PHILOSOPHY

OF

MYSTERIOUS AGENTS,

HUMAN AND MUNDANE:

OR THE

DYNAMIC LAWS AND RELATIONS OF MAN.

EMBRACING THE

NATURAL PHILOSOPHY OF PHENOMENA, STYLED "SPIRITUAL MANIFESTATIONS."

By E. C. ROGERS.

"The relations of Physical agents to the animal economy are infinite."—Edwards.

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PREFACE.

The following work is the result of a long and patient enquiry into those mysterious phenomena which, from the earliest ages, have been found to be associated with human beings; but which either, on the one hand, have been regarded as the superstitions of the ignorant, or, on the other, have merely received a flippant explanation, or have been used as the materials of a mystical philosophy.

While every other field of natural enquiry seems to be occupied with busy, patient plodders for the ore of truth; while the profoundest talents, and the most varied learning, are employed in developing the sublime laws of the heavens and the earth; while the mysteries of light, heat, electricity, and of magnetism; of chemical affinity, and of molecular agency; are being displayed in their wonderful relations to this mundane sphere, no profound learning, no master mind, seems to have entered this field with the same spirit of patient enquiry, and unmystified intellect, that in modern times characterize our chemists and our astronomers in their respective fields. But we have to remember that by the former, the mysteries of Alchemy have been transformed to the precise laws of Chemistry; and that by the latter, the fearful wonders of Astrology have assumed the sublime principles of Astronomy. Numerous works have been written upon the mysteries of which this volume treats; but with only here and there an exception, they have regarded the phenomena as the "disclosures of the invisible world;" as the "manifestations of spirits;" not as the phenomena of nature, to be classified and arranged according to their relations, that their real agency may be discovered.

Now, either these phenomena, and the like of them in all past ages, are the productions of spirits of another world, or they are the production of causes lying within the sphere of this world In what way can we decide this question fairly? Certainly by the most candid and thorough investigations, without leaning to either side. But this cannot be accomplished by observing a few isolated cases, or the collection of a few phenomena. The enquirer must travel over the whole ground. He must take the facts of the past, of an analogous character, and compare them with the modern facts. He must view every accompanying circumstance, every particular or general influence, every condition entered into for the evolution of the phenomena. In short, a scientific method must be adopted and closely followed. Of the method we have adopted in the treatment of these occult phenomena, we shall particularly speak in the Introduction. We would remark here, with regard to one great difficulty we have had to meet with in all our enquiry, viz.: that but few faithful records of mysterious phenomena are to be found. The most wonderful circumstances have been given in the boldest, and even in an exaggerated language, while the circumstances, which would require some special attention and protracted enquiry on the part of the observer, have been almost entirely neglected. This work is far from satisfying the author, as to the style and arrangement; the former he has not aimed to excel in, and it is possible that in some few instances, in the more abstract portions, he may here and there be a little obscure to the general reader; he has aimed, however, to express himself as clearly as the nature of the subject will permit. He has not given a work merely to be read, but to be studied. The public, however, must judge this for themselves. Such as it is, he consigns it to them as an appeal to their reason. May the ever present Deity make it the minister of good, which it is the prayer of the author for it to accomplish,—the advancement of man in a knowledge of his own being, and of his wonderful relations to this mundane sphere; that he may know also wherein his highest nobility and culture consist; and how, by his *spirit*, he may have a *conscious* alliance with the angels, and the ever blessed God.

Boston August, 1852.

INTRODUCTION.

It is fitting we should speak here of the principles we take for granted in the outset of this enquiry, and of our method of investigation, that the reader may see the legitimacy of our deductions.

1. There can be no inductive science, no discovery of the laws of nature, without an accumulation of facts or phenomena by careful experiment or cautious observation. These, however, would not be sufficient alone. The facts accumulated must be carefully compared, classified, and arranged, according to *their relations*.

2. No phenomenon, therefore, can be scientifically accounted for, without its being referable to a class of phenomena already known, or which is capable of being formed from the abundance of materials already existing, or which may be furnished by direct experiment.

3. It follows, that, whenever any phenomenon presents itself for explanation, we should seek, in the first place, if there is any class of analogous phenomena to which it belongs, where experience, experiment, or observation has shown the cause.*

* See Sir J. F. W. Herschel's Discourse on the study of Natural Philosophy, § 141.

4. "Here, then, we see the great importance of possessing a stock of analogous instances or phenomena which class themselves with that under consideration, the explanation of one among which, may naturally be expected to lead to that of all the rest. If the analogy of two phenomena be very close and striking, while, at the same time, the cause of one is very obvious, it becomes scarcely possible to refuse to admit the action of an analogous cause in the other, though not so obvious in itself.*

5. "In general, we must observe that motion, wherever produced or changed, invariably points out the existence of *force* as its cause; and thus the forces of nature become known and measured by the motions they produce. Thus, the *force* of magnetism becomes known by the deviation produced by iron in a compass needle, or by a needle leaping up to a magnet held over it, as certainly as by that of adhesion to it when in contact and at rest, which requires force to break the connection; and thus the currents produced in the surface of a quantity of quicksilver, electrified under a conducting fluid, have pointed out the existence and direction of forces of enormous intensity developed by the electric circuit, of which we should not otherwise have had the least suspicion." †

6. The cause of any one or any class of phenomena is not attributable to supernatural agency, if the *phenomena* are natural or physical.

7. Before a class of mundane phenomena is *proved* to take place by a super-mundane agency, it is fanciful, whimsical, to attribute the former to the latter; for all past experience, the whole history of science, shows its folly. Let that of Chemistry, Astronomy and Geology teach us. Take the following example: The phenomenon of shells found in rocks at a great height above the level of, and at a great distance from, the sea,

* See Herschel's Discourse, § 142.
† Ibid, § 143. Phil. Trans., 1824.

was at one time attributed to the influence of celestial bodies; but all modern geologists, with one consent, see it to be attributable to mundane agencies; that these shells had their origin at the bottom of the sea, and that a subsequent alteration of the relative level of the land and sea raised them to their present height above the latter.*

8. If in a class of phenomena of an analogous character, we find one which is attributable to mundane agency, we are bound to refer them all to the same, and not to separate them—attributing that to the mundane agency which plainly indicates it, and the remainder to super-mundane powers—as the principle of such a procedure would subvert the law of all scientific research.

9. It is no positive evidence against a supposed natural cause of a given class of phenomena, that a few cases seem to be exceptions, much less are such apparent exceptions against the evidence of a *plainly indicated* cause; for in all classes of phenomena, where there are numerous conditions for their evolution, and counteracting or modifying causes existing, such apparent exceptions have always made their appearance, "which are also made to disappear on allowing for their modifying causes. This remark becomes of the greatest importance, when (as is often the case, says Herschel,) a single striking exception stands out, as it were, against an otherwise unanimous array of facts in favor of a certain cause." †

10. "We are not to deny the existence of a cause in favor of which we have a unanimous agreement of strong analogies, though it may not be apparent how such a cause can produce the effect, or even though it may be difficult to conceive its existence under the circumstances of the case." ‡

11. "The detection of a *possible* cause, by the comparison

* See Herschel's Discourse, § 138.

† Ibid, § 154; also § 155, where an instance is given.

‡ Ibid, § 148.

of assembled cases, *must* lead to one of two things: either, *first*, The detection of a real cause, and of its manner of acting, so as to furnish a complete explanation of the facts; or, *secondly*, The establishment of an abstract law of nature; pointing out two phenomena of a general kind as invariably connected; and asserting that where one is, the other will always be found. Such invariable connection is itself a phenomenon of a higher order than any particular fact." *

12. Whenever any two phenomena are found associated, or accompanying each other under peculiar circumstances, and the one ceases or diminishes on the suspension of the other, we are forced to conclude that they relate to the same cause; but if we find cases where the one continues while the other ceases, we have the evidence of accompanying, modifying influences.

PHILOSOPHY OF CAUSE AND EFFECT.

13. It is important to understand in all researches what we are seeking after. If we are to seek the *cause* of any given phenomenon, it should certainly be known what a cause is. The spontaneous reason teaches this, we know, and so does nature every where else; but certain human theories or notions have blinded the minds of most people to its simple character. If we ask, then, what is cause, the answer to the question comes to us from two opposite sources: *first*, from our reason; *second*, from outward observation.

The idea of cause is always the relation of an agent to a thing; it is the idea of some power acting upon some substance, which latter is passive to the former. Now, the action of the agent upon the passive substance always produces a result—an effect.

14. Thus, we see, it is the AGENT *acting upon the* SUBSTANCE that constitutes the CAUSE. The agent, then, is *not* a cause

* See Herschel's Discourse, § 162.

without a *substance* to *act upon*. It is impossible to conceive it to be. Cause, then, is not simple, neither in the conception of reason, nor in the fact of nature. *It is complex.**

15. We have the fact then to consider, that in order for the agent to act upon the substance, there must be a pre-established law of relation existing between them. Hence we find that the Agent is associated more or less with the substance, but not always in a state of activity. Now, where the Agent exists in this (so to speak) latent state, it is necessary that some *special* relation be established between them; that is, between the agent and the substance. Here come in what are termed circumstances, occasions, conditions to be fulfilled, meaning simply the entering in of other agencies, which either change the condition of the first with regard to the substance with which it is associated, or changing the condition of the substance with regard to its relation to the agent.

It is in this way that nearly all the phenomena of nature are produced. Seldom do we find them wrought out by one agent alone.

16. For example, in the process of crystalization under the influence of light, the molecular agent associated with the molecules is quickened into action by the former. One *condition*, then, necessary to be fulfilled in order to obtain this crystalization is *light*.

17. But this is not all: there is another condition here. It is found in this case not only necessary to have light, but the molecules themselves must be in such a condition, with relation to each other, that the molecular agent can have free play among them. They must be suspended in a free medium; that is, you must dissolve the substance you wish to crystalize, so that the molecules (or particles) can freely move with

* It is well to remark here that many in using the term *cause*, refer to the *agent* alone. If the above reasoning is correct, however, such a use of the term is incorrect.

regard to each other's polar force. Here you have the *condition* of *place*.

18. You have then two classes of conditions to fulfil. *First*, those relating to agent — the actor. *Second*, those relating to substance — the thing acted on. Now, the action of the *substance* under the influence of the agent, is a phenomenon. If this last action has a result as in crystalization, you have a second phenomenon, (the crystal)—the former characteristic of the agent, (action;) the latter characteristic of substance, (form.)

19. Now, all science, in its first analysis, consists in the discovery of the action of agencies upon substances, and the laws of their relations, which become known by obtaining a knowledge of the exact conditions under which the agent acts upon the substance in developing the phenomena. And every agent is known by obtaining a knowledge of its characteristics, developed in the phenomena under given conditions.

20. For instance, the agent known under the name electricity, bears always the same characteristics under the same conditions when acting upon matter. Now, if we find an agent under the second class of conditions, (those of matter,) with regard to electricity, exhibiting those which do not belong to electricity, we are forced to conclude it is some other agent. Take another instance, electricity has the characteristics of making choice of certain substances as conductors, and of refusing to act through others. That cannot be electricity then, which, under the same circumstances, will manifest the action of an agent through an electric non-conductor.

21. Now, if an agent has different characteristics from every other well known agent, under the same conditions, then we must refer the characteristics to some heretofore unknown agent, and commence a series of enquiries *with regard to those characteristics;* and, after distinguishing them by determining the precise conditions under which they are made to appear, and the form of substance with which they seem to be mostly

associated, the rules of philosophy demand that the new born shall receive a name.

22. In our researches with regard to the phenomena treated of in the following pages, we have found so many of the characteristics of an agent differing so essentially from those of Electricity and Magnetism proper, and bearing so many of the characteristics of identity with the Odyle of Reichenbach, that we feel forced to admit this identity. (Their analogies, or characteristics of identity, will be shown in the body of the work.)

23. We are aware, beforehand, that this will not be fairly understood by a certain class of minds. And in order to show this anticipated misunderstanding, we will digress here, to state, that but comparatively few persons observe nature sufficiently to see that the same agent, acting on the same substance, will vary its phenomena, just as the circumstances are varied, under which the one will act upon the other. So it will be concluded by such persons, that the physical agent engaged in the so called "spiritual manifestations" *cannot* be the Odyle of Reichenbach, because "mediums" do not exhibit the same phenomena in all respects, that Reichenbach's patients did; neither did the latter receive the "rappings," or "move tables."

24. To return. From what has been shown in the previous pages, we have to conclude that the world, and indeed the universe, is made up of Agents, Substances, and Phenomena. But an Agent is never, of itself, perceived as an entity, a substance. (Agent here, of course, is understood *primarily*.) It is only its phenomena, its action upon substance, that we perceive by the five senses. This action of *some* of the primary agents is plainly discernible through the normal five senses. The action of light and heat we may be more or less constantly aware of, and their phenomena we readily and constantly refer to the proper source.

25. But there are some phenomena which are developed by the action of light upon matter, which we should *never* refer to

the proper agent, if some scientific process was not adopted to discover the relation between the agent and the substance, with which the phenomena were connected. Who, for instance, could know that different rays of light produce totally different physical effects, if he was not led to certain scientific researches respecting this? Seat a totally uninformed person before a camera in which is placed an iodized plate. Let him, in his wonderment, watch your manœuvres. Notice his surprise when he beholds his own image fixed there, as by the most perfect limner! nay, which no mortal artist would be able to execute. What mystery is here! This is by the action of an agent whose source is many thousands of miles distant from the earth; the whole process of which is hid from sight, all that the eye can discern being the final result. Yet science has gone so far as to discover some of the most beautiful laws by this process.

26. Light and heat have always been known as agents, by the common sensation of their more palpable phenomena. But electricity and magnetism were not known until their phenomena were specially observed. Many of the facts of these agents, before the latter had become known, were referred to spiritual agencies. It is the tendency of ignorance, in every age, to do the same thing. The reason demands an agent adequate to the production of every phenomenon. If she has not been furnished with sufficient data by which to arrive at a correct conclusion, imagination, influenced by a blind marvellousness, will refer the phenomena to some supernatural cause. Hence the early superstitions about chemical operations, the appearance of comets, eclipses, meteors, the "bog lights," and a thousand other phenomena. But as the agencies of nature have become known, and their laws and conditions of action discovered, the domination of superstition has given place to the triumph of reason and the reign of truth.

27. All agents are associated with substances, and may be thus considered: *first*, General Agents; *second*, Particular

Agents. General Agents are those which exist in association with matter in general — such as magnetism, (the magnetism of M. Becquerell, or the ferro-dia-magnetism of Professor Faraday,) electricity, heat, &c. These are associated with all matter.

28. Particular agents are associated with particular forms of substance, and depend on the action of general agents upon the molecules of particular forms or combinations of matter. Hence, as is well known to chemists, that the same elements of matter, in the same proportions, simply by the action of an agent upon them, may be made to assume totally different forms, with totally different qualities. Thus, cyanuric acid, — which is a crystalline substance, soluble in water, — by the addition of a few degrees of *heat*, will be converted into hydrated cyanic acid, which is a volatile fluid, and cannot be brought into contact with water without instant decomposition; and yet, the elements of which they are composed are entirely the same, while their effects upon the human organization are totally different.

29. Thus it is seen, that the action of general agents upon particular combinations of elements of matter, will produce specific forms of agency, as well as particular forms of matter. Specific agents, then, are associated with particular forms of matter, and depend upon the molecular arrangement of the latter. General agents control these molecular arrangements, according to the inherent capabilities of the molecules. All Isomeric compounds are *perfect* examples of this law. But it holds good not only here, but every where else.

30. We have been particular at this point, as we wish to show the scientific ground we occupy in these investigations, and the strength of our starting point.

31. Another principle we shall be sure not to lose sight of throughout these investigations is, that every physical phenomenon has for its production a physical agent and a substance upon which it acts, and that the agent and the substance are adequate

to the production of the phenomenon *when their law of relation is fulfilled.* Here we feel obliged to explain somewhat the meaning we attach to the term relation.

Let us present the above in a little different form of proposition. Thus: —

No phenomenon takes place except by the RELATION OF SOME AGENT TO SOME FORM OF MATTER. For example, in order to obtain the phenomena of magnetism, (i. e., its attraction and repulsion,) from a piece of soft iron, the latter must be brought into relation with the former. Now, the former is most strongly associated with the earth, giving it a negative and positive polarity. Your piece of iron, then, must be brought *into relation with* the polar magnetism of the earth. The line of this relation runs nearly north and south, and is called, the "magnetic meridian." But the exact polar relation is, in this latitude, in a considerable dip at the north. Now, see how beautifully, when this law of relation is fulfilled, this piece of soft iron becomes, itself, a magnet similar to the earth. Let your iron be a strip of Russia sheet, six inches long, and a half or three quarters of an inch broad. Take an end of this in each hand, and hold it in the magnetic dip of the earth. While in this condition, give it a twist, as the washer-woman would in wringing a garment; one twist is sufficient. By this you change the molecular condition of the strip of iron and bring each molecule in relation to the polar magnetism of the earth, and thus you obtain for the piece of soft iron a permanent magnetism, the north end becomes a north pole, the south, a south pole.

