THE

HAND-BOOK

OF

VITAL MAGNETISM,

OR MESMERISM;

EXHIBITING ITS INFLUENCE ON THE NERVOUS SYSTEM, AND THE PROCESSES OBSERVED IN PRODUCING THE MESMERIC PHENOMENA;

WITH NUMEROUS EXPERIMENTS,

BY WAY OF PRACTICAL ILLUSTRATION.

INTENDED AS A GUIDE TO STUDENTS OF THE SCIENCE.

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ADVERTISEMENT.

As a preceptive province, ours is far removed from that of biography or narrative, in fulfilment of the object for which this little work is simply compiled; and since the main incidents of Mesmer's eccentric career, with the lives of his contemporaries and followers, must be long familiar to most of the reading public, through the number of authentic memoirs extant on the point, we forbear to occupy our circumscribed space with chapters of historical retrospect, or to particularize events already detailed in their appropriate place. Our purpose is to treat of the science rather as it is, than as it has been; the aspects it presents under two epochs; the one of its earlier and the other of its more modern expansion, being essentially dissimilar, therefore require separate consideration; but if we limit ourselves strictly to giving rule and

instruction in the present practice of Animal Magnetism, without reasoning on abstract analogies, the correctness of which there is nothing to attest, we shall propose an undertaking quite sufficient for our ability to accomplish, perhaps, a good deal beyond it.

This is a book designed not for the proselytism of faithless scoffers, but a manual for the guidance of the active believer. It is to afford a working knowledge of the system, and illustrate the profession of an admitted art—not to refute weak prejudice or battle with incredulity, that these pages are penned. Let him who deems the doctrine fallacious and illusory, first assure his mind of its entire, though inconceivable consonance to Truth, and when he desires monition and maxim to regulate him in its study and exercise, let him have recourse to the teaching of Experience, established by the testimony of Facts.

Eighty years ago, Animal Magnetism was an unknown, (or if its secrets were at all divined,) a then unheeded thing. Some trace its antique origin, with persevering research, back to the primitive ages, and tell of the wondrous cures effected by King Pyrrhus's friction on the Greeks; however, this is somewhat apocryphal. A little

later than the time of Father Hehl, and its tenets were the ridicule of nations—the solicitude of few. Regard it yet more recently, how has it prospered and prevailed—been mocked and maligned! Such is the fate of all grand discoveries. Mesmerism is not exempt from the common lot; but, like Hercules, it has strangled its enemies in its very cradle. Alternately honored and defamed, it has strengthened by vicissitude, and waxed mightier than fortune. Among the impartial—what a host of zealous champions it has raised! Day after day, fresh converts are attached to the cause, while men are awe-struck at the marvels it unfolds; and sceptics, in their wisdom overthrown, grieve of their former folly, and are humbled.

Mesmer may have been a philanthropist, a charlatan, or a sage; the question is often mooted, and, like most polemic themes, never equitably resolved; but be his character controverted as it may, no one can deny that he was the chosen instrument, worthy or otherwise, of a salutary and mysterious revelation, and a benefactor to his kind, though his memory be aspersed with libel darker than the grave.

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VITAL MAGNETISM.

CHAPTER I.

OF THE CHOICE OF SUBJECTS, AND THE SEVERAL MODES OF MAGNETISATION.

THOSE who are possessed with the mere desire to gratify a curious spirit in ascertaining the measure of their individual influence over others, from what they have seen manifested at the hands of a qualified operator, by copying his gestures and action, ought deliberately to ponder the occult nature of that agency they are eager to excite, without a due knowledge of its qualities or government, before they call into force the subtle faculties of a power which they may not be able to repress, or effectually dispel when so minded. A surgeon would scruple to undertake the excision of a diseased limb, were he not skilled in the way of binding up the severed arteries. An engineer would hesitate to unclose the valves of a steam-escape, if he was ignorant of the structure of the machinery; nor should any person, for the sole sake of profitless

and hazardous experiment, be he ever so self-reliant, rashly attempt the production of consequences, easy enough to bring about, but most difficult, on emergencies, for the novice to subdue. The necessity of rigidly observing this caution will be the more apparent as we proceed.

In a translation of M. Teste's popular essay on the subject we have just adverted to, there occurs a very judicious and well-written passage, which, from its appositeness, we make free to transcribe—"Independently of the near, and more or less frequent relations, needfully established by magnetism between the person who practises it and the person who submits to it, it, beyond all doubt, in the majority of cases, gives the first over the second an absolute, unlimited ascendency, the depository whereof may not always prove himself worthy of it. Not only is the person whom you magnetise irresistably constrained to yield, at your instigation, in the performance of his physical acts, but it may happen that ordering all the transactions of his soul by you, without he or you being aware of it, he penetrates your most secret thoughts, associates himself with every emotion of your mind, and though not, perceiving that he only obeys your will, anticipates even your most remote intentions. A somnambulist, in a word, the moment that sleep delivers him up to his magnetiser, no longer sees, no longer hears, no longer feels, but through him; and though he still retain the discernment of right and wrong, belongs body and soul to him, if he be base and

dastardly enough to abuse such power." There can be no service in dilating further upon a matter which we have already, perhaps, treated too much at large. The application of those remarks we leave to the reader.

Women, in a general sense, are infinitely more susceptible of magnetic attraction than men. There is a instinctive dependence and trustingness about females, which, with few exceptions, renders them keenly alive to the marvellous, and therefore begets in them a readier faith than the other sex are ever prone to award what is not fully comprehensible. The veneration of females too is predominant above their detached propensities, and from these traits, conjoined with their finer delicacy of nerve—not the weakness of their mental capacities as some would allege—it may be fairly argued that feminine susceptibility transcends that of men in almost every instance. It is true, men have developed equally astonishing phenomena with women, more than once, but it should be noticed that such must have greatly resembled the latter in softness of temperament, or have become effeminate through some cause for a time. Excessive sensibility is nearly as unfavorable to the magnetic action as a too vigorous energy. It is a species of ecstacy, rather than real somnambulism, that is then produced, the signs of which are very indeterminate. A moderately nervous and excitable organization is to be preferred for most essays; and we will add, from our own experience, that large and projecting eyes are

commonly indicative of high magnetic impressionability.

It is not, as many erroneously conceive, requisite to be in ill-health in order to successful magnetisation. People of robust aud muscular frames, who would scarce start at the sudden discharge of a piece of ordnance close to the ear, and whose sinewy proportions seemed to defy the least physical subjection, have bowed to the spells of magnetism in a shorter time than the timorous and feeble girl; but examples of this kind are only rare anomalies, and seldom come within the calculation of probability. Periodical complaints, such as hysteria, and epilepsy, greatly promote the better action of the magnetic virtue, and it is altogether advisable that none save invalids or debilitated patients should undergo the operation. It may amend the condition of the latter, but like medicine administered to the strong, it may induce those evils with them it was foolishly intended to avert. Convulsions, fits, &c., have accompanied the restless sleep of persons of full and plethoric habit, to the terror and dismay of the magnetiser, where the safest plan, if you fail to calm their perturbation, is to free the somnambulist forthwith from an influence that has proved so noxious in their case, collecting at the crisis all your fortitude and self-possession, else you will inspire the sufferer with the emotions of dread which actuate yourself, and thereby retard their recovery until exhaustion supervenes. Our counsel in this respect may be summed up in the words

of the old proverb, and we trust it will still be a golden rule with all—*Never begin that of which you have not well considered the end.*

The various means employed to produce mesmeric sleep, ordinarily called *coma* and its consequent phenomena, are as diverse as the number of magnetisers who affect them; each person having a system of his own, which he finds to be most efficacious, for in it he has most confidence. Some plain instructions will be requisite to teach the student the manner of executing those manual processes and other gestures now in use, and approved by the majority of the adept: we shall therefore review the principal methods observed on such occasions, noticing the respective advantage or inexpediency peculiar to each. The course that we pursue in most instances and one that proves frequently successful on the first essay, is exceedingly simple, there being no difficulty in following out its details except in the entire concurrence of the will and perfect passiveness of the party subjected to the action. When you have once resolved and prepared your mind to set about the matter in real earnest, and have secured the compliance of an eligible patient, characterized by a nervous and susceptible temperament—one who has been previously operated upon, if possible, as failure in the first few trials may dishearten and weary you—cause her, (supposing a female,) to sit in a position of convenient ease, with a tempered yet clear light admitted on the countenance. Do not select an armed chair, as

the projections at the sides would interfere with the movement of your hands, but a common low-backed seat, having a moderately soft cushion. Let the room be remote from outward noise and of a mean warmth, excessive heat or cold being prejudicial to your enterprise, and above all avoid a current of air. The presence of witnesses should be limited so far as is compatible with propriety and credible attestation; the demand of stillness and quiet in conducting the process will evince the necessity of this provision. Public experiments are seldom, if ever crowned with the happy demonstrations so frequently beheld in private; the inevitable bustle and excitement predominant in a crowded assembly must be eminently unfavourable to the interests of a serious engagement claiming imperative silence. Coughs, subdued whispers, muttered comments, changes of attitude—all these have an obstructive effect, and cannot but impair the lucidity of the somnambulism, if *that* happens to be attained after much perplexity and fatigue, and this, moreover, is a chief reason why itinerant lectures work on the whole greater harm than benefit to the science, by their endeavours to procure profound sleep amid the distraction of a restless multitude. These preliminaries, well disposed, approach your patient, and standing in front of her, take both thumbs between your own so that the inside of each may be in contact with yours, fixing your eyes at the same time intently upon hers, while you request her to regard you steadfastly in turn, to abstract

