

ANIMAL MAGNETISM  
AND SOMNAMBULISM.

BY

THE SOMNAMBULE ADOLPHE DIDIER.

"Tandis que le magnetisme rend religieux les plus materialistes, son histoire vient eclairer l'origine de la medecine, celles de differents cultes, et jeter enfin un jour nouveau sur les sciences du passé, refondre celles du present, et preparer l'avenir.....

"Le magnetisme est une parcelle brisée d'un grand palais. C'est le dernier vestige de la puissance Adamique, destiné à confondre la raison humaine et à l'humilier devant Dieu."

SERMON DU R. P. LACORDAIRE.

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T. C. NEWBY, 30, WELBECK ST., CAVENDISH SQ.,  
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265. c. 83.



TO  
LORD INGESTRE  
AND  
F. G. HARE, ESQ.

IN presenting this manual to my pupils, I cannot but regard it as my bounden duty to testify to you in particular how very grateful I feel not only for the honour you have done me in accepting me as your guide and director in the study of animal magnetism, but also for your so constantly attending my lectures and seances since the day you first witnessed the interesting phenomena of somnambulism.

And how much it were to be desired, for the sake of this science, that all our learned were actuated by that spirit of impartiality with which you, gentlemen, during those studies, sought out, investigated, and

acknowledged the truth wherever it was to be found. But our *profound* adversaries of magnetism generally discontinue their researches after the first investigation—I wish it were otherwise !

Allow me, gentlemen, to present to you this treatise as a souvenir of the many conferences we have had together. I regret that it is not more complete, more worthy of your acceptance ; but such as it is, you will find, I dare hope, that it contains at least the fundamental principles of my theory, with proofs not a few, that the magnetic fluid can, when directed by the somnambulist, very often cure, but always relieve, those sufferings to which poor human nature is so subject.

I have the honour to be, Gentlemen,

Your most humble and grateful servant,

ADOLPHE DIDIER.



# ANIMAL MAGNETISM

AND

## SOMNAMBULISM.

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### INTRODUCTION.

I HAVE been often intreated to publish upon Animal Magnetism a treatise of instruction relative to the manner of applying it; that is, a short and simple guide for directing, in all cases, such persons as have upon evidence the most clear and many times repeated, been convinced of its reality as well as that of clairvoyance; but who, though willing to employ it as a curative means, are, from a want of further information on the subject, apprehensive of doing so. I have been also frequently solicited by

friends and amateurs to publish my life as a clairvoyant and mesmerist; but such a proceeding would, I consider, be yet rather premature. I wish, first, notwithstanding the success with which my efforts have been so generally crowned, to do even more than I have hitherto had occasion to accomplish. For the present, I shall therefore confine myself to a succinct but clear account of such lectures as I delivered in the course of last year in London.

But the main object of this treatise is not to endeavour to convince those persons who, though they may be otherwise very enlightened, do not believe in clairvoyance; but it is to induce them, if I can, to seek the truth wherever it may be found. This little book must, however, be acceptable to all such persons as have already, to a certain extent, practised mesmerism, and who, through its means, have often, like myself, either succeeded in effecting complete cures, or in greatly relieving such sufferings as were incurable. My intention is to lay down such principles as I know, from long and repeated

experience, to be infallible ; while I shall omit all which I have reason to consider as doubtful.

For upwards of eighty years, the constant and unwearied researches of men the most distinguished both for their intellectual powers and respectable position in society, have procured for animal magnetism many valuable works, and which have contributed towards raising it to a very high place in the opinion of the public, especially during the last few years. There were in the year 1855 more works written in France upon animal magnetism, than upon anything else. What contributed so materially to such a result, was probably the circumstance of the Academy of Sciences having lately offered a prize of two thousand francs for the best treatise on this subject. Every day thousands of partizans are won over to mesmerism—men who have the moral courage to acknowledge at last the truth, and trample under foot their shallow and narrow-minded views of the past.

It was Mesmer who first laid the foundation in France of this noble science, by the happy inspira-

tion with which he so powerfully influenced his earliest disciples. Mesmerism is now worthy of holding a high place in the category of positive sciences. Thanks to the constant and well-supported efforts of several great men, the power of mesmerism, as a curative agent, can no longer be called in question by any one who has a mind capable of conceiving and admitting what is so evidently true.

Every day new facts collected by able practitioners, add to these proofs (already so numerous) of the success obtained through the application of this science.

The theory which I have adopted for connecting different phenomena and leading them to a single cause, can have no influence on the indication of the means to be taken for producing them and turning them to account. I shall confine myself to a simple narration of the phenomena obtained through animal magnetism, and to the production of such documents as must go to prove, beyond all doubt, the existence of clairvoyance during the state of somnambulism.

‘ The end I have in view is to endeavour to prove that man is possessed of a supreme faculty, which constitutes his essence, and that he can transmit this faculty to his equals.

Can there exist anything more interesting for man, who is subject to all physical evils, than to find in his friend, his wife, or his child, the power of relieving him, of bringing him back to life by curing him of the cruel illness with which he may be afflicted ?

I purpose also to prove, that we can, on meeting with a subject in whom clairvoyance has attained to a high degree of perfection, compel him to trace an illness through all its stages, to behold what is passing inside the body, indicate the organs which are attacked, and prescribe the most effectual remedy.

In our days, it can be no longer doubted that it is possible for a person in a state of somnambulism to give an exact description of the symptoms of a disease. This can be done merely through sympathy, or by communication while in

a state of somnambulism, and without clairvoyance being necessary. While in this state, the sufferings of the persons in connection with the subject can be very well indicated.

I am far from believing that through this science everything can be effected ; that physicians are no longer necessary, or are only antagonistic ; but I maintain that the physician can, in doubtful cases, be both assisted and enlightened through its means.

The knowledge acquired by the constant practice of animal magnetism is to be greatly preferred to that obtained through study only.

I intend to demonstrate those principles which may be applied to all cases.

I shall give the different modes adopted in mesmerising when there is not a somnambulist present, and shall prove that mesmerism must ever be, when properly and well applied, a sovereign remedy in every illness ; and also, that the reality of clairvoyance in a state of somnambulism can be safely referred to for an exact exposition of such particulars as may be required of it.

My wish is to render service to suffering humanity, and I do therefore identify myself, as it were, with everything in the least degree allied to animal magnetism.

Now, respecting this science, whenever I succeed through its means, I feel always delighted. It may be, that our self-love feels gratified at having discovered a truth, or we are never so at having done a good action.

I hope, on having read this book, those incredulous persons who are desirous of witnessing the phenomena of clairvoyance, will have the patience to investigate such matters more closely than they may have hitherto done, and that they will be no longer heard to repeat their favourite maxim, and which they consider so very conclusive :

“Though I were to see it, I should not even then believe it.”

Or, like certain eminent members of the faculty, who, after having succeeded in their experiments, or, after a long discussion, replied the next day : “If you speak to me of animal magnetism, and that you

tell me it is clear day, I will shut my eyes in order to contradict you." I trust that persons desirous of seeking the truth, will not think of founding their judgment upon a single investigation of a science which requires so much study and examination.

In our days of civilization and progress, the partizans of animal magnetism can, with great difficulty, believe that a discovery so useful to health, to our well-being and general knowledge, can have been rejected with such indifference, ridiculed with so severe a tone, and treated as the height of absurdity, simply because it cannot be shown to belong to any other art or science hitherto known.

It was thus that the members of the Holy Inquisition reasoned when they obliged Galileo to swear that the earth does not move; it was thus, too, the contemporaries of Harvey reasoned when they treated him as a madman for having discovered the circulation of the blood.

Such is the fate of animal magnetism, such is



the fate of clairvoyance, and such must be always the fate of every great and valuable discovery. Every one creates a nature of his own, and imagines that everything should agree with his own system. If new effects come before him, he invariably rejects them, unless he can explain them by that system which exists only in his own imagination ; and he decides concerning the possibility or impossibility of things, as if he possessed a perfect knowledge of their real laws. Sometimes it would really appear that truth is a light which pains all who behold it. But old animosities at length subside ; a new generation rises up, and people become after a time so accustomed to what they at first despised, that truth triumphs at last, and is acknowledged by all.

But every day thousands of new facts and proofs of the truth of this divine science are collected by thousands ; and by thousands its once most inveterate opponents are being converted to its belief.

It is above all to you, who, by your position and acquired knowledge, are best disposed to examine and appreciate whatever concerns health : it is to

you, gentlemen of the faculty, and in the name of suffering humanity, I particularly address myself upon the present occasion. You are jealous of the esteem of your contemporaries, too proud of the gratitude of your patients, not to forego for their sake all old and vain prejudices. You are the most natural judges of animal magnetism. Read, therefore, I entreat you, without influence and passion, the following pages. It is only while under your enlightened and benevolent protection, that the science of health can be well and usefully developed; and may your fellow-creatures be indebted to you, and to you solely, for the incalculable benefit which clairvoyance and somnambulism are so well calculated to bestow.

## CHAPTER I.

MAN can, through his will, and the power of that faculty by which he moves and breathes, often exercise upon his fellow-creatures a certain indescribable influence. This is that principle which has received the name of animal magnetism. We have, we perceive, by effects the most regular and constant, this faculty as much as we desire it. To mesmerise well, a strong will is necessary,—such is, in this case, the grand propelling power. As we cannot conceive how one body can act upon another at a great distance from it, unless there be something to establish a connection between them, we must suppose that there emanates from him who mesmerises, a substance which is conveyed to the

person mesmerised in the direction the will desires. This is the agent by which we exist, and which we are accustomed to call the magnetic fluid. But when we do so name this principle, we make use of a figurative expression. We know that in this case something emanates from the mesmerist. This something is not a solid, and hence we call it a fluid. The nature of this fluid is almost unknown ; its very existence is, as yet, scarcely demonstrated. But all passes as if it really existed, and this is enough to give us the right of admitting it.

To the end that one person may, as a mesmerist, control another, there must necessarily exist between them a feeling of sympathy both moral and physical, just as there does between all the limbs of the same body. The physical sympathy is established by means which we shall not neglect to indicate and thoroughly explain. As to the moral one, it is formed between two persons, either by the desire the one has to relieve the other, or by ideas or wishes which occupy them mutually at the time. When this sympathy is well established between

two persons, they are said to be *en rapport*, or connected.

Thus the first condition necessary for mesmerising, is a strong will. The second is that confidence which he who mesmerises has in his own powers. The third is benevolence, or the anxious desire to do good. One may operate with any one of these three qualities ; but that the action of the mesmerist may be at once energetic and salutary, the three conditions should unite in the same person.

Man could not by his will alone—that is, without the assistance of his organs—give motion to the least particle ; and he could not do so for this reason : that motion is one of the phenomena of the material world.

If the will of one individual acts upon another individual, the vital principle of the latter acts upon his equals. Hence the phenomena of animal magnetism.

The action of animal magnetism is, in its principle, spiritual, because such is really its origin. But it is physical in several of its effects, because,

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when it produces modifications upon the vital principle of the subject magnetised, these modifications cause themselves to be felt by the body animated by this principle.

The question is often asked, Why the influence which one individual exercises over another, cannot be always felt? Why it is manifested in a rare and almost hitherto unknown state, called somnambulism? It is because, to have the phenomenon felt, the mind of the subject destined to receive the action, must not have been already moved by another and a different action. Thus, in material substances, a body in perfect equilibrium can be put in motion by the least impulsion. The same impulsion can produce no visible effect upon a body already acted upon by another power, or which, on account of its bulk, offers great resistance. Now, that state designated by the name of somnambulism may be well compared to a state of perfect equilibrium: the spirit is at rest, and offers no resistance to a different action. The link by which it is united to the body, is as free as it possibly can be. The

nerves destined by nature to receive sensations, are in an extreme state of susceptibility ; they can be disturbed by the slightest impression. A new sense is formed or developed, and its development is the result of perceptions different from all the others.

As the idea we have received of the power of nature is the result of the experience we have acquired while awake, and by the use of our external senses ; it is not surprising that ideas obtained through a widely different channel should appear, as they really do, to be so nearly allied to the wonderful.

It seems astonishing that one man can, by the mere action of his will, produce a wonderful change in the physical and moral appearance of another. The cause does not appear by any means in proportion to the effect. But is not the reciprocal influence of the mind and the body in man also very astonishing ? A nervous disease can elevate all his faculties ; a single idea can in an instant destroy his whole system. How many examples there are of sudden deaths having been caused by excessive joy



or by violent grief! A single spark is sufficient to cause an explosion in a powder magazine. The contact of several different kinds of metal will often produce galvanic effects the most inconceivable. A ray of light, on penetrating certain dark places, may give a new existence to all the living objects they contain. The exact relation of cause and effect is a general law, of the reality of which we may convince ourselves by reasoning upon it.

But we cannot estimate this relation but by the machines we have constructed. In the mysterious operations of nature, and especially in the spiritual world, we have no means whatever of measuring it.

If no other effects of animal magnetism were known than those which are produced upon persons not in a state of somnambulism, they might be well attributed to a physical cause. Touching the emission of animal heat, an invisible emanation can account, to a certain extent, for the sensation of cold or warmth, for the inducing of sleep, as well as for the soothed or irritated state of the nerves. The phenomena presented by somnambulism are of a dif-

ferent order. As they are produced at a distance, and by the will of the operator; as they are attended by a singular development of the mind they cannot be explained by attributing them to a physical cause; they are due to a change effected by the principle of life, of sentiment and thought.

These phenomena have been witnessed in all times, just as that of gravitation has been witnessed in all bodies. What may be regarded as a discovery respecting them, is merely their being now all traced to the same principle, which is called animal magnetism, just as Newton has traced the phenomena of gravitation to the principle called attraction.

Like all the physical and intellectual sciences which have, for the last fifty years, travelled with gigantic strides on the great highway of progress, the knowledge of the principles and laws of life has been studied with so much perseverance and success, that at present every one is occupied with animal magnetism; and there is no one scarcely who does not take an interest in it. Hence it is that no one can any longer admit his being unacquainted

with this science, without his admitting also being, in at least one respect, shamefully ignorant or culpably indifferent.

Yes, there exists in nature a universal fluid or agent, which governs and modifies all existences, and which has, in its special relation to man, received the name of animal magnetism.

This agent, so essentially communicable, and so very obedient to the will, compels the bodies it penetrates to submit to very extraordinary moral changes, but which are, for the most part, as beneficent as they are astonishing.

Of those transformations, the one coming nearest to the wonderful is that which is so well known by the name of artificial or magnetic somnambulism. In this state, the soul, freed from its material senses, acquires a power of perception which completely upsets all our previous notions of ordinary life. Neither the thickness nor opacity of bodies, nor even distance, can stand in its way as an obstacle to its progress. It is possessed of faculties which may be well regarded as miraculous, faculties which, from

the effects they produce, cannot be called in question, but which it is not in the power of the human understanding to explain.

But the power of the caloric, the action of the loadstone, and all the other inconceivable prodigies by which we are every moment surrounded, are also inexplicable phenomena. Who thinks, however, of questioning their reality? Then why should we doubt the existence of animal magnetism because we cannot account for it?

But how explain, how understand, that thought can, without the help of electric wires, be transmitted with the rapidity of lightning to the furthest corners of the earth? Some persons may say that it is electricity. But can they account for the cause? And here, as in animal magnetism, and as in somnambulism, a fact is brought before us which, though it confounds human reason, must be admitted.

## CHAPTER II.

SINCE the remotest times, the wonders of animal magnetism appear to have been well known to all the nations of the earth. But in consequence of the total ignorance which has prevailed respecting the agency through which they were produced, these wonders have, for the most part, been ascribed to supernatural causes, such, for instance, as witchcraft and talismans. The means, however, of regulating them and turning them to account, were, at an early period, discovered not only by the priests of Egypt, but even by those of some parts of Greece. Such men made use of animal magnetism both for the purpose of increasing their own power, and giving an exalted opinion of the religion they professed.