32. What, then, is the law of relation, but the conditions which must be fulfilled, in order to obtain *particular phenomena.* It would have been *contrary* to the magnetic condition, or law of relation, to have held the piece of iron east and west. The same phenomena, *then,* could not have been obtained.

33. Now, what we observe in this case, is but the exhibition

of a universal law, that *no phenomena can be developed without the fulfilment of some principle of relation existing between an agent and a substance.* When all those conditions are fulfilled, — when the whole law of relation is observed in any given case, — phenomena of a special character are the inevitable result.

34. It is evident, therefore, that one of the highest aims of science is, to discover the laws of relation between agent and substance in the production of phenomena. But how can this be effected? We answer in the language of all science, only by *observing under what conditions and circumstances the phenomena occur, both as regards the agent and the substance.*

35. This brings us to another important observation we are not to lose sight of in our enquiries into the phenomena of man, viz.: that all agents have a modifying influence upon one another, — not as to their primary differences, but as to their modes of action upon matter.

36. For instance, a given substance will be formed into crystals by the agency of light, *provided the medium in which it is suspended be kept at a particular temperature;* but if the temperature which enters into the conditions in the crystalic process, is raised above that particular point which the perfect process requires, the result is an amorphous or irregularly formed body.

37. So the vital agent, in the animal and vegetable economies, requires a certain degree of the calorific agent; but if the latter is raised greatly above, or falls much below the normal standard, the former cannot proceed in its usual course, but is modified in its action. Here, again, it will be seen, we meet the law of relation.

Another, and a beautiful instance of the modifying influence of one agent upon the action of another, is seen in the following:

38. It is a well known law of caloric, to equalize itself through all bodies. But the vital agent modifies the action of this law in all those forms of matter in which the latter is active; so

that, whether you elevate the surrounding temperature above, or depress it below the normal standard of the vital temperature, the *vital agent* will invariably meet the exigency, and prevent the law of calorific equalization from infringing upon its domains. But the moment the vital agent is weakened in its action, or destroyed by changing the conditions of the matter upon which its action depends, the external calorific agent will fulfil its law of equilibrium on the organized body, as well as on the inorganic, and all the temperature that the organized body possesses, above surrounding matter, will be given off by the same law. The vital agent, therefore, in its normal process, acts both negatively and positively upon the outer world, according to objective circumstances, and subjective conditions. Hence, again, the law of relation.

39. Once more: It is a well known law of electricity to equalize itself through all matter nearly in the same manner as we have noticed in the case of heat. But the vital agent meets this, at once, on the outskirts of her dominion, and modifies the electric action; *not, however, unless the former retains all its normal conditions in the organism.* If these are changed, then the electric variation, which occurs in every change in outward nature, will be instantly propagated to the interior of the susceptible organism; so that when the electric tension of the atmosphere is very high, the electricity of the organism will be equally elevated; if, on the contrary, the former becomes depressed, the organism will become affected in like manner.

40. We have now arrived at a point of grand importance, to be recognized throughout this work, viz.: that *whatever external physical agent can be made to act upon the internal human organism* WILL MODIFY THE ACTION, CONSEQUENTLY THE PHENOMENA OF THE PSYCHOLOGICAL AGENT.

This proposition, startling as it may appear at first view, is, nevertheless, susceptible of the strongest demonstration. The case of every invalid exemplifies it. The pathogenetic action of nearly every drug in nature proves it.

41. It follows, therefore, from what has already been shown, that whenever the normal condition of the organism is changed so as to allow of the influx of agencies from the external world, the psychological agent will become more or less modified in its action, and removed from its normal standard.

For example, innumerable invalids are hopeful or sad, irrascible or kindly affectioned, according to the dynamic condition of external bodies, and the surrounding atmosphere. This susceptibility of the psychological agent to modifying influences, is not only seen with regard to the action of the general dynamics of the earth, but with regard to the specific psychological influence of surrounding persons.

42. Nay, this influence or agency, on the one hand, and susceptible passiveness, on the other, are so great in some instances as to produce *a total change in the sense of* PERSONAL IDENTITY. So that individuals have been known to identify themselves with the Deity, with Christ, a toad, a stone.

43. It is a serious question here if that is an immortal nature which is so susceptible of vital change, which can lose so readily its *own* sense of identity for that of another.

We have now arrived at that question, which, of all others, is the most important to man, and which will frequently be brought to view in the body of this work.

44. Man presents to himself two classes of phenomena: *first*, those which he determines as a self-conscious, self-reasoning, self-governing agent; *Second*, those which he does not determine, and are without his own control; which, moreover, he finds himself, under certain circumstances, forced to develope, even against his will and the dictates of his reason.

Now, here are either two distinct agencies at work, totally unlike one another, and in direct opposition; or the two opposite classes of phenomena are the action of the same agent in direct opposition to itself. To assume the latter may serve to

sustain the false philosophy which has obtained for centuries, but this will make us no wiser in regard to ourselves.

45. It is not to be wondered at that man has always been regarded as an anomalous being — the only enigma of nature; with regard to whom more theories have been written than of all the rest of creation beside, but without the addition of scarcely a ray of light in a century.

46. Man has always confounded his animal with his highest nature; while at the same time he has looked upon the animal as entirely destitute of a spirituality. Some persons, however, have found themselves forced to regard *some* animals as possessing immortal spirits, inasmuch as they find them possessed of certain powers which they regard in themselves as spiritual. Thus they reason:

All *thinking* beings are spiritual beings.

Certain animals, in common with man, are thinking beings; such animals are then spiritual in common with man. Again:

47. All beings who possess the powers of *clairvoyance* must be spiritual beings, for *clairvoyant power* is, beyond all doubt, spiritual.

Now, certain animals below man have been known to be *clairvoyant;* the evidence of this is indubitable.

Such, therefore, must be spiritual animals. Once again let us add:

48. All beings that have *affection* must be spiritual, because affection is a spiritual power.

All animals have more or less affection; therefore, all animals are more or less spiritual. Finally:

49. The psychological nature is spiritual and immortal. It is in itself indestructible. All animals have psychological natures in common with man; therefore all the souls of animals, in common with the souls of men, are spiritual and immortal.

50. Now, if the major premises in these syllogisms are just,

the minors and conclusions are not to be denied, however much they may offend our pride or taste. Bears and bugs, lions and lizards, wolves and weavils, sea monsters and land serpents, all have psychological natures or sympathetic susceptibilities. To escape these absurdities, flight is made to theory again, and it is supposed that the psychological nature, which man possesses in common with the animal, is, in *some way*, made spiritual and immortal; while that of the animal is left to perish with the death of the body. But we say at once, *away* with the whole of this miserable theorizing upon imaginary differences! and come unhesitatingly, confidingly to the interrogation of nature!

51. Ask your *self* wherein *you* are different from a mere animal. To see the grand difference, notice that the psychological nature of the animal is *controlled by outward objects acting upon internal senses* and propensities; that it has no self-judging, self-deciding, self-governing, self-conscious personal identity. But be cautious how you confound this with the psychological. Man has both; the animal has but one. The former * makes man *man*. The latter † makes him an animal. The former makes him a governor of himself. The latter makes him an automaton — the tool of any sensuous influence that may preponderate at the time. The former makes man a self-conscious, accountable being; the latter an irresponsible machine. When the former is suspended in its action by an abnormal condition of the brain, the latter may be made to assume *any* sense of identity, from that of the supreme Divinity to that of a toad, from that of the Archangel Gabriel to that of a shilling bit. Whereas, the former can *never* be made to change its own sense of personal identity for that of another. It may be suspended in its action, as in insanity, sleep, mesmeric trance,

* That is, the self-judging, self-deciding, self-conscious, personal *identity*.

† That is, the psychological, controllable by outward mundane influences.

pathetism, &c.; but it *can never be made to feel that it is other than itself.*

It is, indeed, the active agent in man, and gives the consciousness of power; whereas, the latter is the passive instrument of the dictates of the higher nature, or of the unnumbered influences of the outer sensuous world.

By the former, he is to claim *conscious* alliance with the Divinity, for it is an image, nay, a child, of the All Controlling Spirit. For as the ever blessed God is the ever active, ever developing energy of the universe, so is the self-conscious Will and Reason of man the only lawful governor of the human sphere.

Hence, it is the *centre* of highest agency on earth under Deity. From this go forth the mandates that control the wild forces of nature, and subdue the earth. Whereas, the latter is a *medium of communication between the former and the vast world.* It is, therefore, that the latter is *susceptible* to *influences*, even from the stars. It is, therefore, that *with the latter are associated all the agents of this mundane sphere.* To unfold these principles is the object of the following chapters.

PART FIRST.

ON

MYSTERIOUS PHYSICAL PHENOMENA,

WITH

RESEARCHES FOR THEIR AGENT.

PHYSICAL PHENOMENA

OF

UNSEEN AGENCY,

AND

THEIR PHILOSOPHY.

CHAPTER I.

52. It has already been advanced in the Introduction that primary agents are never seen as entities. We find it to be the phenomenon of the agent (developed by the latter acting upon matter) that we cognize through the outward senses. So far, then, there is no more mystery in the phenomena we are to treat, than in the most common exhibitions of nature. Who, for instance, can behold the agent that acts from the magnet upon a piece of iron, or who by watching can find a palpable fluid passing along the electric conductor? It is the effect, then, that is discernible by the five senses; we can never expect, therefore, to be able to detect the *entity* of a primary agent by the outer senses.

53. It may be asked, in view of this fact, how it is we know that agents do exist? The answer returns us again to the same point, viz.: by the facts of phe-

nomena addressed to the senses, and the action which *reason** by her own inherent law has in regard to them.

54. The mysteries of the present day are not without precedent, but we shall have little to do with them in this work, as mere mysteries. We shall take them as the facts of nature, (those which are well corroborated and those we have ourselves witnessed.)

55. From the earliest periods, certain phenomena have transpired in connection with persons laboring under peculiar conditions, and have ever been considered unaccountable except by a reference to supernatural powers, either demoniacal or angelic, diabolical or divine. If we take these phenomena as they have been recorded by the best observers in the past, and as we carefully witness them in the present age, we find them to arrange themselves in two general classes. *First*, those which indicate the action of some kind of agent (more or less intimately associated with particular persons,) upon external things, affecting them sensibly even by mere contact, and sometimes without contact—even at a great distance—producing sights and sounds, which affect not only the senses of men, but of animals—producing shocks, trembling,

* *She* determines that for every phenomenon there is an agent; but never, without sufficient data, does she determine *what that agent is*. The imagination often assumes this prerogative and gives conclusions without *facts*, or furnishes the false data from which the logical faculty draws false principles. But it is not our province here, to enlarge upon this subject. We bring it to view to show how easy it is to be deceived by our imaginations, with regard to the causes of outward phenomena, and that the only legitimate and trustworthy process in arriving at a solution of the mysteries of nature, is to furnish the reason with *facts*, and exclude the influence of imagination. A blind precipitation of faith is, also, a fatal influence to all correct reasoning, for it rouses the action of the imagination, and long before the reason can possibly give a correct deduction, credulity and imagination have conjured one up; and this will be the more insisted upon, as the only correct conclusion, as it is the least possessed of the real truth and the action of reason. Hence it is, that those persons who are most ignorant of the principles of nature, are the more positive and precipitate in their decisions upon any question of mystery. They *know* that there is no natural explanation, and the man is a fool who *attempts* to find one.

spasms, tonic and clonic, and, as we shall show, (in one case particularly,)the extinction of animal life.

56. We have found many cases in this class which have presented none of the characteristics of an intelligent direction. We have in them merely the manifestations of a peculiar physical power, while other cases present the characteristics of psychological agencies. It is natural, then, that we should divide this first class into two sub-classes. The first, consisting of those wherein the physical power is manifested without psychological characteristics. The second, of those which indicate such peculiarities more or less distinctly.

57. The second general class of phenomena, consists of those more immediately connected with the organism of certain persons; such as various involuntary movements of the muscular system; some of which bear the characteristics of psychological agency; while others are entirely destitute of them. We have then in this *second* general class two *sub*-classes analogous to those of the *first*.

58. These two general classes by no means exhaust all the phenomena we are to consider. They embrace, however, all that we shall be called upon to account for, in order to settle the question of the present mystery.

59. Now, as all phenomena depend upon the fulfilment of the precise laws of relation existing between agents and substances, it follows, that, in order to determine what those laws are, we are to determine, *first*, the conditions under which those phenomena occur.

60. Again, as every agent bears its own characteristics in its particular phenomenal development, it follows, that, in order to determine upon the identity of any one agent, we are to obtain *its characteristics*. In this way, science has been able to ascertain the identity of electricity, of magnetism, of heat, &c.

61. If now, on the examination of any new class of phenomena, we find an entirely *new class* of dynamic *characteristics*, which cannot be found in any essen-

tial point susceptible of classification with those of any *known* agent, we are *necessarily driven* to a *new dynamic identity*. It is folly to attempt to build a new system *for* nature, she has established her own in every department of her dominions. But it is the office of reason, when by abundant phenomena (the language of nature,) she unfolds to us any one of these, to listen and to understand. It is in this way, only, that the boundaries of science can be extended. For, if we, on the one hand continue to neglect the proper consideration of such characteristic facts, simply because they seem improbable, or, on the other, incorporate them into a vulgar superstition by regarding them as preternatural, we shall forever walk blindly and deafly amid the richest phenomena and the profoundest teachings of nature.

62. The characteristics of physical agency in the first class of phenomena, cannot be identified with those of any well known agent. (Some have called them electrical; none, however, who have any familiarity with its well established laws of action.) They must stand, then, distinct, without forcing them to assume any other dynamic identity than that which they declare for themselves.

63. It is not in every case where this force is displayed, that we are able to obtain many of its higher characteristics; it is only by taking the whole class that they can be viewed to any extent. But it is not to be understood here, that this agent is confined to the developement of such phenomena as belong to the first class alone. Like electricity, it seems to present new characteristics under each new class of conditions entered into for its evolution.

Electricity, for instance, as evolved by *friction*, presents certain characteristic phenomena which are not to be obtained from a common voltaic pile.

64. So under one class of conditions this new physical power presents one class of its characteristics, while under another we witness others. Under one it exhibits a power truly tremendous, which beyond a certain point is uncon-

trollable by the human will, while the fulfilment of other conditions makes it easily controllable by the volitional power, not, however, directly, but through the nerve centres.

65. This brings us to the consideration of two highly important facts, viz.: *first*, that this force is intimately associated with the nerve centres; not that it is *only* associated here, for facts show that it has its play throughout the organization, and as a subjective force or a power of the organism it is highly evolved in the blood.* This agent then, as thus associated with and evolved from the organism, under favorable conditions, reacts upon the outer world. The *second* fact to be noticed, which will be considered fully in its place, is that of the like agent acting from the outer world upon the internal organism, under peculiar conditions.

66. But we will turn now to the consideration of the first class of phenomena, viz.: those which exhibit the action of a physical power emanating from the organism under peculiar conditions, which reacts upon external objects, producing this movement and other phenomena without the usual instrumentalities.

* In that master work "The Animal Kingdom," of Swedenborg, we find the following which he lays down as deducible from physiological observations:—

"There is a certain fluid of the highest degree of purity, called by some the animal spirit, which enters into the red blood as its principal substance, and which constitutes its vital essence.

"At this, the very outset of our enquiry respecting the blood, and the economy of the animal kingdom, we find presented to our notice a certain fluid of a most perfect and refined nature, &c.," § 37; see also § 38; also §§ 41, 42, 63, 65.

PHENOMENA — FIRST GENERAL CLASS.

CASES OF FIRST SUB-CLASS, PHYSICAL PHENOMENA, &c., WITHOUT THE CHARACTERISTICS OF INTELLIGENCE.

67. The first case we shall present, has been too well authenticated to be reasonably doubted. It occurred in the year 1834, in the town of Woodbridge, New Jersey, and was published at the time in the Newark Daily Advertiser. The phenomena made their appearance in the family of Mr. Joseph Barron, consisting mostly of unusual sounds accompanying a servant girl.

"The first sounds were those of a loud thumping apparently against the side of the house, which commenced one evening when the family had retired, and continued at short intervals until daylight, when it ceased.