her thoughts altogether from passing circumstances, to yield herself resignedly to any strange sensations she may experience, and not to suffer her attention to be diverted by momentary pain. Having continued the test of vision until you perceive some indications of moistness and contraction about the eyes, with an involuntary twinkling of the lid, gently disengage your thumbs, and separating your hands to either side, elevate them to the sides of her head, holding the back surface to the patient's face as you ascend: then uniting the first fingers of each hand above her head in a parallel line, bring both the palms down slowly before the eyes and axis of the body, as far as the knees, at the distance of about two inches, being heedful not to touch or rub any part of her person, particularly the prominent features, nose and chin, when carrying your hands down, as the slightest contact appears to the patient like a shock in the stage preceding sleep, and consequently retards the approach of that lethargy you are striving to induce. Ascend again, and repeat this pass a dozen times or so with the precision we advise, preserving continuous your reciprocal gaze until the patient's eyes finally close. After a while, raise your hands as if to make another similar pass, but let your fingers fall near her shoulder, and convey them outspread along the arms to their full length. Do this equally often and alternately with the former gestures during the process. When decided symptoms of somnolency are manifested, we should recommend

breathing over the head, termed insufflation, as conducive to the placidity and deeper sleep of the patient, to whom it is soothingly pleasant. A continuation of the passes as far as the feet, and more immediately over the knees, at this juncture, is also prudential; it is said to "attract the fluid down," and thus thoroughly magnetise the whole person. Although assured that true *coma* is now fairly obtained, which is chiefly evidenced by the coldness of the extremities, we would dissuade the operator from *forthwith* endeavouring to elicit a series of phenomena, just as the patient has entered somnambulism. Rather allow her to remain tranquilly at rest for a few minutes, and when the influence has fully asserted itself try catalepsy. Lifting an arm extend it in a straight horizontal direction, and hold it so with one of your hands until you feel the member stiffen and grow rigid in your grasp. If this affection be not easily procured, rub the arm smartly from joint to joint and draw your fingers lightly along it in one line; then dropping the support of your hand, see if it maintain not the position you have given it with unswerving durance. You can move it backward or forward, but depress it ever so forcibly, it will elevate itself again instantly the weight is removed. There is a deadness and insensibility about a catalepsed limb almost akin to the property of a wooden or an iron rod. In some cases catalepsy can be but partially effected, in a few instances not at all. The great virtue and source of all power really consists

in an intensity of volition—a sense of pervading desire and self-assurance on the magnetiser's part, which if wanting, must materially lessen, if not entirely frustrate any degree of notable result. Concentrate the entire energy of your will upon the realization of your purpose, and you make matter subservient to your sway. You thereby institute a sympathy, the basis of the art, and you may thenceforth raise the superstructure at discretion. But adverting again to the main subject of the chapter; there are many operators who neither employ passes nor insufflation in the conduct of magnetism into the system. Contact of the thumbs and long-fixedness of look, alone constitute their process, and where somnambulism is of frequent recurrence, this method is most effectual; it promotes clearness of the faculties, during sleep, though headache is often concomitant; furthermore, it is impotent with individuals at the first sitting, producing little else then dimness of vision, or a feeling of langour in the limbs; it must also be hurtful to the sight, if commonly practised, while the passes relieve the tension of the optic nerve and seem more in consonance with the principles of the science. A bright object, such as a silver pencil-case, or the blade of a pocket-knife is sometimes held slightly projecting at an inclined angle above the patient's head, who is directed to upturn the pupils of the eyes towards it, and contemplate this talisman until the retina loses all perception. An intolerable aching of the neck and distortion of the

muscles, is the sure attendant of such penal exaction, besides the lasting detriment it works the eyes. An abuse of nature's best gift like this, merits the strongest reprehension. It is both awkward and inhuman, to say the least of it.

We shall lastly notice a plan adopted by ourselves when we commenced experiments in the magnetic art, which has met with some favour from a few practitioners of the day, but which we discontinued on the acquisition of further knowledge, as being inconvenient and tiresome in many respects. We proceeded thus:—Placing the patient in a chair fronting a wall at the distance of six feet, we suspended a dark glove or affixed a small conspicuous object to the wall, at a corresponding height, then taking a station behind the chair, we ordered the patient to centre his gaze upon the point marked out, and not to cease looking until incapacitated by obscurity of sight. Bringing our hands before the patient's face from the rear, we conveyed them over the temples, crown and occiput down to the shoulders, and occasionally along the spine: content to repeat this pass, without variation until we ascertained the presence of mesmeric sleep. The patient on waking, however, always complained of megrim, and evinced much agitation for hours subsequent, an affection we could not remedy or obviate while we observed that mode of magnetising. It has fallen into general desuetude of late, and deservedly so from these very reasons. *Experientia docet.*

The coldness we mentioned as indicative of absolute *coma*, is not always characteristic of the somnambulist; several perspire profusely through the hand after sleep has established itself, but there is a damp torpor invariably felt on touching the extremities of a magnetised person, unlike any normal phasis vitality presents. The eyeball, as is the case in ordinary sleep, becomes convulsed towards the upper orbit, while, through the closed lid, it may be seen to revolve and expand with a remarkable movement, immediately preceding the dominion of sleep. Those signs are very inconstant and mutable, it must be remembered, and are never determinable by a consistent rule, as the same person has been known to exhibit different symptons each time of magnetisation.

In concluding this section of our treatise we would heartily exhort the inceptive operator, not to be discouraged or disgusted because of a failure in his first essays, or to give up the active pursuit of a science under the impression that all *his* attempts are destined to prove futile. Magnetise with persistive continuance about the same hour every day, and although apparently unsuccessful at the tenth or twelfth sitting, be no less sanguine of ultimate triumph then if you had elicited a whole series of phenomena by a single wave of the hand; but obtain for your initiate efforts the services of a susceptible and nervously-constituted person, whose temperament you deem favourable to the magnetic action, else despair will withdraw you

from further engaging in a vain and profitless labour, should your mind be not prefortified with the resolute steadfastness which hope undauntedly inspires.

CHAPTER II.

OF THE MESMERIC PHENOMENA.

PREMISING that no uniform tenor of results, can be expected to proceed from the action of principles that have never yet admitted of reduction into a general law, or that the variable and unstable character noted in the operation of the magnetic power, must preclude all chance of systematising its strange developements, we may venture to class that series of phenomena most frequently manifested during the somnambulic trance, under the following distinctive heads:—*Catalepsy*, or a rigid tension of the body in particular parts :—*Clairvoyance*, or a lucid preception of outer and intern things, through the medium of an occult sense, which also includes Intuition—Prevision of two kinds—and many other traits not sufficiently established to rank as attributes of this faculty—*Insensibility*, to acute physical pain—and *Phreno-mesmerism*, or excitation of the organs of the head, by pressure of the finger or breathing over the surface.

To Catalepsy, we have had occasion to advert in the course of the preceding chapter, as demonstrating clearly the presence of magnetic sleep, and affording proof of the wonders wrought by intervention of the will. It is rare that an emotion of suffering from fatigue, will be observed in the patient's demeanour, even when both feet and hands have been extended and catalepsed more than twenty minutes or half an hour. The fingers may droop a little from their first elevation, and the stiffness relax gradually, as the time the arm is sustained grows longer, but its losing inflexibility can be at once restored by the operator instituting the cataleptic pases anew, or merely bringing the limb to its former level.

The way in which the patient is freed from this catalepsed rigidity is simply the inverse of the means taken to induce it. You either insufflate or pass your hands in a contrary direction to that observed in performing the phenomenon, bending the joints at the same moment, to see whether they be rendered pliant and naturally supple again, as you place back the member in a position of ease and give the muscles their wonted elasticity. Should you keep an arm or leg extended in this state an unjustifiable length of time, the patient, on awaking, will feel much more acutely sensations of physical fatigue, than had he experienced the proper pain while it was being so wantonly inflicted. Chafing the wearied part is then the only remedy or alleviation of the dis-

tress he endures, but much suffering must be borne ere composure can even thus be regained. Catalepsy should never be maintained above three minutes, or five at the very furthest in a case of the strongest tension; that space will amply suffice every purpose of demonstration, and charity prescribes a shortened test. Among the numerous startling experiments in catalepsy, we may recite two of the most curious and effective; our limits prevent us embodying one half the phenomena discovered in the different phases. By putting one of the patient's fingers upon a minute point of a wall or table, and catalepsing the whole arm in a line with the spot which the finger covers, the patient will find it almost impossible to lift or remove the finger thus attached, until the inverse passes have been made. If both arms be catalepsed, and a combative propensity excited in the somnambulist, although internally prompted to strike some object with his fists, he cannot use his arms as he desires, or move them but feebly until the rigidity is loosened—so great a sway can the magnetiser exercise over his subjected fellow-creature in this condition of the frame.

