

**ELECTRO-BIOLOGY;** <sup>X</sup>

OR, THE

1608/239

**ELECTRICAL SCIENCE**

OF

**LIFE.**

---

BY G. W. STONE.

---

LIVERPOOL:

WILLMER & SMITH, 32, CHURCH STREET, ALSO 25, LORD STREET,

From whom the Trade may be Supplied;

AND FOR SALE AT THE BOOKSELLERS IN GENERAL.

1850.



---

PRINTED BY H. SMITH AND CO., 44, LORD STREET, LIVERPOOL.

---

## PREFACE.

The facts in Biology are exceedingly numerous, and some of them of a most wonderful and monstrous character. They have been denied again and again, even by those who have witnessed them, and when admitted to be true, they have also been accounted for by referring them to a supernatural origin; but the time will soon come when these facts, like the facts in geology, chemistry, and astronomy, will be wrested from the hands of superstition, mystery, and quackery, and moulded into symmetrical forms of scientific beauty. This is a most laborious and difficult task, and any one who undertakes it may fairly claim some indulgence for the imperfections of his performance.

I am desirous of doing what is in my power towards removing the veil under which are hidden so many mysteries, and as I do not pretend to explain the philosophy to my audience when I experiment, I have considered it proper to offer to the public these few pages containing what I consider, in part, the theory of this science, and if I succeed in throwing the least light upon this subject, my object will be gained.

## CONTENTS.

---

### SECTION 1.

Electro-Biology, its meaning—Character of the experiments—The astonishing phenomena produced by the science—Its novelty—Opposition with which it must meet from men of peculiar constitution of mind—The cry, "Humbug" and "Collusion," supplies the place of sound argument—Gallileo, Harvey, Fulton, Newton—The sneers and scorns with which all new discoveries have been treated in all ages of the world—the battle-axe has been raised against them—the victory in favour of truth is sure.

### SECTION 2.

Difference between Biology and Mesmerism—Persons naturally in the biological state—Subjects in mesmerism not conscious—Some persons controlled by the will alone—Case in State of Vermont—Case in Montreal—Mysteries in the science which cannot be denied; other things mysterious; this no objection to the truth of any sciences—The human system—The power which makes the heart beat—The stomach digests—The muscles contract—Every bodily motion—The nervous power identical with electricity—Its effects on the dead body—The heat which warms us—The galvanic battery.

### SECTION 3.

The nervous power—Natural battery—Brain—Spinal marrow—The use of the nerves—Power of motion lost by cutting the nerves—Nerves compared to the telegraph wires—The will controls the nervous power—We put forth a will—The galvanic vibration of the nerves—In what manner we raise dead matter—Thought cannot touch the hand—For many ages men turned their attention to matter—What is mind?—Power, thought, reason, understanding, not mind—Life is a word to signify a number of changes—Professor Smee's experiments—Men fight and die contending for error—Common and extraordinary phenomena.

### SECTION 4.

Animal electricity—Magnet held between the nerves—Experiments on dead animals—Electric temperament—Bodily health: facts; headaches cured; a steel needle plunged into a nerve—Dr. Wilson Philip's experiments—Effects of galvanism upon the muscles—The late Dr. Young—Dr. Bostock's remarks—The idea that the will of man can direct this force—The most extraordinary power of man do not compare with the electric eel—Dr. Williamson's account of electric fish.

### SECTION 5.

Importance of Biology to the human family: case cured in Montreal, Canada—Wonderful cure in Burlington—Medical men have tested the experiments—Cannot obtain this power over all—Notices and opinions of the English and American press concerning my experiments in this science.



## PHILOSOPHY OF ELECTRO-BIOLOGY.

---

### SECTION I.

Electro-Biology is the term which I have adopted for the science which I profess to illustrate by experiments upon individuals whom I can find in every community, when they will submit themselves to the trial. The meaning of the term is literally the relation of electricity to the vital functions, or the electrical science of life.

Electro-Biology takes a most extensive range, and embraces a field rich in variety of thought. It is so startling to human credulity, that its truth cannot be believed only by passing it through the ordeal of the severest scrutiny by oft-repeated experiments. As to the character and force of these experiments, I can only refer the reader to the notices of them by the press, and to the testimony of most respectable gentlemen.

I will merely state that I profess to obtain power over individuals whom I have never seen in my life before, and sufficient to make them do as I please, and that when they are fully awake and in the most perfect possession of all their faculties, controlling their motions;—standing up, they find it impossible to sit down; and if in a sitting posture, they are unable to rise till I allow them to do so.

I claim to have the power to take away the faculties of hearing, speech, sight, the memory, &c., whenever I please, and to return them again instantly; that I can change the personal identity of certain individuals, making them imagine, for the time being, that they are persons of colour—that they belong to the opposite sex, or that they are some renowned general, orator, statesman, or what not. I profess to be able to change the appearance and taste of water, in rapid succession, to that of lemonade, honey, vinegar, wormwood, coffee, milk, brandy;—the latter producing all the intoxicating effects of alcohol. I bring before them the threatening thunder-cloud—they see the lightnings flash, and hear the thunders roll—the storm bursts over their heads, and they flee to a place of shelter, under the table, bench, or anything that offers protection;—all this while the individuals experimented upon are perfectly awake and in possession of their reasoning faculties. I am well aware that the first impression upon the mind of the reader will be, that all this is absurd, ridiculous, and utterly impossible: this would be the natural conclusion of every one who had never witnessed any of these surprising phenomena; but the reality of all this is maintained by some of the most respectable and talented men in the country; and I will here take the liberty to say, that it is not only true that I really do what I profess; but that every man of ordinary capacity and intelligence can be instructed to produce the same results.



I have taught a large number in North America, including many of the Medical Faculty, all of whom acknowledge that they have been more than ten-fold repaid for the cost of time, trouble, and expense; and the more the ability and information of the individual may be, the more ready will be the acknowledgment; and although I have been in England but a few weeks, and experimented only in Liverpool, I have had a large number of pupils, to whom I can refer as to the truth of these statements.

This science is alike novel, instructive, and useful,—full of speculation, fit for the loftiest intellect, and replete with rich instruction for every condition of human life.

That Electro-Biology should meet with opposition from men of a peculiar constitution of mind, and a certain degree of scientific attainments, is nothing strange, nor is it at all miraculous that a few who are deemed men of talents, should oppose and even deride it as a humbug; but as genius is supremely higher than talents, so I boldly and safely make the declaration that no man of genius has ever opposed this science; nor in any age of the world has genius ever been enlisted in opposing the dawning light of any of the sciences that have arisen on earth, from the morning of creation to the present day. But, as I have remarked, that this science should meet with opposition from that class of scientific men who always stand watching the direction in which the breeze of popularity may chance to blow with the strongest force, and

who are anxious through these means to bring themselves into notice, and thus gain a momentary fame from the passing crowd—is nothing strange: this merely proves the fact that Electro-Biology is only in the infancy of its being—destined to share the fate of all great and useful sciences that now stand unshaken in the republic of letters;—all, in their infancy, received from such men a like opposition, and upon their founders they freely breathed out their derision, scorn, and sneers.