"The next evening it commenced at nightfall, when it was ascertained to be mysteriously connected with the movements of a servant girl in the family — a white girl, about fourteen years of age. While passing a window on the stairs, for example, a sudden jar, accompanied with an explosive sound, broke a pane of glass, the girl at the same time being seized with a violent spasm. This, of course, very much alarmed her; and the physician, Dr. Drake, was sent for; came, and bled her. The bleeding however, produced no apparent effect. The noise still continued as before, at intervals, wherever the girl went, each sound producing more or less of a spasm; and the physician, with all the family, remained up during the night. At daylight the thumping ceased again. In the evening the same thing was repeated, commencing a little earlier than before; and so every evening since, continuing each night until morning, and commencing each night a little earlier than before, until yesterday, when the thumping began about 12 o'clock at noon. The circumstances were soon generally spread through the neighborhood, and have produced so much excitement that the house has been

filled and surrounded from sunrise to sunset for nearly a week. Every imaginable means have been resorted to, in order to unravel the phenomenon. At one time the girl would be removed from one apartment to another, but without effect. Wherever she was placed, at certain intervals, the thumping noise would be heard in the room. She was taken to a neighboring house. The same result followed. When carried out of doors, however, no noise is heard. Dr. Drake, who has been constant in his attendance during the whole period, occasionally aided by other scientific observers, was with us last evening for two hours, when we were politely allowed a variety of experiments with the girl, in addition to those heretofore tried, to satisfy ourselves that there is no imposition in the case, and, if possible, to discover the secret agent of the mystery. The girl was in an upper room, with a part of the family, when we reached the house. The noise then resembled that which would be produced by a person violently thumping the upper floor with the head of an axe, five or six times in succession, jarring the house, ceasing a few minutes and then resuming as before. We were soon introduced into the apartment and permitted to observe for ourselves. The girl appeared to be in perfect health, cheerful and free from the spasms felt at first, and entirely relieved from every thing like the fear or apprehension which she manifested for some days. The invisible noise, however, continued to occur as before, though somewhat diminished in frequency, while we were in the room. In order to ascertain more satisfactorily that she did not produce it voluntarily, among other experiments we placed her on a chair on a blanket in the centre of the room, bandaged the chair with a cloth, fastening her feet on the front round, and confining her hands together on her lap. No change, however, was produced. The thumping continued as before, except that it was not quite so loud. The noise resembling that which would be produced by stamping on the floor with a heavy heel, yet she did not move a limb or muscle, that we could discover. She remained

in this position long enough to satisfy all in the room that the girl exercised, voluntarily, no sort of agency in producing the noise. It was observed that the noise became greater, the farther she was removed from any other person. We placed her in the doorway of a closet in the room, the door being ajar to allow her to stand in the passage. In less than one minute the door flew open as if violently struck with a mallet, accompanied by precisely such a noise as such a thump would produce. This was repeated several times with the same effect. In short, in whatever position she was placed, whether in or out of the room, similar results, varied a little perhaps by circumstances, were produced. There is certainly no deception in the case. * * * * * The noise was heard at least one hundred yards from the house."

68. In this case no suspicions were entertained by the investigators that there was any supernatural or spiritual power manifested, as there was no manifestation of intelligence. They were purely physical phenomena. Let us here notice several circumstances, and,

First, The thumpings, wherever heard, were always connected with the servant girl.

Second, In the earlier stage particularly, the sounds, when made, were accompanied with spasms in this person.

Third, The thumping or sounds occurred at night, and commenced each evening at an earlier period.

Fourth, In one particular locality the agent acted with such concentrated force as to break a pane of glass; in another to strike a door as if with a heavy mallet, causing it to fly open violently.

Fifth, When certain persons were in the room where she was, the sounds continued, but with less frequency; and the noise became greater the farther she was removed from any other person.

Sixth, When she was placed in a chair, and her feet bandaged, the sounds continued as before, except not quite so loud.

Seventh, The girl could be seen to exercise no voluntary agency in their production.

69. The next case we shall notice is that which we find in the Spiritual Telegraph for July 3, 1852, taken from an old New York paper, bearing date for March 10, 1789. We regret we have not all of the phenomena in this case. Mr. Britton, Editor of the Spiritual Telegraph, has given us only an extract from the letter containing the account, which is as follows: —

"SIR: — Were I to relate the many extraordinary, though not less true accounts I have heard concerning that unfortunate girl at New Hackensack, your belief might perhaps be staggered, and patience tired. I shall therefore only inform you of what I have been eye-witness to. Last Sunday afternoon my wife and myself went to Dr. Thorn's and after sitting for some time, we heard a knocking under the feet of a young woman that lives in the family; I asked the doctor what occasioned the noise — he could not tell, but replied that he, together with several others, had examined the house, but were unable to discover the cause. I then took a candle and went with the girl into the cellar, — there the knocking also continued; but as we were ascending the stairs to return, I heard a prodigious rapping on each side, which alarmed me very much. I stood still sometime, looking around with amazement, when I beheld some lumber which lay at the head of the stairs shake considerably. About eight or ten days after, we visited the girl again, — the knocking still continued, but was much louder. Our curiosity induced us to pay the third visit, when the phenomena were still more alarming. I then saw the chairs move; a large dining table was thrown against me, and a small stand, on which stood a candle, was tossed up and thrown in my wife's lap; after which we left the house, much surprised at what we had seen."

70. In this case we have the following circumstances: *First*, The phenomena are always in some way related to a particular person, and accompanied her. (Nothing is

said in this extract with regard to spasmodic affections.)

Second, On the stairway, the sounds were produced on each side, and at the head of the stair there was a shaking of the lumber.

Third, There was a movement of objects towards or against other persons.

Fourth, There seemed to be no intelligence connected with these sounds or movements.

71. Catherine Crowe mentions several well authenticated cases of this character, and other writers have noticed the same phenomena. A case is given on 410th page of "Night-Side of Nature," — that of a young officer in the English army, who, wherever he went, whether in camp or at home, or among strangers, was liable to be tormented with these noises *at night*. Although there were no particular marks of intelligence, yet they were regarded by his relatives with an abundance of superstition. They considered him "haunted."

72. The following were the characteristic phenomena:

First, There was a beating and pounding about the head of his bed, on the walls, and on the bedstead.

Second, When these sounds commenced, he would sit up in bed, and express vexation by military execrations.

Third, If a cage-bird was in his room, it was certain to be found dead in the morning, or if he kept a dog in the apartment, it would make away from him as soon as released, and never come near him again.

73. The occurrences at Stratford, in the State of Connecticut, which commenced on the 10th of March, 1850, at the house of Rev. Dr. Phelps, belong partly to this sub-class, and partly to the second sub-class. For, according to the statements of the doctor, "communications" were not obtained until the middle of April.* Still, however, many of the phenomena previous to this, had indicated a psychological influence upon the physical agent, and indeed, nearly the whole of them belong to the second

* See New York Observer, June, 1850.

sub-class. We will present in this place, however, some of the important facts stated by Dr. Phelps. "The phenomena consisted in the moving of articles of furniture in a manner that could not be accounted for. Knives, forks, spoons, nails, blocks of wood, &c., were thrown in different directions, about the house. They were seen to move from places and in directions which made it certain that no visible power existed by which the motion could be produced. For days and weeks together, I watched these strange movements with all the care, and caution, and close attention which I could bestow. I witnessed them hundreds and hundreds of times, and I know that in hundreds of instances they took place when there was no visible power by which the motion could have been produced. Scores of persons of the first standing in the community, whose education, general intelligence, candor, veracity, and sound judgement, none will question, were requested to witness the phenomena, and, if possible, help us to a solution of the mystery. But as yet no solution has been obtained. The idea that the whole was a 'trick of the children' — an idea which some of the papers have endeavored with great zeal to promulgate, is to every one who is acquainted with the facts, as stupid as it is false and injurious. The statement, too, which some of the papers have reiterated so often, that 'the mystery was found out,' is, I regret to say, untrue. With the most thorough investigation which I have been able to bestow upon it, aided by gentlemen of the best talents, intelligence, and sound judgement, in this, and in many neighboring towns, the cause of this strange phenomena remains yet undiscovered." These are but a small part of the occurrences at Dr. Phelps' house. As they come more particularly under another head, where the intelligent characteristics are considered, (see Part Second,) we may barely allude here to their physical character. A writer in the New Haven Journal and Courier, (whose statements are to be relied on, according to Dr. Phelps,) relates the following, of which he was an eye-witness:

"While we were there," says he, "the contents of the pantry were emptied into the kitchen, and bags of salt, tin ware, and heavier culinary articles, were thrown in a promiscuous heap upon the floor with a loud and startling noise. Loaves of delicious cake were scattered about the house. The large knocker of the outside door would thunder its fearful tones through the loud-resounding hall, unmindful of the vain, but rigid scrutiny to which it was subjected by incredulous and curious men. Chairs would deliberately move across the room, unimpelled by any visible agency. Heavy marble top tables would poise themselves upon two legs, and then fall with their contents to the floor, no human being within six feet of them."

74. On the 1st of October, Mrs. Phelps and her children left home for Pennsylvania; with this, the phenomena ceased. The doctor remained at his house five weeks after, without disturbance. It might be inferred from this, that those who had left home, had some relation to the cause of the phenomena, if what we have already shown is to be relied upon. We accordingly have the statements of Dr. Phelps:

First, That the phenomena "were most violent when the whole family were present."

Second, That the rappings and other "manifestations" "were less frequent and feebler when but one of the two children (belonging to Mrs. Phelps, she being the doctor's second wife,) were in the house."

Third, "That these phenomena were more frequent in connection with a lad (one of the above children,) of about eleven."

Fourth, "That when these children, with their mother, removed to Pennsylvania, the phenomena did not follow them."

Fifth, "That these children had been frequently mesmerized into the trance and clairvoyant state, (by their father.")

Sixth, One also of the lads was subject to spontaneous trance, and was found at one time in the barn in a cataleptic state.

Seventh, "That since the return of the doctor's family, (which occurred in the spring of 1851,) he has kept the two children separate, (the boy being away,) fearing that his presence would occasion a recurrence of the same phenomena."

Eighth, In the presence of Mr. Beach,* while the boy was in bed, (doctor and wife and daughter also present,) simultaneously with the phenomena, the boy would start up in bed.

Ninth, A large amount of property (stated by the doctor to be between one and two hundred dollars,) was destroyed by this unseen agency.

75. The wonderful occurrence at Stockwell,† in England, in Jan., 1772, are of the same character as the above. We can barely give the most important parts of the phenomena here, and leave the reader to consult the work referred to in the note. No intelligence was manifest in this case.

"On Monday, January 6th, 1772, about 10 o'clock in the forenoon, as Mrs. Golding (the hostess) was in the parlor, she heard the china and glasses in the back kitchen tumble down and break; her maid came to her, and told her the stone plates were falling from the shelf; Mrs. Golding went into the kitchen and saw them broken. Presently after, a row of plates from the next shelf fell down likewise, while she was there, and nobody near them; this astonished her much, and while she was thinking about it, other things in different places began to tumble about, some of them breaking, attended with violent noises all over the house; a clock tumbled down, and the case broke." The destruction increased with the wonder and terror of Mrs. Golding. Wherever she went, accompanied by the servant girl, this dreadful waste of property followed.

Mrs. G. in her terror fled to a neighbor's, where she immediately fainted. A surgeon was called, and she was

* See New York Sun, April 29, 1850.

† See Catherine Crowe's Night-Side of Nature, page 370.

bled. The blood, which had hardly congealed, was seen all at once to spring out of the basin upon the floor, and presently after, the basin burst to pieces, and a bottle of rum that stood by it broke at the same time.

Mrs. G. went to a second neighbor's as the valuables that were conveyed to the first were being destroyed. And while the maid remained at the first, (Mr. Gresham's,) the former was not disturbed, but while the latter was "putting up what few things remained unbroken of her mistress, in a back apartment, a jar of pickles that stood upon a table turned upside down;" and other things "were broken to pieces."

Mean time the disturbances had ceased at Mrs. Golding's house, and but little occurred at the neighbors, while Mrs. G. and her servant remained apart. But as soon as they came into each other's company, the disturbances would begin again.

"At all these periods of action," says the detail, "Mrs. Golding's servant was walking backward and forward, in either the kitchen or parlor, or wherever some of the family happened to be. Nor could they get her to sit down five minutes together, except at one time for about half an hour toward the morning, when the family were at prayers in the parlor; then all was quiet; but in the midst of the greatest confusion, she was as much composed as at any other time, and with uncommon coolness of temper advised her mistress not to be alarmed or uneasy, as she said these things could not be helped. Thus she argued, as if they were common occurrences, which must happen in every family.

"About five o'clock on Tuesday morning, Mrs. Golding went to the chamber of her niece, and desired her to get up, as the noises and destruction were so great, she could continue in the house no longer; at this time, all the tables, chairs, draws, &c., were tumbling about." In consequence of this resolution, Mrs. Golding and her maid went over the way to Richard Fowler's. The latter left her mistress, and returned to Mrs. Pain's, to help this

lady dress her children. "At this time all was quiet. They then went to Fowler's, and then began the same scene as had happened at the other places. It must be remarked, all was quiet here as well as elsewhere, till the maid returned.

"When they reached Mr. Fowler's, he began to light a fire in his back room. When done, he put the candlestick upon a table in the fore room. (*This apartment Mrs. Golding and her maid had just passed through.*) This candlestick, and another with a tin lamp in it, that stood by it, were dashed together, and fell to the ground. A lantern, with which Mrs. Golding was lighted across the road, sprung from a hook to the ground. The last thing was, the basket of coals tumbled over, the coals rolling about the room.

Mrs. G. and her servant now returned home, when the same scene was repeated. Mr. Pain then desired Mrs. Golding to send her maid for his wife to come to them. When she was gone, all was quiet. Upon her return, she was immediately discharged, and no disturbances happened afterward. This was between six and seven o'clock on Tuesday morning."

76. The whole account contains the following important particulars:

First, The phenomena commenced at 10 o'clock, A. M.

Second, They always depended upon the presence of the servant maid.

Third, They occurred always with the greatest energy when the mistress was in the company of the maid.

Fourth, When the maid passed *through* a room alone there would be little or no disturbance of its contents, but if she was soon after followed by Mrs. Golding, various articles would begin to play the most singular pranks, as if Puck himself had come again.

Fifth, Very often one article would be attracted by another, or they would fly towards each other, and striking together fall upon the floor as if both had been charged with some physical agent which made them act like opposite

poles. Then, also, one would fly from another, as by repulsive forces.

Sixth, The phenomena were accompanied with violent concussive sounds about the house.

Seventh, Every thing which Mrs. Golding had touched, seems to have been in some way affected, so that afterward on the approach of the maid, it would be frequently broken to atoms, some times without even her touch. Even the blood of Mrs. G. was highly susceptible under the same circumstances, and the bowl in which it was contained and the glass ware standing by it burst to pieces.

77. In the year 1835, a suit was brought before the sheriff of Edinburg, Scotland, for the recovery of damages, suffered in a certain house owned by a Mr. Webster. Captain Molesworth was the defendent at the trial.* The following facts were developed: Mr. Molesworth had seriously damaged the house both as to substance and reputation,

First, By sundry holes which he cut in the walls, tearing up of the floors, &c., to discover the cause of certain noises which tormented himself and family.

Second, By the bad name he had given the house, stating that it was haunted. Witnesses for the defendant were Sheriff's officers, justices of the peace, and officers of the regiment quartered near by; all of whom had been at the said house sundry times to aid Capt. M. detect the invisible cause of so much disturbance.

78. The important facts bearing upon our subject were the following: —

First, The disturbance consisted in certain noises, such as knockings, pounding, scratching sounds, rustlings in different parts of a particular room, sometimes, however, in other parts of the house.

Second, "Certain boards of the floor would seem to be

* See Night-Side of Nature, p. 400.

at times most infected with the noises." "Then certain points in the walls," ("at which Mr. M. would discharge his gun," or "cut into with an axe, all to no purpose however.")

Third, The bed whereon a young girl, aged 13 years, had been confined by disease, would very often be raised above the floor as if a sudden force was applied beneath it, which would greatly alarm her and the whole family, and cause the greatest perplexity.

Fourth, This force was soon discovered to be in some strange way connected with this invalid.

Fifth, The concussions which it often produced on the walls, would cause them visibly to tremble.

Sixth, Wherever the young invalid was moved this force accompanied her.

There were some few phenomena which were found to indicate psychological influence, of which we shall speak in another place.*

79. We have presented a sufficient, number of these cases for the present chapter. In the next we shall present additional instances of the kind, where this physical force exhibits other marked characteristics, and demonstrates its peculiar physical identity.

80. We will here notice, that in only two of the cases already given, were there any of the characteristics of a psychological influence in the phenomena. In one of them, these characteristics were very partial, but are certainly important to be considered in their place. In the other case, the characteristics are very marked, and shall be noticed where they belong.

81. If, now, the identity of any agent is determined only by a knowledge of its characteristics in its phenomena; and if in its action, in the production of outward phenomena, it *always*, more or less presents its characteristics, it follows, of necessity, that wherever the

* See Part Second.

characteristics of any agent are absent, we have not the least warrant in considering that agent as being engaged in the phenomena in question.

