



JOHN LANG, DEL. & SCULPT.

FREDERICK G. MANNING.  
THE MURDERER.





JOHN LANG DEL. & LITH



MARIA     MANNING.  
THE MURDERESS.

# THE ZOIST.

No. XXXVI.

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## I. *On the Brains of Manning and his Wife, the Bermondsey murderers.* By JOHN ELLIOTSON, M.D., Cantab., F.R.S.

"That the faculties and propensities have their seats in particular portions of the brain, which portions are respectively the organs of the faculties and propensities, are two assumptions equally ill founded with the foregoing,"—"the division of the faculties, (which) is opposed to just views of philosophy, and is altogether empirical." "It may at once be averred that the proofs in support of the localization of the faculties of the mind are not merely defective but altogether wanting, and that the loose analogies which have been advanced are either inapplicable, or admit of various explanations, none of which come in aid of the proposition." "*Having thus disposed of a doctrine,*" &c., &c.!!—Dr. COPLAND's *Dictionary of Practical Medicine*, &c., art. *Insanity*, pp. 502, 505.\*

"Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?"

"Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit: but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit."—MATTHEW viii. 16, 17.

A MAN and his wife named Manning, he 30, and she 28 years of age, lived at No. 3, Miniver Place, Bermondsey, Southwark. The house consisted of a passage, a front and back parlour on the right, a front and back kitchen below, and a front and back bed room above, them: with a small garden at the back. He was the favourite son of a publican at Taunton, who left him a larger share of property than the rest of the children, as well as some dependent upon the death of his mother. He became a guard upon the Great Western Railroad: but was dismissed because no doubt existed of his connection with robberies of bullion that occurred upon the line: and even afterwards was, as well as his wife, arrested on

\* Dr. Copland's head is as striking an instance of the truth of Gall's discoveries, "*disposed of*" by Dr. Copland, as can be desired. A lecture on his head would convince the most sceptical.

strong suspicion of participating in another robbery upon it. She was a Swiss, from Lausanne, and had been a lady's-maid in some high families, and was related to the murderer Courvoisier, an account of whose brain I gave in a little pamphlet, illustrated with drawings by Mr. George Lewis and published by Highley of Fleet Street. Manning married her in 1847.

Between the time of his dismissal and his apprehension on suspicion of implication in the last robbery, they kept an inn at Taunton: but their characters suffered so much by the suspicion that they left the place and opened a beer-shop near the Hackney Road. This was suddenly closed: and she absconded, taking with her the greater part of the property, to a house provided for her, at another part of the metropolis, by a gauger in the London Docks, named O'Connor, who had been her suitor at the same time with Manning, whom she preferred to him. Her husband traced her out: prevailed upon her to live with him again; and, after a time they took possession of the house in Miniver Place.

O'Connor appears to have been a totally unprincipled person: not only an adulterer in regard to Manning's wife, but a thief in regard to money matters and a hypocrite in regard to religion. By pretending that he was persecuted by his brother, a respectable Catholic priest, as well as by other clergymen of the Roman Church, and wronged by his brother of property bequeathed to the whole family, he found favour in the eyes of Dr. Copplestone, the late Bishop of Llandaff, and other amiable persons, and not only obtained from them large sums of money but the situation of tide-waiter to the Customs, which office led to his afterwards being promoted to that of gauger to the London Docks by the influence of the late Mr. Sheil, who had obtained his seat for Tipperary chiefly by the influence of O'Connor's brother—the clergyman, Father Laffan, Mr. P. Fogerty, and other friends of O'Connor, who was thus a fine instance of the too frequent temporary success of rogues in this world.

O'Connor continued very intimate with the two Mannings.

On Friday, August the 10th, 1849, O'Connor was not at his post at the London Docks: nor on the Saturday nor on the Monday. Enquiries were made by his relatives and the police at the house of the Mannings, but were answered by Mrs. Manning with such composure that no suspicions of the truth were entertained, and conjecture was completely at fault.

On the 17th of August the police visited the house again: but the Mannings were gone, and the house stripped of all its furniture, which had been sold in a lot to a neighbouring

broker. They had remained in the house up to the 15th, and possibly up to the 16th.

Nothing was discovered that led to suspicion, till one of the policemen, named Barnes, was struck in the back-kitchen on noticing a damp mark between two of the flag-stones. With the assistance of another policeman he instantly removed them. There was mortar immediately under them, and earth below the mortar: and they seemed to have been disturbed recently. On removing the earth to the depth of a foot, a man's toe came into view, and, at the depth of six inches more, the loins and back. Then a perfectly naked and entire body of a man came into view, lying on its front, the legs being brought back and tied upon the thighs with a strong cord like a clothes-line: and it was enveloped in slacked lime. The lower part was more deeply imbedded than the rest of the body.

There was a small protuberance, hard and moveable, over the right eye, containing a pistol-bullet, under which and a little to the right was an aperture in the skull. At the back of the head were extensive fractures, so that sixteen pieces of bone were removed. There were many wounds in the head, apparently made with a cutting instrument, but accompanied by bruises. They might have been produced by a round bar of iron that was found, with its ends made like a chisel. The fractures were quite sufficient to have caused death, and the wound by the bullet might eventually have proved fatal.

The body proved to be that of the gauger in the London Docks, Patrick O'Connor, a single man, resident at No. 21, Greenwood Street, Mile End Road, and, though intimate with both Mannings, was especially so with Mrs. Manning, who it appears was very frequently with him, sometimes at his lodgings, and sometimes out of doors late in the evening.

O'Connor went to dine with them about five o'clock on Thursday the 9th of August, 1849, and was not seen alive afterwards. That very evening Mrs. Manning went about seven o'clock to his lodgings, a sitting room on the first floor opening into a bed room, and though he was not at home she remained alone in his room from a quarter before six to a quarter past seven; and, while leaving the house, not by the private door but through the shop, she was observed to be very pale and also tremulous, particularly her left hand, which received some change for half a crown with which she paid for a penny biscuit, while she appeared holding something under her right arm with her right elbow.

On the next day she called again at the same hour, staid as long, was observed while passing through the shop and

buying a biscuit to be still paler than the day before, and her left hand shook much as she paid for a penny biscuit, while her right arm was against her side as on the previous day.

O'Connor's cash box and trunk were always on the top of the drawers in his room: and one of the two sisters who were his landladies had a week before seen his cash box open and his papers on the table when the two Mannings were visiting him, and he carried his keys in his pockets.

A medical student, who lodged with the Mannings, but left about a fortnight before the murder at their desire, deposed that the man Manning asked him (he believes in the wife's presence) whether laudanum or chloroform "would produce stupefaction or partial intoxication, so as to cause a person to put pen to paper:" and added that "he should like to get O'Connor to sign a promissory note for a considerable sum of money, £500." He proposed having O'Connor in the house, and said to the student, "You frighten him well about the cholera, and persuade him to take brandy as a specific for it." He once asked the medical student what part of the head was most vital or tender. The student replied that he believed it was under the ear: he had heard of very slight injuries to that part being attended with fatal results. He once asked where the brain was placed. The student pointed to the part. He once asked if the student had ever fired off an air-gun, and the student told him he had not fired one off himself, but had heard them fired off. He asked whether they made much report in the discharge, and the student told him no—they did not. He was once talking about the wax-figure of Rush at Madame Tussaud's, and *asked the student whether he thought a murderer went to heaven.*

He purchased about the end of July a bushel of quick-lime, which was by his directions put into a basket in the back kitchen. He purchased also about the same time a crow-bar or ripping-chisel, and, while a shop-boy was carrying it home he met the boy and complained that it was not wrapped up, and, midway between the ironmonger's shop and his own house, he went into a stationer's shop for a sheet of brown paper, which he wrapped a dozen times round the crow-bar and then carefully tied: though ironmongers never think of putting crow-bars in paper. Mrs. Manning received it of the boy, asking if it came from the individual shop where it was purchased, and complaining that the price was higher than had been agreed upon at the shop. This was exactly such an instrument as might have inflicted the wounds, bruises, and fractures. On the eighth of August Mrs. Man-



ning purchased a short dust-shovel of another ironmonger, who in vain recommended a larger one to her. On the 11th of August she engaged a match-girl from the streets to clean different parts of the house, remarking that she herself had cleaned the kitchen "the day before yesterday;" and the girl noticed a basket which appeared to have contained lime.

These facts, with many others which came to light on the trial, prevent any doubt from being entertained of the truth of the following confession made by the husband Manning to the Rev. Mr. Roe, Chaplain of Horsemonger Jail;—

"On or about the 15th of March, I left my residence, No. 41, Castle-street, Regent-street, for Jersey, and I remained there three weeks, and returned about the 5th of April; and, during my absence, I found that my wife had engaged the house, No. 3, Miniver-place. The landlord, Mr. Coleman, required a reference, and she referred him to Mr. O'Connor. On the Sunday night after entering upon the house, O'Connor slept there, and promised to return on the following night, with his boxes, but did not keep his promise. On the following Thursday, he came and told her that he had altered his mind, as he thought that Manning and he would not agree, as he (Manning) might one night return home drunk, and make a disturbance with him. Maria Manning replied, that he (O'Connor) was no man, nor worthy of the name, and said, that this was not the first time he had served her in this manner; that he was the sole cause of her taking the King John's Head, at Haggerstone, by which £100 were lost; that he had once before induced her to take a house in the Mile-end-road; and that he might depend upon this, that he should abide the consequences; stating at the same time, that she herself was the same as her own poor father was, who despised a man whose word he could not depend on, and that she herself would sooner see the devil enter than one on whose word she could not rely. Shortly after, three weeks from the 25th of March had elapsed, my wife made a claim on O'Connor, for the payment of what she considered due from him for three weeks' lodging, and summoned him at the county court, Osborne-street, Whitechapel, to recover the same. The day previous to the time for appearing to the summons in the court, O'Connor came to Miniver-place, and paid 30s. for the three weeks to me, in the presence of my wife, and apologized for not taking the lodgings, saying that he was ashamed at the idea of giving my wife so much trouble, and trusted we should not be bad friends in consequence. I replied, that it was a matter of indifference, as the object of his lodging there would be of little account. I then said, I had been informed that he had spoken disrespectfully of me, and that if I could be certified of it, I would bring an action against him for defamation of character. He almost shed tears, solemnly declaring he had always spoken of me in the highest terms, and held out his hand to shake hands with me. He begged me to take a glass of porter and smoke a pipe. I then said, 'O'Connor, I owe you not the slightest animosity, and never did.' He presently

asked me by whom I had been told that he had spoken disrespectfully of me; I gave him no reply. It was, however, my wife who had said so to me, but begged me not to name it to O'Connor that such had been the case. O'Connor left the house, and we parted good friends. When he was gone, my wife said, '*That old villain has been the cause of my losing much money, and I am determined, as I am a living woman in this room, to have my revenge upon him.*' I asked what she meant? She replied, '*I will shoot him if I am hanged for it, as he has deceived me so many times.*' I then expostulated with her on the impropriety of her conduct. She said there was no more harm in shooting him than in shooting a dog; that he was a perfect brute. I said, 'Do, in the name of God, banish such thoughts from your mind.' Her answer was, 'I will now inform you of the plan I shall adopt. I shall frequently ask him here to dinner, and go to his house very often, to endeavour to ascertain the amount of money he has in his possession, as also the number of railway-shares he has.' She added, 'she was quite certain he had foreign bonds to the amount of £4,000 which she herself could dispose of, as there was no name to them.' O'Connor did come frequently to dine, and she did visit him twice a week, at his house, up to the time of the murder. She went and found O'Connor tipsy one evening at his house, and came home and informed me she had seen him quite drunk—he having taken brandy at the docks as a remedy for cholera. She said he went into his bed-room, and brought out all his scrip and bonds, and shewed them to her, solemnly declaring to her that he had made a will, bequeathing to her £1,300; and had so made it, that Manning should have nothing to do with it after her death. She said that she believed what the old villain said was a great lie, having an assurance that he would never leave her a shilling, and that she was quite contented, having seen the amount of property he possessed. 'Now,' said she, 'I shall begin to get things ready to cook his goose.' This took place about the 25th of July. At that time I was offered a situation at Messrs. Gover and Co.'s, Stationers, Holborn-bars, as their town and country traveller, at a salary of £2 per week, and 5 per cent. commission on goods sold. I then said to her, 'Banish all these thoughts from your mind as regards O'Connor; this is an excellent situation, and I may be enabled to save a great deal of money.' She replied, 'You fool, you will never be able to save the amount which I shall, by murdering that O'Connor; and, if you take that situation, you will be knocking about with —— in London and the country;' and that, if I took it, she would follow me to every part of London I visited, and that I had better let her carry out her plan, as she was determined to have her revenge upon that old vagabond. I persisted in going to see Mr. Gover. She locked up my coat and hat to prevent my going, and said, 'Now I shall prepare his grave.' She went and purchased a shovel at an ironmonger's shop in Tooley-street, and began next day to dig the grave, which was completed between a fortnight and three weeks previous to the murder. O'Connor had been in the kitchen three or four times after the grave was finished, and in walk-

ing over it frequently made observations as to what was being done. She told him that Mr. Coleman was having the drain altered, and O'Connor observed it was a long time in action. She said there was a great deal to do, and the men were not constantly at it. The reason he went to the kitchen was to wash his hands previous to taking his tea or dinner. On the 26th or 27th of July, my wife got William Massey to write a letter to Patrick O'Connor, which was to the following effect:—

“ ‘Dear O'Connor,—I shall be happy to see you to dine with me and my sister, as she is coming from Derbyshire to remain a few weeks with me (this was entirely untrue); she will be most happy to be introduced to you. Dinner will be ready at half-past five o'clock. If you are engaged, drop me a line. Trusting you are quite well,

“ ‘I am, dear O'Connor, yours truly,

“ ‘W. MASSEY.’

The letter was dated No. 3, Miniver-place, Bermondsey. O'Connor came on the Thursday the 26th of July, at the time specified in the note. When he came into the house he asked for Miss Massey and her brother. My wife said that they had just gone out, but she expected them to return in time for dinner. I was sitting in the parlour with O'Connor, relating my intention of bringing an action against two men at Taunton for defamation of character. During this time my wife called me, and asked me why I did not leave the room, for she wanted to get him into the kitchen to ‘cook his goose;’ upon which I said I would not have any such thing done. During this conversation between her and myself, O'Connor rose, put on his hat, and left the house. She immediately ran up-stairs and followed O'Connor, and overtook him about 300 yards from the house, and she told me she said, ‘Patrick, what makes you leave in such a mean way?’ He answered, he did not like my observations as to bringing an action against the two men, and that it was his firm opinion I meant to entrap him in the same manner, and he therefore declined returning to the house. She said that she repeatedly pressed him to do so, but he did not return. She came back in a very excited state, and said to me, ‘You cur-hearted villain, you have prevented me carrying out my plan. You will stand for it, for it never will be found out. I am now quite certain he will never come here again.’ I then asked her what would become of her soul if she committed an act of murder? to which she answered, ‘We have no soul; after we are dead we are like a lump of clay, and there is no more thought of us, and we shall never suffer hereafter for murdering that man.’ The next morning she said to Massey, ‘O'Connor was here last evening, and I informed him that you were out with your sister. I wish you to write me a note to O'Connor.’ He said, ‘Certainly; but you must dictate.’ Massey then sat down and said, ‘Now, Mrs. Manning, what do you wish me to say?’ and then, at her dictation, he wrote as follows:—

“ ‘Dear O'Connor,—After arriving home late last evening, being

informed that you had been at my house, I was truly sorry that my sister and myself were not able to be at home to dinner. We went to our uncle's in the afternoon, and while we were there he was taken dangerously ill, and my sister was obliged to remain the whole of the night; but we shall be most happy of your society some day next week. Trusting that you are quite well, I am, dear O'Connor, yours very truly,

“ ‘ W. MASSEY.’ ”

On Wednesday, about two days afterwards, my wife wrote to him to come and dine. He never came until 10 o'clock that evening, as he did not receive the note before seven. He was accompanied by the witness Walsh, and appeared to be quite drunk. He laid on the sofa, and seemed to be in a fainting state. My wife got a bottle of eau de Cologne and applied it to his nose and washed his face, and implored Mr. Walsh to go straight home with him. We all shook hands, and parted as the best of friends. The next day, Thursday, the day of the murder, at nine o'clock a.m., she wrote a note to O'Connor, and took it to the post-office herself, telling me that there was a certainty of his getting it. The note was as follows:—

“ ‘ Dear O'Connor,—I shall be happy to see you to dine with us this day at half-past five. I trust you are quite well. Yours truly,

“ ‘ MARIA MANNING.’ ”

He came at ten minutes past five on the Thursday, August 9, previous to which she had laid the table for five, with the dish-covers and everything down. *Nothing had been prepared in the way of food.* When he entered the house, he asked where Mr. and Miss Massey were, and my wife said they were up-stairs dressing for dinner. He then inquired how long they had been up-stairs. My wife replied, they had only just gone up—they saw him come to the door. At this time Massey was not in the house, nor was his sister even in London; and even to the present hour it is my belief that she has never seen London at all. My wife asked O'Connor to go down stairs and wash his hands, which he declined. She said, ‘Patrick, Miss Massey is a very particular young lady.’ He had then been in the house twenty minutes. My wife pressed him to go down and wash his hands, and I heard him go down the stairs, being at the time in my bed-room washing. In about a minute after he had descended, I heard the report of a pistol. My wife then came up to me and said, ‘Thank God, I have made him all right at last; it never will be found out, as we are on such exceedingly good terms. No one will ever have the least suspicion of my murdering him.’ I replied, ‘I am quite certain you will be hanged for this act.’ She replied, ‘It will not be you who will have to suffer; it will be me.’ After shooting him, she said, ‘I think no more of what I have done than if I had shot the cat that is on the wall.’ Upon her coming to me up-stairs, she insisted on my going down immediately, and on my reaching the kitchen I found O'Connor resting on the grave. He moaned, and I never liked him very well, and I battered in his skull

with a ripping-chisel. She took from his trousers-pocket the keys of his trunk and cash-box, and within ten minutes after the murder, viz., twenty minutes to six, she put on her bonnet and mantle, and proceeded to his house. I then said it would be impossible for me to stay in the house, and I went out into the garden, and smoked a pipe on the wall, and conversed with the landlord of the next house, and went out into his out-house to make a purchase of some rice he had there. My wife returned from O'Connor's, letting herself in with the street-door key. This was about twenty minutes to eight p.m. She appeared much excited, and said, 'I have the whole of the shares and the bonds with me. I knocked at the door when I went to O'Connor's house, and Miss Armes let me in. I then asked if O'Connor was at home. Miss Armes said, 'No; he is not home from the docks yet;' upon which I asked leave to go up-stairs, as I had come to see him on business. I went up to his room, and remained there for fifteen minutes. I walked to his bed-room, unlocked his trunk, and took all the shares I could see—his two gold watches and gold chains. I saw the banker's book, by which it appeared there were £3,000 in the banker's hands. The book was useless, so I did not take it. I remained at Miss Armes' about an hour and ten minutes, and then returned home.' She then sorted the shares, and, while doing so, said she had not the foreign bonds, which were worth between £3,000 and £4,000, and she was determined to go again on the following day to get these foreign bonds, as she was quite sure he had them, as she had seen them before she knew him (Manning). She repeated her visit on the following day to Miss Armes', and returned greatly excited at not having found the object of her search. She said she had purchased a cake of Miss Armes, remarking to her that it was very strange O'Connor had not come home; to which Miss Armes assented; my wife desiring her to be kind enough to tell him that she had been two evenings to see him, as she desired to do so upon important business. My wife remained there about the same time as on the previous day. On Saturday she told me she wanted me to go to a sharebroker's with some Eastern Counties' shares. I asked her what was the use of doing so, as I should have to commit a forgery? She replied, 'The man is dead, so there can be no witness against you.' Upon which I said it would be impossible to sell the shares now, as fifteen days' notice was required before a sale could be effected. She then said I could borrow money on them, and I went to Messrs. Killick and Co., sharebrokers, and wanted to borrow £120 upon them. They asked who had referred me to them, and I replied, 'A gentleman who had been in the habit of doing business with them.' I was then asked my name and residence, to which I replied, 'Patrick O'Connor, 21, Greenwood-street, Mile-end-road.' I was told that £120 could not be advanced on the shares, but that I might have £110, and that the rate of interest was 5 per cent., and for six weeks. I replied, 'I should not want the money more than two months;' and they said the charge would be the same if I had it only for a week. They then produced a document, which I signed, 'Patrick

O'Connor, 21, Greenwood-street, Mile-end-road.' They gave me a £100 note and 10 sovereigns. I immediately went to the Bank of England and had the note changed for 50 sovereigns and five £10 notes, and returned home and gave the money to my wife. There were other shares with O'Connor's name on them, and my wife said I had better take them to another broker and turn them into money. The last-named shares I believe to have been some of the Leicestershire and Birmingham, an India bond for £25, and about six scrips of the Bordeaux Railway. I declined to comply with this last request. She declared there was not the least danger as the man was dead, and she became much excited and insisted on my going. I put on my hat, and went out as if going to a broker; and returned in about two hours, and said I had been to a broker (though I had not), who would advance money on the shares on Thursday. She remarked it was strange he would not do so then, and that she had her doubts as to my having been to a broker. On Monday, the 13th of August, I left home at nine in the morning, and returned about half-past 12, when my wife told me two persons had been there inquiring both for O'Connor and myself; that she did not know them, but believed they were Custom-house officers. I replied it was my firm opinion they were policemen in plain clothing, and that as sure as she was a woman we should both be apprehended for this crime. She replied, 'Don't tell me that, or I shall faint.' I then sat down to dinner, and after dinner she said I had better go to Bainbridge's, the broker, and get him to come and take the furniture that night, so that we might take our departure by the train to Liverpool, and go thence by steam-packet to New York. I left at half-past two for Bainbridge's, and upon my quitting she said she would join me in about an hour and a half. After waiting about two hours, I sent the servant to Miniver-place, but she did not find the house. I then went home, and found my wife was gone away in a cab with all her boxes. I went through a neighbour's house, and found my own back door wide open, and that everything, except the furniture, had been taken away; and I was, therefore, left penniless. In about half an hour I returned to Bainbridge's, and told Mrs. Bainbridge that my wife had started for the sea-side, but I thought I should remain with them a fortnight. I asked the terms, and was told they were the same that Massey paid. I remained there till Wednesday morning, when I declared my intention of going in the country for a month or so; and I sent Bainbridge's girl for a cab, and quitted the house at half-past seven o'clock, but did not tell the cabman where to drive to till he had gone a quarter of a mile down the street. I then told him to go to the South-Western station, where I took a ticket for Southampton, and left that place at midnight by the packet, and reached Jersey in twelve hours, and went to the Navy Arms Hotel."

He then detailed the proceedings against him at Jersey, and added:—

"That after his wife returned from Mr. O'Connor's on the night

of the murder, she went down stairs with a large pair of scissors, and cut off the whole of his clothes and buried them, as well as the slippers that were upon the corpse; and then she got a strong piece of cord, and they both tied the legs back to the haunches; and having done so they put the body in the hole and covered it with lime, and then trod the earth in, which occupied a considerable time, and they did not retire till nearly midnight, and the next morning they again set to work at the grave, and concluded it about 11 o'clock, and then the wife said, 'Thank God, we are safe; it is over; no one will think of looking there for him.' About a fortnight before we purchased a pint and a half of vitriol, and this was thrown over the body before the lime. My wife also frequently expressed her pleasure at O'Connor being dead, and said that he was the greatest villain that ever lived, and she said she would put no money out to interest. She afterwards said it would never be found out unless through my nervousness, and if any one came she would answer them, as she had the nerve of a horse. *She likewise said she was sorry she had not read prayers over the body.*"

This remarkable statement concluded in the following words;—

"I do hereby solemnly declare that the foregoing account, as written by the Rev. W. S. Roe, the chaplain, at my suggestion, is just and true.

"FREDERICK GEORGE MANNING.

"Condemned Cell, Horsemonger-lane, Nov. 9. 1849.

"Signed in the presence of W. S. Roe, G. Hallett, S. Deale."

It was proved that the murderess on Monday, August the 13th, hired a cab, went in it a very roundabout way to her house, and carried away boxes and baskets to the Brighton Railroad station, where she fixed cards upon them with the words "Smith, passenger, Paris," written upon them at the station, and ordered them to be left till called for. When forced open at the office of the secretary of police, they were found to contain female apparel, marked Maria Roux—her maiden name, and a quantity of articles belonging to O'Connor, and several letters written from him to her. On the following day, she booked herself at the Euston-square station direct for Edinburgh, her luggage being marked with the name Smith. An electric dispatch was sent to Edinburgh, and in one hour an answer was returned that she was arrested. The following is the account of her arrest, as given by Mr. R. J. Moxhay, superintendent of police, Edinburgh:—

"On the 21st of August, I went with a Mr. Dobson to a lodging-house in Leith-walk. I left Mr. Dobson at the door, and, going into a room, saw a lady. I said, 'Mrs. Smith, I presume?' and then I added, 'May I be allowed to ask if you are a married lady?' She said that she was, and that her husband's name had been Smith, but that he was dead. She stated that she came to town on the

Tuesday or Wednesday previously, and that there was no person in Edinburgh to whom she could refer but Mr. Shaw, a gentleman over the way, who had recommended her to the lodgings in which I found her. She further stated that she had last come from Newcastle, and that her object was to improve her health, adding that she had bathed at Portobello. I asked if she had any scrip? when she said, 'What do you mean by scrip?' I replied, 'Any railway shares?' when she said she had not, nor had she been offering any for sale. I then looked very intently at her, and said, 'My impression is that you are the wife of Frederick George Manning.' I then directed an officer who accompanied me to ask Mr. Dobson to come in. That gentleman accordingly entered, and said, 'That is the lady who offered me scrip for sale.' I asked her if she had any objection to let me see her luggage, and she said, 'Certainly not.' I got her keys from her, and, on opening a trunk, the first thing found was a tavern bill-head, with the name, 'F. G. Manning, Taunton,' upon it. The moment I saw that, I said, 'My suspicions are confirmed; put all these things up;' and then turning to Mrs. Manning, I informed her that I was the superintendent of police, and, after cautioning her in the usual terms, I asked if she had any scrip? She replied, 'Scrip? Oh, yes, scrip of my own.' She said she had no objection to my looking at it. In one of her trunks I found a certain number of sovereigns, and scrip of the Sambre and Meuse Railway, numbered from 6460 to 6469 inclusive, and also of the same railway, numbered from 26,523 to 26,532, both inclusive. There was also scrip of the Boulogne and Amiens Railway, numbered from 48,665 to 48,674, both inclusive; a certificate of Spanish bonds, numbered 3620, and some other scrip. There was a purse containing 73 sovereigns; also a Bank of England note for £50, numbered 11,037, and dated the 9th of November, 1848; six £10 Bank of England notes, five of which were numbered from 67,372 to 67,376, and the remaining one 78,378, and one Bank of England note was numbered 20,051. There was, besides, a luggage-ticket, and a ticket for excess of luggage between London and Newcastle, having upon it the name of Smith, and a number of other articles. I asked her about her husband after taking her to the police-office. I asked her if she had any objection to tell me where he was? She said, 'Upon my honour, I do not know. I came off from London suddenly, when he was out, on Monday afternoon. I took a cab and drove with my luggage to the London-bridge terminus of the Brighton Railway. I there left part of my luggage, on which I put the address, "Mrs. Smith, passenger for France," and then drove to the Euston-station. She alluded to O'Connor, and said, "Murder O'Connor! certainly not; he was the kindest friend I ever had in the world! he acted the part of a father to me. I last saw him on Wednesday night. He came the worse for liquor, and went away late. We expected him on Thursday for dinner, but he did not come; and, as I was rather surprised at it, I went to his house to inquire for him." She then stated that when Friday came, he not making his appearance, she again went to ask after him, but could get no account of him. She



made reference to her husband, and complained of his bad usage of her. She said he maltreated her, and once pursued her with a knife, and threatened to cut off her head. One of their chief causes of quarrel was that he could not get the money she had.

"By Mr. Sergeant Wilkins: Mrs. Manning stated that when she first started from home, she did not know, up to that moment, whether to go to Paris or to Scotland.

"By Mr. Ballantine: She said that part of the scrip found in her possession had been purchased for her by Mr. O'Connor."

Manning was captured at Jersey. He slept at the broker's on the 14th of August, and was greatly alarmed next morning at seeing the blinds up, because he said he had a bill of £200 falling due that day. On his voyage he confined himself to the fore-cabin and drank immoderately of brandy. He was overbearing, and quarrelsome with every body he spoke with in Jersey: and drank brandy very freely. He talked and acted in a very unguarded way. After a few days his manner changed wonderfully: and in two or three more he ceased to live at inns and hired a room in a private house, drinking a bottle of brandy a day to avoid the cholera, he said, and remaining in the house, and avoiding observation as much as possible when others called or saw him in the garden.

These circumstances caused him to be suspected as the murderer mentioned now in the English papers; and, on his becoming aware of this he trembled from head to foot and could scarcely articulate. Various circumstances rendered it probable that he had gone to Jersey, and a police-officer, named Langley, was dispatched thither after him. A party consisting of Messrs. Chevalier, Langley, Lockyer, two Heulins, and Purkis, entered his bed-room soon after he had retired. The door was ajar; Mr. Chevalier pushed it open hastily, and—

"Placing the candle he held in his hand on the table, he rushed towards the bed in which the man lay. At the same instant, Langley, who had merely caught a side glimpse of his face, cried out, 'That's the man—seize him!' Lockyer and Mr. Purkis instantly seized both the murderer's arms, Mr. Chevalier having thrown himself upon the bed and thus disabled him from making any further resistance. The somewhat rough seizure to which he was subjected appeared to give Manning some annoyance, and he cried out, 'Hallo! what are you about? Do you mean to murder me?'"

