MESMERIC GUIDE,

FOR

FAMILY USE.

CONTAINING INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE
APPLICATION OF MESMERISM AS A CURATIVE AGENT.

BY

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INTRODUCTION.

To those who judge of a Science by its practical utility, and think that one minute spent in applying it to the benefit of mankind is better employed than years of profitless speculation regarding its secret nature, the following pages are especially addressed.

Thanks to the untiring energies of Dr. Elliotson and a few others, who amidst laughter, reproaches, and revilings, pursued truth with the noble object alone of enlarging the sphere of useful knowledge, Mesmerism has at length acquired a

position amongst the Sciences which defies the assaults of the ignorant and the prejudiced.

As a curative agent in a large class of disorders, Mesmerism has proved to be of wonderful efficacy. At all times easy of application, capable of being administered by every healthy person, and never injurious (when properly applied) even when it fails to relieve, no one who wishes well to his immediate relatives, and to those about him, ought to remain in ignorance of a power capable of effecting such singular benefits.

Such, therefore, as are desirous of acquiring a knowledge of the practical method of applying Mesmerism in cases of disease will, it is hoped, in this small manual, find such information upon the subject as will enable them to apply it with success.

From long experience, the Author is enabled to speak with confidence of the accuracy of his directions; and, from very great success in the application of Mesmerism, he has no hesitation in recommending it as the safest, easiest, and most efficacious remedy within the power of man to administer to a suffering fellow-creature.

l, upper fortland place, clipton, july, 1852.

THE MESMERIC GUIDE,

FOR FAMILY USE.

The PROCESSES for INDUCING the MESMERIC SLEEP.

SELECT a quiet place, and require the strictest silence from all parties present, who ought to be as few as possible, and those only who have an interest in the recovery of the patient. The temperature should be neither very high nor very low, say 60°. Have the room partially darkened if in the day-time, and if in the night, have the candles so placed that

when you move your hands over the patient's face, their shadow shall not pass over the eyes. Be careful that all draughts are excluded, and give strict orders that the door of the room shall not be opened until you give your consent. Also tell those present to sit quietly, not to cough or speak to each other even in a whisper, and not upon any account to come near or touch your patient, unless requested to do so by yourself. Have a small basin of cold water placed on a table close by your side, and a pockethandkerchief near it.

Having gone through these preliminaries, place your patient in a chair with a high back, tell him to keep his mind perfectly calm, to offer no mental resistance, and if his eyelids become heavy, to allow them

to close. Then seat yourself in front of him (if your patient be a female, you had better stand up), and take his hands, allowing the inside of your thumbs to be in contact with the inside of his. Gaze steadfastly at one of his eyes, he also gazing at one of yours. Will strongly that he shall close his eyes and go to sleep, being careful, whilst willing strongly, not to squeeze his thumbs. Upon the mesmeric action manifesting itself, which it most likely will do in about ten minutes or a quarter of an hour, the indications of which are quivering of the eyelids, frequent deglutition, a deep sigh, quickened respiration, and coldness of the extremities, place your hand for a few minutes upon his forehead, then make slow passes with both your hands from his forehead to his knees, each pass occupying about half a minute, allowing the fingers to point a few seconds at the eyes, the stomach, and the knees. In raising the hands for the purpose of resuming the pass, close them and let them rise at some distance from each other, and at each side of your patient.

Having made these passes for eight or ten minutes without contact, you may make them with contact, taking care that the pressure shall be very light. If gazing at the eyes produce an uncomfortable feeling in your patient, you may look and will strongly at his forehead instead of at his eyes; it is also frequently of much service to begin by standing behind your patient, and make slow passes over his head and down his spine. After having

operated in this way for about ten minutes, if he be not already asleep, he will be much more susceptible of your influence if you then adopt the method before detailed of holding the thumbs, &c.

