

AN
ATTEMPT TO EXPLAIN
SOME OF THE
WONDERS AND MYSTERIES
OF
MESMERISM,
BIOLOGY,
AND
CLAIRVOYANCE.

BY CAPTAIN HUDSON,
OF LIVERPOOL,
Professor of the Curative Powers of Animal-Magnetism.

“The facts you state, furnish an additional proof of the practical utility and importance, as well as of the truth of Clairvoyance. It is, I think, very discreditable to the intelligence of this age, which is said to be enlightened, that facts are disbelieved when their causes cannot be explained.”

Earl Stanhope's Letter to Captain Hudson.

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MESMERISM, BIOLOGY, AND CLAIRVOYANCE.

“Тно’ shadows, clouds and darkness,” round me roll,
And mortal fetters bind my daring soul,
Yet, will I seek the uncreated light,
To guide me through the ignorance of night ;
Prometheus like, attempt to grasp the ray
Of holy thought, in regions far away.
Ye Angels, guide me, to the sacred lore,
Which shall the world’s lost primal health restore !”

Seven years practical experience in
some hundreds of cases connected with

the mysterious phenomena produced by a variety of electric action, which has been denominated Mesmerism, Biology, or Animal Magnetism, has so convinced me of its truth, its value, and its power, that I am induced to write down a few thoughts on this important subject, which I have no doubt will become, in a curative point of view, one of the greatest blessings ever sent by a Good Providence to alleviate human suffering, prove the existence of Guardian Angels, demonstrate the immortality of the soul, and soothe and bless us in this vale of tears! And I have yet another inducement in this attempt to unravel the mysteries that yet surround this extraordinary subject, by the frequent enquiries made in the various places I visit as a "Mesmeric Lecturer" for some plain work on this science, which many of my hearers are anxious to more particularly investigate.

Animal Magnetism has been since the creation of the world, and has ever existed in nature; but it is certainly due to Frederick Anthony Mesmer, a Physician in Germany, about the year 1750, that this mysterious phenomena was first reduced into a system:—a keen observer of

nature, he noticed with deep interest the varied operations of the human mind, and after numerous experiments, he came to the conclusion that "something" existed, hitherto unexplained, which once understood, must unravel many mysteries of the operations of vitality. On first promulgating his doctrines, he was assailed with the most bitter persecution and malignity, and driven from city to city, till the fear of starvation compelled him to leave the German dominions for Paris, where he fearlessly challenged the investigation of the new science ; gave his theory of the causes of effects hitherto unknown, which have not been better explained by a century of investigation ; and rendered himself, what the world calls "Immortal," by transmitting his name to posterity !

We have many learned and expensive works on this subject ; we have many theories, full of words, which signify nothing, giving explanations in terms more complex than the original idea, which like the baseless fabric of a vision, vanish in the light of some poor dictionary, and leave no ray to guide us through the shallows of doubt and of ignorance.

A few plain thoughts, then, appear to be wanted, but where Philosophers have failed, I almost fear to tread, for "rock'd on the high and giddy mast," nurtured on the breast of the ocean waves, and instructed with "a rope's end," in the academical degrees of a British Seaman, I cannot be expected to give a very learned account of the wonders of the deep, or very philosophically "sound" the fathomless abyss, of the mysterious solitudes of the Ocean-mind ; yet my "log" of events may perchance throw some light on the navigation of these unknown depths, and induce some daring adventurer laden with science to make a voyage among these mysteries, and open a new passage to the human mind.

A sailor must know where to steer before his "anchor is weighed," and the white sails are unfurled to the breeze. He consults his chart, and guided by the magic fingers of the Lode-star, his gallant Bark "walks the waters like a thing of life." But in a voyage of discovery he must look within, even unto the spirit-soul, and from its higher influences, shape his course, and dare the dangers of the unknown and of the invisible.

My destination is Mesmerism. My first enquiry then, must be its bearings and locality. My opinion is, that it is nearly allied to the principle of life, and that Electricity, Galvanism, and Magnetism are only some of its induced, chemical, or natural developments ; and with all due reverence to that Almighty power who formed the myriad worlds in the boundless solitudes of space, and illumed its darkness with the suns, and moons, and stars of the vast Creation, I presume to think that he gave a *vital* principle to the vast ocean in which they roll, from which the blazing stars extract their fires. PRIESTLEY drew the gaseous supporter of life ; FRANKLIN, the lightning ; the diamond its lustre ; existence its motion ; the tides their ebbing and flowing power ; and our green earth its magic display of seasons, and of days, and of years. Health and disease also derive their origin from this life-sea ; the calm equilibrium of nature producing the one, its irregular action the other. There is but one health, one disease, and one cure,—the equality, the inequality, and the restoration of the equilibrium, which can be, and has been, effected by the Mesmeric power of the human will.

Some Doctors of Medicine have hitherto opposed the progress of this science. I fearlessly assert that they have done so from ignorance, or from fear. If the pulse beats beyond its natural number, they reduce it; if below, they try to raise it; and this is the substance of their knowledge; when the equilibrium is restored they say, "we have performed a wonderful cure!" But when death ensues, then something they call "nature" must bear the blame for the liberation of the wearied spirit.

The purport of our voyage is Mesmerism and its phenomena, but I look in vain in the *Gazeteer* for its locality. I am in some degree bewildered with a thousand opposed opinions, and scarcely know whose directions to follow or what course to steer.