But the science was as yet so much a secret, as to have been communicated only to those adepts whose discretion could be so far relied upon as to leave no reason to suppose they would ever reveal the important secret. As to such of the inferior priests as were not considered trustworthy, they were merely employed as so many passive instruments, acting only in conformity with the instructions they had received from their inferiors, and attributing the cures they effected to their gods. They little suspected that the success of their operations was due to a power inherent in themselves, and which was called forth by the force of their will and strong faith.

In the beginning of the eighteenth century, animal magnetism was considered as a particular principle or agent. The study of it may be well said to be the study of the principle of life in man, and also of the phenomena obtained by the action of his organs.

The magnetic agent or vital fluid, which has been also styled *animal electricity*, and the nervous

fluid is the vital agent itself, is that mysterious something by which the human body is put in motion according to the will, and is enabled to think, reflect, and judge. It is that something which gives strength to our arms, legs—in a word, to our whole system. It is, in short, what we call life, and which leaves the body a corpse the moment it forsakes it.

According to this definition, the reality of the magnetic agent cannot be called in question, since to deny it were to deny one's own existence. But it is not only man who is endowed with this faculty ; it reigns throughout all nature.

Animal magnetism may not, however, be so easily characterized. It is an imponderous fluid, which can be neither felt nor measured, but of which the power is revealed by effects the most regular and constant, although, when considered with respect to their origin, the most incomprehensible and mysterious. It is undoubtedly of all agents, the most subtle, and is infinitely more rapid than lightning itself. It is even as quick

as thought, which it can convey in an instant from one extremity of the earth to the other.

It is this fluid, this agent, which flowing, as it were, throughout the whole of our nervous system, communicates to the different parts of the human body the thought, the will, the order to obey ; for we cannot so much as make the slightest step or motion without its having been previously thought, willed, and ordered by this moral being which governs and directs man. It is also this power which conveys from our extremities impressions to the brain and the heart. The more this magnetic agent or fluid abounds within us, the more we possess of life, strength, health, and intelligence. Whilst if we be deprived of only a portion of it, we become weak, sickly, and the mind itself lessens with our energy.

I have said that this agent vivifies, governs, and modifies ; and I do in this place the more insist upon its having these three properties, as I shall, in what follows, have often occasion to refer to them.



In support of this assertion, which at the present may be regarded as merely hypothetical, there are thousands of examples to quote, taken from every grade and station in life. We cannot, however, allude to more than a few of them.

When we want by means of our hand to lift a weight, we are obliged by an act of the will to infuse into the arm a certain strength, without which the task assigned it could not be accomplished.

But supposing I be so taken unawares as not to receive the least notice of what is intended, my hand may be easily tied behind me or in some other direction, because in this case I have not time to transmit to this member, by will or thought, the strength necessary for resistance.

This power does not, in effect, exist always equally in man. Within certain limits we may dispose of it as we please, and it moves with extreme facility from place to place in obedience to the will, the moral being, the soul.

When we are about to undertake any kind of physical labour, we ever infuse into the members to

be employed upon such an occasion, a certain quantity of life, of the vital agent, of the magnetic fluid ; and this we always do in proportion to the power of the impulsion or resistance with which these members should be then provided. We infuse it, for instance, into the legs, in order to enable them to run, and into the arms, in order to enable them to raise a weight. We could not place one foot before another, no, not make a single step, nor raise so much as a feather from the ground, if the will did not previously distribute to both legs and arms the necessary quantity of this fluid, that vivifies, governs and modifies.

It is not only our limbs are submitted to its influence, but our whole system. All and each of our members and organs have been formed for the express purpose of filling certain offices, and the way in which they have been arranged and disposed, is of this fact proof the most evident. The hand has been made for touching, for verifying the forms of bodies. Hence the joints and articulations, as well as the disposition of the thumb, permit it to

close and open, and turn itself in such a way as to feel very easily spherical and other forms.

The eyes are made for seeing, since they are provided with a kind of transparent lens, well adapted for converging the rays of light, and this lens, through which they can easily pass, reproduces the image of the object contemplated, like a real mirror. In the visual organ, the rays of light directed from the different parts of the object beheld, after having crossed the coats or tunics, as they are called, the crystalline substance and the eye-ball, go and paint upon the retina in the contrary direction the image of whatever may be considered at the moment ; and the impression made upon the retina is communicated by the optic nerve to the brain. The mind being thus warned, conveys back each point of the image to the point represented, and lifts up, as it were, the object thrown down by the eye.


The ears are made for hearing, and hence they terminate with an external tent, large and widened, into which the vibrated air enters and strikes. The

organ of hearing may be divided into three parts. The external ear or auricle is constructed with the auditory passage like a tun-dish or air-tube, to take in all sonorous vibrations. The second ear is the cavity of the tympanum and the parts connected with it. It is covered with a very thin membrane, which is stretched like the parchment of a drum over a bony circular surface by means of a chain of diminutive bones contained in the cavity, and which have, agreeably to their forms, taken the names of the hammer, the anvil, and the stirrup. The air is preserved in the cavity by means of a pipe called the eustachian tube, which communicates with the mouth. The internal ear, or labyrinth, is composed of semicircular canals, of the vestibulum and snail, and is filled with a watery fluid, in which the auditory nerve, which communicates with the brain, bathes.

The nostrils are made for smelling, and the mouth for tasting; they are covered with a mucous membrane, in which are numerous fibrous nerves well adapted for transmitting to the brain the perception of taste and smell.

Now, all these organs of our senses, and which may be regarded as so many avenues leading to the mind, operate the more effectually as they are provided with a quantity of the magnetic fluid.

The vital or magnetic principle being a part of the universal movement, and subject to the common laws of the universal fluid, is submitted to all the different impressions for expressing its action, according as this may be done naturally, by the simple fact of their destination, or that it may be accomplished by the power of the will, or by a greater quantity of the vital or magnetic fluid. When also our ear is struck by a sound to which we had been inattentive, we perceive, almost unknown to ourselves, a noise of which we have only an obscure and confused idea, because our mind was, at the moment, elsewhere. But if our attention be drawn to his sound, and that on having directed into the organ of hearing a large quantity of the nervous fluid, we hear it a second time, we perceive it more exactly than before, and if our ear be exercised, we can judge of its nature and power, and tell to what



musical tone it bears resemblance. And why so? It is because the organ having provided itself with a larger quantity of the magnetic agent, has worked with more energy and precision, and has been directed towards the accomplishment of its functions.

When, in like manner, we pass, while our mind is occupied, before a picturesque site; or if, at such a moment, our eyes wander idly over a rich valley enamelled with verdure and flowers, there will remain of all these beauties only a confused recollection. But if, freeing our mind from preoccupation, our look glides attentively over the elevations and falls of the site, or over the waving verdure of the valley, the recollection of the whole will remain with us so clear, so precise, that it will be in our power to describe it again, or paint it long afterwards. How, we again ask, is this? It is because, in this second case, the optic nerve has been provided by order of the will with a larger amount of the magnetic fluid, and that the whole of the machinery constituting the organ of vision acted with more force and exactness; and that having been directed in its operation, it has

been able to analyse and class in a few instants the different objects which, in the first case, it only perceived.

We might say as much of the touch and the taste, and show how they have more of power and precision, the more they are governed by the agent of health, which is nothing else than the magnetic agent.

Man can, therefore, as we said in the beginning, dispose, within certain limits, of the vital fluid, and direct it and distribute it as he pleases in the different parts of the human system, when he is in the full enjoyment of all his moral faculties. And if it be so, he must have also the power of disposing of it for his intellectual organs, as well as for his members and organs of sense. And it is really so.

The various parts of the cerebral matter are separated from each other by numerous partitions, which are extremely slight; but they evidently appear to have been created for filling different offices. And why should not each of them have its own duty to perform, when we perceive that all the parts of the

body are destined to different uses,—reason, logic, analogy, the study of the external forms of the brain, the wisdom displayed throughout all Nature, the perfection of the details of the human structure, the infinite views of the Creator—everything assures us that this assemblage of matter which fills the bony trunk above, must be, like all the rest, subdivided into a multitude of organs, special and double, and which preside over phenomena so interesting to study.

Even though Gall, Lavater, and their disciples, had not left us a science already completed, with the exception of the errors belonging to their systems; the deep study of animal magnetism, in its inquiries into the causes and effects of the phenomena of the mysteries of organized life, would have certainly led to its discovery and formation.

No doubt the seat of our intelligence is in the brain, where our intellectual faculties are divided into several classes, and afterwards subdivided into several categories, of which a like division is established in the structure of the brain. But how-



ever minute the organ of memory, or of another faculty, may be, it will be always in the power of the will, of the moral being, of the soul, in short, to command this organ and to fortify it by the transmission of a proportionate quantity of magnetic fluid.

In order to give form to a thought, it is necessary to exercise its particular organ ; in order to produce a commercial or financial combination—in short, to get up an enterprise of any kind—it is necessary to think, reflect, and, above all, to exercise the will.

We must not forget that the magnetic fluid is the universal agent, and that it vivifies and modifies.

Suppose that an individual were to be for several years firmly fastened to a seat—as certain criminals used to be formerly—without having the power of moving his legs ; after a short time, this patient would lose the use of these members, which would become emaciated. The same would happen to him whose arms were to be so tied down that he could not move them : that is to say, their muscular and fleshy parts would soften, and the limbs themselves be de-

prived of their strength. But why would this be? It is, they say, because exercise is necessary to the body. But this answer may be well said to be no answer; because it does not assign the true reason. Exercise is only the effect, and I want to know the cause.

It can be at once conceived, that if the limbs are weak, it is because they were no longer vivified and fortified by the transmission of the vital or magnetic agent. If, on the contrary, the will distributes oftener this fluid to a limb or an organ, either of the latter will acquire more development, for a reason contrary to the one just stated.

It is why journeymen bakers have so much muscular power in their arms; and that all persons much addicted to running and travelling on foot, have such strength in their legs. And it is for the same reason that study improves and quickens the mind.

In the two latter cases the cause is, I say, still the same. It is the presence, in those parts of the system, of the vital fluid which renders them in all respects more capable by fortifying them.

Let us take, for example, a man in the prime of life, and who is remarkable for both his physical and intellectual powers, and let him be condemned for ten years to solitary confinement, in a narrow dungeon, where he cannot have the means of cultivating his mind, and he will come out of his prison stultified, and void of energy.

Judging from conclusions like these, it is easy to perceive what advantages may be obtained through animal magnetism in both public and private life.

I have said, that when we transmit, by means of the will, a large quantity of the vital fluid to any limb or organ, either of the latter obtains a certain force in proportion to the quantity that has been received.

In effect, our ideas are the more clear, our thoughts the more abundant, and our perceptions the more keen, as we invite to the brain a larger portion of the vital agent; and, while a perfect calm reigns all round us, and we ourselves are lost, as it were, in religious contemplation, we concentrate the whole mind on a single object.

But in this moment of sublime intuition, when our thoughts are thus drawn to a single point, it is to be remarked that the body is sunk in perfect quietude, in an extraordinary state of prostration, and that all its vital functions can be for the moment suspended. I say for the moment ; for this forced state, which is the result of an effort the most supreme, could not last long without occasioning an alarming perturbation in the whole system, and soon destroying that necessary equilibrium which establishes between the material and moral life an exact division of the magnetic fluid.

The exultation of the poet, when his genius is about to raise him to the highest pitch to which fancy or imagination can soar : that rapt meditation of the religious soul, which, out of love for the great Object adored, often leads to a total abnegation and forgetfulness of self, and the entire concentration of the nervous fluid, which leads to ecstasy, or so developes the perceptive powers as to render them almost prophetic, belong all to the state I have just described.

In like manner, if we have the more physical strength, or force in the limbs, as the vital fluid has been the more vigorously poured into them, just the contrary of the state awhile ago indicated may be produced, this being the result of a powerful concentration of the cerebral faculties. Thus it may happen—and from a cause official science cannot define—that this vital fluid may, on being violently thrown off from the centre, forsake the moral and intellectual organs, and carry itself with force into other parts of the system. Then the strength of the muscles upon which it is collected, is increased threefold, perhaps even more; but in their turn, the organs cease almost entirely their functions.

It is, therefore, superabundantly demonstrated, that it is the same agent operates throughout the whole extent of our organization; and to the end that a perfect equilibrium may reign over all its operations, it is absolutely necessary that an exact division be made of all its parts.

I have said, in order that man may be in a

sound condition of existence, both as to mind and health, an exact harmony, a perfect equilibrium, must prevail between the material and spiritual life. Hence it is, that if we exercise only the body, the mind grows dull, and degenerates; whilst, if we exercise only the mind, without taking any care of the body, the latter will weaken and decline, and the rupture, which necessarily occurs between the two systems, leads to death.

It is why we see so many children, richly endowed with intelligence, sink in their very infancy, for want of that physical education which their state requires. This fatal circumstance suggested the remark out of which has grown the sentence we hear so often :—

*“That child is too intelligent to live.”*

Since academies have, at all times, opposed the study of the science of animal magnetism, and have never wished to investigate thoroughly the serious questions it suggests, we must try to make our way, without the help of the official world, towards those

laws which govern the human organization; happy if, while armed with the torch of patience, we advance, by dint of research, experience, and results thence obtained, a step nearer to the science of life.

## CHAPTER III.

ANIMAL Magnetism, this principle of life, which is diffused by the Almighty throughout all nature ; which enters into light, heat, and electricity ; which is acting within us, beyond us, and unknown to us ; which is developing itself under the influence of moral causes or pathological accidents ; is denied by no one who has taken the trouble of making the phenomena of the external world a serious study. Every one also knows—we might say, every one feels—that there exists within us a hidden, even a divine power, by which we are animated, and which it is within the province of our will to manifest or propagate.

Two serious mistakes are concealed under the



name and the effects of animal magnetism: thus there are persons who suppose that it is the enemy of religion, and that it tends to sap the present authorized system of medicine. But nothing can be less true. Animal magnetism, instead of undermining either religion or medicine, tends rather to consolidate both the one and the other, by making them appear still more evident than they are.

By the study of animal magnetism more than by anything else, both the infinite goodness and the vastness of the works of the Supreme Being are displayed. It discovers and points out the involuntary mistakes of the physician, by clearly showing and causing to be appreciated the use and the merit of medicinal studies.

And if anything can lead to a happy reform in the habits of a people, it is surely animal magnetism. Its practice reveals physical and moral virtues almost unknown. And the beneficial effects emanating from it, and the simplicity of the means through which, by the divine will, they can be obtained; contrast so strikingly with the inex-

plicable difficulties of other modes of operation, that a comparison between the rudeness of the middle ages and our present civilized times is not more startling.

The influence which one man has over another by his attitude and look ; the imposing and irresistible attraction, which unites and confounds two beings brought together by a feeling of sympathy ; and the physical relief which a patient experiences by the mere application of a hand on the part affected ; are facts every day observed and made evident, and which confirm still more and more the great law, by virtue of which the creation is maintained and continued in universal harmony.

It will probably somewhat puzzle the disdainful sceptic who treats animal magnetism and somnambulism as mere freaks of the fancy, if we ask him how it happens that a mother calms the suffering of her child by approaching it to her cheek or her breast, or why a nervous pain in the forehead or a limb will often vanish under a simple pressure of the hand.

It would not be difficult for us to prove that animal magnetism was practised by the ancients; the accounts according to which the study of physic was no longer confined to the temples of the gods, are powerful confirmation of this fact.

Hippocrates was born at Cos, an island of the *Ægean* Sea sacred to *Æsculapius*, who had there a celebrated temple. The members of his family officiated at the altars of this temple, and consequently attended such patients as came there to be cured of their illnesses. In this family the sons inherited, through the means of oral tradition, the recipe of every cure effected by their forefathers, and which cures were well attested by votive offerings and tablets, as well as by valuable collections of written observations; and from which it would appear that the most usual means employed by Hippocrates, whether for the preservation of health or the cure of diseases, was friction or manipulation.