On the voyage to England, the passengers took every opportunity of catching a sight of him: and he seemed highly delighted at the notice which he excited: chatted a long while with a woman, saying he had two wives, and that was one too many.

When in the train from Southampton to London, he told the officer that his wife had committed the murder with a pistol: and, when reminded that there were other wounds also, made no reply.

When the Jury found them both guilty, and the Clerk of Arraignment asked them whether either could say why sentence should not be passed upon them, she addressed the Court in a state of great excitement:—

“She spoke with a strong foreign accent, and with remarkable vehemence, her excitement appearing to supply her with fluency of speech:—There is no justice (she said) and no right for a foreign subject in this country. There is no law for me. I have had no protection—neither from the judges, nor from the prosecutors, nor from my husband. I am unjustly condemned by this Court. If I were in my own country, I could prove that I had money sent from abroad, which is now in the Bank of England. My solicitors and counsel could have called witnesses to identify shares that were bought with my own money. Mr. O'Connor was more to me than my husband. He was a friend and brother to me ever since I came to this country. I knew him for seven years. He wanted to marry me, and I ought to have been married to him. I have letters which would prove his respect and regard for me; and I think, considering that I am a woman and alone, that I have to fight against my husband's statements, that I have to fight against the prosecutors, and that even the Judge himself is against me—I think that I am not treated like a Christian, but like a wild beast of the forest; and the Judges and Jury will have it upon their consciences for giving a verdict against me. I am not guilty of the murder of Mr. O'Connor. If I had wished to commit murder, I would not have attempted the life of the only friend I had in the world—a man who would have made me his wife in a week, if I had been a widow. I have lived in respectable families, and can produce testimonials of character for probity in every respect, if inquiry is made. I can account for more money than was equal to the trifling shares that were found upon me. If my husband, through jealousy, and a revengeful feeling against O'Connor, chose to murder him, I don't see why I should be punished for it. I wish I could have expressed myself better in the English language. That is all I have to say.

“Manning said nothing.”

When the Judge began to pass sentence upon them, and said, Frederick George Manning, and Maria Manning, you have been convicted of the crime of murder, she interrupted him vehemently:—

“No, no; I won't stand here to hear that said. You ought to be ashamed of yourselves. There is neither law nor justice here. [She then turned round as if to leave the dock, but was prevented by Mr. Cope, the Governor of Newgate, who stood behind her.]

"Mr. Justice Cresswell: You have been defended by able counsel.

"Mrs. Manning: They did not produce any witnesses for me."

On the Judge mentioning the word witnesses again in the course of his speech, she again interrupted him with an exclamation, "The witnesses in my favour were not called."

At the close, she again attempted to address the Court, when

"She was ordered to be removed. She exclaimed that it was shameful to pass such a sentence upon her, and added, 'Base and shameful England!' According to custom, the bench in front of the dock was strewn with rue. Taking some of this in her hand, she threw it into the body of the court, as if by that contemptuous act she could find some relief from the excitement under which she laboured. She was immediately removed by Mr. Cope and a female turnkey."

A point of law was reserved at the trial, and she confidently expected that this would be determined in her favour and she should then escape death. When she was disappointed in this, and it was announced to her that she would be executed on a certain day, November 13,—

"She seemed extremely surprised at the announcement, and exclaimed that she had been unjustly tried and convicted, which her unfeeling husband could prove. He could unravel the whole of the circumstances relative to the murder, and if he told the truth it would exculpate her from any participation in the dreadful crime. She seemed rather excited at first, but afterwards put her hands to her face and cried bitterly. The chaplain exhorted her to employ the few remaining hours she had to live in prayer and repentance, and implored her to make a full confession of the crime for which she was convicted. She asserted that she was not the party who committed the murder, and she had nothing to confess.

"Her husband several times expressed his anxiety to see her, which was communicated to her. He still continued in a very depressed state, eating hardly anything, although everything he wished for, consistent with the regulations of the gaol, was afforded him. He occupied all his time in reading religious works and writing.

"The authorities of Horsemonger-lane gaol, fearing that Maria Manning might do some violence to herself after hearing her fate on Wednesday morning, thought it advisable to have an extra woman in attendance upon her. Accordingly, Mrs. Randall, the female searcher of the Southwark police-station, was sent for that night to assist the two other women in watching her. Mrs. Randall attended upon her during the several lengthy examinations at the police-court, and Mrs. Manning seemed very much attached to her. As soon as she was introduced to her in the cell, she seemed much pleased, and conversed freely with her on several subjects. The unfortunate woman still asserted that she was innocent, and would not be executed,

and that some influential ladies would intercede for her in high quarters. On Tuesday (the 6th) she wrote two letters, and believed that the contents would have the effect of saving her life. On being told that her legal advisers had done all they could for her, she stamped her foot on the floor, and exclaimed in a violent manner, 'Done all they could! Why, they have done nothing; they and everybody else in the court decided upon hanging me before I was tried.' In alluding to her husband, a few minutes afterwards, she said, 'Ah, he is a vagabond. I never said anything about him. He knows who murdered poor O'Connor, and can tell all.' She still refused all religious consolation, and paid little attention to the Rev. Mr. Roe, the chaplain. She was visited by a charitable lady, who attempted to instil into her mind the awful position in which she stood, and implored her to offer up prayers to her Maker; but she listened with a deaf ear, and as soon as the lady had left the cell she entered into conversation with her attendants, as unconcerned as if she was free from crime. She ate heartily, and slept well, but if any of her attendants would converse with her all night she would sit up and join them. Upon some allusion to her attorney (Mr. Solomon) and the counsel who defended her, she became much excited, and, clenching her fists, exclaimed, 'Oh, if I only had them here I'd serve them out. They might have got me acquitted if they had done their duty.' She, however, seemed confident that she would be set at liberty, and had no idea that the sentence of the law would be carried into effect."

Manning wrote a very proper letter to his wife on Oct. 29. Her reply was as follows:—

"I address you as my husband. I am far away from my happy native land, on account of this contract and this land, which you have made to me a captivity. The peace and well-being of society, the laws of truth, which you have broken, have alike demanded my banishment from the country which gave me birth. But I am not going away from God; He is everywhere alike present, and at all times gracious to those that seek his mercy and his favour. What has brought me into this eternal consequence? If you live and die unforgiven by God, though those sins will be punished by the laws of man, they are still all registered by the only God. All that I have to say is this—I never made any statement of any kind to injure or condemn you in this matter—that you well know—from first to last. I am here condemned only by your statement. If it had proved beneficial to you, I should have been satisfied with all your doings, and the great expense of your learned counsellors, that did not benefit you, but plunged me unmercifully with you to this horrid fate. All I have to beg of you now is, to state facts; as you know that I was not in the house when O'Connor met with his death; but I was gone to see for him, and during that time he called, in my absence, and was shot by that young man from Guernsey, who was with you in the back parlour smoking; but that I did not know any thing about it until the Saturday, and that it was all settled in the kitchen. I was in hopes that you would have brought that young

man forward on the trial, but that you did not do, but only blame me, as you did, from the first day. But, my dear, as you now know that you cannot save yourself, I implore of you to state the facts, which are truth, and endeavour to save your wife. By so doing, it would be satisfaction to your own heart and soul, to know that you are doing right and good towards me before you depart from this world. The Lord God will forgive you and comfort you. Believe me, I upbraid you not, but trust you will be assured that I forgive you, and every one, as I pray and hope I may be forgiven by God. If you comply with this true statement, I shall be happy to see you until the last day. My hope and life is in your hands. You can, if you will, save me. Remember you cannot answer for our sins and transgressions, when all our secret sins shall be set in the light of his countenance, and when the wicked who carelessly lived and miserably died, without the fear or favour of God, shall doubtless perish everlastingly. In that day, a craven conscience shall proclaim a failing heart, and an angry judge shall point to the wicked.

"I humbly look to thee, O Lord. Thou hast set forth as a propitiation for the remission of sins that are past through Thy forbearance. I cannot write any longer. God bless you, and have mercy on us both.

"M. MANNING."

"Received by F. G. Manning on the 30th of October, 1849."

She made no confession, but protested her innocence to the last, and to the last exhibited no religious feeling, however decorously she might behave during religious offices. When told that her husband was anxious to have an interview with her, she refused and begged to have her eyes bandaged if she were near him in chapel that she might not see him, for otherwise she should tear his eyes out. However, at the last religious service in the chapel, she did, after much entreaty, see him, and he kissed her. From the Thursday of the murder, for five days, as she had no servant, she must have performed the ordinary business of a kitchen where she had killed O'Connor, and have walked incessantly over his grave; cooked her victuals, and probably burnt the victim's clothes, at a fire so close to the spot where the body lay that the stone above it might be warmed. She had confidently hoped to escape upon the reserved point of law, and wrote a memorial to the Queen, and afterwards a letter to Sir George Grey, in the hope of being saved: and declared that if certain parties did not interfere for her she would make great exposures. At the "condemned" sermon, she, as well as her husband, sobbed aloud: she not from penitence, I presume, but from vexation and disappointment. It is said that she at length attempted suicide.

On the scaffold the clergyman once more approached her,

hoping she would confess, and asked if she had anything to say. Her reply was, "Nothing, except to thank you much for all your kindness." Her conduct had been respectful and proper to all the officers of the jail. The man was probably truly penitent. But ten days before his confession he vehemently protested his innocence to his brother, hoping "that God Almighty would commit his soul to hell flames if he were guilty of the murder." However, a change afterwards came over him: and I believe the literal truth of his confession, though he endeavoured to make it, I think, falsely appear that he had not premeditated the murder, whereas he had purchased the crow-bar himself, and witnessed the excavation of the grave by his wife, if indeed he did not work at it himself. I doubt not that she suggested the murder, and urged him on all the way through, he yielding like Macbeth. The crow-bar he declared could be found at the Lewes station on the Brighton Railway: and, on opening a parcel which had lain there some time, directed to Mrs. Smith, they found it with human hair and spots of blood upon it.

She was one of the most libidinous of women: and her conversation abominable.

She dressed well, and was carefully dressed for her execution: and would have worn a pair of new kid gloves, had not the excellent surgeon of the jail persuaded her to take them off.

While the man ascended the steps leading to the scaffold, his legs shook and he could scarcely move. He turned his face to the east, apparently wishing to avoid the gaze of the crowd, and, a gleam of sunshine falling on his face, a deadly paleness was discernible. She, to avoid the sight of the crowd, had, previously to ascending, carefully bandaged her eyes. She ascended with a firm step, and then stood under the beam as fixed as a statue. He recovered his firmness, and, turning towards her, shook her hand in token of farewell.

Let no one say that the characters of the Mannings are not fully known. Men every day obtain the reputation of the highest respectability, of warm benevolence, of unselfishness, of pure morality, and of profound piety, who are but whitened sepulchres, full of dead men's rotten bones, platters filthy in the inside. It costs nothing, but may be great gain, to show a demure exterior, to talk quietly and with gentle and prolonged expirations, to use scripture phrases, to give alms in the sight of all men, trifling in contrast with their means, and calculated, on the principle of "lending to the

Lord," to produce repayment with interest: it costs nothing, but may be great gain, to be seen going to and returning from a place of worship, and most attentive during the worship, turning to every passage of the Bible to which the preacher refers, and to split hairs with intense zeal upon points of doctrine: to be busy in religious associations, and make a mighty fuss about non-essentials: to maintain an appearance of honesty in every public matter. Yet with all this a man may be very immoral when not seen by the world; very mean or very grasping in pecuniary matters; may not believe a word of the tenets of the religious denomination of which he appears so grave a member; be thoroughly proud of his birth which was quite independent of himself, of his rank which was prepared for him before he spoke or walked, or was acquired by himself through cunning or by some perfect chance: or be proud of riches, descended to him or acquired by discreditable methods; of his person, talents or virtues, which were all bestowed upon him and not made by himself. Jesuits abound equally among Protestants as among Catholics. But when persons act as the Mannings acted, we may be positive of their character.

A cast of the head of each, made as soon as they were cut down, has been kindly presented to me by Mr. Harris, the surgeon of the jail. Circumstances rendered it impossible to publish an account of the heads before: and copies of the casts must not be taken. But Mr. Donovan, of King William Street, Strand, possesses casts, and would be happy, I have no doubt, to shew them to any enquirer into cerebral science. I need not say that the casts agree *perfectly* with the characters.

The woman's head is by far, very far, the worse. I never saw a more horrid cerebral formation; rarely, one so bad, so shapen in iniquity. Persons unacquainted with phrenology would be struck with its hideousness. It displays no good quality. It is worse than Rush's head. Rush displayed large organs of Attachment and Love of Offspring: she did not. The whole head is large for a female. Her forehead is ordinary, as good as in thousands of persons, though rather narrow. But her head expands at the sides immediately where the forehead ends; and the expansion is so great that the organs of the *Love of Property* (Acquisitiveness) are very large, and those of the *Disposition to Violence* (Destructiveness), and *Cunning* (Secretiveness), are enormous. The organs of *Alimentiveness* are also enormous, as well as those of *Courage* (Combativeness). The cerebellum in which resides the sexual instinct was of awful size. The organs of *Cautiousness* were

also enormous. *Self-esteem*, *Love of Notoriety*, or *Vanity*, especially the latter, were very large. The upper part of the head, the coronal surface, in which the organs of the higher moral sentiments reside, was low. *Benevolence* was small: *Veneration* not more than full. The organ of *Perseverance* or *Firmness* is full, but I must repeat what I said in my paper on Rush in No. XXVI.:—"Much that is called firmness is really either courage, or the strong action of some other organ: and the organs of perseverance were so supported by the immense power of the very large organs, that I see no reason to doubt from this head that Gall is correct in what he advances upon this organ and faculty. The term firmness in common acceptation signifies sometimes steadiness in a course, sometimes resolution or courage in some particular circumstance. The former is supposed to be the faculty of the organ," p. 118.

The organ of *Ideality* is small.

The part considered by Dr. Spurzheim to be the organ of conscientiousness, I think erroneously, and which, if it be anything of the sort, I would call the organ of the sense of justice, if that is the property of the part, is low, though broad, and appears sadly encroached upon by the enormous organ of Cautiousness. The organs of Attachment or Friendship and of the Love of Offspring are but moderate.

Thus the organs of Amativeness, Combativeness, Destructiveness, Cunning, Caution, Acquisitiveness and Alimentiveness, *Self-esteem* and *Vanity*, must have made up the positive character of this wretched being.

The man's head was large generally, and good in the forehead and many parts. His organ of *Amativeness* was certainly very large: but the misfortune of the head was the enormous size of the organs of *Love of Property* (Acquisitiveness). The organs of *Cunning* were very large, as well as those of *Violence* (Destructiveness), *Combativeness*, *Self-esteem*, *Love of Approbation* and *Alimentiveness*. The organs of *Firmness* were larger in him than in her. He shewed great firmness. We should remember that he must have been nervous from having drunk hard: and that his organs of *Veneration* were much larger, and also those of *Benevolence* and *Attachment*—a difference of organization that agrees perfectly with the difference of their conduct. He was vain, tyrannical and cringing. The so-called organs of conscientiousness or justice shelve off in him, while they are low in her. If each of the two heads, taken alone, strongly confirms the doctrine of Gall, still more do the two when contrasted and compared with the contrast of the characters of the two individuals.



The circumference of the cast over the eyes is—

In Maria Manning .....	23 inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	24 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	24 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

A line drawn from ear to ear over the eyes is—

In Maria Manning .....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	12 ditto.
In Rush .....	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

A line drawn from ear to ear backwards is—

In Maria Manning .....	11 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	12 ditto.

A line drawn from ear to ear over the head is—

In Maria Manning .....	12 inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	13 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	12 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

The breadth at Disposition to Violence is—

In Maria Manning .....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

The breadth at Courage is—

In Maria Manning .....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	5 $\frac{1}{2}$ ditto.

The breadth at Love of Property is—

In Maria Manning .....	6 inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

The breadth at Cunning is—

In Maria Manning .....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	7 ditto.
In Rush .....	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

The breadth at centre of Sexual Impulse is—

In Maria Manning .....	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	3 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

The breadth at Alimentiveness is—

In Maria Manning .....	6 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

The distance measured by callipers from the orifice of the ear to Firmness is—

In Maria Manning .....	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ inches.
In F. G. Manning .....	5 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.
In Rush .....	6 $\frac{1}{4}$ ditto.

The distance measured by callipers from the orifice of the ear to Veneration is—

In Maria Manning.....	5½ inches.
In F. G. Manning.....	6 ditto.
In Rush.....	6 ditto.

The distance measured by callipers from the orifice of the ear to Benevolence is—

In Maria Manning.....	4½ inches.
In F. G. Manning.....	5½ ditto.
In Rush.....	6½ ditto.

The distance measured by callipers from the orifice of the ear to Self-esteem is—

In Maria Manning.....	5½ inches.
In F. G. Manning.....	5½ ditto.
In Rush.....	6½ ditto.

The distance measured by callipers from the orifice of the ear to Parental Love is—

In Maria Manning.....	3½ inches.
In F. G. Manning.....	4½ ditto.
In Rush.....	5½ ditto.

The breadth at the centre of the two organs of Attachment is—

In Maria Manning.....	3½ inches.
In F. G. Manning.....	3½ ditto.
In Rush.....	4 ditto.

Her cerebellum weighed 6 ounces: her whole brain weighing 2 lbs. 12½ ozs. His cerebellum weighed but 6½ ounces: his whole brain weighing 3 lbs. 15½ ounces.

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The conduct of the crowds who went to witness the execution was, as usual, disgusting, and was described by Mr. Dickens in *The Times* of Nov. 14 of that year, as I have stated in a note to a paper, by L. E. G. E., entitled *Killing according to Law*, printed in the same volume as my paper upon Rush. Examples of the shocking scenes exhibited by the public at executions will be found in No. I., p. 50; II., p. 105; VII., p. 299; XI., p. 275; XXVIII., p. 342. Yet I hope that, while the punishment of death disgraces our statutes, executions will be perfectly public. See No. XXVIII., p. 351.

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II. *Cure of Spinal Affection of long standing by the continuous use of Mesmerism, after the failure of several eminent medical practitioners.* Detailed by the patient. Communicated to Dr. Elliotson by William Fowke, Esq., L.F.T.S.G., Medical Officer to the Cloyne Dispensary and Infirmary.

"When a person possessed of common sense hears of the numerous spells, charms, incantations, superstitious rites, &c., so frequently had recourse to in former days for the cure of scrofula, he considers them humiliating proofs of the credulity of the human mind, during ages commonly called dark, or only partially enlightened; and he is induced to form a comparison between those ages and present times, and to draw inferences which will probably be by no means in favour of the former. Superstitious and absurd notions and practices were no more then, than they are now, confined to the lower classes of society, or to the uninstructed mind: and however lowering they may appear to the dignity of human nature, however irrational and impossible the results imputed to them may seem to the thinking, however devoid of those connections which entitle the imputed causes to the credit of the reported effects, when any effect was even loosely observed, still greater absurdities, still more wonderful charms, more entrancing spells, more blind superstitions, and more gross impositions are credited, in this age of boasted civilisation, of scientific advancement, and of mechanical contrivance and invention, and more numerous instances of blind credulity are daily manifested, than in ages of the darkest and lowest mental abasement.

"Everywhere—in all ranks and classes, in all professions, and even among those reputed to be instructed, or learned, or even imbued with science—most absurd doctrines connected with the healing art, *human impossibilities*, the most ridiculous notions, the most extravagant assertions, are promulgated by knavish impostors, and believed in by credulous multitudes: the impudence of the former and the faith of the latter being the greater, the more devoid of truth these doctrines are, and the more they are opposed to good sense, to true science, and to honest dealing. When we find, as may be found at the present day, in the senate, in the hierarchy, in the judicial bench,—amongst those who govern the country, who interpret and administer the laws, who profess to direct the religious belief of the community, not merely believers in, but also propagators of, the most absurd medical doctrines and medical means—officious meddlers in what they are incapable of understanding—abettors of the knavery of mischievous quacks—can the decadence of true medical science be far off? What is neither honoured nor rewarded must necessarily cease to be sufficiently, ardently, and patiently cultivated. If the impertinencies of the ignorant, the impudence of the vulgar, the professions of the uneducated, are to be esteemed above the acquirements of the scientific and philosophic investigator, there must, at no remote period, be an end of the learning and science of those who shall hereafter assume the office and rank of physician.

"It is very generally believed that the patronage of quacks and quackeries—of impostors and of impositions—is to be imputed chiefly to ignorance; but this is only one of several sources to which it should be referred. Credulity, a tendency, even in the incredulous, to believe in whatever is confidently asserted, a disposition to admire whatever is unknown or unexplainable, the faith which many place in the impossible—the Catholic dogma, '*Credo quia impossibile est*'—have collectively and severally an influence on the minds of the majority—on those who will not take the trouble of looking closely into matters, or of thinking sufficiently for themselves, especially when they are either imperfectly or not at all acquainted with the natures and relations of such matters. It is not a little remarkable that, since the founding of the College of Physicians at the commencement of the 16th century, expressly with the view of preventing the injurious and irregular medical practices of the day, down to recent times, most of the quacks

and quackeries, against which the College had to contend, were patronized by bishops and dignitaries of the church, and by persons of high rank, as sufficiently set forth in Goodall's History of the College.

"It would appear, at the present day, as if the aberrations of the human mind apparent in all classes and places, in matters connected with the disorders of the body, were the humiliating inflictions of Providence on those to whom the professions are as a worldly craft, science as a matter of traffic, and learning as an occupation of the memory involving none of the higher manifestations of the mind. The history of human delusion, as to matters medical, and of the fashions which have successively engaged the weak and selfish, respecting the ailments of their debilitated frames, shows that, in an era of luxurious indulgence, of exhausting vices, and of enervating enjoyments, the *impudent assertions of impostors* have a more powerful influence on the minds and bodies thus emasculated, than the upright and rational advice of scientific and learned physicians. The victims of the former are either incapable of reasoning upon, or are too indolent to examine, the opinions and assertions which they practically adopt; and hence, of the **SEVERAL MEDICAL IMPOSTURES OF THE PRESENT DAY**, the most popular is that one which is the most extravagant in its pretensions, the most abounding in absurdity, and the most deficient in the least approach to truth. '*Probitas laudatur, at aget*'—honesty, however, is hardly praised; but dishonesty and assurance are more than praised—they are worshipped with a fervency equal to the extent of delusion they achieve—to the amount of their success—a success acquired only at the expense of human suffering, and by the sacrifice of human life, but worshipped nevertheless."

"During the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, the seventh son of a seventh son, and still more the ninth son of a ninth son, divided the laurels with royalty for their success in curing scrofula by the touch; the odd numbers, as well as the rare occurrence of so prolific offsprings in succession, producing the cures as effectually as the high rank of the royal competitors. At the present day, the **PASSES OF THE MESMERIST** profess to effect more than either the royal touch or the humbler ministrations of even the ninth son of a ninth son, wherever he may be found."

"When the age and other circumstances, in which external scrofula presents itself, are considered, it may be safely inferred, that a very large proportion of those who were thus touched recovered at indefinite periods after it was resorted to. The accession of puberty, the influence of the mind on the body, the change of living, of season, of air and scene, and the journey, when this mode of healing was confided in, and various related circumstances, combined to produce no mean constitutional effects, and thereby to remove the local manifestation of the constitutional evil. The transfer of nerve influence from the healthy to the sick, or any other mode of explanation which the modern mesmerist adopts to account for the effect, when effect was observed, could have but a small share, if any, in producing it; but, at the present day, mesmerism usurps the place of the royal touch, although with doubtful efficacy, unless it brings to its aid all the accessories which I have now mentioned, as well as many others aiding more or less in producing a constitutional as well as a local change."—Dr. Copland, Sept., 1851, *A Dictionary of practical Medicine*, art. *Scrofula*.

Cloyne, Sept. 18, 1851.

DEAR DR. ELLIOTSON,—Permit me to place at your disposal an "established cure" resulting from the long-continued use of mesmerism. This lady was more or less an invalid from her childhood. For sixteen long years she was confined to her bed—in truth a bed of torture. To understand her sufferings, it is necessary to combine hysteria in its worst and most varying shapes, tic douloureux, chronic rheumatism, and convulsions of the muscles of the entire frame. The details

of the case amply shew that every mode of treatment had a fair trial, and that it was only after the failure of all and every known means that mesmerism was practised. One of this lady's medical attendants has said that I deserve no credit for curing this disease of "the imagination." He is in truth a very eminent medical practitioner: but, alas! I fear he will live and die in ignorance of "the truths of mesmerism."

Suffer me to draw your attention to the remarkable crisis by which this disease terminated. As the acute symptoms subsided, the transfer or extension of the disease was most apparent. All the abdominal surface became so sensitive to the *slightest* touch that at times the pressure of the bedclothes could not be borne: and, most curiously, each mesmerisation was felt in the stomach and excited disagreeable sensations.

This lady was married on the 5th of August: I have no doubt you will unite with me in best wishes for her happiness.

I remain, dear Dr. Elliotson, with high esteem,

Very faithfully yours,

WILLIAM FOWKE.

John Elliotson, Esq., M.D., &c., &c.

P.S. It may be necessary to inform you that in this case there never was the slightest irregularity of the catamenial function.

"From my very childhood I had a tendency to pain and weakness of my back, always suffering in that part on taking too much exercise. In the autumn of 1832, a circumstance occurred which agitated me much, and I fainted at the time, but to this I was liable. However, I never felt as strong from that day as before. Shortly afterwards I had palpitation of the heart, accompanied by weakness of my limbs and increased weakness of my back.

"I continued much in this state till February, 1833, when I suffered from a most distressing dragging kind of pain in my back. The sensation was as if the sinews of that part were too short. For this *tincture of iodine* was rubbed on, and removed the pain for the time. But the back felt much weaker. In April of this year I felt soreness on slight pressure at both sides of my spine. This increased much in the following September, and I had then also a recurrence of the dragging pain, and the back became still weaker. A *blisters* was applied; but without any good effect: and the tenderness and weakness of back gradually increased till March, 1834. I must not omit to mention that during this past year I was subject to severe headaches, which for the most part came and left me suddenly. During the latter

part of this period I was able to take but little exercise, and was obliged to remain in a recumbent position for several hours every day.

"In April, 1833, I consulted a second physician, who *dry-cupped* me, and gave me *tonics*, and ordered me *generous diet*, —*beer and wine*. For the first week of this treatment, the cupping appeared to agree, relieving the tenderness to pressure. But in a week the tenderness returned worse than ever, and I was less capable of any exertion. *Slight gymnastic exercises* were then tried: but, after six weeks, were given up from the great increase of pain. *Moxa* was then used to the most painful spot of my back: but after it I was decidedly worse, and walking even across the room gave me intolerable pain.

"A third physician was then called in. He recommended my *sitting in a chair, supported by crutches* under the arms; and ordered *tartar emetic ointment* to be rubbed on the sides of the spine. I was also to take a preparation of *iodine and potass*. On the pustules coming out through the tartar emetic ointment, I used to become apparently insensible, though I really was not; but was aware of all that passed. From a feeling of utter exhaustion I was not able to speak, or even open my eyes, and though plied with *wine, ether, &c.*, used to remain in this state for six hours at a time. The tartar emetic ointment was then discontinued, and *croton oil* substituted, which had much the same effect. *Needles* were then introduced into parts of my back, but without any good effect. Then *veratrine ointment* was resorted to with the same result. *Shower baths* and *friction* of the limbs were then ordered, but did not agree.

"By this time, October, 1834, I could no longer walk or sit up. At the end of this month I was so severely attacked with dysentery as to be despaired of. But it pleased God to restore me. On my recovering from it I was most violently attacked with spasmodic cough. This was removed by *inhaling belladonna*, and taking it *inwardly*. But St. Vitus's dance succeeded to an extreme degree. This was followed again by catalepsy. Next I was attacked by periodical spasms four or five times in the twenty-four hours, and they were so violent that I used to be suddenly raised up in my bed and stand and walk on it, and then as suddenly fall back. Several persons were obliged to hold me lest I should be hurt.

"A very clever physician, the fourth, who was then called in, said that he had witnessed several cases of spasmodic St. Vitus's dance in many hospitals, but all their attacks were child's play compared to mine. These lasted several months, but gradually subsided about May, 1835.

During this period I suffered much less than usual from pain in the back. I need hardly say that *all so-called antispasmodics* were given me in abundance, as *musk*, &c. On the spasms subsiding, the back again became worse: and a *bella-donna plaster* was applied to it, but weakened the part considerably. I remained much in the same way till 1836, always obliged to remain in a recumbent position.

"In the May of that year, owing to a change of residence, I had to take a short journey of about sixteen miles, and I was carried in my light couch by bearers. I had much increase of pain after this exertion: but after about a month this subsided.

"Another physician, the *sixth* who had seen me, was then called in, and ordered *steel powders*. These appeared to weaken me so much that I had to discontinue them. In April, 1837, I had a very severe attack on my liver, and my stomach and head were greatly affected, and during this year I was often obliged to have my right side *blistered*: this I think was owing to my inhabiting a very warm room. From September, 1837, to September, 1838, I occasionally sat up in an arm-chair for about half an hour: but while doing so, I always felt a great increase of weight in the back of my neck,—this being a symptom I had from the commencement of my illness, as well as palpitation and pain in the back. It was thought advisable to *blister* the back, and, on this being healed, *four issues* were made, and kept open till February, 1839: but without any apparent benefit.