It is said by many Professors of Religion, "that it is an unholy voyage, and that Satan is Commodore of the Squadron!" But one little word, will I think upset the assertion;—Mesmerism has alleviated the greatest human sufferings, and has been instrumental in various ways through God's blessing of restoring

health and happiness, which can hardly be attributed to any evil principle. Rivers of blood have flowed in the *Holy Wars*. But shall we reject religion because its blessings have been abused, or refuse to walk on the green and flowery turf under which the earthquake may possibly slumber ?

Some of the Doctors tell us that the science is founded on imposition and imagination, and that it is capable of producing insanity ! So may the injudicious use or excess of their most famed nostrums ; and if they choose to call it imagination, it is probable that by that power, many of their celebrated cures are effected, and that imagination under certain forms and conditions is another word for mesmeric action, which certainly requires less credulity to believe, than that imagination can give us such boundless triumph over pain, as to render the animated body insensible to its severest afflictions.

Let me then enquire what this Mesmerism is, and give a humble opinion deduced from some experience, of its nature, and the blessings and benefits

which it has given, and will give to the human race, if "Our Father which art in Heaven," assist the efforts of the human will to perform his works of Mercy and of Love.

In my voyages to the northern seas, I have frequently seen the most magnificent cities arise from the bosom of the deep, with their towers and spires of the most brilliant colours, and the distant mountains, so deeply, darkly, beautifully blue, that I have imagined we were approaching to another world ; but a nearer examination has dispelled the illusion, and left but a few clouds, or a few icebergs, glittering in the sun. So has the theoretical Philosopher built up his towering impossibilities, which a few plain facts have overthrown ;—each man has his peculiar theory in accounting for the unknown, and though my vague notions may be like the rest but some vain imaginings, I will try to say a few unlettered words on Mesmerism and its effects which may perhaps amuse the Philosopher by unscientific arrangement, but cannot destroy the science, or its truth and beauty.

Saint Paul says, that we are composed of "body, soul, and spirit." 'This spirit, I am induced to think is nearly connected with the principle of life, and that it pervades all nature, through which thought plays, and from which motion originates.

"Millions of spiritual creatures, walk the earth,
Unseen,—both when we wake and when we sleep."

"To every form of being is assigned
An active principle :—howe'er removed
From sense and observation, it subsists
In all things, in all natures, in the stars
Of azure heaven, the unenduring clouds,
In flower and tree, in every pebbly stone
That paves the brooks, the stationary rocks,
The moving waters, and the unseen air."

"All space teems with intelligences of various orders and gradations ; there be some of the AIR incredibly small and exceedingly beautiful, bearing the human form, and having a kind of insect life ; they are a blessing or a curse to the children of men :—obeying the Almighty

will, they sometimes die in cloudy millions, diffusing pestilence and death—or spread abundance over the earth, or blight its blossoms and rot its spring !”*

This life-sea, I imagine to be composed of “Monads,” “the ultimate germs of vitality,” which, though inconceivably minute, beyond the reach of human thought, I fancy to be like small short wires, each having two magnetic poles, which, end to end, may form a magnetic chain similar to the action of the loadstone, which renders small pieces of iron magnetic, and causes them to attract each other.

These monads I imagine, *principally* COMPOSE all animated beings, *whirling*, in health, with all the joys of existence ; in excitement, to the destruction of their power ; in illness, slowly and sadly, laden with pain ; after the toils of the day, end to end in refreshing and renovating sleep ; and in the rigidity of death, holding the body in subjection till, by decomposition, they are again launched into the

* “Spiritual Mesmerism,” published at 48, Liverpool Street, King’s Cross, London, 1851.

“life-sea,” and the soul ascends from the tenantless clay, to another and a happier world.*

By this theory, whether true or otherwise, (but whose probability cannot be disputed, and which may explain many mysteries,) we may perhaps form some idea of the phenomena of Mesmerism, which philosophy has left in as great a darkness as in its first discovery. We may form some notion how the passes of the Mesmerist can produce the magnetic sleep, rigidity, and insensibility to pain in the limbs of his patient. The *motion* of the vital monad ceases, when the additional fluid given by the Magnetiser, renders them more than naturally magnetic; when the attractive force of their polar disks unite them and produce rigidity, or sleep, or insensibility to pain by paralizing the connecting links of that telegraphic *wire* which sends such information to the brain; and even the brain itself may be put to “sleep,” and made to act by another’s magnetic will!

* For some of these ideas, I am indebted to a Friend who has devoted considerable attention to the investigation of these mysterious subjects.

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Theory would hardly dare to assert this, but a thousand facts familiar to the Mesmerist, give proof beyond the dispute of the Philosopher ; but fortunately this temporary dream can be resisted by the exerted will of the patient, and the spiritual part of our being is beyond the magnetic power. Assuming then, that this theory, which could be corroborated by a thousand facts, and rendered magnificent by the subtlety of genius, is some explanation of the primal force from which the singular phases of mesmerism are produced, I will proceed to describe the usual process and its effects on those who submit to the trial.