Harvey discovered the circulation of the blood, and disclosed it to the world; he was opposed, derided, and much of that talent, learning, and cunning we have referred to, was enlisted against him; they sought to paralyze the towering wing of his genius, to blast his reputation, to wither the fairest flowers of his domestic lore—hope and joy—and to hurl his brilliant discovery from the light of day to darkness;—but Harvey's name stands immortal on the records of true fame, and the blood still continues to frolic in crimson through its living channels, whilst his learned opposers are forgotten.

Gallileo discovered the rotation of this globe on its axis. So great was the opposition of the learned powers combined against him, that they arraigned him and his theory at the august and awful bar of Humbug; there they fairly tried him, and his discovery, under the splendid and majestic witnesses, derision, sneer, and scorn, and the court very gravely decided that his discovery was a heresy, and that he must openly acknowledge it to



be so to the world. To this sentence he submitted, acknowledged his theory to be heresy, but remarked that, nevertheless, he believed it to be true.

Gallileo lives in the bright page of history :— that sentence did not arrest the globe in its mighty course ; it still continues to roll on its axis, as he discovered and proclaimed,—whilst the learned opposers of his theory, who counted popular favour at the expense of honour, are sunk into merited oblivion.

Newton's genius, when he was but a boy, intuitively drove him to study gravitation, by piling up small heaps of sand, and to notice more strictly the power in the falling apple ; it drove him to study adhesion, by watching the union of the parted water at the side of some favourite stream ; and to perfect the science, he is next at the centre of the globe. From gathering pebbles, in boyish sport, on the ocean's shore, he is next among the stars ; and at length proclaims to the world his system of philosophy and astronomy. He was mocked and derided as a silly-headed fool, and his whole magnificent system was spurned with sneering contempt, and pronounced a humbug by the old school of philosophers and astronomers ; but substances continue to respect the law of gravitation, and rolling worlds to obey the law of attraction and repulsion.

Newton lives in the brightest blaze of fame ; for his name is written in starry coronals on the deep bosom of night, and from thence is reflected to the centre of the globe, whilst his opposers are sunk

to the shades of unremembered nothingness,—the clouds and most of their own evanescent fame have become their winding-sheets.

Fulton was derided, and even men of science pointed at him the finger of scorn, because he declared that steam, a light and bland vapour, which could be blown away with a breath of wind, could move an engine of tremendous power, and propel vessels of thousands of tons burthen against winds, waves, and tides. They declared it to be the greatest of humbugs, and the most silly idea that ever entered a silly brain, or else the trick of a knave to make men invest capital, in order to effect their ruin. His friends even, though not over-sanguine of success, yet defended him as a man of honour; but Fulton stood firm, amidst the varying tides of party, like the rock far from land, that lifts its majestic head above the waves, and remains unshaken by the storms that agitate the ocean. So strong was the opposition that some of the committed sceptics who sailed from New York to Albany, in the steam-boat that first tried the experiment, declared that it was impossible that they had been conveyed a distance of one hundred and fifty miles by steam-power, and that it must, after all, have been some power, aside from steam, by which they had been able to reach Albany. The impression of Fulton's genius is seen on the machinery moved everywhere by this subtle power;—it is seen in the majestic steam-ships of England that bring her and the transatlantic world into neighbourhood; it is a power which triumphs over

all the stormy elements of nature. Fulton, as a man of genius, is remembered as one of the greatest men of the age, whilst his opposers are silent and forgotten; and thus I might go on to show that such has been the fate of all sciences in the infancy of their existence,—the moment they were born the battle-axe was raised against them, and each, in succession, has fought its way up to manhood; the victory in favour of truth is sure, and millions of sycophants in the contest have perished.

---

## SECTION II.

Many persons have the impression that, after all, Electro-Biology is but mesmerism. In answer to such I will say, that there is a very marked difference between the two sciences, and this difference is easily pointed out. Mesmerism is the doctrine of sympathy; Electro-Biology is the doctrine of impressions. In mesmerism there is a sympathy so perfect between the magnetiser and subject that what he sees the subject sees; what he hears the subject hears; what he feels the subject feels; what he tastes the subject tastes; and what he smells the subject smells; and, lastly, what the magnetiser wills, is likewise the will of his subject. But the person in the Biological state has no such sympathies with his operator; his sight, hearing, feeling, taste, and smell are entirely independent of the operator, and he can

continually exert his will against the operator, and resist him with all his muscular force, and with all his mental powers; yet he cannot resist obeying his command, or the change of his taste, or sight, or the loss of his identity, &c.; his every sensation being subject to the operator's control. Another difference I will mention, which is, that when the mesmeric subject is aroused from his slumber, he has no remembrance of what has transpired in it, whilst the person in the Biological state is a witness of his own actions, and knows all that has transpired; they often laugh as hearty at their own actions, whilst I am experimenting upon them, as do any of the audience who witness the experiments; and they often feel chagrined and ashamed at what they are doing, and would be very glad to have it in their power to resist. If these distinctions which I have named are not sufficiently marked to settle the point of difference, then I will mention two more.

I have found many persons entirely and naturally in the Biological state who never could be mesmerised at all, nor the least affected by repeated trials. The other point is, that no person is naturally in the mesmeric state; but thousands are naturally in the Biological state, and live and die in it.

Mesmerism and somnambulism are identical, —they are one and the same state; and as no person is naturally in the somnambulic state, so no one is naturally in the mesmeric state, though the experiments of both these states are performed by

the same nervous fluid; yet this does not render the two identical, any more than that they are rendered identical with fits or insanity, which are caused by the same nervous force. I have often found, however, subjects who, after having been under the Biological influence several times, could be controlled either by my will or by impression. I found one such case in St. Alban's, State of Vermont; it was the son of Judge Hunt, of that place, who came upon the platform, and I found him susceptible to the Biological influence. I experimented upon him in connexion with several other individuals that evening, and he consented, with others, to come upon the stage the next evening, when I found him to be one of that class of subjects who would anticipate what experiment I was about to perform with him before I could speak to him. The next day he was in the house at which I was stopping, and in the next room to the one which I was in, (it being a public-house.) There were several gentlemen present, all being well acquainted with Mr. Hunt, who wished me to try the experiment of bringing him from the room in which he sat to that which I was in, without his previous knowledge of what I was going to do. I did so; and the result was, that he left his chair, in which he was sitting, looking out of the window, and came directly into the room where we were, and walked deliberately up to me. Without saying one word, he stood looking me in the face some time. When I asked him why he came into the room, he replied that he did

