

ANIMAL MAGNETISM,

AND THE

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ASSOCIATED PHENOMENA,

SOMNAMBULISM, CLAIRVOYANCE, &c.,

AN

EXPOSITORY LECTURE

DELIVERED AT THE

TOWN HALL, BRIGHTON,

IN AID OF THE DISPENSARY BUILDING FUND;

WITH ADDITIONAL REMARKS.

BY

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BOLOGNA, MARSEILLES, BORDEAUX, &c.

“ La recherche de la verité est la plus noble des occupations, et sa publication
un devoir.”—MADAME DE STAEL.

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MDCCCXLIX.

POSTSCRIPT.

THE Rev. Joseph Sortaine, one of the most justly-esteemed clergymen of Brighton, states that when in Paris a few years ago, Alexis mentioned circumstances with reference to that town known to himself, and read a sentence which he had put into an envelope as a test, viz., “*La philosophie de M. Cousin, est elle vraie?*” This corroborative testimony to the truth of clairvoyance is especially valuable, from the high and well-known character of this gentleman, who, without pledging himself to, or expressing an opinion respecting the validity of magnetic phenomena in general, before having seen more of them, authorizes me to adduce the above fact.

Dr. Arnold of Rugby observed,—“ I should like to hear anything fresh about Animal Magnetism, which has always excited my curiosity,”—and in another of his letters,—“ What our fathers have done still leaves an enormous deal for us to do. The philosophy of medicine is, I imagine. almost at zero. Our practice is empirical, and seems hardly more than a course of guessing, more or less happy. The theory of life itself lies probably within our knowledge. We talk of nerves and we perceive their connexion with the operations of the mind; but we cannot understand a thinking, a fearing, or a seeing nerve. Here and in a thousand other points there is room for infinite discoveries, to say nothing of the wonderful phenomena of Animal Magnetism, which *only Englishmen*, with their accustomed ignorance, are apt to laugh at, which no one as yet has either thoroughly ascertained or explained.” *

* Arnold's Life.

P R E F A C E.

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THE thronged meetings at the Town Hall on the occasion of the lecture and discussion on Mesmerism, indicate the degree of interest which attaches to the subject, though from the discursive nature of the debates, in which several took part who were either prejudiced opponents, or who had seen nothing of magnetism except perhaps from an occasional itinerant lecturer, a large proportion of the audience must have felt disappointed, and would have known little more of the subject than when they came. Being neither a magnetiser myself, nor individually concerned in the extension of magnetism, though having had considerable opportunities of witnessing its effects, I was induced to deliver the present lecture as a not unlikely means of furthering in some degree a charitable purpose, and in order by presenting a connected view of the question, and its relations, to lead to a more correct appreciation as to what there really is in this agent, and as to how far the statements made with reference to the higher phenomena might be relied upon, adducing as many authenticated statements from my own

observation, and that of others, as the time would admit of.

From its employment as a remedial means by many non-medical persons, animal magnetism has made so much progress of late, that the public will no longer be satisfied with its being dismissed, either on the plea of ignorance respecting it, or of its being treated as a system of deception and charlatanism, by some members of the medical profession, who would do well to investigate the subject before passing an unqualified judgment upon it. In the phenomena of animal magnetism there is nothing more surprising than in the discoveries in physical science and art, which at the present day are of such frequent occurrence; and there are in truth many persons who, though fully convinced of the reality of the effects, are disinclined to the expression of their belief, from an apprehension that their interests would be thereby prejudicially affected; and some of my well-meaning friends sought on these grounds to dissuade me from what they were pleased to term my advocacy, when the current of popular prejudice was strongly opposed to it five years ago; though I merely stated the alteration which my opinions had undergone from further observation when a new edition of my work was required: considering it but justice on that occasion to make known the truth such as it had presented itself to me; and also that an important principle, as regards the extension of our psychological knowledge, was involved in the higher manifestations. Indeed, it is to be regretted that England should be behind-hand with reference to this as it has been to some other questions of scientific inquiry which are now fully admitted. On the continent, as the Rev. Mr. Sanby justly remarks, "Mesmerism has been received

as a *fait accompli* for years ; in Germany it is practised to a considerable extent ; in Prussia many physicians make use of it under the authority of government ; in Berlin, in particular, the greatest success has attended its use ; in Stockholm, degrees are granted in the university after an examination on its laws ; in Russia, the emperor appointed a commission of medical men to inquire into it, and this commission pronounced it a “very important agent.” The first physician of the emperor, and many others at St. Petersburg, spoke in favour of its utility ; at Moscow, a systematic course of treatment under the highest auspices, has been employed for years. In Denmark, physicians practise it under a royal ordinance ; and by a decree of the College of Health. In Holland, some of the first men take it up. In France, the extent to which it is practised is considerable indeed.

Speaking of Magnetism, Baron Feuchtersleben terms it “a remedy which, as respects both its basis and its consequences, requires further unprejudiced and cautious observation, and awaits the judgment of continually progressing knowledge,” and observes that,—“In the second degree, sympathies and antipathies appear ; the approach of certain men or of metals produces convulsions in the countenance and limbs of these patients ; the approach of other persons or of the magnet relieves them. The third degree, exalted sleep, produces the very surprising phenomena of so-called clairvoyance.”

“The chief obstacles to the scientific progress on the subject of magnetism are, that those inquirers, from whose judgment and impartiality the most was to be expected in this matter, concern themselves too little or not at all about it, and prefer directing their attention to

less hazardous branches of investigation. Those, on the contrary, who choose this subject of inquiry are in general too much prepossessed in its favour to remain impartial. The presence of an indifferent or incredulous spectator excites their antipathy, and they produce their most astonishing wonders only before believers, a fact of which I have often convinced myself." *

After speaking of the numbers of medical men and others who admit mesmerism in India, Miss Martineau, in her recent work "Eastern Life," says, "All the naval surgeons whom I met with in the Mediterranean are convinced of its truth. Among these there are some who think most of its curative powers; but there are others who see how infinitely more important and interesting are those of its facts which belong to mental philosophy, and who feel what an illustrious foreigner expressed to me not long ago in London: 'It is a shame for your country that it should be behind every other civilised nation in regard to this portion of science. It is strange that men should be slow to investigate a powerful curative means. But when the same agent shows that man has a new faculty of the mind—a faculty not hitherto numbered among his powers, what can one say to indifference to such a discovery as this, the greatest that man has ever made? It is a shame to your country.'" This reproach is, however, in a fair way of being done away with, and doubtless ere long the study and practice of Animal Magnetism will be generally acknowledged to be a highly efficient additional means of alleviating disease, and of subserving other important purposes.

* The Principles of Medical Psychology, translated by G. H. E. Lloyd, and published by the Sydenham Society.

Brighton, December 1848.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM, &c.

As regards my qualification to treat of the subject under consideration, I may premise that I was led to direct my attention to it, from the circumstance that many years ago a brief notice of animal magnetism was appended to my work on the Medical Institutions of the Continent, as being in some measure connected with foreign practice: this subsequently appeared as a separate pamphlet, in which I expressed my disbelief in the reality of the phenomena ascribed to magnetism, referring the effects produced to the influence of monotony, the imagination, collusion, and deception on the part of magnetisers and somnambulists. On subsequently finding, however, that a large proportion of eminent scientific persons on the continent did not hesitate to admit their truth, I was led to investigate the matter more closely, and in an appendix to a third edition acknowledged that I had seen reason greatly to modify my previous opinions from the observation of numerous facts, some of which will be cited on the present occasion.

The question is not one calculated for public discussion in a large assembly, where it is to be expected that the difference of opinion respecting facts, which, if not made evident at the time, must depend on the nature of the testimony adduced in their support, would not always be expressed with becoming calmness and the avoidance of personalities, especially when the statements avouched to be true are attempted to be disproved by mere argu-

mentation or a positive denial from *a priori* reasoning on the part of those who may not have had adequate opportunities of investigating their validity or falsity. The limits of a lecture do not admit of a full elucidation of the various points connected with this important topic; I shall therefore refer chiefly to some of the leading facts and positions, showing their relation to phenomena frequently observed, but of which no satisfactory explanation has been offered, and shall abstain from dwelling upon historical or theoretical details which may be obtained from published works, my object being to facilitate a more impartial appreciation of the subject than generally prevails.

The term Animal Magnetism is usually employed abroad, and is more appropriate than that of mesmerism, (the effects having been manifested from the earliest periods, though subjected to different interpretations in various countries, and according to the predominant opinions of the times,) from the analogy which the physical results bear to those of magnets which the experiments of Prevost of Geneva and the more recent ones of Baron Reichenbach further corroborate. From the poles of magnets, as also from the fingers and eyes of magnetisers, luminous emanations are occasionally perceived by somnambulists and sensitive subjects. That this is not imaginary is proved by the circumstance that in the former instance the plate of the daguerrotype is affected by the emanation.* Both animal and mineral magnetism act from

* Dr. Elliotson observes, with reference to a recent case, "I have now to record a striking fact. While I am drawing up her rigid arm in the waking state with her eyes free, she sees as soon as the limb begins to ascend, but not before, a colourless stream pass from it to my hand of the same breadth of the number of the points of the fingers which I employ at the moment. Though I cover the part with a shawl, single or folded, the appearance is equal. This statement may be relied upon as securely as the phenomena in a chemist's laboratory. If I stiffen her body and then make tractive passes from it, as soon as it advances the stream from it is seen. If I draw with both hands, there are two streams side by side from the part. The farther I stand from her, the fainter the stream appears, and if at a great distance, there is no visible stream nor traction. She compares it to moonlight." This may explain how somnambulists can readily detect a glass of magnetised water or a coin from a dozen others, where collusion has been impossible.

points. A magnetiser could produce no effect when standing, sitting, or lying parallel with the persons on whom he experimented; but in pointing with the fingers or toes, or by looking fixedly at them, the usual results ensued. Magnets have been long, and are still, employed abroad, and sometimes in England for the alleviation of certain diseases of a nervous or painful character; and prickling or other sensations are experienced by many subjects in the parts to which they are directed. Analogous sensations are produced by the passes or pointings, and traction of somnambulists towards their magnetisers is a very common effect. These instances may suffice to show the connexion between the two. Mesmer, in fact, did not appear to be aware of the extent of magnetic influence; and somnambulism, if not unknown to him, was not induced in his patients, convulsive attacks or crises being the most usual results observed. These, indeed, were most likely to ensue from his proceedings, which were enveloped in considerable mystery, and were eminently calculated to strike the imagination, especially of the weakly or sensitive. The persons to be magnetised were assembled in a large saloon dimly lighted with tapers, being placed in a circle around a covered vessel (supposed to be magnetic) termed the *baquet*, each being connected with the others by means of wires or cords: music from a harpsichord or piano was heard from an adjoining apartment. After a time, Mesmer entered clad in a robe of light-coloured silk, holding in his hand a rod, which he directed to different parts of the patients, who rarely failed to experience various symptoms terminating in many of them in crises or convulsions of an hysterical nature. When these occurred in one, others became speedily affected. On many persons, however, no effect was produced. Among these were the commissioners appointed by the Academie de Medécine and des Sciences, to investigate and report upon the proceedings. At one time Mesmer's practice was in such high repute, that he refused a pension of thirty thousand francs offered him by the minister to induce him to make public the mysteries of his art; but subsequent to its examination and condemnation in the reports of these scientific bodies, which justly

ascribed the effects for the most part to the influence of the imagination, it sank into comparative disuse.

This influence of the imagination, both in the production of and in the removal of disordered conditions of the economy, has not received from the medical profession the degree of consideration to which its importance entitles it. Delille, in his poem "*L'Imagination*," thus adverts to the results caused by Mesmer's practice :

" Tous se felicitoient de leurs metamorphoses
 La vielle Eglé croyoit voir renaître ses roses,
 Le viellard decrepit se ranimant peu a peu
 D'un retour de santé menaçoit son neveu :
 Le jeune homme a vingt ans ridé par la mollesse
 Se promettoit encore quelques jours de jeunesse."