In the event of your patient being compelled to recline on a sofa, the only difference necessary in the process will be that you sit or stand at his side instead of before him; the same will apply when the patient is in bed. In that case, you must, if possible, cause him to be brought near to the side of the bed, in order to avoid any unnecessary fatigue in reaching over him to the middle of the bed. Mr. Barth, of 4, Mornington Crescent, Hampstead Road, in his valuable work, "The Mesmerist's Manual," says: "When I mesmerise by passes alone, I place my patient

on a sofa in a recumbent position, the head well and comfortably supported by pillows, and not too much depressed but rather elevated. I stand at the side of my patient, take his hands in mine, look at his face or eyes, and remain quiet in this position for a few minutes. I then place his hands comfortably beside his person, and-telling him softly to look at my eyes-raise my hands to his head, and make quiet passes to his knees: throw them off gently to the right and left, raise them to the head again, draw them downwards over the face, chest, abdomen, down to the knees, and repeat again and again, very softly, slowly and silently, and continue this monotonous process until he sleeps, or some other decided effect is produced, or I grow weary,

or a reason is presented for changing the process."

Having given sufficient directions for inducing the mesmeric sleep, I will show in what way you must proceed in order to demesmerise or wake up your patient; but I will just mention, that Dr. Elliotson, our best authority on the subject, and who is not only acknowledged as one of the greatest physicians of the age, but known never to give an opinion without having thoroughly investigated and examined the subject, says, in the "Zoist:" "If I have my own way, and have no special reason for deviating from a general rule, I would never wake a patient." And my own experience has taught me to let the sleep expend itself, which it will do sooner or later.

Not long ago, I put a patient to sleep on a Monday evening; she slept through the night, got up the next morning, dressed herself and had her breakfast, laid down upon the sofa and went to sleep, got up and had dinner, in the afternoon was taken by her mother for a ride in their carriage, went to bed in the evening, and did not wake till three o'clock on the Thursday afternoon, having been totally unconscious of everything that had taken place since I had sent her into the sleep on the Monday evening. Another patient whom I put into the sleep at nine o'clock in the morning, awoke apparently at one, took her dinner, went to sleep again till nine in the evening, when her mother sent for me to wake her, as she was frightened at her long sleep. When I brought her to her waking state,

she remembered nothing whatever of her having risen and taken her dinner.

TO DEMESMERISE.

Stand before your patient, and will that he shall wake and open his eyes (for your patient may wake and yet be unable to open his eyes), make reverse or upward passes with both your hands from his chest to above his forehead. After having made these passes, blow over his eyes and forehead, the top of his head, and then on the nape of his neck; draw your thumbs along his closed eyes in an outward direction, and shake a handkerchief over his whole body, particularly over his face. If after this he does not wake, let him sleep on, and nature will wake him when the proper time has arrived. Should you be

able to only half wake him, you had better remesmerise him, and let him sleep on. Do not allow any one else to try and wake him, for it may bring on a species of cross mesmerism which will be troublesome to yourself and injurious to your patient. I do not, of course, mean that you are not to avail yourself of the assistance of a practised or professional mesmerist, but where you are unable to procure this assistance, and find a difficulty in waking your patient, you must insist that he be not touched by any one but yourself.

A short time back, a gentleman wished to be mesmerised by me, but his medical attendant insisted upon his being mesmerised by another party, who would act more as a machine in his (the medical attendant's) hands. At the first sitting, from some bad management or other, the patient was (on being demesmerised) brought into a state bordering upon insanity, and the medical attendant was applied to; but he not having had any practical experience as a mesmerist, was unable to give any definite directions. The patient remained for some time in this distressing state, when I was called in, and in about half an hour I succeeded in restoring him to his natural state. continued to mesmerise him for some time twice a-day, and always prevented his going into the unpleasant state above mentioned.

I will here state, that though it is highly desirable to produce the sleep, still it is not absolutely necessary that that phenomenon should be induced in order to effect a cure.

Having instructed you how to mesmerise

and demesmerise, I will at once proceed with the modes of curing the various diseases, supposing you have sent your patient into the sleep.

ASTHMA.

Breathe strongly over the chest and stomach, point the fingers to the same organs, and afterwards lay the palms of the hands, one on the chest, and the other on the back between the shoulders; also make some strong or vigorous passes from the throat to the knees.

AFTER PAINS.

Make slow passes with both hands from the stomach over the abdomen to the knees; breathe over the abdomen, and place the palm of one hand upon the forehead.

ABSCESSES.