B

not know, but that he was obliged to do so. I tried several other experiments upon him, with the same results. I was then requested by several gentlemen to allow him to be in the hall that evening, concealed entirely from my sight, and see if I could cause him to leave his place of concealment and come upon the platform, where I was making my experiments. I consented to try the experiment, and, accordingly, after I had placed my subjects upon the platform, I merely desired to have him come to me, which he did within five minutes, to the utter astonishment of those who had been concealing him from my view. I will here mention another case which, at the time, caused considerable excitement, and had the effect of convincing at least one or two sceptics who were present;—it was of a gentleman in Montreal, by the name of Butler, who was by profession a surgeon, and formerly of London. I had experimented upon him several evenings, in the Odd-fellows' Hall, in that city, (where I had been experimenting seven successive weeks, to crowded and intelligent audiences,) when, one evening, after my experiments were concluded, he, in company with several other gentlemen, (one of whom had received instructions from me in the science,) retired to a room for the purpose of seeing my pupil practice, and wishing to show to some of the parties who were sceptical, and friends of his, that it was not only true what they had seen in the hall that evening was really as I stated, but that he himself could produce the same results. Accord-

ingly he requested Mr. Butler to allow him to try his powers over him, to which he consented. The operator went to work, and succeeded to his entire satisfaction and to the utter astonishment of his sceptical friends, who, if they were not already convinced, soon became so, as the subject in resisting one experiment called into action all the mental energy of the operator, which at once threw the subject into the mesmeric state. The operator became alarmed, having never seen a person in that state before, and lost all self-control, and of course all power over his subject, or rather the subject sympathising with his fear was brought into an alarming state, and the whole party were so much alarmed that they concluded to send for me, which they did at about midnight. I went with the messenger, and found the subject laying upon the sofa in the most excited state, perfectly unconscious, except through sympathy with his operator. I at once used the proper means of restoring him, which I did in a very short time. All parties concerned in this case were of the highest respectability: the operator being a gentleman connected with the Montreal Bank, by the name of Holmes. I give these particulars that my readers may be convinced of the reality of mesmerism as well as that of Biology, both of which are equally true, and worthy the candid investigation of every intelligent person.

That there are mysteries in Biology I readily admit; but that there are more than in any other science I deny. We may, for instance, tell the

chemical properties of earth, water, and air, and the necessary degree of warmth to produce vegetation, but still no one can solve the mystery how an acorn becomes an oak, or a seed a plant. There is no science in the universe but what has some incomprehensibilities resting upon its face; but this circumstance is considered no objection to the truth of any science. Hence, there is no reason why Electro-Biology should be rejected on this ground; yet thousands do reject it, because they contend that it is incomprehensibly strange. They know nothing but what is strange; and yet, what is stranger, they cannot believe! All the operations of nature going on around us are strange, and the only reason we have ceased to wonder is because they are common. The human system is made a combination of vital and mechanical organs, adapted for the performance of certain functions requisite for the individual's existence; it may be compared to a complicated machine, all the parts of which act in unison; it is also like the machine in other respects—it wants a motive power; the various organs may be ever so perfect, but still they cannot work of themselves: the machine needs the steam-engine, and the human system requires something analogous: the power which makes the heart beat, the stomach digest, the muscles contract, and, in short, causes every other bodily motion, is the nervous fluid. Recent discoveries have made it extremely probable—in fact, nearly certain—that this mysterious power which we call nervous, is identical with electricity,



magnetism, or galvanism, which (as we shall show further on) can effect the various motions of the organization when the nervous power is extinct. Galvanism is a mysterious agent, and it is but recently that we have found means of controlling it for useful purposes. We have, however, examples of its workings in the electrotpe process, various chemical changes, and in the miraculous lightning telegraph, and in some instances it has even been employed in propelling machinery in place of steam, which, it is thought probable, it will eventually supersede entirely. Its effects on the dead are not so familiar, though often observed; suffice it to say, that the limbs and organs of a dead body will move by its means, and exhibit all the ordinary phenomena of life. There is no doubt but it is the principle of vitality, or life itself, and that nothing comes into existence, or lives, but by its means. The heat which warms us, and the light by which we see, are only modifications of this mysterious power. The soul of the universe, which causes the gentle breeze and the refreshing shower—the furious hurricane, with its deluge and lightning's flash—the splendid *aurora borealis*, and a thousand other phenomena that delight us with their beauty, or appal us with their might, and by which also the world itself and the whole planetary system of which it forms a part, are, doubtless, kept and moved in their orbits. As it is in the universe by the electric power, so it is in the human body by the nervous. Not the slightest motion or change can occur—not

a thought can originate, or a feeling be experienced, but by its means.

Galvanism or electricity is artificially engendered in various ways. All chemical action gives rise to it, or even changes in temperature, or motion merely. The conversion of solid bodies into fluid, or fluids into gaseous, does the same.

When steam is formed under high pressure, an immense quantity of electricity is engendered, as was shown by a large electric machine recently made on that principle.

The most convenient mode of producing it, however artificially, is by a combination of metals and acids called a battery. The chemical action is very great, and the galvanic power engendered by it is further increased and modified by traversing coils of wire. These instruments are now made vastly more powerful than formerly, though smaller in size, and more convenient to manage.

---

### SECTION III.

The nervous power, or human galvanism, is produced by the action of a natural battery forming part of the system. The battery is composed of the brain and spinal marrow, and the nervous cords connected with them. The organization and composition of the brain are apparently simple, but there is undoubtedly much in both that we have not yet comprehended. The manner in which

the brain acts to produce the nervous power, we do not know, but that it is so, is undoubted; it will even produce common galvanism under certain arrangements.

In connexion with the brain and spinal marrow are certain white cords called the nerves; these are very numerous, and are sent to every part of the body like the arteries.

The use of the nerves is to transmit the power engendered in the brain or spinal marrow wherever it is wanted,—the same as the arteries convey the blood from the heart.

No organ can move unless it be connected by a nerve with one of the great centres. This is easily seen by cutting the nerves, as those going to the arm, for instance, and all power of motion is at once lost. Cut through those that go to the heart, and it stops beating; or those that go to the stomach, and it will be no longer able to digest. If the spinal marrow be severed at a certain point, all the organs below become immediately paralyzed, owing to their connexion with the source of power being destroyed. This arrangement of the nerves, it will be seen, is precisely that of the wires of the magnetic telegraph. The battery at one station engenders the power, and the wires convey it to the other, let the distance be ever so great. The will of the operator at one end is thus transmitted to the other, and produces the effect he desires; in the same way when I wish to move my arm, the will sends the nervous power from the brain down the nerve to the muscle. This makes the muscle

contract, and so produces the motion. If you cut the wire, no communication can occur between it and the brain, and it no longer obeys the will.

We put forth a will; that will stirs the *nervo-vital* fluid in the voluntary nerves; this fluid causes the voluntary nerves to vibrate—the galvanic vibration of these nerves contracts the muscles—the muscles contracting, raise the arm, and that arm raises foreign matter, so we perceive that it is through this concatenation or chain that the mind comes in contact with the grossest matter in the universe. It is evident that there is no direct contact between mind and gross matter—thought cannot touch the hand, yet it must be true that mind can come in contact with matter, otherwise the hand could not be raised at all by the energies of the will; hence it must be true that the highest and most subtle of inert matter in the universe, being the next step to spirit, can come in contact with the mind, and electricity changed into *nervo-vital* fluid, which is living galvanism, is certainly the highest and most ethereal inert substance of which we can form any conception. Hence it must be true that we put forth a will; by the energies of that will, this galvanic substance, or nervous fluid, is proudly stirred; that stirring vibrates the nerves,—this vibrates and contracts the muscles, the muscles raise the arm, and that arm moves dead matter. For many ages men turned their attention to matter, and confined all their investigations to the realms of material philosophy. It is true that here and there a noble spirit has turned his attention to scan the nature

and powers of the human mind itself, but she seemed to close her laboratory against their entrance, and forbid them to lay their hands upon her sacred shrine. In this condition there was no alternative but to judge of mind itself from its vast and complicated operations both mental and moral, but that mind itself could directly produce a physical result by its own living energies seems never to have entered their hearts; but new fields of thought are opened to the human soul, and the mysterious and wonderful powers of the living mind are seen and felt. It may be asked, what is mind? I answer, it is that substance which has innate or living motion, and the result of that motion is thought, reason, understanding, and therefore power; as electricity is the highest and most subtle of inert substances—as it fastens on mind, and is therefore more easily moved than any other inert substance in being—so mind is the next step above electricity—is the crowning perfection of all other substances in immensity—is living motion, and the result of that motion is thought and power. Thought, reason, and understanding are not mind, but the effects of mind. Mind is something supremely higher than all these.