82. It is plainly exhibited in all the cases we have just given, (we will except the two already mentioned) that no characteristics of spiritual agency are exhibited, but those, on the contrary, of a mere physical power, intimately associated with the organism of certain persons. Is there any logic, then, which can classify the phenomena of these cases with spiritual phenomena? Where is the likeness? Bring forth, O ye new philosophers, your laws of analysis and synthesis. Show us how ye sublimate this baser earth to the purer metal! But let us leave the spiritual question, till the phenomena demands its consideration. Here, certainly, they are not to be found. With the exception of the two cases, we have not the least possible evidence that any spirit, demoniacal or angelic, had any hand in performing the wild antics among crockery and furniture which we have seen performed in the accounts given.

83. For it is admitted that a spiritual agent is an intelligent agent. Its characteristics are those of intelligence, every one admits. Wherever, therefore, these characteristics are wanting in a class of phenomena, it is blindly absurd, greatly superstitious, even to draw the inference that they are spiritual phenomena. But what shall be said when it is asserted as a veritable certainty, and the crowd is made to stretch their throats and swallow the absurdity without a moment's examination.

84. Here we are told, perhaps, that these phenomena *must* be spiritual, because no philosopher is able to account for them upon natural principles — that, indeed, the vast majority of scientific men in order to get rid of them, deny their authority as veritable facts, alleging that they are impossible. Very true, we answer; but what has all this to do with the question of their being produced by spiritual agencies, (admitting they did occur

as stated,) when they do not present a single legitimate characteristic of this force.

Is it possible we are to be driven to the conclusion that the ground of faith in spirituality is identical with that of ignorance, superstition, fanaticism, bigotry ?

"Come, now let us reason together!"

CHAPTER II.

PHENOMENA OF THE NEW PHYSICAL AGENT IN THE HUMAN ORGANISM. (CONTINUED.)

Movement of objects and sounds without visible instruments and without the characteristics of intelligence—M. Arago's investigations in the case of Angelique Cottin—Important results of this enquiry—Every phenomenon of nature may be repeated by an exact fulfilment of its conditions—Application of this important law of nature—What do the above facts testify—Deductions from the foregoing.

85. Thus, we have seen that the phenomena of the movement of objects, and the production of sounds without visible instruments, is really by a physical force associated with the human organism, and that under peculiar conditions (which we are yet to notice) this physical force is made to emanate from that organism with a most terrible energy, and without any *necessary* conjunction with either spiritual or psychological agency. The phenomena certainly fall, then, within the legitimate province of science, and should be most thoroughly investigated.

86. The case we are now about to enter upon, has received such an investigation in the hands of M. Arago. This renders it the more important. It is an extreme case, and presents the phenomena in the boldest relief. Not only M. Arago, but many other scientific men experimented and observed in this case. But their results are essentially the same as those of Arago.

We have two accounts of this case; one given by

Catherine Crowe, in the "Night-side of Nature;" the other by the "*Courier des Etats Unis.*" In the latter, it was published at the time of the occurrence. The former does not give the investigations of the case by MM. Arago, Laugier and Goujon, which the latter does, as reported by M. Arago before the Paris Academy of Sciences, at its sitting on the 16th of February, 1846. We shall, however, give both, as the former contains some items which are not noticed in the latter, and *vise versa*. The insolation and the deviation of the needle mentioned by C. Crowe, are not noticed by Arago in his report.

87. "Angelique Cottin was a native of La Perriere, aged fourteen, when, on the 15th of January, 1846, at eight o'clock in the evening, while weaving silk gloves at an oaken frame, in company with other girls, the frame began to jerk, and they could not by any efforts keep it steady. It seemed as if it were alive; and becoming alarmed, they called in the neighbors, who would not believe them; but desired them to sit down and go on with their work. Being timid, they went one by one, and the frame remained still till Angelique approached, when it recommenced its movements, while she was also attracted by the frame; thinking she was bewitched or possessed, her parents took her to the presbytery, that the spirit might be exorcised. The curate, however, being a sensible man, refused to do it, but set himself, on the contrary, to observe the phenomenon, and being perfectly satisfied of the fact, he bade them take her to a physician.

"Meanwhile, the intensity of the influence, whatever it was, augmented; not only articles made of oak, but all sorts of things were acted upon by it, and reacted upon her, while persons who were near her, even without contact, frequently felt electric (?) shocks. The effects, which were diminished when she was on a carpet or a waxed cloth, were most remarkable when she was on the bare earth. They sometimes entirely ceased for three days, and then recommenced. Metals were not affected,

Any thing touching her apron or dress would fly off, although a person held it; and Monsieur Herbert, while seated on a heavy tub or trough, was raised up with it. In short, the only place she could repose on was a stone covered with cork; they also kept her still by isolating her. When she was fatigued, the effects diminished. A needle, suspended horizontally, oscillated rapidly with the motion of her arm, without contact; or remained fixed while deviating from the magnetic direction. Great numbers of enlightened medical and scientific men witnessed these phenomena, and investigated them with every precaution to prevent imposition. She was often hurt by the violent involuntary movements she was thrown into, and was evidently afflicted by chorea,"* or St. Vitus' dance.

88. The French paper mentions the circumstance that while Angelique was at work in the factory, "the cylinder which she was turning was suddenly thrown at a considerable distance without any visible cause. That this was repeated several times; that all the young girls in the factory, terrified, fled from the factory, ran to the curate to have him exorcise the young girl, believing she had a devil." After the priest had consigned her to the physician's care, the Courier des Etats Unis goes on to say: "The physician, with the father and mother, brought Angelique to Paris. M. Arago received her, and took her to the observatory, and in the presence of MM. Laugier and Goujon made the following observations which were reported to the Paris Academy of Sciences:

89. "*First*, It is the left side of the body which appears to acquire this sometimes attractive, but more frequently repulsive property. A sheet of paper, a pen, or any other light body, being placed upon a table, if the young girl approaches her left hand, even before she touches it, the object is driven to a distance as by a gust of wind. The

* See Night-Side of Nature, page 382.

table itself is overthrown the moment it is touched by her hand, or even by a thread which she may hold in it.

"*Second*, This causes instantaneously a strong commotion in her side, which draws her toward the table, but it is in the region of the pelvis that this singular repulsive force appears to concentrate itself.

"*Third*, As had been observed the first day, if she attempted to sit, the seat was thrown far from her with such force, that any other person occupying it was carried away with it.

"*Fourth*, One day a chest upon which three men were seated, was moved in the same manner. Another day, although the chair was held by two very strong men, it was broken between their hands.

"*Fifth*, These phenomena are not produced in a continued manner. They manifest themselves in a greater or less degree, and from time to time during the day; but they show themselves in their intensity in the evening, from 7 to 9 o'clock.

"*Sixth*, Then the girl is obliged to continue standing, and is in great agitation.

"*Seventh*, She can touch no object without breaking it or throwing it upon the ground.

"*Eighth*, All the articles of furniture which her garments touch are displaced and overthrown.

"*Ninth*, At that moment many persons have felt, by coming in contact with her, a true electrical shock.

"*Tenth*, During the entire duration of the paroxysms, the left side of the body is warmer than the right side.

"*Eleventh*, It is affected by jerks, unusual movements, and a kind of trembling which seems to communicate itself to the hand which touches it.

"*Twelfth*, This young person presents, moreover, a peculiar sensibility to the action of the magnet.

"When she approaches the north pole of the magnet she feels a violent shock, while the south pole produces no effect, so that if the experimenter changes

the poles, but without her knowledge, she always discovers it by the difference of sensations which she experiences.

"*Thirteenth*, M. Arago wished to see if the approach of this young girl would cause a deviation of the needle of the compass. The deviation which had been foretold was not produced. The general health of Angelique Cottin is very good. The extraordinary movements, however, and the paroxysms observed every evening, resemble what one observes in some nervous maladies."

90. The great fact demonstrated in this case, as well as in those we have given in the preceding chapter, is:

That, under *peculiar conditions*, the human organism gives forth a physical power which, *without visible instruments*, lifts heavy bodies, attracts or repels them according to a law of polarity, overturns them, and produces the phenomena of sound.

91. This last case, as the reader must see, is one of the most palpable kind, and presents new peculiarities of the force under consideration. It gives us the fact, that so far as the mere movement of objects (even of great weight) in connection with certain persons is concerned, whether in the phenomena of the so called "spiritual manifestations," or out of them, the immediate agent is a physical one, and is identical throughout.*

* None but the most ignorant persons can deny this. True, in those cases where the intelligent indications are marked and striking, as in some of the "manifestations" of the present day, it is the tendency of some minds to attribute all parts of the phenomena (not only the *intelligent direction* of a physical force, but also the *physical force* itself) to the agency of spirits. But who does not see, on sober reflection, that this hastiness does violence both to reason and to nature, and hence to their Founder?

Again we repeat, let the question of *spiritual* agency be tried before its own court. There is as much sin in believing too much as in not believing enough. We are as much bound "to prove (examine) all things," as we are to "hold fast that which is good."

IMPORTANT DEDUCTIONS.

92. We are now to bring together the results of our investigation so far entered into, and see what the preceding cases teach with regard to this new physical force.

It should be remembered, in the outset, that it is an invariable law of nature that every phenomenon may at any time be repeated when the conditions under which it was developed, are fulfilled.

Before we proceed to the general summary let us notice a few points presented in the case of Angelique Cottin, showing what this force has executed without the most distant indication of special intelligent influence.

First, This force (without intelligence) has moved articles of several hundred pounds without the slightest contact with the person.

Second, It has acted upon a body of two hundred pounds or more, raising it above the earth without visible instrumentality.

Third, It has charged the dress and even the apron of the person with its repulsive energy to such an extent, as to cause articles of furniture when touched by them to be instantly affected—they would either be overthrown or driven at a distance.

93. Does any man of reason want a stronger proof of physical force? Had we seen the same thing occur under the influence of a new mineral, should we have had any doubt that its agency was physical, and would not the whole scientific world have been alive with a new enquiry? But here we have the dress, the apron of a young girl who is nervously deranged, so charged with a new force, that every thing is overthrown on the mere touch; surely there can be no deception here. Hundreds of persons were witnesses, some of them renowned for their scientific researches into the laws of mundane agencies, one of whom stands foremost for his discoveries in electricity, heat, light, and magnetism. And it is this great man,

Arago — this hoary philosopher of France, whose coolness, integrity, and sound judgment are known the world over, that tells us this, not upon hearsay evidence, but as the fact of his own eyes. He reports it to the wise Academy of France. The listeners would have heard hardly any one else, those, especially, who had not been witnesses themselves, on such a wonderful case where no clew could be gained as to *what* the agency was.

Some asked the aged philosopher what was *his* opinion as to the force. "That is yet to be settled, he said. It seems to have no identity with electricity, and yet when one touched her in the paroxysms there was a shock like that given by the discharge of a leyden jar. It seems to have no identity with magnetism proper, for it has no reaction upon the needle, and yet the north pole of a magnet has a most powerful reaction upon her; producing shocks and trembling. This is not effected through the action of her imagination, as the magnet has the same influence, whether *secretly* brought near her, or otherwise. It seems a new force. At all events, whatever it be, time and research will determine, with sufficient cases; at present we are left to conjecture. One thing, however, seems to be certain: the phenomena of this case shows very plainly, that whatever this force is, which acts so powerfully from the organism of this young girl, it does not act alone; it stands in some mysterious relation to some mundane force, that acts and reacts with it. This is witnessed in the reactions which external things have upon her person, often attracting her with great power. It is a curious enquiry, and may open to us new resources in the nature of man and the world, of which, as yet, we have hardly dreamed!"

Fourth, This force in the person of Angelique, had a powerful emanation at her fingers' ends, which by mere touch, or by the mere conduction of a simple string, would overthrow the tables, and twist chairs out of the hands of three powerful men.

Fifth, The young girl was at that age when frequently

one of the most important changes of the female constitution takes place. There was evidently a derangement of the uterine functions, which favored the evolutions of this powerful force, at that part of her organism. Hence the tremendous energy with which the agent acted from this exact locality. She would have the most terrible shocks in this region, and simultaneously, various articles in her way would be overthrown or driven at a distance, as by a sudden blow.

Sixth, At the same instant she would experience an indiscribable paroxysm of trembling of the muscular parts, which would pass to the skin, and thence communicated to the hand of any person who touched the parts affected; thus proving, that this physical agent has a regular law of induction, as every other physical agent has.

Seventh, Fatigue diminished its intensity in a marked degree.

Eighth, This force changes its polar action, which seemed mostly to prevail on the left side of her body. The general polar action of this side was repulsive, but by some change of condition, it at times became attractive.

Ninth, The periodical character of her nervous paroxysm, and the aggravation of the dynamic phenomena at some periods, show that both alike belong to the science of Proleptics.

Tenth, This force had at times, a very singular action upon glass ware and china, for when in her paroxysms, whatever of the kind she took into her hands would often burst to pieces. This would either happen, or,

Eleventh, The object she took would affect her in such a manner as to cause her instantly and *involuntarily*, to dash it to atoms.

We will now add to the above particulars in the case of Angelique Cottin, those phenomena we have marked in the other cases presented (those without the characteristics of intelligence) in the form of classification.

CLASSIFICATION, TOGETHER WITH CERTAIN DEDUCTIONS.

94. (*a.*) In some instances the phenomena of this force are accompanied with spasms; sometimes they mark the first stage of the affection, when they cease, leaving dynamic action upon the object. In other cases, however, the symptoms of nervous derangement continue and occur simultaneously with the production of sounds, movement of objects, &c.

DEDUCTION.

First, It is evident, therefore, that the force which, emanating from such persons, produces these phenomena, is in some way intimately related to the nervous force, and the nervous centres.

(*b.*) In some instances, the regular periodical recurrence of these phenomena, is precisely of the character of certain forms of intermittent fever, and nervous derangement. In one case the phenomena having commenced on the first day at eight o'clock in the evening, was followed each day at an earlier period of commencement, until it reached twelve o'clock, noon. (We have had a precisely similar type of fever.) In another case we have given, (the last,) the regular paroxysm, — when the force appeared to develope the most wonderful phenomena, and when the nervous system was most terribly shaken, — was from seven to eight o'clock, (in the meridian of Paris.)

These phenomena of time, whether in disease or in chemical action, exhibit the influence of mundane forces, which are more or less affected by the revolution of our planet, and the influence of the sun. (This will be treated more fully at another time.)

Second, It is evident, therefore, that the agent engaged

in the production of these phenomena is subject (according to conditions) to the influence of those agents which are developed in the action of the sun upon the earth.

(*c.*) It is also noticed in some cases, that under peculiar circumstances, this force acts from the organism of those affected, with greater energy in some localities than in others, (without reference to surrounding persons.)

Third, It is evident, therefore, that the dynamic influence from the substances of the earth (under such circumstances) have more or less influence upon the organism of such persons, and consequently upon the action of this particular agent.

(*d.*) In some instances of these phenomenal developements, the presence of other persons has had a very marked influence upon the phenomena; sometimes diminishing their intensity, in other instances increasing it.

Fourth, This shows plainly that when the conditions are favorable, surrounding persons do have an influence in modifying or developing this wonderful agency, and therefore that it is common to all men.

(*e.*) In all instances when the normal tone of the nervous system is perfectly restored, the nervous symptoms have ceased, together with the phenomena in question.

Fifth, It follows, therefore, that the latter depend in all cases upon an abnormal condition of the nervous system.*

(*f.*) The Will and the Reason have no control of this force in its action from the nerve centres in their abnormal condition, and it acts from the person without cognizance of the consciousness. (The reverse is the case in *normal* conditions.) The patient cannot prevent being affected by the objective or external agent.

Sixth, It is, therefore, the opposite of the spiritual power, which is made independent of it. The physical

* There may be also abnormal conditions of other parts of the organism necessary, such as that of the blood; but these are not yet made so apparent. The muscular conditions depending on those of the sympathetic ganglia, we shall by and by notice.

agent belongs to the *nerve centres* and the *outer world*, relating the one to the other.

95. Now, it is the most evident thing possible, if we were to attempt by a course of experiments to develope these phenomena from a person, — if we wished to obtain the movement of objects without contact, or by the mere touch, and the production of sounds without the use of the usual instruments, we should be obliged, from a law of nature, to choose one whose susceptible nervous system may be thrown into precisely that abnormal condition. And in order to develope a large field of this kind, there could be no better plan than to have a great many persons experimented upon, in various *sections*, in order to test the geological conditions, so to speak. They should be experimented on during various periods of the day, to determine their *proleptical* character. Nice experiments as to the influence of mineral emanation should be made. The person experimented on should be subjected to the influences arising from the presence of numerous and various persons. All this labor could not be effected by one man nor a dozen, only by a large number.

96. Now it so happens that we have many cases where experiments have been made, some of them with remarkable results. If all had been Aragos, we might have had much more that is scientific and less that is fanatical. We will not complain, however, but thank God for the *facts* that *are* given, which might not have been elicited had the Aragos been engaged in the work.

97. It is not our object here to enter into a detail of the phenomena of the present day. We should collect others before these — those belonging to other ages and other climes. Some of the most interesting cases have been observed in Germany; we will now notice one, observing, however, only the physical phenomena, and leaving the psychological characteristics for their proper place, as these involve another question.