The imposition of hands—so commonly practised in Egypt and Asia—oracles, the consultations of the

sibyla, the miraculous cures effected by a great many philosophers, and men of all classes, of which posterity has preserved the memory, were neither more nor less than the operations of animal magnetism.

The writings of the learned of the middle ages do also strongly testify that this principle has not discontinued to be transmitted from father to son, by the study and meditation of men who made the natural sciences their principal occupation. But it was chiefly towards the close of the eighteenth century, when—thanks to the labours of a master-spirit who was endowed with great firmness, and a passionate love of truth—observations relating to animal magnetism obtained such unbounded notoriety, that its power as a curative agent was at once made evident.

It was towards the year 1772 that Mesmer, a physician of Vienna, and a member of the faculty of that capital, was led by a series of minute experiments to proclaim the truth of an agent, of a universal fluid, which he named animal magnetism,

and of which he had studied the wonderful properties. This fluid, which could, he perceived, disengage itself from one body and be transmitted to another, acted as a most efficacious agent towards curing numerous illnesses for the removal of which medicine was found wholly ineffectual. Mesmer, at first encouraged by Baron Stoelen, physician in chief of the Emperor, was soon repulsed, and requested not to compromise the faculty by the introduction of such an innovation. In vain he begged, as a favour, to be allowed to make experiments and treat some patients by the application of animal magnetism ; in vain he produced some extraordinary cures which he had effected, especially one of a blind girl. Every door was closed against him ; his brethren of the faculty overwhelmed him with abuse, and treated him as a visionary and a madman. Fearing the persecution of several influential persons who had succeeded in exciting public opinion against him, and justly disgusted with the blind obstinacy of those who would condemn him without a trial, he formed the resolution

of abandoning his native country and coming to France. And why should he not resolve upon doing so? Why should not the land of Montesquieu, of Voltaire, of the encyclopædists, appear to him the fortunate port where all innovators, all philosophers, all experimenters, might safely arrive and obtain a free and just examination?

Becoming possessed, through the kindness of his disciples, of a considerable fortune, equal in amount to one offered by the king, he undertook to establish in all the principal towns of France animal magnetism as a curative agent; and to this end he travelled considerably throughout the country, not even omitting to pay a short visit to England. The propagation of his system progressed as favourably as could be well expected. The society of animal magnetism which he had founded in Paris, had several secondary establishments in other towns of France. Thoroughly convinced of the existence of a transcendant and synthetical physiology, he had sought the nature of the force which vivifies man, and persuaded of the reality of the universal fluid,

of that fluid which is the principle of life, he felt that man is possessed of a power peculiar to himself, and wholly apart from everything like a physical apparatus.

That part of the universal fluid which man received at his origin as his portion, being at first modified in his primitive mould, has become tonical, and has determined his formation, and the development of all the constituent parts of his organization.

De Puysegur, by revealing the psychological virtues of which some persons are possessed while under the influence of animal magnetism, gave to this science an entirely new aspect. From that time the wonders of somnambulism constituted magnetism.

How, in our days, can any one deny the existence of a curative fluid by which our fellow-creatures are so often relieved !

Being provided with this grand truth, Mesmer thought no longer but of making experiments, which might bring home conviction to every mind, and

instruct at the same time. How often, while placed by the bedside of a patient, his active and benevolent will moderated a burning fever, or restored to the sinking frame its wonted strength ! He had at length within his grasp one of the most interesting discoveries ; but he had yet a long and arduous career to run. He beheld it clearly in its full extent ; but it did not frighten him ; and he thought only of insuring to the society this inestimable fruit of his genius.

One of the best theories ever known is certainly that of Mesmer. It cannot be, therefore, considered out of place to quote here a few fragments of it :—

“There exists an uncreated principle, which is God ; there exist two created principles, matter and motion.

“Man, by reason of his preservation, is to be considered in a state of sleep, in a state of wakefulness, in a state of health, in a state of illness ; in man, as in all nature, there are only two principles, matter and motion.

“The assemblage of matter, by which he is constituted man, may be increased or diminished,

“The diminution must be repaired ; the matter



lost is therefore made up for from the constituting assemblage by means of food.

“The quality of motion is replaced from the total amount of the general motion by sleep.

“As man is subject to two kinds of losses, so are there two kinds of reparation, namely, by food and by sleep.

“While in the sleeping state, man acts like a machine, of which the motive principles are within.

“The sleeping state of man exists when the exercise and functions of a considerable part of his being are suspended for a time, during which the quantity of motion lost while he was awake, is repaired by the properties of the universal currents in which he is placed.

“There are, with respect to man, two kinds of universal currents, namely, gravity, and the magnetic current from one pole to another.

“Man receives and collects a certain quantity of motion, as in a reservoir; the surplus of the motion, or the fulness of the reservoir, determines his state of wakefulness.

“Man receives his existence while in the state of sleep ; in this state, the quantity of motion assigned him is in proportion to his volume, and is employed for the formation and development of his organs.

“As soon as he is formed, he awakes, and makes upon his mother such pressing exertions as oblige her to bring him forth.

“Man is in a state of health when all the parts of which he is composed have the power of performing the functions for which they have been destined.

“If a perfect order reigns throughout all these functions, this state is called the state of harmony.

“Illness is the opposite state ; that is to say, it is the state of disorder or disturbance.

“As harmony is single, so is health.

“Health is represented by the straight line.

“Illness is the deviation from this line ; this deviation may be more or less considerable.

“The remedy is the means by which the order, or the harmony which has been disturbed, is restored.

“The principle which constitutes, re-establishes, and preserves harmony, is the principle of preserva-

tion ; the principle of curing is therefore necessarily the same.

“That part of the universal motion portioned to man at his origin, and which, being at first modified in his primitive mould, became tonical, has determined his formation and the development of the intestines, and all the other constituent organical parts.

“This portion of motion is the principle of life.

“This motion preserves and rectifies the functions of the intestines.

“The vital principle being a part of the universal motion, and obedient to the common laws of fluid spread throughout all nature, is therefore submitted to all the impressions of the celestial bodies, of the earth, and the particular bodies which surround it.

“This faculty or property in man, of being susceptible of all these relations, is what is called magnetism.

“The magnetic currents can be propagated at a considerable distance.

“The faculty of feeling in the universal harmony,

that connection which beings have with the preservation of each individual, is what should be called instinct.

“All animals are endowed with this faculty ; it is submitted to the common laws of sensations, and which are stronger in proportion to the interest events have in our preservation.

“Sight is an instance of a sense by which we can perceive the connection which co-existing beings bear to one another, as well as their relations and actions concerning us previously to their immediate contact with us.

“As this instinct is an effect of order, of harmony, it becomes a safe rule of actions and sensations ; it is only necessary to cultivate this directing sensibility.

“A man insensible to instinct, is as a blind man with regard to visible objects.

“Instinct is in nature ; reason is factitious ; every man has a reason of his own ; instinct is a determined and invariable effect of the order of nature over each individual.

“The life of man is the portion of the universal motion, which, in its origin, becomes tonical and applicable to one part of matter, has been destined to form the organs and intestines, and afterwards to preserve and rectify their functions.

“Death is the complete abolition of the tonical motion; the life of man commences by motion and finishes by repose; the same as in all nature, motion is the source of combinations and of repose; the same as in man, the principle of life causes death.

“Every development and formation of the organical body, consists of the various and successive relations between motion and repose; their quantity being determined, the number of their possible relations ought also to be determined. The distance between two terms or points may be considered as representing the length of life.

“If one of these terms be motion and the other repose, the successive progression of the proportionate length of each of them constitutes both movement and revolution; beyond this point death begins.

“If man goes through this progression without its proportions being disturbed, he reaches his final term without illness; if these proportions are disturbed, illness must be the consequence.

“An illness is, therefore, nothing else than a disturbance in the progress of the movement of life.

“An illness being a deviation from harmony, this deviation may be more or less considerable, and its effects be more or less felt.

“All the causes of illnesses do more or less pervert or derange the proportions between matter and the motion of the intestines, between the solids or the fluids; they produce by their different applications a remission or disturbance more or less distinct in the properties of matter and of the organs of the human system.

“To remedy the effects of the disturbance to which we refer, and to destroy them, it is therefore necessary to provoke the intention; that is to say, it is necessary to increase irritation, elasticity, fluidity, and motion.

“A body in a state of harmony is insensible to the effect of magnetism; because the proportion or harmony established is not varied by the application of a uniform and general action; on the contrary, when a body is not in harmony, animal magnetism can restore it to such a state.

“It can be also conceived, that when a body is cured of an illness, it becomes insensible to magnetism.

“An illness may be likened to a ball of worsted, which winds off just as it was wound on, and made to increase,

“No illness is cured without a crisis. In a crisis three principal epochs may be observed: the disturbance, the digestion, and the evacuation.

“Man may be considered as an individual, or as constituting a part of society: under these two points of view, he belongs to the universal harmony.

“Man's education commences with his existence. From this moment, the child begins to expose the organs of his senses to the impressions of ex-

ternal objects, to unfold and exercise the motions of his limbs.

“The perfection of the organs of the senses consists : 1st, in irritation ; 2nd, in all the possible combinations of their organs.

“The perfection of the motion of man’s limbs consists : 1st, in sensibility ; 2nd, in the justness of the directions ; 3rd, in their force and equilibrium.

“Man’s development being a progress of vegetation, the rule of this development ought to be taken in the organization of each individual who becomes submitted to the universal action of both the general and particular influence.

“1. The first rule is to keep at a distance all obstacles likely to disturb or hinder this development.

“2. To place the child in the entire possibility or liberty of making all the movements and trials possible.

“The child, obedient only to the principle of nature which has formed these organs, will find by itself the order in which it should instruct, develope, and form itself.



“Man, considered with respect to society, has two ways of putting himself in relation with his equals—namely, by his ideas and his actions.

“He has two means of communicating his ideas to other men, language and writing, either natural or conventional. Natural language is the physiognomy, the voice, and gestures; natural writing is the art of designing whatever speaks to the eyes.

“Conventional language consists of words, and conventional writing consists of gestures.

“The action of animal magnetism can be strengthened or propagated by animate and inanimate bodies. As this action increases in proportion to the volume, the more magnetic bodies are joined to one another, so that their poles be not in a contrary direction, the more the action of magnetism will be strengthened.

“The exaggerated irritation of the nerves produced by a deviation from harmony in the human body, is what is particularly called nervous maladies.

“There are as many varieties of these maladies, as one can suppose combinations to exist in any amount of numbers whatsoever.

"A careful and attentive observer will find in the countless phenomena produced by nervous complaints, a source of instruction. It is in what he might the more easily study, the properties and faculties of the human body.

"It is still by these illnesses he can persuade himself by facts how much we are dependent upon the action of all the bodies which surround us, and how no change in these bodies, or in their relations to one another, can be wholly indifferent to us.

"The extension of the properties and faculties of our organs being considerably increased in these kinds of illnesses, this ought to enable us to lengthen the extent of our acquirements by allowing us to become acquainted with a multitude of impressions of which we should not otherwise have the least idea.

"In order to conceive and appreciate well all I am now going to say, it will be necessary to recollect the mechanism of sensations according to my principles.

"The faculty of feeling with an impression is, in

man, the result of two principal conditions, the one being external and the other internal.

“The first is the degree of susceptibility with which an organ receives the action of an exterior object.

“Up to the present, the human mind has not thought of carrying farther the exterior of our own senses than by increasing the condition of our sensations; that is to say, by increasing the intensity of the action exercised over us by these objects. It is what has been done for the sight by the invention of spectacles, microscopes, and telescopes. By this means, we have been enabled to pierce the darkness which concealed from us an entire universe of objects infinitely small and infinitely large.”

“How greatly philosophy is indebted to this ingenious discovery! How many absurdities concerning the nature of bodies, has it not demonstrated in the systems of the ancients! And how many new truths has it not brought under the notice of every attentive observer!

“What could the genius of Descartes, Galileo,

Newton, Kepler, and Buffon have produced without an extension of the organ of sight? Probably great things; but astronomy and natural history would be still in the same place where they found them.

“An illness cannot be cured without a crisis; a crisis is an effort of nature against an illness, tending by an increase of motion of the force, attention, and action of the magnetic fluid, to disperse the obstacles which oppose the circulation, to dissolve and evacuate the atoms which formed them, and to re-establish the harmony and equilibrium of all the parts of the body.

“Crises are more or less evident, more or less salutary, natural or forced; natural crises should not be imputed but to nature, which acts efficaciously upon the cause of the illness, and gets rid of it by different excretions, as in fevers, where Nature alone triumphs over what was noxious to her, and discharges it by spontaneous vomitings, &c. &c.

“The crises the less evident are those in which Nature acts secretly, without violence, by breaking

slowly the obstacles which stopped the circulation, and throwing them off by imperceptible perspiration.

“When Nature is not sufficient towards bringing on a crisis, she may be assisted by magnetism, which, used according to the means already indicated, effects conjointly with her the necessary revolution ; and this is salutary, when, on its having been experienced, the patient feels better and relieved, and especially when it is followed by advantageous evacuations.

“The tub, the iron, the cord, and the chain, occasion crises. If these be found too slight to act victoriously over the illness, they may be increased by touching the seat of the malady. When a crisis is supposed to have reached its proper state—and which is shown by a general calmness—it may be allowed to wear itself out ; or when it appears to have been sufficient, the patient may be withdrawn from the state of sleep or stupor in which he has been.

“It is seldom that a natural crisis is not beneficial.

“But both kinds of crises often throw the patient

into a cataleptic state, which is not alarming ; and it often ends with a crisis.

“In a state of irritation or great susceptibility, it is dangerous to excite and keep up violent crises, because by doing so, the disturbance which these dispositions indicate in the animal economy is only more increased ; intenseness is produced instead of abatement, a tendency to inflammation is increased, and the evacuations, which ought to contribute towards effecting a cure, are suspended or suppressed, so that the views and efforts of nature are diametrically opposed.

“A physician, penetrated with the doctrine of magnetism, and a faithful observer of effects and of crises, will, whilst guarding himself against the evil to which an abuse of them might lead, know how to turn to account every advantage they offer.”

Mesmer cured a vast number of persons. Since his time innumerable cures of the most extraordinary kind have been effected. Every day immense progress is made in this science. We now possess a great many works on the subject, many of which

have been written by men who are celebrated for their medical knowledge. The surgical operations performed during the mesmeric trance were alone sufficient to prove the immense advantage that may be derived from the use of magnetic somnambulism.

As the limits of this work do not allow me to cite all the operations which have been effected upon patients while in the mesmeric sleep, I shall confine myself to mention only two of them, but which I consider the most convincing.

*Account presented to the Royal Academy of Medicine, at its sitting of the 16th of April, 1829, by M. Jules Cloquet, Surgeon of the Hospital of St. Louis, Member of the Academy, of an operation which he made of a cancer of the right breast during the magnetic sleep induced, by M. le Docteur Chaplain upon one of his patients.*

M. J. Cloquet informs the Members of the Academy, that a lady, sixty-four years old, went to consult him concerning a cancer, complicated with

an obstruction of axillary tumours, which she had at her right breast. M. Cloquet recommended the operation, but advised her to consult other members of the faculty, and particularly her own physician, M. le Docteur Chaplain. The latter had already proposed to his patient and her relations this operation as indispensable, but insisted upon other medical advice being also taken. M. Chaplain called on J. Cloquet after the latter had seen his patient, and informed him that this lady had, for a long time past, submitted to his magnetic influence; and though her sleep was not usually deep, he thought it might be increased, and the operation be effected while it lasted. This, in effect, took place, and all was completed in some ten or twelve minutes, though they were obliged, before removing the breast itself, to dissect the axillary tumours, and to tie up several arteries.