A few "passes" with the hand over the head, face and breast, is often sufficient to produce the magnetic sleep, which can be effected in a shorter or longer space of time as the Mesmerist's magnetic power shall exceed that of his patient, or otherwise. A steadfast look into the eyes, or "the will" on the susceptible, is often sufficient for this purpose. A dreamy sensation, like a pleasing mist encircles the brow, and an impression like that of a soothing sleep entrances the mind; the vital monads

are still, and as WORDSWORTH beautifully observes,—

“ Approach that blessed mood
 To 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 magic harmony, and mystic joy,
 We see into the depths of things unknown.”

Mesmerists speak of electric atmospheres which surround all bodies, like the emanations of the fragrance of the rose, and that by the incorporation of these atmospheres, infection is produced, and the common coincidence of suddenly thinking of a person who immediately after will appear, is explained ; but when we come to what we sometimes call the instinct of the camel, that seems to scent the water in the desert for more than twenty miles, this electric atmosphere is extended beyond our comprehension, while the boundless links of the “ Ani-

mated Life-Sea" become the railroads of thought, beyond the regions of the morning star ! And in the higher states of mesmerism, the spirit may then be made to respond to the questions of mortality. This liberation of the spirit is Clairvoyance, and thus were its powers described by a young gentleman, in what I would call the third state of this scio-mantic existence.

"I know that I am mesmerized, and think my peculiar state is caused by an overcharge of Electricity. I use this word because I know of no other to express my feelings, or any thing that approaches so nearly to the nature of the electric fluid ; but the mesmeric fluid is finer and more subtle, and partakes more of the nature of life. It is diffused throughout all space and flows in the air, from which the human body imbibes, and like a machine refines it, till it has an affinity with the mind, and there it becomes a link between our earthly and spiritual existence, there is nothing of thought or affections in it when two bodies act one upon the other ; it is but an agent, under mental control, an emanation from nature approaching nearly to the principle

of life. The *will* has power to remove the obstacles from mental vision, and to rend or split this fluid to any distance, so that the thoughts of distant minds can be distinctly read. The Clairvoyant cannot see inanimate objects, it is the pictures of them only, which are traced on other minds, with whom they communicate. Like sees like. With the rapidity of thought the Clairvoyant flits from mind to mind, zig-zag, and over, and under, and through, and above, and below, and in all directions, to all the connecting links in the chain of enquiry, and with the same rapidity sums up the result and gives the opinion. The past is as palpable as the present, for matter is indestructible, and thought has form; and all the shadows that ever were on the soul, yet exist, and can be again rendered palpable by the powers of the mind."

Another, on being questioned in "Manx," a language of which he had no knowledge when awake, readily answered the questions put to him, and on great surprise being expressed how he could do so, he made light of the circumstance, and thus, most philosophically gave us the explanation.

“I see the thought, no matter in what language it may be expressed. Language is but the dress, form, or fashion of the thought; clothe it in Greek or Hebrew the *thought* is still there, which I can see, or read, no matter how it may be disguised by the symbols of any language!” But beyond these thoughts, there be higher and holier mysteries more beautiful than ever entered into mortal dreams, which can only be seen by the philosophic spirit, and only be elicited from the Good and Pure !

Dreams, “the wild romance of life,” are probably the liberation of some sleepless monad, mingling in its life-sea, and returning with those fantastic impressions which may be traced, or may form some communication with the central monad of the brain where the soul-spirit probably sits, to record our transgressions with tears, or in our efforts to obey the laws of God, suffuses our being with more than mortal joy.

The description of distant countries which the mesmerist has never visited, may be referred to the same principle, the liberation of some portion of this ani-

mated mass which forms an instant chain to distant climes; and the visions arise from the uttermost parts of the earth more rapidly than the flashes of the solar ray, and pour the information on the brain, for there is now no doubt that such communications can be made, and the loved, the lost, the distant, and the dead, be palpably brought before the inner-eyes of those who are placed in the "trance-sphere" by mesmeric power. Among hundreds of facts I give one illustration, to show the value of this knowledge.

On unloading the ship "Theodore" at Liverpool from New Orleans, there were fifteen bales of cotton deficient in the cargo, for which bills of lading had been signed, and a demand was made on the captain for their value. He tried every means to ascertain how the loss had occurred, but could gain no information, till he consulted one of my Clairvoyants on the subject, who immediately went back into the shadows of the past, saw the vessel loading at New Orleans, described a vessel next the quay three berths distance of the "Theodore," and saw the fifteen bales by some mistake put into the hold of this vessel, (the "Poto-

mic," Capt. Rich,) instead of the one for which they were intended, and then followed the vessel to her destination. The Clairvoyant in the waking state possessed no geographical knowledge, and some difficulty occurred in finding the port to which this vessel had proceeded; the principal maritime places in England were named and examined, but she could not see the vision of what she sought, when, running down the coast of France on this spirit-chase, she descried the missing ship at Havre de Grasse. Acting on such information, the Captain immediately wrote thither, and to his delight and astonishment received an immediate reply that the facts were as the Clairvoyant had stated, and that the fifteen bales of cotton had been sold "for the benefit of those whom it might concern," and this amount he received and paid over to the owners of the cotton, which, but for this mesmeric information, would have been to him a most ruinous loss. This fact the Captain thus acknowledges in a letter addressed to me, and dated the 26th of September, 1850.

Dear Sir,

You will probably remember

my calling upon you a few days since to consult your Clairvoyant in reference to fifteen bales of cotton short, delivered from the ship "Theodore," under my command, now in this port (Liverpool) from New Orleans.