"This month I was attacked very alarmingly with inflammation of my liver, attended by severe headache and high delirium. *Blistering* and *profuse leeching* were resorted to, and the attack with the Divine blessing was got under. On my beginning to recover from it, for two days I felt as if my back was quite well, and fancied I had only to regain strength enough to be able to walk about and sit up. But I had hardly hoped ere I was disappointed: as my back rapidly became as usual: and in the August of this year the soreness increased much, and the back bone itself became very tender. *Leeching* the back and *blistering* were then tried, but only weakened it more.

"I then saw another physician, the *seventh*, who candidly said that he could not order anything for me, but looked forward to my being well in time, &c. He suggested merely my trying *warm sleeps* when any increased attack of pain came on, as at this time I used occasionally to be seized suddenly with a most violent thrilling starting kind of pain in the back, accompanied by great beating pain in the head,

and at times violent spasms in my limbs, as well as violent hysterics from the severe pain. The slightest noise in these circumstances gave me intolerable pain, and I used to hear sounds, as it were in my back, and at a much greater distance than I could hear at ordinary times; though at all periods my sense of hearing was very acute. I could not even raise my finger at these periods without torture, and used also to suffer from pains in my arms and collar-bones and legs. *These attacks lasted from one to six weeks according to their intensity.* Sometimes I have been a year without one: but from 1841 they returned more frequently, till at length I had scarcely a longer interval than a month between them, each one leaving me more and more incapable of exertion; so that I had to give up any kind of work with which I was accustomed to amuse myself occasionally, and at length the exertion of feeding myself became too much for me: the weight of holding the knife and fork tiring me greatly and bringing on the pain and beating of my back.

"In 1841 I tried the *electro-magnetic machine*: but it seemed to make me more nervous. I also took a preparation of *arsenic*: but was obliged to give it up. In 1843 I tried *repeated leeching* to the back and a preparation of *potass*: but without any benefit. In the winter and spring of 1844 I had recourse to the *cold water system*: but this proved equally remediless. That summer I was removed to the *sea*, carried by bearers in my little couch, hoping that change of air might be of benefit. The distance was but five miles from my own home: but I was not better for the change, and suffered so much from pain in the back that I tried again what *blistering* might do, and kept *six open on the back for two or three months*. But these, I need scarcely say, only made me worse. I remained at the sea-side for one year and a half by the advice of the most celebrated surgeon in Ireland, to whom a statement of my case had been sent, and whose reply I think it worth while to subjoin in order to shew how perfectly out of the reach of medicine such cases as mine are considered by him, and I believe by all candid, well-judging, and experienced medical practitioners.

"I have attentively considered the case of the young lady submitted to me. It is by no means an uncommon one, nor (distressing as are the symptoms) is it at all likely to shorten life. The disease is an aggravated form of hysteria, and has been frequently described under the name of spinal irritation. I have seen many such cases, and the result of my experience is that they are but little under the control of medical treatment, and that the symptoms are aggravated,



and the disease itself rendered much more tedious by all active remedies, such as bleeding, blistering, caustics, mercury, spring exercise, bathing, opium, &c.; in a word, all means which excite local or general irritation, or exhaust the nervous power. The only medicine I know of which is likely to afford relief, and which never produces any serious mischief, is *assafetida* in *large doses*. But of all the means which I have either myself employed, or known to have been employed by others, the *most efficacious* are a *residence at the sea-side*, and the going on the water for some hours daily whenever the weather will admit of it. If the young lady does not suffer from sea-sickness, a voyage might be undertaken with every prospect of advantage. With respect to diet, as the *general health* seems to be *excellent*, little need be said on that score; the only articles to be avoided are tea, coffee, wine; all kinds of food that are difficult of digestion, such as pork, salt meat; the oily fishes, such as salmon and herring; and all crude vegetables, such as salad, cucumbers, &c.'

"I tried the residence at the *sea-side*, remaining there for a year and a half, but without the slightest change for the better. Indeed, *on the contrary*, I suffered far more in my back during that period than at any previous one: and felt my whole nervous system more and more disarranged, having a most shattered unstrung feeling, and to such a degree that the seal with the motto, 'I am out of hinge,' always reminded me of myself. I was completely enervated, especially in the early part of each day, and always chose the latter part for my reading time. Such was my state when, after much deliberation, I consented to try what mesmerism might, with God's blessing, do for me: and, in January, 1846, I tried it for the first time. If the results I experienced from it, were the effects of imagination, any candid reader will confess that they were strange ones. I kept a diary of the effects produced by each mesmerisation: and from it will now abridge or make extracts.

"January 1st, 1846. I saw Dr. Fowke for the first time. He made passes for a quarter of an hour, but I did not feel any effect. He came again in the evening, and made passes for twenty minutes. After the first ten, I felt a kind of current down the left side of my nose, my left eye watered and had a pain: I felt also a quivering sensation in my right hip and between my shoulder-blades, and my right hand became very hot.

"Jan. 2nd. Dr. Fowke used the passes and breathed also; but I did not feel any effect. As he was not well that day he desisted.

"I was not mesmerised again till the 6th. On that day and the two following the effects were the same as on January 1st, with the addition of a quivering of my eyelids, singing in my ears, and confused feelings in my head, as well as beating and pain in my back that caused spasm and hysterics. The latter were stopped by Dr. F. pressing on my legs above my knees, and rubbing them down: this also relieved my back. I felt heat as if passing from Dr. F.'s fingers when mesmerising me.

"Next day, January 8th, before being mesmerised, I had the singing in my ears. Mesmerism affected me much as on the previous day.

"January 9th, 10th, 11th, I was affected much as on the 8th, except that the back had more pain and beating; and on the two latter evenings after being mesmerised I had long fits of yawning, to which I was subject.

"January 12th, I had much the same sensations; but Dr. F. did not remain long enough to relieve the effects excited by mesmerism, a patient having sent for him. Accordingly shortly after he left, the beating of my back returned, and violent hysterics came on, weight in my neck, lump in my throat, a feeling as if I lay on ropes strained beneath my back, stiffness in my arms, pain in my left side and shiverings. All these unpleasant sensations I was in the habit of having in one of the bad attacks of pain and spasm which I before described. Dr. F. was sent for, and by passes along my legs and by breathing on them, gradually relieved me.

"After the many means I had for long years resorted to without experiencing the slightest relief, I could not have believed that any agent could have such power.

"January 13th, 14th, I was affected much as in the evening before, except that Dr. F., by occasionally relieving me, was able to mesmerise me more. The only new sensations I had were one of burning in the back of my neck and much greater drowsiness than heretofore.

"January 15th, was not at all tired as I was the two previous days. I felt the passes *at once* in my eyes; palpitation was soon brought on, and beating in my back. Dr. F. had therefore ceased making passes for a little time. When the palpitation had subsided, he recommenced and continued for more than half an hour. I felt exceedingly drowsy, indeed half asleep; and there seemed to be a haze before my eyes. But I was roused out of this by twitchings in my whole frame. I had a return of the shiverings, of the feeling as if ropes were strained along my back, and of weight in my neck; I had also a pain in the back. All these states of pain were

gradually subdued. Reverse passes relieved me wonderfully. My back became again every indifferent during the day, and I dreaded one of my bad attacks: but it did not come on.

"January 16th, the effects of mesmerism were much as on the 15th.

"From the 16th to the 22nd the only new effects were, that the eyes used to be closed by the mesmerism, and, though awake, I could not open them, I occasionally had a peculiar throbbing in my back of the same kind that I used to have from the electro-magnetic machine. My back became very sore to the touch, and Dr. F., on placing his hands beneath my back, felt very unpleasant sensations. I also had a feeling as if something heavy rolled down the sides of my back internally. But altogether I bore mesmerism much better; the twitchings and other unpleasant sensations not being so quickly excited. I was much sooner and more powerfully brought under the influence of mesmerism.

"On the 22nd, Dr. F. was fully an hour making the passes before my eyes closed. I felt greatly overpowered at the time, and was often not able to distinguish any object. The back of my head and neck became very stiff. Contact passes down the back relieved the sensation.

"From this to the 2nd of February, the only new effects recorded in my diary were numbness of the sides of my back, a feeling as if cold air passed over my hands, and a similar feeling deep in my back, generally followed by a burning sensation, which was ever readily induced by Dr. F. when he placed his hands under my back, and kept them so placed for a little time. My back became much less sore to the touch, and I was able to bear friction which before I used mesmerism I could not have borne for a second without being thrown into hysterics.

"February 2nd. Mesmerised in the morning, as my back warned me that one of my severe attacks of pain was coming on. Mesmerism relieved me; but, after a few hours, I had a recurrence of the unpleasant sensations, such as weight in the back of the neck and most distressing beating in the back. In the evening a severe attack of pain in my back was excited by the mesmerism. Rubbing down my chest and stomach gradually relieved me. The burning sensation before spoken of came on as I got relief.

"From this date to the 23rd the entries in my diary are but a repetition of these returns of severe attacks of pain in the back and all the unpleasant attendant symptoms. Sometimes these attacks came on during the process of mesmerism: at other times of their own accord. But, in either case, every

unpleasant condition was invariably relieved by mesmerism. During this period I was frequently obliged to be mesmerised morning and evening in consequence of my back feeling so uncomfortable. The morning mesmerism made me feel better during the day. I find that during this time there was a great increase of the burning sensations in the back during mesmerism. At first these sensations were as if drops of very hot water were deep in my back. The decline of these sensations left an internal soreness very like the feeling one has when a blister is rising.

"After some time these sensations changed to streams of heat so intense that I have involuntarily put my hand on the spot thinking I was burning. This feeling was ever the forerunner of relief. During the severe pain my back felt very cold to Dr. F., though not perceptibly so to me. He also felt the burning sensations in his hands.

"The power of mesmerism over me increased daily, and I was often nearly unconscious: but I used to be roused by pain in the back, spasm, &c.; and I find this remark: 'Whenever I am decidedly more overpowered by mesmerism, and approaching sleep, I suffer from it; the next day my back is not so well.'

"February 23rd, 24th, 25th. When mesmerised I had a return of the severe attack, to which I was subject years before, and which I have already described, but different from these, inasmuch as they did not continue longer than about twenty minutes; and though I was greatly fatigued after them, yet it was not at all to the same extent as before when subject to them. I find also a curious sensation recorded. "I had a most extraordinary feeling in my leg, as if it was gradually slipping away from me; reminding me of the feeling we have when sitting in a carriage, and watching objects receding from us. This seems absurd; but so I felt."

From the 25th February to the 8th March these attacks ceased to be produced: but, every time I was mesmerised severe headache was brought on, just the same kind of headaches I had years previously: and it is a curious fact that at the first stage of my complaint I used to suffer from these headaches. Mesmerism brought on all the old symptoms, but in an inverse order. After being excited by mesmerism up to a certain point, all the distressing symptoms were always completely removed by Dr. F.

"While mesmerism was thus acting on my head, I had burning sensations such as I had in my back; also the cold chills, great beating and pain in my head. In my diary I call this pain 'mesmeric' for this reason, that it was different

from ordinary headache. Also 'mesmeric beating' for the same reason. I had much headache this fortnight when not under the influence of mesmerism, and a great deal of fullness in my head.

"March 9th. I find mention in my diary of an extraordinary sensation down the back and in the head, as if something were rushing down them. This brought on the old soreness to touch in the back; which continued to the 12th. And on the 13th I find mention of a return of the same sensation under mesmerism; but it was not followed by the soreness to touch.

"On the 12th and 13th, during the process of mesmerism, I had constant quivering sensations in my neck and back, so that I thought the bed was shaken by some person. Dr. F.'s hand and arm shook when in contact with my shoulder.

"From the 15th March to the 23rd April the diary is but a record of the most terrible suffering while I was under the influence of mesmerism; sickening sensations in the back with pain so violent that my teeth would chatter, and I would fall into most violent fits of hysterics. In a word, I had pain, palpitation, and every bad symptom to which I had been liable. During this time it was necessary to mesmerise me continually; I often felt as if heavy weights were wedged into parts of my back. During mesmerism I used to feel as if these rolled down. All the time I suffered great agony.

"From April 23rd to May 4th there was some cessation of this great suffering, and I bore mesmerism much better; less pain resulting from it. From this period till the following January mesmerism appeared much to increase the distressing pain in my back. I had from this time repeated severe agonizing attacks of the pain in my back, with all the other unpleasant accompaniments; but with this great difference, that whereas the old attacks lasted for weeks, those brought on by mesmerism were not prolonged beyond some hours; and, instead of my being as formerly left weak and utterly prostrate, I was, to my great astonishment, invariably better and stronger in a few days after these violent attacks. I bore mesmerism better, that is, I felt less pain from the process.

"Up to September 20th mesmerism had full power over these attacks, and relieved all excitement. But from this time till January it seemed in a measure to have lost this power, not giving me the relief which it did formerly. The attacks were protracted for days with very short intervals of relief: yet they were not of the same severe character as before I tried the powers of mesmerism.

"At this time I almost despaired of a cure being effected, and mentioned my fears to Dr. F. He assured me that all this excitement would pass away, and that mesmerism would not then produce pain or disturbance of any kind. 'All would be plain sailing;' that with the blessing of the Lord resting on the means, I should eventually be restored to health: that mesmerism would not produce in me such agony unless my nerves were full of disease. The sequel will prove the soundness of his views with respect to my disease and the action of mesmerism.

"Not more than a month after this conversation, one night, after I had suffered much agony, I dosed for a few minutes. On waking, I fainted several times from violent pain in the lowest bone of my back. About one hour after this pain left me, I was attacked with violent pain in the stomach, great sickness and prostration. I could not bear pressure on any part of my stomach, my strength sank rapidly, and I was in such danger that my kind attendant scarcely left me for a moment. For two days he ceased to mesmerise me, fearing that pain in the back might be induced, and he dreaded the slightest additional disturbance of any kind. The third day found me utterly prostrate; my strength (as it were) ebbing from me. *Dr. F. held both my hands; I did not know why he did so, as he had never mesmerised me in that way before. He had not held me thus many minutes when I felt more tranquil.* I was on the border of delirium at the time.

"Strength began gradually to come back. He continued thus gently to mesmerise me for that night, breathing occasionally on my forehead. Every hour I became stronger; *felt as if inhaling a most powerful tonic.* The inflammation of my stomach was cured by leeching, blistering, and mercury. My mouth was very sore; and my stomach continued in a very deranged state for more than two months.

"During this time I know not how my strength could have been kept up but for the use of mesmerism, acting as a tonic without increasing the inflammation, and as an opiate without the unpleasant effects of such a drug.

"During this time I never had 'Nature's sweet restorer' except when mesmerised. So much did I need it, that we were obliged to procure an assistant to aid my kind doctor. From this period its effects were soothing, it ceased to excite pain anywhere. In the sleep produced I often had spasms, *but without pain*; neither was I aware of them.

"This was evidently a great crisis. The disease evidently changed its position as the inflammation declined; for the stomach became externally sensitive to the touch as the back

had been. When the inflammation of the stomach subsided I could not be put to sleep by mesmerism; the process merely produced great general torpor.

"From month to month mesmerism acted most beneficially on me. It did not produce pain or disturbance of any kind. On the contrary, it soothed and strengthened. I had no return of those violent attacks of pain and spasm, and was able each day to make more exertion.

"In about one year and a half after this crisis, I was able to attempt to stand, to sit in an arm chair, and so on. It pleased the great and good Physician of both body and soul to give me back the health and strength so long withheld.

"For the last year and a half I have endured much fatigue of mind and body: acting for weeks as the chief nursetender by the bedside of those most dear to me, and to witness their removal from me. I am still easily fatigued, but am sure that I should be much stronger than I am, but for the great over-exertions I had to make so soon after recovery.

"I still resort to mesmerism when the back feels at all uncomfortable, or I have any nervous sensation; such as lump in the throat or inclination to palpitation.

"From my own experience I can say it is a powerfully efficient remedy, a strengthener and restorer of the nervous system. Should any persons who may read this statement doubt my testimony, I only ask them calmly and dispassionately to study and weigh all the evidence that has been given by so many and various parties.

"If any fellow-sufferers peruse these pages, I would earnestly entreat them to try what it could do with the blessing of the Lord resting on its use. I would impress on them not to give it up without a long continuous use of it; for, had I not been naturally of a courageous and persevering spirit, I should never have continued for the long year of agony which I had to endure from its first effects upon me.

"I now thank God, who gave me this spirit to enable me to do so, and who also gave me the kind persevering physician I had. Mesmerism is indeed a mighty power, not to be dealt lightly with, not to be despised.

"In compiling these notes of its effects upon me, I have done so with the earnest wish that they may prove of use in causing many of my suffering fellow-creatures to employ a remedy which is always nigh at hand, and which has been of such signal service to many."

NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

The preceding narration is a terrible commentary upon Dr. Copland's effusion with which I have headed it. The long list of various, and many of them very disagreeable or even severe, measures, so long persevered with in vain under the direction of eight physicians and of the most eminent surgeon of Ireland,—no doubt Sir Philip Crampton, prove the present high and palmy state of medicine, a change from which must truly be an awful "*decadence*:" for the perfect inutility and severity of medical appliances it seems are the characteristic of the perfection of medicine, and the successful substitution of mesmerism is disgraceful and appalling quackery and imposture.

Oh! it is sad when the lower feelings of our nature revel unrestrained by intellect, benevolence, justice, humility, and a love of truth: when men of education set such examples to those who have not possessed their advantages, and utterly throw off good breeding as well as every mark of intelligence.

One word to Sir Philip Crampton also. This gentleman should reflect upon the case. He once confessed himself satisfied of the truth of mesmerism, and declared that, at his return from London to Dublin, he would avow his conviction on all occasions. He began to fulfil his promise; but, as soon as the Irish newspapers quizzed him for this, he wrote to them that he did not believe the truth of mesmerism, and had often seen strange things in hysterical patients. His life since that time has been marked by opposition to mesmerism: and, like Dr. Forbes, instead of investigating its ordinary phenomena and its curative powers, he has talked of nothing but clairvoyance, and tried to test this by enclosing, as he said, a bank note in an envelope, which bank note turned out, it is said, to be a blank cheque. His lamentable antimesmeric conduct may be learnt from an article entitled, *Letter to Sir Philip Crampton, Bart.*, which I wrote in No. XIII.\* of *The Zoist*.

\* pp. 140—152. See also p. 155. I will make one extract:—"Allow me to ask you why you are so anxious about the truth of clairvoyance, when there are simple and intelligible points enough in mesmerism that you may ascertain in five minutes every day of the year, and of the highest importance to mankind in reference to their bodily sufferings, which you make your fortune by attempting to alleviate. Learning as you do, from all quarters, that mesmerism cures diseases, soothes the tormented, and absolutely prevents the agony of your surgical instruments, is it not your solemn duty to ascertain with all earnestness and dispatch, especially as the two arts of medicine and surgery which you profess are most lamentably imperfect, whether this be true or not? Believe me mesmerism is no subject for jokes, sneers, levity or contempt. If you are not philosopher enough to discover its grandeur, its mighty importance as a portion of universal nature, at least let the feelings of humanity as it is termed, but which even the



Had he investigated mesmerism, as was his duty, he would have been able to cure the present patient, and would not have sent her fruitlessly to the sea side, but saved her a long period of severe suffering. This case ought to be a great moral lesson to him for the rest of his days.

This physician and surgeon will have been the cause of hundreds of medical men disregarding mesmerism, and thus of thousands of sufferers not experiencing cure or important relief.

### III. *Cure of Spinal Irritation and Palsy.* By Mr. BUTLER, Chelmsford.

"Dr. Copland contended that if the account of the man experiencing no agony during the operation were true, the fact was unworthy of their consideration, because pain is a wise provision of nature, and patients ought to suffer pain while their surgeon is operating: they are all the better for it and recover better."\*

When Dr. Ashburner endeavoured to communicate the truth to the Society after Dr. Marshall Hall's false accusation of the poor patient nine years after the operation. Dr. Copland declared that "it was evident that the gentleman now attempting to address the meeting was insulting the Society."—*Zoist*, No. XXXIII., p. 100.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

IN your last number, Dr. Elliotson has referred at some length to the very interesting cure of spinal irritation in the

brutes so often beautifully display, prompt you to ascertain its medical value. This would not be the less, were clairvoyance proved a delusion. There might still be humble useful iron, though gold were not to be found. But you exhibit the same range of intellect and feeling with Dr. Forbes, who, like you, cries out all day for clairvoyance! clairvoyance! and no more heeds the simpler and already practical truths which surround him, than the animals which rove the forest heed the wonders in botany, in geology, in astronomy, which are above and below their heads and around them. Thus Mr. Liston, when he had heard the details of the Nottinghamshire amputation case, how mesmerism had given the poor sufferer good nights, and improved his health, and enabled him to lose his leg without a pain, passed all this by, and with a stolid and unfeeling look, which I shall never forget, rose in the society to say he should be happy to know if the interesting patient had since the operation 'learnt to read with his belly.' His question fell flat—no one replied. Thus a Dr. Litch lately declared in public, that 'he regards clairvoyance as the key-stone to mesmerism, and that if it fails the whole structure falls.' "Why be anxious about clairvoyance,—a mysterious, a comparatively rare and uncertain phenomenon? Why not ascertain whether the elementary facts of sleep-waking, rigidity, insensibility, &c., are real phenomena? Why not ascertain whether mesmerism prevents pain in torturing surgical operations and cures diseases for which you are hourly taking money for vain attempts to cure or even alleviate? And why not make all these trials yourself, as Dr. Esdaile did, instead of writing letters characterized by error, superficiality and flippancy, and scraps of poetry?"

\* Speech in the Royal Medical Society. See Dr. Elliotson's *Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations without Pain*, &c., p. 59. Now that most surgeons endeavour to prevent the pain of operations by administering chloroform, Dr. Copland's position is as sad as that of a withered tree by the road-side.

case of Miss Raymond, detailed in the fifth number of *The Zoist*. There is a sequel to that narrative, which may prove acceptable to your readers, since it supplies the opponents of mesmerism with what some of them have desired, viz., a second trial of its efficacy upon an individual labouring under a complaint similar to one previously declared to have been remedied by its agency.

In April, 1846, Miss Raymond, who, from the time of her cure in 1843 by Captain Anderson, had continued in good health, was overturned in a stage-coach. She was the only inside passenger; and, when rescued, was found doubled up with her head beneath her. The effects from this accident were concussion of the brain, nearly total loss of vision, paralysis of the right side and of the lower extremities: indeed a recurrence of the entire symptoms from which she had so long previously suffered. After continuing three days in great pain, and without sleep, her brother-in-law requested that I would mesmerise her: and, as Mr. Lovell, the medical attendant of the family, offered no objection, I consented. My efforts, however, on two trials, so far from alleviating the pain and inducing sleep, caused greater agony and excitement, so that Mr. Lovell and her friends advised that mesmerism should be discontinued: a month elapsed during which time her medical attendant had successfully combated all dangerous symptoms, and much relieved the brain by his treatment. There was, however, no motive power in the lower extremities, and but little feeling in them; although along the spine much pain was experienced. By the advice of Dr. Elliotson mesmerism was resumed: whereupon Mr. Lovell suggested that no medicine should be given, and no other treatment resorted to. This was agreed upon; and he kindly consented to watch the case. From that time with but few exceptions, mesmerism was pursued daily. The patient by slow degrees losing the oppression on her brain, and recovering the sense of feeling and the power to move her lower limbs. After five weeks, she could with assistance leave her bed, and, at the end of four months, she was able to walk across a room with a little aid. At this period a circumstance occurred which rendered nugatory all our past efforts. Her sister with whom she resided, jumped from a chaise whilst the horse was running away, and, falling with great violence on her head, was brought home bleeding and senseless. Miss Raymond managed to get to her sister's room: but received so great a shock, that she was taken to bed, and visiting her the next day, I found that all the old symptoms had recurred, and that my work must begin again.

Only by the same slow degrees as before, improvement proceeded, so that it was nine months from the time of her accident before she could walk a short space without assistance. At the end of twelvemonths she could get up and down stairs alone, and venture with help upon a moderate distance in the street: and from that period her step became firmer, and her strength increased. In three more months, making in all fourteen with mesmerism, she was completely restored; and my visits were discontinued.

These are the simple facts of the case, and what conclusion may we draw from them? Here was a person in 1846, in precisely the same state of illness and suffering in which she had been twelve years before. On the first occasion she was treated in the orthodox way, viz., with setons, issues kept open by large horse beans, blisters, caustic plaisters, leeches, liniments, and medicines of all descriptions. This went on for *nine years*, the patient never being free from pain or enjoying a sound sleep; nor was her health better at the end of that period than at first. Mesmerism was then tried, and in *nine months* she was walking about in her former and almost forgotten health. On the second occasion, with the exception of one month's treatment for the concussion of the brain, no medical or surgical remedies were attempted; mesmerism alone was tried, and, in fourteen months, health and strength were recovered. No refining away the character of the illness, no talk about imagination, nervousness, credulity, and the like, can destroy the force of the plain facts narrated: a state of suffering and physical deprivation baffled all the efforts of skilled medical men for nine long years; but yielded after the same number of months to mesmeric treatment; and upon an unfortunate recurrence through a severe accident of the same condition (in possibly a more aggravated degree) it was subdued at the end of fourteen months, and would probably have been subdued sooner but for the shock above mentioned. The only other observation which I need make is one of encouragement to all unprofessional mesmerisers who undertake a case requiring long treatment. In the instance of Miss Raymond none of those phenomena which so directly give to the mesmeriser a sense of power, or which excite pleasure and wonder in the beholder were manifested. Her sleep, if it could be called so, was at no time deep: she never lost consciousness: neither rigidity of limb nor community of taste could be produced: contact with metals, crystals, or magnets, appeared to be without effect, no action could be directed by the will. Indeed there was nothing to make the case interesting to mesmerisers, beyond the pleasure of doing

good to one who by her fortitude so well deserved it. That consideration should ever be sufficient: let the mesmeriser remember that above all things to be sought is the recovery of his patient. If the phenomena referred to, or those of a higher character, accompany his efforts, he may observe them; but they must not be suffered to divert him from his clear path of duty. If, on the contrary, no evidence of his power be directly seen, let him not be discouraged, but even with greater determination persevere till the end is accomplished.

Chelmsford, Dec. 5th, 1851.

EDWARD BUTLER.

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NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

I congratulate Chelmsford upon possessing a medical gentleman so enlightened and liberal as Mr. Lovell: and indeed upon possessing at least two, for I had the pleasure of meeting Mr. Cremor of that town in consultation last summer respecting a case in which medicine was of no avail, and he, too, was happy to consent to a trial of mesmerism.

On Sept. 15th, Miss Raymond wrote to me thus:—"Thank God! I am now quite well. I had, you well remember, an accident which injured my spine the second time, and, through the kind perseverance of Mr. Butler, I am again restored by mesmerism. I have the last week, while in London, walked at least six miles a day, with comparative ease. I can walk three miles without resting. I have fifty stairs to my bed-room, and am up and down twenty times a day. I think it almost impossible any one could suffer more than I did the second time. Even those who despise mesmerism look upon me with astonishment. I brave all seasons and night air without inconvenience. You will remember I told you I was nearly blind for weeks, nay, months: and I found mesmerism the only remedy."

On the 23rd of September, I received another letter from Miss Raymond, in which she says:—"I am more than ever convinced of the power of mesmerism, and have frequently had the happiness to relieve pain in others. The little children ask me to take away the toothache, and one lady friend declares she was free from it for months after I made the passes over her face."

In a letter dated Dec. 4, Miss Raymond mentions that before she was mesmerised her right leg was quite useless from the hip downwards, and so contracted that the heel was always two inches from the ground: the right arm also weak,

and the eyes so sensitive that for seven weeks she could not endure a ray of light; and that now they endure light just as well as the eyes of other people. Mesmerised water proved a good aperient, and was also applied with advantage to her eyes and back.

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IV. *Cure of incessant Pain in the Side, Depression of Spirits, General Debility, &c.* By MR. HUBERT SMITH, St. Leonards, Bridgnorth, Shropshire. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Our readers must not suppose from the title, that this essay is written in support of the MESMERIC QUACKERY."—Review of Reichenbach's Researches in the *London Medical Gazette*, and repeated Oct. 4, 1850, p. 585.—Editor, Dr. Alfred Taylor.

St. Leonards, Bridgnorth, 29th Oct., 1851.

SIR,—I send you a Post Order for £1 1s., being one year's subscription to the Mesmeric Infirmary, Bedford Street.

At your request I have forwarded to the publisher of *The Zoist*, Mr. Baillière, an outline of the case alluded to in my letter. The patient continues perfectly well.

Assuring you that as one convinced of the beneficial influence of magnetism in many cases, I shall be ever ready to forward as far as possible your benevolent exertions,

Believe me, Sir, very truly yours,

HUBERT SMITH.

John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

In August last my attention was drawn to the case of a young person who was suffering severely from pain in the side, and I was asked if I thought mesmerism would do her any good. As the case appeared to my questioner to require more than ordinary aid, I enquired from the patient the symptoms, and found her suffering, weak, and in very low spirits, continued pain in the side, no sleep during the night, frequent attacks of headache, fits of crying, toothache, teeth decaying fast, general debility and lassitude. She had for some time previously, until within a week of this time, taken four mercurial pills a day, with the occasional application of blisters, and she stated that *the surgeon said the pain in the side would never leave her.*

At the first sitting on the 28th August I found her sufficiently susceptible to derive benefit. I produced great drowsiness almost immediately. In about three quarters of an hour I removed the pain in the side, whilst a general composure of the system ensued; and when, at the end of the hour,

she was demesmerised and questioned, she answered, "Oh! I feel quite a different person; when I came into the room I was almost distracted with pain."