And after the departure of Mesmer,

" Mesmer courut ailleurs porter son art aimable
 Chaque malade au fond de son appartement ;
 Tout seul avec ses maux s'enterra tristement
 Et des remedes vains implorant la puissance
 Il perdit le plus doux, en perdant l'esperance."

Subsequently, under the Marquis of Puysegur, and the improved mode of magnetism, the violent crises but seldom occurred, and the state of sleep and somnambulism was induced.

The best definition is perhaps that which considers animal magnetism as an influence depending upon a certain state of the nervous system presenting phenomena which may be caused in some persons, by others performing certain actions with the intention of producing this state. These are not producible upon most people in health. Of one hundred such persons subjected to trial, probably two-thirds would experience no effects, and on the remaining third only light results would be occasioned. By repetition, however, most persons become susceptible to the influence. Much depends upon the magnetiser. In general, if there be no counteracting circumstances, the stronger and healthier a person is, so much the greater is his magnetising power. The sleep, though the most common effect, is not indispensable for the beneficial action, pains being often allayed by magnetism, as well as

other results without sleep being occasioned. The sleep, or coma, is the most simple state, to which somnambulism is frequently superadded, the patients answering the questions of persons placed *en rapport*, exhibiting cataleptic rigidity of parts, traction towards the magnetiser, community of taste, feeling, or other consequences. Of the higher stage, clairvoyance, which is necessarily much more rare, there are various degrees or shades, comprising mental travelling, thought-reading, introvision or the perception of internal organs of the body, &c.

This faculty is, in my opinion, not called into action by the magnetiser's will, but is spontaneous, and superadded in a certain proportion of subjects. Some may become clairvoyant on the second or third *seance*, while in the great majority there is no sign of its appearance, though they may have been long subjected to magnetisation. Tranquillity of mind is one of the most essential conditions for its manifestation. The other day, at St. Leonard's, a clairvoyante failed altogether in what she attempted, which she ascribed to the disturbing influence of the murder committed on the previous day—the presence of sceptics on the subject, or the open expression of disbelief has also a disturbing effect, though not always.

When a bar of iron is to be magnetised, the magnet is drawn along it from above downwards, and the usual mode of magnetising individuals is, as is well known, by passes or motions with the hands from the head downwards, demagnetisation being effected by transverse or upward passes. These actions, however, are considered but subordinate means by most magnetisers, the will being the influence which determines the effect; looking fixedly at the patient often suffices. When in coma or somnambulism, individuals are to a greater or less extent insensible to external stimulants, as noises of all kinds, pungent substances (as ammonia) applied to the nostrils, pinching, pricking, or other mechanical irritation of the body. Some subjects who are unaffected by the action of one magnetiser, would soon be brought under the influence of another: the state of the atmosphere, the temperature of surrounding bodies, and the physical and moral disposition of the magnetiser, likewise exert a powerful influence in the production of the effects.

Adversaries, in order to disprove Animal Magnetism, usually quote the reports of the Academie des Sciences, and the Academie de Medécine, upon Mesmer's proceedings at the close of last century, already alluded to, seldom referring to the more recent commission appointed by the Academie de Medécine in 1825, upon the grounds that modern magnetism was altogether of a different nature from the mesmerian. This commission continued its investigations for a period of six years, at the expiration of which it sent into the Academie a report signed by nine out of the twelve members; the other three did not sign, not having attended the experiments throughout. These were all persons of high standing in the medical profession, and numerous corroborative cases were adduced, of which I will briefly refer to one or two. Paul Villagrand, who had been cured of paralysis by magnetisation, under the superintendence of the commissioners, manifested the phenomena of clairvoyance: "The 12th of January," says the report, "the commissioners once more assembled at the house of M. Fosisac. After two minutes of the passes, Paul is in somnambulism. The eyelids being held closed constantly and alternately, by MM. Fouquier, Itard, Marc, and the reporter, a new pack of cards is brought, the envelope torn off, the cards are shuffled, and Paul recognizes, easily and successively, the king of spades, the ace of clubs, queen of spades, nine of clubs, seven of diamonds, queen of diamonds, and eight of diamonds. He also reads lines from a History of France, which the reporter had brought with him, as likewise a paper on which two words had been written." Analogous effects were repeated on subsequent occasions, and the commissioners remark, "The conclusions to be drawn from this long and curious case are easy; they arise naturally from the simple exposition of the facts which we have related, and we state them as follows:—

- 1st. A patient, whom a rational medication by one of the first practitioners of the capital was not able to cure of paralysis, finds his cure in the employment of magnetism, and, in the exactness with which the treatment is pursued which he prescribes for himself while in somnambulism.
- 2nd. In this state his strength is notably increased.
- 3rd. He gives us the most undeniable proof that he

reads with the eyes closed. 4th. He foresees the period of his cure, and is cured at the time which he announced."

The case of another patient, æt. twenty, born of an epileptic mother, and subject to fits five or six times a week for ten years, is next given in the report. This individual predicted while in somnambulism, the periods of his attacks, and when he would be cured; the former predictions were verified, but before the time which he had fixed for his cure arrived, he was knocked down by a cabriolet and killed. The commissioners observe upon this case, "We see in this instance a young man subject for ten years to epilepsy for which he had been treated at two hospitals, and exempted from military service. Magnetism acts upon him though he is completely ignorant of what is done to him; he becomes somnambulist. The symptoms of his disease are ameliorated, the attacks diminish in frequency, his headaches, and oppression disappear beneath the influence of magnetism; he prescribes himself a treatment appropriated to the nature of his disease, and from which he promises himself a cure. Being magnetised without his knowledge and from afar, he falls into somnambulism, and is awakened from it with the same quickness as when the magnetiser is near him. Lastly, he indicates with a rare precision one and two months beforehand, the day and the hour at which he is to have an attack of epilepsy; nevertheless, though endowed with a foresight for attacks at so distant a period, he does not foresee that in two days he will meet with a fatal accident. Let us add, that his prevision is not absolute, that it is conditional, since when foretelling an attack, he stated that it would not take place if he were magnetised, and in fact it does not take place, it is altogether organic, internal. Thus we can conceive why he did not foresee an event altogether external, viz., that chance should lead him in the way of a fiery horse, and that in attempting to stop it he should receive a mortal wound." The report terminates by saying, "The commission far from placing limits to this part of physiological science, entertains, on the contrary, the hope that a new field is opened to it, and warranting the accuracy of our own observations, presenting them with confidence to those who after us will occupy themselves with magnetism, we re-

strict ourselves to drawing the following conclusions, which are the necessary consequence of the facts, the *ensemble* of which constitutes our report."

Of these it will suffice to adduce a few, referring to points which have been the most questioned.

"Conclusion 2nd. The actions which are external and visible are not always necessary, since on many occasions the will, the fixed look of the magnetiser, have sufficed to produce effects, even when unknown to the magnetised.

"7. It may be inferred with certainty, that the state of somnambulism exists when it gives rise to the development of new faculties which have been designated by the name of clairvoyance, intuition, internal prevision, or when it produces great changes in the physiological state, as insensibility, a sudden and considerable increase of strength, and when this state cannot be referred to any other cause.

"14. There usually take place changes more or less remarkable in the perceptions and faculties of individuals in whom somnambulism is produced by magnetism.

"18. We have seen two somnambulists distinguish with closed eyes the objects placed before them; they have named, without touching them, the colour and points of cards; they have read words written or lines, from a book. This phenomenon has occurred even when the eyelids were kept closed by the fingers.

"19. We have met with two somnambulists, in whom existed the faculty of foreseeing acts of the organism, more or less distinct and complicated.

"22. Some of the patients magnetised have derived no advantage, others have experienced more or less marked benefit; one patient the relief of habitual pains,—another the return of strength,—a third, the suspension for several months of epileptic attacks, and a fourth, a complete cure of a serious and long standing paralysis.

"23. Considered as an agent of physiological phenomena, or as a therapeutical means, magnetism ought to find a place within the sphere of medical knowledge, and consequently, only medical practitioners ought to employ it, or to superintend its employment as is practised in the countries of the north.

"24. The commission has collected, and it communi-

cates to the Academie, facts sufficiently important to induce it to think that the Academie ought to encourage researches on magnetism, as a very curious branch of psychology and natural history." Such is part of the official report.

The justness of these conclusions is fully borne out by what has since occurred, and by the great progress which magnetism has made of late years,—facts of which the commissioners could only meet with some isolated instances being now of common occurrence. The insensibility to pain produced by magnetising, will, I think, be denied by no unprejudiced persons who have given the subject a moderate share of their attention, and as is well known, this invaluable application of the art has been made available in the practice of surgery, several hundreds of painless operations having been performed on patients while in this state, who for the most part appeared as if in tranquil sleep. It would seem, indeed, that in China, magnetising has been long resorted to for the purpose of obviating the slight inconvenience of shaving. "I observed," says a recent traveller, "that the greater part of the patients slept while they were being shaved, and could not account for this singularity. But one morning I observed a man seat himself on a stool a little apart from the rest, and began my task of sketching, when the barber, instead of commencing his operations, placed himself before his customer, and first of all took hold of his hands, then passed his hands several times over the shoulders and before the face of the sitter, who shortly fell into a state of quiet drowsiness, if he did not actually go to sleep. When he had finished, he shook the sleeper gently, and awoke him; I frequently saw the same thing practised afterwards."*

The present Governor-General of India has shown the high sense which he entertains of the benefit conferred by this process upon mankind, by nominating to the staff-surgeoncy, Dr. Esdaile, by whom its advantages have been made fully manifest in the hospital directed by him, where between three and four hundred painless operations had been performed; and yet a few years ago, the possibility of this occurring was denied in the first medical

* Borget, *La Chine et les Chinois*.

society in the kingdom: several of the members having sought to induce the society to take no cognizance of the case of amputation perfectly well attested, which was brought under its notice. This opposition on the part of scientific bodies to inquiry into the facts presented to them is not, I conceive, of that interested character which some have considered it to be; for in perhaps no other class of men is there such liberality and self-sacrifice as among the medical profession: but so many systems of quackery and deception are being continually brought forward, that it is not surprising that caution should sometimes be carried beyond the extreme. Professor Orfila, Dean of the Parisian faculty, justly observed with reference to the opposition which this question met with in the Royal Academy of Medicine, "If there does exist trickery and quackery in animal magnetism, its adversaries are too hasty in refusing to admit what has been asserted in regard to its effects. If the magnetic phenomena appear extraordinary, those of electricity appeared equally marvellous at its origin. Whether magnetism be for good or evil, it is clearly a therapeutic agent, and it becomes the honour and dignity of the Academie to examine into it."

Considering the material nature of medical studies, and the neglect of psychology, a large proportion of medical men are not so well qualified to investigate with becoming impartiality questions referring to the philosophy of mind, and it is thus that many who were disbelievers altogether in animal magnetism, though now admitting its ordinary physical effects, still refuse to receive evidence in support of the higher phenomena, considering them to be opposed to the laws of nature. Our acquaintance, however, with these laws, though continually extending, is still very limited, and is greatly restricted by circumstances of position and degree of mental cultivation.

"An ignorant peasant may reject the testimony of a philosopher," says Dr. Abercrombie, "with regard to the size of the moon, because he thinks he has the evidence of his senses that it is only a foot in diameter. When the King of Siam was told by a Dutch traveller, that at certain seasons of the year, water became so solid that an elephant might walk over it, he replied, 'I have be-

lieved many things which you told me, because I took you for a man of veracity, but now I am convinced that you lie.' Had the King of Siam once seen water in a frozen state, he would not only have been put right in regard to this fact, but his confidence would have been shaken in his own experience, as the test of probability in other things, and he would have been more disposed for the further reception of truth upon the evidence of testimony."