My object in writing is to inform you, that through the information received (which I have since proved to be perfectly correct) I have discovered the missing bales discharged by another ship in Havre, (France) sold there, and the proceeds remitted to me, by which I have been saved about two hundred pounds, which I should have been obliged to pay if the cotton had not been discovered through your Clairvoyant.

So much being said against Mesmerism induces me to acknowledge, that at least, in this instance, it has been of great benefit to me.

I am, Sir, your's respectfully,

"JOHN MORTON."

I could adduce hundreds of facts connected with lost and stolen property, but

the limits of this small work hurry me on to the consideration of other singular developments, many of which are enumerated in the following clever extract from the "PRESTON GUARDIAN," which gives an epitome of results, and which I shall try to separately explain and consider.

"Captain Hudson, of Liverpool, has just been astonishing and delighting the people around us with several lectures on Mesmerism, Animal-Magnetism, and Biology. The experiments on Animal-Magnetism, were truly wonderful. By *passes* made with the hand, one person after another was drawn across the room, completely against their will, some seemed determined not to move, but once under the influence, go they must.

Captain Hudson is apparently a man of great physical strength, and must possess an herculean magnetic power, and it is probably owing to this circumstance, that the astonishing success of his experiments may be attributed ; at one time he drew five persons from their seats, and then, walking round the stage several times, he drew some after him, and

drove others before him, without coming in contact with any. It is worthy of remark, that the persons experimented upon were residents in the neighbourhood, and one who bore the most prominent part, was a young gentleman, known to almost every one of the audience, and who never had spoken to the lecturer before coming into the room. Collusion in these cases was impossible, nor could the idea be for a moment entertained by any one possessing ordinary powers of reflection, or who had given to the subject the slightest consideration.

In phreno-mesmerism the classic attitudes exhibited by the mesmerized under the power of music, was truly beautiful. Devotion, hope, and pity, might be read in the countenances and positions of the living statues, while some were deprived of hearing, taste, smell, and sight, which were as rapidly restored, and amply demonstrated by the most convincing experiments.

But perhaps, the most extraordinary results were those produced by Biology. The individuals appeared to be wide-awake, but notwithstanding, were com-

pletely controlled by the operator. The process employed was simply by touching the lower part of the forehead with the thumb, when unlimited power was at once obtained, and the Biologized were then made to believe in the greatest absurdities. One individual addressed a speech to the Electors of the Burgh of Blackburn, supposing himself a candidate for their suffrages; said, "he would be whig, tory, or radical," according to their pleasure, and that if they would honour him, by returning him to parliament, he would vote any way they liked, and promise anything.

The Captain then *willed* the stage to become the wide ocean, and four persons sat down upon it, as though they were in an imaginary boat, and put to sea, rowing with all their might; the sea became tempestuous, and the landsmen felt all the horrors of sickness,—the waves rolled mountains high, and the poor wretches became impressed with the dreadful idea that shipwreck was inevitable, and despair was powerfully depicted on every countenance; the boat was upset, and they began to swim for their lives, grasping the chair and table legs as if they

were some portions of a rocky shore ! In the midst of this heart-rending scene, by the extraordinary influence of the operator, they were suddenly awoke, and the vacant stare that succeeded, coupled with their absurd position, baffles all description.

On another evening, three other persons, strangers to the lecturer, who were forced to him by magnetic power, were placed in a line, and apparently awake, were impressed with the idea that they formed a railway train ! The motion of the engine cranks, the shrill whistle, the puffing of the steam, even the slipping of the wheels upon the rail, were given with the greatest adherence to truth. The most earnest gravity of countenance was maintained as the train continued to to increase in speed, until it attained a frightful velocity, when a most ludicrous scene occurred ; one of the carriages slipped off the line, and lay there kicking up its heels in a state of the greatest excitement ; amidst the most uproarious laughter, the prostrate carriage was once more restored to its equilibrium, and the train proceeded until the magnetiser prescribed the end of the journey.

At Over-Darwen, a young lady who accompanied the lecturer, on being thrown into the magnetic sleep, read both writing and print with her eyes perfectly bandaged ! Several well-known gentlemen, at the invitation of the lecturer, closely examined these bandages, and expressed their unanimous opinion, that it was impossible she could see by ordinary vision. We were present at some private experiments, which took place before a select party at the house of a gentleman in Over-Darwen, where an opportunity of putting the severest tests was afforded, and the whole party were thoroughly convinced of the *bona fide* character of the experiments; after which the worthy host and his daughter were thrown for the first time into the magnetic sleep; at the request of the operator the young lady presided at the piano, while her father, under the influence of "tune" accompanied her, and sung "Te Deum," and some of HANDEL's recitatives, with a precision truly astonishing; both of the musicians being in the somnambulistic state, and quite unconscious of their actions.

We have no hesitation in saying from

our own knowledge, that the phenomena exhibited were real, and this is the deliberate conviction of numbers, who, like ourselves, were very sceptical indeed on many of these points before ; and if, as is asserted, this new science can be made available for the benefit of our race, we heartily wish Captain Hudson success in his earnest endeavours to convince mankind of the truths he so ably proves. We believe he possesses a benevolent and philanthropic mind, and that he is both mentally and physically calculated to enforce the astonishing truths he so ably demonstrates."