“The patient,” says M. Cloquet, “did not betray the least symptoms of pain, neither on her countenance, nor by her movements, though her arms were free, and not held by the assistants; but on the contrary, she talked tranquilly, during the whole time,



with M. Chaplain and M. le Docteur Paillot, who acted as assistant to the operator. Only after the operation, when they were wiping with a sponge the blood which flowed down the hypochondriac region of the right side, she experienced very sharp ticklings, which excited the peculiar laugh which usually accompanies such a sensation. The patient, on the operation being finished, walked back to her bed, and was allowed to remain forty-eight hours longer in the magnetic sleep. At the end of that period, they removed the first covering, and having dressed the wound, M. Chaplain awoke her. She appeared surprised at having been operated upon, having, while awake, received no previous notice of it. In a quarter of an hour after, she was again thrown into the magnetic sleep. M. Paillot, who remained with the patient for the first twenty-four hours, remarked with astonishment, that she betrayed none of those symptoms of pain which usually follow such an operation. The two dressings have been made up to the present day (the 16th) without exciting the least appearance of pain. The phenomena of

the suppuration is beginning regularly to be established, and every thing leads us to believe that the recovery will be perfect."

Since then, many magnetic phenomena have been remarked, and brought before the public.

## 2nd FACT.

### ASTOUNDING OPERATION IN THE MESMERIC TRANCE.

*"Truth is stranger than fiction."*

"At the invitation of Dr. Elliotson, I attended at the Mesmeric Infirmary, in Weymouth Street, Portland Place, on Wednesday, April 26th, to witness the removal of the right breast of a female whilst in the mesmeric trance.

"I entered the institution at a quarter past one, in company with Mr. Kiste, and we were shortly joined by Dr. Elliotson, Mr. Tubbs, the operator, Col. Baynold, Dr. Symes, Mr. Goff, and Mr. Amon.

"At two, several other gentlemen arrived, and much anxiety was expressed as to the result of the operation. The operator, however, was quite confident that his patient would not feel it in the least.

“Shortly after two o'clock we were ushered up stairs; here we found the patient, a female, of apparently about forty years of age, seated in a declining chair, and Mr. Tubbs, with Mr. Burman as his assistant, prepared to perform the operation.

“The company being seated, Mr. Tubbs proceeded to entrance his patient; this he effected in a few minutes, by standing upon a chair behind her, taking her hands in his, and looking down steadily into her eyes, which were raised for the purpose.

“After the quivering and closing of the eyelids, Mr. Tubbs descended and made passes in front, &c. She was then considered so deeply entranced as to be able to undergo any operation, however severe, without feeling it.

“After the breast had been examined by Dr. Elliotson and Dr. Symes, the knife was handed to Mr. Tubbs, and the deepest anxiety was depicted on every face.

“The first incision was made amidst the most breathless silence, and all eyes were directed to the face of the patient; not a muscle moved—not a sigh

was heard. There was the same placid smile as when she closed her eyes under the mesmeric influence. She breathed freely; her left hand lay listlessly in her lap; the right was held up by Mr. Burman, to be out of the way. There was no restraint.

“Mr. Tubbs continued to dissect out the breast leisurely. There was no hurry to get it over; and when the whole was removed, the silent astonishment of the gentlemen assembled was excessive.

“But Mr. Tubbs had not done yet; he probed with his fingers every part, and finding a portion that had eluded his knife, seized it, and cut it out as coolly as if trying his weapon upon a dead body.

“Dr. Symes and Mr. Beard, at Mr. Tubbs’ request, examined the patient, and on their declaration that the cancer had been removed, the operator, assisted by Mr. Burman, passed five needles through the lips of the wound and inserted the sutures.

“Still the patient slept—still smiled! A little wine and water was administered, her dress was arranged, each gentlemen resumed his seat, and Mr. Tubbs awakened his patient by a few transverse passes.

"On opening her eyes, she was addressed by Mr. Tubbs : 'How do you feel ?'

"Patient : 'Have you done it ?'

"Mr. Tubbs : 'Supposing it is done,—how do you feel ?'

"Patient : 'I am very well.'

"Mr. Tubbs : 'Then it is done.'

"The patient smiled incredulously,—her dress was open,—and upon being satisfied it was done, her face beamed with thankfulness.

"To all questions put, she answered decidedly that she had not, nor did she feel, the slightest pain ; on the contrary, she was quite unconscious that the operation had been performed until awakened.

"After a short address by Mr. Tubbs relative to the operation, preparations were made for carrying the patient to bed ; but she declined all assistance, and walked up two flights of stairs as if nothing had occurred !

"Thus ended one of the most remarkable meetings ever convened ; and proud must every member feel at the opportunity afforded him of witnessing one of

the most satisfactory operations ever witnessed in England.

“J. PURLAND,

“Surgeon Dentist,

“7, Mortimer Street.

“May 1, 1854.”

We may assume, from what we have just read, that henceforth all truly philanthropic members of the faculty will endeavour to put in practice this beneficent modification of the new system, in order to spare their patients the cruel sufferings which generally attend great operations, and which, from the shock they occasion the constitution, are not unfrequently attended by very disastrous consequences.

Were the whole body of medical men to act with a little more good-will than they generally do, certainly the progress of animal magnetism would be much more rapid than it is.

This science has now the future before it, and it is impossible that in our enlightened age it does not advance triumphantly. Wonderful has been its

success since the days of Mesmer ; but the time must come when it will be acknowledged and received by all. Has not every great idea had the same fate ? Have not electricity, steam, galvanism, and the cow-pock, met with characters who were at once capable of everything and yet capable of nothing ? Does that prove that Simon de Caux, Franklin, and Voltaire, were only jugglers ?

If Galvani, by dissecting his frog, and publishing a phenomenon which appears to belong to the invisible elements, has withdrawn the veil which had previously concealed from us some of the wonders of nature ; if Humboldt and Mallis have proved, like their master, by their experiments upon metals, the different impressions which the animal organs may receive through such means, how can there be found in our days people who deny the existence of that fluid discovered by Mesmer as far back as the year 1772 ?—that electro animal fluid which reigns throughout all nature—that primitive ether which can free itself from the human frame by means of passes and touching, conjointly with a strong and *persevering* will ?

## CHAPTER IV.

“THE principle of motion,” says Jussieu, “should be regarded as the immediate agent of all our animal functions : from its being under the control of immutable laws, and being sometimes governed by causes foreign to itself, it has ever a tendency to follow the primitive and general impression which it has received, but is often turned aside, attracted or repulsed by the bodies submitted to its action ; but being, by its essence, moveable, it finally reposes by becoming a part of them, until afterwards, separating from them, it resumes its own nature, and attaches itself to other bodies. It is thus that beings are, when put in motion by this principle, continually conferring it and taking it back again. From its



being the principle of motion throughout all nature, it becomes also the principle of animal heat in living bodies ; and hence comes that correspondence so perceptible between the changes of the atmosphere and the state of our organs."

Great physical causes act upon man in a continuous, uniform, and general manner. The progress of imagination is peculiar, inconstant, and various in every individual. It cannot suspend real animal functions acted upon independently of it ; but it has the power of slackening or exciting them. Sometimes, when in a state of perfect quietude, it yields to external impressions ; being oftener active, it struggles and contends against whatever comes within its sphere ; then, when too confined within its narrow limits, it is continually in motion ; and, troubling the principle submitted to its power, it leads it through every part of the human system, now expelling, now attracting it, with the same rapidity. And by these three different movements it produces all the effects ascribed to its action.

The active principle suffices for all the functions

of vegetation not under the dominion of a superior agent.

This necessarily-existing principle is, in all organized bodies, the vital principle ; is, in all animated bodies, the principle of animal heat ; and in nature, is the principle of motion.

Ever since the day animal magnetism began, in spite of the faculty, in spite of the ignorance of certain practitioners, by whom it was adopted ; in short, in spite of quacks—to rank with the sciences, it was no longer necessary, at least, among its partizans, to use the word animal conjointly with it, it being thenceforth well known that by magnetism alone was meant the discovery of Mesmer.

Thought, will, and attention, are the principal agents of human magnetism. When Mesmer made use of the words animal magnetism, he meant an action purely physical, for it is not likely that he would allow to all animals indistinctly a power of the will and attention.

By this expression he indicated the physical effects produced by the movements of bodies, movements

uncontrolled by themselves, and submitted to the laws of gravitation.

Animal magnetism is the result of the properties of bodies; human magnetism is the result of the faculties of the soul, and of which the effects are not wholly submitted to the general laws of the gravitation of bodies.

Though magnetism may be reduced to the communication of the movement of one individual to another, and though it belongs on this account to the general law which governs the universe, it may be subdivided into as many states as there are kinds in living beings, of which each one having a movement peculiar to itself, its magnetism is different from that of all the others.

These assertions are daily confirmed. The difference of the fluid of each individual influences considerably the patient magnetised: and consequently his health and lucidity.

I am sometimes magnetised by persons to whom I have taught the art, and who often consult me. One of them, Sir \* \* \* , is a strong partizan,

but is deficient in will. He is ever doubting, ever mysterious, ever addressing questions with uncertainty, ever prone to suspect, and ever wishing for answers favourable to his views. A magnetiser so disposed must always subject his patient to doubt and uncertainty.

In order to obtain a result in accordance with truth, we should be properly prepared in advance ; we should not endeavour to influence by our own thoughts those of the somnambulist ; during the interview we should, as far as in us lies, divest ourselves of all favourite opinions, wishing for the truth and nothing but the truth ; otherwise little reliance can be placed upon the information obtained.

I have often had occasion to observe, that when magnetised by several different persons in the same day, I was more lucid with some than with others. But when operated upon by a firm will, the result is always clear and positive.

No questions should be put that lie beyond the range of somnambulism. It is only experience and long practice can serve as true guides in the difficult

task of properly magnetising. Often the phenomena vary with each person. We recommend prudence, calmness, and a kind disposition, but just and strict. If magnetism were so far unknown as that only two persons were acquainted with it, it might be a matter of consideration as to whether or not such a secret ought to be divulged ; but being once known, it were certainly better that it should be well known than indifferently so—that the multitude rather than the few should be made familiar with it.

Magnetism is sometimes objected to upon very frivolous grounds. Thus there are persons who greatly fear that its wonderful effects may lead to the belief that the miracles which prove the truth of Christianity can be traced to the same source. But it should be observed that a multitude of persons have, by practising this science, been won back to a true sense of religion ; so that it has hitherto gone further towards serving the cause of Christianity than injuring it.

## THE MAGNETIC RAPPORT OR CONNECTION.

A moral and physical sympathy must exist between two persons, in order that the one may, as a magnetiser, have power over the other.

When this sympathy is well established between two persons, they are said to be in *rapport*.

By this *rapport* is understood the communication of the vital principle.

The physical sympathy is established by the magnetiser placing himself opposite the person to be magnetised, upon whose hands he lays his own, and then makes contact passes along his arm, and touches his stomach. The patient should be placed in an arm chair, but his seat should not be quite so high as that of the operator. The latter should, while silently collecting his thoughts for a few moments, take the hands of the former in such a manner within his own, as to allow the balls of his thumbs to come in contact with those of his patient. This position should be maintained until the degree of

warmth of the thumbs of both parties be about equal, the magnetiser keeping, during this short period, his look fixed on that of the person magnetised, or not doing so, just as he thinks proper. He should then withdraw his hands, and turning them out, allow them to rest, for about the space of a minute, upon the shoulders of his patient ; then draw them slowly down with contact along the arms, even to the tops of the fingers. This movement, which is known by the name of *pass*, should be repeated several times. The operator should afterwards place his hands above his patient's head, keep them there for about half a minute, then draw them slowly down, at the distance of an inch or two, opposite the face, until they reach the epigastrium, upon which part he should lean for a moment with the points of his fingers ; then continue the movement slowly along the body to the feet. These passes being sufficiently repeated, the magnetiser should make some others along the arms and the legs to their extremities, taking always care to shake his fingers at the close of each movement ; and then he

should conclude his operation by allowing his hands to meet, and making, at the distance of three or four inches, a few transversal passes before the face of the patient.

The practised magnetiser can always tell by his own feelings when the connection is well established between himself and his patient. Sometimes this occurs very soon, and sometimes not until after a considerable delay.

The *rapport* between persons connected by blood is as prompt and as easy as between those whose sympathy is natural.

When a patient happens to be a somnambulist, the *rapport* is attended by peculiar effects.

If he be in bed, he should be requested to place himself horizontally, with his arms against his body, his hands on his thighs, and his legs joined.

At the end of a few minutes, the beating of his pulse will lessen, every kind of motion seem suspended, and a certain degree of heat become established.

The operator should place afterwards his hands



upon the patient's head, allow them to remain there a few seconds, then draw them down before his face at a considerable distance from it.

After these passes, others are made from the head to the feet. In order to avoid fatigue, the operator should magnetise alternately with either hand. Sometimes the patient who feels his illness, and justly appreciates the different modes of operation, will himself indicate that which he considers best; and in this case his suggestions should be always attended to. However great and good science may be, instinct is still superior to it.

It will sometimes happen that a mode of operating long practised with success, will cease to produce any longer its usual result, so that the patient will suffer under it; in which case another mode should, in order to effect a cure, be tried.

An important point, and which should not be lost sight of, is this: the enlightened somnambulist may change completely the ordinary mode of magnetising. As he is enabled, from his innate knowledge, to trace an illness from its origin, to follow

its development, to indicate exactly the seat of the evil, and the extent of its ramifications, his advice should be ever attended to.

To study with facility all magnetism comprises, it is necessary to establish certain divisions in its phenomena. Thus we consider a nervous state as a physiological phenomenon, or as somnambulism; and a physiological state we regard as psychological, comprising somnambulism and ecstasy.

Each of these orders of phenomena can proceed from a foreign influence, from the influence which an individual has over himself and also from the influence of any material cause whatsoever, acting as an excitative of a physiological phenomenon.

Let us say something upon each of these causes, which are capable of modifying, more or less intimately, the natural state of man.

The reflective or freed influence is magnetisation by its own power, a modification in the organism of the individual who is to be submitted to this action. The will is the virtual principle of this magnetisation. In magnetism there must be two beings in

two different states. If these two states form an opposite will, the conditions of magnetism cannot be said to exist; in which case the weaker of the two will give way.

The magnetiser should therefore require the absence of voluntary movements; or desire a perfect calmness of mind, for otherwise he cannot be properly magnetised.

The imagination of the subject magnetised, far from being favourable to the appearance of the magnetic phenomenon, is, on the contrary, injurious to it; because the soul, by causing the organs of thought to work, excites them, and circulates everywhere a nervous fluid which increases the vital resistance, and sometimes completely opposes the invasion of the nervous system by a foreign fluid.

We have shown how man possesses a peculiar kind of electricity, and it is by means of this imponderable substance that the soul acts upon the body and collects the sensations of the latter.

Every voluntary movement is produced by the contraction of the muscles while under the influence

of the nervous agent put in action by the will. There are in this vital action certain relations, the seeds of the magnetic phenomena, for they are accomplished by the influence of the same law.

A powerful organization is, when joined with great cerebral action, the cause of an abundant production of the magnetic fluid, and of a voluntary radiation of this power. Hence it is that persons endowed with these natural dispositions give rise to these sympathetic and antipathetic phenomena, which have, up to the present, been so imperfectly understood.

In the presence of certain persons, do we not feel an unknown perturbation, a kind of dominion over us, or else a something mild and inexplicable? In the presence of others we are excited; our ideas become exalted, or our physical powers are increased or depressed; and if the intelligence of him who thus affects those who surround him, grows excited, and if he feels desirous to convince them of anything by his discourse, then the action becomes extraordinary. It is by means of this influence that

great geniuses, that minds profoundly penetrated with the truth of what they advance, overpower, without so much as heeding them, the crowds that listen to them.

It is by this physiology that the passions, strong emotions, and convulsions are communicated.

Every one who has the power of willing can magnetise. He should endeavour to saturate his patient with the fluid which flows from him.