Professor Smee, surgeon to the Royal General Dispensary of London, in his lecture on Electro-Biology, states that if we take a review of the functions of animal life, we find that all sensations, the registration of impressions, thought, action, and other phenomena of animal life are voltaic effects, and solely obedient to physical laws, and

to the idea of the performance of these functions we assign the idea of vitality. Life, therefore, is one word used to signify a number of changes ; it is no independent reality apart from the matter which exhibits these phenomena, neither is it an imponderable attached to matter, nor is it an all-pervading ether, as some philosophers would have us to suppose.

Life, mind, memory, reason, thought, come from organization ; are purely physical phenomena, and cease with death.

Man, he says, however, is immortal. Man, at all times, and in all regions, has believed in his immortality. Now, that which is infinite must not be limited. Time must not be confounded with eternity ; matter with space ; the body with the soul ; nor material actions with God.

Electro-Biology, then, leads us to believe that the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. Professor Smee has not, to my knowledge, illustrated the science by experiments, upon individuals, as I have done ; but he has given most scientific illustrations with his electrical apparatus, showing the identity of electricity with the vital functions, and he has also delivered a lecture upon the subject, which has been extensively published, both in this country and in America. It may be found in the London *Lancet*, (August number, 1849,) and also in a book which has been published in this country, which may be found at most of the book stores, and which is worthy the attention of every scientific person, who would learn

more of animal life, and of the laws by which it is governed.

From the want of knowledge, we believe and hope, and hence it is we feel the most secure, the most satisfaction in resting upon what we believe to be true. What each one believes, he believes because he thinks it true, whether it be so or not; thus we cling to the views from which we can assign no reason at all, and hence it is that the mind defends error with as much tenacity as it does truth, whenever error has been once received instead of truth. Men contend for error; they suffer for it; fight and die for it. The nature of the human mind is such that, when uninformed, it has always been disposed to attribute phenomena that were new and strange to supernatural agency; but we shall see, that in strict philosophy, one mental result is just as supernatural or extraordinary as another; the only difference between what we denominate common and extraordinary phenomena is, with the former we are more familiar, and at the same time the latter class may be just as often in their occurrence; but because it may not have come in our way to notice them, they seem to us more mysterious, and hence to be attributed to supernatural power. And in regard to the phenomena which is produced by this science, it has often been said that it could not be done by any natural means, but must be the effects of some connexion with the Evil One; and this has been said by intelligent persons. When I was experimenting in the city of Montreal, I was even

denounced by the Catholic priests from the pulpit, as being leagued with the devil, on the ground that no man could produce such astonishing results without some supernatural power, and they warned all their hearers to shun me, as they would his Satanic Majesty ; but if such is the case, then every human being of ordinary capacity is in league with the same individual, because, as we have before stated, every one can do the same thing, and if those gentlemen who denounced the science upon that ground had come to me for the purpose of information upon the subject, I could easily have convinced them that it was no supernatural power, but purely a natural science, and that they themselves could be taught in fifteen minutes the whole secrecy of the matter,—that they might be able to produce the same results, which they had been crying down as the works of the devil. It will be readily perceived that, electricity being the agent by which the functions are performed, and one person being able by any process to place another person in a negative state, whilst he is positive that, as in electrical science, positive governs negative, he can govern his subject—the negative party being subject to any impression which the other wishes to make upon his mind, and it is not in his power to resist the delusion, which is to him, for the time being, a reality.



## SECTION IV.

**ANIMAL ELECTRICITY.**—In order still further to exhibit the analogy between electricity and the agent which produces animal motions and etheropathic phenomena, I will give a few instances of the application of electricity to the bodies of animals and men. I do not wish to be understood as insisting that animal and human motions are produced by electricity, but that they are produced by a power which bears a very strong resemblance to it in every essential quality.

I consider the effects of human etherium, magnetic etherium, and caloric etherium, as but modified motions of one and the same substance, just as the different colours of light are but modified motions of one substance; and as the different kinds of heat, recognised by Professor Faraday, are but modifications of one general principle of caloric.

I have no doubt that there are many different motions or modifications of human etherium; indeed, reasoning from analogy, there must be. It would also seem that those ponderable substances which are conductors of one kind of ethereal motion are non-conductors or insulators of some other kinds. The whole subject is rich in material for philosophical inquiry and reflection. The following extracts will serve to illustrate these views:—

The Rev. Mr. Townsend, in his *Facts in Mesmerism*, p. 330, says,—“I think, then, at present,

c

that the most striking fact of which I have heard, relative to the identity of the nervous and electric agencies, is the discovery of Desmoulins, that the transmission of sensation and motion is made by the surface of the spinal marrow, and not by its central parts. This is exactly parallel to the action of electricity, which is developed only and transmitted along the surface of bodies. That nerves really do conduct a matter similar, at least, to the electric, has also been proved by the fact, that a magnet held between the two sections of a recently-divided nerve was observed to be deflected as by an electric current.

But the kind of electricity which is in the human frame is probably a modification of the original principle. In many particulars it bears more resemblance to galvanism; and it is really ascertained by experiments on dead animals that the nervous fibre has a property of being galvanically affected, which (though varying, of course, like other properties, with the condition of the substance in which it resides,) may be called inherent.

Some most interesting specimens by Dr. Elliotson, in which patients, by a re-inforcement of mesmeric power, were shown capable of swinging round large weights, impossible even to be lifted by them in their ordinary condition, prove again the intimate connexion between the mesmeric medium and the muscular force, which, as every one knows, is dependant on the state of the nerves, and by them conducted from the brain. If per-

sonal evidence may be allowed to have importance, I may add that I am of an electric temperament; so much so, that long ago, when a child, I used to amaze and even alarm my young companions by combing my hair before them in the dark, and exhibiting to them the electric coruscations. Of course, also, the phenomena takes place most remarkably in a dry, and therefore non-conducting atmosphere. Now between this electrical endowment, and whatever mesmeric properties I may possess, there is a perfect relationship and parallelism whatever state of the atmosphere tends to carry off electricity from the body hinders so far my capacity for mesmerising, and whatever state of the atmosphere tends to accumulate and insulate electricity in the body, promotes greatly the power and facility with which I influence others mesmerically.

My feelings of bodily health also vary with the plus or minus of electricity, and, perhaps, did persons oftener attend to such things, a similar phenomena might not uncommonly be remarked. This at least we may admit, that the welfare of the human body depends upon the equilibrium or proper distribution of its forces, and that the electric is one of these, just as much as heat or oxygen. The mesmeric force has more than any other been shown to be inherent in man; and taking all the above facts into consideration, it is by no means a strained conclusion, that it actually is that particular modification of electricity which is appropriate to the human constitution. When,

then, after having mesmerised a person, I have a peculiar feeling of a loss of strength, and general uneasiness which can by no means be traced to the usual causes, I am compelled to consider this as a proof that I have suffered by a temporary destruction of equilibrium in that medium wherewith I have charged another person; that medium which we have agreed to call mesmeric. That which greatly adds to the presumption is the fact, that there is gain to the patient as there is loss in the mesmeriser. The tendency of mesmeric influence to restore equilibrium to the bodily forces, is evident under its beneficial action; I have seen headaches cured, fatigue dissipated, and trifling bodily ailments removed in a short time.