There is an inherent propensity in human nature to make personal knowledge the measure of Truth, which may be illustrated by the story of the old woman whose son, returning from foreign parts, related to her the wonders he had seen. He spoke of flying fish, and of burning mountains, but the cautious mother (just like the self-conceited and sceptical world,) cried out, "No, no, Jack ! I know what travellers' tales are ! That I'll never believe !" At last, after many similar truths rejected, the sailor, in despair, hatched a lie, and said, " In Ja-

maica I saw sugar loaves growing on trees, and rivers running spank into the sea, full of rum !" " Ay, ay, Jack," exclaimed the wise old woman, "*now* you speak sense ; that there I can well believe, for I *know* that rum and sugar come from Jamaica !" So do the wise old women of the world reject Mesmerism, because it does not accord with their previous experience ; and yet there be many, perchance, with some rum and sugar " in their eye," that affect to believe things more positively absurd, and more absolutely ridiculous.

The powers which I now try to investigate are the most occult in nature ; but, wonderful and complex as is the external mechanism of the senses, their principle is *one*. The frequent uncertainty in any part of a nerve to excite similar sensations is evinced in the difficulty often experienced even in referring pain to the real seat of the disorder which occasions it ; for a sound tooth has frequently been extracted by the direction of the patient, instead of the defective one which had been the cause of so much torment.

So much for the received opinions respecting the nerves and their communications. "The great source of error respecting vision, and the apparent impossibility of seeing without the natural eye, is some venerable delusion respecting what is called the optic nerve;" there may be an adaption in the structure and arrangement of the vital monads for such a purpose, but when the visual monads are magnetically paralyzed, sight may be, has been transmitted to other parts of the body. The connexion between *seeing*, and the pictures represented on the retina, has never been proved. We behold external objects, and we have heard that such objects are represented on the retina, and say, "here is cause and effect;" but it is not the retina that sees, it is the motion of the monads that form it that convey the idea to the central point or sensorium of the brain, for the sensations of the five senses can be impressed on any part of the body in the mesmeric state, as upon those organs, which, in a natural state are appropriated to their distinct purposes, or be apparently destroyed and again restored!

From these strange facts we may, I

think, reasonably infer that those who by some irregularity in the action of the living monads, which constitute the adapted organs of sight, sound, feeling, taste and smell, have lost some of these sensations, may, by mesmeric treatment, under God's blessing, be again restored to their delightful communications with the outward world.

In that dreadful infliction the "locked jaw," I have more than once been fortunate enough to set the sufferer free ; to which idea I was fortunately led by an experiment I have frequently tried with my patients, to lock their jaws, with the mouth open or shut, "asleep" or awake, which I could instantly unlock, and restore to their natural state.

It is a difficult thing to comprehend these mysteries, and more particularly the "internal-vision," the "inner-light," according to the old formulas of existence. But let those who deny it or think of the impossibility, place a half-crown or other piece of silver between the upper lip and the teeth and put a piece of zinc on the tongue ; on bringing these in contact, a flash of light may be seen in

a dark room, and the eyes perfectly closed, but which is invisible to the eyes of others who may watch the phenomena, and because they are not convinced, deny its existence. But this little fact assuredly proves another vision beyond the organs of what we call sight.

I am perfectly convinced that some mesmerized persons can distinctly see to read any book from various parts of the body, and without the possibility of using the natural eye, which may be bandaged in the most careful manner,

I have convinced thousands of this extraordinary fact, and yet some very wise people, who are determined not to believe anything beyond their shallow comprehensions, have their doubts ; but in some of the higher states the eye appears to see through any substance ! I could adduce many instances of this fact, and give *one* related on the highest authority, which occurred in London on the 6th of August, 1850.

MAJOR BUCKLEY, a gentleman residing in old Bond-street, had frequently placed two ladies, his friends, in the Clairvoyant

state, who possessed extraordinary powers of vision ; to test these powers, LORD STANHOPE bought twelve "motto nuts" at different shops in the Strand, in which were a variety of poetic distichs of which he had no knowledge, such as—

"I never said t'was possible, or new,

I only said, the thing was *true* !"

&c.

The motto nuts on being presented to the ladies, were accurately read, and on breaking these nuts, to the astonishment of a number of friends who were present, the twelve mottos were found to be exactly as they had stated.

In others, such as the one I had in my employ, the point of vision appears to be in some particular part of the head, and any interposed obstacle, naturally prevents them from seeing what is presented ; these points and their varieties are worthy of our consideration before we condemn a great truth, because we fancy we have detected some trifling error, which self-conceit nourishes, if it be in accordance with bigoted or preconceived opinions.

It has been eloquently observed by the Rev. J. B. Dods, that "it is not those translucent orbs, the eyes that see, it is the inward spirit that looks out through those windows of the soul !"

Let those who dispute this "inner-light," go into a dark room, and knock their heads violently against the wall, and they will see it drawn out by the concussion, even through their thick and opaque skulls. What wonder then, that other dense substances can be penetrated by it ?

"Biology," or "the Electric science of life," which some American lecturers have brought out as a new discovery, a science distinct from mesmerism, and professed to be produced by metallic discs of zinc and copper, is nothing but the magnetic effects of mesmeric will, produced on the fantasy of susceptible persons when apparently awake, and which I have occasionally practised for many years, before the *name* of the new science was invented. My process has been to strongly magnetize the undermonads of the brain ; the ends of the "electric wires" which look out from the

eye and tell the legs to run from danger ; this naturally produces a magnetic power of less intensity on the brain, which I can then direct at will, and render any part active by mesmeric thought strongly concentrated.