I have little doubt that when magnetism comes to be more generally practised, it will in great measure supersede the use of chloroform as a means of blunting the sensibility during operations. The impediment to this in England lies in the paucity of magnetisers, which is obviated at Calcutta, where it is employed in all cases of this kind. In the greater number of operations which I have witnessed under the influence of ether or chloroform, there have been indications of suffering; and pain is doubtless felt, though after coming to himself the patient may not remember to have suffered. Several assistants are not unfrequently required to control the patient's movements. The inspiration of these agents, is, moreover, generally objectionable, to say nothing of the prejudicial consequences resulting from the abuse of the practice spoken of from time to time in the public papers.

Any means by which the above-mentioned effects can be produced, may readily be conceived capable of beneficial application in other instances, and it has been found to be so in some diseases which frequently resist the ordinary efforts of medicine, pains of various kinds, neuralgia, rheumatism, spasmodic attacks, epilepsy, paralysis, and others of the nervous class. Deleuze mentions more than sixty cases of paralysis cured by this means; one case has lately been published of thirty years' duration. The Rev. — Lewis, the mesmeriser, as quoted by Mr. Sanby, says, "The paralysed leg and foot which had been in a cold and withered state for thirty years, are now as warm as any part of the patient's frame, much larger in size, and strong enough to bear her weight. She can walk many miles. Long-standing functional deafness, has also been cured by this means." Dr. Teste mentions one case of fifteen years' duration, cured after the failure of

all other remedies, in consequence of a few weeks' magnetisation. A magnetiser, not a great way from Brighton, has also cured a soldier of deafness, of more than two years' standing, by magnetising for three weeks. A celebrated German physician* observes, with reference to its curative powers, "The cases in which during a series of years I have either administered magnetism myself or caused it to be administered by others, consist for the most part of those in which I could obtain no relief, or at the utmost but a very equivocal alleviation from ordinary medical treatment,—acute and chronic diseases of various kinds, nervous and other tedious complaints, in persons of every age and rank. In several of these patients, no other phenomenon was observed than a state similar to sleep; in others there was feverish excitement, in many there were disagreeable and painful feelings, and in not a few convulsions. In many patients the complaints abated during the process of manipulation, or the patients were restored to health by this treatment without being able to discover the cause. But all the patients magnetised did not recover,—many continued in the same state as before, others found only an alleviation of their sufferings, nay, some died. In some the cure was transient, several were only partially, but many completely cured."

An increase of pains, and in the severity of convulsive diseases, is not an unfrequent consequence at the outset of the treatment, and this might mislead inexperienced practitioners. The exact sphere of application of animal magnetism in this country remains to be determined, inasmuch as it has not been taken up by the medical profession, except by some individual members. In India, in America, and on the continent, there are many magnetisers in the profession, whereas here it is pretty generally practised by non-medical persons, whence the difficulty of arriving at any correct appreciation of the results produced by it. Though not intended in any way to supersede medicine, magnetism must, I conceive, be regarded in the light of a highly important adjunct bestowed by a beneficent Providence, in order to mitigate the disorders inseparable from the rapid increase in the arts of luxury

* Weinhold.

and civilization, and available in many instances where medicine has been found to be of but little avail.

In reviewing Dr. Esdaile's work, which records the numerous painless operations performed by him, Dr. Forbes, who was at one time strongly opposed to magnetism, and has not yet, I believe, admitted the reality of the higher phenomena, thus records his altered opinion: "Indeed we hesitate not to assert, that the testimony is now of so varied and extensive a kind, so strong, and in a certain proportion of cases so seemingly unexceptionable, as to authorise us, nay, in honesty to compel us, to recommend that an immediate trial be made of the practice in surgical cases. If mesmerism, even in its humbler pretensions, be absolutely untrue, let it be proved to be so. Of one thing let us rest assured, that not only the public, but the more sober and thinking part of the profession, will ere long hold those at a disadvantage who in opposition to facts apparently well-authenticated can or will but adduce mere unsupported arguments or ridicule." *

The consideration of the physical influence, so to speak, transmitted from the magnetiser to the magnetised, should be separated from that of the psychological phenomena supervening, as I conceive, spontaneously in a certain proportion of subjects. Analogous phenomena have been often observed to attend natural somnambulism and other anormal conditions of the nervous system. To persons who have not studied psychology, the perception of objects independently of the organs employed for this purpose in our ordinary state, may appear an inversion of a law of nature, such persons not taking into account the peculiar conditions under which these results take place. If we are to believe in spiritual existences, it must be admitted that there are modes of perception not requiring eyes; and that these organs are not used by natural somnambulists or sleep-walkers, who are often able to perform acts which in their waking state they could not accomplish, was well known in the time of Shakspeare, who, on the entrance of Lady Macbeth in this state, makes the attendant say,—“ Her eyes, you see, are open,”—

* British and Foreign Medical Review.

to which the physician replies,—“Ay! but their sense is shut:” and in fact, there is every reason to believe that the manifestation of certain faculties which we possess is *restricted* by the organs.

Zschokke, in one of the most standard works on practical religion, the “*Stunden der Andacht*,” observes on this point,—“We are but learners in our investigations into the secrets of nature, and what appears to us to be *incomprehensible* is not on that account to be altogether denied. We now know, for instance, that the human soul, which employs for its instrument, as regards earthly things, the nervous system more especially, can also feel and perceive beyond the sphere of the nerves. We know that in certain conditions of nervous disorder man may possess increased powers, may perceive distant things which are separated from him by an interval of many miles. We have examples of this in somnambulists who, during the complete sleep of their bodies, perform acts which in their waking state they were unable to accomplish. Thus, herein shows itself very clearly an activity of the human mind, altogether independent of its outward senses. But in point of fact it is not the eyes which see, nor the ears which hear: it is the mind which sees, hears, and perceives by means of the nerves which are distributed over the whole surface of the body, and the powers of which are at most redoubled in the apparatus of the senses, smell, feeling, &c.”

Mr. Bakewell, in his *Natural Evidence of a Future State*, observes,—“To be able to see without the eye, to hear without the ear, and to feel without touching the objects of sensation, would, we may venture to assert, have been considered utterly impossible, if we had not experience of the fact from the effects of imagination and of dreams. These facts, we contend, afford direct proof in support of the position before advanced, that the perceptive principle is independent of the organs of sense, and they lead us to infer also, that the material organization of the brain, by which the impressions of external objects are conveyed to the mind, must be distinct from the power that receives and retains those impressions; for it would be impossible otherwise to account for the activity of the perceptive power during the time that the

brain ceases to hold any direct communication with the material world. But though the mind may and must be affected in its modes of operation by the condition of its corporeal machine, there is no more reason to regard this sympathy between the mind and the body as indicative of the absolute necessary dependence of the former on the vitality of the latter, than there is to imagine that the existence of heat depends on the continued action of the machinery of the steam-engine, by the agency of which the expansive power of that subtle property of matter is exerted.

“ Though the phenomena of dreams and of spectral illusions do not represent the perceptive faculties to be capable of acting when separated altogether from the corporeal machine, yet we conceive that the proofs which they exhibit of the agency of the perceptive powers, not only without the aid of the organs of sensation, but in direct opposition to the impressions which those organs convey to the brain, are sufficient to establish the abstract independence of the mind.” *

Admitting this view of the case, which is confirmed more fully of late years by the mass of facts to which public attention has been directed, it is no more impossible that an unknown person, many miles distant, should be described than that a card in an adjoining room, or a written word in enclosed envelopes, should be correctly designated by individuals in whom these exceptional conditions of somnambulism exist. Space, as Jung-Stilling observes, being merely the operation of the material organs of sense, out of their sphere has no existence; therefore, as soon as the soul forsakes the latter, all proximity and distance cease. Hence, if it be in *rappor*t with a person many thousand miles distant, it can impart knowledge by an internal communication, and receive it from such a one, and all this as rapidly as thoughts follow each other. Time being also in fact a mere mode of thinking, and not existing in reality, the detached soul may be susceptible of future occurrences.

* Many eminent persons have ascribed the phenomena sometimes occurring in states of somnambulism, catalepsy, ecstasy, and dreaming, to the temporary disassociation of the mind from the body.

The following lines of Wordsworth are applicable to the state of trance or somnambulism as one :—

“In which the burden of the mystery
On which the heavy and the weary weight
Of all this unintelligible world,
Is lightened ; that serene and blessed state
In which the affections gently lead us on,
Until the breath of this corporeal frame,
And even the motion of our human blood
Almost suspended, *we are laid asleep*
In body, and become a living soul ;
While, with an eye made quiet by the power
Of harmony, and the deep power of joy,
We see into the life of things.”*

There is upon record an abundance of instances in which sleep-walkers have been known to solve difficult problems, write verses, and perform other acts which they could not have done at other times. Dr. Dyce, of Aberdeen, describes the case of a girl who, during her attacks, was in the habit of talking of things that seemed to pass before her like a dream. On one occasion she repeated the entire baptismal service of the Church of England, and concluded with an extemporary prayer. She also became capable of following her usual employment during the paroxysm. She would lay out the table for breakfast, and dress herself and the children, *her eyes remaining shut the whole time.* The remarkable circumstance was discovered, that during the paroxysm she had a distinct recollection of what had taken place in former attacks, though she had not the slightest recollection of it during the intervals. She was taken to church during the paroxysm, and attended the service with apparent devotion, and at one time was so affected by the sermon, that she actually shed tears, yet in the interval she had no recollection whatever of the circumstance ; but in the following paroxysm she gave a most distinct account of it, and actually repeated the passage of the sermon that had so much affected her. During the attack her eyes were generally half shut, and resembled those of a person labouring under amaurosis ; the pupil dilated and insensible.

* Lines on revisiting the banks of the Wye.

Professor Feder, of Gottingen, relates the case of a student who, when in attacks of somnambulism, would go from his bed-room to his parlour and back, open and shut the doors, and take out of the closets what he wanted, pieces of music, pen, ink, paper, &c., and *all this with his eyes shut*. From among his music he picked out a march from the Medea, laid the sheet in a proper situation before him, and having found the appropriate key, he played the whole piece with his usual skill upon the harpsicord. In the same manner he also played one of Bach's sonatas, and gave the most expressive passages with surprising effect. One of the persons present turned the notes upside down. This he immediately perceived, and when he again began to play, he replaced the sheet in its proper situation. While playing, he remarked a string out of tune, upon which he stopped, put it in order, and then proceeded. He wrote a letter to his brother, and what he wrote was not only perfectly rational, but straight and legible. While Professor Feder was on a visit to him one afternoon, he observed that it was snowing, which was really the case. On the same day he remarked, notwithstanding his eyes were closed, that the landlord of the opposite house was standing at the window, which was true, and that hats were hanging in the window of another room of the same house, which was also correct.

The following case is cited from the Transactions of the Medical Society of Breslaw :—" A ropemaker, aged 23 years, was frequently overtaken by sleep, even by daylight, and in the midst of his usual occupations, whether sitting, standing, or walking. His eyes were firmly closed, and he lost the use of all his external senses. While in this state he recommenced doing all that he had been engaged in during the previous part of the day, from his morning devotions up to the commencement of the paroxysm. At other times he would continue the work in which he happened to be engaged at the time, and finished his business with as great care and success as when awake. When the fit overtook him in travelling, he did not stand still, but proceeded on his journey with the same facility, and almost faster than when awake, without missing the road or stumbling over anything.

In this manner he repeatedly went from Naumberg to Weimar. Upon one of these occasions he came into a narrow lane across which there lay some timber. He passed over it regularly as if awake, without injury. With equal care and dexterity he avoided the horses and carriages which came in his way. At another time he was overtaken by sleep a short while before setting out for Weimar on horseback; he rode through the river Ilma, allowed his horse to drink, and drew up his legs to prevent them getting wet; he then passed through several streets, crossed the market-place, which was then full of people, booths, and carts, and arrived in safety at the house where his business lay. During the continuance of the paroxysm he was quite insensible; though pricked, pinched, or struck, he felt nothing. He *could not see when his eyes were forced open; he could not smell even the most volatile spirit, nor could he hear the report of a pistol when fired close beside him.* Here, then, is no foundation for the hypothesis of one sense supplying the place of another, because *all* the external senses were ascertained to be completely dormant. The case, it is conceived, can only be accounted for by assuming, as warranted by the facts, a transference of the faculties, and that the internal sense, the soul, manifested its energies through other than the usual organs."