Of Clairvoyance, the most astounding and parodoxical faculty remarked in somnambulism it will be hard to write in positive terms, and be credited. We may pledge ourselves that every statement is authentic, but what is there to testify to our honesty? Nothing but the sight and hearing of some thousand perplexed and mystified people. Truly, "are there more things

in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy," and every day has a new verification of the sage apophthegm. Is it right or reasonable to refuse belief, because our comprehension cannot master a seeming miracle? No one understands the manner of his being, and yet all are conscious of endowment with life. No mortal ever knew the essence of divinity, then why puts the world faith in an uncreate intelligence? The creed we learn from others forms prejudice; what we acquire ourselves is comparative wisdom. We are unwilling to abandon old opinions though lack of courage to investigate new facts, and fear that our long-cherished modes of thinking may be proved fallacious, should we admit the certainty of fresh revelations; like the conduct of a gentleman present at a late mesmeric exhibition, who, perceiving that if he remained a spectator somewhile, his mind must undergo a thorough reform and his scepticism vanish, from what he had already beheld, left the place hastily and in secret dread, exclaiming "mere illusion, mere counterfeit!" Many also entertain a private persuasion of truths they are ashamed openly to avow, and with a slavish deference for society's conceit withhold from science the benefit of a public profession. But it is not reserved for us to amend the moral character of the age, and having been once stiff-necked recusants ourselves, it becomes us to be considerate in judging the obduracy of others; besides, if the reader takes up this book in an infidel spirit, determined to receive nothing that

he deems not demonstrated before him, he may as well lay it down with all imaginable complacency and consign it to the shelf. Lend us the whole quantum of faith you possess, and when we sin against our conscience let your shrewdness detect our falsity.

In the first stages of somnambulic sleep, the patient has generally very confused and embarrassed ideas of his condition. Some cannot fancy that they are asleep, and express themselves quite intelligent of all that is doing around them; the closed eyelids being the sole apparent indication of their differing from a waking state. The head is often as erect and the respiration quite as light as when awake, while in others, the deportment evidences the heaviest slumber.

Frequent sighs and sudden jerkings of the head, termed *subsultus*, distinguish the comatose state of a number of patients, which latter affection has been ignorantly mistaken for convulsive fits. It is mostly observable in persons who are excited previous to magnetisation, and who are timorous about its effects upon themselves:—there is no reason, however, to apprehend the least danger from these nervous motions, they being merely characteristic of a peculiar sleep, and only incident to few. After two or three sittings it will be advisable to ascertain if your patient be susceptible of lucidity or isolation, and this may be learned by questioning him in an undertone, of his ability to see things without. It is probable you can elicit no reply for some time, as his faculties open progressively

to a sympathy with yours, and he is as yet scarcely sensible of a communication of thought. Wait a little, and touching his hand gently, repeat your inquiry with a slow emphatic utterance, pausing deliberately after each word. If you incline your lips to his ear when speaking, it will be all the better, for as his senses may be deadened by stupor, the sound requires to be strongly conveyed. In case he should evince difficulty of articulation, breathe over the mouth, and place your fingers under the roof of the eyes, and failing to get an answer after these expedients, we would recommend you to suspend further interrogation until somnolency leaves the mind at greater liberty.

Having allowed a brief interval to elapse, address him, once more, in a kind, conciliating manner, and if unsuccessful now, forbear the experiment until another opportunity. Supposing him to reply, "I do," proceed to test his power, by entreating him to name any object in your hand, while you interpose a shade between his eyes and the substance you hold—keeping your fingers still over his pupils, as the pressure seems materially to aid the vision in an inexplicable way. Request him also not to answer at random, but fully to satisfy himself of the shape and properties of whatever you present; let it be something with which he is familiar, and of a distinct, tangible appearance, such as a book, a key, a hat, &c. If he tells half a dozen objects correctly, you may consider his lucidity as established, provided the eyes have

been well secured, but being assured that he is asleep, what necessity for this precaution? To submit his divination to a higher, though similar test, procure a book or advertisement with large print, and at the distance of a yard, ask him to read it aloud. Should he declare himself unable to do so, inquire when he believes he can, and in all likelihood he will predict the exact minute. Be careful to renew the question, and solicit him afresh at the appointed time. He will then pronounce audibly, after a little hesitating effort, the words and sentences contained in the paper you exhibit. This attests him to be perfectly clairvoyant, and you may reckon on a future developement of all the kindred phenomena. Bandaging the eyes is always an equivocal measure, and should never be resorted to at the most urgent instigation of a bystander; inasmuch as the heat which accedes to the head, during profound *coma*, must be oppressively heightened by the close apposition of a thick woollen shawl, silk kerchief, &c., fastened perhaps with suffocating tightness at the pole, and the faculty of perception thereby intrinsecally impaired. A sheet of pasteboard, or a large tray held before the eyes, so as to allow the operator's fingers to rest on the lids, will be best substituted, the adjunct of strong light being altogether needless, in fact the more darkened the room is, the more luminous and distinct do objects appear to the clairvoyant somnambulist.

The magnetiser should bear in mind that his patient's discernment, by whatever means,

derives much help from his informing himself accurately of the nature and relation of that object or place he wishes to have described, and thus, by volition and sympathy, conveying to the other an intimation of his own knowledge. Cases have nevertheless occurred in which an entire page of printed matter, has been deciphered on the patient's part, while the magnetiser was totally ignorant of any portion of its contents. An appreciation of time to exactness, has been often memorably developed by somnambulists, who seeming far from lucid, have told the hour by a watch or clock with wonderful precision, although no time-piece of any description was within sight or near at hand at the moment. This is an experiment, which if successful, generally gives great satisfaction to half-converted people ;—it somehow touches their humour more effectively then manifestations of the highest character.

In this paragraph we come to review the sublime instincts of Intuition, one of the most doubted, yet most consistent attributes of sleep-waking, but as we have been only in one instance fortunate enough to witness a fair developement of its subtle penetrancy, we shall record the case in another division of the work, citing at present the definition of its pecular agencies from acknowledged authority on the subject. A patient in this condition is said to obtain a thorough insight to his own internal, mental, and physical state—is enabled to foresee with the utmost precision, the phases of disease

which will inevitably befall him, and to determine what are their appropriate and most efficacious remedies—can see and pourtray the constitution of his organic functions, in which the least disorder or minutest change cannot escape the investigation of the somnambulist, and possesses the same faculty of internal inspection, with regard to other individuals, placed *(en rapport)* in mesmeric connection with him. The Rev. Mr. Townshend, commenting upon the popular reception of these facts, in his "Reasons for a dispassionate inquiry into Mesmerism," writes to the following effect:—

"The mesmeriser witnesses the wonder, but does not feel it in himself: the sleep-waker, who is the subject of it, seems incapable of analysing his new sensations while they last, still more of remembering them when they are over. The state of mesmerism is to him as death. He cannot when he awakes reveal the mysteries of that great deep. His mesmeric feelings are to him as though they had never been; and less favored, in this respect, even than they who have beheld him in his usual condition, he is forced to take his own actions upon trust and to exercise his own faith, while he draws so largely upon the realizing faculty of others.

"It is manifest, then, that we cannot believe in the clairvoyance of sleep-wakers, in the same manner as we believe and know that we ourselves know and see with our eyes;—it is a fact which transcends our present understanding,

"To what end, then, it may be asked, should

I state phenomena which will be believed by few, and perfectly comprehended by none? Because many things that are mysteries, are nevertheless, profitable subjects of contemplation. Whatever is beyond our actual state of being is confessedly out of the pale of empirical knowledge! Yet shall we, on that account banish the higher developements of nature from our thoughts? Were all our ideas confined to that which we certainly know, the domain of our intellect would be limited indeed. Besides, by careful study, we may always *extend*, though we cannot *complete* our apprehension of things above us; and by discovering their analogy to things already known, bring them at least nearer to our experience. Clearly, then, where there is so much room for progress, it is our duty to advance, remembering that the point where we should abandon enterprise has not yet been decided."

We shall here subjoin the conclusions of the Report of the French Commissioners, delivered in the year 1831 by M. Husson, to the Academy of Medicine. They will impart a more correct notion of the science, and its principles of action, than any recital of the phenomena, beyond this point, we could possibly give; and should always be included at length in every publication on a similar subject.

"The conclusions of the report are the result of the observations of which it is composed.

1. "The contact of the thumbs or of the hands, frictions, or certain gestures made at a

short distance from the body, and called *passes*, are the means employed to place ourselves in magnetic connection, or in other words to transmit the action of the magnetiser to the magnetised.

2. "The means which are external and visible are not in all cases necessary, since on many occasions, the will, fixedness of look, have sufficed to produce magnetic phenomena, even without the knowledge of the patient.

3. "Magnetism has acted on persons of different sexes and ages.

4. "The time requisite to transmit and convey the magnetic influence, has varied from an hour to a minute.

5. "Magnetism does not generally take effect upon individuals in good health.

6. "Neither does it operate upon all sick persons.

7. "During the process of magnetising, there are sometimes manifested insignificant and momentary effects, which may not be attributed to magnetism solely, such as a slight degree of oppression, heat or cold, and some other nervous phenomena, which can be accounted for without the intervention of a particular agent, on the principle of hope or of fear, prejudice, and the anticipation of something strange and new, the *ennui* engendered by the monotony of the gestures, the silence and quiet observed during the experiments, and lastly, by the imagination which exercises so great an ascendancy over some minds and certain organisms.