Among the persons who are subject to the influence of magnetism, the sensations and changes which they feel are variable. But it is easy to perceive that there is in their nervous system a tendency towards a crisis which must effect a change in its usual mode of functioning. Thus the skin becomes alternately heated, dry, and moist; the perspiration is sometimes abundant, yawning is frequent, a general impatience with jerking in the limbs is manifested, the pulse is quickened, the eyes grow heavy, their lids join, and a perfect quietude takes possession of the patient's whole system. At other times he feels a chillness run down along his

spine—it follows the hand of the magnetiser; and at other times he seems to lose the power of breathing, and to be, as it were, almost suffocated.

If there be a natural tendency towards somnambulism, the brain is first alive to the action, the moving nerves extend, and the patient endeavours to keep his eyes open. His head feels heavy, his eyelids twinkle, and his whole body is in a sinking state.

Magnetism has great effect upon animals, even upon vegetables. At St. Quentin we have seen Dr. Picard make magnetic experiments upon all kinds of plants. We have seen many rose bushes magnetised, especially two, of which one was dying and had only a single leaf, which became yellow and dropped immediately; the other was constantly green, and was well stocked. The first was magnetised to give it vitality, and the other for the purpose of depriving it of life; and so it really happened. Dr. Picard has also in his garden an apricot-tree, upon which he magnetised three apricots for the purpose of increasing their size; and this

too happened, since these three apricots are as large as apples, whilst the others are even less than walnuts.

To what is that to be attributed? To mere accident! Then Dr. Picard's garden is full of such accidents. But it is in every one's power to witness these curious phenomena, since the place lies open and free to all who wish to enter it and judge for themselves.

## CHAPTER V.

## PROPER MODES OF OPERATING.

IF somnambulism had never followed so closely as it has done magnetism, there would be no necessity for seeking the best manner of magnetising; but in order to obtain a favourable result, the proper means of operating, as a magnetiser, should be known. Though in England magnetism is practised as an essentially curative agent, some of its professors are far from having the knowledge necessary for their profession. I have met with magnetisers who were, in this respect, completely ignorant. But the proper mode is requisite, not only for doing good, but also for preventing the evil which may be the result of

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ignorance. Hence we should know how to employ the same system in different cases in order to obtain success and avoid doing harm. But we should also know that to magnetise well, great experience is necessary.

#### MESMER'S MODE OF OPERATING.

Mesmer, aware how considerably electricity enters into human magnetism, conceived the magnetic tub. This was a wooden vessel not in contact with the ground, having an iron rod standing in the centre of it, and being nearly filled with different metals and other bodies symmetrically arranged. To this tub the operator fastened some wires and small chains, which were held at the same time by two of the patients, while the others took one another by the hand and so stood, as it were, linked together.

The electro-magnetism, soon escaping from the tub, began to play upon the limbs of the patients, exciting the nervous system of those who were most susceptible, and occasioning convulsive shocks to

the most of them. Imitation greatly helped towards developing those salutary crises.

One would scarcely believe what a tendency there is in our organization to imitate what we see passing in our presence. When we perceive any one yawning, it is with difficulty we can refrain from doing the same ; so do we feel hungry when we see others eating. In like manner, the misfortune of our neighbour causes us pain, just as his success affords us pleasure, and persons very susceptible are likely to become epileptic on seeing others suffering from such a fit.

Such unquestionable proofs of the power of sympathy as those, appear to have been well known to Mesmer.

#### JUSSIEU'S MAGNETIC SYSTEM.

Every living being is a real electric body, and is constantly impregnated with this active principle ; but all are not so in the same proportion, some having more of it and others less ; and hence, in a

great measure, the difference that prevails in temperament and constitution. The mobility of this agent becomes still a simple consequence of this variation; and we can therefore conceive that it must be repelled by some and eagerly attracted by others, and the proximity of him in whom it abounds must be advantageous to him who is in want of it. The cohabitation of a child with an aged person must be good for the latter, and hurtful to the former. Vegetables close to a nursery garden are vigorous and fresh, but when they are allowed to grow near a large tree, they dry up and wither.

These hints, presented in an abridgment like this, are susceptible of much more development, but they will, perhaps, suffice to afford some idea of the phenomena of animal economy which are to be observed in the use of magnetism, or on other occasions.

We may be now less astonished at this influence which one body has over another, at this connection — sometimes sufficiently intimate — between the action of one individual and the sensation of another, or between two organs of the same in-

dividual; we may confound less the action of the soul and the body with that which is merely animal; we may distinguish the cause which determines and the agent which executes; we may suppose that the active principle, which is always acting upon our organs, and which is one time excited by the imagination and the will, as superior and intimate causes, and one time by a portion of itself transmitted from surrounding bodies, and one time by several different causes combined in one.

The necessarily-exciting principle is in organized bodies the vital principle, and in animated bodies the principle of animal heat, and in nature the principle of motion. When it escapes from organized bodies, it becomes confounded with the electric fluid; when it returns to them, it is modified by the organic action which attracts some of its properties. It passes under the form of animal heat from one animated body into another of the same nature, and by this transition it produces various changes relative to the body it left and to that which it enters.

In magnetising, we observe the flowing, as it were,

of a substance which penetrates all bodies, and that too without any material loss of its active power.

After Mesmer, his disciple, Deleuze, thought that if the mesmeric tub possessed incontestable magnetic properties, it was, however, deficient in that moral and spiritual influence so often exercised through the voice, look, and touch, by one man over another, and he therefore very wisely concluded that the magnetic, the nervous fluid, was a species of animal lucidity.

Here is his method, as he himself left it to us, and as we still have it :—

The magnetiser and the subject are placed near and opposite to each other, so that their knees come in contact.

Being in this situation, the operator takes the patient by both hands, and in such a way that their palms rest against his own.

He then recommends both parties to remain in this position until the warmth of their hands be about equal ; that is to say, until the caloric be in equilibrium in the two organizations, and which is

generally effected in a few minutes. During this interval, it is scarcely necessary to state that thought is busy, and that the will impresses its action on the vital fluid, which is transmitted by the operator, his fingers serving, for this purpose, as conductors while moving along the patient's arms.

The power of the look will add considerably to that of the touch and the will. The patient should keep his eyes open and full upon the operator, whose look should settle as firmly on his. The magnetiser and the magnetised having remained in this position the time requisite, the former should lay his hands on the shoulders of the latter, then upon his head, after which he should make some passes downwards opposite his face, and as far as the epigastrium, so as to completely envelope him, as it were, in their vital emanations.

Such were the principles of Deleuze; and they are also those of Reid, Antenieth, Humboldt, and some of the ablest physiologists of our day.

In the present state of this science, everything tends to the belief that the brain serves as a re-

ceptacle for a peculiar kind of substance, of which the chief virtue appears to consist in the power of both receiving and perceiving our wish. This substance, whatever it may be, appears to circulate through the nerves, of which some appear to have the direction of the will, and the others to belong to our feelings ; the former flow from the upper to the lower extremities, while the latter ascend to the head.

While a patient is being magnetised, we should not, in order to avoid being prepossessed, question him concerning his illness. This should not be done until the consultation, given in a state of somnambulism, be over, when it may be requisite to compare the knowledge just acquired with what the patient may have to communicate.

The operator should take him by the thumbs, should remain buried in thought for a few minutes, should offer up a kind of mental prayer that nothing may distract his attention from what he is engaged upon, and that he may remain during the operation in perfect *rapport* with his patient.

When the rapport is well established, the fingers

should be allowed to remain on the epigastrium for some minutes, be then conveyed to the head, and be afterwards again drawn to the epigastrium. The passes should be then transversal, the fingers apart and half bent, the patient's body being always in a state of equilibrium, and the operator's will resolute and firm, with a strong desire that the electric fluid escape from the fingers' points, and which it does, in effect, whenever they are felt to have a pricking sensation. The operator should thus continue for a quarter of an hour ; but he may leave off sooner, in the event of his growing weak.

To awake the subject from a state of somnambulism, it is necessary, in order to refresh his whole system, to make long passes from head to foot, after which, transversal ones should be made before his face, and then his head and eyes, and lastly, his limbs should be lightly breathed upon. Care should be also taken to free him completely from the fluid he received, as he may else feel heavy and uncomfortable, and be disposed to sink again into the somnambulistic state.



## CHAPTER VI.

## STATES OF SOMNAMBULISM.

SOMNAMBULISM may be divided into several series or degrees.

1st. Somnolency, or coma, which is a kind of lethargy.

The patient feels, while thus affected, a kind of heaviness pressing on his eyelids, and a general numbness over his whole system. There are persons who never go beyond this state.

2nd. The sleep or dream, in which the patient beholds things which have no real existence; the reverie, during which the picture he sees at a distance is real.

3rd. Somnambulism, during which the patient is in a state of lucidity, and can behold things both far and near, and understand whatever questions are put to him.

4th. The ecstasy, during which the patient has real and positive visions. This is a state which, on account of its psychological phenomena, is extremely interesting as a study. The operator should never try to bring it on, as it is sometimes attended with danger, especially with young magnetisers.

There is still another state, which I may call the semi-ecstatic state, during which very interesting results are also obtained, the somnambulist returning, with much foresight and clearness, and without the least hesitation, appropriate answers to all the questions addressed to him.

In order to induce this semi-ecstatic state, and which is nearly imperceptible to the eye of the practitioner, it is necessary, when the subject has passed into somnambulism, not to discontinue magnetising him, but, on the contrary, to continue doing so, the manner being alone changed.

The brain, for instance, should be magnetised very gently for three or four seconds, and still, with equal gentleness, several long passes should be made from head to foot.

A patient will enter sometimes naturally into this state.

Thus it has happened to me several times, when I knew I had to give an important *seance*—one for which all my lucidity would be required—to sink suddenly into such a state, when I felt as completely alone as if I were shut out from the whole world, and seemed so lost in reverie and ecstatic quietude, as to be insensible to everything terrestrial, even to the loudest noise. Upon those occasions a single look from my magnetiser has always thrown me into a state of somnambulism, and my lucidity under such circumstances is ever perfect. It is this sentiment which has given me the courage to overcome those difficulties which persons of dishonest minds ever throw in the way of the science of life. But if by my efforts and fatigue I at length succeed in all I yet contemplate for the progress of magnetism, how

happy I shall feel for having so far benefitted suffering humanity !

We have also great enemies even amongst magnetisers. It is those men who doubt of nothing, who believe that everything is in their power, that nothing is impossible to them, that with their hands they can accomplish all.

We have still a second class of enemies ; I mean enthusiasts, those who admit everything without reserve, and who are capable of publishing what they admit.

A certain magnetiser, called celebrated on account of his great power, was at Lyons, where he gave public lectures : but his auditors, tired of always witnessing common-place experiments, requested this magnetiser to let them have a little of clairvoyance ; which he promised, but unfortunately without being ever able to produce a specimen of this phenomenon. After having made several fruitless attempts, he wrote to me, to know if I could come to his assistance, he then being in a very critical position. I was at the time in London, but I at

once set out for Lyons, and reached that town without delay. On the very day of my arrival, I gave, notwithstanding the fatigue I had undergone, an experimental seance to the journalists and to several of the highest authorities of the town, and which proved in every way satisfactory.

Some time after, we had that grand seance which had been announced so long before, and so often given without success, the magnetiser having entirely failed to realize what he had promised. But this time there was no failure, as I have never been more successful than I was then.

I came to England under somewhat similar circumstances. The event happened at Brighton. I recollect that upon this occasion the medical man who acted as the leader of the opponents of magnetism, angry at finding something succeed in spite of all the obstacles he had thrown in the way, said, concerning an experiment which consisted in discovering a piece of money which had been magnetised, from among several others, that the operator had, while pretending to magnetise the piece, rubbed

mercury to it. The magnetiser quietly replied to such an accusation, by stating that he was willing to begin the experiment over again, and to make it in whatever way the doctor might suggest. The challenge was accepted, and it was agreed that we should meet again that evening in the town hall, which, when the hour arrived, was crowded to excess.

After a long discourse, or rather a long discussion, I ascended the platform, upon which were also the doctor and the operator. This seance proved decisive, and upon it seemed then to depend the success of magnetism at Brighton. But the doctor was so violently opposed to us, that he was fain to make the operator and myself pass for impostors.

When I was thrown into the sleep, my magnetiser asked: "Adolphe, are you all right?" Upon my reply in the affirmative, he said, "Adolphe, you must succeed this evening." The doctor obliged the magnetiser to wash his hands, a ceremony which he went through himself. He afterwards handed to him a coin which I was to discover from among

several others which were shaken up with it in a hat, it having been previously magnetised by my magnetiser. The doctor also, as through derision, magnetised these pieces of money, doing just as he saw the magnetiser do. After a few minutes' delay, the doctor presented me the hat. It was not long before I discovered the identical piece that had been magnetised, and I handed it to the doctor, who was obliged to confess that I was right. Every one present was convinced and satisfied except this gentleman himself, who appeared as incredulous as ever.

#### NERVOUS PHENOMENA.

Every voluntary movement is produced by the contraction of the muscles, when the latter are under the influence of the nervous agent put in action by the will.

And the nervous phenomena do sometimes, from the extreme state to which they may reach, frighten the magnetiser, and in consequence of his fright, the crises may become stronger. It should be there-

fore ever borne in mind, that the operator should ever control his subject, and that he may ever avoid dangerous consequences by making him return to his primary state. But whatever may happen, he should be always firm and calm.

It is, however, only practice can give the power and tact of fearing nothing, and in being prepared for every result, whatever it may be.

When we consider how much prudence is necessary in the practice of somnambulism, why should not one be frightened at seeing it so often confided to thoughtless and ignorant persons, who, though they may own the best intentions, are capable, through their heedlessness and want of knowledge, of throwing a patient's system into an alarming state of perturbation?

Of nervous phenomena, some are produced for particular reasons ; as for favouring sleep, for bringing on certain crises, or for convincing such persons as require some proof of the truth of somnambulism.

Any of the effects so produced may be the paralysis of the eyelids, or of a limb ; or the attraction



of a limb, or of the entire person of the subject, and which is done by magnetising at a short distance from the patient, with the will to draw either one of his limbs or himself towards you. Or the effect may be the catalepsy of a limb, or the continuation of its attitude, or its being made insensible to physical pain.

These phenomena are produced by the magnetic fluid invading the nervous system and all the organs of the subject.

Insensibility is very easily produced ; for this it will be only necessary to direct the vital fluid with the strong will that the part magnetised become insensible. All persons who are in the least susceptible to the magnetic influence, can be thrown, by its means, into a state of insensibility. And there are even instances on record of persons being so affected while awake.

To convince persons of the reality of this nervous state, we used, during some of our seances in England, often to take the children of a school and submit them to it. We have not unfrequently cast

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such subjects as these into a state of insensibility almost at once. They were sometimes as many as twenty; some of them having their arms extended in a state of catalepsy, others their legs quite stiff.

I recollect that once a medical man, being desirous of convincing himself if one of these children was really in a state of catalepsy, gave his arm a violent blow of a stick, to see if it would flinch. But the limbs of this child were so delicate that it would require no great force to break them. The blow was nevertheless a violent one, and the result was, that the poor little fellow's arm was really broken while in a perfect state of catalepsy.

I have myself been sometimes cruelly treated while in a state of somnambulism, but it was always unknown to my magnetiser; for in order to have perfect faith in this science, it is not necessary to make one'sself a brute. It must, however, be confessed that there are magnetisers to be met with who are really hard hearted, and whose only pleasure seems to consist in torturing their subjects. The greatest amateur of such experiments is he who

magnetised me at Lyons, and he is well known to every one. This man, as if he considered his patients' heads as no better than pincushions, is in the habit of sticking pins into their foreheads. Then he amuses himself with also sticking pins under the nails of the fingers down into the quick, or with cutting off dogs' paws after having mesmerised them. This magnetiser has more than once disgusted his audience.

Insensibility should not be produced but when surgical operations are to be borne; and it is surely then safer and more natural than chloroform, which throws the patient into a state of intoxication.