On the following evening, the 29th, the pain in the side returned about 4 o'clock the same afternoon. Another sitting was given at 7 o'clock. *The pain in the side was removed in half an hour.* The same composure of the system was produced. She experienced a feeling of great drowsiness and peculiar sensations. The sitting continued an hour, and the patient said she was very much better, had slept well the previous night, which gave her much ease, as she had not had a good night's rest for many weeks.

On the 30th August the pain in the side again returned about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, but the patient had slept well the previous night and looked better. Gave another sitting at 7 o'clock. Drowsiness produced almost immediately; felt cold; used passes down the legs, and the feet became warm; *removed the pain in the side in three quarters of an hour.* The manipulation continued for an hour.

On 31st August, sitting from 7 until 8 in the evening. *Patient had experienced no pain in side since the last sitting.* Had slept well the previous night, but suffered from toothache most of the day. Produced the usual effects, but did not entirely remove the toothache, although the pain became much easier.

On the 1st September gave the usual hour's sitting at 7 in the evening. The pain in side had again returned about the middle of the day; the toothache had prevented a whole night's sleep. The usual effects produced feet warm in a short time. The aura from the fingers cold. *All pain entirely removed.* On being questioned, patient liked being magnetised; felt benefit from it; felt inclination to be mesmerised when 7 o'clock came; liked slow passes better than quick ones, thought they did her more good; felt very comfortable when mesmerised; feels warm when the hour's sitting is concluded.

2nd September. Sitting as usual at 7 o'clock. Pain in side had again returned in the evening; had slept well the previous night. Told patient to close the eyes fast; put hand on forehead, telling her to open them, but she was unable to do so. Many persons about this time expressed surprise, when meeting her, at her altered and improved appearance.

4th September. The usual sitting at 7 o'clock. The patient had experienced no pain in the side since last sitting, but was troubled with severe headache. *Removed all pain.* Spirits appear much better. When mesmerised, particularly

over one eye, she could not open it, whilst she was quite able to open the other.

5th September. Gave no sitting.

6th September. Gave sitting as usual at 7 o'clock. Patient *had no sleep during the night of the day she was not mesmerised*; pain in side had returned, and she suffered from headache. Produce the usual effects, *and remove all pain.*

7th September. Usual sitting at 7 o'clock. Slight pain in side for a short time during the day, but free from pain in the evening. Produce usual effects, and gave the patient magnetized water.

From this time, in consequence of an absence from home, the patient had no sitting until the 3rd of October, when I found she had scarcely been troubled with pain in side, but was then suffering from severe headache; spirits not so good, but improved in appearance, and had experienced good nights' rest during the period intervening.

3rd October. Mesmerised the usual period from 7 o'clock. Drowsiness produced immediately; feet warm. Removed the severe headache in a short time. She was only able to open her eyes very slightly.

4th October. Gave the usual sitting at 7 o'clock. Patient had experienced a good night's rest; was troubled slightly with headache, but had not been troubled with pain in the side for some time. *Removed the headache almost immediately.*

5th October. Usual sitting at 7. Patient slept well the previous night; had experienced no pain since the last sitting; generally well and in good spirits; a manifest alteration in her appearance for the better observed; colour returned; improvement frequently remarked by friends and others; said she felt quite a different person, and was certain I had cured her.

6th. Usual sitting at 7. Patient in good health; quite free from pain.

7th October. Usual sitting at 7; no return of pain. Patient often expressed gratitude for the inconvenience I had caused myself, and said she was quite recovered. From this time to the present she has only had two sittings, when I removed each time a return of the severe headache. The pain in the side having entirely left her, she is now quite well.

By these extracts from my notes I have endeavoured as shortly as possible to mark the singular and surprising improvement of the patient which took place during a short series of sittings; setting forth the *curative* power of mesmerism rather than the phenomena which presented themselves to observation.

Mesmeric phenomena have ever been considered by me secondary in importance as compared with the *curative* results of this powerful soporific force. These phenomena are varied and singular, but are often more attractive to the casual observer than to the mesmeriser, who finds a deeper subject for contemplation in the patient's returning health. There are two facts, however, which I shall not omit to mention as connected with this case. The one is the abstraction of memory which I was able to exercise whenever I chose to exert the power, and the other, the power of attraction exemplified as follows: If the patient's hand were placed in mine, and she was directed to raise it or remove it, *she could not*, with the exception of one or two instances, and on those occasions only by slow degrees.

To this case, as a guarantee for its correctness, I have attached my name, being able to support the statement if questioned. It would have pleased me better not to have given publicity to private research: but this is not a time when information should be withheld. Those interested in the progress of a science whose study promises so many benefits should not hesitate to contribute such results as they may deem useful, increasing thereby the collection of indisputable facts which patient and unremitting attention have annually arranged, published and authenticated.

It is much to be regretted that these investigations have hitherto been received with such acrimony of temper, and that even in the present enlightened age some degree of courage is necessary in openly adding one additional fact to physiological and mesmeric elucidation. The subject, from its importance, at least merits calm and dispassionate enquiry either to expose the error or to test and establish its efficacy; and before a decision is delivered, as conclusive, one would venture as a suggestion, *Accipe quæ prius peragas*.

HUBERT SMITH.

St. Leonards, Bridgnorth.

V. *Two or three practical Mesmeric Observations.* By a LADY.  
Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"A chambermaid of Maria de Medicis invented the milk bread; the Queen ate of it so frequently, and became so fond of it, that it was called *Pain à la Reine*; and several cooks in France, who understood the making of it, made their fortunes by it. The bakers, envious at the success of the former, prevailed upon some clergymen to preach with the greatest zeal against the milk bread, as being a food which excited lust, immoral ideas, and witchcraft. A superstitious notion was prevalent at that time, that if an enamoured person wrote his name on a warm loaf of this milk bread, and the beloved object ate of it, the latter



would always remain constant. At length the faculty interfered, and amongst them the milk bread found its advocates as well as its opponents. At the head of the former was the famous Guy-Patin, who proved from Hippocrates that fermentation was detrimental to the human frame; Perault, on the contrary, asserted from Pliny that it was beneficial to it. The matter was at last carried so far, that the Parliament was obliged to interpose its authority, and ordered a chemical process to be instituted, the result of which was, that the milk bread was with all due form and gravity prohibited. But notwithstanding this, ever since the publication of that edict, which is more than one hundred years ago, the capital of France alone has consumed annually to the amount of a million of francs in the milk bread, and every individual without distinction, from the highest to the lowest, has paid due homage to it, without being restrained by any fear of incurring either a penalty or other punishment."—*Treatise on the Phenomena of Animal Magnetism*. By H. Loewe. London, 1822. Preface ii., iii.

To Dr. Elliotson.

——— Hall, Nov. 28, 1851.

My dear Sir,—I have been wishing to write and give you the fruits of my late experience in mesmerism, but have hesitated hitherto, thinking that you were probably familiar with all I had learnt, and might feel that such communication was presumptuous, coming from one of the "laity." But as one of my friends has recently visited the Mesmeric Infirmary, and has asked whether he may mention what he has seen, *because it is not practised there*, I write to you immediately, because if there be anything good or new in it, (and of the former I cannot doubt,) I wish that *you* should have the opportunity of introducing it into the infirmary. It is *so simple* a thing; and yet it makes all the difference between a lingering or a rapid cure. It is merely this:—to have a basin of water by your side, in which to wash your hands between every sixth, fifth, fourth, third, or *even second* pass, when making contact passes; the frequency of the washing to be determined by the virulence of the disease. I find it impossible to cleanse the hands *entirely* by mere flinging; something of the disease collects upon them and between the fingers, fling them with all the energy you may; and it too often happens that the disease thus collected upon the hands of the mesmeriser is put back again, or transferred to another part, when he least suspects such an operation. If the hands are carefully and continually washed, the malady, whatever it be, will be as carefully and continually transferred from the sufferer to the basin. Care must be taken after the first washing not to dip the hands to the bottom of the basin, because (to speak in the clairvoyant language) the pain sinks to the bottom, and you would pick it up again; on which account the basin should be deep. Also, it must be scalded after each sitting, and not used for other purposes. I find I must wash my hands every time I change from one part of the body to an-

other, and always before renewing the air passes. Also it seems that plain water without soap is best; and as the constant washing tends to harden and to dry the hand, making it a less good conductor (*as I suppose*), the use of cold cream between the sittings seems desirable.

Pray forgive me, my dear Sir, if I seem to be teaching you anything which possibly you know already; but I have found the difference so *very* material between cases with and without the washing, that I am desirous to make known to you that which will greatly lighten your fatigue, and greatly shorten the suffering of your patients.

It is only quite lately that I have arrived at the above conclusions.

Believe me, my dear Sir, yours very gratefully,

MARY ———.

I need not add that I never wish my name mentioned among strangers.

To Dr. Elliotson.

——— Hall, Dec. 3rd, 1851.

My dear Sir,—You have received my communication so kindly that I am encouraged to write more, always however with the risk of troubling you with what you know already; for I have read little on mesmerism, not being able to indulge myself with many books.

You remember instructing me to breathe on flannel, and leave it, so mesmerised, with a patient I was obliged to quit; and I continued afterwards to send such flannels by the post, for the effect wore out upon the second or third using. It occurred to me that a lock of my hair might produce the same effect, and not lose its power. I did not try it *then*, not wholly wishing it; but for another and recent case I have done so with the utmost result I could wish, viz., the same deep refreshing coma as is induced by passes. I desired the patient to press it between her hands, not the palms, but the roots of the thumbs. I thought of other matters meanwhile. She was asleep in a minute. She is obliged to *time herself* before she takes it, or she would sleep on any indefinite time; at first “a day;” and *now* she says “months.” She says this sleep is meat and drink and strength. It is the same thing as a sitting.

Wherever she has pain, a piece of my hair laid upon the spot draws it out in a few minutes. But I need scarcely tell you what I had supposed, viz., that any person touching her eyes and asking her questions could extract from her answers

relating to myself; for the hair throws her into the sympathetic and clairvoyant stage as effectually as the manipulations.

From what I have seen, I am inclined not to attach much importance to the phenomenon of rigidity as a *cause* of strength; it seems to me rather a result and effect proceeding from the amount of strength induced.\*

All I ever think about now is to draw out the disease, and to induce a happy state of mind; and the effects follow as they may: never in the same cluster in any two patients. The same lock of hair retains its effect, and acts perfectly well when I am at a distance; causing the same sympathy with me in health or sickness as does a sitting, so that when I was ill, she was obliged to omit taking her sleep. My sister has tried upon one of her poor patients with the same powerful effects. The poor woman is paralyzed from her waist downwards, and was suffering constant pain in her back. My sister left her quite a small piece of her hair to wear upon her chest for pain; the relief was so great that the patient proceeded to sew it inside her clothes upon the back also. The pain soon lulled, and in the course of about two days had entirely left her. She continues to wear the hair, and to enjoy this rest. It does not induce sleep unless pressed between the hands, or between the hand and chest, for instance. Another lock of hair ensures to her a sleep daily, when my sister cannot go to her, and the poor thing is overjoyed at her restored appetite and good spirits. "My spirits! oh my spirits!" (as surprised at them herself;) "but miss, when am I to walk?" She is 53; has been paralyzed some years; but we hope soon that she *will* walk.

With respect to the washing of hands, I find that if I make too many passes without it, the pain is seen to ooze between my fingers, so that I am obliged to wash them carefully at the back of the hand as well as the palm.

When disease has been *wholly* drawn out, my patient desires me to soothe and strengthen her by flat contact circles† wherever there is weakness. "There is nothing to come off now; your hand is clean. Can you not see?" My impres-

\* If persons are very weak they cannot be stiffened, and when they grow stronger they may perhaps be stiffened. But the strongest frequently cannot be stiffened. This effect, like all the other phenomena, depends upon a peculiar predisposition. Some are invariably rigid in their sleep-waking without any means being employed for the purpose (see No. VI.). The process of stiffening is so much additional mesmerisation, and, whether it induce rigidity or not, is very strengthening. When patients are stiffened, they afterwards feel all the better. Some say, during the long contact passes of stiffening, that you are pouring strength into them.—J. ELLIOTSON.

† N.B. In making circles, the hand must pass down not up the spine.

sion is, that no disease could resist these means, if exercised and received in a spirit of dependance and of prayer.

Should I learn more I will not fail to write to you. I hope ere this you have seen one of my friends, who is, I believe, deeply interested in this subject.

Believe me, my dear Sir,

Ever gratefully and sincerely yours,

MARY \_\_\_\_\_.

VI. *Cures of Palsy, Pain and Inflammation of the Face, and Neuralgia: with the effects of Mesmeric mismanagement.*  
By Mr. BARTH. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"The Gospel indeed soon began to make a considerable progress among the vulgar, and to gain some few also of a more distinguished rank, yet continued to be held in such contempt by the generality of the better sort, through the *three* first centuries, that they scarce even thought it worth while to make any enquiry about it or to examine the merit of its pretensions. The principal writers of Rome, who make any mention of the Christians, about the time of Trajan, plainly shew that they knew nothing more of them, or of their religion, than what they had picked up, as it were, by chance, from the GROSS MISREPRESENTATIONS of common fame, and speak of them accordingly, as a set of despicable, stubborn, and even wicked enthusiasts.

"Suetonius calls them, a race of men of a new and MISCHIEVOUS superstition (*genus hominum superstitionis novae et maleficae*). And Tacitus, describing the horrible tortures which they suffered under NERO, for the pretended crime of burning the city of Rome, says, 'that they were detested for their flagitious practices; possessed with an abominable superstition; and condemned, not so much for their supposed crime of setting fire to the city, as for the hatred of all mankind; and, though they deserved the most exemplary punishments, yet it raised some pity towards them, to see them so miserably destroyed, not on account of the public utility, but to satiate the cruelty of a single man.'

"Pliny also, when he was the governor of a province, in which the Christians were very numerous, and under an actual persecution in the reign of Trajan, yet, in his celebrated letter to that emperor concerning them, declares 'that he had never been present at any of their examinations, and did not so much as know for what they were punished or how far they deserved punishment: that, by all the enquiries which he had since made, he could not discover any practices among them but what were harmless, innocent, and nothing, in short, but a wretched and extravagant superstition, which had spread itself very wide among persons of both sexes, of every age and condition; which might however be subdued by gentle methods; by moderating the rigor of the persecution and pardoning the penitent; by which lenity great numbers of them had already been recalled to their antient worship.'

"This is the whole account which we have of the primitive Christians, from the best heathen writers, to the time of Antoninus Pius; in whose reign, and that of his successor Marcus Aurelius, the antient apologies of Justin Martyr, Melito and Athenagoras, were addressed to the Emperor and Senate of Rome; notwithstanding which, their condition, generally speaking, continued much the same, through the following ages, till they were established at last by the civil power: during all which time, they were constantly insulted and calumniated by their Heathen adversaries, as a stupid, credulous, impious sect—the scum of mankind, and the prey of crafty impostors, calumnies of which the antient apologists complain, and take great pains to confute. Tertullian expostulates very warmly with the Heathen magistrates, 'that they would not give themselves the trouble to

make the least enquiry into their manners and doctrines; but condemn them for the mere name without examination or trial; treating a Christian, of course, as guilty of every crime, as an enemy of the Gods, Emperor, laws, customs, and even of Nature herself; and what, says he, 'can be more unjust than to hate, what you know nothing of, even tho' it deserved to be hated?' Arnobius and Lactantius make the same complaint more than a hundred years later, in the beginning of the fourth century, that they were derided everywhere by the Gentiles as a senseless, stupid race of blockheads and brutes, (*nos hebetes, stolidi, obtusi, pronuntiamur et bruti, &c.*) to whose impieties all the calamities, which afflicted the several countries where they lived, were constantly imputed."—The Rev. CONYERS MIDDLETON, D.D., *Free Enquiry into the Miraculous Powers*, v., § 2.

No. 4, Mornington Crescent, Sept. 13.

MY DEAR SIR,—I enclose to your care, as treasurer to the Mesmeric Infirmary, two guineas, being the amount of my annual subscription, which will, I suppose, soon be due or is now due to its funds. I recommended one patient, Mrs. Hook, a case of amaurosis, to the privilege of receiving gratuitous mesmeric treatment there, and am glad to find that she is nearly cured; as, on enquiring this morning, she tells me that she is now able to read and work as well as ever; although she still has a few black specks floating before her eyes, the cloud or dimness which prevented her seeing is quite gone.

I send you a few cases of mesmeric cures. I could furnish you plenty, if I had only time to pen the details from my note-book. Be so good as to get them inserted in *The Zoist*, if the editors have room in their pages; and believe me,

My dear Sir, yours faithfully,

GEORGE BARTH.

John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

#### *Cure of Paralysis.*

About the beginning of July, 1850, Miss L., the elder of two sisters who conduct a first-rate boarding school for young ladies at the west end of town, consulted me respecting the trial of mesmerism as a cure of paralysis of the right arm and hand. She had, the previous winter, the misfortune to receive a fall which not only gave her nervous system a serious shock, but broke the right arm a little way below the shoulder. After the fracture had united and the bandages were removed, she discovered that she had totally lost the use of the right hand and arm. She could not flex the fingers or thumb, nor, if they were bent by some other person, straighten them again. The function of the nerves of sensation was also considerably impaired, and the hand was always clammy and cold, and excreting a moisture which had a very disagreeable factor. The remedies tried for a cure had not been of any use. I treated her by general mesmerism to impart

strength to the constitution, and by local mesmerism from the cervical vertebræ to the ends of the fingers to act directly on the nerves of the arm. The first application of the mesmeric influence produced somnolence, but not a decided sleep, and warmth in the arm and hand. Breathing strongly through a folded handkerchief from the shoulder downwards along the arm, so as to force the animal heat accompanying the expelled air through the pores of the skin, was especially beneficial. After mesmerising several times, I also employed the galvanic current from a series of twenty-four double pair of plates of Smee's battery, without the application of any coil, using a simple break to intermit the current. I believe the galvanism to the fingers was very useful, after a good dose of mesmerism, by causing a determination of nervous force to them. Miss L——e visited me fourteen times altogether, paying her last visit on October 22nd, at which time she was capable of carving at table for her pupils, of writing and working, and in fact using her hand as formerly. She was not able to visit me every day or every second day, as I wished. Had this been convenient, it is very probable that she would have been cured in a fortnight. I had the pleasure of receiving a call from this lady a few weeks ago; the cure remains permanent, and mesmerism has not a more enthusiastic advocate than she has become. There is not any better way of making adherents to the truth of mesmerism, and ultimately silencing its medical opponents, than by curing their patients after they have failed.

## II. *Severe Pain and Inflammation of the Face cured by one mesmeric operation.*

The above lady, Miss L——e, her sister, Miss Mary Anne L——e, and two young ladies, the Misses W——, called on me one day last autumn. The Misses L., after introducing the young ladies, stated that they were "two of their children;" that they had been educated at their establishment, and were two dear young friends, who had been visiting a week with them, and were now about to proceed from the Euston Square station into Buckinghamshire to visit some country friends. Miss L——e next called my attention to Miss W. who was enduring very severe and continuous pain and swelling on the left side of her head and face. After my expressing regret that the young lady should have so much pain, and enquiring if she was subject to it, and receiving a reply in the affirmative, Miss L——e said, "The young ladies are going away by the five o'clock train—it is now just past three. It is a great pity that Miss W. should go on her visit while she

is so ill, because she will not be able to enjoy herself or the society of her friends; so we had an early dinner, and have brought her to you, Mr. Barth, and would be very much obliged if you would be so kind as *to cure her before the train starts.*"

However good my inclination, I very much doubted my ability to make a cure in so short a time. I therefore replied that I was sure mesmerism would cure the young lady; that, as she was frequently subject to attacks of this kind, I very much doubted if she could be cured at once—it might require many mesmeric operations; but, as I had several times cured chronic affections of the same kind by one mesmerising, I would try; only I protested against the failure of a single operation being received as a proof that mesmerism had been tried and failed;\* if I did not cure, I might probably give some relief. I invited Miss W. to seat herself in an easy chair, took a seat opposite to her, and requested permission to take her hands in mine. Miss W. assented, and remarked that she "did not believe in mesmerism; that she did not therefore believe I could cure her—she only consented to let me try, to please her former governesses; that she did not believe any person could be put to sleep by mesmerism, but if it was possible, she objected to it being practised on herself." I received the young lady's protest against the truth of mesmerism with a smile, and told her I would try and cure her without sleep, if she did not sleep; but she must certainly allow me to try for sleep; that she had nothing to fear from the mesmeric power, as she felt so convinced of its non-existence; that my only object was to cure her, since, having put so many people to sleep, I had no curiosity to gratify by practising on her, and her friends being present she could have nothing to fear. Taking her hands, I requested her to look at my right eye whilst I looked at her. Her eyes became affected in two or three minutes; I closed the lids with my fingers, made a few passes downwards over the eyes and face, and my patient's head fell back on the cushion previously arranged to receive it. I now made a few long passes, and, raising and letting one hand fall suddenly, found my patient asleep in just six minutes from the time of commencing. I next mesmerised her a little, and then in a whisper enquired if she were comfortable. She replied immediately in a whisper, "not very." I again asked (speaking loudly), "Why are you not so?" The reply was in a loud

\* Many people give up mesmerism after one trial, and yet will take physic daily for years, or stay at a watering-place many months.—*Zoist*.

tone, "Because my face is in great pain, and, having had no sleep with it for the last five nights, I am tired and exhausted—I suppose this is a sufficient reason for you." The slightly petulant manner of my patient, and her replying in the same tone of voice as that in which I addressed her, showed that she had passed into the "sleep-waking state." The subjoined questions and replies followed:—

Q.—"Are you asleep, Miss?"

A.—"How absurd! What should make me asleep? Mesmerism is nonsense."

Q.—"Please to open your eyes and look at me."

A.—"My eyes are open, and I am looking at you; I could not see if my eyes were shut."

I was perfectly satisfied that the eyes were closed, and that, if she had a perception of me resembling ordinary vision, it was not by the ordinary visual organs; and, calling her sister and the Misses L——e towards her, found that she saw them quite distinctly. She seemed both annoyed and amused at our requesting her to say what we were holding up or doing with our hands, while testing this power of seeing with closed eyes; as she believed her eyes to be open. I requested her friends to retire a few minutes, and speaking kindly and seriously, told her she had been mesmerised, that her eyes were shut, and begged she would reflect a few minutes, and then tell me if she was asleep.

After a short silence, she addressed me in a gentle tone of voice, saying, "I now perceive that I am asleep—in what you call sleep; but it is not like being asleep; I don't understand it myself." I replied, "Do not try to understand it at present, but reflect and tell me how to cure your face-ache." After a brief silence, she raised her own hand and placed her fingers on a part of the cheek, saying, "I don't see it clearly; but it seems if you would hold your fingers here a little while, and then draw them away, and afterwards mesmerise me with both hands over this side of my face, and down my back, that you will do me good. You must do it in your own way, as the feeling in your mind tells you is best." I did as directed, by holding my fingers on the cheek, and then mesmerised by passes for about twenty minutes, standing behind my patient, and putting plenty of earnest will and physical energy into my manipulation. The result of this was *not only to cure the pain, but also to remove the puffing or swelling of the cheek*. As the tumefaction of the cheek was considerable, so great as quite to disfigure her, I was both surprised and gratified to see it so quickly removed.

The Misses L——e and my patient's sister now came and



congratulated her upon the relief from her suffering and her restored good looks. After a little general conversation, in which the young lady joined as readily and rationally as if she had been awake, as it was four o'clock, I proceeded to awaken her, and I succeeded in about five minutes. I believe the following is a verbatim account of the conversation which followed:—

"Well, Miss, how do you feel? I hope you have had a pleasant little nap."

"When you have made me go to sleep, Sir, it will do to ask if I have had a pleasant nap. I don't believe anybody can be put to sleep by mesmerism. I don't believe in it."

"Although you do not believe in mesmerism, I hope you will believe me, when I assure you that you have been asleep for the last hour through my mesmeric influence."

Looking puzzled: "That cannot be. It is only two or three minutes since you began mesmerising me."

I found that she had lost consciousness suddenly almost immediately on my beginning to mesmerise, and, the whole period of the mesmeric sleep being a blank in her memory, she naturally connected the first moment of her renewed consciousness with the last immediately previous to her mesmeric sleep, and thus concluded that she had just sat down to be mesmerised. I took out my watch, and shewed her that it was ten minutes past four o'clock; reminded her that it was a little past three when she sat down; and asked her to account for the interval of time which had elapsed, if she had not slept. She looked at her own watch, to verify my assertion; but, instead of being convinced, declared, "there must be some mistake, for she was quite sure she had not been mesmerised, and therefore could not have been to sleep." Her friends now interposed, and assured her she had been mesmerised and had slept, and had conversed with them; detailing some of the conversation. Miss W. to this replied, "that, as an hour certainly had passed away, and everybody said she had been asleep, and had been talking in her sleep, she must believe it; but she believed against the evidence of her own senses, for she had not the least possible knowledge or recollection of it." As she was getting rather excited, I stopped the conversation, remarking "that we would not say any more on the subject, but I would be glad to know if she felt the pain now. Miss W. replied, that she "did not know what to say—it might be gone—or it might not—she did not know—she thought she did not feel it, but it might be merely a fancy—it seemed she was no longer able to be sure about any thing." On my pressing my question, the patient de-

clared that she "certainly felt no pain whatever, but could hardly believe that the absence of the pain was real." I remarked that she might safely conclude that the pain was removed if she did not feel it; that it might return again; I hoped it would not; and I requested her to rise from her chair and look at her face in the glass. I shall not easily forget the look of intense astonishment with which, on perceiving the improved appearance of her face, she turned and gazed upon us, after a few seconds, slowly, and dropping her words, one by one, ejaculating, "Why!—Why!—how—has—this—thing—been—done." Miss W.'s unbelief was now conquered; she left my house CURED, *in time for the five o'clock train*, a believer in mesmerism, and very grateful for the benefit she had received through its agency. When I saw the Misses L——e a few weeks ago, I understood from them that Miss W. had never experienced a return of her former severe and frequent annoyance.

I will give the name and address of the Misses L——e to any respectable enquirer who may wish to refer to them. Their high character is such as to compel an admission of the truth of the above statements, when verified by their corroboration; and they will cheerfully respond to either epistolary or personal enquiries.

### III. *Cure of Neuralgia by Nature or Mesmerism.*

One night during the past or passing away summer I was sent for to visit a lady in my own neighbourhood, about eleven o'clock, but was unable to attend, having a bad case to visit at that time. I was again sent for early in the morning, and I called as soon as I had taken my breakfast (for I never like to work on an empty stomach.) I found a very interesting lady, the mother of a family, suffering from acute neuralgia of the head. The regular medical attendant had sanctioned a trial of mesmerism. Everything he had tried having failed, he did not know what to do for her, and was kind enough and honest enough to advise or sanction mesmerism, saying he should be only too happy to hear that it succeeded where he failed\*. The neuralgic paroxysm generally commenced at ten or eleven P.M., was dreadfully severe about four or five A.M., and declined towards the afternoon. I have very few particulars of the case, as my duty was rather to cure the sufferer than trouble her with questions. I saw from the number of half-taken bottles of medicine on the toilet table,

\* I have had several patients this year to mesmerise, by the advice or sanction of their medical attendants; gentlemen unacquainted with mesmerism practically, but not willing to resist the facts brought to their notice.

that the medicines had probably been often changed. I mesmerised the patient for nearly an hour, leaving her much relieved; indeed, the pain, which was severe when I began, had nearly ceased. I called again in the evening. The pain had returned soon after I left the house in the morning, but ceased about four P.M., its usual time of remission. I mesmerised for fifteen or twenty minutes, promising to call early in the morning, and do a strong battle with the pain by a long mesmerisation. I called next morning, and saw my patient who declined being mesmerised, as *she had slept well all night, having had pain for only five or six minutes; and, feeling quite well*, she thought she would much rather not be mesmerised unless the pain returned, when she would send for me. I purposely and from motives of delicacy avoided calling on the lady again, lest I might appear desirous of forcing my services upon her. She never sent for me, and I hear from her sister that she remains well. I ascribed the cure to mesmerism; I think the patient had a little doubt whether it was mesmerism or nature which had cured her. I am therefore quite willing to divide the credit with Dame Nature, who seems to have formed a professional partnership with mesmerisers, and assists them when she refuses to assist routinists. This is not to be wondered at, seeing that many of the routine practitioners have so totally set themselves against her way of conducting her business, that it is impossible for the old lady to act in harmony with them and their practice.

