly recovered, and the next morning her mother told him that in an hour after his leaving her she asked to be dressed, and was as perfectly well as ever she was in her life. This might seem to be a miracle, but it was the result of a principle which could be explained upon scientific grounds. He had produced similar effects in fever, and in lumbago and sciatica. His own gardener suffered severely, and after being in the hospital

for a time without benefit, came to him ill, and unable to stand erect; he mesmerised him, and in five minutes he rose up as straight as a dart, and went home perfectly well. As to clairvoyance, he had had opportunities of seeing it in patients again and again, and could attest its truth.

The resolution having been passed,

Mr. W. HAZARD next addressed the meeting, observing that at the opening of this Institute last year he stated he had been a believer, and practised mesmerism for sixteen years, to which he could now add another, and with increased faith, from seeing and proving daily and hourly the vast blessing it was as a curative agent. His greatest desire was that it should be still more known and practised. They daily hear of the march of intellect, of the progress or perfection of many branches of science, and as one it is gratifying to perceive that mesmerism had not fallen short, but was steadily and firmly progressing. The public could no longer be misled by the medical press; the conductors of which, for the most part, are the mere hirelings of party, their principal business being to crush and cry down such truths or discoveries as might chance to militate against the interests of the schools and coteries they were employed to serve. The would-be wits had amused themselves at the expense of the mesmerists, and directed against them all the shafts of their satire: yet like the religion of the Reformation in its earlier struggles, mesmerism had been embraced and practised by thousands, who have neither the courage nor the honesty to dare the avowal. To Dr. Elliotson, then, who openly came forward to bear testimony to its worth, words were wanting to express their gratitude. How but for him could they so long have stood against such organized opposition? Pleasing indeed must it now be to him, and to all those who have the welfare of mesmerism at heart, to see and know that institutions are opened for the cure of disease by mesmerism. Of the relief experienced and cures effected, the report just read of that Institute had fully proved, and long might it continue to flourish for the benefit of mankind. He had now to propose a vote of thanks to the honorary officers and committee, with a request that they would continue their valuable services.

Mr. BARNES seconded the proposition, and described a case in which he had had a tumor on his own face cured almost instantaneously by the mesmeric power of a lady then in the room.

The resolution was adopted *nem. con.*; and thanks having been voted to the Chairman, who stated an instance in which Alexis foretold a tumor on a lady's side four years before it outwardly appeared, the meeting separated.

In the course of the proceedings several subscriptions were announced, among which were two of £10 each, from Earl Ducie and J. A. Gordon, Esq., and other sums from General White, H. Janson, Esq., Major Buckley, Mr. Luxmoore, Rev. Dr. Martyn, Rev. Mr. Rankin, Rev. Mr. Lewis, Rev. Mr. Simpson, &c.

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XII. *Which way does the wind blow?*

MESMERISM is true. Dr. William Davies of the Bath United Hospital says so—and we say that the Bath doctor is right. Hurrah! Who will dare to dispute the fact now? Dr. Storer will have another ally in the west country, and who can predict the changes which must follow? It appears that mesmerism has produced hysterical fits in a young girl, and, marvellous to relate, the first fit occurred *nine months after* she had ceased to be mesmerised! Verily, our science possesses greater powers than we had given it credit for, albeit, we have witnessed marvels enough to make us exceedingly cautious in bestowing a negative upon statements which are advanced. But to be serious.

We are not amongst those individuals who blame their neighbours for changing their opinions. A man may form his opinion on insufficient evidence, and he may be very positive and dictatorial in advancing and sustaining it; but after a time some important facts are presented to him, or some new light is thrown upon a branch of the subject which he has for years considered to be settled, this directs his thoughts into a new channel, and thus he is made to embrace a truth which probably he has spent a great portion of his life in opposing. Under such circumstances, and more especially when the subject under discussion is one affecting the reception and advancement of a great scientific truth or principle, we like the man who, in a manly way, stakes his change of opinion, and gives the reasons which have prompted him to adopt his new views. Two or three years ago we pointed out the great alteration in the views of the late editor of the *British and Foreign Medical and Surgical Review*, Dr. Forbes, and we were compelled to criticise in terms of severity the manifest want of philosophic truthfulness as regards the course which he pursued in promulgating his change of opinion.