#### SOMNAMBULISTIC FACULTIES.

*"If Art forsakes us, we have still Nature."*

MESMER.

"Of all the discoveries," says M. Deleuze, "which have, since the remotest times, excited public attention, that of somnambulism is certainly the best

adapted towards enlightening us respecting man's nature and attributes. The phenomena it lays before us demonstrate the distinction of two substances—the twofold existence of the inward man in a single individual, a direct proof of the spirituality of the soul, and a reply to all the objections which have been raised in denying its immortality. They are also evidence of that truth, so well known to the ancients, that man is an intelligence served by organs."

This advantage is invaluable, especially at an epoch when certain bold spirits have not trembled to make use of physiological researches for disturbing our faith in those innate virtues which are revealed to us by man's dignity, by his moral liberty, as well as by his supremacy in the order of creation.

#### USEFULNESS OF SOMNAMBULISM IN THE PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

Somnambulism teaches us also how to cure such illnesses as are curable, and to relieve such as are

not so, and to rectify the errors of medicine as well as those of metaphysics ; in short, it teaches us the origin of a number of opinions which had long preceded the experiments that confirmed their reality ; and it assigns to a multitude of facts their natural order—facts which the philosopher has disdained to examine, either because he was too ignorant to do so, or because he was aware that they served, in the dark ages of the world, the ends of superstition.

The discovery of somnambulism having, however, been renewed in our days, even without our being prepared to receive it, it must be admitted that the application to be made of it requires a meditative mind, much prudence, strict habits, religious feelings, a seriousness of character, and certain positive acquirements, not to mention several other good qualities.

But those persons who were never devotedly attached to the practice of magnetism, could not possibly fail being struck, sooner or later, by a phenomenon which would necessarily present itself spon-

taneously. It was equally impossible for them to escape being filled with enthusiasm at the sight of those wonders which accompany it, or that they could keep them locked up in their own breasts; it was still impossible that men unacquainted with magnetism would not try to produce similar wonders, were it only for the purpose of exercising their power and satisfying their curiosity.

The somnambulist can see through opaque bodies, and even at the greatest distances. He points out the remedies by which his fellow-creatures can be cured, or relieved of their sufferings. I have met with patients of such extreme delicacy of taste, as to be able to choose their remedies with extraordinary sagacity. Hippocrates has said: "In our dreams we can perceive those aliments which best suit our constitutions."

#### THE SYMPATHETIC FACULTY.

A somnambulist, on touching a patient, generally feels at the instant the pain of the latter in the cor-

responding part of his own body. This pain is only momentary; sometimes, however, it lasts until the somnambulist awakes.

A somnambulist can trace an illness from its beginning, and sometimes discover its cause at very remote periods.

#### THE MAGNETIC FACULTY.

It is a well-authenticated fact, that there are persons who can, by a peculiarly nervous sensitiveness, discover, on merely laying their hand on a patient, the seat of his illness. But among such persons there are different modes of probing; there are some somnambulists who touch every part of the body successively, while others, on the *rapport* between themselves and their patients being established, touch every part of their own body. The latter only take the patient by the hand, and incline lightly towards him, for the purpose of seeing into his body, while the former, on being put in communication, are immediately sympathetically affected in

the very parts where those who have come to consult them suffer.

It was generally in this way I formerly gave my medical consultations.



## CHAPTER VII.

## TREATMENT OF ILLNESSES BY MAGNETISM.

*"There is, I believe, no perfect medicine except that which somnambulists prescribe when consulted by themselves."*—GEORGET.

THE curative power of animal magnetism is most extraordinary, and which is proved by thousands of examples taken from cases that had been entirely despaired of.

Magnetism often requires the assistance of medicine. It cures when the latter is of no avail, though there are cases in which it fails as well as medicine.

such cases would, however, become very rare, were only the patient, previously to his being submitted to the magnetic treatment, to consult a somnambulist.

Since there is a great deal of uncertainty in the ordinary practice of medicine, though it has been for so many ages a regular science, and has, of late years, been very much improved upon ; why should we not admit there being also some uncertainty in the practice of magnetism, since it is yet a science only in its infancy ?

The great difficulty consists in knowing how to use it. When should it be employed alone or conjointly with other remedies ? How ought it to be used in chronic complaints, and how in those of an acute character ? These questions cannot be resolved with any degree of positiveness or certainty. But I am sure that enthusiasts prove themselves as well as the most ignorant, by their attempting to give a satisfactory solution of such questions, the most dangerous enemies of magnetism.

Magnetism will not hold the first rank among the

sciences, nor be reduced to a curative method to be applied with safety upon all occasions, until the medical world will have taken it seriously into their own hands.

But of the physicians who make use of magnetism, there certainly are some who are not exempt from mistakes in its application ; and there can surely be no graver mistake than to suppose that any one may, without any previous knowledge of this science, become a proper magnetiser. A man in sound health can, it is true, magnetise ; but the seat and the nature of the illness should be first pointed out to him by a somnambulist, from whom he should also take instructions as to the best mode of magnetising his patient. The responsibility devolving on the magnetiser may, otherwise, become very serious. Nor should a magnetiser ever attempt to treat an illness without first consulting the patient's medical adviser, and taking his advice upon the manner of directing the treatment.

The advice I give to every patient is this : never allow yourself to be magnetised by any one who is

not accustomed to this art. Think seriously of it. You should bear well in mind that health is not to be trifled with. Make sure that your magnetiser is in perfect health; that he is an upright man, and is thoroughly acquainted with magnetism. It is proper to magnetise in general without thinking of anything else than effecting a cure. Nature will know how to appropriate and apply to the best advantage the remedy which she thus receives. But if during the operation the magnetiser feels, through sympathy, such sensations as allow him to discover the seat of the illness, or if his hand be drawn in that direction, he should follow and obey with confidence every such impulse.

The main object of a treatment of this kind being to help nature, magnetism should never be employed but in useful and necessary cases.

Nor should a magnetiser ever try to act upon the imagination of a patient, or to produce extraordinary effects.

When a crisis is brought on, great coolness and firmness are necessary, nor should the patient be

left to himself for a moment until it be completely over.

A patient should not be magnetised more than twice in the same day, unless upon extraordinary occasions.

Nor should a treatment of this kind be ever undertaken unless the operator feels certain that it will be in his power to continue it.

The operator should not put forth his strength but gradually.

Several divisions should be made of the treatment.

First, magnetising in general, as already indicated.

Second, gentle magnetising, and which may be either general or local. It will always suit the patient when there is exaggeration in his organization ; and also if his illness be acute. It is effected by gentle and slow passes, and by allowing the hand to stop some time before the centre of the irritation, and by breathing cold upon its parts. During this magnetisation the will should be calm and moderate. It is not necessary to magnetise a great deal, but slowly and with firmness.

Third, exciting magnetisation. It will answer in

all nervous affections, in which the vitality of the system may be either diminished or displaced, and when it is judged necessary to produce nervous movements. It will answer also in all organic illnesses in which debility predominates. It is employed after the entire system has been well saturated by directing magnetic currents upon the principal nerves of the part which it is necessary to stimulate, or upon the epigastrium, or along the spine, or upon the brain, according as the magnetiser may want to produce an effect that will act upon the whole of the nervous system.

Fourth, tonical magnetisation. The whole body should be strongly magnetised. The passes should be general and rapid, the manner of distributing them be changed, and the organ which it is necessary to strengthen should be activated. This may be done by either laying the hand on it during some instants, or by warming it with the breath conveyed to it by means of a handkerchief. This magnetisation cannot but prove salutary in chronical and inveterate complaints.

Fifth, magnetisation at a distance.

According to all appearance, so extraordinary a faculty as this depends also on the magnetic fluid, which is transmitted by the will through all obstacles and space. The distance at which magnetisers can influence such subjects as are somnambulists, is without bounds. One of my magnetisers has frequently influenced me at the distance of several leagues. These experiments have been tried upon a great number of persons, and they all succeeded.

Magnetising at a distance can be done by the will, by the magnetic fluid.

In order to magnetise at a distance, the subject should be highly susceptible of the magnetic influence, and the operator have, in a superior degree, the power of concentrating his will. On having collected his ideas, he pictures to himself the person who is to be magnetised, and he acts mentally, and the better to concentrate his will, he makes his passes as if the subject stood before him.

Magnetism is an instrument of charity, and it should not for this reason be chosen as a profession

to make a fortune by ; and the more so, as he who professes it must depend for success in his operations more upon the humane and generous sentiments of his heart than on any other quality. A magnetiser cannot act effectively upon a patient unless he feels attracted towards him ; and the desire of doing good must be the determining motive of his will. It is this desire elevates his faculties, and inspires him with confidence. His thoughts must be wholly occupied with his patient, and to whom he must feel so devotedly attached as not upon any account to think of forsaking him so long as he requires his care.

In order to concentrate one's opinion upon the curative power of magnetism, reliance should be solely placed upon the information given of the patient's illness by a regular physician or a good somnambulist.

The magnetiser should, during the application of magnetism, be calm, firm, and endued with no small share of patience. Nor should he fail being attentive to the different sensations of his patient while his whole system is being submitted to his passes. These



sensations, which often indicate the seat of the illness, will serve as a motive for modifying, lessening, or increasing the action ; or still, for directing the fluid upon the part affected. Care should be also taken to magnetise the patient's drinks. But in all these proceedings the operator should be as simple as he possibly can be, and if it be in his power to consult a good somnambulist, never to neglect doing so.

#### DIFFERENT COMPLAINTS AND THE MANNER OF TREATING THEM.

The magnetiser should, previously to his undertaking the treatment of a case, inquire if the patient be determined to go on with it, by giving it a full and fair trial, as it were otherwise better not to begin it at all.

##### ASTHMA ; COMPLAINTS OF THE CHEST.

The magnetisation should be made in front, and the passes be from head to foot, accompanied by frictions on the seat of the illness, and which should

be drawn down to the lower extremities. The cures of complaints of the chest effected by magnetisers are absolutely countless. Should the magnetiser be deficient in medical knowledge, he should be provided by an able physician with the exact character of the complaint. The magnetic agent acts rapidly upon all kinds of nervous asthma. The magnetisation should, in all such cases, be three times a day, and be always applied to the seat of the illness. In the catarrhal asthma, the passes should be made from head to foot, accompanied by warm breathing upon the chest.

In addition to these means for curing and relieving asthmatic complaints, magnetised water should be ever regarded as a most powerful auxiliary. It were to be desired that this treatment was adopted in London, of which so many of the residents are afflicted with asthma. I have myself obtained a number of very happy results through its application to such complaints ; but of which I cannot, from the narrow limits of this treatise, cite in this place more than a single instance.

In 1852 I was at Bern, where I was consulted for a gentleman who had suffered from asthma for upwards of twenty years. Every medical treatment to which he had been submitted, proved wholly ineffectual. A member of his family, wishing to give magnetism a trial, came to consult me, having nothing to form a connection between us but a lock of his hair. On my having given a minute and exact description of the complaint, this person was so astonished at the result, that he strongly engaged his relation to submit to my treatment. During six weeks I magnetised him three times a day. A great improvement in his health and appearance was very soon perceptible. Being obliged to leave Bern, one of his daughters continued the treatment. Subjoined is an extract from a letter with which this gentleman favoured me some time after.

*“Chateau de Bourgestein, near Bern,*

June 26, 1855.

\* \* \* \*

I feel most grateful for your recollection

of me, though absent ; I hasten to reply to your obliging letter of the 21st inst. Thanks to you, my health continues to keep up, and I am beginning to gather a little flesh, and every one finds me looking much better. I can now always sleep. Ever since your magnetic treatment, there has been no appearance of that fever nor of those fits of coughing with which I had been annoyed for twenty-five years, and over which no medicine had the least control.

Deign, Sir, to accept the acknowledgment of my most profound gratitude.

F. de G. M."

#### ALIENATION OF MIND.

This dreadful complaint may be cured by magnetism ; but it is very necessary to know how to conduct such a treatment, as it is also to be possessed of a large stock of patience. It is generally very long, tiresome, and sometimes discouraging. The faculty

have tried, but in vain, to give an exact definition of this illness. They distinguish four kinds of mental alienation, viz. mania, delirium, frenzy, and idiotism. The variety of the phenomena of human intelligence, and of man's moral disposition, is so vast, that the magnetiser must upon this occasion act as a close observer, and know well how to penetrate and appreciate various individual situations. But first of all he should consult a lucid somnambulist, not only for obtaining an exact knowledge of the character of the disease, but also for knowing the particular manner of treating it.

A somnambulist can be always safely consulted through the medium of a lock of hair. I have had occasion more than once to observe that the results obtained by the application of magnetism in mental affections were not so favourable as they might have been, had the patient been only possessed of a little more patience.

In 1845 I was consulted for a disordered state of the mind, which I call frenzy. Having arrived at the chateau of the patient, I found it at first no easy

matter to approach him, so very great was his excitement. I was therefore obliged to have recourse to auxiliary magnetisations, and accordingly gave him for drink some magnetised water several times a day. We could soon perceive that he was gradually becoming calmer. At length he allowed me to approach him ; and in a few days more I succeeded in inducing him to sit down before me. The more the treatment continued, the more docile he became, and I could the more easily control him. At the end of a few months, it was in every one's power to appreciate the happy change he had undergone. He could no longer do without magnetism. He who so shortly before could recognise no one, not even his own mother, would now come and bid me good morning, and, at the close of each magnetisation, shake hands with me. In short, it was now easy to perceive that his reason was daily returning, and when I left him he appeared in excellent health.

I have been lately consulted in London for a little girl who was recommended to me by Dr. Ashburn. She was a very interesting child, and I felt an ardent

desire to cure her ; and, on examining the character and extent of the mental affection with which she was afflicted, I was at once convinced that a positive and complete cure might be easily effected. She could not, however, so deplorable was her state, recognise her mother or any one else. But at the first seance she was influenced by the magnetic fluid and slept for an hour ; she felt greatly attached to me ; and the more I proceeded with the case, the more sanguine were my hopes of obtaining a successful result. But, strange to say, this child's father, who had never been present at any of these seances, decided all at once upon putting a stop to them. But if he had been like his wife, if he had attended to the treatment, and remarked the improvement which had been effected during its progress, he would not certainly break it off as he did, but do all that in him lay to have it continued. This child had been attended for the space of fifteen months by one of the leading physicians of London, without having derived the least benefit from his care ; whilst we had, at the end of only a few weeks, procured for her a most

salutary sleep, which would, in all probability, have effected, with time, a radical cure. But this would not be enough ; some people, in coming to us, seem to expect miracles.

One of my friends, who resides at Calais, has lately cured his wife of frenzy.

Doctor Koreff says : " I have seen the transition from frenzy to reason take place quite suddenly ; whilst in other cases it is very slow, and appears to superficial observers attributable to a moral influence."

ANCHYLOSIS, or privation of movement in the limbs. Magnetise in front, and breathe warm upon the joints affected. The loins should be also submitted to powerful friction. The injured part should be in a position free from all disturbance.

SUPPRESSION OF THE MENSES. This complaint is cured in a very short time, often at a single seance. The magnetisation should be local, at a short distance from the patient, and the passes be quick and prolonged.

ANEURISM, or disease of the heart. There are two



principal divisions of aneurisms, the one consisting of expansion, without rupture of the vessel, whilst the other is attended with the rupture of several of the arterial tunics. Diseases of the heart are mostly all mortal; very fortunately, they are not numerous; they are generally manifested by quick palpitations. Considering the uncertainty attending the use of medicine, we are of opinion that magnetism should be tried, and that there is great chance of its succeeding. One hand should be laid on the seat of the illness, and the other placed in the opposite direction. Both hands should be then drawn down to the thighs, accompanied with the firm resolve of attracting the blood to those parts; that is, when we have reason to suppose that the disease is caused by the blood. When the case is a mere contraction of the vessels, simple imposition of the hands, or breathing warm upon the part, after the manner already prescribed, will be sufficient to allay all excitement of the heart. Fatigue should, as well as violent and sudden movements and emotions, be carefully avoided. The blood is not to be

strengthened and enriched by such substances as are too nourishing. Nor should too warm food be taken. The upper part of the body should, when in bed, be always in an elevated position. And though the operator should occasionally endeavour to excite the patient's merriment, he must not, however, neglect to induce sleep if he can.