#### IV. *Mischief caused by an improper application of Mesmerism, and cure of the mischief by Mesmerism*

A short time since I received a visit from an intelligent lady, about middle age and unmarried, who understands mesmerism, and had also been several times mesmerised by a young amateur operator, who had large power but little experience. He mesmerised her one morning after he had been out all night at a party, and whilst he was still somewhat under the influence of strong potations; as the lady's observation, her olfactories, and his own admission testified. She had grave doubts about the propriety of his mesmerising her; but, as he was kind and gentlemanlike, she had not resolution enough to request him to desist. He put her as usual into an imperfect sleep-waking state, during the persistence of which he made some phreno-mesmeric experiments by exciting her cerebral organs, and amongst others that of *ali-mentiveness*. After a time he aroused her; but, instead of feeling the customary benefit, she said she felt "muddled,"

"not like herself;" and, what was most distressing and serious, when night came she experienced an uncontrollable hankering or desire for brandy and water. Nor was this unnatural desire dissipated by a night's rest, but was renewed night after night, week after week; it had become a monomania. The poor lady abominated intoxicating drinks; she abominated herself for desiring them; still the desire was so strong that she could not sleep at night without gratifying it; she declared to me she had struggled against it for nights together, walking her chamber the whole night, determined to conquer the morbid propensity by the force of her will. But all in vain: there was no rest for her until she had taken a dose of the stimulant thus craved for. It occurred to her frequently that this unnatural propensity was to be attributed to the mesmerism, as she had never previously experienced it; and at length, conquering the reluctance which she felt to make so delicate a subject known to any one, she called upon me and explained the circumstances, soliciting my advice and assistance. I at once perceived how the effect must have been caused, and mesmerised the lady into sleep-waking, in which state she remembered that her mesmeriser had pressed over Alimentiveness, as suspected. I therefore breathed over the organ on each side for nearly a quarter of an hour, and then dispersed the mesmeric influence both locally over that part and generally, in order to arouse her after allowing her a long sleep. I had the pleasure of hearing soon afterwards from her, that there had not been the slightest return of this unnatural longing for brandy and water until the evening previous to this, her second, visit to me, when, in consequence of having encountered circumstances involving her in great excitement and personal fatigue, she felt at night time a recurrence of her longing, though in a much less degree. She came to me next day, was mesmerised, slept several hours, had Alimentiveness breathed upon, and any abnormal excitation of the organ dispersed, as before; and was then thoroughly demesmerised. I saw the lady recently, and she remains quite free from the serious consequence of having been mesmerised when the operator's brain was in a state of unhealthy excitement, and in that state having a particular organ of her brain mesmerically stimulated. This poor lady was so ashamed of the disease, *for a disease it was*, of which she had innocently become a victim, that she declined giving me her card. Of course, understanding her motives, I did not for a moment press for it. At her last visit she voluntarily tendered it to me. As she reads *The Zoist*, I beg to add that her confidence in my dis-

cretion is not misplaced: that I immediately destroyed her card, and her name in connection with this affair will never pass my lips. I feel it a duty both to mesmerisers and patients to put this case on record, as a caution. I have had several other cases of mischief done by phreno-mesmeric experiments, in the hands of unskilled operators.

GEORGE BARTH.

4, Mornington Crescent, Dec. 1st, 1851.

DEAR DR. ELLIOTSON,—I forgot to mention my first mesmeric experiment on Miss L—e; indeed I had forgotten it altogether until the lady herself called it back to my memory a few days since. About three years ago I was introduced to Miss L., and, after spending an hour very agreeably in converse with the lady and some friends, observed tears suddenly appear on her cheek, and that she applied her handkerchief to her eyes. As I presumed that some painful reminiscence had caused this display of emotion, delicacy prevented any notice of the circumstance until Miss L. made some remarks respecting it. I then found on enquiry that she was suffering from a torturing physical pain, instead of mental emotion. It was apparently of a neuralgic character, and every evening about six o'clock attacked the upper part of the right cheek and the muscles surrounding the orbit of the right eye. It speedily caused so much inflammation and swelling of the affected part that the eye was closed as in erysipelas; indeed, medical friends who had seen without ascertaining the particulars of the case, pronounced it to be erysipelas. This painful affection had rarely been absent on any one evening, at about this time, for *the last five years*. It usually lasted until midnight, and then gradually ceased until about the same hour the next evening. Every remedy which medical skill had suggested for her relief had been tried in vain—everything failed. I had a strong impression that I could cure this case, and enquired of Miss L. if she thought I looked like a person who had dealings with the Prince of the dark regions below? The lady seemed somewhat surprised at my question, and politely declared she had no such opinion of me. I therefore offered to mesmerise her, explaining that it was possible it might afford her relief. Miss L. was ignorant about mesmerism, knowing it only by name, and could not understand how my moving my hands over her face was likely to remove the pain, but consented to my making an immediate trial. This I did, and in *twenty minutes removed the pain, which has never troubled her since from that day to this*.

These cases of neuralgia, rheumatic inflammation of the nerves, or by whatsoever other name we call them, yield in a most wonderful manner to earnest mesmeric influence, as the experience of every good mesmeriser amply testifies. The frequent failure of cupping at the back of the neck, blistering behind the ears, cold lotions, stimulating embrocations, and other local applications; of internal remedies, as croton oil, calomel and blue pill, opium, morphine, strichnine, belladonna, iron, quinine, and many other presumed remedies, must clearly teach the non-medical public that the great body of medical teachers and practitioners have a great deal to learn yet respecting these affections, both as to cause and cure. The rapidity with which mesmerism cures, ought to lead us into a path of investigation which might discover the cause; and if even investigators fail to enlarge their pathological learning, they will still gain practical knowledge, which may be useful to their patients, by lifting up their eyes to behold the lessons taught them by the disciples of Mesmer.

My cases reported in last *Zoist*, of "Spinal Irritation cured," and "Insanity cured," remain, I am happy to say, *quite well*.

I am yours very faithfully,

GEORGE BARTH.

## VII. *Cerebral Sympathy and Clairvoyance in Brutes.*

"As I said, we are all groping among mysteries and wonders. Besides, one soul may have a decided influence upon another, merely by its silent presence, of which I could relate many instances. It has often happened to me that, when I have been walking with an acquaintance, and have had a living image of something in my mind, he has at once begun to speak of that very thing. I have also known a man who, without saying a word, could suddenly silence a party engaged in cheerful conversation, by the mere power of his mind. Nay, he could also introduce a tone which would make every body feel uncomfortable. We have all something of electrical and magnetic forces within us, and we put forth, like the magnet itself, an attractive or repulsive power, accordingly as we come in contact with something similar or dissimilar."—*Conversations of Goëthe with Eckermann and Schlegel*, vol. ii., p. 19.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—As an instance of cerebral sympathy in the lower animals, you may be pleased to insert in the pages of *The Zoist* the annexed *story of a dog*. It seems to show that speech is not indispensable for the interchange of ideas, and that in withholding from the brute creation the faculty bestowed on man, nature has given them another means of understanding the thoughts of each other as well as of man himself, which, except in the abnormal state of mesmerism,

we do not possess. To a certain extent the natural cries of the several animals supply the want of speech; but it will not be disputed that by such means the little dog of the story could have told his grievance to his big friend and champion; the fact, too, is curious of the former finding his way home from the hotel, a distance of 80 miles, and conducting his friend there to avenge his cause.

Some years ago I addressed a communication to *The Zoist*, in which I suggested, amongst other things, the probable existence of some instincts inherent in the human organization which in the progress of civilization appear to become dormant, but which at times and under certain influences, as in the stages of mesmerism, are awakened and developed in an extraordinary degree. I allude to the faculties of seeing, hearing, and smelling, which in the dog, for example, and in a less degree in the savage, are much more acute than in social life where the intellectual powers are in full play. The sleep-walker is said to see in the dark: but I think his vision, like his heightened powers of hearing and smelling, is a mental perception entirely independent of the external organs of sense. Why then should we hesitate to believe in the faculty of thought-reading in the human subject when we have such unquestionable evidence of its existence in the numerous and well-authenticated anecdotes of the dog.\* To account for many of these anecdotes it has been asserted that the subject of them understood the language of his master; but it seems to me that we should be much nearer the truth if we assumed that the sagacious animal had read his thoughts. I could enlarge on this theory; but will not further trespass on your time.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

NON-WIST.

Edinburgh, 2nd Dec., 1851.

"STORY OF A DOG.—A gentleman resident in Lincolnshire was travelling about eighty or ninety miles from home, and left a favourite little dog at an hotel while he visited another town in the neighbourhood. On his return, the landlady, in dismay, told him his dog had been attacked by a large dog of her own, and had run away from the house. He left, but returned again to the same hotel after the lapse of a few weeks, when the landlady informed him that his little dog had returned in the interim, accompanied by a large dog,

\* See a striking instance in Dr. Elliotson's *Human Physiology*, p. 516, from *Blackwood's Magazine*, Feb. 1824, and observed by Hogg the Ettrick Shepherd. —*Zoist*.

who attacked her own dog so fiercely that he had nearly killed him. From the description given of the animal, the gentleman entertained no doubt but that it was his own house-dog from Lincolnshire; and on his return home he learned from the servants that, shortly after his departure, his little favourite dog returned one day, bearing marks of much ill-usage, and after apparently consulting with the larger animal, the two dogs set off together, and were absent several days, presenting evidences on their return of having travelled a considerable distance."—*Lincoln Times*.

\*.\* The following are the letters alluded to: and were not published because we hoped to become better acquainted with all the phenomena to which they relate and turn our correspondent's suggestion to a better account than we could at the time we received them.—*Zoist*.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

31st May, 1843.

Sir,—Will you kindly allow me, through the channel of your interesting journal, to submit a few thoughts which occurred to me on witnessing some experiments in clairvoyance. The mesmeric patient has lately come to this city (Edinburgh) from Glasgow, where she has exhibited her extraordinary faculty of supersentience, as it is termed in the third number of the *Phreno-Magnet*, in which, at p. 80, will be found an account of some very curious particulars regarding her. It is very probable that one, or more, of the continental writers on mesmerism has anticipated the notion which I propose to throw out; but I am not aware that such is the case, as none of their works have fallen into my hands, nor have I met with it in any of the English works on animal magnetism which I have had an opportunity of perusing. My idea is this, that the faculty in question is nothing supernatural;—that it is possessed in a much higher degree by some of the inferior animals, by whom it is daily exercised, and only shews itself occasionally in man, whose nervous system, though resembling in many respects that of the brute creation, differs in this regard, that, except in an abnormal state, whether arising, as in many instances, from natural causes, spontaneously, of which many cases are on record in medical works, or whether induced by the art of the mesmeriser, it is dormant in the ordinary condition of life and incapable of conveying to the mind the information which the inferior animals, by a wise provision of nature, are enabled to acquire without effort. To man God has given *reason*—



to the other animals *instinct*. Both wonderful faculties are exercised through the agency of the nervous system and brain, and, while in the brute creation we cannot fail to see many acts more resembling the dictates of reason than of instinct, so in man we at times perceive (assuming the truth of the phenomena of clairvoyance) the power of exercising a faculty which has been described as a peculiar sense in animals, whereby they are enabled to discover distant things and places beyond the power of vision, and to find their way in situations in which man with all his boasted superiority of intellect would be utterly at fault. I allude to the well-known facts of pigeons, dogs, cats, horses, sheep, returning to the places where they have been accustomed to live, after long intervals, and under circumstances which in many cases rendered it impossible that they could have seen their way when first removed. Doubtless it is the possession of this peculiar sense which enables the cetaceous tribe, for example, to find their young when separated from them in the ocean, and not that of the sense of smell or vision, which is usually assigned as the faculty by which this is effected. It is true that dogs can trace their absent master by the smell of his footsteps; but, though by this means they may often accomplish their purpose, there are many instances of sagacity in dogs where it is not possible to conceive that the smell could have been the medium through which they were enabled to perform the wonderful feats recorded of them.

To conclude, I would humbly submit therefore that clairvoyance is nothing *incredible*—that the *inward sight*, as excited in mesmeric patients, is part and parcel of our nature, and that all the curious phenomena of second sight, dreams, presentiments, oracles, and witchcraft of old have their origin in this sense, which appears so extraordinary only because we are not able to exercise it at will like the other senses. Accustomed to use our eyes from our earliest infancy, we see nothing wonderful in the perception of a distant object, and, because it ceases to be visible when we close them, we rest satisfied with the conclusion that through the eye, and the eye alone, distant objects can be seen. But do we know the way in which the optic nerve conveys the intelligence to our mind, or are we warranted in denying that other nerves might become capable of conveying similar, nay, still more extraordinary, sensations? The nerves of hearing are situated in the ear: but we can close the external organ, and yet hear through the teeth the ticking of a watch. And, wonderful as the faculty of the clairvoyant may appear to us, is it a bit more inconceivable than the power of ordinary vision is

to a person born blind, where only knowledge of external bodies is acquired through the touch? Beyond the reach of his hand all external nature is as much shut out from him as the invisible world is from us, and yet we may conceive a sense which may make known to the mind things invisible as easily as we perceive by the eye what is inconceivable by the blind.

Hoping and believing that the pages of *The Zoist* will yet record many things as incontestable facts, which are yet little dreamt of in our philosophy, and will open up a new world to our view,

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,

G. NON-WIST.

Dundee, 3rd December, 1844.

Sir,—From the favourable notice you were pleased to take of my crude suggestions in your answers to correspondents, p. 470 of your first volume, I was induced to hope that you would take up the subject of my communication; but I can well understand how you have been prevented from doing so by the accumulation of other and more important contributions. Under the signature of *An Old Subscriber*, you will see an article in the last number of the *Edinburgh Phrenological Journal*, entitled "Mesmerism in connection with Mental Philosophy," in which I have alluded to certain dormant faculties in man which we see in constant action in some of the lower animals, and which would appear to be called into play in the human subject when under the influence of mesmerism. The subject is certainly curious and worthy of being followed up. I would, in reference to this supposed community of faculties in man and the inferior creation, beg to call your attention to article ii. in the *Phrenological Journal* above referred to, by Dr. Lyon Playfair, where he speaks of the winter sleep of hibernating animals, and of the experiments of Saissy, who found that their respiration becomes extremely feeble at the commencement of their winter sleep and ceases altogether when that sleep becomes profound. In the instance of a pig overwhelmed with a slip of earth, that lived 160 days without food, it was found to have diminished in weight more than 120 lbs.; an instance, he remarks, quite analogous to the state of hibernation. We have not, I believe, any record of this act of hibernation in man, at least to such an extent; but that man is capable of it, may be inferred from the cases of the priest Restitutius, who whenever he pleased could throw himself into a state of complete insensibility and be like a dead man; and

of Colonel Townsend, as reported by Dr. Cheyne, both of which are noticed in the first volume of Mr. Colquhoun's work on Animal Magnetism, p. 147.

What I wish to notice is, that this art of restraining the breath and, by long practice, of gradually affecting the respiration and even of suspending it altogether, is well known to the Indian Fakirs, and we have the most authentic accounts of one Fakir in particular at the Court of the late Runjeet Sing, chief of Lahore, who allowed himself to be buried alive for several months, while every precaution was taken by guards over the place of interment to prevent any collusion or fraud. English officers who were eye-witnesses of the experiment have vouched for the truth of the fact, and it is a remarkable confirmation of the reality of this case of hybernation that, when released from his tomb, the Fakir was in a state of frightful emaciation. I cannot immediately lay my hands on the printed accounts of this case, but I have read them, I believe, in the journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, and in a recent work by an English officer at the Court and Camp of Runjeet Sing.\*

This communication is not intended for publication; but I shall be glad to find, in your notice to correspondents, that you consider the subject of it curious and worthy of further investigation; more especially in regard to the practices of the Hindoos, who in common with the Chinese would appear to have been long familiar with the influences of mesmerism. And my request is that for the sake of preserving the curious letters of Miss Martineau in a more durable and more widely extended journal in the scientific world than the *Athenæum*, you would be pleased to republish in your next number the several communications she has recently made to the editor of that periodical.

Apologizing for this intrusion on your time,

I remain, Sir, your very obedient servant,

NON-WIST.

As to the practice of *Hindoo mesmerism*, you will find a short communication made by me to the *Medical Times*, in No. 250, for the 6th July last, under the signature of a retired East India Surgeon, p. 292.

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\* See an account of all this in Dr. Elliottson's *Human Physiology*, p. 693, in his chapter on Sleep, Dreaming, Sleep-waking, Mesmerism, and Hybernation: and of Colonel Townsend's case at p. 485.—*Zoist*.

VIII. *Cure of Epilepsy. Mesmerisation of distinct cerebral organs.* By Mr. M. REDMAN, Surgeon, Lincoln.

"ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—This deception was introduced by Father Kehl, at Vienna, about 1774; and had wonderful success in France in 1788. It had its dupes in England also in 1789; but it exploded a few years afterwards. It was a pretended mode of curing all manner of diseases by means of *sympathetic affection* between the sick person and the operator. The effect on the patient was supposed to depend on a certain motion of the fingers and features of the operator, he placing himself immediately before the patient, whose eyes were to be fixed on his. After playing in this manner on the imagination and enfeebled mind of the sick, and performing a number of distortions and grimaces, the cure was said to be completed."—*Dictionary of Dates and Universal Reference*. By Joseph Haydn. Moxon, Dover Street: 1841. Page 24.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—The impartiality of your pages in the advancement of science has induced me to forward for the perusal of your readers the subjoined case, which, although of no unusual occurrence in the metropolis and *vice versa* among us, will tend to shew that mesmeric operations have been witnessed in this city.

Sarah Fletcher, aged 18, residing in Mint Lane, by occupation a dressmaker, had been subject to fits weekly for some years. Believing her case a favourable one for mesmerism, I employed that powerful agent last March on four different occasions in the presence of a mixed assemblage of persons at my own residence, several of whom were previously very sceptical. The result has been not only that her health has considerably improved since that period, but the fits have not recurred; a sufficient proof of that invisible and imponderable agent through which many diseases supposed to be incurable will yet succumb.

The manifestations produced through phreno-mesmerism were perfectly satisfactory to the company.

It may be necessary to observe, that, when a pupil of Dr. Elliotson's at University College and Hospital in 1837 and 1838, I was an ardent admirer of the doctor's mesmeric and Christian-like proceedings, and have no hesitation in saying, that those of the medical faculty who take an interest in the advancement of knowledge would, after carefully examining and testing a few cases for themselves, become converts to the science, and adopt it as a safe and legitimate mode of treatment in a great variety of diseases.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obliged servant,

M. REDMAN.

Lincoln, Dec. 3rd, 1851.

IX. *A Suggestion to explain certain Phenomena of Levity.*

"We all walk in mysteries. We are surrounded by an atmosphere of which we do not know what is stirring in it, or how it is connected with our own spirit. So much is certain, that in particular cases we can put out the feelers of our soul beyond its bodily limits, and that a presentiment, nay, an actual insight into the immediate future, is accorded to it."—*Conversations of Goëthe*, vol. ii., p. 18.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—A perusal of Dr. Gregory's admirable translation of Baron Reichenbach's work on magnetism has suggested some ideas to me which I submit, with all deference, for your consideration, should you deem them in any respect deserving your notice. Whatever the odyle\* fluid, which the Baron assumes to be distinct from (though intimately connected with) the magnetic, may ultimately prove to be, it obviously plays an important part in all mesmeric operations, and to its presence he ascribes all the virtue of mesmerised water. Its close resemblance to the magnetic fluid, in its polarity and other properties, would seem to justify the notion that

\* We regret that our good Scotch correspondent has adopted the word odyle. We have no right arbitrarily to change the name given to the power by its discoverer Reichenbach. The termination *yle* is peculiarly given to a certain set of *material* compounds: and the term odyle is therefore likely to lead to error and is quite inappropriate as well as arbitrary. The word *od* may be pronounced ode, and we may say odic force, as we say electric or galvanic, and then there will be nothing odd. We adhere to the opinions given at pp. 221-2, and will oppose the term odyle with all our might. There was a saint who spelt her name nearly in the same way—Saint Odille. Odille disappeared for ever; and so, we trust, will Odyle. Possibly we shall be punished for our cruel treatment of Odyle as those were who behaved ill to Odille. Never mind. Odille's story is sung in that English classic and book of endless fun for the melancholy, *The Ingoldsby Legends*, by the Rev. Mr. Barham:—

"Many ladies in Strasburg were beautiful; still  
They were beat all to sticks by the lovely Odille,"

\* \* \* \* \*

"He gained the old Count, who said, Come, mynheer fill,  
'Here's a health to yourself, and the lovely Odille.'"

\* \* \* \* \*

"And of all whom they met, high or low, Jack or Jill,  
Asked, 'Pray, have you seen anything of Odille?'"

\* \* \* \* \*

"'Twas her voice!—but 'twas *sox et præterea nil*,  
Nor could any one guess what was gone with Odille."

\* \* \* \* \*

"Then burst from the mountain a splendour that quite  
Eclipsed in its brilliance the finest Bude light.  
I am really ashamed of you both; my nerves thrill  
At your scandalous conduct to poor dear Odille."

\* \* \* \* \*

"One hint to your vassals.—A month at the mill  
Shall be nuts to what they'll get who worry Odille!"

*The Lay of St. Odille.*

Reichenbach has, we presume, given the name *od* to the power which he treats of, because *Odin* was the name of the principal deity of the ancient Germans, and this deity was really a personification of the elements of nature.—*Zoist*.

both are modifications of one and the same mysterious agent, energy, force or influence which in the animal organisation is, as it were, the life of the nervous system. Is it not, in fact, *animal magnetism*, operating on the human frame, as terrestrial magnetism on some of the metals, and (inasmuch as organized and living matter is superior to inorganic) inducing in the former higher and more to us surprising and unaccountable phenomena? Doubtless in the fulness of time all this will be better understood, and mesmerism will take its place with the other acknowledged branches of natural philosophy taught in our schools. But to come to the immediate object of my thus presuming to speculate on the Baron's discovery, allow me to hazard a suggestion that, admitting the existence of odyle and its affinity, in its properties and effects, to magnetism, it may help to account for some alleged facts of which, hitherto, no explanation has been attempted to be offered. I allude to the cases of levity in the human frame referred to in the *Isis Revelata* of Mr. Colquhoun; to those of apparent increase of strength in the Okeys and other mesmeric patients in supporting heavy weights which in their normal state they were incapable of lifting from the ground; and to the apparently well authenticated experiment recorded by Sir David Brewster in his work on natural magic, in which a heavy man is raised with the greatest facility the instant that his own lungs and those of the persons who raise him are inflated with air. In regard to the last-mentioned case, which in the annexed note\* is given in Sir D. Brewster's

\* "This experiment was, I believe, first shewn in England a few years ago (1833) by Major H., who saw it performed at Vienna under the direction of an officer of the American navy. As Major H. performed it more than once in my presence, I shall describe as nearly as possible the method which he prescribed. The heaviest person in the party lies down upon two chairs, his legs being supported by the one, and his back by the other. Four persons, one at each leg and one at each shoulder, then try to raise him, and they find his dead weight to be very great from the difficulty they experience in supporting him. When he is replaced in the chair, each of the four persons takes hold of the body as before, and the person to be lifted gives two signals by clapping his hands. At the first signal, he himself and the four lifters begin to draw a long and full breath, and, when the inhalation is completed, or the lungs filled, the second signal is given for raising the person from the chair. To his own surprise and that of his bearers, he rises with the greatest facility, as if he were no heavier than a feather. On several occasions I have observed that when one of the bearers performs his part ill, by making the inhalation out of time, the part of the body which he tries to raise is left, as it were, behind. As you have repeatedly seen the experiment, and have performed the part both of the load and of the bearer, you can testify how remarkable the effects appear to all parties, and how complete is the conviction either that the load *has been lightened*, or the bearer *strengthened* by the prescribed process. At Venice the experiment was performed in a much more imposing manner. The heaviest man in the party was raised and supported upon the points of the fore fingers of six persons. Major H. declared

own words, it will be observed that it is said the experiment will not succeed if the person lifted be placed upon a board, it being necessary that the bearers should communicate, *directly*, with the body to be raised. Now in all these cases, if, instead of asserting that the weight (or in other words, the attraction of gravitation) is overcome by an extraordinary accession of muscular force, we assume that the body of the patient, or the mass to be lifted, has its gravity counteracted or neutralized by magnetism, as in the instance of an iron bar suspended in the electro-magnetic helix, or in that of a needle when in equipoise with a weight in the opposite scale, where, as soon as the influence of a magnet held over it commences to act, the needle ceases to have any weight and the equilibrium is destroyed. This theory is doubtless fanciful, and open to obvious objections; but, in the case of the Okeys above referred to, it were to be wished that the following experiment had been tried for the purpose of testing the fact of increase of strength under the mesmeric influence. Granting that it had been proved that Miss Okey could not lift a weight of 80lbs. in her natural state which she did when mesmerised, let her, in the latter state, attempt to draw an arrow to the head with an 80lb. bow; i. e., a bow which requires a weight of 80lbs. to bend it to that extent. Such a bow requires the use of a powerful arm, contending not against the attraction of gravity, but against the resistance of elasticity. If she failed to draw the bow while she succeeded in lifting the weight, would it not prove that the weight had become lighter, and not that the muscular power had increased in strength?

But, setting aside the hypothesis of magnetic or *odyle* influence in the cases above mentioned, which I admit is more than questionable, if not *absurd*, I would venture to ask if, in the solution of this mysterious agency, we gain a step in advance by ascribing the effect in Sir David Brewster's experiment to the concentrated and simultaneous operation of the *will* of all the parties directed to one and the same object. What is meant by *will*? Is it *spirit* acting on *matter*, or is it the Baron's newly discovered fluid that, in combination with the oxygen inhaled, gives the vital force. Alas for poor science! *Will, spirit, imagination, odyle*, are but names of

that the experiment would not succeed if the person lifted were placed upon a board, and the *strength of the individuals applied to the board*. He conceived it necessary that the bearers should *communicate directly with the body to be raised*. I have not had an opportunity of making any experiments relative to these curious facts; but, whether the general effect is an illusion, or the *result of known or of new principles*, the subject merits a careful investigation."—*Letters on Natural Magic*, addressed to Sir Walter Scott. 1832.

unknown qualities which, like the letters  $x$  and  $y$  of the algebraists, we employ in physics and metaphysics to work out our problems, which too often end in the production of a *surd* or *impossible* root, leaving us as wise as to the real nature of the cause as when we began. The passions of rage and despair, we know, can endow an individual with abnormal strength; but in the instances above referred to no extraordinary excitement appears to be called into play. In maniacs too we read of feats of extraordinary strength. In the *Phrenological Journal* some years ago there was an extract from some foreign journal, containing the case of an individual who could not be restrained by the combined power of several men, but whose superhuman strength failed him whenever he fell on a pavement of asphalt, — the reverse of the giant Antæus with whom Hercules had to contend. To conclude in the words of Sir David Brewster as quoted in the note, "The subject merits a careful investigation."

I remain, Sir, your obedient servant,  
Non-Wist.

Edinburgh, 7th June, 1850.

P.S. With reference to some notices of Swedenborg in *The Zoist*, allow me to call your attention to a very able article on the character and writings of that extraordinary man in the *Prospective Review* for last month.

X. *Recent Clairvoyance of Alexis Didier.* By the Rev. CHAUNCEY HARE TOWNSEND, London and Lausanne. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"And if any one advances anything new which contradicts, perhaps threatens to overturn, the creed which we had for years repeated; and have handed down to others, all passions are raised against him, and every effort is made to crush him. People resist with all their might; they act as if they neither heard nor could comprehend; they speak of the new view with contempt, as if it were not worth the trouble of even so much as an investigation or a regard; and thus a new truth may wait a long time before it can make its way." — *Conversations of Goëthe*, vol. i., p. 108.

Mon Loisir, Lausanne, 25th Nov., 1851.

My dear Elliotson, — I thought you might like the accompanying account for *The Zoist*. If so, it is heartily at your service. I thought I ought to have the moral courage to stand up for Alexis, whom some think a humbug, and to tell the truth, let persons think of it what they will.\*

\* The examples of Alexis Didier's clairvoyance published in *The Zoist* are overwhelming. See Nos. VI., VIII., XXIV., XXXV. Like other true clairvoyants he has sometimes been at fault: but like other clairvoyants he has often



I have rather under-stated than over-stated the matter; because about myself and the lady mentioned, I could not state one half the wonderful things he said.

Ever, my dear Elliotson,

Very faithfully yours,

C. HARE TOWNSHEND.

In passing through Paris I saw Alexis last month, and the results of the interview were so extraordinary that I think myself bound to communicate them to you.

First: As there are such different opinions about the clairvoyance of Alexis, and as many represent him as a mere sham, I went rather prepossessed against him than otherwise.

Secondly: I took every precaution not to be known to him in such a way as might account for any revelations he might make.

I was only to stay in Paris one whole day, and late in the evening of that day (about six o'clock) I went to the house of M. Marcillet, the mesmeriser of Alexis, whose address I procured (remark) only through a sort of Parisian blue-book, which I got leave to look at in a shop.

M. Marcillet was not at home when I arrived at his door, but was expected back soon to dinner.

I waited for him in his agreeable apartments, and soon he came in, accompanied by an extremely pretty girl—his daughter—whom I immediately recognized as the original of a fine portrait that hung upon the wall.

I merely introduced myself as a friend of Dr. Elliotson, which indeed seemed quite sufficient passport, and gave my name, saying I lived at Lausanne, whither I was proceeding.

M. Marcillet, seeming to speak very little English, conversed with me in French, and I found, incidentally, he was quite ignorant I had written a work on mesmerism. In short, I feel convinced there was no clue to any particular knowledge about me. And you know I was not in London when M. Marcillet and Alexis were there, and that I only recently occupy my present residence in town. I found M. Marcillet more desirous to talk than to enquire, and full of enthusiasm about mesmerism. He told me some interesting anecdotes regarding his mesmeric power—of his having restored to consciousness persons who had, in the streets of Paris, dropped

been treated most unfairly by sceptics, especially by those of the medical profession.

In No. XXXV., p. 234, will be found a list of all the instances recorded in *The Zoist* of clairvoyance, cerebral sympathy, and the power of the silent will.—J. ELLIOTSON.

down in apoplectic fits, and he shewed me, recorded in a newspaper of a few days back, a case of the kind.