8. "A certain number of the effects remarked, have seemed to us as dependent on magnetism alone, and are not produced without its action.

9. "The real effects produced by magnetism are very diverse. It agitates some, tranquillises others. It ordinarily causes a temporary acceleration of the respiration and circulation; sudden convulsive movements of the fibres, resembling electric shocks; stupor, in a greater or a less degree; somnolency, and in a few instances that which magnetisers call *somnambulism*.

10. "The existence of an uniform character, to make known, on all occasions, the reality of a somnambulic state, has not yet been established.

11. "We may certainly conclude, however, that this state exists when it induces the developement of new faculties, which have been designated *clairvoyance; intuition; internal prevision;* or when it effects great changes in the physical economy, as *insensibility;* a considerable augmentation of strength; and when these results cannot be imputed to any other cause.

12. "As among the effects ascribed to somnambulism, there are some which may be feigned—somnambulism itself may at times be simulated, and furnish to charlatanism the means of deception.

13. "Sleep produced with more or less readiness, and more or less profound, is a real but inconstant effect of magnetism.

14. "We are satisfied that it has been brought about, in circumstances where those magnetise could not see, or were ignorant of the means employed to occasion it.

15. "After a person has once been subjected to the magnetic sleep, there is not always a necessity to have recourse to contact or passes, in order to magnetise anew. The look of the magnetiser, his will alone, have an equal influence on the person. He can thus not only act upon the magnetised person, but even place him in a complete somnambulism, and take him out of it without his knowledge, away from his sight, at a certain distance, and through closed doors.

16. "There commonly happen changes, more or less remarkable, in the perceptions and faculties of those individuals who fall into somnambulism from the effect of magnetism.

"Some, amidst the noise of confused conversation, hear only their magnetiser's voice; several answer precisely the questions put to them by the latter or those persons near them, others carry on conversation with all the persons around them; however, they seldom understand what passes around them. During the greater part of the time, they are completely strangers to the external and unexpected noise made close to their ears, such as the sound of metallic vessels forcibly struck, the fall of any heavy substance, &c.

"The eyes are closed, the eyelids yield with difficulty to the efforts which are made to open

them. This operation which is not without pain, allows one to see the eyeball convulsed, and directed towards the upper and sometimes towards the lower part of the orbit.

"Sometimes the sense of smell is, as it were, abolished. They may be made to respire hydrochloric acid or ammonia, without their suffering inconvenience from it, or without their even suspecting it. The contrary occurs in certain cases, and they are sensible to odours.

"Most of the somnambulists that we have seen were completely insensible. One might tickle their feet, nostrils, and the corner of the eyes by the approach of a feather, pinch their skin, and prick it under the nails with pins to a considerable depth, without their evincing any pain, or being at all concious of it. We have seen a person who was insensible to one of the most painful operations of surgery, and whose countenance, pulse, or breathing, did not evidence the smallest affection.

17. "Magnetism has the same promptness and intensity felt at the distance of six feet as of six inches, and the phenomena thereby developed are assimilated in both cases.

18. "The action at a distance does not seem capable of being exercised with success, except on individuals who have been already subjected to magnetism.

19. "We have not remarked that a person magnetised for the first time went into a state of somnanbulism; sometimes it was not till the

eighth or tenth sitting that somnambulism declared itself.

20. "While in this state of somnambulism, the magnetised persons, we have observed, retain the exercise of their waking faculties. Their memory even appears to be more faithful and more retentive, since, they recollect what has passed during the whole time, and on every occasion that they have been in the somnambulic state.

21. "Upon awaking, they say that they have altogether forgotten the circumstances pertaining to the state of somnambulism, and that they never remember them again. In this respect, we can have no other assurance than their own affirmations.

22. "The muscular strength of somnambulists becomes sometimes weakened and paralysed; at other times, their movements are constrained, and somnambulists walk or stagger like drunken people, without avoiding, though again carefully passing the obstacles they encounter in going along. There are some who preserve unimpaired the exercise of their powers of moving, and are found to be even stronger and more active than in the waking state.

23. "We have seen two somnambulists who distinguished with closed eyes the objects placed before them; they mentioned, without touching them, the colour and the value of cards; they read words traced with the hand, as also some lines of books opened at random. This phenomenon took place, even when the eyelids were kept securely closed with the fingers.

24. "In two somnambulists we met the faculty of foreseeing the acts of the organism, more or less remote, more or less complex. One of them announced, several months anterior, the day, the hour, and the minute when epileptic fits would come on and return. The other announced the period of the cure. Their previsions were realized with wonderful exactness. They seemed to us only to apply to acts or injuries of their system.

25. "We have found but one somnambulist who described the symptoms of the disease of three persons, with whom she had been placed in magnetic contact. We had instituted experiments, however, on a considerable number.

26. "Some of the magnetised patients felt no benefit from the treatment; others experienced a more or less marked relief:—viz.—one, the suppression of habitual ailment;—another, the return of his strength;—a third, a retardation for several months of epileptic attacks;—and a fourth, the complete cure of a severe paralysis, of long standing.

27. "The commission has not been able to verify, for the want of opportunity, other faculties which magnetisers have declared to exist in somnambulists; but it has collected and communicated facts of sufficient importance to induce it to think that the Academy ought to encourage the researches on Animal Magnetism, as a very curious branch of psychology and natural history."

The above conclusions of this notable Report

—of which we have, in transcribing, omitted a few immaterial paragraphs—were signed by nine members of the commission, men whose honor, veracity, and wisdom, could not be questioned, and whose zeal in an investigation of three or four years, on such abstruse points, was only equalled by the integrity of their united and ultimate judgment. A strong impression was created among the Academy at first, and among society afterwards, when those results were published; but, although many doubts and surmises were raised, few convictions were effected. Since that period, all the debatable phenomena have been established by the demonstration of repeated facts, and much more extraordinary features of the science, than are here represented have been developed through the instrumentality of modern professors. Husson's report has, however, come to be regarded as the touchstone of mesmeric philosophy in all countries, and every new discovery referred to it as a warrant for its corroboration, or a ground of its belief.

An experiment on the sympathetic feeling and physical insensibility of some mesmerisees may be thus performed. Let the magnetiser, taking one of the patient's hands firmly in his own, stand at the side, or towards the back of the chair which the patient occupies, and giving his other hand to a person present, tell the latter in a whisper to puncture his (the magnetiser's hand) pretty sharply with a needle, or a gold pin. Hardly will the point have entered his

flesh, ere the mesmerisee may be observed to exhibit an expression of annoyance, and to move his disengaged hand, as though he were himself directly punctured.

To test the individual isolation of a patient in an inverse manner, prick or pinch his own hand with equal force, and though it be done ever so suddenly or unexpectedly, he will not manifest the smallest disquiet or betray a symptom of suffering, should his countenance be watched most narrowly the while.

The ability of applying this passive insensibility to medical science, has been so often proved and confirmed by the numberless cases of amputation, extirpated cancer, and other surgical operations effected during the comatose state, without consciousness on the mesmerisee's part, that a recital of similar instances in a work so limited as this, would be both tedious and out of place; besides, the more comprehensive and accurate accounts given elsewhere, entirely supersede the necessity of our dwelling upon so familiar a theme. Our business has respect to the exposition of those branches of the art, with which the general class of readers may be supposed less intimate, and we therefore leave the consideration of mesmerism as a therapeutic agent in the hands of the faculty, who are best qualified to judge of its remedial virtues. Experiments on the Taste, and with galvanic metals, may be also tried in the majority of magnetised patients with uniform success. Let the operator take the somnam-

bulist's hand, and putting some acid or pungent matter in his own mouth, so that it may touch his palate, ask the other what it is he tastes. If the reply be correct, allow the flavour of each substance or liquid to pass in some measure from your palate, before you try a different thing, as the patient's perception must become confused, by too quick a succession of experiments. If several persons join their hands in order—the first holding the mesmerisee's palm in his, and the mesmeriser grasping the fingers of the remotest, the sympathy of taste and feeling will be as well transmitted as though both operator and patient were in actual contact.

If two glasses containing pure water be procured, and the operator taking one of them aside, breathes a few times strongly over the surface of the liquid and dips his fingers also twice or thrice down to the bottom of the vessel, and should the water thus magnetised be presented to the patient, and he be requested to drink, he will upon swallowing the first mouthfull either make a wry face, indicative of dislike, and refuse to drink more, or, when questioned, define the taste as peculiar and unpleasant. Offer him the water that has not been touched, and he will find no fault with it, but allay his thirst contentedly, though it must be excepted to this statement that many mesmerisees will prefer the insufflated potion to any else, and consume with avidity whatever the magnetiser has thus charmed.

Place two somnambulists back to back, in an

erect posture, and make passes between each. and downwards along the sides, then let them support one another, and the exertion of your main strength will scarcely divide them, although applied to both their shoulders. Take a hand of either of the patients, and whatever affection is produced in one, will be conveyed to the other instantaneously, by this conjunction of their persons. They can be easily separated on drawing your fingers upwards from the feet, and pressing the arms as you ascend: let them then be reconducted to their seats.