Assuredly, a fearful knowledge, but there must be an active and a passive agent, and fortunately few are possessed of the weakness or the power. I must confess that I have been sometimes almost terrified at the results of my experiments, when the improbable fictions related in the " Arabian nights " have assumed a tangible form, and the natural sorceries—the wild witcheries of former times, for which many a poor mesmerist has suffered death, have startled me with their strange reality !

Among other curious and incredible relations, in an old book I met with some time ago, published in 1664, there is a story told of a famous magician, who was requested by a few friends to give them a specimen of his art.

To their astonishment, a magnificent vine sprung up before them, laden with

delicious grapes, which having sufficiently admired, they felt anxious to taste. The magician directed them each to take hold of a bunch, and gave each man a knife, with strict orders, not to cut till he told them. Suddenly, the vine vanished, and to their great astonishment, each man had hold of his neighbour's nose, which he no doubt would have cut off if the illusion had continued! Doubtless, this was Biology.

In some lectures I recently gave in Liverpool, a rather singular incident occurred connected with this subject which is probably worth recording.

A lady who sat in the front seats, and who was highly interested with the various experiments, saw, as she imagined, a new patient come on the platform, whose form and features were strikingly familiar to her, and not only those, but every portion of her dress, but she could not possibly recollect who it could be; when suddenly, she discovered that it was an exact image of herself! Astonished beyond measure at this "double," the lady rushed out of the Concert Hall into the street, where she was immedi-

ately followed by her husband, who of course, had seen nothing, and was naturally astonished at his wife's singular behaviour !

This phantom was no doubt produced by some mysterious Biological effect, which in all probability proceeded from some emanation of a vital link, beyond the chain of my purposed power.

In the mesmeric trance, I consider that the monads by induced additional magnetism, are attracted disc to disc, and thus rendered rigid and inactive.

I touch the phrenological organ of "veneration," and its composite monads are restored to activity, and my patient has the impression of some holy thought, of imitation, and he will probably give the prayer of some Clergyman he has heard, in many cases so perfectly that the style is instantly known. A wave of the hand, and these excited monads are again still ; and insensible to every surrounding object, the patient calmly sleeps in utter forgetfulness of the whole world.

Surely, as the REV. GEORGE SANDBY

says, in a beautiful work on this subject, "Mesmerism is the gift of God."

Let us suppose a most painful surgical operation, say the amputation of an arm ; nature recoils with terror at the knife and saw, and the agony of suffering. A few mesmeric passes, and that arm becomes rigid ; a few more, and the communication with the brain is stayed, and the arm may then be cut off without pain, almost without the patient's knowledge.

That mysterious state in which some animals remain for a considerable period, and which Philosophers explain by the word "dormant," might perhaps be better understood by the word "mesmeric," and probably the well-known fact in natural history, of the retirement of the crab and lobster into some deep recess of the rocks, after losing their legs or claws, by war or accident, and there, in darkness and quiescence waiting till the lost limb grows on again, might be referred to mesmeric power.

I am no charlatan, nor do I wish to ostentatiously display the benefits I have been instrumental, under God's bles-

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sing of giving ; I am a straight-forward Englishman with few pretensions, few desires beyond the anxiety to do good and live. I have suffered much obloquy and reproach in my investigation of this subject, but I know the purity of its source, the benefits which our race may derive from a more perfect knowledge of its mysteries, and seek to spread such knowledge as I possess, that others with higher powers may be able to more widely extend the blessings and the benefits which can by this means be diffused among the suffering or the doubtful children of men.

In the cure of head-aches, contractions, tic-doloureux, tooth ache, debility, paralysis, &c. I have frequently been very successful ; from hundreds of cases, I select two or three, which may give some idea of mesmeric benefit.

Halifax, January 1st, 1851.

TO CAPTAIN H. HUDSON,
5, Chesterfield-street,
Liverpool.

Dear Sir,

I have much pleasure in bear-

ing testimony to the beneficial effects of Mesmerism, having experienced the greatest relief in two different cases.

For several years previous to my seeing you I was afflicted with a violent pain in the head, caused by inflammation. All the remedies from which I sought relief failed, until it was my good fortune to try the efficacy of Mesmerism, by which you succeeded in removing the inflammation, and in a few days I was perfectly cured, and have never suffered from the pain in the head since. I had forgotten to state that this was about two years since. A short time afterwards I partly lost the use of my right hand by an accident, which caused a contraction of the sinews, and rendered it painful to use my hand for the slightest purpose. After eighteen months trial of medical treatment, without any beneficial effect, I again applied to you, and in a few minutes from the time you commenced to magnetise it I was enabled to open it without the slightest pain, and have used it with ease and comfort ever since.

Believing that Mesmerism or Animal-magnetism (so beneficial in my case,)

would in many cases be productive of much good, it would give me pleasure to hear of many others deriving ease by it from the sufferings incident to our common humanity.

Thanking a kind Providence for the boon, and yourself as the instrument of my singular cure,

I am, dear Sir, yours, very truly,
J. E. DEAN.