I must say that M. Marcillet made a favourable impression upon me.

I now spoke of Alexis, and expressed a wish to see him in the mesmeric state.

M. Marcillet told me that he was going to give a *séance*, with Alexis, at 10 o'clock the following day.

"But," said I, "I shall by that time have quitted Paris. I leave by the seven o'clock morning train for Dijon. What is to be done?"

"Why," (replied M. Marcillet,) "Alexis lives three miles from me, out by Montmartre, and he will very probably be at some theatre before I can send to him (as he is very fond of theatrical amusements); but I will do what I can to bring him to you at your hotel before nine o'clock this evening. If we are not with you by nine, do not expect us. Where do you lodge?"

I told M. Marcillet that I was staying at the *Hôtel Wagram, Rue Rivoli, au sixième*; for, having arrived late in Paris the preceding evening, I had great difficulty in finding any lodging at all. "I hope," said I, "you will not mind coming up my break-neck staircase. It is too bad to give you all this trouble."

"Oh," replied M. Marcillet, "*nous sommes très habitués à cela à Paris, nous autres Parisiens*." So, on this agreement, I took leave. Seated in my aerial domicile, which seemed to command all Paris in the shape of infinite chimney-pots, I awaited the hoped-for, but hardly expected, visit. Eight o'clock struck—half-past eight.

Slow and wary steps were heard mounting the stairs.

The door opened.

Enter M. Marcillet, followed by a young man of (in appearance) some six or seven and twenty years old, of middling stature and pleasing countenance.

"*Voici ce grand gaillard!*" said M. Marcillet, "I just caught him in time, and here he is! And now, to lose no time, *commençons*. You shall mesmerise Alexis yourself, for I think it will please you so to do."

Accordingly, M. Marcillet, taking Alexis by the shoulders, squeezed him down into an arm-chair, and I seated myself opposite to him, took his hands, and began to mesmerise. After I had made passes for two or three minutes, the face of Alexis began to be strangely convulsed in a manner I had never seen in any other patient. The truth is, he made very ugly faces indeed, but this kind of spasm lasted but for a

short time. Suddenly his whole countenance grew calm, and he fell back in a passive state, with a deep sigh, and murmuring, "*Merci*."

"*Maintenant il en a eu assez!*" said M. Marcillet; "he always says, '*Merci*!' when he is mesmerised enough."

I now asked Alexis the usual question, "*Dormez vous bien?*" to which he replied, "*Très bien!*"

"And now," said M. Marcillet, "*Je ne veux pas vous gêner.* I am going to take a turn for half an hour, and shall leave you to ask Alexis what questions you please. So good bye for the present."

I was not sorry for this. "Now," thought I, "there can be no collusion at least."

As soon as M. Marcillet was gone, I began to test the clairvoyance of Alexis, in the matter of seeing distant places.

I asked him if he would visit my house (in thought).

He immediately replied, "Which? for you have two! You have a house in London and one in the country. Which shall I go to first?"

I said, "To the house in the country."

After a pause, Alexis said, "*J'y suis!*" and then, to my surprise, he opened wide both his eyes, and stared about him. I saw, however, at once, that he had the fixed rigid gaze of a sleep-waker. As far as I could perceive, he never once altered the fixed position of the lids during the whole time that he was in distant clairvoyance. The pupil looked dilated, dull, and without any movement of conscious activity.

"Well," I asked, "what do you see?"

"*Je vois,*" said he, "*une maison d'un moyen apparence. C'est une maison, pas un château. Il y a un jardin autour. A côté gauche il y a une maison, plus petite, sur la propriété.*"

All this was said in breaths, with some effort, and with a hurried gasp, as it were, between each sentence.

I own I was surprised at the accuracy of the description of my house near Lausanne, particularly at the mention of the small house on the left-hand side, where, according to Swiss custom, dwells my landlady. It was, in fact, a marking feature of the place, not to be guessed at by a stranger, and, as such, brought much conviction to my mind.

"Now," said I to Alexis, "what sort of view do you see?"

"*De l'eau, de l'eau!*" said he hurriedly, as if he saw the lake which indeed spreads out before my windows. Then, "*Il y a des arbres en face tout près de la maison*" (all true).

"Well, now," I said, "we will go into the drawing-room (salon). What do you see?"

He looked about, and said, (where my memory fails as to

the exact words, I give the sense in English,) "You have a good many pictures on the walls. But now, this is curious—they are all modern, *except two*."

"And those two," said I; "can you see the subjects?"

"Oh, yes! One is a sea-piece: the other—is *un sujet religieux*."

I really felt something of a shudder at this extreme precision. How then was I astonished when Alexis went on to describe minutely the *sujet religieux*, which was a picture I had lately bought of an Italian refugee, and which had many striking peculiarities.

He said at once, "There are three figures in the picture—an old man, a woman, and a child. Can the woman be the Virgin? (he asked of himself musingly.) No! she is too old! (proceeded he, answering his own question, while I remained perfectly silent.) The woman has a book upon her lap, and the child *points with its finger to something in the book! There is a distaff in the corner.*"

Effectively, the picture represented St. Ann teaching the Virgin to read, and every particular respecting it was correct.

I asked, "On what is the picture painted?"

Alexis answered, "It is neither on canvass, nor copper (metal). It is on a curious substance."

After some consideration, he began to rap on the table with his knuckles, as if trying to ascertain the nature of the substance. Then he called out, "*C'est sur pierre.*" (The picture is in fact on black marble.) "Now," said he, "I am looking at it behind. It is of a curious colour *entre noirâtre et gris* (the exact colour it is, behind). *It is also rough behind. Et tiens,*" added he, "*c'est bombé.*"

This last peculiarity would have convinced the most incredulous. The picture, from a warp or curve in the stone, had been very difficult to frame.

Alexis now described many minute particulars of my house in Norfolk Street. He gave an exact description of the two women-servants—one old, one young. (He said that in neither of my abodes were any but servants—quite true.) He seemed pleased to describe the young one minutely, whom he thought pretty. He made no single mistake as to the colour of eyes, or hair, &c.

He told me my house had a park before it—"Not your park," said he smiling.

He said, when I asked him if there was anything "*remarquable*" in the style of furnishing?

"*Remarquable, si vous voulez. Mais on le voit assez souvent. C'est style Louis Quatorze.*"

He described the book-room next to the drawing-room.

He told me the windows of the saloon were bow-windows, and he described accurately the frame of a looking-glass carved by Grinling Gibbons over the chimney-piece. "*La glace*," said he, "*est petite en comparaison de la bordure. Il y a des fleurs, des fruits, toute sorte de choses, sculptés.*" Then suddenly he said, "I see a picture reflected in the mirror" (most true). I asked him to describe it.

He did not begin, this time, by naming the subject, but he seemed struck, at first, with the female figure of the piece.

"*Elle a*," said he, "*un corsage rouge, draperie noire, ou plutôt brune foncée.*"

So went he on to describe the two children, and then suddenly he said,

"*C'est aussi un sujet religieux—une sainte famille !*"

I asked the name of the painter. He seemed puzzled at first. He said, "*Il est mort depuis long tems !*"

At last he murmured out, in a very cavernous voice, "*Raffaëlle !*" and sunk back in his chair as if exhausted by some effort. The fact is, the name of Raphael is written dimly in golden letters on the hem of the Virgin's garment. Alexis then described the pictures on either side of the Holy Family. "*There is only one on each side*," said he. "That on the right is a sea-piece—a storm."

About the left-hand picture he was longer. He, at first, merely described it as "*un intérieur.*" But, on being pressed, he gave the minutest possible description of a Morland which I have hanging up there.

The inside of the stable—the man with a wheelbarrow—and the grey horse lying down, were all accurately noted. He seemed to pity the horse, and added the last astounding touch to his description by saying, "*Pauvre bête ! Il a des blessures sur les flancs !*"

Alexis seemed now rather fatigued. I made a few passes to relieve him, and then proceeded to test his power of reading through obstacles.

I brought out of the next room Lamartine's *Jocelyn*, which I had that day bought. I opened it, and Alexis read some lines with closed eyes. (Directly the distant clairvoyance was over, he shut his eyes.) Then suddenly he said, "How many leaves off would you wish me to read?" I said, "Eight." (I had heard of this faculty, but never witnessed it.) He then traced with his finger slowly along the page that was open, and read,—

"A dévoré d'un jet toute ma sympathie."

I counted down eight leaves from the leaf first opened, and found, exactly under where his finger had traced, the line he had read, *correct*, with the exception of a single word. He had said *déchiré* instead of *dévoré*.

Human incredulity began to stir in me, and I really thought perhaps Alexis knew *Jocelyn* by heart. So I again went to a drawer in the next room, and brought out a large book I had also bought that day—a sort of *magasin pittoresque*, called *Les beaux Arts*. This, at least, Alexis could not know by heart. Again, the same wonder was performed. I have forgotten the exact place, which I omitted to mark as I did in *Jocelyn* (in which the pieces of paper I put to specify the marvel still remain), but I certify that Alexis read in *Les beaux Arts*, also, several words many pages below the page he had open before him. Still, to make all sure, I brought forth an English book, *The Inheritance*, Miss Ferrier's clever novel of years ago, and in this he read the name of *Gertrude*, and other words at the distance of many leaves. With regard to all the books, they were never opened but once, and kept open at the place first opened, and Alexis never touched the leaves, or could, by possibility, have caught a *visual* glance of what was below the page he was looking on. (And all with closed eyes, remember.)

I now brought out, by Alexis's own request, a letter which I had received from a lady rather lately.

He said, "*Avez-vous une lettre d'une personne pour laquelle vous êtes intéressé? Je vous dirai quelque chose là dessus.*"

The letter was enclosed in a perfectly opaque envelope, which Alexis (and I carefully watched him) never attempted to disturb. He held it quietly in his hand.

The first thing he exclaimed was, "Why, here is a bit of newspaper (*d'un vieux journal*) in the letter."

I had forgotten the circumstance, but, on consideration, remembered *there was*.

"I see," said Alexis, "the words 'brotherhood of nations' (he said, *brudderhood*) printed on the paper."

It was in fact really so, being something about the Peace Society, that Mrs. T. had cut out and sent me.

Then said Alexis, "This lady lives in Suffolk, and at *so and so Place*."

He began to write with a pencil I gave him the name of the place, outside the letter, *quite correctly*.

I found, on subsequent inspection, the address, *so and so Lodge*,—Suffolk, written on the letter.

But now—marvel of marvels!—Alexis told me the whole history of my fair correspondent—how long I had known

her, and many minute circumstances respecting herself and our acquaintance—something too about the character of her sister, and (to crown all) he wrote (still on the outside the letter) both the Christian and family name of her father! I will shew you, my dear Elliotson, the letter and the writing on it, when we meet; but, of course, I do not wish to make the lady's name public, nor can I further particularize the very remarkable things that Alexis said respecting her and her family.

M. Marcillet now returned from his walk, and, seeing me still engaged in asking Alexis questions, would have again retired, but I made him come in, having established enough, during his absence, to put away all idea of complicity.

I now asked Alexis some questions about myself, my avocations, subjects of interest, and finally health—all of which he answered as if he had known me all my life.

He spoke on very deep and serious subjects, and Alexis shewed a pleasing and religious turn of mind. Partly misunderstanding a question of mine, he assured me he knew nothing of the state of the soul after death. "*Dieu seul le sait*," said he. "It is true," he continued, "many somnambulists pretend to make revelations about a future state. But the proof they are all wrong is, that no two of them agree: all give different accounts."

As to the state of my health, no medical man could be more precise, and he described my temperament, &c., *almost in the very words* of such medical attendants as have had my confidence.

In giving this account, I by no means intend to say that Alexis spoke all the recorded things without hesitation, or in a manner different from the ordinary one of sleep-waking, which is invariably full of effort and excitement. Once or twice he made mistakes. Sometimes he asked me to concentrate my attention strongly on what I wished him to see. I believe, and M. Marcillet said, that a great part of his success came from my patient manner, and from his feeling at ease with me. I have no doubt, had I been impatient, suspicious, ready to take up every little error, Alexis would have lost his clairvoyance, and perhaps attempted to supply it by guessing.

This is the history of most of the mistakes and apparent want of truth of somnambulists. We have no patience with them, and will not *observe the conditions* requisite for the development of their clairvoyance.

But a thousand negations are nothing before *one* affirmative proof, and, had Alexis even been otherwise wrong

throughout, yet have described my picture at Lausanne, and told me the name of Mrs. T.'s father merely by reading it in my thoughts, I should have thought nothing of the failures, everything of the success. So however will not the world, who insist on having all right, or nothing.

Alexis awoke with the same convulsive movements and ugly faces with which he went to sleep. In a moment he arose, no longer the free and easy somnambulist, but a shy respectful young man.

It was past 10 o'clock, and in a few minutes M. Marcillet and he were gone, leaving me to muse, as much I might, on the events of the evening.

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NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

A friend several months ago gave me a short account, which he had printed for private distribution, of some proofs of the clairvoyance of Alexis. As I was more anxious for the public to feel an interest in the medical powers of mesmerism than in its highest wonders, which are most calculated for the studious and philosophical, I put it aside, but, on receiving Mr. Townshend's communication, sent it to a friend in Paris, and begged him to ascertain its correctness from M. Marcillet. The following is the account, and to it I have subjoined the answer from my friend, Dr. Davison:—

*"Clairvoyance of Alexis."*

"About eight days before the election, General Cavaignac went incog. to consult Alexis, as to whether Louis Napoleon or General Cavaignac would be President: to which Alexis replied 'It will not be you.' 'I don't speak of myself. I speak of Louis Napoleon and General Cavaignac.' 'I understand,' rejoined Alexis. 'It will not be you.' On which the General went away disconcerted.

"Mon. Sabine, Chief of the Station of the Havre Railroad, went a few days ago to consult Alexis, who, when in somnambulism, said, 'You come about something lost in the service to which you belong.' 'It is true,' replied he. 'You are employed on the Havre Railroad?' 'It is likewise true. (Mon. Sabine not having previously stated his business to any one.) 'It is a basket that is missing, containing some little animals. They are—they are—leeches. You sent to enquire about the basket at Rouen and at Havre, and you have received no news of it. This is what has taken place. A traveller going to Havre by your carriages on the—the—the 11th November, was greatly annoyed, on arriving at his destination, to find only one basket



instead of two, which he had on setting off.' 'This is wonderful!' said Mon. Sabine. 'There were two baskets of leeches.' 'The train (continued Alexis), on arriving at Rouen, left several travellers with their luggage, and one of the baskets was put, by mistake, on one of the omnibuses going into the town, and the conductor was surprised to find that no one claimed it. From fear of being scolded he did not deposit it in the baggage warehouse, but hid it for some days in his stable; and while it was there you wrote to Rouen and Havre about it, the reply being that it could not be found. A few days ago the conductor put it in the goods depôt, near the entrance and beneath the first window on the right. You will find it if you set off to Rouen; only, on account of the length of time that has elapsed, you will find about 200 leeches dead.' On the next day Mon. Sabine returned from Rouen, having found the basket at the place indicated by Alexis, with 200 of the leeches dead. The Directors of the Railroad expressed themselves doubly obliged to the somnambulist and his magnetizer, inasmuch as the proprietor of the leeches, perceiving that they were not found after twenty-five days, had stated their value to be double what it actually was.

"In the autumn of 1845, Alexis gave a series of mesmeric *séances* to the medical men of Havre, each of whom was permitted to bring one friend to witness the experiments. One of them took with him Mr. Featherstonhaugh, the Consul at Havre, who had come over the day before from California, and was a decided sceptic as to mesmerism. In order to test Alexis, Mr. Featherstonhaugh put in his pocket, enclosed in a box, a portion of a Japanese Idol which he had picked up out of the wreck of a vessel from Japan which had been lost on the coast of California during his stay there. On being asked by Mr. F., 'What have I in my pocket?' Alexis answered, 'It looks like a beetle; but it is not one, but part of a Japanese Idol with an inscription on it: you picked it up during a walk on the seashore in California, and thought at first it was some curious stone, but you afterwards perceived it was an Idol which had been washed up from the wreck of a Japanese vessel that was lost on that coast a few days before.' The relater of this was Monsieur Paravet, of Havre, to whom it was told by one of the Medical men present at the time.

*"Additional Fact Relative to the Clairvoyance of Alexis.*

"At a *séance* which took place before the *élite* of the society at Versailles, Dr. Bataille, one of the principal phy-

sicians of this town, placed in the hands of Alexis a letter, and requested him to describe the residence of his son, who was living at Grandville. 'Instead of giving you an account of the apartment of your son,' said Alexis, 'I am now occupied about his health, which is very bad.' 'How! Bad?' replied his interrogator. 'You have in your hand his last letter, dated six days ago, in which he states himself to be very well.' 'To-morrow,' rejoined Alexis, 'you will receive a letter from his wife, announcing to you that he is very ill. I recommend you on the receipt of this to set off immediately, for, knowing as you do the constitution of your son, there is only you who can save him. He is very ill.' The next day the letter arrived, and Dr. Bataille immediately set off for Grandville, found his son very ill, and, after a fortnight's sojourn, succeeded in restoring him to health. On his return to Versailles this event produced a great sensation throughout the town."

"My dear Doctor,—I have called several times on M. Marcillet, but it was only to-day I met with him at home. I read to him the paper you sent me, and he declares that all therein is true. I questioned him particularly as to the fact of Cavaignac's visit. He asserts the truth of it; he is, he says, perfectly acquainted with the person of the General.

"I had before heard of the extraordinary divination of Alexis at Havre from the British Consul himself, at whose house it took place. It is, I think, mentioned in Dr. Gregory's late book; but Mr. Featherstonhaugh told me that as there related it is not in every particular correct, though it is perfectly so as to the material facts.

"Marcillet begs me to send the enclosed, published in the *Indicateur de Seine et Marne*.\*

"I have to apologize to you for the delay in answering your enquiries.

\* "The journals some time ago reported a serious accident which happened at the *Théâtre des Variétés* to a young lady who fell into a kind of lethargy, in which she remained above an hour without any success from the means employed, when M. Marcillet restored her in less than ten minutes by memeric passes.

"Another similar instance of perfect success has attended his exertions. Lately, a gentleman advanced in life, and wearing a decoration, fell down in the garden of the Tuilleries in a state of cerebral congestion. He was immediately carried to a chemist's shop in the Rue Castiglione by two soldiers of the republican guard who were passing. M. Marcillet, who by a lucky chance was on the spot, went up to the gentleman, breathed slowly upon him over his heart, and made passes over his chest and stomach, till at length, by pressing with the ends of the fingers upon the various portions of his face and neck, M. Marcillet relaxed the muscles of the mouth that had all along been contracted and rigid, and thus enabled the patient to tell his name and address. The witnesses of this sort of resurrection retired applauding the successful disciple of Mesmer."

. "I sincerely trust you are well, and believe me, my dear doctor,

"Ever truly yours,

"THOMAS DAVISON.

"38, Rue Monthabor, 11th Dec., 1851."

The following is an extract from *Le Pays* of the 20th of last September, which also I had put aside:—

"To the Editor of *Le Pays*."

"Sir,—An old proverb says, 'better late than never:' yet I regret having so long delayed the publication of a remarkable mesmeric fact relative to myself.

"In August, 1849, one of my clerks absconded, taking with him a considerable sum from my house. The most active search by the police proved fruitless: when a friend, M. Lissant, to whom I had mentioned my misfortune, went, without apprising me, to M. Marcillet in order to consult Alexis. The following dialogue took place.

"'Can you tell me, Alexis, why I am come to you?'

"'You are come, Sir, to gain some tidings of a sum of money stolen from a friend by one of his clerks.'

"'True.'

"'The sum,' continued Alexis, 'is very considerable—as much as 20,000 francs.'

"'That also is true.'

"Alexis, considering a moment, went on to say that the name of the dishonest clerk was Dubois—that he saw Dubois at Brussels—in the *Hôtel des Princes*, where Dubois was staying.

"'Set off instantly,' added Alexis, 'and you will find him at the place I have mentioned.'

"M. Lissant left for Brussels. Unfortunately he did not set off till the evening of the following day. On his arrival, he learnt that Dubois had really been staying at the *Hôtel des Princes*! but only some hours previously had quitted Brussels. Not knowing which direction to take with the prospect of overtaking the clerk, he returned to Paris, and came to my house and communicated to me the singular facts which I have just mentioned.

"Interested and curious in my turn to consult this clairvoyant, I begged my friend to take me to M. Marcillet. Alexis, being put in communication with me, declared that he saw Dubois in the gambling-house at Spa,—that Dubois was losing a great deal of money, and, at the time of his arrest, would have nothing left.

"Although this prediction was not very encouraging, I started that same evening for Spa. On arriving at Brussels, I went to M. Montigny, Secretary to the French Legation, who wished to give me a letter of introduction to the Secretary-General of Justice in Belgium, that Dubois might be arrested. But he was unable, because I had not provided myself with one from the *parquet* at Paris. I was consequently obliged to return to France for this purpose, and thus lost valuable time.

"A criminal information was then drawn up and entrusted to M. Bertrand. As soon as all the formalities were gone through, I set off afresh. On reaching Spa, I found that Dubois had quitted it some days before. Supposing that he had left the country for good, I staid in Spa but a few hours. On returning to Paris, I went immediately to Alexis.

"'You have not had much patience,' said he before I asked him a question. 'Some days ago Dubois went to Aix-la-Chapelle. He has continued gambling and has lost considerably. I see him now returning to Spa! where he will lose the little which he has left.'

"After this last information, I at once wrote to the authorities at Brussels and Spa that I had learnt that Dubois had returned to Belgium.

"Some days afterwards he was arrested at Spa.

"Exactly as Alexis had also declared, the fellow had lost all at play. At the end of four months of preventive confinement in the prison of Verviers, Dubois died there just when his extradition into France was authorized by the two powers.

"Accept, &c.

"E. PREVOST,

"Commissionaire at the *Mont de Piété*,

"9, Rue du Mouton.

"Paris, September 19, 1851."

XI. *Cure of Powerlessness of a Baby's legs and feet by one Mesmerisation.* By a LADY. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Certain it is, since the days of the Elliotson *exposures*, nothing like the present explosion has taken place: never has so signal a cheat been so utterly blown to the winds."—Mr. WAKLEY, *Lancet*, Nov. 22; p. 498.

DEAR DR. ELLIOTSON,—The enclosed statement describes as well as I can do a cure effected by three or four minutes' mesmerising, on an infant of three months old; whose feet, from total want of power in the insteps, hung down in a line with the leg. The mother, Mrs. Childs, who, as she states

had received splints to support the feet, found it perfectly impossible to keep them on so young an infant, and begged me to assist her in putting on a bandage. I wished first, however, to shew her how to mesmerise the baby's legs, and was myself surprised by seeing the feet (which hung down with the soles turned inwards) drawn up stiffly into the right position. This effect was produced in about three minutes; the rigidity, which seemed painful to the child, soon passed away, but the feet did not fall, and have continued to this time perfectly well.

It will hardly be supposed that my little patient was such a specimen of juvenile depravity as to hang down his feet in order to deceive his medical attendant, or to hold them up to impose on me: it is equally difficult to believe that the muscles gained strength suddenly *by themselves* just at the moment when my hand passed over them.

It is very pleasant to save poor little children from the discomfort and suffering of the usual remedial measures: and, if it be true, as stated by the doctor, that affections of the feet, similar to those of this child's, often result in lameness or distortion, it is most desirable that so easy and speedy a mode of cure should be made known.

The cure was effected early in August. I have this day enquired after the child, and find that it has had no return whatever of the ailment.

Yours very truly,

S. E. D M.

Dec. 16, 1851.

P.S. When I was at B——, a sweet little baby had glandular swellings: two doctors were consulted; they prescribed opposite remedies for a time, and the torture they put that dear child to made my heart ache.\* I would have mesmerised it, but the mother dared not give up the *blistering ointment*, &c.; and, when she asked one doctor whether mesmerism would be useful to procure rest for the baby, he said that for so young a child it could do no harm, as it would not affect it in any way, but, if the child had been older, *it would hurt him very much*. I could do nothing, but long for more enlightenment to reach the doctors.

The following account was written out by the mother of the child whose legs were cured:—

"My baby, who was three months old, had had a weakness in his instep since he was born. His feet hung down in such a way that the soles turned inwards, and the instep was

\* The barbarous and worse than useless practice!—J. ELLIOTSON.

on a line with the leg. The doctor told me he would have club-feet unless they were splintered or bandaged so as to be constantly in the right position; and I had from him first a wooden splint, afterwards a gutta percha one. It was hardly possible to keep either of these on so young a baby, and I did not know what to do with the feet. When Mrs. — saw them in July she passed her hand over them for about five minutes; in less time than that the feet had drawn up into their right position. I passed my hand over them in the same way some times afterwards, and four days after they were done by Mrs. —, I took the baby to the doctor, who said the feet were quite well: and they have remained so ever since.

SUSAN CHILDS."

XII. *An instance of the Mesmerisation of distinct Cerebral Organs during the effects of Chloroform.* By MR. JOHN ALEXANDER, London. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"If the practice and example of past ages, of what duration so ever, had been thought of weight enough to over-rule all other evidence, no improvement of science, or reformation of religion, nor even Christianity itself, could ever have made its way into the world."—CONYERS MIDDLETON,\* *Remarks on two pamphlets lately published against Dr. Middleton's Introductory Discourse: the one, intitled, Observations on that Discourse in answer to the Author's prejudice, &c. The other, The Jesuit Cabal farther opened: or, a Defence of Dr. Chapman's late Charge. With a preface to their remarks, giving a brief account of a certain book, which professes to exhibit a full, true, and comprehensive view of Christianity, &c., as it was taught and practised by the Universal Church during the first four centuries, with some occasional reflections on the said book.*

To Dr. Elliotson.

47, Botolph Lane, 27th August, 1851.

SIR,—Believing you to be interested in anything connected with mesmerism and phrenology, I write you the following facts.

Some time ago I was in a counting-house in Aberdeen,

\* In an account of my note to the first article in the last *Zoist* by the editor of an Irish newspaper, it was said that Conyers Middleton was an infidel. Nothing lowers a person more in my estimation than to hear him call another an infidel. If men search diligently, in the spirit of truth, they ought to be pitied, not reviled, should they come to conclusions different from our own: and those who differ from us in opinion may be truly good, far better than ourselves. The very best and the wisest men on earth have been called infidels, by their inferiors in virtue and wisdom. The Turks call Christians infidel dogs. Dr. Middleton was one of the wisest, best informed, and excellent among mankind. If he were an infidel for not believing in any asserted miracles since the time of the apostles, so have been hundreds of thousands of good Christians.

In the *Encyclopædia Britannica*\* is the following statement:—"It was long

\* 1842. Article *Christianity*. See also Bishop Kaye's *Eccelesiastical History of the Second and Third Centuries*, p. 98.

and with me a young man to whom I administered chloroform at the time when it was first introduced; and the effect of it was the following. He became not completely overpowered or motionless, but restive and in fact bent on striking every thing near him without regard to the pain that might result. Now I had remarked previously that this youth's leading propensity seemed to be destructiveness, from the satisfaction he evinced in cutting up pencils, boxes, &c., &c. This suggested to me the idea of trying his cerebral organs while he was in this state. The first organ tried was Veneration; and it answered most satisfactorily. Next Destructiveness, when he commenced the old game. Then Self-esteem, and his proud manner and gesture could not be mistaken. From the mode in which he gains his livelihood I am perfectly satisfied there was no trick, and that he knew nothing of phrenology.

the current opinion, even among Protestants, that a miraculous power continued for several centuries to reside in the Christian church. When Dr. Middleton controverted this opinion in his *Free Inquiry*, he encountered the most vehement and acrimonious opposition; and many of the clergy, with Archbishop Secker at their head, thought themselves warranted in representing this lingering power AS AN ARTICLE OF FAITH. But the progress of reason, though slow, is commonly certain; and the present Bishop of Lincoln, Dr. Kaye, has VENTURED to express himself in the following terms:—"My conclusion then is, that the power of working miracles was not extended beyond the disciples, upon whom the apostles conferred it by the imposition of hands."

I have not been able to discover a line in Middleton's works declaring or insinuating infidelity: and in some passages he distinctly declares his belief in Christianity.

When he had written his celebrated *Letter from Rome*, that every body ought to study and never forget, he was attacked as an infidel by a Roman Catholic, whom he answered in a most masterly Prefatory Discourse to the second edition of his *Letter from Rome*. "This," says Middleton, "is the constant refuge of baffled zealots, to throw the odium of *infidelity* and *free thinking* on those who dare to expose their impostures." "I take this occasion to declare that I look upon miracles, when accompanied with all the circumstances proper to persuade us of the reality of the facts said to be performed, and of the dignity of the end for which they were performed, to be the most decisive proofs that can be given of the truth and divinity of any religion. This was evidently the case of the *Jewish* and of the *Christian miracles*, wrought in such a manner as could leave no doubt in the senses of those who were the witnesses of them; and for the noblest end, for which the Deity can be conceived to interpose himself, the universal good and salvation of man. For the Jewish and Christian dispensations are but different parts of one and the same scheme: mutually illustrating and confirming each other's authority: and from this view of them, in which they should always be considered as necessarily connected and dependent on each other, we see the weakness of that objection, commonly made to the Mosaic part, on the account of its being calculated for the use only of a peculiar people; whereas, in truth, it was the beginning, or first opening of an universal system; which, from the time of Moses, was gradually manifested to the world by the successive missions of the *Prophets* till that fulness of time or coming of the Messiah, when life and immortality were brought to light by the Gospel, as the chief good and happiness of man perfectly revealed to him."