Muller, the celebrated physiologist, says—"The stimulus of galvanism excites in all the organs of sense, different sensations in each organ, namely, the sensation proper to it."

In the eye, a feeble galvanic current excites the special sensation of the optic nerve, namely, that of light. In the auditory nerve, electricity produces the sensation of sound. It has not at present been much observed, whether peculiar smells are produced by the application of galvanism to the organs of smell. Ritter has, however, perceived them; and it is a known fact, that the electricity excited by friction gives rise to the smell of phosphorus. A steel needle, plunged into a nerve, becomes magnetic; and, on being with-

drawn, it is found to have the power of attracting light substances.

The rapidity with which sensation and volition are communicated along the nerves could not fail to suggest a resemblance to the mode in which the electric and galvanic fluids fly along conducting wires; yet the great support of the opinion was in the experiments instituted by Dr. Wilson Philip, and others, from which it appeared that if the nerve proceeding to a part be destroyed, and the secretion which ordinarily takes place in the part be thus arrested, the secretion may be restored by causing the galvanic fluid to pass from one divided extremity of the nerve to the other.

The experiments connected with secretion will be noticed more at length hereafter. It will likewise be shown, that in the effect of galvanism upon the muscles, there is the same analogy; that the muscles may be made to contract for a length of time after the death of the animal, even when a limb has been removed from the body, on the application of the galvanic stimulus, and comparative anatomy exhibits to us great development of nervous structure in those electrical animals, which surprise us by the intensity of the electric shocks they are capable of communicating.

Physiologists of the present day generally, we think, accord with the electrical hypothesis. The late Dr. Young, so celebrated for his knowledge in numerous departments of science, adopted it prior to the interesting experiments of Dr. Philip, and Mr. Abernethy, whilst he is strongly opposing

the doctrines of materialism, goes so far as to consider some subtile fluid, not merely as the agent of nervous transmission, but as forming the essence of life itself.

Dr. Bostock, however, has remarked "that before the electric hypothesis can be considered proved, two points must be demonstrated:—First, that every function of the nervous system may be formed by the substitution of electricity for the action of the nerves; and, secondly, that all the nerves admit of this substitution. This is true, as concerns the belief in the identity of the nervous and electric fluids; but we have even now evidence sufficient to show their similarity, and that we are justified in considering the nervous fluid as electroid or galvanoid in its nature, emanating from the brain, by some action unknown to us, and distributed to the different parts of the system to supply the expenditure, which must be constantly going on."—*Dunghlison's Physiology*, p. 87.

The idea that the will of a man can direct ethereal force or electricity in such a manner as to produce etheropathy or mesmerism, has been considered as inconsistent with the nature of electricity, and also of the will. But in the case of the electric eel we have an instance of the will discharging the electric fluid with such force as to paralyze the limbs of animals at a great distance, and even of their producing death by this power. Some very honest persons argue that the Deity would never bestow upon a man such wonderful power as that which some experiments in ethero-

pathy indicate; but the power possessed by the gymnotus is far greater than that possessed by man. The most wonderful feats that any mesmeriser ever pretended to perform are unequal to those which are habitually and instinctively performed by one of the very lowest and least intellectual of the vertebrated animals.

Here we see electricity actually generated in the animal body, accumulated in an insulated reservoir, the outlet of which is perfectly under the control of the will, so that the fluid can be reserved or expended at pleasure.

We see the intellect directing the electric bolt with all the precision of an accomplished engineer, and projecting it with the most fatal effect upon its adversary. Like a skilful ethereal operator or mesmeriser, he ascertains the degree of susceptibility which is possessed by different bodies with which he comes in contact, so as not to exhaust his energies upon non-conductors. In short, you see in one of the most stupid and insignificant animals, a realization of all the fabled powers of Olympian Jove. The exploits of Mesmer, Peysegur, or Elliotson, sink into mere trifles compared with those of the electric eel; and yet you will hear gentlemen who are renowned throughout the wide world for learned ignorance, "talk in the most oracular style of the utter improbability that the Deity would give one of his creatures such power over another."

The following is from *Rees's Encyclopædia*:—

"From the observations of Condamine and

others engaged about the same time in a series of experiments on the electric properties of the electricus gymnotus, it is clearly demonstrated that the power of this animal consists in a kind of genuine electricity, being equally capable of being conducted or intercepted by the same means as electricity.

“Thus, on touching the fish with the fingers, the same sensation is perceived as on touching the charged vial.

“This electric faculty of the gymnotus is apparently designed by nature to assist in the support of its existence, the smaller fishes and other animals which happen to approach being instantly struck motionless, and, dropping to the bottom of the water, become an easy prey.

“The shock this fish is capable of exerting is so great as to deprive almost of sense and motion those who are exposed to its influence, and is, therefore, much dreaded by those who bathe in the rivers it inhabits. Some writers affirm even, that the violence of the shock given by those of a larger size, is so great as to occasion instant death. Their average length is about three feet, but they are sometimes found in the river Surinam upwards of twenty feet in length, and the shock of one of these is said to prove instant death to the person who receives it. Electrical fishes are capable of repeating the shock very frequently in a short space of time.”

Mr. John Walsh, in a letter to Dr. Franklin, says, that he reckoned fifty shocks in a minute and



a half, given by the torpedo; and upon another occasion he calculated that one hundred were delivered in about five minutes.

Much of the force of the shock depends upon the natural strength and vigour of the animal at the moment of the experiment. It is said to have very little electric power in the winter. It is much diminished if the fish remain for any time out of water. The shocks do not appear to be diminished in strength by repetition, unless the animal be otherwise exhausted.

When the torpedo administers a shock, it is always observed to depress the eyes, and to make some movements of the lateral fins. The other electrical fishes do not accompany these shocks by any visible muscular effort. However strong the shock of fishes may be, it has never been seen to produce the least noise nor luminous appearance, and it will not pass through the smallest portion of air; it must, therefore, be greatly deficient in intensity.

The electricity of fishes has not the power of attracting floating substances. When a person is insulated and touches the fish, he receives a shock as at other times, but gives no appearance of excess of electricity, however long he may keep up his communication with the animal. A Leyden phial also, being put into contact with an electric eel, never becomes charged. It would appear that the electric phenomena of fishes are produced in a different manner from every species of physical electricity. All experimentalists agree that they

regulate the strength and frequency of the shocks at pleasure.

Dr. Williamson relates, that some small fishes being thrown into the same water where an electric eel was swimming, it immediately killed and swallowed them; but a larger fish being thrown in, it was also killed, although it was too large for the eel to swallow. Another fish was thrown into the water at some distance from the eel; it swam up to the fish, but presently turned away without offering it any violence; after some time it returned, when seeming to view it for a few seconds, it gave the fish a shock, upon which it instantly turned upon its belly and continued motionless. A third fish was thrown into the water, to which the eel gave such a shock that it turned on its side, but continued to give signs of life; the eel seeming to observe this, as it was turning away, immediately returned, and struck it quite motionless.