These are merely a few of the experiments which may be tried, and manifestations it is possible to elicit in Animal Magnetism. Every person who studies the subject will be continually hitting upon new phenomena; but we should wish to call especial attention to one other experiment, which tends, in some measure, to prove a relation between Animal Magnetism and the more perfected sciences of Galvanism and Voltaic Electricity. Take two counters of wood, ivory, or any other such material, and place one in either hand of the patient; you will find that there is not the slightest disposition evinced to retain or grasp them: then substitute two pieces of silver or gold—say a pair of half-crowns—instead of the counters. The patient will generally clutch them with firmness, and on bringing the hands together there will probably appear but a slight degree of attraction. Now replace one of the half-crowns with a piece of zinc, which the patient will instan-

taneously grasp with convulsive energy; bring the hands into contact again, and to render the coalition of the metals more complete, moisten their edges a little with water or some mineral acid. The hands by the agency of the metals contained in them, will now be so forcibly attracted together, that the united power of two strong men will be required to divide them, and on discontinuing the attempt at separation, they will again fly together with inconceivable vehemence, which is sustained until the metals are removed from the grasp. This may be easily effected by pressing the finger on the organ of Benevolence, situate a little above the forehead. But although so great an exertion of strength is required to pull the hands asunder in a horizontal direction, the least effort will suffice to part them vertically. We would recommend that the counters of silver and zinc, used in this trial, should be of the same size and shape, as however immaterial to the success of the experiment, spectators are apt to entertain the idea of collusion, should the patient be able to distinguish the respective substances employed by their different forms.

Every one conversant with the sciences of Voltaic Electricity and Electro Magnetism, is aware that the reciprocal action of two metals, such as zinc and silver, constitutes the means by which the curious effects obtained in those sciences are produced; and it may not be out of place here to remark that Voltaic Electricity of itself occasions some very extraordinary

effects upon the Human frame. It possesses more power over the chemical actions of the body than Electricity, and promotes more completely the processes of decomposition and recomposition, which take place in the living system, as well as the functions of organic life, than common Electricity. Each pole also excites peculiar phenomena in the organs to which it is applied. This is very perceptible when a continuous stream of galvanic influence is transmitted from one point of the body to another. The positive pole more particularly influences the muscular and vascular system, while the negative pole more immediately affects the nervous system. At the positive pole there is felt the shocks, strong movements, a feeling of concentration and contraction, increased warmth and mobility of the part, with gradual diminution of the secretion and sensibility. At the negative pole, the pain and sensibility is stronger and more acute; the organ is more irritable, while the muscular action and mobility are lessened.

We will not here proceed further in investigating the probable connection between these established sciences and the nascent one of Animal Magnetism, but will now refer the reader to the more interesting subject of Phreno-mesmerism, which is of such importance as to demand a separate chapter for its consideration.

CHAPTER III.

OF PHRENO-MAGNETISM.

The discovery that the cerebral organs might be excited into active manifestation, during mesmeric sleep, was made within a very recent period, and promulgated through England and America about the same time. Mr. Gardiner, a gentleman who had magnetised a female patient by the ordinary passes, happened, while she was in the somnambulic trance, to play a few notes upon a musical instrument, and he noticed that she marked the time with a lateral motion of her head. He then sounded some tones without regard to harmony; the woman shuddered and seemed to be distressed. He questioned her as to the cause of her uneasiness; she replied she was in pain; and it being inquired where, she placed a finger of each hand on the organs of Tune. This suggested to the operator the existence of an affinity between the Phenological and mesmeric sciences, and having communicated the circumstance to others, a further developement of the various faculties and propensities was tested with unexampled success. Mr. Spencer T. Hall, of Sheffield, who adopted these principles, attracted much public attention to the matter by his ingenious lectures upon the new phenomena, and lately commenced a serial work, entitled the Phreno-

magnet, chronicling the progress of the science, which is still published monthly. Many objections have been taken to the theory and system of Phreno-magnetism; its positions have been greatly disputed, and its manifestations ridiculed, but it has nevertheless prevailed and received support among the intelligent classes, ever since its first developement. That the will of the magnetiser can alone excite a particular faculty, without the intervention of that organ whence it is deduced, has—excepting an isolated case or two—been long disproved, inasmuch, as a total unbeliever may call into action any feeling he chooses, by the simple application of the finger, although he wishes strongly at the same time that a far different result should be produced. It has again been urged that the patients operated on, may possess a knowledge of the several localities to which the organs are assigned, and thus follow the course that they think ought to be observed, when a particular region of the head is pressed from without. Now, granting that they are acquainted with Phrenology, how is it, that individuals on the excitation of melody, will begin to sing a certain air, or hum a favorite tune, and continue to do so, so long as the place is kept compressed, but when the finger is removed they will abruptly cease, and on renewing the contact on that organ, after half an hour has elapsed—many contrary manifestations having been, perhaps, elicited in the mean while—they will resume the same air, at the same word, in the very middle

of a syllable, at the proper bar, following the part at which they had desisted so long a time before? The memory of persons in a waking state, does not generally prove so accurately retentive. And how comes it to pass, moreover, that patients selected from the lowest and most illiterate grades of the community, who cannot by any possibility, have received the smallest inkling of Phrenology, or any other *ology*, during their untaught life, exhibit quite as correct and remarkable a series of phenomena as the profoundest student of the cranium who breathes? We are swerving from the rule of guidance, however, that we proposed to ourselves at the outset, in adducing these arguments on behalf of our belief. It is right we should restrict our future labours to an exposition of authenticated facts alone.

There are some organs, people are well aware, which are yet merely surmised, and others not sufficiently established to warrant us in anticipating an uniform demonstration of their peculiar qualities, and it is also equally well known, that the seat of new-found faculties is being constantly developed in the cerebral structure.

A certain trait of character is observed to predominate in an individual, who is distinguished by a peculiar conformation of the head, in a part unappropriated to a fixed organ; the same appearance is remarked with all of a similar idiosyncrasy, and there is consequently a new acquisition to phrenology thus attained; but we

would dissuade the tyro in this art from trying manipulation upon any organs except those that are fully ascertained, having also regard to those which are most strongly developed, in each particular case experimented on. It will also be found that much more satisfactory demonstrations can he produced on the animal propensities by inexperienced hands, than on the intellectual faculties, without long consideration and study of the system. It not only requires great tact in the handling, and an accurate knowledge of the relative positions, but it is necessary to understand the method of combining several analogous and concurrent capacities, before you can properly elicit a due manifestation of a single organ; for instance, unless Wit, Comparison, and Language are excited together, the qualities of the first-named endowment will not be fully displayed; an attempt at a sickly smile is, perhaps, the sole effect you produce on touching that organ by itself; whereas, on the three we specified being brought into co-operation, a fine outburst of eloquent raillery will be the probable result, and so it is with all the others. Now the inferior developements, or in other words, those of the animal propensities in the hinder region of the skull, are susceptible of a very energetic demonstration, on the magnetic influence being concentred on each separately, they appear to be as it were more independent of each other than the intellectual faculties, and consequently the merest novice, or even the accidental contact of a by-stander will

produce very marked and decided manifestations of those organs. We shall enumerate, for the the information of the reader, a few of those faculties, sentiments, and affections which may be excited singly and plurally, so far as we ourselves have learned their most judicious evolution, intimating, however, that we are liable to correction, in submitting this order of developement. If Philoprogenitiveness, which as a parental feeling, is sometimes called Parentiveness, situate at the lower portion of the back of the head, immediately above a perceptible projection of bone, and almost in the centre of the occiput, be first exactly ascertained, and then touched with the finger somewhat aslant, the patient, should the instinct be large, and especially a female, will raise the arms as though in the act of embracing a child, and then dandle some fancied object with the tenderest concern, kissing it now and then in eager delight. If Adhesiveness, lying a little above on either side, be also manipulated, the affection will be even more strongly exhibited, in fact carried to an extreme. Directly the operator's fingers are removed, these emotions will cease, and the patient relapse into an indifferent attitude; but at times, when the pressure has been a long while maintained upon an organ or a set of organs, the action elicited does not become as instantly arrested, but only gradually subsides after the stimulating cause has been withdrawn. This, however, is not of frequent occurrence, and may in general be entirely prevented, by gently passing

the hands over the part of the head which has been excited. Insufflation, or as it may be termed, blowing the breath over an organ, that has just been manipulated, is always an advisable measure. It dissipates the sensation in that part, and contributes to the general quiescence of the patient. Questions may be advantageously put to the person magnetised, while an organ is being excited, relating to their state of mind and disposition to act,—what they feel prompted to do, and desiring them to comply with the tendency of the suggestion.

Combativeness, nearer to the ears than Adhesiveness, can be brought into manifestation either singly or conjointly with Firmness, lying on the top or coronal part of the head. The pressure of the latter organ induces the generality of patients to rise from their seats, and stand with erect bearing, so long as the finger is maintained, but unless somnambulism be very perfect, the instant the operator's hand is withdrawn the patient will fall backward, and if not supported, perhaps, injure himself; care must therefore be taken to prevent this consequence. In other cases, an effort to hold the body upright, accompanied with a resolute expression of the countenance, is all that is observed, while occasionally there is little or no manifestation produced, arising from the small developement of that organ. When Combativeness and Firmness are excited together, the pugnacious effect is sometimes considerable, and the unwary by-stander may receive a blow rather energetically deli-

vered, which if resented, seldom fails to lead to a downright encounter. Where the developement is moderate, an unamiable and quarrelsome disposition may be merely provoked, which evinces itself more in a display of ill-temper and in wordy ire than in an attempt at pugilistic aggression.