The following case of a young ecclesiastic was reported by the Archbishop of Bordeaux. "He used to rise every night and write out either sermons or pious music. In order to study his condition, the archbishop remained several nights in the patient's room. He used to rise, take paper, and write. Before he wrote music, he would take a stick and rule the lines with it: he wrote the notes and corresponding words with perfect correctness. The notes that were to be blank he filled in after he had completed the whole. After completing a sermon he read it aloud from beginning to end. If any passage displeased him, he erased it, and wrote the amended passage over the other. On one occasion he had to substitute the word *adorable* for *divin*; but he did not omit to alter the preceding article, *ce* into *cet*, by adding the letter *t* with exact precision to the word first written, the phrase being *cet adorable enfant*, with reference to

the infant Jesus. To ascertain whether he used his eyes, the archbishop interposed a sheet of pasteboard between the writing and his face. He took not the least notice, but went on writing as before. If they adroitly changed his paper when he was writing, he knew it if the sheet substituted was of different size, and appeared embarrassed; but if the sheet substituted was of the same size as that written on, he appeared not to be aware of the change, and would continue to read off his composition from the blank sheet of papers, as fluently as when the manuscript itself lay before him; nay, more, he would continue his corrections, and introduce the amended passage, writing it upon exactly the place on the blank sheet which it would have occupied on the written page."—*Blackwood's Magazine*.

The following instance is also perfectly authenticated. An eminent lawyer had been consulted respecting a case of great importance and much difficulty, and had been studying it with intense anxiety and attention for several days, without arriving at a decision. On rising, however, one morning, he said he had had a most remarkable dream. He had dreamt of having delivered a clear and luminous opinion respecting the case which had so much perplexed him, and that he would give anything to recover the train of thought which had thus passed through his mind. His wife pointed to a writing-desk standing in the room, when it appeared that he had risen during his sleep, written down the whole opinion, and returned to bed without waking. The opinion proved afterwards to be perfectly correct.

The distinguished French mathematician, Condorcet, used to say, that when engaged in some profound and obscure calculations, he was sometimes obliged to leave them in an incomplete state and retire to rest, and that the remaining steps and conclusions of his calculations often presented themselves to him during his dreams. Dr. Franklin also stated that the issues and bearings of political events, which had puzzled him when awake, were not unfrequently unfolded to him in sleep.

Many instances of clairvoyance during natural somnambulism are recorded, as also of the prediction of probable events. The following instance is stated in a

letter from Captain Godinet to M. Ricard, and is published in his work. "In 1831, my sister, aged 18, was attacked with an hysterical disease. In the course of the attack, and after nervous spasms, she fell into a state of natural somnambulism, and indicated, her eyes being bandaged, and without a candle, the colour of the clothes of each of the persons near her, and said whether she knew them or not. One evening, the attack having lasted very late in the night, and her doctor considering that his remaining with her was unnecessary, had gone away. The patient said, 'You think the doctor is gone to bed and is sleeping, but you are wrong; he is consulting his books respecting my case, and I shall not be better until the remedy which he fears to administer to me is applied.' The fact having been verified, was found to be perfectly correct."

The following instances, from Mr. Colquhoun's work, have likewise reference to this part of the subject.*

"Dr. Arndt, an eminent German physician, relates, that being one day seated near the bed of one of his somnambulists, on a sudden she became agitated—uttered sighs as if tormented by some vision, exclaimed, 'O heavens! my father! he is dying!' A few moments afterwards she awoke, seemed quite cheerful, and recollected nothing of the anxiety she had so recently manifested. She again relapsed twice into the same state of magnetic sleep, and each time was tormented by the same vision. Being asked what had happened to her father, she answered, 'He is bathed in blood, he is dying.' Soon afterwards she awoke, became composed, and the scene finished. Some weeks afterwards, Dr. Arndt found this lady pensive and sorrowful; she had just received from her father, who was at the distance of some hundred miles, an account of a serious accident which had befallen him. In ascending the stair of his cellar, the door had fallen upon his breast; considerable hæmorrhage ensued, and the physicians despaired of his life. Dr. Arndt, who had marked the precise time of the preceding scene during the somnambulism of the lady, found it was the same day and hour as the accident had happened to her father."

"Mademoiselle W., being at the house of M. de R.,

* Isis Revelata.

observed respecting his son, that he was wounded in the chin in Russia, and under treatment in the hospital, which proved to be the fact. On the arrival of the list of wounded, the son's name was not included, at which the father was delighted, and stated to Mademoiselle W., who was at that time in somnambulic sleep, that for once she had not guessed accurately, and had been completely deceived. At this she was very much offended, and in an angry tone assured the father that she was quite certain of the truth of what she said,—that at that very moment she saw his son in the hospital with a white linen round his chin. Soon afterwards a note arrived, stating that a second list of wounded had been received, in which was the name of the son, who had been struck by a musket-ball in the chin, and was under treatment in the hospital."

"Two persons, while in somnambulism, predicted the death of the king of Wurtemberg. The prediction of the first somnambulist, in which the year and month were announced, occurred four years before the event. The circumstance was kept secret among a few friends, and from the length of time that had elapsed, had been nearly forgotten, when it was unexpectedly confirmed by a second somnambulist, who announced not only the year and month, but also the precise day. The first prediction, which was made by Mademoiselle W., of whose powers mention has been made in the preceding case, took place in 1812, in the presence of several persons, that his Majesty would die in an unusual manner, between the 18th and 20th of April, 1816. When questioned in subsequent crises respecting the accuracy of this announcement, she said she was quite certain as to the year, but might be mistaken as to the particular month. At a subsequent period, she fixed upon the month of October, without specifying any particular day.

"The second prediction was made by a somnambulist upon the 17th of April, 1816, in the presence of three persons, and was to the following effect:—His Majesty will die this year, in the month of October. When asked whether the event would take place in the beginning, the middle or end of the month, she answered, 'At the end.'

‘Can you determine the precise day? Will it be the 26th?’ ‘No; the 28th: on that day he will be struck with apoplexy.’ The king was actually struck with apoplexy on the day predicted, and died in the course of a day or two after.”

The physician who accompanied the Crown Prince of Wurtemberg to England a few years ago was introduced to me, when I took the opportunity of asking about this case, which he averred was perfectly true, saying, moreover, that his father was physician to the late king, who on the morning of the day the attack occurred was in good health and spirits.

I met with a German gentleman who, when at Stuttgart, made particular inquiries respecting the above event, which he ascertained to be as stated, and the coincidence of the occurrence with the prediction is not doubted by the inhabitants. The same gentleman stated to me, that Niebuhr the historian being with his son at an inn, called to him in the night, and told him he must expect to hear of the death of his uncle, which had just taken place. This proved to be true, the uncle, who was at a distance and previously in good health, having been taken suddenly ill, and died at the time specified.

Referring to this power of predicting events, Zschokke further observes:—“Yet the understanding and judgment are not the only means by which God occasionally permits the future to become known to man. Here, likewise, exists in the human soul another faculty, the extent of which we do not ourselves know, notwithstanding its existence cannot well be questioned. Under certain circumstances, which however rarely occur, and usually appear to accompany a disordered state, or an approaching dissolution of the body, the soul enjoys a greater freedom than in ordinary cases. It has the power directly, and without inference, both of perceiving occurrences at a distance, and of being sensible of future events. The properties of man’s nature are too little known for us to pay no regard to, or to consider as false that which we are not able to explain from ordinary and known causes. The ancients who knew as much as we do of the human soul, observed this inexplicable power of perception and foresight, especially in cases of ner-

vous weakness and in the dying. Experience and innumerable observations in more recent times, up to our own day, corroborate the opinion, that there are circumstances under which the soul, less bound down than usual by the body, passes out *beyond the circle of operation* of the earthly senses."

CLAIRVOYANCE OF HEINRICH ZSCHOKKE.

"It has happened to me sometimes, on my first meeting with strangers, as I listened silently to their discourse, that their former life, with many trifling circumstances therewith connected, or frequently some particular scene in that life, has passed quite involuntarily, and, as it were, dream-like, yet perfectly distinct before me. During this time I usually feel so entirely absorbed in the contemplation of the stranger-life, that at last I no longer see clearly the face of the unknown wherein I undesignedly read, nor distinctly hear the voices of the speakers, which before served in some measure as a commentary to the text of their features. For a long time I held such visions as delusions of the fancy, and the more so as they showed me even the dress and motions of the actors, rooms, furniture, and other accessories. By way of jest I once in a familiar family circle at Kirchberg related the secret history of a seamstress who had just left the room and the house. I had never seen her before in my life; people were astonished and laughed, but were not to be persuaded that I did not previously know the relations of which I spoke, for what I had uttered was the literal truth; I on my part was no less astonished that my dream-pictures were confirmed by the reality. I became more attentive to the subject, and when propriety admitted, I would relate to those whose life thus passed before me the subject of my vision, that I might thereby obtain confirmation or refutation of it. It was invariably ratified, not without consternation on my part. I myself had less confidence than any one in this mental jugglery. So often as I revealed my visionary gifts to any new person, I regularly expected to hear the answer, 'It was not so.' I felt a secret shudder when my auditors replied that it was true, or when their

astonishment betrayed my accuracy before they spoke. Instead of many, I will mention one example, which pre-eminently astounded me. One fair day in the city of Waldshut, I entered an inn, (the Vine,) in company with two young student foresters; we were tired with rambling through the woods. We supped with a numerous society at the *table d'hôte*, where the guests were making very merry with the peculiarities and eccentricities of the Swiss, with Mesmer's Magnetism, Lavater's Physiognomy, &c. One of my companions, whose national pride was wounded by their mockery, begged me to make some reply, particularly to a handsome young man who sat opposite us, and who had allowed himself extraordinary license. This man's former life was at that moment presented to my mind. I turned to him and asked whether he would answer me candidly if I related to him some of the most secret passages of his life, I knowing as little of him personally as he did of me? That would be going a little further, I thought, than Lavater did with physiognomy. He promised, if I were correct in my information, to admit it frankly. I then related what my vision had shown me, and the whole company were made acquainted with the private history of the young merchant; his school years, his youthful errors, lastly with a fault committed in reference to the strong box of his principal. I described to him the uninhabited room with whitened walls, where, to the right of the brown door, on a table, stood a black money box, &c. A dead silence prevailed during the whole narration, which I alone occasionally interrupted by inquiring whether I spoke the truth. The startled young man confirmed every particular, and even, what I had scarcely expected, the last mentioned. Touched by his candour, I shook hands with him over the table and said no more. He asked my name, which I gave him, and remained together talking till past midnight. He is probably still living!

"I can well explain to myself how a person of lively imagination may form, as in a romance, a correct picture of the actions and passions of another person, certain character, under certain circumstances. whence came those trifling accessories which no

concerned me, and in relation to people for the most part indifferent to me, with whom I neither had, nor desired to have, any connexion? Or, was the whole matter a constantly recurring accident? Or, had my auditor, perhaps, when I related the particulars of his former life, very different views to give of the whole, although, in his first surprise, and misled by some resemblances, he had mistaken them for the same? And yet, impelled by this very doubt, I had several times given myself trouble to speak of the most insignificant things which my waking dream had revealed to me. I shall not say another word on this singular gift of vision, of which I cannot say it was ever of the slightest service; it manifested itself rarely, quite independently of my will, and several times in reference to persons whom I cared little to look through. Neither am I the only person in possession of this power. On an excursion I once made with two of my sons, I met with an old Tyrolese, who carried oranges and lemons about the country, in a house of public entertainment, in Lower Hanenstein, one of the passes of the Jura. He fixed his eyes on me for some time, then mingled in the conversation, and said that he knew me, although he knew me not, and went on to relate what I had done and striven to do in former times, to the consternation of the country people present, and the great admiration of my children, who were diverted to find another person gifted like their father. How the old lemon merchant came by his knowledge he could explain neither to me nor to himself: he seemed, nevertheless, to value himself somewhat upon his mysterious wisdom."—*Zschokke's Autobiography*.