From time to time we have also been compelled to criticize the proceedings of other would-be leaders of the medical and scientific world, on the subject of mesmerism, and in our former volumes we have abundantly demonstrated the truth of the humiliating fact, that however elevated an individual may be in the esteem of the scientific world, he is nevertheless in his researches too frequently influenced by the fickle fashion of the day, and too easily prevented from investigating what is important, by the sneers of the vulgar and the jests of the ignorant and unrefined. If these individuals do not join in the vulgarities of the many, their conduct, as we have just remarked, is influenced thereby, and they stand back

and permit those they despise to lead public opinion, and thus seriously retard the progress of *true* philosophy, whose language is on all occasions, without any exception whatever, "Read, examine for yourselves, draw your own inferences, *diligently* and *impartially* investigate; we present you with our conclusions and the reasons on which they are founded: we believe them to be valid and irrefutable, but scrutinize them closely, put them to the test; discharge your own duty, and assist us by pointing out any fallacies you may descry; let us be coadjutors in the grand cause of *truth*."

We must not however permit ourselves to enter into the general question of the duty of scientific men; their duties may be summed up in one sentence,—*Obey the moral law of truth*. The fearful departure of some therefrom may be gathered from the example which the Rev. G. Sandby, in his usual manly and philosophic style, has published in our present number. On the present occasion we have merely to chronicle the fact that at Bath on the 21st of March, 1850, Dr. W. Davies read a paper before the Bath and Bristol Branch of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Association, entitled, "A cure of cataleptiform hysteria *apparently* induced by mesmerism, with remarks."

Case:—Mary Jane Targett, aged 17 years last Christmas. Her aspect *nervo-lymphatic*. Enjoyed good health till about the period she went into service, two years ago. Three months from the time of her entering into service she was first mesmerised. During the next three or four months she was very frequently placed in the mesmeric sleep. She left her service *in perfect health* about twelve months ago. For the next *nine* months she enjoyed good health. (So says Dr. Davies himself.) At last, after these *nine* months of perfect health, during which period she was *never* mesmerised (so says Dr. Davies himself), she was seized with a fit of an hysterical character, which lasted four or five hours, and during which she remained motionless and apparently unconscious, and then gradually "returned to her usual health." Dr. Davies says, "To my mind it certainly does appear in a very high degree probable, that the mesmeric trances into which this girl was formerly put, bear a causative relation to the fits under which she now suffers." Now, we would ask any medical man, of even moderate experience in the treatment of female diseases, whether he has not seen scores of such cases, and since they are so common, whether Dr. N. Davies is justified in stating, even if the fit had followed within a few days the mesmeric sleep, that the attack was produced by mesmerism? *Post hoc, ERGO propter hoc*. What a fallacy for an

educated man! Roast beef, plum pudding, and a bottle of port wine would be considered a very improper dinner for an individual threatened with apoplexy, but suppose the attack of apoplexy did not occur for nine months after John Bull's dinner, who would think of referring it to the former repletion? What a happy, self-satisfied practitioner Dr. Davies must be. If we may judge from this specimen of his cerebral training, we have no doubt that he applies this same style of reasoning to all the cases of disease he may be treating, and felicitates himself that whatever he does is right,—that all the favorable symptoms occurring in his cases after a few doses of medicine, result from these very doses; but when the symptoms are unfavourable, why then, the *post hoc* alone is true, and the *propter hoc* gives way to the more consoling reflection, that the deplorable termination is in the ordinary course of nature, and in spite of the means used.