CHAPTER III.

NEW AGENT, AND ITS PHENOMENA.

Physical Phenomena in the case of Frederica Hauffe—Influence of mundane agents upon her organism—Nervous susceptibilities of this person—Action of forces from the nerve centres, producing physical effects without the usual instruments.

98. No single case has perhaps excited so much interest and attention as that of the Seeress of Prevorst. Certainly there is no case which presents so great a variety of this class of phenomena in connection with many others which belong to this field of enquiry. We might safely say, in fact, that the wonderful phenomena presented in this lady's life cover nearly if not the whole field of the present "manifestations," and extend much beyond. The learned observer of her case — Dr. Kerner — has presented us very full details of her life. The experiments he made in various ways, to develope the phenomena in every possible form, have placed within reach of the enquirer a large body of the most valuable facts.

99. The reader, by referring back to § 94, *third* deduction, will notice the important fact relating to the influence of geological localities on the conditions of the developement of this force. This will now be corroborated; as also all the deductions under § 94. We shall notice these as we pass along.

100. The town of Prevorst is a little village of rather more than four hundred inhabitants, and is located in the

mountainous parts of Germany. While the people on these mountains are free from intermittent fevers, to which the Lowlanders are subject, they are strongly predisposed to periodical nervous disorders, ghost seeing, rhabdomancy, &c. It should follow then, that in such a region we ought to find a seer or a seeress, certainly. It was here, amid these mountain wilds, that she was born; in those regions where, as her biographer states, "a sort of St. Vitus' dance becomes epidemic, so that all the children of a place are seized with it at the same time;" and who, "like persons in a magnetic state, are aware of the precise moment that a fit will seize them;" thus, "if they are in the fields when the paroxysm is approaching, they hasten home, and immediately fall into convulsions, when very soon they rise upon their feet, and move for an hour or more, with the most surprising regularity, keeping measure like an accomplished dancer." They then "awake as out of a magnetic sleep, without any recollection of what has happened." * "It is also certain," continues Dr. Kerner, "that these mountaineers are peculiarly sensible to magnetic influences, amongst the evidences of which are, their susceptibility to sympathetic remedies, and their power of discovering springs by means of the divining rod."

It was among such susceptible human beings, where the material agencies had such powerful influences upon the nerve centres of an otherwise hardy people, that Frederica Hauffe was born and reared. Early in childhood she disclosed a very high degree of the same susceptibilities.

101. Thus it was found, as Kerner remarks, that "in her hands at a very early age, the hazel wand pointed out metals and water."

102. Then again it was found that in certain localities

* Herein we see the automatic action of the nerve centres, and the play of certain psychological centres of the brain under mundane influence. A future number presents some of the most singular instances of this.

among these mountains the influences from the earth had a very powerful effect upon her susceptible nerves.*

103. Thus it was frequently observed by the person whom she often accompanied in his walks through solitary places, that though she was skipping ever so gaily by his side, at *certain spots* a kind of seriousness and *shuddering* seemed to seize upon her, which, for a long time, he could not comprehend. He also observed that she experienced the same sensations in church yards, and in churches where there were graves; and that, in such churches, she could never remain below, but was obliged to go to the galleries.

Superstition, it is true, has always claimed such facts as parts of her ghostly superstructure; but they are too material for this.

104. Such was the early childhood of this ill-fated personage, with regard to her susceptibilities to mundane agencies. There was also discovered, in her early years, a very high degree of susceptibility to the influence of particular persons. Some very curious facts are connected with this period of her life, some of which belong to another class of phenomena. She was rendered still more sensitive at a little later period, by the watching and anxiety to which she was subjected by her sickness of her parents. Their dangerous illness for a whole year kept her in a continual excitement. She often passed into an abnormal state, wherein the mundane agencies seemed to have an hundred fold greater influence upon the nerve centres. Thus, (to give an instance which contains also psychological characteristics,) she was almost constantly in a magnetic state, and in this condition frequently communicated what was taking place at a distance, in which also she was aware of producing sounds in space, and some ways off; but this being found to materially injure

* These are no trifling facts, neither are they the mere whim of superstition and ignorance. He who has studied Reichenbach will see at once the importance of every fact of this character.

her, the habit was removed. This important fact will be more particularly noticed, by and by.

105. At the age of nineteen, two events occurred which seemed to bear away and destroy the last remaining power of self-control and conscious self-possession. The first was her engagement of marriage. With this she sunk at once into a "state of depression, for which her friends could in no way account, — wept all day long under the roof of her parents' house, where she concealed herself — did not sleep for five weeks — and, in fact, was again absorbed in the overpowering life feeling of her childhood." The second event was the death of her beloved pastor, which unhappily took place a day or two previous to her marriage, and the funeral on that very day. The effect was so powerful upon her nervous system as to cause a complete abandonment of all that constitutes the higher nobility of man, and she gave herself up to any and every influence that might control her nervous powers.

106. As we have already noticed, she had in early childhood exhibited phenomena which plainly indicated her very high degree of susceptibility to mundane influences. Mineral lodes and subterranean currents acted through her upon the simple stick she would hold in her hand. In her play also among the hills, at particular localities the influence upon her system was exceedingly marked, causing trembling and strange sensations; and the same phenomena occurred when she passed over graves, or sat in a church under the floor of which bodies were buried. The same susceptibilities had continued up to the time of her marriage and the burial of her minister, and now she gave herself up to this earthly influence.

107. It was not long after this, that another circumstance occurred in her life, which shows the different influences of locality upon such persons. She removed from her home among the mountains, into a low, glooomy region, "surrounded by mountains, which was in its atmospherical and geognostic relations, the reverse of the

former." * Here she fell into "odd spasms;" sinister influences played powerfully upon her susceptible organism, and it was noticed, says Kerner, "at a later period that the lower the situation she was in, the more she was afflicted by spasms; whilst, on the contrary, on the mountains her magnetic condition was augmented." This fact points to an important law of relation existing between dynamic influences from the earth and the force of the nerve centres, which other facts we have in store will more fully exhibit.

108. Another event now occurred which served to plunge her still deeper into that condition, which, of all others, is to be manfully resisted by every person in its very beginning, if *self*-control and genuine freedom would be preserved inviolate—we mean what is commonly called the "magnetic" condition. On the 14th of February, 1822, she was attacked with nervous fever, which continued "fourteen days with the greatest violence."

109. This was "followed," says Kerner, "by *seven years* of MAGNETIC LIFE, interrupted only by short, and merely *apparent* intervals."

110. So many important phenomena now begin to present themselves in this case, that the greatest difficulty seems to be, *how* they shall be given. We shall present them, however, in the order of time. The reader will understand that we are to give here merely the physical phenomena where it is possible to separate them, without violence, from the psychological.

111. "After that fever, she was attacked, on the night of the 27th of February, at one o'clock, by severe spasms

* "Persons," says Kerner, "highly susceptible to electrical influences, are often cured of their maladies by a change of residence; whilst others of the same description, frequently from a like cause, fall into sicknesses which the physician cannot account for. Papponi, a man spoken of by Amoretti, who was very susceptible to electrical influences, and who suffered from convulsions, was cured merely by a change of residence. Pennet, a man of the same susceptibility, could not go to rest, in a certain inn in Calabria, till he had wrapt himself in an isolating cloak of waxed cloth."

in the breast. She was rubbed and brushed till her back bled; and, as she lay without consciousness, the surgeons of the place opened a vein. The spasms continuing three days, the bleeding was repeated."

112. On the second day, a peasant's wife, uncalled for, came from the village, and seating herself beside her, said: "She needs no physician — they cannot help her;" and laid her hand on her forehead. Immediately she was seized with the most direful spasms, and her forehead was as cold as if she were dead. During the whole night she cried deliriously that that woman had exercised a demoniacal influence upon her; and, whenever the woman returned, she was always attacked by spasms. On the third day they sent to Bretten for a physician; and being then in a magnetic condition, she cried to him when he entered, although she had never seen him — "If you are a physician, you must help me!" He, well understanding her malady, laid his hands on her head; and it was then remarked that, as long as he remained in the room, she saw and heard him alone, and was insensible to the presence of all other persons.*

113. After he had laid his hands on her she became calm, and slept for some hours. Some internal remedies and a bath were prescribed for her, but the spasms returned in the night, and for eighteen weeks, she was attacked by them from twice to five or six times a day."

114. All the remedies that were tried proving inefficacious, the physician had recourse to "magnetic passes," which for a time relieved the spasms. On one occasion, when she was suffering from severe spasms, the maid-ser-

* This important phenomenon, which has so often been presented in experiments since the days of Mesmer, has always been looked upon as a mystery. We shall see, however, by and by, what its testimony is in connection with other analogous phenomena. We here mention one, however, viz.: That the same kind of exclusive attachment has been seen, in cases of persons who have fallen under the peculiar influence of the magnet or a crystal, thus showing the relation of mundane agencies to the Psychological nerve centres, as well as to the nerve centres in the spine and among the viscera.

vant relieved her by breathing for an hour on the pit of the stomach.

115. It was amid such sufferings and such influences, that in the month of Feb., 1823, after extreme tortures she gave birth to her first child. This event was followed for a long time by additional ills.

116. The following is a somewhat curious circumstance, giving us, however, a phenomenon of that important class which show the influence which one organization will have upon another, when a certain relation is established between them. It is this: The woman, who on a former occasion, had exerted so unhappy an influence upon the mother, produced precisely the same effects upon the child. Her contact with it threw it into spasms, (to which it was strongly predisposed, of course.) From that time the convulsions became periodical until its death.

117. To show still further the susceptibility of this unfortunate invalid, Dr. Kerner states, that on one occasion, (about a year after the birth of her child,) being laughed at for her superstition, she was thrown into a state of rigid (tonic) spasm, and became as cold and stiff as a corpse. "For a long time no respiration was perceptible;" her restoration was only to continued suffering. "She always lay," says Kerner, "as in a dream." We cannot here, resist the temptation of mentioning one psychological characteristic, intimately connected with physical phenomena.

118. In the peculiar condition mentioned above, "she spoke for three days entirely in verse; and at another, she saw for the same period nothing but a ball of fire, that ran through her whole body as if on thin bright threads. Then for three days she felt as if water was falling on her head, drop by drop; and it was at this time that she first saw her own image. She saw it clad in white, seated on a stool, whilst she was laying in bed. She contemplated the vision for some time, and would have cried out, but could not; at length she made herself

heard, and on the entrance of her husband it disappeared."

119. Her susceptibility was now so great that she heard and *felt* what happened at a distance; and was so sensible to external agencies, that the nails in the walls affected her, which obliged her friends to remove them. The least light had a powerful influence upon her nervous system, and could not be endured.

120. She was now induced to take a medicine which had the effect to make her more calm, but threw her into a deeper trance. Still she could not endure the sunlight. She was taken in a darkened carriage to her home on the mountains. Here "she existed," says Kerner, "only through the nervous emanation of others, and it became necessary that some one should always hold her hand; and if the person was weak, it increased her debility. The physician prescribed magnetic passes and medicines; but she fell into the magnetic sleep, and prescribed for herself. Her greatest suffering arose from the sensation of having a stone in her head; it seemed as if her brain was compressed, and at every breath she drew, the motion pained her. This sensation disturbed her sleep, which lasted only as long as a hand was laid on her forehead. At this time an experiment was made by applying a magnet to her forehead; immediately her head and face was turned round, and her mouth was distorted, as by a stroke of palsy.* These symptoms continued two days, after which they disappeared of themselves."

The phenomena which we thus meet here and there, point us to the experiments of Reichenbach.

121. On the 28th of December, she gave birth to her second child, which was followed as before by a long and severe illness; she continued constantly in a "magnetic" state; that is, her nervous system was constantly in that

* There are those who will dismiss such accounts, by attributing them to the influence of the imagination. This is as sensible as it is to attribute ill luck to the rise of the new moon over the left shoulder, or the setting out upon a journey on a Friday.

condition in relation to human and mundane agencies, which gave them the constant command of all her powers. Indeed, every centre of the brain and the whole sympathetic system, as well as the spinal centres, were alive to these outward influences.

122. Persons of various tempers now became her magnetizers. Her brother, however, was her usual operator, and any other person present when he was away. The effects of these different nervous temperaments upon her's were very serious. It brought her into special relation to so many persons, that even at a distance they affected her, visions of whom would appear to her like visions of spirits. This, moreover, "brought her," as Kerner says, "into a deeper magnetic condition, and at the same time rendered her from habit more dependent on the nervous energy of others."

123. Her friends now employed a man from a distance to attempt her cure. "This man gave her a green powder, which she objected to take; but they forced her to do so. On her taking it a second time, she became immediately able to stand; but she ran about quite rigidly; and after a few steps, ran round in a circle, as if in a fit of St. Vitus' dance." On visiting her at another time, taking her hand he threw it into the most amazing contortions, which the usual "magnetic passes" could not remove. He gave her also an amulet to wear, composed of certain substances and a small magnet, all arranged together. "Strange to say," says Dr. Kerner, "at this time this amulet that he gave her would occasionally, of its own accord, untouched by any one, run about her head, breast, and bed covering, like a live thing."

124. It has already been mentioned that in the earlier stage of her magnetic state, she was aware of making sounds at a distance. This she repeatedly performed, so that "her friends at a distance, as they lay in bed in the same village, but in other houses, heard distinctly the sounds." Some time after, this fact was communicated to

Dr. Kerner, who, by actual experiment and observation, confirmed it.

125. This, the reader will understand, was not performed by her will, as this was not active in her somnambulic or cataleptic state. There was a suspension of her powers of reason, will, and the consciousness that goes with them. Every nerve centre was in a most intimate rapport or relation with the mundane agencies, more especially with that which acts in conjunction with the nervous force, and holds every animal in a certain connection with every thing out of the organism.

126. We shall now place another fact by its side. The father of this unfortunate woman inhabited a house which formed a part of an old cathedral, where, it had been reported by former tenants, strange sights had been seen, and strange sounds heard. It was in this house, at the time of her somnambulic state, already described, there were heard unusual "knockings on the walls, noises in the air," — such as she had been known to make in a somnambulic state — "and other sounds which were heard by many different people," and as Dr. Kerner remarks, "can be testified to by more than twenty credible witnesses." There was a "trampling up and down stairs by day and by night to be heard, but no one to be seen, as well as knockings on the walls and in the cellars; but, however suddenly a person flew to the place to try to detect whence the noise proceeded, they could see nothing."

127. "If they went outside, the knocking was immediately heard inside, and *vice versa*." The noises in the house became at length so remarkable and perplexing, "that her father declared that he could stay in it no longer; and they were not only audible to every body in it, but to the passengers in the street, who stopped to listen to them as they passed."

Whenever there was playing on the piano forte and singing, sounds would commence on the walls.

128. Not only these sounds were heard about the

house, but articles of furniture, china ware, glasses, bottles, &c., would be moved, without visible instrumentality. Here we are presented with the same class of physical phenomena which we have noticed in the other cases. There was, however, not so much violence in its action from the nerve centres in this as in some other cases we have noticed. The truth is, the forces of her system were in a low state. "She was tormented with dysentery, weakened down by spasms, night-sweats; her gums were scorbutic, and bled continually, and she lost all her teeth. All of which show very plainly, that her organism did not possess the material for this force, as was witnessed in the case of Mrs. Golding's servant, and in many mediums of the present day. Besides, in those cases where this agent is excited more in the psychological centres than in the spinal system, or in the ganglia of the sympathetic nerves, it is less terrible in its phenomenal action, and is more under the influence of the psychological force itself, within the brain of the person. This will receive a more full explanation hereafter. It is our business now to notice the details of the case.

129. So far, Dr. Kerner had not attended to her as her physician. She was now, however, placed under his care, and accordingly, "on the 25th of November, 1826, a picture of death — wasted to a skeleton, and unable to rise or to lie down without assistance" — she was taken to Weinsberg, where Kerner resided. The following is the description which he gives of her condition at this crisis:

130. "Every three or four minutes it was necessary to give her a spoonful of broth, which she often could not swallow, but spat out again; yet without it she fainted, or had spasms. She had many frightful symptoms, and fell into a magnetic trance every evening at seven o'clock. This used to begin with crossing her arms, and prayer. Then she would stretch them out; and, when she afterwards laid them on the bed, began to talk, her eyes being shut, and her face lighted up."

131. Her existence seemed to depend wholly on the nervous strength of other people. "By the proximity of weak and sickly people, she grew weaker, just as flowers lose their beauty, and perish, under the same circumstances. She also drew nourishment from the air, and, even in the coldest weather, could not live without an open window."

132. All those properties of mineral, plant, and animal, which have but a slight influence upon the normal or healthy person, whose higher nature has the ascendancy, had the most powerful influence upon her.

133. "All imponderable matters, even the different colors of the prism, produced on her sensible effects. She was susceptible of electric influences, of which we are not conscious; and, what is almost incredible, she had a preternatural feeling, or consciousness of human writing."