It is well known, both from scriptural accounts, and from ordinary experience up to our own times, that events predicted in dreams have often occurred, the minutiae being so exactly detailed as completely to disprove the idea of accidental coincidence.

The sister of a young Pole, with whom I was acquainted, earnestly begged of him not to ride a horse, which he was accustomed to ride, alleging as a reason that she had dreamt the horse had become unmanage-

able, and that his bridle having broken in his attempts to restrain it, he was thrown in the court-yard of the castle, where she herself came to his assistance. Her brother endeavoured to show her the unlikelihood of any such occurrence—the horse having been properly broken in, his bridle being a new one, and that if he were thrown in the court-yard, there were always plenty of domestics at hand. In order, however, to quiet her, he abstained for a few days from riding, and on resuming it, all went on well till the Sunday, when the horse shied at a short distance from home, set off full gallop, and in endeavouring to avoid the gate-posts, he broke his bridle, was thrown in the court-yard, and his sister came to his assistance, the servants being for the most part at church.

A lady told me that one of her friends dreamt three times the same night that her child was taken by an angel; on awaking after the third, she found the child dead by her side, notwithstanding it was previously in good health. I might mention analogous instances which have come under my cognizance, but prefer quoting from works in general circulation.

Mr. Borrow, on describing his voyage out, in his work, the “Bible in Spain,” relates one of these instances. “I was on the fore-castle discoursing with two of the sailors: one of them who had but just left his hammock, said, ‘I have had a strange dream, which I do not much like; for I dreamt that I fell into the sea from the cross-trees.’ He was heard to say this by several of the crew beside myself, and shortly after, the captain, perceiving that the squall was increasing, ordered the topsails to be taken in, whereupon this man, with several others, instantly ran aloft; the yard was in the act of being hauled down, when a sudden gust of wind whirled it round with violence, and a man was struck down from the cross-trees into the sea, which was working like yeast below. In a few moments he emerged: I saw his head on the crest of a billow, and instantly recognised in the unfortunate man the sailor who a few moments before had related his dream. The poor fellow who perished in this singular manner was a fine young man of twenty-seven; the best sailor on board, and beloved by all who were

acquainted with him. This event occurred on the 11th of November, 1835; the vessel was the London Merchant Steam Ship. Truly wonderful are the ways of Providence!"

"Many years ago there was mentioned in several of the papers a dream which gave notice of the murder of Mr. Percival. Through the kindness of an eminent medical friend in England," says Dr. Abercrombie, in his work on the Intellectual Powers, "I have received the authentic particulars of this remarkable case from the gentleman to whom the dream occurred. He resides in Cornwall, and eight days before the murder was committed dreamt that he was in the lobby of the House of Commons, and saw a small man enter dressed in a blue coat and white waistcoat. Immediately after he saw a man dressed in a brown coat with yellow basket metal buttons, draw a pistol from under his coat and discharge it at the former, who instantly fell. The blood issued from a wound a little below the left breast. He saw the murderer seized by some gentlemen who were present, and observed his countenance; and on asking who the gentleman was who had been shot, he was told it was the Chancellor, (Mr. Percival was at the time Chancellor of the Exchequer.) He then awoke, and mentioned the dream to his wife, who made light of it; but in the course of the night the dream occurred three times without the least variation in any of the circumstances. He was now so much impressed by it, that he felt much inclined to give notice to Mr. Percival, but was dissuaded by some friends whom he consulted, who assured him he would only get himself treated as a fanatic. On the evening of the eighth day after he received the account of the murder. Being in London a short time after, he found in the printshops a representation of the scene, and recognised in it the countenance and dress of the parties, the blood on Mr. Percival's waistcoat, and the peculiar yellow basket-buttons on Bellingham's coat, precisely as he had seen them in his dream."*

* It appears from the evidence of the fellow-servant of the cook lately murdered at St. Leonards with a spade, that in August last the

"The gentleman to whom I am indebted for the following case, was born in Madras, and was brought from thence at the age of three years, to be educated in England, where he grew up without the least recollection of anything relating to Madras or to his parents, who remained in India. At the age of fourteen, he dreamt that he saw his mother sitting in the dress of a widow, and apparently under deep distress; and he gave a distinct account of the apartment in which he saw her, with the position of various prominent articles of furniture, which he described minutely. It afterwards turned out that his father died about the time of the dream; and that he had correctly described a drawing-room in the house at Madras, in which his mother was in the habit of sitting." Many analogous cases might be adduced.

The following appeared in the "Morning Post" about a week ago.

"SINGULAR FULFILMENT OF A DREAM.—In a Durham paper of last week, there was an account of the disappearance of Mr. Smith, gardener to Sir Clifford Constable, who, it was supposed, had fallen into the river Tees, his hat and stick having been found near the water side on the 2nd. From that time up to Friday last the river had been dragged every day, but every effort to find the body proved ineffectual. On the night of Thursday se'nnight, however, a person named Awde dreamt that Smith laid under the ledge of a certain rock, about three hundred yards below Whorlton Bridge, and that the right arm was broken. Mr. A. got up early on Friday morning, and went with his horse and cart for a load of coals; but his previous night's dream had such an effect upon his mind, that he determined to search the river. He accordingly started off for that purpose

deceased dreamt she would be murdered by the coachman with something like a shovel, and used to say, "Here comes the man that is to kill me." From the strong circumstantial evidence, he is now committed for trial.

- I was assured by a person, on whose statement I place every reliance, that the death of the Duke of Orleans was predicted by a somnambulist a fortnight before the event.

without mentioning the affair to any person, from fear of being laughed at. Nevertheless, on his arrival at the boat-house, he had disclosed his vision to the son of Mr. Gent, on his asking him for what purpose he required the boat. Gent ridiculed the idea of Awde finding the body, but willingly lent him the boat, which he rowed to the spot he had seen in his dream, and there, strange to say, upon the very first trial with the boat-hook he pulled up the body of the unfortunate man, with his right arm actually broken."

A friend of mine woke her husband in the night, and told him that his brother was dead, to which intimation the gentleman replied impatiently, that he had left him quite well on the same day at the fair at H. Two days afterwards, however, the news was received that on the night specified Mr. —, on his return home, had mistaken the path, and the country being inundated, was thrown from his horse, and found drowned in the morning.

Here then are two additional instances occurring within the last fortnight.

Those whose attention has been directed to facts of this kind, will have less hesitation in crediting the analogous ones occurring in lucid somnambulism after magnetisation, which the last few years have offered such numerous opportunities of verifying, thus amply confirming the correctness of the conclusions to which the commission of the Royal Academie de Medécine was led. That there has been much deception as regards these manifestations, and that even the best clairvoyants are not unfrequently wrong in their attempts at designating objects, will be readily admitted, and that these deceptions on the part of some, and failures on the part of others, should tend to discredit that which is true, is only what might be expected, especially in England, where there has been less inclination and not so many opportunities of observing these phenomena as in Germany and France. In the former country, indeed, the conviction of their truth is very general, and in France they have been attested by innumerable persons of high

character, among whom may be enumerated a large proportion of names in the medical and scientific world. Even in England, however, the number of incredulous has of late greatly diminished, as is apparent from the progress of animal magnetism within a brief period, not among the ignorant, but among the upper and middle classes, the more intelligent and medical portion of the community, from whom alone rigid investigation is solicited by the propagators of this part of psychological science. I will not dwell at length upon the conclusive experiments which have been made day after day, and evening after evening, before numerous assemblages of persons of various ranks and opinions upon the celebrated Paris clairvoyants, respecting whom so much stir has been made, and which induced me when incredulous to satisfy myself by personal inquiry as to the degree of credence these accounts were entitled to; but I will adduce a few of the instances which I reported to the Parisian Medical Society, when the subject was under discussion, as evidencing that I was not led to change my opinions upon slight or insufficient grounds.

The first of these somnambulists which I saw was a female named Julie, of whom I had previously read an account in the Morning Herald, extracted from the Paris Globe, as having at an evening assembly described among other things, to the astonishment of all present, a dissecting-room, with a subject on the table, where the physician *en rapport* with her had that day been. She also mentioned a peculiarity of this gentleman, viz., that two of his toes had been adherent together from his birth. On placing myself *en rapport*, she said before I spoke that I came from a long way off, and on my producing a note to ascertain whether she could read it, she said, while it was closed, that it was not signed, which was the case. She was, however, wrong in saying it came from a lady, though the writing being very small and fine, would have been taken for that of a lady by most persons. After some efforts, carrying the letter to her forehead, the writing being reversed, she pronounced the two first words, but could not make out my name. As the eyes, though closed, were not covered

with any bandage, I expressed my dissatisfaction at the result thus far. A little later a physician who had accompanied me drew from his pocket a number of the *Gazette des Hôpitaux*, of which I placed the title in contact with her occiput, and asked her to read the line. She complained of being fatigued by the previous questions of the company, but said she would try; and after requesting me to think of the words, said the first letter was a G. She could not, however, distinguish the others, and desired to be awakened. Now, as may be supposed, I had taken good care that she could not possibly have a glimpse of the paper, and if for argument's sake it were to be conceded that she might have guessed the right letter, it must at least be allowed that the guess would have been a good one when the chances were twenty-four to one against it.

Another somnambulist, Virginia, who had repeatedly given proofs of great lucidity in describing localities, on being placed *en rapport* with an ecclesiastic of the seminary of Toulouse, proceeded to describe the town, his church, and residence. She was right in some particulars, such as the street leading to the principal square, the colour of the houses which are of brick, there being no steeple to the church, &c.; but was at fault in several others. She was subsequently placed in relation with a gentleman who wished her to describe his château. After some generalities which were correct, she attempted to enter more into particulars, and said truly that on ascending two steps a large room was on the right, which he said was the billiard-room; she also said that there were four windows in it, correctly described the colour of the walls, around which were pictures, but could not make out some piece of furniture between the rooms, though she appeared to try hard; neither could she perceive any billiard-table; though, as the gentleman had mentioned it was the billiard-room, if there were any deception, one would naturally suppose the billiard-table would have been the first thing named. In some other attempts she was unsuccessful.

These results are, however, insignificant compared with those presented by the next subject—Alexis,

whose name is now pretty well known in England. After being magnetised, and presenting the more ordinary phenomena of cataleptic rigidity of parts, insensibility to stimuli, &c., he became lucid, presenting the peculiarity of hearing what was said by other persons as well as the one *en rapport* with him.