The poor girl has had several of these hysterical attacks, and strange and paradoxical as it must appear to most individuals, the fact that *nine* months intervened between the *last* mesmerie sleep and the *first* fit, is seized upon by Dr. Davies as a convincing proof that his view is correct. Most unbiassed individuals would express very grave doubts, and the majority we are sure would draw the opposite conclusion. But everything is fair—bad logic, and no logic at all, it is all the same, there must be a sneer at mesmerism; it creates a laugh; the antis shake their heads, talk learned nonsense on physiological points, and then go their way, passing on to the grave not one bit wiser than their predecessors.

We cannot quote the physiological explanation given by Dr. Davies, or the statement of his own belief in the alleged facts of mesmerism; it is quite sufficient for us to inform our readers that he sums up by stating,—“The evidence in favour of a belief in the ordinary facts of mesmerism is sufficiently strong to overcome in my mind any scepticism founded on their inherent improbability.” Dr. D. then quotes from *Blackwood's Magazine* for February, 1845, the personal experience of Professor Agassiz while under the influence of mesmerism. As usual, we have no experiments of his own. He is brimfull of cautions as to when mesmerism is to be used—can easily account for the ordinary phenomena—of course does not believe in the extraordinary phenomena, and leaves us to conclude that he considers every person insane who does. He says, “As far as I know, all the *established* (read, all the phenomena which Dr. D. believes) phenomena of mesmerism are explicable by means of the monotony and consequent exhaustive agency of the passes.” “This is a very im-

portant point, as it removes all *mystery (!)* from the subject, and brings it within the sphere of our ordinary and every-day experience." "Clairvoyance stands in the predicament of being inherently absurd, opposed to the fundamental principles of human belief, and at the same time utterly unsupported by any evidence. As regards phreno-mesmerism, it is enough to say that it presents an example of an ingenious but very unphilosophical mode of reasoning, namely, supporting one very improbable hypothesis by the aid of another almost equally so."

We have not the pleasure of being acquainted with Dr. Davies, neither do we happen to know whether he has passed the grand climacterick, but it is manifest that he is not yet fairly out of the trance in which he has been for so many years buried. He has just discovered that the ordinary phenomena of mesmerism are true. Cerebral physiology he has not yet been able to grapple with. A little more rubbing of the eyes, and a few more convulsive throes of his stiffened muscles, and we do not despair that even Dr. Davies will discover that the laws of cerebral physiology "are within the sphere of our ordinary and every day experience;" and that phreno-mesmerism, or, the power to excite the cerebral organs of a patient while under the influence of mesmeric sleep, is supported by evidence "sufficiently strong to overcome in his mind any scepticism founded on their inherent improbability."

At the conclusion of the paper, Mr. John Barrett, Dr. R. Hall, and Mr. Estlin, favoured the meeting with their remarks.

Mr. J. Barrett said:—

"There had been such a disposition on the part of those who supported mesmerism either *to deceive* or to be themselves deceived, that the profession at large, marked as it was in this country by *good sense and a love of truth*, seemed to fear all connection with such investigations; still an error might be committed this way, for there could be no doubt that some rare phenomena had been rendered more frequent by mesmerism, such as catalepsy; and the legitimate study of these cases when they occur, might lead to our better understanding others connected with them, such as that class of diseases called hysterical."

Dr. R. Hall entered into a physiological description, for which we have not room—it was purely speculative.