Dear Sir,

Having accompanied the above-mentioned lady, who is my sister, to your house, and witnessed the cure in the latter case, I have much pleasure in confirming her statement and expressing my confidence in Mesmerism as a curative agent.

Your's truly,

J. W. DEAN,

Music Preceptor,
Dewsbury.

I must confess that I am not sufficiently learned to follow the Anatomist through the various phases of disease, or the Philosopher in his investigations on the causes of insanity, but I believe that

Mesmerism is a power, if properly applied, that would restore reason to the mind.

Madness has its peculiar features, and each sufferer a distinct infliction ; this no doubt arises from the unnatural activity of those monads that constitute the magnetic wires; that tell the spirit of love, of avarice, of revenge, or other excited passions of the human mind. Magnetic power could paralyze these thoughts, and restore the natural equilibrium.

Some time ago, a lady in Liverpool, with whom I was acquainted, had the misfortune from a severe fever, to become insane, and was sent to the asylum. I visited her there, but she did not know me ; but after a few "passes" and a strongly concentrated "will," her reason returned ; she called me by name, begged to know, how those that were dear to her were, and cried bitterly at the situation in which she found herself. Her improvement was rapid. She was restored to her husband and family, and has since that period, been quite well, never having had any return of this dreadful malady. One circumstance is

perhaps worthy of remark, that neither the matron of the asylum, nor her friends, were aware of my experiment, till she came out, restored to the blessings of reason.

Paralysis, with all its miserable train, I also refer to the irregularity or want of monadic action. Among many other illustrations of mesmeric force, I recently met with a MR. BARBER from Yorkshire, at Blackpool, where he had come for the benefit of his health, having been ill for eighteen weeks with a paralytic stroke, from which he had nearly lost the use of his left arm, which was so much affected that he could not lift it to his head or put on his hat for that length of time. I placed him in the magnetic sleep, and afterwards magnetized him when awake, and then told him to put his hat upon his head, but he objected, saying, "I cannot possibly do it;" after some time I persuaded him to try, when to his astonishment, and that of a number of ladies and gentlemen who were present, he took up his hat, in the afflicted hand, and put it upon his head; quite overcome, he said "This is indeed wonderful, I have not been able to do so for

eighteen weeks !” When he left the house, he repeatedly took off his hat and put it on in the street, as if to make sure that the thing was real ; next morning he called upon me, and told me he was able to tie his handkerchief, and expressed the greatest delight on being liberated from the dark fetters of this living death !

Some five years ago, I saw a poor girl in the street, (ELIZABETH HARVEY,) a cripple, who moved with the greatest pain, even unto tears, from a curvature in her spine, and a distressing contraction in her leg and foot ; I called at the house where she lived with her mother, a poor old woman, who informed me that her daughter had been so afflicted for many months, and that she had not received any benefit from the medical treatment to which she had been subjected, and from which they had abandoned all hopes of relief ; and it was with the greatest difficulty that I could persuade them to try the effects of Mesmerism. Having obtained this permission, in a few minutes I put her into the magnetic sleep, and continuing the “passes” over the afflicted parts for some time I put one hand on the knee of the con-

tracted leg, and the other on the heel, and drew it out straight, without pain ; and on touching the organ of "self-esteem" she immediately rose upright, and walked across the room, without a symptom of her maimed state ! The mother in her astonishment, ran into the street ; but soon after, the young woman's sister, and one of the neighbours, came to the door, but when they saw the poor lame girl, marching about the room, quite well, they hardly durst venture in, and looked at me with great suspicion, particularly my feet, but when I lifted them both up, and they saw, that they were all right and not ornamented with a club, one of them cried out in her astonishment, "Father ! have merey upon us ! you surely must be a good man, sent from Heaven !" Probably thinking, that this sudden cure could not be effected by any one belonging to the Earth. In one week she was able to stand all day to assist her mother in washing, (by which they lived) and was quite well.

I have heard some ignorant people say, that Mesmerism might possibly relieve for a time and that the malady would then return with greater violence. I

never knew an instance of it, and in the case I have just related, I got this young woman a situation with a friend of mine near Newcastle, where she remained eleven months, and returned to Liverpool on her mother's death, to keep her father's house, where she still continues without any return of the affliction.

That the deaf and dumb should be restored to hearing and to speech by mesmerism, may seem to those who are unacquainted with the subject, as something beyond the bounds of credibility ; but such things have been done !

Whilst giving a lecture on this science at Foxhill Bank, near Accrington, in Lancashire, (September 10th, 1851,) a child named MARY DIXON, six years of age, was brought to me to try the powers of magnetism upon her ; she, being both deaf and dumb, I soon succeeded in putting her into the "sleep," in which she remained about an hour ; I then awoke her, and put her in again, making repeated "passes" over her ears, till I found that hearing was partially restored ; I then directed her to say "Mary" which she distinctly repeated,

and then "Henry" with similar success. I then said "Accrington," which she attempted to imitate ; but this hard word she could not distinctly articulate. Since that time I am informed that she has again spoken, and I have no doubt by a perseverance in Mesmerism, that the blessings of hearing and of speech may be perfectly restored ! A number of ladies and gentlemen, and her parents, were present, who were astonished and delighted to see the process, and to hear, from her hitherto silent tongue, its *first* word.