After some of the visitors had questioned him, I placed myself in relation with him, and while holding his hand, gave him a card of Dr. Davison's, asking him to read it, the printed part being reversed and in contact with his hand; he carried it to his nose and forehead, and after some efforts mentioned the three first letters. I then desired that his eyes should be bandaged, and the magnetiser took from a drawer a piece of thick woolly padding, such as is used by tailors for padding of coats, about ten inches long and six broad, and offered it to any of the company to apply. I availed myself of the opportunity, and placed it over his eyes in such a manner that the lower edge came down nearly to the aperture of the nostrils; over this a folded handkerchief was tied firmly round the head, and it was then proposed that he should play *ecarté* with any of the company; a gentleman accordingly offered himself, and two packs of cards (one with red, and other with green backs,) were produced, and were used alternately every game. The somnambulist had, meanwhile, still continued his efforts to read Dr. Davison's card, which he at last accomplished, calling it, however, Davignon. While playing, he named the cards which he cut or played, followed the suit with correctness, and repeatedly mentioned the cards which his adversary held in his hand, saying at the beginning that he had won or lost, as the case might be, and was only mistaken two or three times. During one of the games a gentleman present who had not witnessed anything of the kind before, substituted his card for that of Dr. Davison's, which lay upon the table. The somnambulist was soon aware of the exchange, and after touching the gentleman's hand, mentioned the first letter of the new one, though the name was in contact with the table, and was consequently unknown to the company. After requesting the owner of the card, (Le Cte. de

Balincourt,) to think of his name, he said he would tell a letter after each deal. On pronouncing the two last letters of the second word, and winning at the same time a game, he said, *cela fait le compte*, thus punning upon the word; and at last succeeded in mentioning the name except the *de*, which he omitted. Another visiting card was likewise presented to him, which he read more quickly, as his lucidity appeared to increase. A lady then took the gentleman's place as his adversary, and the results were repeated during several games to the satisfaction and astonishment of all present. On one occasion, after he had proposed, the lady dealt him four fresh cards, and while they lay with their faces upon the table, he said, without touching them, "It is of no use playing; I have lost; they are only spades and diamonds." I turned the cards up, and there were in fact two spades and two diamonds. During an intermission in the playing, I drew a card from the pack without looking at it myself, and asked him to name it; he said, "It is a king;" but when I had ascertained that he was mistaken, he said, "No, it is a ten," which was true: I asked him which ten; he said, a black ten, and first mentioned the ten of clubs, whereas it was spades. I then folded down the number of the Gazette des Hôpitaux, and asked him to read a line in moderately large type. He first placed the paper upon his epigastrium, then to his forehead, and holding my hand, said the first letter was an L, requesting me, at the same time, to think well of the words, which I did, and he pronounced them *Lit de Nicole*, this being the heading of an advertisement. All the time of the card-playing, the magnetiser was at a distance.

After he had reposed a little while, attempts were made to test his capabilities of describing the residences or friends of the persons who placed themselves *en rapport* with him; and although he made several mistakes, and often corrected himself, his descriptions were acknowledged by the parties to be generally true, especially his account of the appearance and disposition of the father of one of the ladies, who was at Abbeville, and also that of the apartment of M. C., a physician, in whose antechamber he perceived, among other things,

a skeleton, and stated its place with reference to other objects. He likewise described the sitting-room, as well as a picture suspended in it, in which last attempt, however, he had considerable difficulty, though he at last succeeded, placing himself in the attitude of the person represented, which was that of an eminent physician; whose name, he said, he saw beneath, though he could not read it. A name was admitted to be beneath the picture, but it was that of the painter. He could not for a long time state what was in the hand, and first said it was something round, a skull: after several efforts, he exclaimed, "Ah! he has something in both hands, and that is what confuses me; something round in the left hand, and something long in the right." It was then stated by the gentleman that the portrait was depicted holding a heart in his left hand, and demonstrating it with an instrument in his right.

Although there was no reason to doubt the good faith of this gentleman any more than that of others of the company, who had put questions to him, and had been satisfied with the exactness of his answers, I had not come merely to see what should be done by others, and accordingly placed myself again in relation with him, upon which he complained, as he had likewise done while his eyes were bandaged, of being annoyed by the white and blue stones on my breast, meaning the pins in my cravat, which were pearls set in blue enamel. I asked him to describe my apartment, which, after having been told the street, he proceeded to do, saying at first it was upon the third floor. I requested him to tell me the number, upon which he counted slowly up to seven, at which he stopped, and then said, "How stupid I am! it is not so much, it is No. 1, which was perfectly correct, this apartment being on the ground-floor, *to which I had only moved a few days before from No. 7, on the third floor.* He then described the apartment with tolerable accuracy, making, however, two or three mistakes, such as saying at first that the bed was on the right on entering, and the windows on the left, though he speedily corrected himself, and reversed their position, which was the right one. He likewise stated the position of the *secretaire*, but said it was open, which was not the case. He mentioned, however, most of the pecu-

liarities without being questioned. For instance, he said there were two rooms; that the smaller was reached by passing through the larger one; that there was a very small passage before entering the larger room from the court; that this room contained the bed, and two windows, though when he asked he did not state correctly the position of the fireplace, with respect to the windows. He said the smaller room had but one window looking on to the court, that he saw in it a toilette table, and a large black trunk, which was also true; (the trunk having been left there by the former occupant of the apartment,) and that there was a sort of passage between the two rooms. While describing, he told me two or three times to think well of the apartment, as he had done with respect to the line which I had previously asked him to read. He, moreover, said I had left something on the night-table close to the bed, and on my stating that I was not aware of having done so, repeated with decision that he saw something, he thought it was some paper. As I could not fail to be struck with his accuracy in other points of the description, I was curious on arriving at home to see whether there was in fact anything upon the night-table, to which my first look was directed on entering, and on the marble slab which forms its top, there lay a large piece of the end of the white bed-curtain, which usually hangs by its side, and which I had never before observed to be there.

While describing, he was very positive upon some points, sometimes contradicting the person when told he was wrong; upon some other points he was not equally positive, and corrected himself. For example, having mentioned that there was a well to the right of the house of a gentleman *en rapport* with him, he was contradicted, but persisted in his assertion, upon which the gentleman's wife said the somnambulist was correct, that the well was to the right on coming from the house; on the husband making some reply, the slight altercation was terminated by the somnambulist saying that the well lay north of the house, in which both husband and wife agreed. The card playing was carried on throughout with a quickness which could not have been exceeded by an expert player, and though he now and then made a slight

mistake, such as taking one court card for another, he did not once revoke, but led off the proper cards, followed his adversary's suit with precision, and generally after the first or second card had been played, he told whether he had gained or lost the other tricks, mentioning the cards in his adversary's hand, and once, when some of the red cards got mixed with the green ones, he sorted them out without any hesitation.

Two days afterwards, having applied the cotton and bandage to the eyes, I drew a paper from my pocket, on which were some printed characters in moderately large type. He made out in a little while the larger word, *magnetisme*, but had more difficulty in decyphering the rest, which however he accomplished, "*Traitement des Maladies par le Magnetisme*," being the words. - I then opened a book, and gave him the heading of a chapter to read. He made out the words, *Des Lotteries Allemandes*, sooner than he had done the previous ones. The magnetiser then proposed that he should describe some distant locality of which I should think. I mentioned my apartments in London, of which the somnambulist proceeded to attempt the description, and was correct in some points, such as that the house was in a street which opened into a very wide street or road, that they were on the ground-floor, the staircase being continued beyond, that the entrance to the sitting-room was to the left of the passage, and at the further end of the room; that there were two windows, and the fire-place was to the right in entering; that there was only one window in the bed-room; in the more minute details, however, he was frequently at fault. I next asked him about Wiesbaden, where I have passed several summers. He said, on arriving into the town the passage was along a handsome street, that the hotel at which I descended, was on the left of the street and in a square: on my inquiry as to whether it was large or small, he said very large; the Hotel des Quatre Saisons being in fact in the situation he described, forming a corner of the Wilhelm Strasse and one side of the square, and is, with one or two exceptions, the largest hotel with which I am acquainted. I told him that I did not remain more than a day or two in the hotel but took apartments, which he said, with truth, were in a lodging-house in the

principal street; that there were houses only on one side of the street, that they were not high; that the look out was upon some large trees and the promenade; which any one who has been there, would acknowledge to be a correct description. He further said that the promenade turned off at an angle, and that on each side of the other part he saw a raised terrace, doubtless in allusion to the colonnades, to which the ascent is by four or five steps. He said, however, that there was a monument or statue in the square, which was incorrect, and made a mistake in two or three other particulars.

At the third *seance* there was again a tolerably large assemblage of persons, and among them a gentleman who produced a sealed letter, the contents of which he was pretty confident the somnambulist would not be able to make out. I had the day before mentioned to an incredulous physician who had not previously seen any similar experiments, that they were to be repeated; he accordingly came at the beginning. After the exhibition of rigidity and insensibility to pricking the rigid limbs, I again applied the padding over the eyes, while Dr. — tied the bandage; on some one's inquiring if it could not slip, the somnambulist appeared annoyed, and asked for a second handkerchief, which I placed below the other, so as to leave only the end of the nose free, and below this the padding protruded on each side lower than the nostrils. Dr. — expressed himself satisfied that he could not see anything, and the *ecarté* playing was again proposed; a gentleman producing a pack of cards which he had brought with him, inclosed in the government envelope. As the pack was entire, the low cards had to be taken out, which the magnetiser asked the somnambulist to do; he said, however, that his lucidity was not yet sufficient, and declined. On cutting for the first deal, he at once said to his adversary, without turning the cards towards himself, "It is your deal," and, as on the former occasion, selected his cards, playing to his adversary's suit, and leading off with precision, naming the cards in his adversary's hand, and consequently telling whether he had lost or won: now and then, however, mistaking a knave or a queen for a king. During one deal, at the expressed wish of the magnetiser, he played to his adversary's suit, and led off correctly while the cards still lay with their faces on the table

without taking them into his hand. I then produced my passport, doubling it down opposite the heading, and asked him to read the first words; he first spelt the word *nom*, and then began afresh, mentioning each letter of the words, *Au nom du roi*, till the last, which he pronounced without spelling. I then asked him again the number of my apartment, which he repeated was No. 1. But, I said, there are two numbers one; what is there to distinguish mine from the other, what is there on the key? he replied, there is a letter hanging to the key. What letter? He first pronounced A; passing quickly over it, but hesitated a little at B, then said C, and with decision, "It is a C;" which was true. The gentleman had previously given his sealed letter, which he undertook to decypher, and after some trials, said it is writing, which was denied, though it appeared on opening the letter that the letters and figures were in writing. He then said there was a picture and some figures; on being asked how many figures, he said five. He was then asked the letters; of which there were several small ones, not forming words, and four capitals. He named three of the capitals, which on opening the paper were found to be correct, as also a small coloured picture, which had been enveloped in the paper containing the letters and figures. He was then awakened.*

* *Extract from a Letter to M. Marillet.*

"Although I had formerly attended magnetic seances in which some surprising results had been obtained, I had, I confess, doubts respecting the reality of the faculty possessed by certain somnambulists, of transporting themselves mentally, to places which they had never seen, and which were known only to those with whom they were placed in relation. I was, there, strongly desirous of ascertaining how far they might be relied upon in this respect, and the trial has been so satisfactory, so complete, that I can scarcely believe that which I have seen and heard. The young Alexis has, at my request, described to me my country residence, (situated an hundred leagues from Paris,) and the details with a marvellous exactness; the appearance of the country, the remarkable objects, the shape of the buildings, the nature and the position of the furniture, nothing escaped this second sight. It seemed as if an immense picture was unfolded to the eyes of the somnambulist, and that he had only to indicate its different parts. He sometimes hesitated in his answers, but always in order to arrive more surely at the truth, always leaving me in the most extreme surprise, I may say in stupefaction.

"I am, your very humble servant,

"Paris, April 21, 1843."

"GEORGE ONSLOW,
"Member of the Institute."

These are merely a few of the occurrences which I reported at the time, and have since repeatedly witnessed analogous ones daily shown in private parties.—The somnambulist, with his eyes bandaged, playing with any one who choosed to offer himself, reading printed and written lines, and describing localities; though Alexis, as well as other somnambulists, was often at fault. I think no one who had witnessed these experiments so frequently repeated, would be disposed to ascribe them to trickery or accidental guessing, as might be the case were there only two or three isolated instances; for referring merely to the trials which I made myself, will it be asserted, that any one in their normal state, and with the free use of their eyes, could have done what I have stated? that the female should have guessed the letter G, of the Gazette des Hospitaux,—that Alexis should by chance, or from seeing them, have read the words which I desired him,—that he should have mentioned the peculiarities of my apartment, as well as of other residences, without any leading questions being put to him? Supposing, for instance, I had asked, is there a trunk in my room, in which room is it, and what is its colour? the chances would have been at least equal to his guessing wrong as right; whereas, his stating the circumstances correctly was the rule, and the mistakes which he frequently corrected the rare exception. It must also be allowed, that his positively affirming there was something on the night-table of which I was not aware, and without any allusion to this piece of furniture on my part, and my perceiving on arriving at home the unusual circumstance of its being covered with a piece of the curtain, cannot be ascribed to mere coincidence.