Mr. Estlin, said:—

"FROM EXPERIENCE of mesmerism he could easily explain the disinclination of medical men to enter upon the subject, from

"No medical man could EMPLOY himself in the investigation of mesmerism, without lowering himself (and I think deservedly)

some of the parties professing mesmerism, only acting their self-seeking part, while others who were unaccustomed to investigations of the kind, were easily led astray and duped by the designing. At the same time *he would direct the attention of the members to the highly interesting accounts given by Dr. Esdaile, whose Hindoo patients seemed more readily influenced by mesmeric manipulations, than is common in this country.*—*March 21st, 1850.*

in public estimation.”—*June 29th, 1843.*

“It seems to me impossible for a medical man to engage in the practice of animal magnetism without resorting to expedients, and allying himself with persons not altogether congenial to a refined taste and cultivated mind.”—*June 29th, 1843.*

In the interval between 1843 and 1850, mesmerism has made rapid strides in public estimation. In spite of the opposition of Mr. Estlin and a host of others of the same calibre, it is practised in every town in the united kingdom. Even Mr. Estlin has not only cunningly gauged the force of public opinion, but he has at the eleventh hour commenced to investigate the subject, and absolutely calls on his medical brethren to study the beautiful Indian facts which we have so repeatedly published. “Better late than never,” says the proverb. We may well ask, “Which way does the wind blow?”

L. E. G. E.

XIII. *A case related by Evelyn, which offers some analogy to that of the Estatica.*

Most persons have heard of the German sleep-waking females called the *Estatica* and *Addolorata*, and described from personal observation by the present Earl of Shrewsbury in a pamphlet in 1841, and treated of at some length in Dr. Binns's *Anatomy of Sleep, &c.*, in 1845. Upon the palms of the hands and soles of the feet, and over the heart, of Maria Mori, the *Estatica*, red spots appeared which bled, corresponding with the wounds of Christ. Whether there was a certain mixture of deception in the cases we know not; but we have no doubt that the cases were in the main genuine instances of sleep-waking, with ecstasy, arising from constitutional predisposition and external circumstances. The red marks and bleeding have been ridiculed; but we dare not pronounce the impossibility of their production in the sleep-waking state

from mental impression. As to anything supernatural in the matter, the idea must be scouted.

In Evelyn's *Memoirs* there is the following account:—

“There was sent me by a neighbour a servant maid, who in the last month, as she was sitting before her mistresse at work, felt a stroke on her arme a little above the wrist for some height, the smart of which, as if struck by another hand, caused her to hold her arme awhile till somewhat mitigated, but it put her into a kind of convulsion or rather hysteric fit. A gentleman coming casually in, looking on her arme, found that part pondered with red crosses, set in most exact and wonderfull order, neither swelled nor depressed, . . . not seeming to be any way made by artifice, of a reddish colour, not so red as blood, the skin over them smooth, the rest of the arme livid and of a mortified hue, with certaine prints as it were of the stroke of fingers. This had happened three severall times in July, at about ten days intervall, the crosses beginning to wear out, but the successive ones set in other different yet uniform order. The maide seemed very modest, and came from London to Deptford with her mistresse to avoid the discourse and importunity of curious people. She made no gaine by it, pretended no religious fancies, but seemed to be a plaine, ordinary, silent, working wench, somewhat fat, short, and high coloured. She told me divers divines and phisitions had seene her, but were unsatisfied; that she had taken some remedies against her fits, but they did her no good; she had never before had any fits; once since she seem'd in her sleepe to hear one say to her that she should tamper no more with them, nor trouble herself with anything that happen'd, but put her trust in ye merits of Christ onely.

“This is the substance of what she told me, and what I saw and curiously examin'd. I was formerly acquainted with the impostorious nunns of Loudune in France, which made such noise amongst the papists; I therefore thought this worth the notice. I remember Mons. Monconys (that curious traveller and a Roman catholic) was by no means satisfied with ye stigmata of those nunns, because they were so shy of letting him scrape the letters, which were Jesus, Maria, Joseph, (as I think,) observing they began to scale off with it, whereas this poore wench was willing to submit to any trial; so that I profess I know not what to think of it, nor dare I pronounce it anything supernatural.”—5 August, Diary, 1670. *Memoirs of John Evelyn, Esqr.*, vol. ii., p. 328.