**APOPLEXY.** Magnetise in front; direct the fluid to the pit of the stomach, then to the abdomen, with friction on the breast. The action of the operator should be quick and energetic.

**ASCARIDES**, or worms in the intestines. It is to internal worms, of which it would be here useless to enumerate the different kinds, we may ascribe at least three-fourths of these complaints, not traceable to any known cause, with which our poor humanity is afflicted. These illnesses may be incurable, whether because they are attacked too late, or that when they are attacked, the worm has already done all the mischief it could do by perforating the intestines. The patient may, therefore, sink from the disorganized state of his body, the perforation of his entrails,

causing asphyxy, or strangulation. Such failures are far beyond the reach of human foresight. In these cases, magnetise in front, from head to foot; apply frictions to the abdomen, and give magnetised water for drink.

CATABH. The magnetisation should be directed to the breast. We have seen cases of this illness which have been cured in a very short time.

COLIC. When in this disease the pains are acute, the magnetisation should be from head to foot, with warm breathing on the abdomen.

When the colic is *bilious*, the magnetisation should be in front, but only for a few instants. When it proceeds from the stomach, it is mostly the result of some abuse or other, such as the taking of poisonous substances, or emetics; or it may be caused by the suppression of the menses, or proceed from dysentery or intestinal worms. It is sometimes a precursor of that complaint which is now called the *gastrite*. We recommend magnetism, gently administered; the seances should be sometimes repeated in the same day.

**NERVOUS COLIC.** It sometimes happens that this complaint proceeds from emotions more or less violent. It may be subdued by a general application of magnetism several times repeated, supported by mucilaginous drinks and emollient injections.

In all bowel complaints, it is evident that magnetism acts as a most powerful remedy. At one of the late meetings of the London Mesmeric Infirmary, presided over by Dr. Elliotson, I heard one of the audience declare that he had allayed almost instantaneously several very severe attacks of colic by the application of magnetism. But there are many magnetisers whom I believe capable of effecting wonders in this way, especially Mr. Capern.\*

**CONVULSIONS,** or violent and involuntary contraction of several muscles. Gentle magnetisation, several times repeated, accompanied with longitudinal friction. Sleep should also, if possible, be induced. The operator should use a magnetic con-

\* For numerous extraordinary but well-attested cures effected by his application of magnetism, see his work, entitled "Curative Powers of Mesmerism," published by Ballière.

ductor, administer magnetised water for drink, and allow the hands to remain some time upon the stomach.

As it is not my intention to give here a dictionary of magnetic medicine, I must omit a great deal of what I might say concerning CONVULSIONS, and the success I have frequently obtained by treating them after the manner just described. Suffice it to say, that I have been consulted for such complaints by patients residing in the principal towns of Italy, Switzerland, France, and England ; and though the medium of communication was, in nearly all these cases, only a lock of hair, I have, through this means, been ever enabled to give a minute and exact description of the complaint, and indicate the particular treatment best adapted for effecting its cure.

HOOPING-COUGH, or convulsive cough, threatening suffocation. The chest and epigastrium should be magnetised.

As an auxiliary, let the patient drink magnetised water, and take some mild opening medicine. The magnetisation should be applied as often as possible during the coughing fit.

**APOPLECTIC FIT.** The magnetisation should be in front, be powerfully directed upon the epigastrium, and often repeated. The seances should be also long, and daily.

**TOOTHACHE.** This complaint can be very easily cured through magnetism ; and of this fact any one may convince himself by treating it as follows, and which requires no great talent : Allow the hands to repose a short time on the cheeks, magnetise the articulations of the jaw, then the ears, and then the part affected. Use magnetised water as a gargle, and at night keep a magnetised handkerchief to the jaws.

**FAINTING-FIT, OR SWOON,** consists in an entire cessation, and which is mostly very sudden, of every sense of motion, of the circulation of the blood, and the power of breathing. It is mostly preceded by a tingling in the ears, a dimness and an obscurity of the vital powers.

Whatever may be the cause of a fainting-fit, or swoon, it may be subdued by magnetisation from head to foot ; then the operator should demagnetise, which consists in drawing off the accumulated fluid ;

and this is done by making passes which conduct to the extremities of the parts to be demagnetised, or in using the fingers for the same purpose. The seances should be short, but often repeated.

But we frequently cure this complaint by simply magnetising. I have seen this done at a single sitting. I should, therefore, advise all persons so afflicted to have themselves magnetised, and even by a friend or member of their own family, when they cannot obtain the services of a regular magnetiser.

DIPLOPIA, or defect in the sight, by which objects appear double. This complaint may be traced to several causes, such as nervousness, hypochondria, violent sorrow, and use of narcotics. The magnetisation applied for its cure should be quick, and directed full on the epigastrium. Then transversal passes should be made before the face, and they should be slow and general. After this, allow the hand to remain some time before the centre of irritation, and breathe warm on the temples.

During this magnetisation the will should be calm and moderate; nor is it so necessary to give much

fluid, as it is to distribute it slowly and energetically.

DIARRHŒA, same treatment as for colic, which see.

COSTIVENESS, or accumulation of matter in the stomach, which embarrasses the functions of this organ. The patient suffers from a sense of fulness, of heaviness, and hinderance in the stomach; also from pains in the hypochondriac region.

The magnetisation should in this case be in front; the hands be laid upon the part affected, and light friction be applied to the abdomen, and epigastrium. The seance should last for half-an-hour, and be twice a day.

As an auxiliary to this treatment, magnetised water should be used.

INTESTINAL OBSTACLES, same cause as costiveness. Accumulation of bile, or the presence of fruit or of worms in the intestinal tube, will occasion it. Its symptoms are tension of the abdomen, slight attacks of colic, constipation, sometimes diarrhœa, pain, and sense of weariness in the legs, thighs, and knees.



Magnetism to be applied as in costiveness, the seances to be repeated several times a day. A few of them will suffice to afford great relief.

OBSTRUCTION OF THE LIVER.\* This complaint is characterized by loss of appetite, an habitual swelling at the pit of the stomach, a yellowish complexion, slow digestion, and constant thirst. The magnetic passes should be quick, and from head to foot, accompanied by occasional application of the palms of the hands upon the liver.

In all pulmonary diseases, there is an obstruction of the lungs; that is to say, an infiltration of the blood of the cellular tissue. The pulmonary chronic catarrh is nothing else than an obstruction of the blood vessels of the mucous membrane of the bronchial vessels. There are many other diseases attributable to an obstruction of the tissues, but

\* I give here several articles upon abdominal complaints, of which I have had the happiness to cure a great many by the application of magnetism. These I shall not fail to cite in my work to be entitled "Cures of Chronic Illnesses by Magnetism;" which work will also contain an account of the manner of treating such illnesses.

which need not be noticed here. Of ten intestinal complaints, at least the half may be ascribed to a disease of the liver. But, unfortunately, a disordered state of this organ is not supposed to be dangerous, and consequently it is not attended to. Hence those illnesses from which so many die by slow degrees ; whilst so little were necessary to prevent such evils. For this, no more is required than prudence, and prompt attention to all such complaints while they are yet in their infancy.

**EPILEPSY**, or falling sickness. This complaint is characterised by attacks more or less near each other; they are commonly sudden and violent, and accompanied by convulsions. The causes are many. The magnetisation should be in front, the passes being made slowly and carefully ; and the operator should, without fatiguing the patient, endeavour to induce sleep. Great caution is necessary in this treatment. Passes should be also made with the palm of the hands from head to foot, and also along the spine.

The cure of this cruel disease is, in many cases very uncertain ; but when the complaint is acci-

dental and attributable to an external cause, there is every reason to expect a favourable result; and we shall have occasion to mention several of this class, in our account of the cure of chronical diseases.

Should the patient be magnetised during the fit, the arms, legs, and trunk of his body should be loaded as much as possible with the magnetic fluid.

ERYSIPELAS, see CUTANEOUS PHLEGMASIA.

SQUINANCY, or quinsey. Magnetisation in front; place the hands on the larynx, the fingers on the neck; magnetise during some minutes.

STOMACH. I. (*Complaints of*). Magnetisation in front; imposition of the hands upon the part affected, by continuing the passes.

When the digestion is slow, magnetism expands the orifice of this organ, and facilitates the passing of the food. Endeavour to bring back heat to the stomach, by breathing warm on the seat of the illness. The use of magnetised water proves very effective.

II. *Acute Inflammation*. Magnetise energetically; let the seances be regular.

III. *Chronical Inflammation.* Magnetise from head to foot, the 'passes being at a considerable distance, and then have recourse to longitudinal friction. If the patient can bear the imposition of the hand, it should be allowed to remain on the part affected during some minutes. Use breathing and friction, for the purpose of drawing down the pain to the extremities. As auxiliaries, use magnetised water, and magnetic bands applied to the seat of the illness.

In those complaints we have obtained many favourable results by prescribing mild and frequent magnetisation, allowing the palm of the hand to rest on the stomach, then drawing it down below the abdomen, then keeping it at the distance of about three inches. This treatment opens the bowels, and obtains for the patient a perfect state of quietude and relief. We adopt the same means for subduing violent pains, and allaying a too great irritation of the fibres. This treatment gives also very favourable results when applied to complaints of the chest.

DIZZINESS or GIDDINESS, or a disturbance of the

senses, especially of the sight and hearing. The objects beheld by the patient seem to turn round and blend confusedly with one another. He is also subject to a tingling in his ears.

The treatment should be general magnetisation, transversal passes on the forehead, the fluid to be drawn off by placing the thumbs on the middle of the forehead and drawing them gently towards the temples; then breathe cold on the top of the head. This treatment is ever followed by immediate relief.

**FEVER.** All kinds of fever may be cured by magnetism, and of this fact we have ourselves obtained numerous proofs. But in order to direct the magnetic treatment of such an illness, it is requisite to be well acquainted not only with magnetism, but to be also provided with some share of medical knowledge. But whatever the nature of the fever may be, whether it be a slow, malignant, intermitting, putrid, or nervous fever, it can be cured by magnetism—but then this means must be assisted by remedies. The magnetisation should be administered gently, the seance not being long, but often

repeated. Begin by making the passes along the arms, even to the fingers' ends. These passes should be repeated some three or four times. After this, point the fingers for some moments before the epigastrium, then make some passes from head to foot. Do not omit to magnetise during the fit. It not unfrequently happens that the shivering is completely subdued at the first seance. The magnetisation should, however, be continued during convalescence. The patient should drink much magnetised water, and inhabit a well-ventilated room, the air being renewed as often as possible.

To these means should be added the use of mustard poultices, emollient fomentations, injections of the same nature, and tepid baths.

FLATULENCY or accumulation of wind in the alimentary canal. Direct the magnetic fluid to the abdomen, draw it afterwards down to the extremities; then demagnetise, that is, draw off the fluid.

In this illness magnetism has, when properly applied, a most powerful effect.

There are few persons who have not experienced

the disturbance occasioned by this complaint in our system. But though every one may observe this kind of uneasiness, and judge of its power, only a few of the learned have studied the pernicious and disorganizing influence of flatulency. The emission of wind may prove either salutary or fatal; that is to say, it may be attended by health or death.

Every living creature breathes air. This air, which is introduced in larger quantity into our system by the mouth and other parts of the body, escapes by the same openings.

LIVER (Disease of). Of bowel complaints, at least the one half may be safely ascribed to a disordered state of the liver. Little attention is paid to any disturbance in this organ, from the prevailing belief that such a circumstance is never attended by dangerous consequences. There is many a complaint, however, of which the medical man knows not the origin, though its real cause lies concealed in the liver. Do not the intestines, for instance, contain that which may be regarded as the executioner of our whole existence, namely, bile? When it is too rare or too

abundant, too weak or too strong, hot or burning, is it not the nitric acid of our blood ? Why should not the liver be the first victim of the bad state of this bile, which is as productive of death as it is of life ?

The treatment should be as follows : apply the hands both before and behind the part affected. Magnetise twice a day ; give magnetised water for drink, and the decoction of centaury as a composing draught. It is also necessary to abstain from coffee, liquors, and generous wines.

GLANDS. Magnetisation from head to foot, warm breathing, long-continued friction ; magnetise during sleep ; magnetised water to be used both as drink and lotion.

INFLAMMATION OF THE STOMACH, same treatment as inflammation of the abdomen.

The following testimonial from a respectable member of the faculty, whom I had the happiness to cure of an inflammation of the stomach of very long standing, and which is in French named *gastrite chronique*, will suffice to prove the salutary



effect of magnetism as a sovereign remedy for this complaint.

“I had been a sufferer for many years. Not knowing what treatment to follow, I determined upon consulting a magnetiser. I therefore saw M. A. Didier, and satisfied with his consultation, I followed his advice, and I can declare that he has completely cured me of a chronical inflammation of the stomach, and also of hæmorrhoids.

“Paris.”

**SORE THROAT.** Magnetise with the fingers closed and with steel conductors. Friction gentle but often. Magnetised water to be used as a gargle.

**THE GOUT.** This illness is characterised by a specific inflammation of the small joints of the feet, hands, and knees, returning by fits at irregular intervals.

Magnetism can, however, easily cure this cruel illness. It should be treated by longitudinal friction, by breathing warm upon the centre of the pain and

upon the joints. A great many cures of the gout have been effected by this manner of treating it.

"I have seen," says M. Deleuze, "a patient so afflicted with a fit of the gout, that he could not lay his foot on the ground; yet he was relieved at the first seance, and so well cured at the third as to have no relapse of the pains from which he had suffered for eighteen months previously."

**THE GRAVEL**, that is, very hard small calculous concretions formed in the kidneys, and which pass with the urine. The symptoms are pain and heat in the kidneys, and in the passage of the urethra, emission of the urine being difficult and sometimes even impossible.

The magnetisation should be gentle, the palm of the hand be laid on the lower part of the abdomen; the seances should be frequent. The diet drink should be a decoction of couchgrass.

**HÆMORRHAGE.** Magnetise in front, whatever kind the hæmorrhage may be. Intermediate magnetisation should be applied to the centre of the part affected; magnetised water be used as drink, and also as lotion

and for compresses. A handkerchief steeped in magnetised water, and placed on the forehead and under the nose, has also a good effect.

**HYDROCEPHALUS**, or water on the brain. Magnetisation in front twice a day, morning and evening. Endeavour to induce sleep; the seances should be long. Give magnetised water for drink, and apply compresses of the same to the head.

This affection is peculiar to children. Its symptoms are an excessive increase, either partially or generally, of the bulk of the head, and transparency especially at the fontanelles. Then there is dullness, and a want of sensation and hearing, besides there being convulsions and sometimes idiotism. Death often occurs suddenly, occasioned by the rupture of the membranes; at other times it comes slowly, and is preceded by successive states of exhaustion.

Though this affection is said to be incurable, we have lately, by attending to the above treatment, made several remarkable cures of it.

**DROPSY**. It is a morbid accumulation of a more

or less large quantity of serosity, whether in a cavity, a gut, or tissue.

The causes of dropsies are numerous. They proceed either from a sanguine and athletic temperament, a robust constitution, violent and prolonged exercise, sudden change of weather, the action of cold air, external irritation, too wide a deviation from one's usual regimen, or they may be the result of a too quick and sudden moral affection.

Treatment: magnetism carefully applied; the seance to last half an hour, and be twice a-day.

To which may be added a few remedies wisely combined, and adopted with prudence to the cause and circumstances of the case.