On one occasion, having correctly described the apartment of a gentleman *en rapport*, he stated that there was on the table a rosewood box. The gentleman admitted having such a box, which, however, he affirmed was in a cupboard. Alexis, however, was positive that it was upon the table, which the gentleman, on arriving at home, found to be the case, his servant having taken it from the cupboard in order to get at something behind it, and having forgotten to replace it. Some people might consider this to be collusion, nevertheless it is in accordance with

other analogous facts; and one of the kind occurred with respect to myself, for on another occasion, after having described my apartment in London, he said that on the drawers in the bed-room there was a quantity of books, which I denied, saying, that I had a good many books, but they were on a table in a sitting-room. On my returning, I found everything as I had left it, but the next day my landlady said, that since I had been away, the opportunity had been taken of putting the place properly to rights, cleaning, &c., stating that such and such things were put in different places, which she named; and that the books were placed on the drawers in the bed-room.

On the occasion of the visit of Alexis and his magnetiser to London, much incredulity was manifested during the *seances*, by some of those present, which, together with the somnambulist's powers being overtaken, occasioned failure of the experiments in some instances, though they perfectly succeeded in others. In consequence of what was then said, that the imposition had been detected, &c. I was desirous of ascertaining, when passing through Paris some months afterwards, whether Alexis had in fact experienced any diminution of his powers. I accordingly attended a *seance* which was appointed for several students of the Polytechnic School, and found the somnambulist as lucid as ever, playing cards with blind-folded eyes, indicating to one of the students the name on his desk, and the contents of the desk; telling another the particular street, and the name of the optician where he had bought some spectacles a few days previously, and mentioning the contents of a button of the school uniform which he had previously prepared, viz., a wafer and a piece of glass, which, on removing the soldering, were taken out. On placing myself *en rapport*, holding a card in my hand, Alexis stated the first letter, then the whole name on the card, *Laroudé*, saying with truth, it was that of a *marchand de nouveautés*, in the Rue de la Paix, on the left hand side on going from the Boulevards, nearly opposite the Royal Printing Office, and that I had been there two days ago buying some (at first he said cravattes, but speedily corrected himself) gloves; all which was correct.

Having been obliged to leave London by his Paris en-

gements, M. Marcillet, the magnetiser, was very desirous of returning, in order to refute some of the statements which had been made respecting his departure, in consequence, as was said, of the detection of the imposition, but was prevented in consequence of Alexis taking it into his head to accept an engagement as an actor in one of the provincial theatres. I understood, however, that he subsequently returned to Paris, resuming his exhibitions.

A few days ago I received a letter from a highly estimable gentleman, who has given much of his attention to animal magnetism, from which I will read an extract, referring to this somnambulist's description of a bank-note :*

" I consider clairvoyance to be a most difficult subject for discussion, particularly when subjecting that uncertain and fluctuating faculty to an *experimentum cruci*, such as reading *all* the words on a bank-note on any particular day. I am quite satisfied that clairvoyance is a truth in nature, and have arrived at that conclusion after witnessing a very great number of successful experiments, as well as very many failures. I have seen Alexis, the French somnambulist, surrounded and tested by numbers of hard-headed sceptics, and yet succeed in every experiment ; and a few days afterwards with every apparent advantage in his favour, the faculty totally deserted him. A sceptical medical man once placed in Alexis' hand a leather note-case inclosed in paper, and sealed. Alexis declared he saw two kinds of papers inside,—one with printing, the other with writing on it ; that in the latter was written the two letters T : L : with a colon after each letter ; that on the printed paper was the picture of a queen with flowers round it, and behind the picture the word England. Mr.— opened the note-case, and took out a Bank of England note folded three times, and enclosed in a paper, on which was written the letters T : L : , and on the other side some words which Alexis did not perceive, and of all the words on the bank-note, the only one he decyphered was the word England, which he said was *behind* the picture of a queen, which picture was, doubtless, the figure of Britannia. Many people have asked, *why* Alexis could not say at once that the printed paper was a

* Captain James.

bank-note, and read all the words as well as the word England, and the letters T : L. My answer is simply that I do not know."

As an instance of the influence of circumstances which oppose themselves to the manifestations of clairvoyance, I may mention, that on witnessing the experiments I have narrated, the previously incredulous physician who accompanied me, suggested, that in order to convince the members of the Medical Society, it would be very satisfactory if Alexis would exhibit before them. On my proposing this to the magnetiser, he said, "Certainly, we do not wish these things to be done in a corner, but court the investigation of the scientific, and those most competent to judge of their value." Alexis, however, who was then awake, objected, saying, that he was apprehensive that the presence of so many incredulous persons would prevent his succeeding. After my departure from Paris, I received a letter from a friend, saying, that he had been induced to consent,—but that, as had been anticipated, failure was the consequence. "The president of our society," says the letter, "engaged Marcillet and Alexis to perform at his house about a fortnight since, and invited many of the members, that they might have an opportunity of forming their own conclusions. The rooms were warm and crowded, and the people almost hemmed in the magnetiser and his subject. Scarcely had the experiments commenced, when one person, Dr. L., made some absurd objections, and expressed his utter disbelief in mesmerism. In fact the conduct of the majority was such, that it is not surprising Alexis was altogether wanting in clairvoyance; in place of one name, he gave another; and the other experiments were not more successful." Nothing, however, could more strongly evince the good faith and confidence of the magnetiser, than his readiness to allow the somnambulist to try his powers under such unfavourable circumstances.

This order of phenomena, it must be obvious, is altogether different from the more purely physical effects of magnetism, which may even be produced upon animals. Dr. Wilson, physician to the Middlesex Hospital, published an account of the experiments which he made in the Zoological Gardens, showing that elephants and other

animals were variously affected by his magnetising, and fish even became so passive under its influence, as to allow themselves to be touched and taken in the hand. Clairvoyance may be, in part explained by the mental *rappor*t which exists between the parties, enabling the somnambulist to divine the thoughts of the person when concentrated upon the particular subject to be designated; whether it be words written or printed, enclosed in envelopes, peculiarities distinguishing individuals, the description of distant localities or other tests; and this is evident from the circumstance of somnambulists requesting the parties to think of what they wish described. This explanation, however, does not suffice for those instances in which circumstances are mentioned unknown to the person *en rappor*t, and even sometimes opposed to his convictions. Thus, in card-playing with the eyes securely bandaged, somnambulists have no hesitation in playing the cards in their own hand, and can even frequently mention cards turned down, or written words, while in contact with the table. In the instances also which I have adduced of the rosewood box upon the table in the gentleman's room, the books upon the drawers in my bedroom, and the piece of white curtain upon the top of the night-table, there must have been a positive perception analogous to what I have already adverted to as occasionally taking place in natural somnambulism, and in dreaming; and in the present state of our knowledge, only to be explained in the same manner. "In the words of Epicharmus," says the author of *Isis Revelata*, (the first work on animal magnetism published in this country in recent times,)—"the mind sees, the mind hears; everything else is deaf or blind. If the phenomena observed are calculated to excite our wonder, to call forth our scepticism,—if they appear to be inexplicable and irreconcilable with any of our previous notions, let us remember that the cause of this may be found in the narrowness and imperfection of our preconceived systems, and this consideration should lead us to a careful review of the principles of our knowledge, rather than to an obstinate and irrational denial of the facts presented to us by experience." "It will be seen, on a superficial examination, that animal

magnetism is opposed to the opinions of the physiological materialist, the advocate of the organic origin of mind, and exposes in all their nakedness the scantiness, insufficiency, and utter absurdity of his creed. In animal magnetism we find a practical refutation of all the material theories of the human mind, a most distinct, cogent, and impressive proof of the independent existence of the soul of man, and consequently the strongest philosophical grounds for presuming its immortality, since it has now been demonstrated beyond the possibility of rational doubt, that in its manifestations it is not necessarily chained down to any particular part of the sensible and mortal body, but that is capable of exercising its various functions in peculiar circumstances, without the assistance or co-operation of any of those material organs by means of which it usually maintains a correspondence with the external world."

I will further quote a passage from a standard author, bearing upon this point. "Among the astonishing appearances established by the mind in sleep," says Mr. Stewart, in his *Philosophy of the Human Mind*, a very large proportion are precisely analogous to those of which we are every moment conscious while awake. If the exciting causes, for example, of our dreams seem mysterious and inscrutable, is not the fact the same with the origin of every idea or thought which spontaneously solicits our notice? The only difference is, that in the latter instance, in consequence of long and constant familiarity, they are surveyed by all with little wonder, and by most with hardly any attention. In the former instance, they arouse the curiosity of the most illiterate from their comparative infrequency, and from the contrast which they in some respects present to the results of our habitual experience. It is thus that a peasant who has been accustomed from his infancy to see without any emotion the fall of heavy bodies to the ground, never fails to express the liveliest emotion when he first witnesses the powers of the loadstone.

"In such cases the researches of genuine science have a tendency to produce two moral effects equally beneficial. The one is to illustrate the unity of design in nature by

reconciling what seems from its rarity or singularity to be mysterious or incomprehensible with the general laws which are familiarised to us by daily experience; the other to counteract the effects of familiarity in blunting our natural curiosity with respect to those laws, by leading the thoughts to some of their more curious and apparently anomalous applications."

"The mind," says Dr. Abercrombie, "can be compared to nothing in nature; it has been endowed by its Creator with the power of perceiving external things, but the manner in which it does so is entirely beyond our comprehension." He mentions the case of a boy, who at the age of four years had his skull fractured, for which he underwent the operation of trepanning. He was at the time in a state of perfect stupor, and after his recovery retained no recollection either of the accident or the operation. At the age of fifteen, during the delirium of a fever, he gave his mother an account of the operation, and the persons present at it, with a correct description of their dress, and other minute particulars. He had never been observed to allude to it before, and no means were known by which he could have acquired the circumstances which he mentioned.

The preceding facts and quotations might be dwelt upon with much advantage, by those who are disposed to ascribe effects which appear to them miraculous, because they lie beyond the sphere of their comprehension, to the direct intervention of a supernatural agency; and it is with difficulty that a smile is suppressed on hearing it gravely alleged by some, that if the phenomena of magnetic somnambulism were admitted as true, they are to be ascribed only to satanic agency, though it would not be easy for such persons to reconcile the co-existence of an influence from such a source with the benefits likely to result from the extended and judicious application of animal magnetism; for even allowing that this power is liable to be occasionally abused, where, it may be asked, are we to find any unmixed good? The same objection might be urged against the use of any of the powerful agents of nature or art. While the good from magnetism is likely to be positive and general, there is no reason to appre-

hend more harm from its occasional abuse than from opium, arsenic, galvanism, or anything else which may be employed either beneficially or prejudicially. That a more general acquaintance with the higher phenomena is adapted to afford a positive corroboration of some of the most important doctrines of revealed religion, may be inferred from the effects which it has already produced in this respect, especially among scientific and medical persons on the continent, where scepticism and the doctrines of materialism (in the coarse acceptation of the term) so generally prevail. The distinguished French physiologist, Georget, publicly recanted his opinions advocating materialism, in consequence of his becoming acquainted with these phenomena. The following extract is taken from his will. "In 1821, I openly professed the doctrines of materialism in my work on the nervous system. This work had scarcely appeared when renewed meditations on the very extraordinary phenomena of somnambulism no longer permitted me to entertain doubts of the existence within us, and external to us, of an intelligent principle altogether distinct from material existence; in a word, of the soul and God. With respect to this, I entertain a profound conviction, founded upon facts which I believe to be incontestible. This declaration will not see the light till a period when its sincerity will not be doubted or my intentions suspected. As I cannot publish it myself, I request those who may read it on opening this will, to give it all possible publicity."