The following are some of the results of experiments with minerals and other substances, as well as what is commonly called "magnetic" power.

134. As we have seen in the case of Angelique Cottin, under certain conditions of the human organism, the reaction of the magnet upon it is very marked, thus showing the action of some sort of force from the magnet which is either magnetism itself, or something that is intimately associated with the force of the magnet. Of course it could not be decided which, without nice experiment and observation. Such experiments have been instituted by the celebrated Reichenbach, and the conclusion is inevitable, that it is not the proper magnetic agent, as the same phenomena resulted from the force of crystals, minerals, and the human hand, — that it is, therefore, some new force, and that it has, under determined conditions, a specific action upon the nervous system.

135. Arago found that the north pole of the magnet, when brought (secretly) near to Angelique, produced a very sensible shock, and that the side most affected was the left. This was the most sensible to all external influ-

ences, and gave forth that power most energetically, which in turn reacted upon outward things.

136. Now in the experiments of Dr. Kerner upon the sensitive organism of the seeress, he found the magnet to have a powerful influence, and that her left side was the most sensitive.

137. The magnet, however, in her case, did not act so much in the way of shocking the nervous system, as in producing an involuntary contraction of the muscles, cramping them in the most horrid manner, which would not entirely pass off for several days.

138. Various minerals were now brought in contact with her, and every substance produced specific effects. His method was to lay them in her hand, secreted in a manner that would prevent her from having any ordinary means of knowing what they were. Thus, the mountain laurel would throw her at once into a state of catalepsy, and the mountain crystal would as instantly arouse her.

139. Glass and rock crystal seemed always to have a most powerful effect upon her, but their action was in waking her from the somnambulic state, or in exciting the force within her organism.* If, however, a rock crystal were placed on the pit of her stomach, and allowed to remain there some time, (even without her being consciously aware of what was being done,) it would produce a deep state of catalepsy.

140. She was affected in the same manner by silicious sand and gravel, or even by standing for some time near a glass window. It was also noticed that if she chanced to seat herself on a sandstone bench, she was apt to become cataleptic; and once, having been for some time

* This fact, and others of this character in abundance, point to the peculiar tendency of this force, in some cases of disease, to act outwardly from the nerve centres upon glass ware, window glass, &c., which we have noticed in the case of Mrs. Golding's servant, and in certain other cases. We have known a child eight years old, who seldom, at one period, took hold of a glass dish without its soon bursting to pieces. And this is not uncommon.

missed, she was at length found at the top of the house, seated on a heap of sand, so rigid, that she had been unable to move away from it.

141. "A few small diamonds," says Kerner, "placed in the hand of Mrs. H—— caused an extraordinary dilatation of the eyes, and an immobility of the pupil, together with a stiffness of the left hand and right foot. The effects of all substances were much greater when placed on her hand, than when swallowed, either as food or medicine."

142. Experiments were also made by the doctor with the hazel rod, (used by certain sensitive persons in the discovery of minerals and subterranean currents.) He found this singular action to take place, mostly, in her case, through the left side and hand. When held over different substances, the effects in some instances were the most evident and undeniable. And he found that those which produced little or no influence on her organism, affected the hazel in a corresponding manner, and *vice versa*.

143. One very marked phenomenon was observable in her case; that was, that during the day, (while the sun was above the horizon,) she could take no fluid without vertigo and giddiness; but after the sun had set, this effect entirely vanished. And it was also noticed in conjunction with this, that she was never thirsty during the day, however intense the heat.

144. Another very singular and important phenomenon was observable throughout her treatment under Dr. Kerner, viz.: whenever she was placed in a bath by her attendants, they had a great deal of labor to immerse her body beneath the surface. The specific gravity of her upper and lower limbs, and of her chest, seemed to be more like that of a cork, or a bladder of air, than that of muscle, nerve, and bone. Something seemed to pervade her body, or to act upon it, so entirely opposite to the centripetal action of the earth, as to counteract this law of force in the most marked manner.

145. This fact suggested to Dr. Kerner a curious experiment, which resulted in the developement of another important phenomenon. He had concluded, that as all these phenomena had taken place more or less in conjunction with those usually termed magnetic or mesmeric, there might be some relation of the forces in both, or indeed, they might be identical. To test this matter, he at one time placed his fingers against hers, when he found at once there existed a mutual attraction, as between two magnets; and now, by extending his hands upward, he found he had raised her clear from the ground; thus she was suspended as a magnet suspends a piece of iron, or another magnet, simply by a polar force. This was repeated several times, and afterward his wife did quite the same thing.

146. We have already spoken of the action which the sun's light had upon her in producing physical effects. Amongst others we have not yet noticed, Kerner mentions that the different colored rays produced each a specific effect. The light of the moon, also, when she looked at it, produced coldness and shivering, with melancholy.

147. "On touching her," says Kerner, "with a finger, during an electrical state of the atmosphere, she saw small flashes, which ascended to the ceiling; from men these were colorless, from women blue; and she perceived emanations of the same sort, and with the same variation of color, from people's eyes. Rain water, fallen during a storm, she could not drink, on account of the heat it occasioned; but at other times, it was agreeable to her.

148. "She was extremely sensible of all contagious and epidemic influences. The higher she was in space, the more abnormal and magnetic was her condition; this was observable, even in the different floors of a house. In a valley, she felt oppressed and weighed down, and was attacked by convulsions. She was affected by wind, especially when it was gusty; and, though shut up in a room, could tell from what point it blew."

CHAPTER IV.

Phenomena of rapping and other sounds, also movement of objects at a distance—Dr. Kerner's investigations—Results upon the trials of mineral agencies upon her system—Reichenbach's enquiries—Physical Phenomena at the residence of Kerner, also at the residence of those who had come into rapport or special relation with Frederica—Classification of these phenomena.

149. HAVING thus presented those phenomena in the case of this unfortunate woman, which demonstrate the action of mundane agencies upon her susceptible organism, and especially of that which we are investigating in particular, we will view more thoroughly those physical phenomena which are produced by the action of this agent in the organism, when acting outwardly. We have already given a few specimens, and alluded to the power possessed in the nerve centres of this woman, to produce sounds even at a distance.

150. The following is the language of Dr. Kerner on this point; after giving which we shall consider some examples of the same character, which took place in relation to those who had come into rapport with her.

151. "As I had been told by her parents, a year before her father's death, that at the period of her early magnetic state, she was able to make herself heard by her friends, as they lay in bed at night, in the same village, but in other houses, by a knocking — as is said of the dead. I asked her, in her sleep, whether she was able to do so now, and at what distance? She answered that she would sometimes do it. Some time after this, as we

were going to bed — my children and servants being already asleep — we heard a knocking, as if in the air, over our heads. There were six knocks, at intervals of half a minute. It was a hollow, yet clear sound — soft, but distinct. We were certain there was no one near us, nor over us, from whom it could proceed; and our house stands by itself. On the following evening, when she was asleep — when we had mentioned the knocking to nobody whatever — she asked me, whether she should soon knock to us again? which, as she said it was hurtful to her, I declined."

152. And yet, at no great interval after this, Kerner gives the following as having taken place at his house:

"On the morning of the 23d, (of March, 1837,) at one o'clock, I suddenly awoke, and heard seven knocks, one after another, at short intervals, seeming to proceed from the middle of my chamber; my wife was awakened also; and we could not compare this knocking to any ordinary sound. Mrs. H—— (the seeress) lived several houses distant from us."

153. On the 30th of the same month, Rev. Mr. Herrmann came into *rapport* or special relation,* with the seeress through the medium of psychological sympathy, as well as through the physical influence. Previous to this he had not been troubled with strange sounds at his house, but after that period he was awakened every night, at a particular hour, "by a knocking in his room; sometimes on the floor, and sometimes on the walls; which his wife heard as well as himself."

* In order to show this special relation that was established, we would here name the fact, that Mrs. H. was, in a great part of her magnetic state, under a species of religious excitement, and at prayer. Mr. Herrmann sympathised with her in this, and now to see the sympathetic reflection we would add, that simultaneously with the commencement of this rapping in his room, he experienced an involuntary disposition to pray. Thus showing a double influence from Mrs. H.:

First, That of mere physical power.

Second, That from the psychological centres. Many very curious facts of the latter, in conjunction with the former, will be given when we come to treat of them in relation to each other.

154. Such facts as these, coming side by side, are hints of nature too important to be slighted. And we shall find a great many others before we have finished these investigations. They have a language, however, which the deaf will not hear.

155. Another instance is given by Kerner, which took place while at the house of Mrs. H. "On the evening of the nineteenth, Mrs H. being in bed, and I writing at a table near her," says he, "I suddenly heard a noise, like the rustling of paper, on the commode behind me, where there was nothing of that sort. I arose instantly, to examine the cause, but could find none whatever; and Mrs. H.'s bed was at a considerable distance from the spot. The next day the same thing happened on the table instead of the commode."

156. The reader by referring to §§ 138, 139, 140, will notice that there was a peculiar relation between the agent associated with silicious substances, such as glass, crystals of this substance, and sand, gravel, &c. This species of phenomena, should now be placed by the side of the following which occurred several times.

157. On the twenty-first of April, just after that phenomenon with regard to the papers, we have just noticed, and when Dr. Kerner was at the house of Mrs. H., the window being open, he saw a quantity of gravel come in the window, which he, "not only saw," as he says, "but picked up!" To be certain that no one threw it in, he immediately looked out. On comparing it, he found it to be such gravel as lay in front of the house. Sounds also were produced in the room soon after, of the character already described.

158. As the new agent acted in the case of Angelique Cottin, so it exhibited in the case of Frēderica its centrifugal power on particular bodies, superior to that of the centripetal of the earth. In the case of Angelique it raised a heavy tub or trough with a man in it. In the case of Frederica H., it raised a cricket to the ceiling without human hands touching it.

159. Let the reader now take the following details of phenomena of this class witnessed by Professor Wells, of Cambridge, B. K. Bliss, William Bryant, and William Edwards, at the house of Rufus Elmer in Springfield, on the evening of the 5th of April. Mr. D. D. Hume was the Medium or person affected; though, as we shall see by and by, the whole circle were more or less concerned in the developement of this force. This account was published to the world with the names of the four scientific and literary persons above mentioned. The following is the form in which they give the phenomena; the eighth section, however, will not be considered in this place as it would be irrelevant, and as we are to take up the intelligent characteristics in another part.

160. "The undersigned, from a sense of justice to the parties referred to, very cordially bear testimony to the occurrence of the following facts, which we severally witnessed at the house of Rufus Elmer, in Springfield, on the evening of the fifth of April:

"*First*, The table was moved in every possible direction, and with great force, when we could not perceive any cause of motion.

"*Second*, It (the table) was forced against each one of us so powerfully as to move us from our positions, together with the chairs we occupied — in all, several feet.

"*Third*, Mr. Wells and Mr. Edwards took hold of the table in such a manner as to exert their strength to the best advantage, but found the invisible power, exercised in the opposite direction, to be quite equal to their utmost efforts.

"*Fourth*, In two instances, at least, while the hands of all the members of the circle were placed on the top of the table — and while no visible power was employed to raise the table, or otherwise move it from its position — *it was seen to rise clear of the floor, and to float in the atmosphere for several seconds*, as if sustained by a denser medium than the air.

"*Fifth*, Mr. Wells seated himself on the table, which

was rocked to and fro with great violence, and at length it poised itself on two legs, and remained in this position for some thirty seconds, *when no other person was in contact with the table.*

"*Sixth*, Three persons, Messrs. Wells, Bliss, and Edwards, assumed positions on the table at the same time, and while thus seated, the table was moved in various directions.

"*Seventh*, Occasionally we were made conscious of the occurrence of a powerful shock which produced a vibratory motion of the floor of the apartment. It seemed like the motion occasioned by distant thunder, or the firing of ordnance far away — causing the tables, chairs, and other inanimate objects, and all of us to tremble in such a manner that the effect was both seen and felt.

"*Eighth*, * * * * * *

"*Ninth*, In conclusion, we may observe, that D. D. Hume, the Medium, frequently urged us to hold his hands and feet. During these occurrences the room was well lighted, the lamp was frequently placed on and under the table, and every possible opportunity was afforded us for the closest inspection, and submit this one emphatic declaration: *We know that we are not imposed upon nor deceived.*

DAVID A. WELLS, WM. BRYANT,
B. K. BLISS, WM. EDWARDS."

161. The following also were developed at the house of Rev. Dr. Griswold, New York. Among the persons present were, Mr. J. F. Cooper, George Bancroft, Rev. Dr. Haws, Dr. J. W. Francis, Dr. Marcy, Mr. N. P. Willis, William Bryant, Mr. Bigelow, of the Evening Post, Mr. R. B. Kimball, Mr. H. Tuckerman, and Gen. Lyman.

The mediums present, were the members of the Fox family.

Only Mr. Cooper, Dr. Francis, and Mr. Tuckerman seemed to come into close rapport with the psychological

and nerve centres of the mediums. The others according to the account, could develope little or no intelligent characteristics, and could obtain a developement of the physical force alone. Thus giving us a plain hint of the distinction we are to observe between the physical phenomena and the psychological characteristics which frequently accompany them.

162. The physical force stands alone *as* a physical force. It bears no characteristics in its action but that of itself, unless some other is made to impress its characteristics upon it, as the intelligent will do in the movement of the arm. But the physical force may move the arm without intelligence, as in spasms, &c.

The following peculiar physical phenomena, were developed during the evening:

163. "One little peculiarity, hitherto unremarked,* came to our notice. The questioner's seat (to give him access to paper and pencil) was on one side of the table, and chancing to occupy the place between him and the ladies, (mediums) we [Mr. Willis] had accidentally thrown our arm over the back of his chair. Whenever the knockings occurred, we observed that his chair was shaken, though our own intermediate chair, and the two standing immediately behind, were unmoved. We called attention to it, and it was corroborated by the other gentlemen.

"With such heavy weight in the chair as Mr. Cooper's or Dr. Francis', it would have taken a blow with a heavy hammer to have produced so much vibration." The table was not moved, though requested.

164. An experiment was tried as to what would be the effect with one of the ladies alone, or with two without the third, or with a gentleman and one or two of the ladies. "The strongest knockings were on the floor beneath, when the widow and her two sisters stood any where together. With two of them the knockings were fainter. We placed ourself between the widow and one

* Taken from Willis' Home Journal.

of the young ladies," says Mr. Willis, "and *no* sounds were produced as a consequence. With *one* of the mediums alone, there were no phenomena."

165. These peculiar characteristics of the conditions are worthy of careful consideration. We have found several cases where no decided physical phenomena could be evolved without the presence of two persons, both in a palpable abnormal state, and we shall give one case in a future chapter, where three clairvoyants were required.

166. All such conditions clearly indicate the physical agency, to belong to the physical organism. These characteristics will be considered in a more fitting place. We would simply direct attention to them here. The most important phenomena of this character, however, have not been sufficiently observed to develope their laws.

167. But to return. An experiment was tried of another kind, in this circle at Dr. Griswold's. Three gentlemen placed themselves on the outside of the door, and three on the inside, and watched it closely, when suddenly it was knocked with great violence, without any visible instrument. "We witnessed this," says Mr. Willis, "with one hand upon the panels, and what can it be but the exercise of a power beyond any thing of which we have hitherto known the laws? That it is subject to human control," he continues, "seems probable, for it acts at present, in a certain obedience to human orders, [not of the medium, however,] and is most obedient to those who have used it longest."

168. Mr. Ripley, of the Tribune, in speaking of the same sitting, says, "the ladies were at such a distance from the door as to lend no countenance to the idea that the sounds were produced by any direct communication with them." "Other sounds were made which caused sensible vibrations of the sofa, and apparently coming from a thick hearth-rug before the fire place, as well as from other quarters of the room."

169. In the case of Fredrica H., we have two distinct classes of physical phenomena. The first of which exhibit

the action of mundane agency upon her susceptible organism, producing characteristic peculiarities; this is seen in the influence of some force exerted from the magnet upon her muscular system, causing cramp, which continued for several days. We also observed in the case of Angelique Cottin, that Arago found the north pole of the magnet to have a peculiar influence upon her nervous system; the analogy at this one point is of too great importance to be lost sight of, (we have already noticed the analogy in respect to the action of a subjective or internal agent upon outer things, producing their movement.) It will be seen, therefore, that the physical enquiry at this juncture is introduced with a new element, viz.: that of the action of objective agents upon the human organism. This, it will be seen, is quite distinct from that regarding the action of an internal force upon the things of the outer world. But as both relate to the action of the same agent in reference to man, they are to be viewed together, because both take up the action and reaction of the same agent.

170. The question for investigation, then, presents itself in this double form. It considers,

First, Those phenomena which show the action of this agent from the outer world upon the organism.

Second, Those which show its action from the organism upon the outer world.