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XIV. *Infantile Simplicity and Scientific Truth.*

“ALLEGED THEFT FROM FILIAL AND SISTERLY AFFECTION.—About noon, on Saturday last, a girl named Elizabeth Lee, went into the shop of Mr. M‘Intosh, draper, Oldham-street, and took a dress-piece from a pile of goods some distance inside the door, which she placed under her shawl and then ran away. The theft was noticed by one of the shopmen, who followed and caught the girl with the piece of print in her possession. She was immediately given into custody. On Monday morning she was brought at the Borough court, and when placed in the dock she was crying bitterly. On being asked what she had to say to the charge, she stated that she had been working in a factory, but, in consequence of some slight accident or fault, was ‘bagged’ on Wednesday last. ‘I feared to tell my father,’ continued the poor girl, apparently with the greatest sincerity, ‘because I have six little brothers and sisters, and I knew that he had no money to buy them food, and I wanted to make up my wages. *Oh, I don’t know how it was, but something tempted me to do it.*’ The father, a decent-looking man, said that the prisoner had got up at half-past 5 o’clock every morning during the week to go to her work as usual. She had always behaved herself well, and was a great help to him in bringing up his motherless children. ‘It wasn’t that I was afraid of father,’ said the prisoner; ‘*he wouldn’t have beat me—only he frets so.*’ Mr. Hodgson discharged the prisoner, and she left the dock with a fresh burst of tears, and with a fervent ‘God bless you, sir,’ from her father.”—*Manchester Guardian.*

We insert the above anecdote without one word of comment. To the cerebral physiologist it is invaluable. Verily, we may learn wisdom from a child.

XV. *Anecdote of Major Buckley.*

THIS indefatigable and uncompromising upholder of mesmerism was lately requested by the Duke of Cambridge to become a steward to the festival of St. Mary’s Hospital, about to be opened in Paddington. The following was his answer:—

“Major Buckley has the honor to acknowledge the receipt (last night) of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge’s letter of the 25th instant, and begs most respectfully to intimate that he could not, consistently, officiate as one of the stewards on the occasion referred to in his Royal Highness’s letter, in consequence of his being a zealous advocate for the use of mesmerism, which he considers the greatest boon, after health itself, bestowed on mankind by the Almighty, while he has no assurance that the governors of St. Mary’s Hospital

will sanction its employment for the prevention of pain under surgical operations, or for the cure of diseases which, without its aid, are deemed incurable.

“27A. Old Bond Street,  
“29th March, 1850.”

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**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

Religious Mystery Considered. Chapman, Strand. This is the work of a profound thinker and a learned and honest man.

The Chrono-Thermalist, or, People's Medical Enquirer. April, 1850.

The Principle of Health Transferable. Second edition. Two copies.

Dublin Evening Post, April 16.

New York Medical Repository, Feb. 16, 1816, containing a remarkable case of double consciousness. By Dr. Mitchell.

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**NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

The duty of printing a report of the Mesmeric Institutions of London and Bristol has demanded an additional sheet; but still we are compelled to postpone communications from Dr. Davey, Mr. Davey, Dr. Elliotson, Mr. Hayman, Mr. Hobson, Mr. Lee, Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Majendie, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. Noel, Non-Wist, Mr. Reynoldson, Mr. Rolfe, Mr. Sloman, Dr. Storer, Mr. H. S. Thompson, and J. W.

Translation of Gall's Octavo Work.—The cerebral physiologists of England consider that Mr. Combe and his Scotch friends did very wrong in not publishing an English translation of Gall's work above twenty years ago when they had the power, instead of publishing their own very inferior books; and are most anxious to see in print the translation which has been made so carefully by Mr. Symes. They propose to subscribe for its publication. Mr. Amor of Bond-street is willing to subscribe for 10 copies, and other gentlemen for one, two, and three. A subscription of £2 2 will entitle the subscriber to a copy. Subscriptions will be received by Mr. Baillière, 219, Regent Street.

Dr. Todd, with certain others, will receive in our October number what they richly deserve.