The organ of Destructiveness, which is situated behind the back and upper part of the ear, generally produces a very strong manifestation, although it is shewn in different individuals in different ways. We have seen some clutch the sleeves of their coats, and violently tear the same; others will lay hold of the operator, or any one standing near, and woe betide the unhappy wight in this situation, unless the manifestation of the organ is very speedily repressed. Excite Combativeness at the same time, and the effect is still stronger; but the simplest and and most convenient method of demonstrating this organ, is by placing a letter or sheet of paper in the patient's hands, which he will immediately rend in pieces and scatter around.

The organ of Acquisitiveness, is situate a little above the hinder part of the ear, and although in some patients, it is one of easy excitation, yet, in the majority of cases, no manifestations, can be produced. We have seen one case, in which the person under its influence picked a pocket, with all the adroitness of an experienced thief; but the more satisfactory way of proving the existence of this organ, and the power of magnetism in promoting its temporary

developement, is by putting questions to the patient, as before suggested, and in the way hereafter particularly pointed out, and noting the replies and actions dependent on those inquiries.

The excitation of the organ of Cautiousness or Fear will frequently produce such a beautiful expression of fear in the countenance, as to render the person under its influence a perfect study for a painter, or a model for a sculptor, wishing to delineate that passion, The head is drawn back, the hands protended, and every lineament of the face tells plainer than language can express, the feelings by which the person acted on, is for the time affected. When in conjunction with Combativeness, a feeling of cowardice appears to be elicited. With Acquisitiveness, the countenance betrays a species of wary selfishness or cunning. Some organs, on the contrary, entirely neutralize the effect—thus, Cautiousness and Firmness together will usually produce no manifestation, except a slight restlessness in the patient, and as a general rule, discordant organs ought never to be stimulated at the same time. Love of Approbation and Self-Esteem, both of which organs lie close together, and immediately beneath Firmness, likewise betray the inward workings of the mind in the countenance. No where is there a more apt illustration of the proverb, that "the countenance is an index of the mind." The self-satisfied smirk that is occasionally produced by the excitation of these organs is highly amusing. It

is very interesting to witness the first degree, and the working up of the feelings, when you excite the organ slowly, by first pointing at it, and then gradually bringing the finger into contact. Self-Esteem is capable of combination with various other organs—for instance, Firmness—when we have seen a case of the patient instantly rising and flouncing about with the utmost self-importance.

Secretiveness, which is situated immediately above Destructiveness, is not of such a nature as of itself to produce any very perceptible manifestation; but when combined with Acquisitiveness, it usually heightens the effects elicited by exciting that organ, in a considerable degree.

In that portion of the head, which is appropriated to what are termed the moral sentiments, there are four or five organs, the excitement of which, by means of the mesmeric influence, has tended more than any thing else to convince the sceptic and confound the obstinate unbeliever. —These are Firmness, Veneration, Benevolence, Conscientiousness, &c. Firmness has been already fully descanted on.

The organ of Veneration is on the crown of the head, adjoining Firmness, but a little nearer the forehead, and is strongly developed in most persons. Nature has imbued every one with an instinctive feeling of reverence and veneration for his Creator; and this organ has also a secondary use—that of inspiring due respect and deference to parents and those who are placed over us. It is in consequence usually susceptible of being very beautifully demonstrated. In

general, on the organ of Veneration being excited, the knees are bent and the hands raised in adoration of the Most High. When combined with Language, a prayer is uttered; and when with the organ of Melody, the patient is frequently known to break forth into a hymn or psalm. Combined with Hope, the features become illuminated, and often beam with a feeling of ecstacy—the hands become unclasped and move about with the utmost delight, and when Ideality is added, the ecstacy is still increased.—These instances take place when the patient is naturally susceptible to religious impressions: but when that is not the case, still a manifestation may be shewn by an unusual degree of respect and deference to the operator and to the persons around, or by an attitude of humility, such as bending the head.

Benevolence, which immediately adjoins Veneration, and is still nearer the forehead, when excited, brings all the better feelings of human nature into display; it appears to open the heart as well as the purse of the person under its influence. By gestures and motions, he appears to feel a sympathy in some imaginary case of distress; he commonly takes money from his pocket, and holds it forth with the intention of relieving a supposed supplicant. Remove the finger from the organ, and the hand usually falls powerless to his side, while the features, instead of the mildness, charity and benevolence, previously depicted on them, immediately resume their former rigidity. This organ is

frequently excited by mesmerisers for the purpose of relieving any painful rigidity in the limbs of the person magnetised, which it is sometimes difficult otherwise to dispel, and is almost the only means of getting the metals, mentioned in a former experiment, out af the hands of the person grasping them.

Imitation, the organs of which extend on each side of Benevolence, is certainly the most amusing subject of demonstration in the whole course of the Phrenological developements; but, at the same time, it is the most uncertain in its operation, and when once excited, it is more difficult to soothe and lull to rest than any of the other organs. While under the influence of this faculty, there is an irresistible impulse to imitate every noise or motion made, not only by the operator, but by any one in the room; and any noises, even the most unusual ones, are instantaneously imitated with the greatest exactness. We have called this an uncertain organ, because we have, on one or two occasions, found Imitation to be excited by pressing the tip of the middle finger of the hand, during the time the arm is extended in a catalepsed state; and Imitation has, in some few cases, been developed without any intention to do so on the part of the operator. This may have possibly been the result of some accidental circumstance; but as it appeared to us at the time a complete anomaly, we think it right to mention it here, as we attempt to build up no theory, but merely to state facts as they have occurred to us.

The organ of Wit is on the outer side of and a little below Imitation, and when stimulated by itself can only exhibit the outward sign of smiling or laughter; but it in some degree influences almost all the other organs when combined with them.—Thus, with Self-Esteem, it will produce sarcastic sneers;—with Benevolence, liveliness and good humour;—with Language, smart answers, satire, and clever repartees; and when Melody is excited at the same time, it generally causes the person under its influence to break forth into a comic or sprightly song.

There is only one organ among the group, which are termed Intellectual Faculties, which we shall particularly specify, and which deserves notice on account of the marked effects exhibited by it.—It is that of "Harmony," and is usually excited in conjuncton with the adjoining and partially analogous organ of "Time." They are situate immediately below "Wit," and about an inch above the eye-brow. We must first remark, that it requires a susceptibility to musical impressions, that is to say a fondness for music, and some knowledge of it in the person operated on, to enable any experiments on this organ to succeed properly. Let the organs be touched, and the patient will immediately begin either humming a tune, or singing some favourite song, and probably also beat time with his hands or feet. Let the finger be taken off the organ,—the patient will immediately cease and relapse into insensibility.—Again

excite the organ, and the tune is taken up at the exact place and note it was left off, although some considerable time may have intervened. Keeping a finger still on the organs of Harmony, touch Wit also;—the strain is immediately changed to one of a lively nature, probably a comic song. Now, move the finger to Veneration, and we have, in several instances, heard a solemn strain or hymn immediately taken up. Repeat these experiments as often as you please, and in any way you please, and they will seldom fail.

A person under the influence of this organ is equally susceptible of music played by others, from which he appears to derive the utmost delight. Sound but a false note, and he at once shews his painful appreciation of it by the change in his countenance. Is this acting? If so, we may well say, how wonderful! In fact, it is impossible that many of the cases we have seen of the manifestations of this, as well as of other mesmerised organs, could be simulated, apart from the consideration of what possible motives the parties could have in wishing or attempting to deceive.

We have, as yet, mentioned those organs only, of which the manifestations are external, or which may be rendered visible to the eye; but it must not be supposed that the other organs are not equally capable of being brought out and demonstrated, although a different course must be adopted. We are aware that many persons fail in producing the Phrenological mani-

festations, which probably originates, in the first instance, from ignorance of the proper method in which to set about it; and afterwards, from a nervousness and want of confidence, engendered by their early failures. We think it therefore advisable to give the following directions for operating, as recommended by Mr. Braid.

Put the patient in the mesmeric sleep, in the usual way; extend the arms for a minute or two, then replace them gently on his lap, and allow him to remain perfectly quiet for a few minutes. Let one or two fingers be now placed on the central points of any of his best developed organs, and press very gently. If no change of countenance or bodily movement is evinced, use gentle friction, and then, in a soft voice, ask of what he is thinking; what he would like or wish to do, or what he sees, as the function of the organ may indicate, and repeat the questions, and the pressure, or contact, or friction over the organ until an answer is elicited. If very stolid, gentle pressure over the organ of Language (on the eye-balls,) may be necessary to induce him to speak. If the skin is too sensitive, he may awake, in which case try again, waiting a little longer. The operations should be tried again and again with the same patient, varying the time of beginning the manipulations, as it is impossible to tell *a priori*, the exact moment they should be commenced, and many of the best cases have only succeeded partially, or not at all, at the first or second trial. When this point has been hit upon, however, there will be

little difficulty in getting out additional manifestations, and this will be still more evident at each succeeding trial.

Whispering or talking should be carefully avoided by all present, so as to leave nature to manifest herself in her own way, influenced only by the stimulus conveyed through each particular organ.