In both forms of this dynamic action, nearly every thing we shall find, depends upon the peculiar condition of the organism, especially of the nerve centres, whether of the brain or of cranio-spinal system, or of the ganglia of the sympathetic. Much also depends upon the condition of the blood, as already hinted, and upon the condition of the muscular system.

171. It is now important to notice, that in order for the reader to understand the final results of our investigations, it will not answer merely to state those results in abstract propositions. He must see each step. In other words, he must have the data — the facts. If

we were proving a mere theory; what we have already given, with a few additional allusions, would perhaps be sufficient to establish one principal proposition. But our object is rather to develope by an accumulation and classification of facts, the dynamic laws and relations of man; the conditions under which the great force of nature operates on his organism, and those under which the agency of his organism acts upon the outer world.

172. But let us see what the phenomena, so far presented, exhibit with regard to this agent. They demonstrate the fact that under peculiar conditions a physical force is given forth, the tendency of which is to react upon and move without visible instrumentality external objects — to cause their repulsion from the earth — to produce a change of condition between two external bodies, so as to cause either attraction or repulsion — to produce various sounds, not only near at hand, but at a distance. That, under peculiar conditions of the organism, it gives, in conjunction with the above phenomena, those facts which declare its intimate association with other bodies of matter, especially the magnet and crystaline substances, particularly rock crystals and other forms of quartz, giving them a specific action upon the nerve centres of persons, (thus peculiarly conditioned.) That through this agent the peculiarly conditioned organism is brought into a most wonderful relation to even distant points of matter, and may, through it as a medium, produce physical results at a distance, or be made to exhibit certain phenomena by a relative action from those points.

CHAPTER V.

STILL FURTHER DEVELOPEMETS OF THE PHENOMENA OF THIS NEW AGENT.

Phenomena of Rhabdomancy—Ritter's and Amoretti's investigations on this subject—Case of Campetti, and that of Bléton—Thouvenel's experiments upon the latter—Evidences of the influence of mundane agency upon the nerve centres—Phenomena showing the reaction from the organism upon an external body, producing its movement without the usual instrumentality—Special observations on Rhabdomancy by the author—Further notice of the case of Bléton—Two directions of force noticeable in his case, one propagated from East to West, the other towards the North—Mr. Ober's observations—Deductions—Chemical action in the earth—The evidence of the emanation of agencies from the earth—The earth a battery—Mineral lodes—Becquerel's experiments—Wonderful phenomena witnessed in certain dwellings in New York—Cause discovered—What do the phenomena prove?—What remains to be done.

173. In this chapter we are to present a few additional facts which exhibit the wonderful action of mundane agency upon the organism of susceptible constitutions, developing phenomena analogous to those already described. We have already seen, in part, the influence which these agents exerted upon the organism of the celebrated Seeress of Prevorst, (Frederica Hauffe.) It will be difficult to find another case like her's, but thousands have presented some forms of the same or analogous phenomena.

It was remarked in her case, that from earlier childhood, the "hazel wand" would turn readily under the influence of emanations of force from mineral veins

and subterranean currents, and that she, amid her plays over the mountain sides, would be suddenly stopped as by an unseen power, and suffer unaccountable tremblings; that she experienced the same sensations on passing over graves, or on sitting in a church, under the floor of which the bodies of the dead were deposited.

174. Such facts as these have been exhibited in every country where the conditions favored their developement, and they have not been left alone to the vulgar as some may suppose. They have received the attention of some of the first philosophers of Europe. But whether this had ever been the case or not, we shall now notice them, as we are bound to, by our own demand of reason. France, Germany, and Italy have hundreds of volumes written almost exclusively on the phenomena of Rhabdomancy.

175. The celebrated Ritter, of Germany, devoted much time to an investigation of this subject, and in 1809 published Supplementary Treatises upon it, together with a translation of Amoretti's celebrated work* on the same subject.

The same phenomena observed every where else, were repeated in the investigations of these men. Nearly all the persons upon whom particular observations were made, suffered more or less from spasmodic contractions on passing over particular spots, where it was found there were powerful subterranean currents, chemical action, or veins of ore; and this without previous knowledge. In some cases the "concussions would be," says Ritter, "equal to powerful electric shocks, producing giddiness, disquietude, solicitude." If it be thought that these might all be affected, there were symptoms that could not be thus considered, such as the production of violent local heat, (as in the case of Angelique Cottin,) and an acceleration or retardation of the pulse.

"The heat," remarks Ritter, "was so great in some

* Physical and Historical Inquiries into Rhabdomancy, &c., in Germany. By Carlo Amoretti.

cases as greatly to affect the thermometer." These things, the reader will understand, took place from the action of ("unseen"*) agents upon the nerve centres of these susceptible persons, and that these agents were physical, as they emanated from metals and streams of water beneath the surface of the earth.

176. It was also satisfactorily ascertained by both Ritter and Amoretti, that the phenomenon of the movement of a stick held in the hands of these persons, when they passed over these particular localities, was as veritable as any other in nature, which demanded care on the part of the investigator. The question has been settled in thousands of instances. Cases given by Amoretti in his later work,† are many of them too important to be cast aside as idle tales.

This subject, about the first quarter of the present century, received the attention of a great many powerful minds. Aretin notices it at great length in his work.‡

177. The case of Campetti, of Italy, and that of Bléton, of France, will now be noticed with reference to some few particulars. The former of these was under the experimental observations of Ritter, and Bléton under those of M. Thouvenel, the Commissioner of the King of France, in the year 1781, to "analyze and report upon the mineral and medicinal waters of the kingdom."

178. Campetti was born near the lake Gardo, in a place called Gargano, in Italy. Like Frederica H., of whom we have said so much in the previous chapter, he was highly susceptible to the influence of mundane agencies from an early period. He experienced the most strange sensations and feelings when he passed over any place where there were either veins of metal or subterranean streams. These consisted in shocks, spasms, and

* All primary physical agents *are* unseen. It is only the secondary agent, or the instrument made use of by the primary agent, that we *see*.

† See Amoretti's "Elemente di Elettro-Metria Animale," published in Milan, in 1816.

‡ Aretin's Neuer Literarischer Anzeiger, 1807.

sometimes severe convulsions and internal commotions. Various instruments were placed in his contact, which became affected at these times. In 1806, he was taken to Munich, and examined before the King of Bavaria.

In his case,* there were exhibited the movement of bodies without apparent instrumentalities.

179. In the case of Bléton,† under the investigations of Thouvenel, we have many of the same phenomena as in the case of Campetti. There was a spasmodic action about the stomach and diaphragm, also oppression in the upper part of the chest. Then he would be seized with chilliness, trembling, spasms and twitchings, stiffness or rigidity of the wrists and arms, and a highly accelerated and concentrated pulse. These symptoms always commenced with a shock, as if he had received the charge of a heavy battery. More than six hundred experiments were made upon this man, in the presence of a great many persons of distinguished character, and scientific eminence, who testified to the truth of the phenomena observed in his case. M. Jadelet‡ took an active part in a great many of the experiments, and gave his testimony as to the genuiness and reliability of the phenomena.

180. It was observed that those symptoms we have just referred to, were more or less strongly developed, "according to the volume and depth of the water." In going one way of the subterranean stream, the symptoms were more intense, and this was always found to be *against* it. The contrary direction had the contrary affect.

181. Thus far, perhaps, every thing seems rational enough. Scientific men, and those who are physicians, will not doubt the possibility of what we have just detailed. But what follows may hardly be credited, and yet it is not so strange in itself, as many things which we every day

* See Ritter's treatises before referred to.

† For a partial account of this case, see note by Dr. Ashburner, in his translation of Reichenbach. page 85, 1st American edition. Redfield.

‡ At that time Professor of Physic, at Nancy.

admit as true. That, to which we refer, is the whirling of a stick upon its axis as it lay across this man's thumb and finger, while he passed over one of the above named localities. What the rotation of a stick upon a man's thumb and finger, can have to do with a subterranean stream, or a vein of metal, is, indeed, an important question; but we shall not at this time attempt to settle it. Are such things facts? If so, what do they teach?

182. With regard to the first of these, we feel confident to assert, that every honest, enquiring mind may be satisfied, without appealing to the authority of great names on either side. During 1850–51, we made special exertion at different times, and in various places in the interior of Massachusetts, to test this point, viz.: The movement of a stick in the hands of particular persons over such localities as we have mentioned, especially over subterranean streams of water. We were astonished at the number of persons to be found possessing this "gift," some of whom were men of searching, discriminating minds, and one of them a gentleman of no mean scientific attainments. We found a great many instances, also, where, in the most difficult localities for obtaining water, on account of the extreme depth and hardness of the rock through which the shafts were obliged to be sunk, the *baguette* was made use of by these persons, and spots determined upon, where delicious springs of water were found at a difference of one-third of the depth of the other wells in the neighborhood, and sometimes of one-half.

183. In numerous instances, we have tested its action in the most rigid manner. We would not say that it can in every case be relied upon in determining the depth of the water below the surface, and other minutie, but the great fact itself, of an agency emanating in such localities which has a specific action upon the organism of certain persons, and through it upon a stick held in, or resting upon the hands, is as susceptible of demonstration as any other occasional or special fact of nature.

184. But to return to Bléton; the rod, in his case, had a more than common action when simply resting across the thumb and finger of one hand, in a horisontal manner. M. Thouvenel in his observations counted from "thirty-five to eighty revolutions in a minute, and always found an exact proportion between these revolutions and the convulsive motions of Bléton." The influence from the earth, seemed to act in wave-like motions, at every one of which Bléton exhibited the symptoms, and at the same time the rod would make a revolution. But the action of the rod and the convulsive motions varied under different circumstances.

185. "Upon the mines of iron," says Thouvenel, "the rods, supported by the fingers of Bléton turned constantly upon their axis, from behind forward. The same over mines of coal. On the contrary, over other metalic mines the rotary movement took place in the contrary direction, that is to say, from before backward." These phenomena plainly indicate the opposite action of a like agent.

186. If we observe some of the physical symptoms and their conditions, it will be sufficient for the present. "The convulsive twitchings and spasmodic motions of this man, as we have observed, took place more or less over all the veins, but 'Copper emanations excited very strong and disagreeable spasmodic symptoms, accompanied with pains in the region of the heart — flatulent movements of the bowels, and by abundant eructations of air. Over mines of lead the symptoms were less severe, but stronger again over the mines of Antimony.'"

187. Numerous very nicely conducted experiments were instituted by Thouvenel, upon Bléton, which precluded the possibility of deception. By these means he plainly observed the action of two mundane forces, one of which propagated itself towards the West, while the tendency of the other was towards the North. Conformable with the former, was the action of nearly all the metals except iron; and that of the latter, in all cases, conform-

able with the force acting towards the North. Thus the rod rotated towards the North with the iron, and from East to West with nearly every other metal.

188. Dr. Hutton, in his last edition of "Mathematical Recreations," has given an account * of the divining rod, and some of its phenomena, in the hands of the Hon. Lady Milbanke.† The spmptoms in her case were very similar to those of Campetti, Bléton, and others. The experiments in this case are highly interesting.

189. S. C. Ober, Esq., a gentleman who for some time was engaged in the mining interests in Wisconsin, informs us that the miners engaged in those localities, discover the lead veins almost entirely in this way. They always have a person among them in whose hands the rod will turn. He remarks, that the fact of this phenomenon is no more doubtful, than the mineralogical indications are of the general localities. He never saw an instance of failure except in the hands of those whose nervous temperament was apt to vary. He was led by his observations to conclude, however, that the agent emanating from the vein was not so much from the metal itself, as from the currents of water often found passing over it. In such localities, the action upon the person and the rod was always more powerful, and it was always known in such cases, that a stream of water would be found running over the ore. This was invariable.

This subject, it must be seen, offers us a fruitful field of investigation. At some future time we shall give additional facts; at present we must close the subject with the following

DEDUCTIONS.

190. *First*, The phenomena of Rhabdomancy, plainly show the influence of some powerful agent emanating from

* Hutton's account I find to be almost wholly omitted in the edition in this country,

† Dr. Ashburner refers to a similar account in the Quarterly Review (what one?) for March, 1820, No. xliv., Vol. 22. See, also, note by Ashburner in Reichenbach, page 82. Also *Speculum Anni*, for 1828.

certain localities on the earth which has a specific action upon the nerve centres of particular persons.

Second, As the phenomena are indicative of an abnormal condition of the nerve centres, in relation to this agent, it follows that the latter could have no such influence when the nervous condition is perfectly normal.

Third, Inasmuch as the movement of the rod takes place in a particular manner on the person passing over these localities, simultaneously with the internal commotions which are experienced; it follows, that the movement is intimately related to the action of the agent excited in the nerve centres as well as to the agent emanating from the earth which excites it.

Fourth, Taking these, together with the case of Frederica H., and other cases, we have the law established that under certain conditions a person susceptible to the emanations * of mundane agents, may exhibit the phenomena of the movement of an external object without the usual instrumentalities.

Fifth, It follows that in many cases of nervous derangement, the phenomena heretofore attributed, by the ignorant and superstitious, to the agency of spirits, is plainly attributable, more or less, to mundane influences.

Some evidence may be desired at this point, independent of the phenomena we have been recounting to show that there are physical agencies constantly exerted from the earth.

Now the fact itself is every where evident, that physical agents, subtle, unseen, are every where at work. "Force shows itself," as the elegant Somerville remarks,

* It is not to be concluded that these emanations of mundane agents must always be from veins of metal or subterranean streams; for as we have shown and shall hereafter more fully show, there are such emanations from even the most common mineral substances of the earth. Indeed, as remarked by Schubert in his work on Natural History, "it seems clear from many observations, that the whole mineral (and even much of the vegetable kingdom,) has a profound and mysterious relation with the organism of man." This relation is that of matter with matter connected by an imponderable agent.

"in every thing that exists in the heavens or on earth. It pervades every atom; rules the motions of animate and inanimate beings, and is as sensible in the descent of a rain drop as in the falls of Niagara; in the weight of the air as in the periods of the moon." There is a physical power which "not only binds satellites to their planet, and planets with suns, and sun with sun throughout the wide extent of creation, which is the cause of the disturbances, as well as of the order of nature," but it physically binds man to man, and man to nature. And as "every tremor it excites in one planet is immediately transmitted to the farthest limits of the system in oscillations, which correspond in their periods with the cause producing them, like sympathetic notes in music, or vibrations from the deep tones of an organ," * so every vibration thus excited, is transmissible to the delicate centres of every organic being, provided the repulsive agent of those beings is changed in its relative condition so as to admit the influx. This has already been shown in the Introduction, §§ 38, 39.

191. But let us notice a few interesting facts here, which show definitely the evolution of forces from the earth. Our first proposition will render this point exceedingly evident. Thus:

It is well known to every chemist, that wherever there is chemical action going on, there is a constant evolution of some force. Now, that there is a constant chemical action taking place in the earth is certain, and the sources of this action are very numerous. "Among others, we have that of water, (often holding in solution saline ingredients — thus increasing its action upon metallic substances,) which, percolating through the surface," acts upon all those surfaces whose materials have a strong chemical affinity for the oxygen or hydrogen of the water.

Wherever there is a mineral lode the developement of force is known to be in some instances very great. For

* Somerville's Connection of the Physical Sciences, page 1.

instance, Mr. Robert Ware Fox was able, by connecting two lodes with copper wires, and conducting the latter to the surface of the earth and immersing them into a cell which contained a solution of sulphate of copper, to obtain an electrotype copy of an engraved copperplate.

192. Thus "the earth itself may be made a *battery*," as Robert Hunt says. "We know," he repeats, "that through the superficial strata of the earth, electric currents circulate freely, whether they are composed of clay, sand, or any mixture of these with decomposed organic matter; indeed, that with any substance in a moist state, electric currents suffer no interruption."

193. "The electricity of mineral veins has attracted the attention" of some of the first philosophers of Europe, and have led to some highly interesting experiments* with regard to the action of this important agent in the formation, disposition, and direction of rocks and mineral veins. M. Becquerel and others have made use of these currents successfully in imitating nature in her processes of making crystals and other mineral formations.

194. It is not, however, necessary to suppose that the agent, of which we are treating particularly, requires a chemical action to develope it, or the action of the electric force. Experiments have proved that it is developed in every form of material action—that even the substances of the earth, without sensible alteration, exert this force. To this agent the sensitive nerve centres are extremely susceptible.

195. The phenomena which betray this as a fact of nature, have been observable from the earliest ages. It is certain, however, that local causes often give developement to such strange phenomena, that it requires all the science that can be mustered to keep back the tide of superstition which will be thus aroused in the breasts of

* We have found one of these to develope an important fact which we shall give in another connection.

those unacquainted with the action of agents. Take the following very curious instance:

196. In the years 1849–50, certain highly respectable houses in the city of New York seem to have been all at once unaccountably beset with a strange power which seized upon particular parts, and would not allow any one, not even the members of the families, to touch those seemingly consecrated things. Whenever this was attempted, a loud, sharp sound would be instantly given, accompanied with a sharp and spiteful flash of light, as if the agent was determined to protect that which it had seized upon. But this was not all; it would smartly shock the intruder with a blow, as if with an unseen fist, or the like. It even seized upon the members of these families at times, and would, so to speak, make them apparently strike one another in an unseen manner simultaneously. It was often the case that a stranger could not call at the door without being instantly struck on the wrist or elbow, on touching the knob of the door bell, and he would see, at the same instant, an angry flash of light, as if from some demon's eye. The ladies were not allowed to kiss each other, without each receiving, on the approach of their lips, a fiery smack, as from a spirit's lips. The dear little ones of these families were prevented from giving their mothers the parting salutation on retiring for the night.