It is impossible in the present state of our knowledge to surmise what further practical results may ensue from the consideration of the higher phenomena of animal magnetism, when they shall no longer be of such rare occurrence, which is to be expected, now that so much more attention is directed to the subject than heretofore. Introvision, or the detection of obscure disordered conditions of the economy, though having been not unfrequently perverted to the purposes of charlatanism by pretended somnambulists, is nevertheless a fact as well authenticated as other manifestations of clairvoyance, and also attested by the commissioners of the Academie de Medecine. Physicians

of repute have not hesitated to have recourse in some instances to this means of elucidating the nature of, and remedies most applicable to, diseases. The means recommended by somnambulists are not usually of a complicated kind. Dr. Wetzlar, a German physician, and a high authority on the subject of mineral waters, published in a pamphlet an account of his own case; viz. attacks of profuse perspiration, which for years had resisted all the means employed for its removal, the symptoms of which were correctly designated by a somnambulist, and the cure was effected by the means which she prescribed; viz. washing of the skin with a kind of camphorated soap, of which she indicated the mode of preparation. A case which was brought before the tribunals in France made some stir at the time. An inhabitant of Bordeaux had long laboured under an intractable disease which was considered incurable; his friends were recommended to consult the somnambulist Virginie, to whom allusion has already been made. As there was great difficulty in his undertaking the journey to Paris, he was placed *en rapport* by means of a lock of his hair which was sent. Virginie described his complaint, and the remedies which she recommended produced a cure, for which the patient and his friends were loud in expressions of gratitude. A prosecution, however, took place at the instigation of some interested parties against the magnetiser and somnambulist for practising medicine without a licence, and they were condemned to a fine and imprisonment. An appeal, however, from the provincial court to the court of Cassation at Paris procured a reversal of the decision, it being determined that the recommendation of remedies under these circumstances did not come within the statute.

The time will not admit of more than an allusion to some other points connected with the subject, as phrenomagnetism, or the excitation of the different cerebral organs, according to the doctrines of phrenology by magnetising. I have repeatedly observed these manifestations, and feel convinced that they are genuine, though in some instances they may have been imitated by impostors. Whether, however, when patients assume the attitudes, gestures, and expressions of veneration, self-esteem, combativeness, or any other sentiment, it be really from magnetic

excitation of the corresponding organs by pointing at or touching them, remains questionable. Mr. Colquhoun and others ascribe these manifestations to the reflex of the magnetiser's mind by the somnambulist, in the same way as when community of taste and feeling are exhibited. In the former instance, whatever substance the magnetiser or the person *en rapport* places in his mouth, the same taste will be experienced by the somnambulist. If, for instance, the magnetiser take salt, and the somnambulist sugar, the latter will taste the salt and not the sugar. I tried community of feeling on Alexis, this experiment never having been before attempted with him. The magnetiser being behind, I pinched his left elbow, on which Alexis soon put his hand to his own elbow, complaining of pain. I next pinched the little finger of the magnetiser's right hand, pain in the corresponding finger was felt by Alexis. Here there could be no collusion, as neither knew my intention, which arose in my own mind at the time.

The following case, from the Rev. Mr. Sanby's work,* well illustrates this part of the question. A young girl, who had been brought up by her parents in unbelief and great ignorance of Scripture, had been mesmerised on account of her health. She had been mesmerised by four different individuals, two of whom are friends of my own, without any remarkable effects of a mental character resulting. At last she was mesmerised by a gentleman of strong religious feelings, whose knowledge of Scripture is most profound and accurate, and whose theological tenets are somewhat peculiar. Religion is in fact the uppermost occupation of his mind; and mark the effect at once on the patient. She straightway becomes in her sleep most conversant with the Bible; compares one text with another; she interprets the Old Testament by the New; she discovers the deepest meaning in most abstruse chapters; she is an expositor of what she declares are the real doctrines of the Gospel. That a girl almost ignorant of Scripture should accomplish all this is regarded as supernatural. She is considered as inspired, called a prophetess, and for a time no one could say what turn the delusion would take. The girl is next placed *en rapport*

* Mesmerism, and its Opponents.

with a gentleman whose studies are of an astrological character, and her talk is straightway of the stars. She speaks with accuracy of central suns, of Jupiter, and Herschell. She is next placed *en rapport* with several ladies, who declare that their innermost thoughts are laid bare by the patient, and these parties know not what to think. Our prophetess, though only eighteen years of age, is ignorant of nothing. Ask her any question on any subject, and she answers with rapidity; of course great hubbub is raised, and the neighbourhood all stirred up: those who have a tendency towards religious novelties look for fresh revelations from the magical maid: those who adhere to the evangelical section of the Church raise a cry of Satanic agency; while simple nature is forgotten, and both sides overlook the fact that the patient is sympathetically united with the mind of the mesmerist."

In the life of Jung Stilling, as translated by Jackson, is the following:—

His "Nostalgia" was universally read. One morning a handsome young man came to Stilling's room. He learnt he was the remarkable ———, and was astonished at this visit. His astonishment was increased by the expectation of what this extremely enigmatical individual might have to communicate to him. He began to weep: kissed Stilling's hand, and said, "Are you not the author of Nostalgia?" "Yes, sir." "You are then one of my secret superiors." "No, dear sir, I am neither your secret superior nor any one else's. I am in no secret connexion whatever." The stranger looked at Stilling, and replied with inward emotion, "Dearest friend, cease to conceal yourself: I have been tried long and severely enough. I thought you knew me already." "No, Mr. ———, I assure you that I really understand nothing of all that you expect from me." This speech was too strong and serious to leave the stranger in uncertainty; it was now his turn to be astonished. He therefore continued,— "But tell me, then, how is it that you know anything of the great and venerable connexion in the East, which you have so circumstantially described in the Nostalgia, and have even minutely pointed out their rendezvous in Egypt, on Mount Sinai, in the Monastery of

Canobia, and under the temple at Jerusalem?" Stilling replied, "I know nothing of all this; but these ideas and conceptions presented themselves to my imagination in a very lively manner. It was, therefore, mere fable and fiction." "Pardon me," rejoined the stranger, "the matter is, in truth and reality, as you have described; it is astonishing that you have hit it in such a manner. No, that cannot have come by chance." He now related the real particulars of the association in the East. Stilling was astonished and amazed beyond measure. About the same time a certain great prince wrote to him and asked him, *whence it was that he knew anything of the association in the East*, for the thing was exactly as he had described in his 'Nostalgia.' Stilling has experienced several things of the same kind, in which his imagination exactly accorded with the real facts, without previously knowing the least of it, or having any presentiment of it."

From what has preceded, I think the following conclusions may justly be deduced:—

1. That a real influence may frequently be exerted by one individual upon another, so as to produce peculiar sleep or somnambulism, in which partial or total insensibility to external stimulants, cataleptic rigidity of parts, and various other phenomena, may be manifested.
2. That in persons who have been repeatedly subjected to this influence, the will of the magnetiser often suffices to produce the effects, independently of any manipulations or gestures, and this may sometimes occur when the magnetiser is at some distance, as in an adjoining room, and when the individuals are not aware of the circumstance.
3. That although there has in several instances been deception on the part of pretended magnetisers and somnambulists, yet that the phenomena of magnetism are too well authenticated to admit of reasonable doubts of their existence.
4. That many surgical operations have been performed during the magnetic sleep, without consciousness, or the expression of pain by the patients, and that hitherto no bad effects have ensued from the operations so performed.

5. That animal magnetism, under proper regulation, is calculated to be serviceable in the treatment of several diseases, more especially in those less tractable to the ordinary means of relief, but that its indiscriminate use, and incautious experimentation, is to be guarded against.

6. That the fact of clairvoyance, or the perception of objects by lucid somnambulists, without the assistance of the eyes, a tolerably accurate description of distant localities or persons, known to the individuals placed *en rapport*, the indication of symptoms of disease, &c., is fully proved by the concurrent testimony of innumerable witnesses, as also by the attestation of the Commissioners of the Royal Academy of Medicine.

7. That the rational explanation of these phenomena, which has been already given, tends to elucidate the occurrence of several events, as the fulfilment of dreams, presentiments, predictions, &c., which have been hitherto inexplicable, though too precise and peculiar to admit of their being ascribed to accidental coincidence.

8. That from the many occurrences, both in science and art, which are now proved to be true, though formerly considered impossible, no one is warranted in denying the truth of the phenomena which have been recorded, merely on the ground of the supposed impossibility of their occurrence, though in the present state of our knowledge they may not admit of a satisfactory explanation.

There has been on two or three occasions some stir respecting prizes enclosed in envelopes, and promised to any somnambulist who could decipher the figures or words designated. The conditions, however, which would render an experiment of this kind likely to succeed have not been acceded to, or when, as in the instance of the Burdin Prize, a somnambulist has come forward, obstacles were thrown in the way. Mademoiselle Pigeaire, whose lucidity at Montpellier had been attested by some of the most eminent practitioners of that town, came to Paris to try

for the prize of three thousand francs offered by M. Burdin in the Academie de Medecine. Some preparatory experiments were made in private, which were attended by several learned and distinguished personages, most of whom certified in writing that Mademoiselle Pigeaire read while her eyes were covered with a bandage of black velvet, which at its lower part was gummed down to the skin of the face. Among those who certified the fact were M. Orfila, Dean of the Parisian Faculty of Medicine, Ribes, Reveille-Parisé, and other well-known physicians. When, however, she came to try for the prize, it was insisted that the somnambulist should wear a particular apparatus, which was to incase the head, instead of the bandages and velvet covering with which the former experiments were made. M. Pigeaire consequently declined to allow his daughter to make the attempt.

A bank-note of £100 was said to have been deposited by an eminent surgeon at a banker's in Dublin, which was to become the property of any one who could tell its number. The somnambulist of a Mr. Saunders at Bristol, declared, however, that there was no bank-note, but a blank cheque which it appears on opening the envelope proved to be the case.

The offers made at the Town-Hall, of £20 in the first instance, and of £100 in the second, to be given to any one who could decypher the sentences written on the back of the notes, doubtless attracted the larger proportion of the assemblages on these occasions, and this circumstance serves to show the erroneous notions that prevail with reference to this subject; as if it were to be expected that a lucid somnambulist was to come forward on the spur of the moment, and in a heated room, amidst the disturbing influences of a large meeting to make an attempt of this kind. In order, however, to afford the proposers a possible opportunity of becoming convinced of the reality of clairvoyance by losing their money, I submitted the following propositions:

- 1st. That the experiments take place before a limited number of persons, as twenty, not likely to offer opposition or create disturbance, so as to impede the exercise of the faculty.

- 2nd. That the question be left open for three months,

in order to afford opportunity to lucid somnambulists to come forward.

3rd. That the partial or total success or failure of the experiments be determined by an umpire, chosen by the representative of each party, viz., Mr. Parsons on the one hand, and the owners of the note on the other, and by the chairman of the meeting, who, in case of a difference of opinion, should have the casting vote, and in the meantime to retain possession of the packet containing the note.

4th. That inclosed with the note there be legibly written on a piece of a white paper, its number, or any word of one or two syllables, and that on any somnambulist stating the number or the word so written, the note to become his or her property.

5th. That an impartial person, as the chairman of the late meeting, shall know the number or word to be designated, and shall consent to be placed *en rapport*, with any person disposed to make the trial.

This would be a perfectly efficient test, and in all probability, upon such conditions, lucid somnambulists would come forward. They have, however, not been acceded to.

I have thus endeavoured to present a fair and impartial view of the question, as far as the limits of a lecture admit of, having no personal interest to subserve; and if I have spoken in favour of animal magnetism, it is because I believe that its adoption as a remedial means within the pale of medical science, and, under certain restrictions, is calculated to be beneficial in several hitherto intractable diseases, as well as a mode of blunting sensibility with regard to the performance of surgical operations, preferable in some cases to the means now employed; and also because I believe that the further study of the phenomena of magnetic somnambulism will tend to elucidate many obscure occurrences in the domain of psychology, and will be no less productive of direct beneficial results, by promoting some of the highest interests of the human race.

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