How a man who writes thus can merit the reproach of infidelity, the bigoted only, who hate all who attempt to use their intellect freely for overthrowing superstition and imposture, can explain.

He had been with me for twelve months at the time, and I could place every confidence in his veracity. Trusting this may interest you,

I am, Sir, yours most respectfully,  
JOHN ALEXANDER.

P.S. I tried him once afterwards; but from some reason or other he would not "go off": he would not close his eyes, although I gave him a double dose of chloroform. His behaviour was in fact that of one half mentally deranged, and I have therefore been deterred from ever again experimenting with chloroform.

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NOTE BY DR ELLIOTSON.

I have learnt from Mr. Alexander that, as the young man had left Aberdeen, there were no means of ascertaining whether his cerebral organs could be affected by touching over them with the fingers in the ordinary state. Not a mesmeric pass was made or any other mesmeric means used on the occasion except the application of the fingers over the respective organs.

The condition induced by ether and chloroform is similar to that induced by mesmerism: it is sleep-waking, varying from partial inactivity of the nervous system to profound coma—with this difference, that there is no danger of the coma going on till its intensity becomes death when produced by mesmerism, but the greatest danger of this from mismanagement, and even in some cases of great susceptibility with the best management, in the case of ether and chloroform, because they are chemical poisons which enter into the blood, pervade the system, and more or less change the composition of the fluids and solids.

In No. XVI., pp. 580-1, I remarked,—

"One patient, it is declared, 'knew what the operator was doing; perceived him, for example, take hold of the tooth and draw it out, felt the grating of the instruments, but still felt no pain.'

"In another, 'the features assumed an expression of pain, and the hand was raised.'

"Another 'flinched and frowned, and raised his hand to his mouth.'

"But all, on coming out of the stupor, declared they had felt no pain. Dr. Forbes was present at the amputation of the thigh by Mr. Liston, and says that the man seemed partially conscious and declared that in his sleep he had heard some words and felt



something was being done to his limb, but that he had felt no pain. Some have known all that was going on, some have talked, and some have recollected much or all afterwards.

"What was the conduct of the Medical and Chirurgical Society and of writers in medical journals and newspapers, because the poor man, whose leg was amputated without pain by Mr. Ward in Nottinghamshire, moaned, as in a disturbed dream, after the leg was off, and on waking said he thought he had once heard a kind of crunching, but had felt no pain and knew nothing that had passed? Why, he was violently and coarsely pronounced by acclamation a *trained impostor*, and his case not allowed to remain on the minutes. I beg the world to read pages 10, 11, 33, 34, 55, of my Pamphlet.

"The truth, unsuspected by Messrs. Liston, Wakley, Boott, and the rest of the eager antimesmerists, is, that the state induced by ether is somnambulism—the *very same state as the mesmeric*—which varies from deep coma to more or less partial activity of brain. In both instances it is induced artificially; but in mesmerism it is induced by a living frame, in inhalation it is induced by an inanimate compound."\*

A lady having informed me that under chloroform she saw with her eyes closed, I wrote to her for particulars: and she kindly sent me the following answer:—

"Dear Dr. Elliotson,—The last time I took chloroform my eyes were *certainly* closed when able to see: it was the first time I distinctly noticed it. I was at the time in a sort of sleep. At all times when under it I have had as it were a bright light in the head,—the same as when mesmerised.

"I know a young lady who went with a friend who was chloroformed for the extraction of a tooth. While she was in a state of insensibility, the young lady who was at the other end of the room with her back turned to the back of the chair in which the patient was, let a bottle fall on a soft substance: it broke, and the lady immediately exclaimed, 'Oh, Georgie, how could you be so stupid? but I knew you'd do it from the awkward way in which you took it up.'

"In haste.

"Yours very truly,

"M—— G——.

"———, Dec. 22, 1851."

\* In No. XVIII., Dr. Esdaille will be found in his trials with ether to have made the same remark:—"Here then is a most exact imitation of the physical phenomena witnessed in the mesmeric trance, and the sleep-waking state caused by ether beautifully illustrates the distinction between *sensation* and *consciousness* so often seen in the mesmeric state, and which I have insisted upon so frequently, with little effect I fear. These men were capable of talking and acting, and made

Insensibility to pain from mechanical causes in the case of both mesmerisation and of narcotisation by ether or chloroform may take place in one of two different degrees: it may be simple loss of sensibility to mechanical pain, while the patient hears, talks, walks, &c., or does more or fewer of these actions; or it may arise from deep coma, insensibility to pain being but one of the portions of the general stupefaction. When a mesmerised patient falls into sleep-waking, and still feels pain from mechanical causes, and we wish that he should not, we must try to increase the sleep of his sleep-waking till absolute coma is produced; and then the surgical operation may be performed, provided we maintain the state by a continuation of mesmeric processes,—such as holding the points of the fingers upon the eyes.

Now in the mesmeric sleep-waking we frequently can excite distinct cerebral organs by touching over them: and in the narcotic sleep-waking there may be the same possibility in many patients: but surgeons, considering the use of their instruments to be sufficiently interesting, and being too proud to cease to remain ignorant of mesmerism and despise it, have not made trials to ascertain the fact. Yet I cannot doubt it, and the present appears to be an example of it.

Still some writers assert that occasionally persons who have never been mesmerised may in their ordinary state\* have distinct cerebral organs excited mesmerically. But I imagine this to be a rare occurrence. When persons have been mesmerised and distinct cerebral organs excited by the finger, I know that in their ordinary state† organs may be excited in the same way: just as the arms and legs of persons in the ordinary state may be stiffened if they have been stiffened in the mesmeric state of those persons.‡

The singular history of the discovery of the possibility of exciting distinct cerebral organs mesmerically I published in No. III., pp. 236-8;§ and farther on, pp. 240-44, gave ample

the reasonable request to have their eyes opened, although they were unconscious of a deluge of water that was falling on their naked bodies from a height.

"The opponents of mesmerism will probably have little difficulty in believing all this, because it was done '*secundum artem*,' with an orthodoxly nauseous drug."

\* See No. XII., p. 482.

† No. XII., p. 481.

‡ No. III., p. 245; XII., p. 481.

§ The discovery was made in America by Dr. Collyer, and positively afterwards denied and rejected by him: afterwards Mr. Mansfield made the same discovery in Clare Hall, Cambridge, without any knowledge of what Dr. Collyer had done, and quite accidentally. When I announced their discovery in the London Phrenological Society, Mr. Atkinson rose and said that he likewise had made it. However, he gave no proof of his assertion: and, grand as the discovery was, he

proofs that the effects were mesmeric, dependent upon the fingers and not upon the imagination of the patient or the will of the operator.\* some of these proofs were obtained by design, some accidentally: and I believe were original, though in mentioning them Dr. Gregory, no doubt through not having seen them in *The Zoist*, in many respects I am convinced the most important work of the age, does not refer to their original source.

I more regret that this unacquaintance with *The Zoist* has led Dr. Gregory to speak of some alleged discoveries by Mr. Atkinson as important, and make no allusion to their denial by another experimenter.† It is six years ago since I wrote the following paragraph in No. XII., pp. 467-8 :—

“ At page 73 I said that the subject of these cerebellar organs required much more investigation. Over whatever part of the cerebellum I laid the point of my finger, universal sensibility of her surface returned as long as my finger was there,—she became sensible of mechanical injury and of temperature; and no effect in regard to her muscles took place over whatever part of the cerebellum I placed my finger. These experiments were repeated with the same results till I was tired; and I have lately tried in vain to prove the alleged cerebellar organs upon others whose various cerebral organs can be affected. The cerebellum has been considered by some physiologists to be particularly concerned with sensation and by others with motion: and Gall did not wish to deny that it might have other functions than those which he discovered. Mr. Gardiner thought that a mesmeric patient had discovered to him organs in the fore-part of the side of the head, relating to the five senses, &c. I made some experiments at his request upon Rosina. At first a shadow of probability was given to the opinion, but perseverance in patient investigation proved the whole to be groundless. I have never yet known a discovery in science made by a sleep-waker. Gall remarks that, ‘unfortunately scientific discoveries still have to be made by the long and laborious method of experience, notwithstanding the magnetized see all their internal structure in the clearest manner, and magnetism has been practised so long.’ ”

Mr. Atkinson's discoveries have been confirmed by no one: and as to the clairvoyant lady who made the revelation of these discoveries, when I witnessed the case with Dr. Symes and another we regarded her sayings as mere wandering: and so I still regard them. I remember that at one part of the head were organs for being busy!

had communicated it to none of us. Such unsupported claims in any science excite a smile.

\* For other observations which I have made on this curious subject, see No. VI., pp. 227-8. Indeed see pp. 222-28, and No. IX., pp. 68-71.

† *Letters on Animal Magnetism.*

XIII. *Case of Vision at a distance.* By WM. GREGORY, M.D.,  
 Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh.  
 In a letter to the Editor.

SIR,—About the end of last April, or early in May, I went with a friend to visit a lady in a provincial town, at some distance from Edinburgh. This lady had been once or twice mesmerised by my friend, and had exhibited considerable lucidity. On this occasion, besides my friend and myself, another lady and gentleman were present. While we were all busily conversing, and Miss — was speaking to me, my friend, who was sitting on the opposite side of the room from her, fixed his eyes intently on her, without her being aware of the fact. In a very few minutes she ceased to speak, and was found to be in the mesmeric sleep. She spoke readily, when addressed by the mesmeriser, who desired me to take her hand, and then told her to speak to me, which she did, and agreed to answer any questions I might ask. As she told me, on enquiry, that she could see tolerably well, I then requested her to visit my house in Edinburgh, which was, as I and my family also were, quite unknown to her. She soon told me that she was there, and described accurately the external appearance of the house and its situation, the lobby, staircase, and public rooms, with their furniture, as far as I requested her to do so. She then said that she saw only one lady in the house, whose person and dress she correctly described, as she did also those of three servants. I put no leading questions, but simply requested her to look and tell me what or whom she saw.

I next requested her to visit my brother's house, which is about two miles from Edinburgh, but without telling her this. She soon said, "I see a large house, irregular in shape, standing in a garden, with trees close to it. The roof is irregular, and at one part there is a bow window, looking into the garden; at another, a large balcony, also looking to the garden." I asked her to go into the room with the bow window, in which she saw a bed, and in the middle of the room a table with books, &c., on it. Thinking her mistaken, I said, "Do you see anything else, besides books and ornaments there?" "No," was the decided answer. I then asked if she saw any plants or flowers in that room, but she declared positively there were none. I still thought her mistaken, as a short time before I had seen a large collection of ferns in that room, but she could see nothing of the kind, except in a conservatory at the side of the house. I then desired her to look at the garden, which she did, and she soon

discovered two strange half-open places, as she called them, one long and lower, and more closed, the other much higher, round, and more open. The latter, she said, had posts or pillars, and the spaces between were filled with something very open, such as wire or cord. She had never seen such things before, but thought they looked like cages. They stood, she said, not among the flowers, but just outside of the garden. In the smaller she saw a good many birds, and named pigeons, crows, and magpies. In the larger she saw two large birds, which, after reflection she declared to be eagles. She was now desired to look for my brother, and said she saw a man, whom she took to be him, crossing the garden to the smaller aviary, and throwing corn to the birds in it. When asked what the eagles were fed with, she said, after a time, that it was with live creatures, cats, and this she thought very cruel. When asked to describe the person she saw; she said he was tall and fair, with very broad and high shoulders; that he wore whiskers; that his unmentionables were black with narrow white stripes far apart, as if drawn with chalk; that his sleeves were white, in fact, she said after consideration, that he had no coat on, but was in his shirt sleeves; that his waistcoat was not buttoned, and that he wore neither collar nor neckcloth, nor hat. This primitive costume amused her so much that she laughed loud and long at the idea of it. Now it happens that my brother works much in his garden, and therefore frequently appears in it exactly as she saw him, while on that day he wore the unmentionables described, and at that very hour gave corn to the birds in the smaller aviary. I found also, that, since I had seen them, the ferns had been removed from the room to the conservatory. Every detail she gave was strictly correct, and it was plain that she was not reading my thoughts, otherwise she would have seen the ferns where I supposed them to be. Even had she read my thoughts, however, this would have been equally wonderful with what she did.

I now asked her to go to Greenock, forty or fifty miles from where we were, (Edinburgh was nearly thirty miles distant,) and to visit my son, who resides there with a friend. She soon found him, and described him accurately, being much interested in the boy, whom she had never seen nor heard of. She saw him, she said, playing in a field outside of a small garden in which stood the cottage, at some distance from the town, on a rising ground. He was playing with a dog. I knew there was a dog, but had no idea of what kind, so I asked her. She said it was a large but young Newfoundland, black with one or two white spots. It was very fond of

the boy and played with him. "Oh," she cried suddenly, "it has jumped up and knocked off his cap." She saw in the garden, a gentleman reading a book and looking on. He was not old, but had white hair, while his eyebrows and whiskers were black. She took him for a clergyman, but said he was not of the Established Church, nor Episcopalian, but a Presbyterian dissenter. (He is, in fact, a clergyman of the highly respectable Cameronian body, who, as is well known, are Presbyterians, and adhere to the covenant.) Being asked to enter the cottage, she did so, and described the sitting room. In the kitchen she saw a young maidservant preparing dinner,—for which meal a leg of mutton was roasting at the fire, but not quite ready. She also saw another elderly female. On looking again for the boy, she saw him playing with the dog in front of the door, while the gentleman stood in the porch and looked on. Then she saw the boy run *up stairs* to the kitchen, which she observed with surprise was on the upper floor of the cottage, (which it is,) and receive something to eat from the servant,—she thought a potato.

I immediately wrote all these details down and sent them to the gentleman, whose answer assured me that all, down to the minutest, were exact, save that the boy did not get a potato, but a small biscuit, from the cook. The dog was what she described; it did knock off the boy's cap at the time and in the place mentioned; he himself was in the garden with a book, looking on; there was a leg of mutton roasting, and not quite ready; there was an elderly female in the kitchen at that time, although not of the household. Every one of which facts was entirely unknown to me, and could not, therefore, have been perceived by thought reading, although, had they been so, as I have already stated, this would not have been a less wonderful, but only a different phenomenon.

I shall send you another case for your next number. The above case I regard as a very satisfactory one, inasmuch as I did not know beforehand that I was to try any experiments at all, and had never seen the lady before.

I remain, &c., &c.,

Dec. 1851.

WILLIAM GREGORY.

#### XIV. *Submesmerism and Imagination.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"How are the delusions of homœopathy, mesmerism, electro-biology, &c., to be met? There is only one influence that can counteract them,—education: increase the number of thinking minds and you diminish the stock upon which quackery feeds." "When the will feels and dares assert its freedom, neither empiricism, dogmatism, homœopathy or mesmerism, can make the mind the victim of delusion."—LIONEL BEALE, of King's College. *Medical Times*, June 21, 1851; p. 683.

IN No. XXXIII., I furnished an article on what is so absurdly and ignorantly termed electro-biology: and endeavoured to shew that the phenomena resulted from imagination, excited by suggestion in a slight degree of mesmerism,—we all know that imagination has a mighty power in the full mesmeric state. The facts were undeniable: and, though great mystery and novelty were affected, the whole matter appeared perfectly clear, and ought never to have been a mystery. A gentleman named Dods seems to have been the first to shew that a very little mesmerism was sufficient to give great power to the imagination. The view which I entertained of the subject has been adopted, and the very name submesmerism has given satisfaction. I lately received a letter from Mr. Stone, in which he honestly agrees with me that the facts should be called mesmeric and occur in a "*submesmeric*" state.\*

All my friends who attended the lectures of Messrs. Stone and Darling in Edinburgh and London assure me that the word mesmerism was not mentioned in their lectures, and that the audience was not led to suppose that mesmerism had any share in the effects. This I saw at a lecture by Dr. Darling.

Medical men in general do not appreciate the power of imagination. They talk of it when their nervous patients complain, and accuse the sufferers of fancying distress: but they have no idea of the part it plays in our nature. They do not, in general, believe that impressions upon the mother affect the anatomy and physiology of the child: though I know no fact better established, and have given some remarkable instances in my *Human Physiology*. We mesmerists have all been very careful to exclude the influence of imagination upon our patients. Our opponents have been of three classes: one coarse and very ignorant, who derided our facts and called our patients impostors, and us fools or impostors also: one, very poor observers, superficial, and too self-satisfied to study the subject in earnest: and the third, believers, but dishonestly pretending to disbelieve. By our care to exclude all suggestion for imagination, and thus disarm the second class, who see imagination only, and to obtain pure mesmerism, we have established the truth of the pure mesmeric power, exerted by passes, pointing, fixed look, breathing, contact, the use of mesmerised substances, the

\* Mr. Stone says, "Although these effects were not produced by mesmerism, it would be generally better understood under the name of mesmerism, and perhaps it would be better if no other was adopted." I am satisfied that many of Mesmer's effects resulted from imagination, suggestion, imitation, though the evident mesmeric agency so fixed his attention that he overlooked the influence of imagination.

will, &c. But we have neglected the exertion of great power over patients that we might have excited: and after all, in spite of all our precautions, suggestion has frequently combined with our mesmeric processes to produce the effect: as I have long shewn in my patients to my friends and in my earliest papers in *The Zoist*.<sup>\*</sup> I have pointed out the great power of imagination,<sup>†</sup> and allowed thus that the French Commission were justified in ascribing partly the effects which they beheld to imagination. I have had patients in whom imagination at last played the greatest part in the phenomena: so that by suggestion I could produce every phenomenon which at first I had produced mesmerically: and at last suggestion became so powerful as to exceed the mesmeric influence. Some patients, awakened by transverse passes at a moderate distance, could not be awakened by them at last unless in making the transverse passes my hands were rubbed against each other and the patient heard the friction: because, after a time, in making the transverse passes I had fallen into the habit of allowing my hands to rub audibly against each other. In No. XVIII., p. 142, Mr. Chandler has related a case in which the power of suggestion was remarkably shewn by him. He governed his patient by it.<sup>‡</sup> In 1850, Mr. Chandler extracted a tooth painlessly through suggestion. A patient, whom he had often mesmerised into sleep-waking and who remained very susceptible, applied to him to have a tooth extracted. He said only, "Go to sleep, Maria." She went instantly to sleep: and he extracted a tight double tooth without pain or any expression of pain.<sup>§</sup>

I have detailed a long series of experiments in No. XI., p. 362, exhibiting the well-known and wonderful effects of suggestion without the conscious knowledge of the patient at the time of the effect: the suggestion being made in the sleep-waking, and producing its effect in the ordinary waking state when all the occurrences of the sleep-waking were buried in oblivion to the patient's consciousness, though the brain unconsciously retained the impression and acted in obedience to it. I cannot too often recommend the study of those experiments to the physiologist and psychologist.

Since the assistance of imagination is proved to be important in mesmerism, it is our duty no longer to endeavour to keep clear of imagination, but to avail ourselves of it for

<sup>\*</sup> No. III., p. 313—1843; No., IV., pp. 429, 453; No. IX., p. 48—1845.

<sup>†</sup> One patient I made to munch aloe, and another wormwood, with delight, fancying it sweet cake, as I said it was, No. III., p. 346; XII., p. 461.

<sup>‡</sup> It and the brother's case related in No. II., p. 162, deserve careful perusal.

<sup>§</sup> No. XXXII., p. 394.



the prevention of pain and the alleviation and cure of disease, while we employ the usual mesmeric means to the utmost. Of course we shall furnish arguments to the ignorant for their assertion that mesmerism works by imagination only: and this has been a great result of the "*electro-biological*" lectures. But we must bear with this, for the good of our fellow-creatures, and remain convinced that the power of mesmerism will establish itself by shining forth in a manner which must at length convince all mankind that there is a power besides suggestion, and a state independent of imagination.

To shew the benefit of calling in the aid of imagination, I will relate some communications which I have received from different gentlemen.

"Rotherhithe, Oct. 22nd, 1851.

"My dear Sir,—I enclose you another mesmeric tooth from the same patient as the last, and under just the same circumstances. Her mesmeriser said, 'Go to sleep, Maria,' just as he did before, and she had the tooth extracted with her eyes wide open, and, to an ordinary observer, in a state of consciousness; but evidently not feeling anything, and not moving a muscle: it would puzzle the strongest-nerved person to take it as coolly as she did.

"Yours very truly,

"THOMAS CHANDLER."

Such a fact as this shews that in those previously affected with mesmerism, mesmerisation may not be requisite to a powerful effect by imagination: just as in them we can without fresh mesmerisation excite rigidity of an arm or excite distinct cerebral organs. In some who have never been mesmerised, submesmerism even may not be required.

"Bungay, 18th Sept., 1851.

"Dear Doctor,—I was absent from home when your letter arrived, and, although at a distance of only forty miles, was not within one day's post.

"I have very few *facts*, and still fewer *views*, respecting electro-biology. My experience is this: an intelligent friend told me he had submitted to the treatment, and had undoubtedly found that his will and his senses were subordinated to the will of the operator. He described the mode of operation so far as he had observed it, and I determined to see for myself. Accordingly I attended a lecture by Dr. Darling, followed by experiments by Mr. Stone, and observed throughout as closely and as accurately as I was able. The apparent object of the lecturer was to shew that the effect produced was purely electrical, but the whole was so exceedingly vague, that I was compelled to feel that the lecturer was either culpably deficient in any definite idea, or was consciously endeavouring to mystify his audience, and to lead them on a false scent.

"The operations of Mr. Stone consisted in setting the subjects to

gaze at a bit of metal (copper and zinc soldered together), prescribing at the same time the utmost practicable abstraction of the mind from all other things, and at intervals of a few minutes gazing into the eyes of each, while with one hand he grasped his head, and with the other one of his hands; on each occasion he concluded with one or more rapid *passes*, masked however under the appearance of smoothing the hair, or stroking the face. At the end of about twenty minutes several persons were found to be more or less susceptible, but it seemed necessary for the operator to employ the loudest tones and most vehement gesticulations in order to act with effect upon the subjects.

"On my return home I tried the same mode, so far as I had observed it, on above a score of persons of both sexes and of every age. To the best of my belief, not more than one or two had ever heard of electro-biology, or had any guess of what I proposed or expected. Of the whole number I found, I think, seven susceptible in various degrees, but I further experimented on only four, who were highly susceptible. In these cases I found the effect complete. I could cause them to see, feel, or believe whatever I directed, and, on the contrary, I could render them so entirely insensible, that I have a strong assurance they might have undergone a grave surgical operation without consciousness of pain.

"I had observed that whenever Mr. Stone failed in acting on a susceptible person, he caused him to gaze on his eyes for a few seconds, or made rapid passes down his person in front or behind; and in my own cases I have discovered that I produce but an imperfect result, unless, when I give a direction, I catch the eye of the person.

"In three of the four cases it has not been necessary to repeat the original means of producing the effect; but in the fourth case I found it needful each time of operating to repeat those means.

"The former three cases are those of my own children, and I may remark that, whereas I had often previously attempted in the usual modes to affect them by mesmerism, and had invariably failed, they became highly susceptible of the mesmeric action immediately on being thus affected.

"The facts, so far as I have been able to observe them, are so few and so little varied, that I have seen no means of generalizing them, and can discover no point on which they seem to converge. I have seen not the slightest reason to suppose that electricity, as we commonly understand the term, in its usual developments, and in subjection to its ascertained laws, has anything to do with the matter. Seeing that the effects are originally produced by the same means which excite mesmeric action, that where persons are imperfectly susceptible the effect is immediately heightened by similar means, and that, where a high degree of susceptibility is found and excited, an equally high degree of mesmeric susceptibility is at the same time developed. I am prepared to believe that the mesmeric and the electro-biological phenomena have an identical origin; are but varying developments of the same principle.

"Beyond this my experience does not entitle me to speculate, and I am by no means willing to add to the mass of crude theories on these interesting but recondite subjects.

"I by no means desire to see my name in print, but if there be anything here which you think worth condensing or abstracting, and to which the authentication of my name would add value, I do not absolutely refuse to allow it to be used.

"Dear Doctor, very obediently yours,  
"Dr. Elliotson."

"CHARLES CHILDS.

"Back Hall, Baldwin Street, Bristol,

"April 13, 1851.

"Sir,—On Friday evening one of my patients, whom I am attending for rheumatism, asked me to mesmerise her cousin, that her uncle and aunt might see a few experiments. I sent Miss I. H., a young lady about 24 years of age, into the mesmeric sleep, by the passes, in about one minute. I then ordered her to open her eyes, which she did, but could not keep them open. I said, 'Open them and *keep them open: you can.*' She opened them, and they continued open during the rest of the evening. I said, 'Hold up your arm.' She did so. 'You can't put it down.' She tried, but could not. 'Are you very well?' 'Yes very.' 'You can't speak.' She tried, but could not. 'Put your arm down.' It fell immediately. 'What is your name?' 'I. H., of course.' 'You have forgotten it.' 'I have indeed; I knew it once, but I can't recall it now.' 'You know it.' 'I. H. is my name.' 'You stammer.' She stammered very much for some time. 'Now you can speak plainly.' 'Ah, yes, very well indeed.' 'You can't get up.' She tried, but appeared fastened to the chair. 'You can.' She rose directly. 'You can't sit.' She could not. 'You can.' She sat down. Her aunt then took her hand, and asked her if she knew her. 'Yes, certainly, you are my aunt; why do you think that I do not know you?' 'You are asleep, are you not?' 'Asleep! no, certainly I am wide awake. I know you all.' I pointed to her aunt, and said, 'Prince Albert;' she instantly drew back, saying, 'well this is an honour I never expected. Prince Albert, I never could have thought of seeing you.' 'But,' said her aunt, 'you call me Prince Albert; why is that?' Miss I. H. replied, 'I can't tell you; I know you are my aunt, but that man (pointing to me) has me in a spell, he makes me believe anything he likes. I know you are my aunt, and yet he makes me believe that you are Prince Albert.' Her aunt asked her how she was dressed. She said, 'Your usual cap on with the lace and ribbons.' I said, 'Tis a hat.' 'And a very high one too,' she replied. I said, 'On your left is the Duke of Wellington,' (there was no one there.) She turned round and said, 'I see him: I know him well. That is certainly a very great honour to be between two such great men.' 'Shake him by the hand.' She did so, and seemed much gratified. 'It rains hard.' 'Oh dear,' she said, 'I am wet through; what shall I do?' 'Take this umbrella.' I gave her a paper knife. She held it over her head. 'There I don't

feel the wet now.' 'You have a shocking cold.' 'Ah, yes; my cough (coughing) is very bad indeed. I am quite hoarse' (she wheezed). 'You are well.' 'Yes I am quite well.' 'It is very hot.' 'And the sun shines beautifully indeed.' 'What is this?' giving her a wafer stamp. 'Why a wafer stamp of course.' 'Then you know what it is?' 'Yes, certainly; why should I not?' 'It's a candle.' 'Yes, with a large flame.' 'Put your finger in the flame.' She held her finger over the stamp, and cried with the pain I gave her a glass of water, she said it was very refreshing. I said, 'It is port wine.' She replied, 'It is rather weak.' 'It is very strong.' 'It is indeed the best I have ever tasted.' 'It is ginger wine.' 'Yes; and very hot of ginger, it burns my mouth.' 'It is water.' 'Yes; and nice and cooling.' Her uncle asked her if she knew what she was doing. She said, 'Yes; but that man compels me to obey; whatever he tells me to do I *must* do; he has a spell over me.' 'Is this a song,' said I, or a piano piece,' giving her a newspaper. 'Oh, it is a song, because there are words.' 'It is a newspaper.' 'I see it very well; it is full of politics.' 'Read it.' She then read it as fluently as I could myself. I held my hand towards her, and told her she could not hit my hand. She tried with all her might, hitting above, below, sideways; and she said, 'I should so like to hit it.' I said, 'You can,' and she immediately struck it. After her obeying many other commands, I made her sit down; and (her eyes closed) proceeded to demesmerise her, which I accomplished in about ten or fifteen minutes. She had *known nothing* of anything that had taken place; during the last hour I felt certain that she was conscious; but upon demesmerising her I found that she had been in a thorough mesmeric state. During these experiments I had only to speak and was instantly obeyed, almost before the words were out of my mouth. I did not exert the will, and spoke in a subdued tone of voice. I tried a few of these experiments on Miss B., whom I am mesmerising for cancer. She was wide awake. I said, pointing to her mouth, 'You can't speak.' She could not. 'You can,' and she then could. She said that, when before I had taken away her speech, by *passes over her mouth*, it appeared as if her tongue was tied, but that this time it seemed as though her *brain* could not convey her words to her tongue. None of the other experiments succeeded. I tried the same with Mrs. C., but only caused a *difficulty* in her speech.

"Mr. Pester (my clerk).

"He looked at the disk for about ten minutes. Mr. Harris, my late partner, placed his fingers upon Pester's eyes, and said, 'You can't open your eyes.' P. tried, but could not. He then said, 'You can,' and P. did open them. He told P. that he could not speak: but P. spoke, though with a slight hesitation. Nothing more was attempted. But since then he has been made, after having gazed on the disk, to taste water as water, as milk, and as cream; and to see it as such: he has been made to stammer a little: other experiments did not succeed on him. He was perfectly conscious the whole

time, and did not require demesmerising. I tried some time back to bring on the sleep in the usual way (he being ill), but could only cause a drowsiness.

“Miss Starr.