"Every good gift is from above," and Saint Paul hath said in his first epistle to the Corinthians, (Chap. xii. 1st verse) "That there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit, and diversities of operations, but the same Lord," and that this Spirit is given, to every man to do good. "To one the Spirit of Wisdom, to another Knowledge, to another the gift of Healing, to another Prophecy, to another the discovery of Spirits, and to another the interpretation of tongues, but all these work from the same Spirit," even the Almighty Father of Heaven and Earth ! To whom be all honour and all glory, and all reverence !

I now come to the consideration of the higher states of Mesmerism. The presentiments of the future, the mystical visions of the shadows of events to come, the prophetic gift of reading the book of destiny.

I have seen the fulfilment of many predictions, which would hardly obtain credence with those ignorant of the subject ; the arrival of vessels at stated periods, the marriages of those who were then unknown to each other, and deaths at a particular period, which had been predicted for some considerable time ! These may seem extraordinary assertions, but they are *facts* ; but these facts require the greatest care to elicit, and some calm purity of mind, in the mesmerist and the magnetised ; for imagination, or self-conceited knowledge, will sometimes mingle with it ; and when a patient is urged too much to speak of things which appear dark to them, in their self-esteem, under this urgency, they will frequently speak beyond their vision.

The *apparent* failure in one of my Clair-voyant's predictions respecting the *return*

of SIR JOHN FRANKLIN has been a grand lever in the hands of little men to use their puny efforts to upset the whole science, a small leak from which they have tried their utmost to sink the gallant ship, and all her cargo ! Almost at the *same period* when these enquiries were made by me, respecting the fleet in the frozen seas, a similar description of their *position* and *privations* was given by a young lady in Calcutta, (related in the "BOMBAY TIMES,") a Clairvoyant at New York, one at Bolton, one at Nottingham, and one near Hamburgh of which I have a long German letter addressed to me by DR. DU HANTZKY who conducted the experiments, and who was astonished to read within a few days, an exactly similar narrative in the Vienna newspaper, translated from the "LIVERPOOL MERCURY." I have no doubt, from the wonders I have seen and known that these statements were THEN *occurring facts*.

The non-fulfilment of one important point has now to be considered. In the first place *I* did not send the prediction of CAPTAIN FRANKLIN'S return for publication ; in the next my patient was urged, probably beyond her powers to give some

precise time for the return of the missing ships, which she might have answered, beyond her vision, from such urgency, and the natural vanity of which I have spoken. Errors, failures, and false conclusions, are so common to the greatest professors in law, physic and divinity; in chemistry, mechanics, and other branches of acknowledged science, that I think, under the extraordinary circumstances of this case, some trifling allowance ought to be made for an error, trifling in itself, yet certainly involving, from its apparent failure, some doubt on the main result of these enquiries. My Clairvoyant's statement *was*—"That, SIR JOHN FRANKLIN, would return in *one* of his ships from the Frozen Seas in September." "The Prince Albert" *one* of the ships sent out to search for him did, *unexpectedly* return from these regions in *September*, and the probability may be, that this ship she saw returning, might be the one which her Mesmeric trance presented; and strongly connected as it was with the expedition, her *urged* imagination might have added the "care-worn, anxious-looking man" (whom she described as returning in that vessel) as the Commander of the Expedition which

may yet be floating on that desolate ocean, surrounded by the regions of darkness and of silence !

It is now nearly one hundred years since MESMER presented to the world his observations and discoveries on the science that bears his name ; and six and thirty years have passed away since he descended, unhonoured, to the peaceful grave,

The wise men of that day reviled and ridiculed the science, and his exertions for the benefit of mankind ; but he still persevered in spreading the great *Truth*, and then declared that he *knew*, “ that before the year 1852, the world would be convinced of the genuineness of his pretensions ! ” That year is now at hand, and doubtless, the “ *Prophecy* ” is coming true ; for men of science and celebrity in the world have begun to sail on those unknown seas ; and have found, that the new worlds, which the poor old Mesmerists were laughed at for discovering, are not moonshine, but realities. A revolution of opinion is almost accomplished, and MESMER, no longer vilified as an impostor, is about to win his long-deferred laurels.

With all humility—with every beautiful desire to do some good during my short existence, I launch this little book, this half-rigged skiff, upon the waters, and wait, and hope that it may return to me again, laden with fruits and flowers; and conclude with the borrowed reflex of my thoughts in the words of the REV. C. H. TOWNSHEND, of Cambridge, in his “Facts on Mesmerism.”

“In proportion as we value life, and health, or whatever tends to happily bridge our way across the gulph of Death; whatever tends to carry on a train of old familiar thought into the unknown void, let us esteem, cherish, and reverence this cheering manifestation of our Being, which so beautifully exhibits a pre-existent harmony between our hopes and their accomplishment.

That the Mesmeric medium should link science to science is comparatively but a trifling benefit. That it should connect this world with a future, is its last and greatest service.”

“Whate’er the Eastern Magi sought,
Or Orpheus sung, or Hermes taught,

Whate'er Confucius would inspire,
The Zoroastic's mystic fire—
The symbol that Pythag'ras drew,
The wisdom "God-like Plato" knew;
The dying smiles of Socrates,
The Swed'borg's Spirit-mysteries,
The sacred fire of Saint and Sage,
In every clime, in every age
Shall yet in circling light expand
By Mesmer-rite, and Nature's wand,
'Till the 'rapt soul in Life, shall see,
Its glorious Immortality !"