There *seemed* to be a great deal of cunning shown by this agency. If the lady of the house did not think to pay all due deference to its rules when she wished to give orders to the servants below through the metallic speaking tube, she was sure to receive an unseen blow in the mouth, almost sufficient to stagger her; at the same instant she would see the flash, of what might have been taken, certainly, for a "fiery," if not for an "evil eye."

197. Professor Loomis* visited these dwellings, and

* See Annual of Scientific Discovery, 1851, page 129. Every man of sense, if he knew the worth of this Annual, would not go a year without it.

observed these phenomena. He perceived the flash whenever the hand was brought near to the knob of the door, also to the gilded frame of a mirror, the gas pipes, or any metallic body; especially when this body communicated freely with the earth. "In one house," says this scientific gentleman, in his description before the American Scientific Association at New Haven, — "in one house, which I have had the opportunity to examine, a child, in taking hold of the knob of a door, received so severe a shock that it ran off in great fright. * * * In passing from one parlor to the other, if she (the lady of the house) chanced to step upon the brass plate which served as a slide for the folding doors, she received an unpleasant shock in the foot. When she touched her finger to the chandelier, there appeared a brilliant spark, and a snap."

198. "After a careful examination of several cases of this kind, I have come to the conclusion that the electricity is created [excited] by the friction of the shoes of the inmates upon the carpets * of the house." Whether Professor Loomis is correct or not in his conjecture as to the cause, the phenomena were every whit electrical; hence we are led by them to see, that when local circumstances are favorable, an agent may be developed in our midst, which may play the most singular pranks, which, it is more than probable, will be attributedto supernatural, and even spiritual powers, if the witnesses are ignorant of those characteristics which identify them with a well known agent.

199. Had the characteristics in the above been contrary to those of any known agent, although the phenomena had been entirely physical, how many would have leaped to the conclusion without a moment's thought, that the force was a power of the "invisible, spirit world?"

* It should follow, if this was the cause, that every house with similar carpets should become electrized, and exhibit similar phenomena, in which case we should have observed their appearance at a much earlier period, and the occurrences would have been presented much more frequently and extensively.

200. Hence the precipitate conclusion with regard to the phenomena of the present day. The physical phenomena exhibit none or but few of the characteristics of any *known* physical agent. The attempt to account for them by a reference to the agency of electricity has signally failed, as the most important characteristics of this agent cannot be found to agree with the phenomena.

201. But no one has attempted to arrange the facts, and to give them a classification, without reference to the pre-conceived idea of a supernatural cause. Reason has been entirely set aside, on the one hand; while those who have held fast to its principles throughout this excitement have been, on the other, indiscriminately classed with those, who, out of a mere negative state of mind, have denied the phenomena as any thing more than a species of legerdemain. We protest against this, and show at once our claim to a faithful observation of the phenomena in question.

CHAPTER VI.

ELECTRICAL FORM OF AGENCY.

The Electric Girls of Smyrna—Movement of objects without contact—Effect of iron—Effect of the atmosphere—The same in cases of the phenomena of the present day—Is the agent in this case electric—Analogy of this case with that of Angelique Cottin—Shocks given by the latter—Shocks by clairvoyants—Capron and Barron's statements—Mrs. Tamlin—Wm. T. Coggeshall's statements—Electricity of the organism not the vital agent—Dr. Wm. F. Channing—Electric girl of Strasburg—Physical effect at a distance by her electric action—Electric Lady—Natural insulation—Deductions—Every form of agency should have some distinct name — Odyle of Reichenbach — Conclusion.

202. It would seem necessary to a thorough enquiry in the field we have chosen, to take some notice of the cases which present those phenomena bearing closer analogy to those of electricity than such as we have been considering. There is such a form of agency presented in a few cases we have collected, and they seem to show us that there is a transition of the agent, from the Odyle of Reichenbach, to the pure form of electricity.

203. The first we shall speak of, is that of the two Smyrna girls who visited France in the year 1839, and exhibited what was called their electrical powers, in moving tables without contact. The following account we take from the Boston Weekly Magazine for December 28th, 1839.

The two girls landed at Marseilles, about the first of November, 1839. "In hopes of realizing a splendid for-

tune, they intended to exhibit themselves in France and other parts of the continent. Immediately on their arrival, several persons, including various men of science, and professors, visited them and ascertained the following phenomena:

First, "The girls stationed themselves facing each other, at the ends of a large *table*, keeping at a distance from it of one or two feet, according to their electrical dispositions.

Second, "When a few minutes had elapsed, a *crackling*, like that of electric fluid spreading over gilt paper, was heard, when,

Third, "The table received a strong shake, which always made it *advance from the* ELDER to the younger sister.

Fourth, "A *key*, *nails*, or any piece of *iron* placed *on the table*, instantaneously *stopped* the phenomena.

Fifth, "When the iron was adapted to the *under part* of the table, it produced no effect upon the experiment.

Sixth, "*Saving this singularity*, the facts observed constantly followed the known laws of electricity, whether glass insulators were used, or whether one of the girls wore silk garments. In the latter case, the electric properties of both were neutralized. Such was the state of matters for some days after the arrival of the young Greeks; but,

Seventh, "The temperature having become cooler, and the atmosphere having loaded itself with *humidity*, all perceptible electric virtue seemed to have deserted them."*

204. In this case we have the "manifestation" of a force, in the production of phenomena, greatly analogous to that often witnessed at the present day. The writer calls the agent electricity, and yet, in one important respect, it acted differently from this agent, in that it was broken by simply laying a *key* or a small piece of *iron*,

* "One may conceive the melancholy of these girls," the writer continues, "and the disappointment of the two Greeks, their relations, who have come with them in order to share their anticipated wealth."

on the object which it had acted upon, and was not affected when the same piece of iron was placed under the table.

205. There is nothing said in this account of any trials made with the galvanometer or electrometer. Had such a test been applied with success, which certainly would have been mentioned, it would have decided the question; and then, assuredly, we might have had an instance where *electricity*, emanating from two persons with reference to a table, caused its vibration, and its *repulsion* from *one*, and *attraction* towards the *other*. The fact that some of the phenomena seemed to make the force appear *like* electricity, does not prove it to be perfectly identical with that agent, — or the *distinctive force* which the name implies.*

206. But some may refer to the fact of the effect of the humid state of the atmosphere upon the conditions necessary to the production of the phenomena, and conclude from this, that the agent must have been electricity, inasmuch as the same state of the atmosphere produces a like effect upon the action of friction electricity. Let us allow this, and turn to precisely the same phenomenon, as it has been manifested in the cases of numerous "mediums" for the so-called "spiritual manifestations."

207. Now we will not state it merely upon our own authority, but also upon that of a large number of intelligent believers in the spiritual origin of these phenomena, that the electrical condition of the atmosphere enters into the circumstances of their evolution, — that in a humid state of weather, it is not only difficult, in many instances, but sometimes is absolutely impossible to obtain them under such a condition.

208. In these cases, then, and in that of the girls of

* It must be admitted, however, that the fact of the influence of glass insulators and the silk dress — causing a cessation of the phenomena — shows, that the agent that acted upon the table was, in some way, a form of electricity, though greatly varying, in its laws of action, from that usually known to science. We have some curious facts relating to this modified agent, to present from Mattucci and others, which we shall not be able to crowd into this number of our work.

Smyrna, we have the same circumstances, resulting from the same condition, while the principal phenomena in both cases are the same, viz.: physical effects without visible instruments of contact.

209. But two things are to be considered here. *First*, that this particular fact does not hold good in every case, where the principal phenomena are made to appear. We cannot, therefore, conclude that the agent is identical with the above named electricty. *Second*, the galvanometer and electrometer have both been made use of, to decide if this agent were electricity; but our own investigations, as well as those of others, instituted in the most thorough manner, have not been able, as yet, to detect the least sign of electric action.

210. It was thought by some who witnessed the case of Angelique Cottin, that the agent which acted so powerfully from her organism, overthrowing tables, twisting chairs out of stout men's hands, raising a man in a heavy tub, — was electricity. C. Crow says it did cause the deviation of a magnetic needle; but M. Arago, who knows more about this abused agent than a nation of theorizers, could not detect the least sign of it by the nicest tests. And yet it would give the person who touched her or her dress, a powerful shock, as if it *were* electricity.

211. Still, it may be the same physical agent that is ground out from the plate glass — that propagates news from city to city on iron wires, and that thunders in the heavens; but it would be very unwise to decide this question till some more decisive facts are developed.

212. It has been supposed that, because in many instances, "mediums" have given shocks like those given by electrized bodies, the two agents must be identical. The following are a few of such as we find in works on "spiritual manifestations."

213. "A few weeks since a young lady about sixteen years of age — Miss Harriet Bebee — was in the city and was placed in a magnetic state in company with Mrs. Tamlin, the well known clairvoyant of this city. She was

also a clairvoyant herself. The sounds were heard while they were in that state. Every time the sounds were heard while they were in the magnetic sleep, there was a very sensible jar observed in the case of Miss Bebee, like an *electric shock*; and in answer to a question, she stated that at each sound she felt as if there was electricity passing over her. This was not observable when she was brought into the normal state. She resides some twenty miles from this city, and has heard the sounds at pleasure ever since her interview with Mrs. Tamlin.

"Several of the persons in whose presence these sounds are heard, *always receive a slight shock*, so that there is a slight jar, which has sometimes been so plain, as to lead persons ignorant of the facts and the phenomenon, to accuse them of making it themselves." *

On the 69th page of the same work, we find the following:

"This feeling of electricity seems to pervade nearly everything connected with these phenomena. When the rapping is heard, the peculiar jar is felt, — differing from the jar produced by a blow; and in various other ways we are reminded of the use of this subtile agent. We often see in a dark room, bright electric flashes on the wall and other places."

On another page is the following strong expression:

"Persons sometimes feel a sensation of electricity passing over their limbs *when they stand in the vicinity of those who get the sounds most freely*, although the particular persons who seem to be the mediums feel no sensation at all. In one or two instances we have *seen a perceptible shock, as if caused by a galvanic battery*, especially when the persons were under the *influence of Magnetism*. We leave these things to be accounted for by those better acquainted with the philosophy of these phenomena. We wish all the facts and details to be before the world, that

* See Messrs. Capron and Barron's History of the Mysterious Communion with Spirits, &c. Enlarged and Authorized edition, page 42.

judgement may be rendered according to the evidence in the case."

214. In a work of the same character, published in Cincinnati, by Wm. T. Coggshall, we find the above facts quoted, on 72d page, with approbation. And on 142d page of the same work, we find the following: — "We have felt positive *electrical influences* from *clairvoyants*," &c., &c.

"At the present time," he continues, "what is termed 'electrical circles' are being formed every week in Cincinnati, for the benefit of persons whose systems require additional electrical power. We have seen several women so powerfully electrized in these circles, that the same effects were produced upon them which would have been had they been isolated, in connection with a galvanic battery."

215. So it has been seen that on touching Angelique Cottin, a person would receive what really seemed a "true electric shock;"* yet, we repeat, Arago could not detect the characteristics of electric agency. He noticed that the north pole of the magnet gave her a powerful shock,† and the south pole produced no effect upon her, but he could not detect the least influence from her organism upon the magnetic needle, and yet a powerful force from her body would overturn tables, and raise a heavy weight without contact. Not only so, but at times these

* This kind of shock was experienced by Campetti and Bléton, on passing over mineral veins and subterranean streams. See §§ 178, 179. "Many somnambulic persons, says C. Crowe, "are capable of giving an electric shock; and I have met with one person, not somnambulic, who informs me that he has frequently been able to do it by an effort of the will."

† Why was not this an electric shock? When an iron plate was brought near to one of Reichenbach's patients, and a crystal brought in contact with it, the effect upon the patient was like an electric shock, which even ascended from the elbow to the shoulder. See Reich., § 47. Many other cases could be cited to the same purpose. The magnet and iron have a specific action upon the nervous system, but it should not be forgotten that the same agent acts from crystals, vegetable substances, and the human hand; nay, from the earth itself. The next number contains highly interesting facts of this character.

outward things would *attract her towards them;* thus demonstrating the action and *re*-action of the same agent, — and that whatever the force was, it *acted from tables* and *other objects upon her*, — that therefore it resided with *them* as well as with her, — that consequently, it was a common inorganic, physical agent, susceptible, under favorable circumstances, of a most powerful action from the laboratory of the animal organs. Moreover, the facts, throughout, show that the condition required for this unusual evolution of force, is a specific variation of the organism from its normal condition.

216. It is evident, therefore, that this agent is *not the vital organic agent, nor a part of it*, though the former is associated with the latter in the organism. We are not to conclude, however, that this is the only inorganic agent which is associated with the vital force. It is well known that electricity has its place among the other forces in the animal economy; so has heat, but they are "principles found universally in nature."

"Vitality," says Dr. Wm. F. Channing, "is dependent on physical conditions, and performs its functions by the agency of physical forces. A distinction thus exists between the principle itself, and the agents by which its results in the living structure are accomplished. This distinction is an essential one, and constitutes the basis of any system which proposes to act directly on the vital forces. The *agents employed by the animal organization are principles found* UNIVERSALLY IN NATURE, and, in addition to these, a force which is peculiar to living structures, the special agent of vitality." *

217. Now it might reasonably be expected, that if electricity, among other agents found "universally in nature," is also associatad with the agent of the animal economy, it might, under favorable conditions, exhibit its characteristic phenomena. These conditions, would, of

* See Notes on the Medical Application of Electricity; by Wm. F. Channing, M. D. Boston, 1849, —page 3.

course, be owing to a variation of the organism from its normal standard. The following case, given by Dr. Ennemoser,* of Germany, exhibits some of these characteristics.

218. The case was that of a young woman, sister of a professor of theology at Strasburg. Immediately, on a sudden fright, she was seized with a nervous malady, which continued for a long period, and finally terminated in her death.

Among the remarkable symptoms in her case, were the following:

First, Those of *somnambulism*, with more or less lucidity.

Second, Her body became so highly charged with electricity, that it was necessary to conduct it away by a regular process of conduction.

Third, Her body would impart powerful shocks to those who came in contact, and even when they did not touch her.

Fourth, She controlled its action so as to give her brother (the professor) a "smart shock when he was several rooms off." †

Fifth, She was subject, also, to spasms and paroxysms of rigor and trembling.

This case does not present the characteristics of electric action, such as one would exhibit if charged upon an insulating stool. Some of the phenomena resemble those which we see exhibited by the electric fish. There are some highly important points to be considered with regard to the analogy here, and the case is an important one in considering the command which the nerve centres possess over the general agents associated with them. This, then, belongs to another part of our work.

219. We shall now present another singular case, which

* See Night-Side of Nature, page 384.

† The account states that when the Professor received the shock "he started up and rushed into her chamber, where she was in bed; and as soon as she saw him she said, laughing; 'Ah, you felt it, did you?'"

occurred in this country, in the month of January, 1839, an account of which was given in Silliman's Journal, by a correspondent. The writer states,

First, That "on the evening of January 28th, 1839, during a somewhat extraordinary display of the northern lights, a respectable lady became so highly charged with electricity, as to give out vivid electrical sparks from the end of each finger, to the face of each of the company present."

Second, That "this did not cease with the heavenly phenomenon, but continued several months, during which time she was constantly charged and giving off electrical sparks to every conductor she approached. This was extremely vexatious, as she could not touch the stove or any metallic utensil, without first giving off an electrical spark, with the consequent twinge.

Third, That "the state most favorable to this phenomenon, was an atmosphere of about eighty degrees Fh., moderate exercise, and social enjoyment. It disappeared in an atmosphere approaching zero, and under the debilitating effects of fear.

Fourth, That "when seated by the stove, reading, with her feet upon the fender, she gave sparks at the rate of three or four a minute; and under the most favorable circumstances, a spark that could be seen, heard, or felt, passed every second!

Fifth, That "she could charge others in the same way, when insulated, who could then give sparks to others.

Sixth, "To make it satisfactory that her dress did not produce it, it was changed to cotton, and woollen, without altering the phenomenon.

"The lady is about thirty, of sedentary pursuits, and delicate state of health, having for two years previously, suffered from acute rheumatism and neuralgic affections, with peculiar * symptoms."

* The time has come, we hope, when these "peculiar symptoms" will not be left out in detailing such cases, — as it must be seen that they are highly important to a proper appreciation of the other phenomena.