In a very sensitive case, or one which has been before frequently acted on, actual contact of any organ is not always necessary, although with pressure the result is more speedily obtained. Strong manifestations can often be procured by simply pointing with the finger, at the distance of about an inch, so as to direct a current of the magnetic fluid on the spot, and afterwards diffusing it over the organs, by moving the finger in a small circle around, still keeping it at the same distance from the head of the patient. Even breathing over the organ you are desirous of exciting, is occasionally sufficient to produce the required results.

We have thought it necessary to be thus full in our remarks on the method to be adopted in producing the Phreno-mesmeric phenomena, as by following our directions, the student of the science will not only be enabled to produce more satisfactory developements of the organs already treated of, but will also be able to satisfy himself and others of the existence of the smaller intellectual or perceptive faculties. It is not our purpose to describe the different phases and combinations of these organs, but will briefly

mention the names and properties of the most prominent ones, and afterwards give an instance of their usual method of treatment and combination.

Form or *Configuration* is situated at the internal angle of the orbit of the eye;—by this organ we have the power of noting shapes and proportions, and of distinguishing and recollecting the forms or figures of persons or things, and embodying abstract conceptions.

Size—situated immediately above Form.—This faculty enables us to distinguish magnitude or dimensions, and may be observed in the anxiety, which persons with this organ largely developed, feel as to the exact and correct fitting of furniture, garments, &c.

Weight—position on the eye-brow, and adjoining size,—enables us to estimate weight, gravity, and perhaps the general effect of all kinds of force or pressure.

Colour—lying next to Weight, in the middle of the eye-brow, gives us the perception of hues and tints in general.

Order—situated also on the eye-brow, and next to Colour, disposes us to method, symmetry, and systematical arrangement; and when largely developed, to uneasiness and impatience at slight deviations from uniformity. This organ may often be beautifully displayed during mesmeric sleep, in the inclination shewn by the patient to adjust and put in order his dress, a heap of cards or books thrown carelessly around him, or any thing scattered about the room. Change it to

Destructiveness, and he will rend or destroy every thing he had been previously taking pains to regulate.

Number—situated at the external angle of the orbit of the eye, predisposes to computation, arithmetic, &c. There are several recent instances of persons, who had this organ mesmerised, performing feats of mental calculation, in reply to questions from the operator, far surpassing any thing they could have been able to achieve in their natural state, or under ordinary circumstances.

Language—under the ball of the eye, is frequently required to be excited, in order to produce manifestations of the other organs;—it constitutes the facility of speech.

Individuality and *Eventuality*.—These organs adjoin, and are situate immediately over the bridge of the nose.—They have, by some phrenologists, been considered as but one organ. Both faculties may be excited for the purpose of rendering the patient more alive and attentive to what is passing around him, and when combined with Causality and Comparison, you may bring his intellect into full play, and occasionally draw forth a closeness of reasoning and power of argument, from the patient, truly remarkable, of which, perhaps, in a normal state, he would be altogether incapable.

Having now enumerated the principal organs, and briefly explained the attributes of each, we will mention a case related by Dr. Ingledue, in an address to the Phrenological Association of

London, as a specimen of the method adopted to elucidate the various functions of the brain.

"The patient having been placed in a trance, was allowed to remain quiet for a short time. I then simply applied my finger to the organ to be excited, and willed that it should become so. The excitation, in the majority of cases, was instantaneous. Thus, the finger applied to Imitation produced the most splendid mimicry it is possible to conceive. On one occasion, the manifestation of the faculty was permitted to continue for half an hour, and was then stopped by a wave of the hand over the organ, without contact. The finger on Wit produced immoderate laughter, checked by a wave of the hand, and re-produced by a touch of the finger. The finger on Colour caused the patient to see a variety of colours, which she said, were coloured worsteds. Another finger now placed on Size, caused her to say, she saw "heaps of skeins." when asked the supposed weight of the quantity, she replied, "she did not know." The finger on the organ of Weight, caused her immediately to exclaim, "hundreds of pounds!"

We have now, we hope, illustrated the subject of Phreno-mesmerism with sufficient clearness to enable the student to experimentalise for himself, and thus satisfy his mind of the truth and firm foundation of those principles of which we ourselves have been long persuaded.

In concluding this part of our treatise, we may perhaps be expected to propound some theory, explanatory of the phenomena exhibited. We

at once avow our incapacity to give any positive and certain rationale. The truth of the manifestations, we hold as completely proved, resolve them in whatever manner we may. Some account for them on the supposition that they are produced by the will of the operator—that the latter, in placing his hand upon a particular portion of the head, naturally looks for a certain result, and that it is produced accordingly, through the community of feeling between him and the patient; but this argument is at once refuted and overthrown, by the fact we have already stated—that the manifestations can be produced by any indifferent by-stander, who has no faith or belief whatever in the subject, and not the slightest knowledge of Phrenology, as well as by the operator; and an accidental and unintentional pressure of an organ is equally capable of stimulating it into action. Another theory has been advanced, which we here subjoin, as if correct, it is a very simple explanation of the whole phenomena.

The magnetic fluid, with which the body is fully charged during the magnetic sleep, is, by the contact of the hand of the magnetiser, on any particular part of the body, powerfully attracted to that part, but when the head is made the place of contact, the magnetic fluid will be concentrated on the more delicate organization of the brain, which is the exciting cause of all our thoughts and actions; and when, instead of the hand, a finger merely is placed on any particular organ, the magnetic fluid must obtain

its greatest intensity in the portion of brain immediately beneath, and which influences that organ, the skull forming no obstacle whatever to the force of the magnetic attraction, and while the attraction continues, and the magnetic fluid is there concentrated, that region of the brain becomes the sole director of the faculties, thoughts, and actions of the person under its influence.

Should the theory of a magnetic fluid, continually circulating from the operator to the patient be preferred, it will render this demonstration still more simple, as the organ or portion of brain, above which the finger is placed, must become the sole medium through which the fluid or nervous agency is conveyed to the patient, and thereby, for the time, constitute that organ the predominant governing force of the whole system. We may also, on this theory, account for the anomalies that sometimes occur—as in common Electricity, the electric fluid is known not always to take the direct course from the conductor to the discharging rod, but to fly off at some distance, and take a longer and circuitous route to the discharger; and besides, we may suppose a slight degree of irritability occasionally to arise from an organ being excited, which does not wear off the instant the magnetic current ceases.

We must again impress upon the student the folly of being discouraged by want of success in his first attempts; failure will occasionally betide the most skilful and practised operators,

nor can we hope to arrive at that point, as to command perfect success, in every instance, until the science has attained greater maturity, and its principles be established on some more fixed and stable basis than it can lay claim to as yet. The uncertainty attending its rules of action, and the unknown character of its fundamental laws, are the chief positions taken by the opponents of Mesmerism, against its being recognised in the light of a science; and this uncertainty is especially incident to the Phrenomesmeric phenomena. One patient will exhibit strongly marked developements of a particular organ, or a class of organs, which, in another, appear to be not at all excitable; and what is still more perplexing, those organs, which one day you can demonstrate with comparative ease, you may find, on the subsequent day, with the same patient, to be unsusceptible of any manifestation whatever. One general precept may however be laid down, never perseveringly to attempt the excitation of a phrenological organ, which is either deficient, or but partially developed on the cranium of the person you have undertaken to manipulate. Following this advice will save the operator many disappointments.

We have prolonged this chapter much beyond the limits we originally assigned it, in consequence of the multiplied number and complexity of the phenomena it professes to depict. We found, as we proceeded, that the subject would demand a far greater share of our attention and labour than we had intended to devote

to its consideration at first; but now, that we have brought our remarks to a close, we do not at all regret the circumstance of their necessary diffusiveness.

Trusting that some little instruction may be derived from the perusal of our suggestive maxims, when they come to be practically applied. We turn to the equally essential matter of De-magnetisation, shortly entertained in the next chapter.

CHAPTER IV.

OF DE-MAGNETISATION.