---

## SECTION V.

Thus far I have given what I consider the philosophy of Electro-Biology, and now I will say a few words upon its importance and usefulness to the human family, and this I cannot explain better than by publishing the following accounts of one or two of the many cases which have been effected by me through this science. The following is copied from the *Montreal Transcript*, dated 23rd

April, 1850, and was republished in many of the Canadian and United States papers :—

We have been requested by Mr. Downey, of this city, to give publicity to a remarkable cure perfected on his mother, Mrs. Widow Downey, who has been completely relieved, by an Electro-Biological operation, from severe rheumatic pains, with which she has been afflicted almost incessantly for the last two years. Mrs. Downey was impressed by Mr. Stone, at his room, at Hall's Ottawa Hotel, Great James's-street, on Friday last, in the presence of her son, and the wife of the operator. After having been for a proper time subjected to Electro-Biological control, during which period she was enabled to move her limbs, and to walk about perfectly free from pain, a thing she had not done before for a length of time. Mrs. Downey was restored to a state of free agency, and dismissed with such instructions as were thought necessary by the operator, and having rested comfortably throughout the night, she awoke free from pain, and to all appearance perfectly well. She was, we understand, to have been again submitted to Biological influence on Saturday, which it was believed would be sufficient to prevent a relapse, or a recurrence of of the disease. In common gratitude to Mr. Stone, Mrs. Downey is willing to give satisfactory proof to any person being afflicted in a like manner as to the efficacy of the treatment to which she has been submitted.

We have also been requested to copy the following letter from the *Burlington Free Press*, testifying to the cure of a nervous disease of a much more serious character, and we may observe that we have seen and read two letters to Mr. Stone from the young lady in question, written in such a plain, unassuming, and grateful style, as to do away with all doubt as to the authenticity of the statement in the newspapers, even if it were practicable to presume deception in the matter, in the midst of a small community like that of Burlington, where the young lady and her family are well known. These statements are surprising, and, we are

aware, are calculated to be looked upon with mistrust, but we can conceive no reason why persons similarly afflicted should not, with the sanction of their medical adviser, at least submit to a trial of that which we think can hardly do any harm, and may be productive of great benefit. The following is the letter from Mr. Reynolds, the young lady's father:—

*Burlington, 17th February, 1850.*

MR. EDITOR,—I feel that I owe it to Mr. Geo. W. Stone to make known, in some public way, my sense of gratitude to him. It is well known to you, as well as to many of our citizens, that my daughter, Helen Reynolds, has for the last two years been afflicted with a spinal disease so severe, that, during that time, she has been entirely unable to support herself in an erect posture, or to lift her head from the pillow, and, indeed, during that whole time, has been closely confined to her bed. For her assistance and relief I have had from time to time the attendance and counsel of the most celebrated and truly scientific medical gentlemen in the vicinity, but it availed nothing. Finally, we heard that Mr. Stone was in town, and that he had succeeded in producing some wonderful cures upon subjects of diseased nerves, by means of what he terms Electro-Biology. I had no faith in his treatment; but by the instigation of friends, I was induced to put my daughter under his charge. He, for the first time, visited her on Wednesday last. He continued to make his visits until yesterday, when he found her fully impressed and under his control. To the utter surprise and joy of myself and family, he then enabled her to raise herself from the bed, and in one hour she was able to walk across the room, a thing she had not done for two years. She still retains her newly-acquired vigour, and we have every reason to believe her cure complete.—Very respectfully yours,  
(Signed,) ELIPHALET REYNOLDS.

These are but two of the many cases which have been published relating to the astonishing

cures which have been performed by myself and others in the United States. Dr. Dods has performed some remarkable cures in cases of paralysis of long standing. People who have not been able to use some of their limbs for years, have had the use wholly restored in a very few minutes, accounts of which may be found in a work published by Messrs. Fowler, in New York, entitled Dods' Lectures on Electrical Psychology. Those lectures were delivered by request, before members of the United States Senate.

In many instances stammering has been entirely cured by this treatment. We do not pretend for this science the power of relieving many diseases, which are caused by an organic affection; but when there is merely a functional disease of the nervous system only, we can in many cases give relief, if not wholly cure, and that without the use of any medicine whatsoever, and no one can doubt this who has seen the experiments which I perform in public, if they believe those experiments to be what they are represented to be; because if I have the power to make a man stammer who does not do so naturally, why not, by the same means, cause one to speak plain who stammers; or if I can destroy any of the senses, why not restore them upon the same principle; if I have the power to paralyze any of the limbs, why not restore a limb when paralyzed. I have repeatedly invited medical men to test these experiments, and they have given their testimony to the audience, before whom they have made the investigation, that they

D

believed all sensation was so completely removed from the limb, that the subject might witness the amputation of the limb without feeling the least sensation.

I have invited them to examine the eye, when I have deprived the subject the power of sight, and they have been satisfied, that although the eye was open, and the subject perfectly conscious that his power of vision was entirely gone, and these are unmistakeable proofs of this power which I pretend can be obtained over certain individuals. We do not pretend to get this power over all; on the contrary, it is but a small proportion of those whom we try that we find susceptible at the first trial. Many do not appear to be affected at all until several trials have been made, when, all at once, they become fully impressed, and I believe there are few persons who may not be brought under this influence, sooner or later, if they give it a fair trial; but we find great difficulty with persons who come before the public for the purpose of being experimented upon to comply with the requisite conditions, and hence we do not succeed upon as many as we should if those conditions were conformed to. In the case of the young lady referred to, I was obliged to make the trial three different times before I could obtain that power which it was necessary for me to have over the nervous system. At the third trial I succeeded, and although she had not been able for two years to turn herself in bed, or even raise her head from the pillow, in one minute I caused her to raise

herself up in bed, which she did with the most perfect ease. I then requested her parents to clothe her, that she might leave the bed, and walk about the room, and, to the amazement of all present, she was able to walk, and in one week she took her meals with the family at the table, and could sit in a chair, or walk as she pleased. This was a case well known, being in a village of only eight thousand inhabitants. She had been attended by seven different physicians, who had pronounced her case incurable—that there was no hope of any change in her situation. The excitement which this cure caused was very great, and it brought many to acknowledge that a new discovery had been made, and one of great importance, which it certainly is, when it gives us power over the *nervo-vital* fluid, that we may restore it to proper action, when from any cause it has lost that action,—and also gives us power to remove sensation, that a surgical operation may take place without suffering with pain. But Electro-Biology is in its infancy—it is capable of vast improvement, and I hope those who are capable of making that improvement will become interested and carry it to perfection.

The following are a few of the many notices and opinions of the press in regard to the science of Electro-Biology, both in this country and in North America.