Point your fingers over the disease, and occasionally draw them to the nearest point, say the shoulder, elbow or knee; or fancy that the disease is attached to the tips of your fingers, and withdraw them as though you were dragging out the disease. Dip your fingers frequently into the basin of water; the disease will fly off into the water, and leave your fingers ready for a fresh charge.

BURNS.

Point your fingers to the part burnt, and the heat will pass off into your fingers; afterwards place a piece of lint dipped in mesmerised water upon it. Be careful not to touch the burn with your hand, as it will cause too much pain to the patient.

Dip your fingers frequently into the basin of water. This is one of the cases in which but little time should be devoted in inducing the sleep.

BOILS.

To be treated as Burns, though dipping your fingers in the water may be omitted.

BRUISES.

Make passes with both hands, then breathe over the part.

CANCER.

Hold the points of your fingers (of both hands) round the tumour, move them slowly to the centre of the disease, and then draw them towards you with a strong muscular movement. After repeating this for about twenty minutes, mesmerise your patient generally with long passes, particularly down the spine, in order to improve his general health. Linen saturated with mesmerised water should be kept upon the tumour when you are not mesmerising it. See Dr. Elliotson's splendid cure of this disease in the "Zoist," vol. vi.

COLD IN THE HEAD.

Make passes over the head, also down the nose; a few may be made over the back of the head, down the neck, and off at the shoulders.

COUGH.

Make passes from the top of the throat down to the bottom of the chest, let the patient drink mesmerised water, and apply a pad dipped in mesmerised water to the throat.

CROUP.

The same treatment as for Cough, only devoting your chief attention to the throat.

CONSTIPATION.

Place the fingers upon the lower ribs, and the thumbs upon the stomach; then point the fingers of one hand to the stomach (with contact), and a finger of the other hand to the organ of gustativeness (which is just in front of the ear); also place the palms of both hands upon the abdomen—breathing there is sometimes of service; make a few passes over the lower part of the spine.

CHILBLAINS.

Same treatment as for Burns and Boils, but use an additional quantity of mesmerised water.

CONTRACTIONS.

Breathe well over the limb that is contracted, make some vigorous passes, and when you have straightened the limb make it rigid; if you are unable to produce rigidity, you must hold the limb straight, and make passes over it.

CONSUMPTION.

Place one hand upon the lungs and the other upon the back, keep them there for a few minutes, then let them descend slowly; repeat this several times. Breathe over the lungs, and make passes down the spine and over the blade bones; also make passes down

the sides from the armpits to the hips. Give mesmerised water to drink during the day but not at night, as it is liable to produce too much perspiration.

Louisa Parsons, a girl about 18 years of age, was in the employment of Mr. White, Edgar Buildings, Bath. She had severe pains in her chest, her left side, and across her shoulders. She was very pale and thin, and the lower parts of her finger nails were quite black. Her appetite had left her, and she could obtain no sleep. She was obliged to leave Mr. White's; and her pains were so severe, that her mother was frequently compelled to hold her in her chair to prevent her throwing herself upon the ground. Her general debility was such, that she could with difficulty walk across her room. Her

relations and also her two medical attendants considered her to be in the last stage of consumption, and not likely to survive many weeks. The first time that I mesmerised her, I did so for about half an hour, during which, though she did not go to sleep, she felt the pain across her shoulders entirely leave her, and she slept better that night than she had done for many weeks previously. At the second sitting, which was in two days' time, she felt the pain in her side and chest greatly relieved; and after I had mesmerised her the third time, she felt entirely free from pain, her nails were restored to their natural colour, she looked more healthy than she had done for a great length of time, could eat, drink and sleep well; and was considered by her relations and

medical attendants to be perfectly cured. She returned to Mr. White's, where she had to work in a crowded room from eight in the morning till eight at night, in addition to which she had to walk a distance of a mile and a quarter every morning and evening. She has not had the slightest return of her complaint, the cure having been effected six years ago.

DEAFNESS.

The following case will give the necessary instructions for the cure of this disease.