ALTHOUGH there are few things more simple, or more easily effected than the restoration of a somnambulist to his waking state, when the operator is possessed with a little confidence and judgment, yet most unpractised persons seem so strangely apprehensive of their inability to de-magnetise a patient whom they have put to sleep that the wonder often becomes how it is they ever undertake a proceeding, or accomplish a feat they fear so much, and causelessly, to contemplate. Be quite as persuaded that you can dissipate, as that you can induce a lethargy; the one is fully as practicable as the other, and only requires self-collection and a resolute will, while it should be carried in mind,

that every somnambulist will awake of himself, after a certain interval of time, dependent on the nervous character and constitution of his sleep. There are many, moreover, who from some latent cause, must remain in the magnetic trance for a determinate period, until which has elapsed and the critical moment is arrived, every effort to awaken will only prove worse than useless. Proportionately to the duration of the sleep, so the process of de-magnetising, in general lasts longer. It rarely and unfrequently happens, however, that more than five or ten minutes are occupied in arousing a patient from the somnambulic state, when the will to awaken is active, the performance sedulous, and where the mesmerisee participates in your desire that he should pass out of the comatose condition; it is therefore advisable to impress him with a thorough consciousness of your intention, and ask him whether it is his pleasure to continue asleep or be roused, before you begin the de-magnetic process. If he concurs in your purpose, one half of the business is effected, you will then, standing full in front of the patient, raise his head, should it have fallen, so that he may sit upright and unconstrained, while you follow these directions.—Bring the back surfaces of both your hands together, close to the somnambulist's eyes, and holding them so a moment, separate them suddenly and energetically to either side, taking care not to hit the patient rudely as you execute this gesture. Repeat the pass thus horizontally before the face and along

the entire person with unceasing continuance until you observe certain symptoms of awakening, which are mostly indicated by the patient lifting his hand to rub his eyes, and then staring unmeaningly about him as though just aroused from ordinary sleep. If a fan or a handkerchief be now employed to dispel the air immediately around him, and create a fresh current, while a door is at the same time opened, the effect will be still greater and the process completed, unless somnolency be extreme. In cases of difficult de-magnetisation, where the method we have described proves of no avail, and somnambulism continues on the patient, darting the fingers towards the eyes, and quickly drawing them back, or applying friction of the thumbs to the eyelids outwardly, is a highly efficient measure, and seldom fails to remove every vestige of magnetism. But various expedients will suggest themselves to the operator, as practice gives him a further insight to the means of controlling and governing this subtle power over the human system. The extremities, on awaking, are usually cold and benumbed, but a little exercise or friction will soon restore the circulation, and banish any unpleasant sensation. Head-ache, likewise, is instantly relieved, by the operator placing his hands on the fore and hinder regions of the head, and pressing them slightly; but it is so seldom these affections occur, even to the most delicate, when properly treated, that prescribing remedies for such cases, seems like the undue anticipation of an ill.

CHAPTER V. CASES.

CASE I.

Miss H. H., a young lady of plethoric habit, reserved disposition, and subject to intermittent head-aches, of long duration, volunteered to undergo the mesmeric process—not without some scruples and remonstrances on the part of her friends; but these being overruled, she was placed in a chair, towards evening, a short time since, and became fully magnetised at the end of fifteen minutes. She was operated upon chiefly by means of the look, and occasional insufflation; the symptoms exhibited precursory to sleep were definitely marked and but little varied.—Contraction, dilation of the eye-ball—gradual depression of the lid, the pupil continually revolving after the eye closed—pulse slightly accelerated—a momentary tremor of the limbs—extremities cold and respiration unaffected. An almost imperceptible sigh escaped her as she entered *coma*, and immediately after her head drooped and inclined to the side. The countenance was placid, and any species of subsultus was altogether absent, nor was there the least evidence of disquiet about her demeanour. Having been allowed to remain undisturbed for a quarter of an hour, complete catelepsy of both arms was produced by mere extension of the hands without passes, they were

restored to their normal state by a light breathing over the wrists and shoulders. Some inferior organs were then manipulated, but it was not until the third or fourth essay that a single demonstration was realized. The entire range of propensities and a few of the moral sentiments were excited in succession, manifesting the amiable affections in a preponderant degree; pressure of the finger maintained a little while upon Firmness, induced a disposition to rise—not without some effort, as in the majority of instances, and she consequently stood erect and motionless. Self-Esteem being then excited at the same time, caused her to assume a proud dignity of mien and an air of consequential reserve, which changed to a bearing of the humblest deference on the transition of one finger to Veneration, and the other to Conscientiousness. The instant, contact of the organs was withdrawn, the patient fell backward, and would have measured her length on the floor, had the operator not supported her with his arm, and seated her composedly again. Acquisitiveness incited her to appropriate the objects lying about her, and Secretiveness to hide whatever she could conveniently seize; but Benevolence and Conscientiousness, made her restore her pilferings with gestures of repentance and benignity, and even add some of her own property from motives of charity and compensation. Under the influence of Destructiveness, she tore a piece of paper into fragments, and flung them violently around, and then attempted to

rend her dress, until withheld from further mischief by suspension of the external pressure. Wit alone, prompted her to laugh immoderately, with a most comical expression of the features; and it may be here observed, that this faculty produces, mesmerically, a flow of vivacious humour, resembling an exuberance of animal spirits, rather than the qualities of absolute wit, though the developement of that so-called organ be intellectually large. Various other phrenological demonstrations were tested with correspondent effect, the least prominent being slighly but satisfactorily manifested, by the exercise of a little patience and prudent discrimination, on the operator's part; but we shall forbear to notice them at further length, in this particular case, as experiments of a different and more novel character, which, we hope, it may interest the reader to relate, were performed with the patient in question.

Two chairs having been placed a short distance apart, where the young lady could not possibly see their position, the magnetiser waved his hand a few times in one direction between both, tracing as it were, a line across the floor, at the height of a foot or two, and blew his breath also along this ideal boundary, in order to augment the impression he wished the patient to feel, when she approached the spot. Touching the organ of Firmness, she arose, and when requested by the magnetiser to accompany him a certain way, anvanced leisurely towards the place we have indicated, while he

held his finger still on the top of the head. As she neared the precise part of the room, there was an evident unwillingness to proceed farther, and when arrived within a few inches of the line thus described, she stopped short and seemed distressed. It was then inquired of her, why she did not go on, the patient replied, that some obstacle restrained her, which she stated, had the appearance of a solid stone wall she could not possibly overpass, though she stepped ever so high. Being conducted outside the chairs, she walked on unhesitatingly, as if nothing had impeded her progress, but when led back to the space between, she again declared her inability to move onward—the operator drew his hand transversely before her, with the intent of removing the imaginary hinderance, and she crossed the disenchanted barrier forthwith. On occasions of subsequent magnetisation, Miss H. developed traits of the most lucid clairvoyance. With fingers tightly pressed over the eyes, so as to exclude every ray of ordinary vision, she told the names, and specified the shape and colour of several objects casually presented to her, and held at a considerable distance from where she sat. She also read an entire page of medium sized print, in the same manner, the contents of which her magnetiser neither knew nor looked at during the trial. Any substance or liquid, tasted by him, she correctly appreciated; and to render the experiment more conclusive, the same thing (salt) offered him secondly in succession was unerringly defined

as to flavour on her part. The violent headaches, with which this lady had been long afflicted, previous to her undergoing the mesmeric operation, were materially alleviated each time she was magnetised, and after the fourth sitting, became altogether cured—her health was perceptibly improved, and her whole system materially benefitted by the agency of this wonder-working power.

CASE II.

Mary L., a nurse-maid in a family at Barnstaple, had for several years been labouring under a tedious and complicated ailment, distinguished principally by a violent spasmodic affection, a deep-seated pain in the left side, and general debility of the frame, which, at length, compelled her to give up service or work of any kind, and apply to be admitted an inmate of the Hospital of that town. After continuing a patient two months, in the wards of the Infirmary, she left it for the house of her employer, little amended in bodily condition, and still unable to resume the duties of her situation; but having heard a great deal about the cures effected by the agency of mesmerism, she resolved to try it, as the last resort of despair, assured that it could not harm, while it might do her benefit. From her extreme nervous sensibility, she failed to become thoroughly magnetised until the third sitting—the first essays being merely productive of light repose or slumber,

whence she awoke on the contact of the hand; but the fourth time, somnambulism declared itself in a very marked degree. She appeared endowed with the rare faculty of internal prevision, while under mesmeric influence, seeing, as she affirmed, both her own interior formation, the character of her disorder, and also that of other persons, placed in connection with her. With all the accuracy of a learned anatomist, she traced the course of her organic functions, and pointing to a certain region of her chest, said, that there lay immediately below the spot thus indicated, a "wound or sore place," as she expressed it, which, when she moved or coughed occasioned her acute pain, and which, she thought, must be the chief source of her malady. She then minutely particularized the appearance it presented, and her description perfectly agreed with the account given in pathological treatises of a similar complaint, although she was wholly ignorant of any part of medical science. When asked if she believed that mesmerism would prove benefical to her health, she eagerly replied in the affirmative, and named the day and period of her sure recovery—about a month distant from the time she predicted this happy consequence. She, furthermore, divined the progress of her convalescence, and informed her magnetiser of the hour at which it was expedient she should be thrown asleep, each day, until her cure was effected, and declared that the medicines previously prescribed for her were altogether useless. Many gentlemen, who visited

her in an incredulous spirit, had the exact nature of their several illnesses, faithfully pourtrayed, by simply holding the hand of this somnambulist in their own successively, and inquiring what she supposed to be the matter with them. Nearly all those were entire strangers to the woman—she did not even know the names of the majority. How was it then, that she observed the diseases to which each was subject, and defined their peculiar traits like a qualified physician? We leave it to the sages and sophists of the age to discover the secret. We are satisfied to consider facts as facts, and where we cannot assign a reason, admit a principle.

She now enjoys comparatively sound health, and only requires a little strength to fit her for engaging in business again.

POSTSCRIPT.

The Editor begs to apologize for the omission of many interesting and illustrative cases of mesmeric phenomena, which have come under their observation, at various periods; as although, perhaps, possessing some share of local attraction, they could not be inserted in an elementary work like this, with general advantage. The public journals daily teem with multiplied reports of authenticated cases, quite as extraordinary as any it is in our power to detail; we, therefore, deem it inexpedient to relate additional instances of the effects of a power already so well appreciated as that of Animal Magnetism. For further explanation of our views, we refer the reader to the Advertisement.

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