(*From the Liverpool Mercury, Friday, August 30th, 1850.*)

MR. STONE'S LECTURES AND ILLUSTRATIONS.—Even those persons who have been accustomed to look upon the pro-

ceedings of patients in a comatose state, under mesmeric influence, as any thing but a trick and delusion, will scarcely give credence to the extraordinary exhibitions which have now for twenty-four evenings taken place at the Great George-street Assembly-rooms. Mr. Stone arrived here from America, an entire stranger ; he brought no patients with him, but selects from the audience persons upon whom he operates. It is true that during his stay, he has rendered some two or three much more susceptible than others ; but there can be no doubt he has influenced on the platform many whom he had never previously seen. Mr. Stone is considered by some of the leading medical men in the town, as a scientific man, and his experiments are deemed far more extraordinary than any of those exhibited by mesmerists. On Wednesday evening last, in addition to two very susceptible patients who had been before under the influence, Mr. M'Clenagan, a reporter, took his seat on the platform. In a short time he was, to a certain extent, under the power of the operator. The patients, it must be observed, are not put to sleep ; they retain all their faculties ; but are completely subservient to the will of the lecturer. They are compelled to walk, to stand, to sit, to think, to see, and to feel, at the will of the person under whose control they are. The most ludicrous effects are sometimes produced. The patients lose the use of their voice, they are made to stammer, to walk lame, and even to forget their own names, and the letters of the alphabet. They are compelled to rise from their seats, under the idea they are suffering from heat, and again to walk about the room, button up their coats, clap their hands, and evince all the ordinary indications of suffering from intense cold. They fancy at one time that a shower of rain is falling, and at another that there is a snow storm. Pure water they believe to be milk, vinegar, or brandy. An imaginary attack by bees and musquitoes very much disquiets and annoys them ; and after a supposed capsizing in a lake they make a desperate effort to save themselves. Mr. M'Clenagan was ques-



tioned after he left the platform, and he declared, without the slightest hesitation, that he experienced no sensation during the experiments, but an irresistible and compulsory power influencing all his actions in obedience to the will of the operator. The closing scene of all was most ludicrous. One of the patients, who declared at one time he was Tom Thumb, and got on the top of the chair to show himself, was influenced to believe himself a young lady, and the other man acted as a suitor; the love-making scene, which concluded by popping the question, kept the audience in a continued roar. It is right to state that the two men, who had been previously operated upon, gave their names and addresses. Mr. M'Clenagan is well known, and certainly would not lend himself to any deception or collusion. Having said this, we must leave the public to go and judge for themselves of Mr. Stone and his experiments. They have an opportunity on this and to-morrow evenings, and we can at least promise all who attend, more good hearty laughter for their money than ever they enjoyed at the best farce on the stage.

*(From the Liverpool Mail, Saturday, 31st August, 1850.)*

**MR. STONE'S LECTURES ON ELECTRO-BIOLOGY.**

*To the Editor of the Liverpool Mail.*

SIR,—Hearing a good deal of Mr. Stone's abilities as a lecturer on mesmerism, I was induced to visit him at the Assembly-rooms, Great George-street, on Tuesday evening.

Mr. Stone in an introductory speech—short, but sufficiently explanatory—told his audience the nature, phenomena, and curious effects of the experiments he was about to make, and concluded by inviting such persons as had not been operated upon before, to step forward and test his powers. Accordingly eight gentlemen came on the platform, where, having seated themselves with their backs towards the audience, Mr. Stone gave each a small coin of zinc, with copper in the centre, directing them to hold it in their left hand, and look intently at it; not to allow their thoughts to wander from the subject upon which

they were engaged, and requesting as much quietness as possible to be observed in the room. In about fifteen minutes the coin were collected, the gentlemen being requested to keep still, whilst, *seriatum*, he tried his powers upon them by gazing steadfastly in their eyes ; passing his hands over and pressing the front part of the head and other upper parts of the body, arms, &c. Upon three, some slight soporific effects were discernible, but upon further trial, it was found they were not within a sufficiently advanced state of the operator's influence to undergo experiments.

Mr. N——, of Tue Brook, then came forward, and was immediately thrown into a mesmeric state. This gentleman met with Mr. Stone, for the first time, three weeks ago, and has since been twice submitted to public exhibition. The effects produced were of the most extraordinary character. He could neither open his eyes nor shut them, stand up, nor sit down, walk, talk, hear, see, smell, or taste, without the operator's permission. A glass of water tasted alternately bitter, sweet, like milk, brandy, &c. After partaking of this last liquid, he became apparently quite tipsy, reeling about like a drunken man, in which situation his attempts to gain a chair were most ludicrous, and excited roars of laughter. A rather fearful scene followed ; he became, through a hint from Mr. Stone, under the impression that the hall was on fire, and followed with intense interest the progress of the flames. In a moment he darted like lightning from the platform to the door, crying "save the child," when his further progress was arrested by the operator's voice calling aloud "All right." He was then made to believe he was ascending in a balloon, during which he exhibited great fears of falling out. He was deprived of speech and memory, so that he could neither articulate nor remember his own name, nor the first letter of the alphabet when asked. Numerous other experiments followed, such as dancing the polka, laughing immoderately, and crying, much to the amusement of all present. I could not detect any collusion or

understanding between Mr. Stone and his patient ; and all agreed there was something very wonderful and incomprehensible in the whole of the proceedings.

Several medical and scientific gentlemen were present, watching the experiments. I went to the lecture merely as a spectator. Into the philosophy of the affair it is not my business to enter ; whether the influence is the same as that known as "mesmerism," under a new and extended form, I cannot pretend to say, certain it is, that some (to me) inexplicable characteristics belong to it, which I must leave to abler heads than mine to discover.

Mr. Stone again invited those present to come forward and submit to a trial of his skill. Not one of the subjects were, however, of the right temperament for him, a most unusual occurrence, a fact well known to many then present.

Mr. Stone intimated his intention of forming a class for instruction in the science of "Biology," having already enabled several gentlemen to become masters of the extraordinary power.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,  
(Signed) Homo.

*(From the Liverpool Mercury, Friday, 26th July, 1850.)*

BIOLOGY. — On Tuesday evening last, at the Royal Assembly-rooms, Great George-street, Mr. G. W. Stone, from the United States, delivered the first of a course of four lectures on the interesting science of Biology. The lecture was illustrated by a number of wonderful and amusing experiments, showing the power which the operator possesses over his patients. "On the first evening, (says one who was present,) Mr. Stone experimented upon fifteen gentlemen from amongst the audience, five of whom, at the end of fifteen minutes, were impressed by his mesmeric agency ; three were partially, and two completely, under his control. They were deprived of the power of speech, hearing, and sight ; their actions were completely subject to his will, so that they could neither

rise up nor sit down; their memory was taken away, and they were made to stammer, and feel pain in every part of their body. A common walking-stick was made to appear a snake, and the taste of water was changed into that of vinegar, brandy, coffee, wormwood, milk, &c. Many more of his experiments proved that, to the vast majority of mankind, numbers of 'nature's laws still lie hid in night,' and that the human frame is 'fearfully and wonderfully made.' The lecturer stated, that so fully were the two individuals under his power that he could deprive them of their lives at any moment without touching them. The phenomena of mesmerism and Biology differ essentially in many respects, but chiefly in this, that in mesmerism the patients are put to sleep, whereas in Biology they are perfectly awake, and sometimes conscious of whatever is passing around.