“A young lady about 18 years of age. I placed my fingers upon her eyes for about four or five seconds (*not minutes*), and asked her if she felt sleepy, and she said, ‘No.’ I then drew the back of my hands quietly across her forehead, and she said she felt sleepy. I took my fingers from her eyes, and she was unable to open them. I told her she could open them, and she did. I placed her in a chair in the middle of the room; I held her arm out and said, ‘You can’t put it down.’ Seeing that it *was* falling, I made tractive upward passes over it, and it followed my hand. As she could not let it down till I left off the passes, I told her she could not rise from her chair, but she did easily. I made her sit again, went behind her, made a pass down the spine without contact, and she was unable to rise, though she repeatedly tried: and this young lady, though conscious of everything that was doing, was obliged to be demesmerised before she felt comfortable. She had never seen any mesmeric experiments before. A friend of hers having gone down to the street door (two pairs of stairs), she said, when he returned, that she took him for Mr. ———, with whom he had been speaking, though none of us knew that he had even gone to the door or seen any one.”

“Miss V———.

“I had been attending her some time for indigestion, spinal affection, &c.; and could never induce sleep. I made her look at the disk, but it irritated her. I put my fingers upon her eyes, and told her she could not open them. She did it easily. I made her shut them again, but could not fix them. I told her that she could not keep them open, and, after insisting seven or eight times forcibly that she could not keep them open, they closed, and, though she tried hard, she was unable to open them. I, after a little time, told her she could open them, and she did, but with a slight difficulty. I told her she could not tell me her own name, (looking at her steadily in the eye.) She said, ‘Oh yes I can.’ I insisted that she could not, and she insisted that she could: till at last she said, ‘Well really I cannot: it is impossible for me to do it.’ I said, ‘Now you can.’ She pronounced her name. I told her she could not do it without stammering: she insisted that she could; but, upon trying three or four times, and stammering each time, she admitted that she could not. I made a pass down her arm, and it became fixed. I had no occasion to demesmerise this lady.

“Miss V———, the above lady’s sister, suffers from severe heat in the head. I gave her the disk: she closed her eyes in about eight minutes: but in about ten minutes more the effect wore off, and she became as usual. I placed my hand upon her head and said, ‘In half a minute your head shall be cold: it is cooler even

now,' and at the end of about half a minute I said, 'Now your head is quite cold.' I took off my hand, and she said her head felt as though a piece of ice were on it. Her head remained cooler during the whole of the next day, and she slept well during the night.

"Miss Haynes being in the room during the time that I was mesmerising her cousin, I placed the disk in her hand: but, after looking at it for some time, she said it made her feel *uncomfortable*, and *preferred the passes* with the hand. I made some passes, but did *not produce* much effect, for she said the disk had *unsettled her*. I was unable to induce any of the phenomena previously produced; but on Friday evening, she being again present, I used neither disk, passes, nor anything else, but looked at her mouth and said, 'You can't speak.' She tried, but in vain. I said, 'You can now,' and she spoke. I held up her arm and said, 'You can't put it down.' She found great difficulty in doing so, but succeeded at last. I gave her a glass of water: she tasted it; it was water. I made a few passes over the water, and told her it was ginger wine. She said, 'It tastes like very good ginger wine, although I know it is only water.' I made a few more passes over it, and ordered her to taste it as a black draught. She did so, and made terrible faces, and it was some time before I could prevent her being sick. Her cousin *whispered* in my ear to make it raspberry vinegar. I gave her the glass of water, and asked her what it tasted like. She said, 'It tastes like orangeade or orange wine.' It being late, I was obliged to leave. In this case she was neither biologized nor mesmerised. This young lady subsequently had a double tooth extracted in the mesmeric state induced by me, or rather whilst partly under the mesmeric and partly under the *sub-mesmeric* state. She felt not the slightest sensation of pain.

"Last evening some friends called in, and, the conversation turning upon electro-biology, a gentleman held a disk for a few minutes in his hand looking at it. I then told him to close his eyes, and he did. I said, 'You can't open your eyes.' He tried with all his might, but could not. *No other experiment answered*, except on the arm, which, when he was told he could not put it down, he found some little difficulty in putting down. Another person was tried in the same way with exactly the same result, though *he* found a slight difficulty in speaking.

"On August 13th I called upon Mr. Dobbin, of this city. In the room was a surgeon who was attending Mrs. Dobbin for a nervous disease, and eight or ten young ladies, and one of the young ladies a niece of Mr. Dobbin I was told was very susceptible of mesmerism; and the surgeon, being to a certain extent a believer in mesmerism, was desirous of seeing a few experiments tried upon a person in whom he could be certain there was no deception, and asked the young lady to allow herself to be put under the influence by me. To this she assented. I took her hand and *willed* strongly. She went into the thorough sleep in about two minutes. All the usual phenomena of catalepsy, attraction, excitation of the phrenological organs, &c., were perfect. Touching her on the nape of the neck

prevented her from both singing and speaking. After I woke her up, I tried the experiment of suggestion. I held her arm out, and told her that she could not put it down : and she could not. Her arm was perfectly *rigid*, whereas before when she was in the mesmeric sleep her arm was only *cataleptic*. I told her she could not avoid getting up from her chair, and she said, 'Well I am determined I *will not* get up, for certainly I can do as I please.' But in less than a minute she got up, saying, 'I *must* do it.' I made her walk to any part of the room, do anything that I told her, give away her bracelets, &c., by merely telling her that she must do it ; but, being told by me that she could not sit down, and, upon trying, finding she could not, some one spoke to me and took off my attention when she sat down immediately. After shewing an immense number of similar experiments I gave her up, and mesmerised Mrs. Dobbin by gazing at the eyes. She closed them in about three or four minutes : one pass was sufficient to make the arms as rigid as iron. It took me some little time to demesmerise her. She had never lost her consciousness. After she had awakened and conversed for some time with her medical attendant, I told her to close her eyes, and she did so. I told her she could not open them : she tried but could not, and it took me full ten minutes to open them for her. I then held one arm out, and told her she could not put it down. She tried, but could not succeed : her arm was perfectly rigid. It also took a long time to restore it to its natural state. Her son, a young man about 23 or 24 years of age, came in at the end of the experiments. I put my fingers on his closed eyes, and told him that he could not open them. He *did* open them, but with much difficulty. I tried it again directly, and his lids became perfectly fixed, to the astonishment and laughter of the young ladies. I touched his lips, and he was unable to open them ; also, when his mouth was wide open, I prevented him from shutting it. It must be observed, that these experiments were performed without the slightest preparation, either with the usual mesmeric process or the disks.

"A gentleman connected with the Bristol and Exeter Railway, whom I had occasionally mesmerised, and who was very susceptible, called on me one morning to be mesmerised for the purpose of reducing a hard swelling that had come on the top of his head. I had usually sent him off in about three minutes, and rendered him perfectly unconscious of pain ; for on one occasion, he having expressed himself doubtful as to his being pricked with a pin without his feeling it, and wishing us to *prove* it to him, I stuck a pin in the back of his hand ; and he confessed when awake that he had not the slightest knowledge of our having done it till he saw the pin sticking in his hand. But on this morning I placed a disk in his hand instead of sending him off in my usual manner, and in about one minute he gave a deep sigh, closed his eyes, and fell back in his chair. I did what was necessary to the bump on his head, and then tried his susceptibility of pain ; and found that he *could* feel. I made a few passes over his hand, and then tried him : but he still remained susceptible of pain, and, in about a quarter of an hour from his

first going off he woke up spontaneously—a thing that he had never done before when sent off by the usual mesmeric process: for it was usually difficult to restore him.

"A Mr. Sanders, when present at some of my experiments, was desirous of trying the effect of the disk. I put one in his hand, and he gazed at it for ten minutes or more. I closed his eyes, and told him that he could not open them. But he did open them easily. I tried the same several times, but with no better success. I held his arm out, and told him him he could not put it down: but he lowered it easily, and felt not the slightest stiffness; this I also tried several times with the same want of success. I then held his arm out, and, after making strong passes down it several times, it became so stiff that he could not move it. I tried no other experiments with him.

"Charles Jennings, whose case I have mentioned in another place, was sent off by my clerk with the disk, and neither he nor I could produce catalepsy or rigidity. But, after I had sent him off by the usual mesmeric process, I was able to render both arms and legs perfectly rigid.

"John Berry (a poor boy) can be made to do, not to do, and believe, anything you like, by merely saying a word without the slightest preparation by either disk or the usual mesmeric passes. If a hundred guineas were placed before him, and I told him he could not touch it, he would not be able to do it. He has been frequently mesmerised before being tried by submesmerism, and is a good subject.

"Yours truly,

"S. D. SAUNDERS,

"Back Hall, Bristol.

"P.S. The great advantage in the disks is that you can try the susceptibility of a number of persons at a time, and then choose from them."

I have forwarded these experiments to *The Zoist* because they were made by gentlemen who had not been induced to pay a few pounds sterling for a secret, as some too easily did to different lecturers, engaging not to divulge it for three months. In No. XXXIV., p. 191,\* I mentioned that the pretended secret of some was to touch and press certain spots of the head or hand: and that not a word of mesmerism was mentioned, any more than at the lectures. The gentlemen whose cases I have related saw the nature of the phenomena at once: that all was imagination excited by suggestion, and usually a little mesmerism, and sometimes will into the bargain. As to electricity in the matter, there was no more than in all the operations of nature.

\* See also No. XXXIII., p. 110.



I said in No. XXXIII., p. 110, that "the individual is brought into a calm state by quietly gazing at something for a length of time: and then the operator uses some of the usual mesmeric means,—looking at the subject, making a few passes, or touching the head more or less. All this is a degree of mesmerisation: and it is an ascertained fact that our imagination, which has an immense power over us at all times and upon the child while it still forms a part of its mother, has far greater effect in every degree of the mesmeric state. How much the will may contribute we do not know. Experiments to prove its share ought to be made without the subject having any means of knowing what the operator intends: whereas in these experiments he is openly told what is to happen to him.

"We regret that what is merely imagination with a greater or less dash of mesmerism should be ushered in with a new name. One calls it electro-biology, and another electro-psychology. Now biology is but another word for physiology, or the science of the powers and functions of living things; and some so designate physiology. As to the adjective electric, all living phenomena, perhaps all the phenomena of nature, are electric: and, if the reason for prefixing the word electric is that the patient stares at zinc and copper, this is absurd, for, if he stares at a piece of wood or sugar, the effect is the same."

The terms electro-biology serve to deceive people as to the real simple nature of the affair. It was right to demonstrate the power of imagination, especially when aided by a little mesmerism: but the true nature of it ought to have been set forth—especially by those who professed to be doctors of medicine. One of them called upon me long ago, introduced by a friend, who, like another friend of mine, had paid him five pounds for the *secret*! He declined telling me what he had to shew, and professed that it was not mesmerism but a step beyond mesmerism, which required time to explain. He never called again: and the world may now see that the whole is a simple business: requiring no metals, no contact with pressure upon certain parts, and no appearance of conjuring or mystery. A man of science ought to have declared the nature of the whole while he exhibited the

\* I prefer the word imagination to suggestion, because the imagination which is induced, though excited by suggestion, is often induced in the experiments far more by a violent persuasion, amounting, as Mr. Sandby justly says, at p. 295, to bullying. "Sir, you cannot tell your name, I say you cannot, you know you cannot," may be the imperious words of the experimenter, while perhaps he stamps and shakes his fist and looks fierce.

phenomena. Much good will ensue from the knowledge and recognition of the great power of imagination and the employment of it to aid mesmerism. But imagination will not take the place of mesmerism. For it often fails: and its effects may cease when their continuance during an operation is required. The sleep of mesmerism is frequently most beneficial and important: and the health of the mesmeriser has frequently a powerful influence upon a patient, so that different mesmerisers produce effects of various degrees of advantage.

I will conclude with a quotation from Dugald Stewart. "It appears to me, that the general conclusions established by Mesmer's practice, with respect to the physical effects of the principle of imagination (more particularly in cases where they co-operated together), are incomparably more curious than if he had actually demonstrated the existence of his boasted science: nor can I see any good reason why a physician, who admits the efficacy of the *moral* agents employed by Mesmer, should, in the exercise of his profession, scruple to copy whatever processes are necessary for subjecting them to his command, any more than that he should hesitate about employing a new physical agent, such as electricity or galvanism," *Elem. of the Phil. of the Human Mind*, vol. iii., p. 221.

XV. *Cure of long-continued Pain of the Eyes*, by Mr. Stone.  
By Mr. DUNSCOMBE, J. P., of the County of Cork.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOLIST.

SIR,—At the request of Mr. Stone I am induced to send you a brief account of my case, which was cured by mesmerism and electro-biology in eighteen months.

I may state that for upwards of seventeen years, from early youth, I had been afflicted with a heat and pain in the eyes at intervals, especially after reading by the light of candles or of lamps. At the commencement of the period, I had suffered somewhat from a protracted attack of dyspepsia, which was aggravated, and afterwards made in a measure constitutional, by constant drugging on the old system. However, by abandoning this method of treatment and adopting the water-cure, I rapidly became better, and finally recovered perfectly. I merely mention this matter incidentally, to account for a curious phenomenon, namely, that, as my health improved, in a corresponding ratio did the pain in my eyes become greater, and the intervals between the paroxysms shorter; and so well aware was I of this fact, that I often partook of beverages (such as very strong tea) which I knew

would disagree with me, in order to relieve the eyes at the expense of the stomach. I consulted several medical practitioners on the subject of this pain, but not one of them had the least idea of its cause, as the eyes presented no traces of inflammation after or during the most violent paroxysms, and the vision remained perfect at all times. However, having heard and read much while in France two years ago of the extraordinary performances of Madame Adèle, and other clairvoyantes of Cahagnet, I shortly afterwards consulted a lady whose specialty was the cure of disease; and, after a careful examination by introvision, she declared that I was in a perfectly healthy state, with the exception of a small portion of the brain behind the eyes that was slightly inflamed in consequence of the pressure of some substance lodged at the back of the eyes, and extending somewhat laterally on either side. She said this pressed on the nerves connected with the eyes, and caused all the pain I endured. She also stated that it was curable; but only by mesmerism aided by certain stupes, &c.: she also said that the better my health became, and the firmer my constitution, the more condensed were these collections of matter, and as a consequence the harder they pressed on the neighbouring nerves. I may here observe, that, during the eighteen months I was under cure, this lady was repeatedly consulted either by me in person, or in my absence by my being called up by friends. I was also examined by another young lady, who had the power of introvision and was a beautiful thought-reader and mental traveller. I have also had the assistance of another similarly gifted, and all three without any concert between them agreed in the main points of my case.

I have kept a memorandum each week, but, as this would occupy too much of your space, I send you a brief and condensed account of my notes.

On 20th of May, 1850. I commenced being mesmerised, and was daily operated upon for many months: (except Sundays) and for the first six weeks I became gradually worse and suffered deep depression of spirits, (I forgot to mention that all along this at certain periods accompanied the pain in eyes,) which Madame C—— said was always produced by a sympathetic action of the nerves extending from the head downwards. I was also stuped with warm vinegar and water behind the ears several evenings.

From this period to the end of July I was on the whole worse, passing but few days in comparative tranquillity. I also found it more difficult to read even by day, not from any defect of vision but from the pain caused by looking at print.

August 11th. Madame said the matter was liquefying and passing off, which previously entirely destroyed my appetite. Same day, Mademoiselle above mentioned also examined me, and agreed with Madame.

I passed the interval between this date and 24th of Nov. sometimes better but generally worse, when I was obliged to cease being mesmerised (through an unavoidable occurrence) for one fortnight, and was thereby thrown back considerably.

Dec. 15th. The clairvoyante declared the matter passing off fast.

Dec. 22nd. Warned to expect a sharp crisis soon. This occurred shortly after.

By the end of February, 1851, most of the matter had passed.

March 9th. Never spent so bad a week; declared to be in another crisis.

March 16th. Much better. I was able to read a little.

April 6th. I unfortunately took from a servant in the house sore eyes, declared by the clairvoyante to be a sort of scurvy, which grievously aggravated my suffering and threw me back considerably.

From this time to July 20th I made but little progress, being so much retarded in my recovery by the above disease. At this time Mr. Stone arrived in Cork to perform experiments in electro-biology. Having attended these performances, I was amazed to find myself obliged to act as the subjects on the platform did. Thus my arms and legs became rigid when those of the subjects were similarly affected. After the second *séance*, I made the acquaintance of Mr. Stone, and, having casually mentioned this circumstance to him, and having also stated to him the suffering from my eyes, Mr. Stone asked me to call on him, and said that he entertained no doubt he would be enabled to cure me of this complaint. I accordingly waited on that gentleman and was operated on by him biologically and mesmerically, very seldom however by passes, but almost always by his powerful will. In fact, so great is the extent of his power of will, that he has caused me, by way of experiment, to leave my seat in one part of my house, and follow him all through it and out of it, until I found him. Now Mr. Stone was not in the room with me at this time, neither had I the slightest idea of his attempting the experiment. I felt an unaccountable desire to go in a certain direction, and, when I swerved from the line Mr. Stone had taken, I was always corrected by the same desire, although at the time I was quite unconscious of the cause of it. I have digressed thus far, because I know that the power

of *the will* is not universally believed in. I have, however, felt it in my own person, and seen Mr. Stone equally successful with others on numerous occasions. To resume,—after the few first days I experienced a very gratifying change for the better, and was ordered to read by Mr. Stone. This however, I at first refused to do, having already suffered so much from that gratification, and having now been obliged to discontinue it (with the exception of a few minutes at intervals far apart) for upwards of thirteen months. Being pressed by Mr. Stone, I at last mustered sufficient courage to make the attempt; and, I will add in justice to Mr. Stone, with success. Whenever, after reading for an hour or two my eyes felt unpleasantly, Mr. Stone cooled them by biology at once.

Aug. 24th. Madame declares me all but well.

Sept. 7th. Eyes somewhat in pain, but in a very mitigated degree, and declared by Madame to be in the very last crisis. From this date to the present time I rapidly improved under Mr. Stone, who operated almost daily on me. I now, thank God, can read by day or night, and, after repeated tests of everything which used to cause such sufferings in my eyes, after braving wind and rain with impunity, I consider myself perfectly cured, and shall ever feel the deepest gratitude to Mr. Stone and also to three other valued friends (whose names I reluctantly withhold), by whose sympathy and assistance my sufferings were mitigated and my cure forwarded; and I shall ever hold their kindness in the liveliest remembrance.

NICHOLAS DUNSCOMBE,

J. P. of County of Cork.

Mount Desert, Cork,

Nov. 28, 1851.

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XVI. *Two Cases of Cerebral Sympathy.* By Dr. ENGLEDEU.

WHILE discussing with a friend the experiments which I saw performed at Hungerford Hall, by M. Lasaigue and Made-moiselle Prudence, the following statement was made. I enclose it, as an example of a similar nature, and I think it may interest your readers.

“I visited a clairvoyante in Ireland, Madame Larsugo. Those who came to enquire were obliged to tell her husband (who mesmerised her) the questions to be answered.

“However, wishing to test her powers without the presence of her mesmeriser, *when* he had thrown her into the trance, I begged him to withdraw.

"I quickly found I had established a sympathy with her, and she answered me at once.

"I held in my hand a hair ring with two sets of initials: these she declared accurately. She told me it was my own hair. She then, after some delay, told me there was an inscription *inside* the ring, that it was from the Bible—the Psalms. She then mentally spelled out *letter by letter* thus: 'We took sweet counsel together,' &c. She then insisted there was something more. I said, 'No.' However, she said there was 'January 1851;' which was quite correct.

"She then travelled back a space of six months, told me where I stood on a particular day, what parcel I had then in my hand, whom I gave it to, and that a soldier's funeral passed at the moment I gave it. All this was correct.

"I visited her very often, and always had my own interview *alone*. She seemed to take the greatest anxiety in all that concerned me. She wept in the trance: and, as she seemed to look back to the circumstances I was investigating, she wept bitterly. She recognized a lady's picture which I had hid in my glove. She had *never* seen the original, but recognized it as the picture of my friend. She then told me the inscription on a mourning ring of my mother's, letter by letter, age, and date, and where the person had died.

"She then described accurately a book bound in *wood*, which I had in my pocket. She told me the wood came from the bottom of the sea from a ship; that the ship was the wreck of the Royal George: gave the date and place. I need not say this was correct. None in the room but myself knew anything of the wreck or the book.

"One gentleman always came *to doubt*, and with him she failed often. I asked her why (in the trance): and she replied, 'Oh, he holds up always a black curtain over his brain, I can't see thro' it.' However, she succeeded once with him, and spelled out a written word on paper—the name 'Natty Bumps.' She always knew in the trance if I entered the room, and said so."

This was a case of thought-reading on the part of the mesmerized with a third party; the experiments which I saw at Hungerford Hall were chiefly experiments in thought-reading with the mesmeriser. There was one, however, analogous to those just related, which I will presently mention. I wrote on a card at the moment, "Tell her to bring her pocket handkerchief and give it to me," and passed this card down to M. Lasaigne. Instantly she arose, and, passing by several persons, at last came to me and gave me the pocket

handkerchief. She took from the hand of a gentleman sitting at the corner of a seat a small flower, and gave it to another gentleman sitting at the opposite side of the room. This was proved to be a command on the part of some person in the room, by the paper conveying it being displayed. She took an umbrella from a person, opened it, walked across the stage with it over her head, closed it and gave it to a person on the opposite side. This was found to be in accordance with a command.

She took a ring from the finger of a person, carried it to a different part of the room, and placed it on the finger of a little girl. This was in accordance with a command.

Sometimes these experiments were performed with great rapidity. Occasionally there was some hesitation, and she made mistakes, but quickly recognized that she had done so, and rectified them. I do not think it is necessary to recapitulate all the experiments which were performed, which were of an impromptu character; but I will conclude by relating the following.

A gentleman, who afterwards stated that he was an officer in the army, came down upon the stage, and, he taking her hand, M. Lasaigne requested her to tell him the remarkable circumstance in his life which he was then thinking about. She then slowly but without hesitation told him that he was on horseback—that he was fighting—that he was thrown down—that he was in great danger—that he was wounded: and told him where. During the whole of this conversation, her manner was such as to lead one to suppose that she was really present at the *rencontre* she was describing.

The gentleman stated to the audience that all she had said was perfectly true. That many years ago, being an officer in the army, he was unhorsed in a charge of cavalry, and that he saved himself by seizing his opponent's sword in his hands, in doing which he was terribly wounded, and shewed the scars on his hands.

W. C. ENGLEDDUE.

Southsea, Dec. 1851.

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#### BOOKS RECEIVED.

*A History of Magic, Witchcraft, and Animal Magnetism.* By J. C. Colquhoun, Esq., author of *Isis Revelata*. In two volumes. London: 1851.

If we have space we shall notice this in our next number. It is entertaining and instructive: but disfigured by the same errors and violent prejudices which characterize Mr. Colquhoun's other performances.

**Magnetoid Currents; their Forms and Directions:** with a description of the Magnetoscope. A series of experiments. By J. A. N. Rutter, F.R.A.S. To which is subjoined a letter from William King, Esq., M.D. Cantab. London: 1851.

We should not feel justified in hazarding an opinion at present on the subject of this work.

**Remarks on the Plea of Insanity, and on the Management of Criminal Lunatics.** By William Wood, M.D., Licentiate of the Royal College of Physicians, and Medical Officer of Bethlehem Hospital. London: 1851.

This is a well-written pamphlet on a very important subject. The views entertained by the writer are the same that we have been in the habit of enforcing for many years in this journal. The subject is likely to call forth legislative interference during the next Parliamentary Session, and we shall take an early opportunity of returning to it.

**Lectures on true and false Hypnotism or Mesmerism.** The result of experimental examination of the subject at home and abroad, delivered in London at the Western Literary and Westminster Institution, and corrected and brought up to the present period. To which is added, a Discourse on the condition of the Soul during common sleep, illustrated by details of dreams. By Horatio Prater, Esq., author of *Experimental Enquiries in Chemical Physiology*, *Essays on the injurious effects of Mineral Poisons in the practice of Medicine*, *Thoughts Psychological*, &c. London: 1851.

Our friend "Walker" states that *prater* signifies "an idle talker, a chatterer." We have read Mr. Prater's book *through*, and we are bound to say that never did a man's name more clearly and truthfully characterize the nature of his book. From the first page to the last Mr. Horatio Prater does nothing else but prate. He states, "On my return to England, after a pilgrimage to the ruins of Thebes, Karnac, and Philæ, I find that 'mesmerism' seems rather to have gained than lost ground during my absence. I have accordingly decided to make a new, though probably useless, sacrifice of time and money on the altar of truth, and publish these lectures—the result of personal experience, delivered in London before my departure, corrected and brought up to the present period."

How important that the public should be made acquainted with Mr. Prater's travels—as if the travels of a man necessarily render him a better judge of the truth or falsehood of physiological facts. We recommend mesmerists to obtain this little book, that they may be enabled to judge of the small amount of real knowledge which some persons think necessary before they write a book, and of the very mediocre reasoning power which some enjoy even after the advantage of a pilgrimage to "Thebes, Karnac, and Philæ." Except for this purpose the book is worthless—absolutely not worth the paper which has been blotted by the type.

#### NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

"TO THE EDITORS OF THE ZOSTER."

"Sirs,—Will you allow me a corner in the forthcoming number of your valuable periodical to reply to numerous enquiries as to when my translation of Gall will be published. I find that the expense of publication will be about £600: say three hundred subscribers: as yet I have little more than half that number. So confident however am I that such a splendid work must make its way when once fairly out, that I shall send it to the press as soon as I have two hundred subscribers, and I cannot doubt that this number will soon be secured.

"E. S. SYMES."

We strongly urge English phrenologists to exert themselves in procuring subscribers to this translation of Gall's work, which is so little known in this country, and would, if rendered intelligible to all by an English translation, give a full



idea of the science and make converts in all directions. If every three subscribers would procure one other, the translation could be printed immediately.

*A Student, Islington.* Sandby's *Mesmerism and its Opponents*.—The Mesmeric Infirmary, No. 9, Bedford Street, Bedford Square, where Mr. Capern will be happy to afford information, if a student gives his name and address, and takes an introduction from a subscriber.

*A constant Subscriber at Dalton.*—Mr. Stone is at present in Cork, Imperial Hotel.

*J. W. Slater, Fairfield, Manchester.*—Bailliere, of 219, Regent Street, London, is the best person to apply to for publishing Mr. Slater's translation of Dr. Kieser's great work on Mesmerism, which is considered by some to be "the most philosophic and consistent treatise on the subject extant." Mr. J. W. Slater expresses his willingness to forward to us or any parties who might take an interest in the work specimens of his translation. We should be happy to see his translation completed and published, for German works are as sealed books to the majority of the English public. But we can hold out no hopes of success, when we perceive that Dr. Symes has not yet been able to reach above half the number of subscribers necessary to enable him to publish his translation of Galf's beautiful work upon cerebral physiology without loss.

*Rusticus.*—The symptoms are no reason for discontinuing mesmerism. Passes downwards before the eyes should be persevered with for the best part of an hour: and probably sound sleep will at length be induced. If not, it will be unimportant. Perseverance is everything.

*R. C.* misconceives the passage to which he refers: we can draw no such inference from it as he does, and are certain that no such view was intended. *R. C.* will surely allow that God could, if it seemed good to him, create an infinite universe, and an universe to last to all eternity, whatever changes of condition he might ordain it to undergo continually or at intervals. Eternity as to the future does not imply eternity as to the past. Though *R. C.* believes he will now endure through all eternity, he does not believe that he has existed from all eternity.

Thousands of phenomena are miracles to ignorant persons that are not regarded as anything but natural phenomena by the well-informed: and when it is said that a miracle in one age is no miracle in another, the expression appears to us to be the same as when we say a man rational to-day is mad to-morrow; that is, *may be*. A true miracle is always a true miracle: but a thing may be regarded as a miracle through ignorance and may never have been set forth as a miracle. Conyers Middleton and Bishop Kaye of Lincoln reject all the miracles since the time of the apostles, but fully admit those of the apostolic age and of the Old Testament—the post-apostolic miracles are no miracles to Drs. Middleton and Kaye. The people see miracles performed daily in Italy, yet most English Protestants see no harm in smiling or in sighing, when they hear or read such accounts.

*Non-Wist's* communication of Nov. 12th is under consideration.

We regret being obliged to postpone Professor Gregory's elaborate communication, as well as several from Mr. Clements, Dr. Elliotson, Dr. Storer, Mr. H. S. Thompson, and other correspondents, *every one of which will appear in our April number*: and we doubly regret the delay that has unavoidably occurred with those which arrived in good time, that is, before the month preceding the day of publication.

We gratefully acknowledge the receipt of a sovereign from Mr. Stone for *The Zoist*: but have handed it to our publisher, who will forward to Mr. Stone its value in such numbers of *The Zoist* as Mr. Stone may name.

Dr. Burq has not fulfilled his promise of furnishing us with an article.

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Errata in No. XXXV.

p. 304, l. 3, for "Vol. VI." read *No. XXI.*

p. 305 and 6, for "Sherborne Minster," read *Wimborne Minster.*

p. 306, for "Michelett," read *Nicholeits*: and for "Mowle," read *Mawle.*

END OF VOL. IX.

# MESMERIC INFIRMARY.

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Those Subscribers who have not paid their subscriptions for the last year are earnestly requested to forward them to the Infirmary without delay. It is painful for the Committee to write more than once for this purpose, and the Infirmary was opened on the faith reposed in the Subscribers.

The Infirmary is working very great good, and many remarkable cures have been effected, and reported to *The Zoist*, which, however, has no room for the reports this quarter, but will publish them in April.

More patients apply weekly than can be received, though four mesmerisers are always at work.

Fine crystals may be purchased at the Institution at a very low price.