Mary Parsons, aged 24, whose mother and sister I had cured, the one of rheumatism the other of consumption, was sent to me to be mesmerised for her deafness. She had been deaf since the age of six. I sent her into the mesmeric sleep in about five minutes, and she became a lucid somnambulist. She requested me to breathe into each ear four times, and afterwards to put my fingers into them; let them remain there a short time, and then draw them quickly out. I mesmerised her in this manner for about fifteen or sixteen times, when her deafness entirely left her. Passes from the ears to the shoulders are also frequently of much service, and cotton saturated with mesmerised water may also be put into the ears.

DUMBNESS.

Point the fingers to the top of the throat and under the ears. Breathe upon the throat and the nape of the neck.

DEBILITY (General).

Make strong passes over the head, chest, and down to the feet; but the chief attention should be devoted to the passes down the spine, commencing at the top of the head. Place your finger upon the organ of firmness, which is at the top of the back part of the head, rest both hands for a time upon the shoulders, and make passes from the armpits down the sides of the chest to the feet. Give mesmerised water to drink.

DYSPEPSIA.

Make passes over the stomach, give mesmerised water to drink, and place a pad wetted with mesmerised water upon the stomach.

DIABBHŒA.

Breathe over the abdomen, place the palms of the hand upon it, and make passes down the lower part of the spine.

EYE (Inflamed).

Point the fingers to the eye, then draw them gently down the cheek. Have the eye closed (if not already so), and press gently upon it with the second finger; bathe the eye frequently with mesmerised water, and keep a wet pad upon it at night. (For extraordinary cures of blindness, see the "Zoist.")

EBYSIPELAS.

Make extractive passes over the place in which the disease is located, and apply lint saturated with mesmerised water.

EPILEPSY.

Mesmerise generally with the long passes. and if a fit comes on during the mesmerisation, which it very frequently does, place one hand upon the forehead and make passes with the other; also breathe over the region of the heart. Continue to mesmerise your patient, until he is quite calm, and then deepen the sleep. In this case, above all others, the greatest coolness is required on the part of the mesmeriser, as any nervousness on his part will be likely to interfere with the restoration of the patient. The "Zoist," from vol. 1. to IX., contains a vast number of cures of this disease; cases are also to be found in the Rev. G. Sandby's "Mesmerism and its Opponents;" in Dr. Elliotson's "Surgical Operations without Pain;" and in Dr. Ashburner's "Facts in Clairvoyance."

EAR-ACHE.

Point the fingers into the ear, breathe into it, and make passes down to the neck and shoulder. Place a piece of cotton dipped in mesmerised water into the ear.

FLATULENCE.

See Dyspepsia.

FATIGUE.

See Debility; and give an additional quantity of water to drink.

HEART (Disease of).

Make slow soothing passes over the region of the heart, breathe over it, and put on a wet mesmeric pad.

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HEAD-ACHE.

Hold the hand or fingers over the pain, and draw it gently out at the shoulders. If the pain is in the forehead, dip the hands occasionally in cold water, and draw the pain down the side of the neck and out at the shoulder. A piece of lint saturated in mesmerised water should be kept upon the forehead. A piece of cold steel held upon the pain will frequently remove it, and sometimes it will move by degrees to various parts of the · head. I was called in to mesmerise a lady who suffered severely from a pain on the top of her head; the part affected was about the circumference of half-a-crown. I made the passes for some time, and brought the pain to the top of the neck, from which place it would not move; when I again saw her, in two days' time, the pain was still in the neck, and I succeeded in bringing it down to the shoulder, where it again fixed its resting-place. In two days more I called, and found the pain still in the shoulder, but in a very few minutes I succeeded in taking it entirely away, and it has not returned.

HOARSENESS.

Make passes over the throat, give mesmerised water to drink, and apply a wet pad to the throat.

HICCOUGH.

The same treatment as for Hoarseness.

· INFLAMMATION (Local).

Point the fingers over the diseased part,

dipping them frequently in cold water. Apply a wet pad, and make passes with the intention of drawing out the inflammation at the nearest point.

INFLUENZA.

Treated like Debility.

KIDNEYS (Diseased).

Point the fingers to the kidneys, and make passes from them to the bottom of the spine, also over the hips. Give mesmerised water to drink.

LOCKED-JAW.

Breathe over the jaw, make passes from the back of the jaw to the point of the chin, and occasionally blow upon it; make also some reverse passes from the chin to the ear. (For some interesting cases, see the "Zoist" vol. ix.)