*(From the Liverpool Courier, 2nd October, 1850.)*

BIOLOGY.—Mr. Stone, who produced so much sensation here on his previous visit, has returned again to Liverpool to astonish and interest the lieges by further experimental lectures on what he terms "Biology." On Monday night, the Great George-street Assembly-rooms were filled by a respectable audience, to enjoy one of his expositions. The lecturer invited those who chose to try his influence, to come upon the platform: thirteen gentlemen offered. A small coin was placed in the hand of each, and they were told to look at it intently. After doing so for a quarter of an hour, five felt the "influence decidedly;" the rest were dismissed. Now a singular series of experiments commenced. Mr. Stone proved that he had the most perfect control over almost every thought of his five subjects. They tasted water, and were led by him successively to believe that it was milk, vinegar, brandy, or anything at all. The lecturer declared that there was a shower, and instantly they buttoned up their coats, and appeared subject to a pattering rain. One was given a stick, and on the impression being conveyed to him that

it was an umbrella, he held it for a long time gravely above his head, to the vast amusement of the audience. Mr. Stone can not only call up sensations at will, but can even make his patients deny their identity. A druggist in town, who has before been operated upon, came on the platform; and on an assurance, which he appeared compelled to credit, that he was Mr. John Thorp, a teetotal lecturer, stepped forward and delivered a capital total abstinence address.

*(From the Montreal Gazette, Friday, 12th April, 1850.)*

CITY NEWS.

MR. STONE'S BIOLOGICAL LECTURES. — Mr. Stone's Biological exhibitions are unquestionably an intellectual treat of a high order. Those who have made the subject a study, and have perused the best works which have issued from the press, treating upon the system of manipulations, will perceive that Mr. Stone deviates from Deleuze and D'Erlen, and has opened a fresh path for himself. He exercises an unquestionable and unbounded power over the volition of the Biological student, palpable and unmistakable; and we cannot impute collusion without confessing that, if any deception exists, the students stand forth pre-eminent as the personification of the characters they assume. One instance we cite, where a youth was made to fancy he was selling goods to a keen Bostonian. The fidelity of the representations, the life-like character of the acting, would, if carried to the stage, stamp the actor as one who had reached the summit of his profession; but the public who have not visited Mr. Stone's performances may credit our asseveration that the whole affair is devoid of trick or juggle. It is what he asserts it to be, the empire over the mind of the student by the operator. The room, known as the Oddfellows' Hall, was crowded to excess, the majority of the spectators being seated half an hour before the lecture and experiments commenced, and, though the sitting was prolonged from eight till half-past ten, the liveliest interest was sustained un-

checked. Some of the incidents partook so largely of the ludicrous, that the audience were convulsed with laughter, and Mr. Stone's promise to exhibit this evening, and during the ensuing week, was received with decided satisfaction.

*(From the Montreal Transcript, Saturday, 6th April, 1850.)*

**MR. STONE'S SERIES OF LECTURES AND EXPERIMENTS IN ELECTRO-BIOLOGY.**—Mr. Stone, who has met with great encouragement, will continue his course of explanatory experiments every day this week, excepting Tuesday and Thursday. A very numerous audience attended on Saturday last, and a great number of the best known and most respectable residents in Montreal, submitted to be impressed on the platform, and the subsequent perfect control which Mr. Stone obtained over their motions and imaginative faculties was sufficient to satisfy those among the visitors who were most inclined to be sceptical on the matter, and we have little doubt now that his skill in obtaining the influence we speak of has become known, he will continue to be visited by crowds. Mr. Stone will form a class on Thursday, between the hours of three and five, for the purpose of giving instructions in the science, which is partially founded on the same principles as mesmerism, but which differs in this respect, that a party in the mesmeric state can only be effected during that period; but, in Biology, the person is, in the first place, made susceptible to a certain influence, yet retains perfect consciousness, the same as other individuals, until the operator chooses to will otherwise.

*(From the Montreal Gazette, Monday, 15th April, 1850.)*

**MR. STONE'S LECTURES.**—Mr. Stone continues to lecture to crowded audiences, and it would seem that, instead of the interest suffering any abatement, it goes on increasing. Mr. Stone will experiment again this evening, and will probably continue to do so each evening during the week. Those desiring to get good seats, or to save themselves from being disappointed by not gaining access to the room at all, will do well to be there early.

*(From the Montreal Herald, Thursday, 11th April, 1850.)*

Mr. Stone continues to attract large audiences at the Oddfellows' Hall. His extraordinary and amusing experiments are received with exclamations of wonder, and roars of laughter and applause. This newly-discovered science of electrical philosophy is certainly a strange affair. The curious and inquiring cannot do better than to attend the lectures, and get information on the subject. They will be continued to-morrow (Friday) and Saturday evenings. On Thursday afternoon, at three o'clock, Mr. Stone proposes to form a class for instruction.

FROM THE UNITED STATES' PAPERS.

*(From the Burlington Free Press of 9th February, 1850.)*

In consequence of the rush to witness the amusing and extraordinary experiments in animal electricity performed nightly by Mr. Stone, and the difficulty that ladies find to see through the opaque bodies that are unceremoniously thrust before them, Mr. Stone has good-naturedly resolved to give one of his curious entertainments on Monday evening, for the benefit and enjoyment of the ladies. No gentleman will, therefore, be admitted on Monday evening, unless accompanied by one or more ladies. We are perfectly satisfied that there is no trickery nor collusion, by which Mr. Stone produces his amusing results. A respectable citizen, Mr. Hatch, assures us that there can be no doubt whatever of the actuality of the impressions made by Mr. Stone, as he was himself last evening a subject of them. There can be no better evidence of the fun of these exhibitions than the fact that a handful, more or less, of buttons, is found in the Concert-hall, every morning, by the sweeper. The inimitable Holmes, in his "Urania," proves that the loss of buttons is one of the incidents of human enjoyment. In the prefatory lines to that fine poem, anticipating the expectations of his audience, he says.—

"I know a tailor, once a friend of mine,  
Expects great doings in the button line ;  
For Mirth's concessions rip the outward case,  
And plant the stitches in a tender place."

*(From the Burlington Free Press, 28th February, 1850.)*

Mr. Stone's exhibition, last evening, was well attended, and his experiments were unusually successful. We are glad to say that he has in charge a number of patients afflicted with neuralgic complaints, and that he has extraordinary success in relieving them. He has far more calls in this way than he can answer. Mr. Stone will give exhibitions, with new subjects, on Friday and Saturday evenings, at the Concert-hall. On Saturday evening, he desires us to say, no gentleman will be admitted unless accompanied by a lady, Saturday evening being the last of his evenings with us, as his engagements call him to Montreal on Tuesday of next week.

*(From the Burlington Courier, 9th February, 1850.)*

Mr. Stone's lectures and experiments in Biology have excited great interest, and drawn full houses for a fortnight past. On Monday evening, he gave a farewell exhibition for the benefit of the ladies, no gentleman being admitted without a lady, except, perhaps, a few incorrigible and forlorn old bachelors, whose hard cases were considered by the indulgent door-keeper. The experiments are indeed very strange, and the testimony as to their reality quite beyond question. We learn that Mr. Stone has performed a singular cure in the case of a young lady in town, who has been unable for two years to raise her body, or even her head from the bed, but is now able to sit up and walk with ease. The audience on Monday was quite equal, both as respects quantity and quality, to any one we have ever seen assembled here. We could not help thinking, as Mr. Stone was showing his subjects, a bevy of imaginary angels, just above the heads of the congregation, that if he had directed their eyes a little lower, they would have seen angels abundant without the aid of Biology.