NEURALGIA.

If in the face, point the fingers towards the pain, and make passes from the top of the head either to the chin or to the shoulder, as circumstances may require. The following extract is from a very interesting case by Mr. Barth, and inserted in the "Zoist," vol. ix.; though it would have been more appropriately inserted under the head Inflammation.

Miss L——e next drew my attention to Miss W—— who was enduring very severe and continuous pain and swelling on the left side of her head and face. Upon my inquiring if she was subject to it, and receiving a reply in the affirmative,

Miss L-e said: "The young ladies are going away by the five o'clock train; it is now just past three, and I shall be much obliged if you will be so kind as to cure her before the train starts." I replied that I very much doubted if she could be cured at once, but as I had several times cured chronic affections of the same kind by one mesmerising, I would try. I took a seat opposite to her, and took her hands in mine. Miss W--- remarked that she "did not believe in Mesmerism, and only consented to let me try, to please her former governess, Miss L-e." I requested her to look at my right eye whilst I looked at her. Her eyes became affected in two or three minutes. I closed the lids with my fingers, made a few passes downwards over the eyes and face, and my patient's head fell back on the cushion previously arranged to receive it. I now made a few long passes, and raising and letting one hand fall suddenly, found my patient asleep in just six minutes from the time of commencing. I mesmerised her a little, and then asked her if she were comfortable? She replied: "Not very." I again asked: "Why are you not so?" and she replied: "Because my face is in great pain."

After a short silence, she said in reply to a question of mine, as to how I was to cure her face, (raising her hand, and placing her finger on a part of her cheek): "I don't see it clearly, but it seems that if you would hold your fingers here a little while and then draw them away, and afterwards mesmerise me with both

hands over this side of my face, and down my back, that will do me good." I did as I was directed for about twenty minutes, standing behind her chair, and putting plenty of earnest will and physical energy into my manipulation; the result of this was, not only to cure the pain, but also to remove the puffing or swelling of the cheek.

NERVOUSNESS.

See Debility; also excite the organs of mirth and firmness.

PARALYSIS.

If of the side, make passes from the head down the side to the feet; if only of a particular limb, make vigorous passes along it, and endeavour to produce rigidity; if of one side of the face, treat it as locked-jaw, but omit the reverse passes.

A lady who had seen some seventy-five years, was seized with paralysis of the left side of the face. I was called in, and found the paralysed side as cold as ice, and she was unable to articulate. I applied my hand to the face, and in about ten minutes the face became much warmer. I made passes from the ear to the chin and shoulder, and left her in a natural sleep. I called the next day, and found her better. I again mesmerised her, and she still improved. The third time that I called and mesmerised her, I cured her.

PAIN.

See Inflammation.

PARTURITION.

Make general passes from the head to the feet, and will very strongly whilst the hands are passing over the abdomen and down to the knees; occasionally place the hand upon the forehead. But a case of this description should never be undertaken except by very experienced mesmerisers. The second, fourth, fifth, sixth, eighth and ninth vols. of the "Zoist" contain cases of painless parturition in the mesmeric state. The author of this little work has a daughter who was born under the mesmeric influence.

PILES.

Make vigorous passes down the lower part of the spine, give mesmerised water to drink, and keep a pad wetted with water on the bottom of the spine.

RHEUMATISM.

Make passes over the part affected, and

apply wet pads. The "Zoist" contains a vast number of cures of this disease, especially by Mr. Capern, formerly of Tiverton, but now secretary to the London Mesmeric Infirmary. The rapidity with which he cures this and other diseases is almost miraculous, and many of the good people of Tiverton insisted that he had formed a connection with his Satanic Majesty. Whether or not this was the cause of his removal to London, is not thoroughly ascertained; but certain it is, that the London Infirmary has derived very great advantages from his extraordinary mesmeric powers. He has also published a very interesting book, entitled "The Mighty Curative Powers of Mesmerism," in which a vast number of cases of rheumatism are recorded.

SPINE (Diseased).

Make vigorous passes from the nape of the neck to the lower part of the spine; also draw the hands off at the back part of the shoulders and at the hips. Breathe down the spine. Keep a wet pad on it during the night, and occasionally excite the organ of firmness.

SWELLINGS.

See Inflammation.

SORE THROAT.

Point the fingers to the throat; also have the mouth opened, and point the fingers as near to the diseased part as possible. Make passes down the throat, breathe over and into it, give mesmerised water to drink, and apply a wet pad.

SPRAIN.

See Inflammation; and keep on a wet pad.

SCARLET FEVER.

Place both hands upon the top of the head; then make passes from the head to the feet, and along the arms; also down the spine. Keep the head wetted with mesmerised water, and give plenty of it to drink.

STINGS (From Wasps, &c.)

Point the fingers over the part stung, dipping them occasionally in water. Make passes over the injured part to the nearest point, and apply a piece of lint, saturated with mesmerised water.

ST. VITUS'S DANCE.

Make strong passes down the spine; also

over the whole body. Breathe on the nape of the neck. Two very interesting though short cases by Dr. Elliotson, are to be found in vol. 111. of the "Zoist."

TIC DOLOREUX.

See Neuralgia.

TOOTH-ACHE.

Point the fingers to the tooth affected, for a short time, then draw them either to the chin or the shoulder. Lay the palm of the hand upon the side where the tooth pains.

ULCERS.

Hold the fingers for some time over the disease, then, as it were, drag it out, having it mentally attached to the fingers, Occasionally dip the hands in water, and keep a piece of lint dipped in mesmerised water upon the diseased part. See a very interesting case by Mr. W. Hazard in the "Zoist," vol. vII.

DIET.

The diet for a patient must depend entirely upon circumstances, but generally speaking, it should be rather of a stimulating than a lowering description, and everything that in the slightest degree disagrees with the stomach should be carefully avoided. Raw oysters are highly beneficial, not those that have been fed upon oatmeal, nor should they be taken warmed in any way whatever, nor, as is the fashion, swallowed whole, but properly masticated. Vegetables should be taken in moderation, and in accordance with the disease and former style of living of the patient. Fruit should never be touched unless perfectly ripe. For beverage, wine, beer, porter, ale, tea, milk, chocolate, cocoa, &c., may be taken according to the disease and usual habits and constitution of the patient. Long walks should be avoided before breakfast, and the stomach should not be allowed to go too long without food. Breakfast should be taken within a quarter of an hour of the patient's rising; dinner should not be later than one or two o'clock; tea at four or five, and supper (when required) at eight o'clock, and the patient should generally be in bed by ten o'clock. When practicable, the bed should be so placed that the patient's head may point to the north, and the feet of course to the south. The reasons

for this position will be found in "Reichenbach's" work on the "Dynamics of Magnetism," a most admirable translation of which has been made by Dr. Ashburner, whose highly interesting and instructive notes have given the work an additional value. It is published by Baillière, Regent Street, London.

Having spoken frequently of mesmerised water, the following is the process which I have found (and which, I believe, is the usual mode) of giving it the greatest curative power.

MESMERISED WATER.

Fill a tumbler with cold water, gaze into it intently for ten minutes, willing at the same time that it shall become mesmerised; then make some three or four hundred passes (according to the strength required) over it; breathe into it, put it into a bottle and cork it. Care should be taken to mesmerise everything that the water comes in contact with; thus—mesmerise the interior of the glass before pouring the water into it, mesmerise the funnel through which you pour the water into the bottle, which funnel should be of glass, and breathe well into the bottle before it receives the water, and give strict orders that the patient shall drink the water out of a glass.

WORKS ON MESMERISM.

To those who may wish to dive still deeper into the Science of Mesmerism, the following list of a few of the chief Works published in England, bearing upon the subject, may not be unacceptable, and are all to be had of the Publisher of this little book.

THE ZOIST, a Quarterly Journal on Mesmerism. 38 Parts, 8vo., are out at 2s. 6d. each.

FACTS IN MESMERISM, by the Rev. C. H. Townshend. 1 vol. 8vo.

MESMERISM AND ITS OPPONENTS, by the Rev. G. Sandby. 12mo.

- LETTERS TO A CANDID INQUIRER, by W. Gregory, M.D. 12mo.
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