**HYPOCHONDRIA**, melancholy or spleen. Great sorrow or affliction will sometimes tend to the sudden development of this complaint. However, it generally comes on slowly. The patient's character undergoes a complete change. He becomes sorrowful, fearful, irresolute, uneasy, capricious, deficient; his ideas are sad; everything he sees wears a gloomy aspect; he is a prey to sudden terrors; and when he

gets rid of this state of apathy he not unusually gives himself up without cause to the most unbounded joy, or to another state of profound sadness. His judgment is just for what does not concern him, but is erroneous for what does. His sleep is uneasy and oppressed; he experiences varied sensations, powerful and transitory, such as palpitations, contraction of the nerves, alternatives of excessive heat and cold; cramps, trembling, and starting; the least cause occasions palpitations and faintings; he describes his sufferings in exaggerated terms; there is expansion and swelling of the stomach and intestinal canals, accompanied by irregular pulsations in some parts of the abdomen; he suffers alternately from voraciousness and a want of appetite; owns an aversion for certain kinds of food; has over-slow digestions; is subject to nausea, to eructation, flatulency, colic, constipation or diarrhoea; his breathing is often oppressed, and he suffers from spasms in his chest.

Hypochondria is of long duration; its progress is continuous or intermittent. Men are more subject

to it than women ; but the persons most afflicted by it are those who suffer most from great susceptibility, in whom bilious and melancholy dispositions are hereditary, or who pass too suddenly from an active to a sedentary life ; it is also occasioned by fright, sorrow, dulness, crosses, excessive mental labours, the abuse of narcotics, an habitual state of bad health, or organic abdominal complaints.

The magnetic treatment of hypochondria should be : Magnetisation from head to foot, much longitudinal friction, magnetise the brain, then draw off to the extremities, the fluid being directed according to the cause. The operator should endeavour to win over to him the patient's confidence. If the hypochondria proceeds from an affection of the abdomen, this affection should be sought out and subdued ; never have recourse to medicaments ; magnetism should be assisted only by salutary means ; do all in your power to gain the patient's confidence, and never let him entertain a doubt that his cure will be effected.

**HYSTERIC.** This is a nervous affection ; its attacks,

which are at irregular intervals, are attended by convulsions more or less violent, during which the patient suffers from suffocation, and is almost insensible. Women, from the age of puberty to the critical period of their lives, are most subject to it, especially those of a nervous disposition, or of an enervated or delicate constitution. Its attack comes on, for the most part, unexpectedly; is sometimes preceded by a state of general uneasiness, of weeping, of immoderate laughter, of slight shivering, of alternate redness and fulness of the face; of different kinds of pains; of a feeling of fulness in the throat; or a ball seems to pass from the uterus, to roll about in the abdomen, and ascend to the breast; there is, in short, continual agitation or uneasiness throughout the whole system.

When the attack is announced by precursory symptoms, it may be prevented by magnetic friction powerfully applied, or by magnetised water thrown upon the face. Magnetism should be directed to the particular point from which the illness seems to proceed, and it should be gentle, but often repeated.

Recourse should be also had to magnetic conductors, and to magnetised water.

INSOMNIA, or inability to sleep, without illness or any apparent cause. It can become very painful, and it generally ends by disturbing the whole system.

A few seances suffice to effect a complete cure of this complaint. Magnetise the head, let the passes be gentle and slow, and distribute an equal quantity of fluid over the whole body. The evening is in this case the best time for being magnetised.

LUMBAGO, or pain in the loins. Magnetism acts as a sovereign cure for this complaint. The magnetisation should be repeated and applied to the loins.

ILLNESSES PECULIAR TO WOMEN. I. *The menses.* Its treatment should be friction, magnetisation, at a distance, upon the groins, the uterus, and the knees; then apply passes from the epigastrium to the extremities, and occasionally from head to foot.

II. *The green-sickness.* Magnetise from head to foot, and apply friction to the members.

III. *Obstruction of the uterus.* Magnetise at a distance, in order to put the patient in a state of



equilibrium. Magnetise the seat of the illness, and during sleep ; give magnetised water for drink, and let the seances be repeated and regular.

IV. *Leucorrhœa*, or fluor albus. Magnetise from head to foot, apply friction to the members, and give magnetised water for drink.

V. *Swelled glands*. Magnetise the seat of the illness, make use of steel conductors, apply friction, drawing it forcibly towards the extremities. The seances should be for half an hour, and the drink be magnetised water.

Pains, obstructions, sluggishness of the stomach, the liver and the spleen, require for their cure perseverance and time.

The magnetic agent is the best agent for swelled glands, ulcers, and tumours. As for obstructions, they are easily enough cured.

*MANIA* (Idiotism) is an obliteration, more or less complete, of human intelligence and the affections of the soul. It is mostly attended by an imperfect conformation of the brain, a disturbed state of the understanding, and a blind impulse to achieve impos-

sibilities. Its causes are a nervous temperament, a delicate constitution, excessive mental labour, quick feelings, an exalted ambition, ecstatic devotion, and the habit of abandoning one's self to intemperance, and all the follies and excesses of youth.

In treating this illness, moral and physical means should be employed conjointly; the patient should have his attention drawn off from his extravagant pursuits by some kind of labour or other. I strongly recommend his not being allowed to see his parents. I have already spoken of the favourable results I have obtained in such cases. When the patient has been wholly given up to my care, the advantages obtained have been always incalculable.

Magnetism should, in this case, be applied with great care. The seances should at first be short, and their length be gradually increased as they are continued. The operator should, if possible, gain the patient's confidence. During the magnetisation his will should be gentle, but firm; he should throw no power into his arms, which are the immediate conductors of the magnetic fluid, but allow them to fall

loose and pliant. If after some time the magnetism should produce no visible effect, it would be useless to continue it. In this case, a good somnambulist or physician, who practises magnetism, should be consulted, in order to discover the exact progress of the treatment. The magnetisation should be in front, the passes be longitudinal, and magnetic conductors be used during sleep, which should, if possible, be induced, and the patient allowed to remain in it for an hour. To this treatment should be added magnetised water for drink, conjointly with cold magnetised baths.

**MIGRAINE.** Magnetise from head to foot; lay your hands upon the head, forehead, and temples. The fingers should be somewhat apart, and act as conductors; then make passes along the part affected, and breathe cold upon the forehead, to which bandages, steeped in magnetised water, should be applied.

The migraine is an intermitting pain, occupying half the head, and is principally on the forehead, at the superciliary arch. This pain is generally very

violent; it occasions fever, a burning heat of the skin, vomiting, complete dejection, and so great irritability of the brain and feelings, that the patient cannot bear the least noise. It commonly lasts for twenty-four hours. Women are much more addicted to this illness than men. It can be mostly always traced to something wrong in the digestive organs. It is why those megrims, which emanate from the stomach, are at once removed when the hand is laid on that organ. But those which are allied to a nervous influence of the organs of generation, or to some organical natural change, are not so easily subdued, and it is then necessary to submit the patient to a regular treatment.

All nervous complaints are what I call magnetic sponges. Magnetism acts upon them with astonishing celerity. I have seen the most distressing headaches cured at a single sitting.

It commonly happens that a patient, who was so oppressed and dejected as to be scarcely able to breathe, recovers after half an hour's magnetisation; feels possessed of new strength, and such an im-

proved state as surprises him. When magnetism acts well, the pulse scarcely ever fails becoming regular.

Magnetism calms a fever, stops delirium, and gives strength to the whole system, while subduing the excited state of the nerves.

It is in these kinds of illnesses that magnetism may be well said to work miracles, and that its cures appear, from their being so rapid, to belong to the miraculous.

I have received the subjoined from a lady who had long suffered from megrim :—

“If there are persons so humane as to take a pleasure in relieving those who suffer, so ought there to be others not less capable of appreciating the benefit thus received. It is this sentiment, sir, which to-day urges me to obey the impulse of my heart by testifying to you all my gratitude. Thanks to your advice, zeal, and magnetisations ; you have succeeded in putting an end to my sufferings.

“A ———.

“PARIS.”

**DUMBNESS.** Make use of friction, and begin by directing the fluid into the ears, the ends of the fingers being held close together.

Make long passes over all parts of the head; collect the fluid, as it were, to a point, and then draw it down along the body. Direct the fluid in abundance along the larynx, then on the sides of the throat, and apply friction to the neck.

Use magnetised water both for lotion and drink, and do not omit having recourse to magnetic conductors.

**NEURALGY**, a nervous pain, which follows the passage of one of its numerous ramifications. This pain, which commonly affects a single nerve, may also affect simultaneously several others, ever passing from one to the other. This complaint often lasts a long time. Medicine, however it may be applied, appears to have little or no control over it.

The magnetic agent, the fluid of life, is certainly the only remedy by which neuralgy can be completely subdued.

Apply the magnetisation in front, the passes being from head to foot. Breathe cold upon the forehead,

and upon the head in general. Direct the fluid abundantly into all the joints. The seances should be often repeated.

ONANISM. Magnetise energetically from head to foot all the muscles. Magnetised water for drink, and magnetised cold baths every morning.

OPHTHALMY. Diseases of the eye are so numerous that the faculty have found it necessary to study them exclusively. Judging from the results obtained by those physicians who treat only the eye, it would seem that magnetism is the best and safest remedy for the cure of this organ.

The optic nerve should be magnetised. The operator should place his hand on the temples, following the direction of the optic nerve ; slight passes should be made on the eyes ; and the patient be submitted to the examination of a somnambulist, in order to discover the cause of his complaint, and the best manner of treating it.

We have seen cases of ophthalmia cured in a few days by magnetism, for which oculists considered a complicated treatment absolutely necessary.

In cases of inflammation the magnetiser should endeavour to calm and subdue the irritation.

The eyes should be washed with magnetized water, which produces almost always a peculiar sensation. Cataract, or specks on the eye, have been often removed by magnetism. For obtaining such a result as this, the magnetism should be administered very gently, the fingers being kept together. Slight passes should be also made by holding the finger before the eye. Small quantities of fluid should be also thrown into the eye from a certain distance.

**NERVOUS PALPITATIONS.** These pulsations are more or less violent, and more acute than in the natural state. They are allied to nervous dispositions, ardent desires—in short, to all causes that weaken the constitution. Palpitations are often the symptoms of an organic disease of the heart.

**Treatment :** magnetisation in front. Lay the hand upon the region of the heart, then draw it down slowly to the extremities. Then general magnetisation gently administered.

**PARALYSIS.** The causes of paralysis are nume-



rous. It is often a symptom of a cerebral affection, or of the spinal marrow, or of the nerves, or muscles.

Treatment: magnetisation direct. Magnetise the loins, and conduct the magnetic action along the thighs to the end of the feet. Both the magnetiser and the patient must be possessed of patience. I have seen in London several paralytics; some of them were cured, some only relieved, while others derived no benefit from the treatment. Magnetism is less effective in cases of paralysis which are attributable to a derangement of some portion of the brain.

We have seen in London few cures of this disease effected more simply than by magnetism.

PHLEGMASIA. Magnetism can cure all kinds of cutaneous phlegmasia; but the patient should be first submitted to the examination of a somnambulist, in order to discover the exact nature of the disease, as well as the proper manner of treating it.

CONSUMPTION. Treatment: Magnetisation from head to foot. Application of the hand to the chest,

accompanied with warm breathing ; the same along the spine. Magnetise also during sleep. The seances should be repeated several times a day.

The subjoined letter affords sufficient evidence that magnetism acts powerfully as a curative agent in cases of consumption.

“DEAR MONSIEUR DIDIER,

I have delayed some time without writing to you, in order to convince myself of my having been radically cured. It is with the greatest pleasure I can now inform you that I am perfectly well ; and that, thanks to you, this illness, from which I scarcely expected to recover, has left me ; and I can now affirm that magnetism was the powerful agent, &c.

“*London.*”

**RICKETS.** An affection peculiar to the bones, which on this occasion lose their consistency, and become soft and brittle. This disease is brought on by inhabiting cold and damp places ; or it is hereditary, children born of rickety, scorbutic, venereal,

scrofulous, gouty, or deformed parents, being mostly subject to it. It may also proceed from uncleanness, bad food, too narrow clothing, or want of exercise; not to mention certain improper habits to which some children are addicted.

Symptoms: head large, a general thinness and debility of body; precocious mental development; the joints unnaturally big; the longer bones bend, and are of unequal length; there is a deviation in the spine, sometimes several; the stomach is swollen; the skin is white, floppy, and soft; and to which may be added, a difficulty of breathing, and a want of freedom in the action of the heart.

The treatment should be: magnetisation direct; friction along the spine, and magnetised lotion.

The magnetisation should be three times a day. Of this treatment, good food may be regarded as a powerful auxiliary.

SOFTENING OF THE BRAIN. This is a complaint of which the real nature is as yet but little known. It may proceed from the head being exposed to the sun, or to intense cold, or from its receiving a hurt

by blows, or a fall. Or it may arise from too close application of the mind, or from sitting up late, or from violent passions, or from grief.

Sometimes the head is afflicted for days, or even months, with a pain so settled and obstinate as nothing can remove or allay. Or the patient suffers from dizziness, has a tottering gait; his mental faculties become dull, his memory weak; is destitute of imagination; his ideas are confused; his answers just, but slow; he is morose and silent, and sometimes indifferent to what passes in his presence; is addicted to sleep, to a pricking or itching sensation; to a total numbness; to an extreme agitation, or to feverish movements; or to mental derangement, or to a disturbed or impaired state of sight; or to a tingling in his ears. Sometimes he cannot bear the least noise, but the faculty of hearing is often considerably diminished. Then his digestion is most always slow, his mouth clammy, his tongue white, and he is subject to nausea, to bilious vomitings, to diarrhoea, and constipation; while his abdomen suffers from the least pressure.

Treatment : magnetism direct, after the rapport is well established, which is effected by the operator taking the patient's thumbs, and holding them against his own, after the manner already indicated, until the warmth becomes equal. After this, the brain should be powerfully magnetised, transversal passes be made down the face, and the fluid be directed along the arms and legs to their extremities. During this treatment the patient should, upon all occasions, be kept in a perfect state of equilibrium, and be always freed from the fluid received previously to the operation being repeated, which is also very necessary. Cold breathing should be also directed to the forehead, and the sauces be repeated and regular.

In this case magnetism will prove, when well applied, the most effective of all remedies ; and nothing should be used conjointly with it, except what a strict regard for health may suggest.

RHEUMATISM. Magnetism direct, and upon the part affected. Friction should be also used.

SOMNAMBULISM. Magnetise during sleep, and

endeavour to produce artificial somnambulism. The magnetisation should be general.

Natural somnambulism being the cause of a lively imagination, of great sensitiveness, and sometimes of an unusual tendency to go into the magnetic sleep, it is not difficult to conceive that magnetism may cure this complaint, over which medicine has little or no control.

Persons have often expressed their astonishment at finding in the same family two brothers lucid, like Alexis and myself. But this should not astonish people as it does, as it can be accounted for, like many other dispositions, that often run in a family; that is, by regarding *clairvoyance* as a hereditary faculty.

Our father, though never magnetised, was extremely lucid in his sleep, and could, apart from his then producing other surprising phenomena, not only read while going into this state, but continued to do so while he remained in it. The first time Alexis was magnetised, he became clairvoyant, and such was also my own fate. I have, therefore, every reason to

believe that if my other brothers had been magnetised, they would have also become good somnambulists.\*

DEAFNESS. Treatment: Magnetise, by casting the fluid into the auditory tube or hollow of the ear; then by drawing the hands down to the extremities of the body. Warm breathing should be also poured into the ear, and the seances be once a day.

Several deaf and dumb persons have been cured by this treatment; but it was when the deafness arose from an obstruction, and was not occasioned by the loss of any of the essential parts of the organ of hearing. But tingling, pain or buzzing in the ear, is always very easily removed by magnetism.

SWOON, or a sudden and momentary suspension of the action of the heart, accompanied by the stoppage of the breath, and a total want of motion. Its symptoms are a general weakness, uneasiness, paleness of the countenance, giddiness, and a deficiency in the power of moving one's limbs.

\* Alexis has just published a work entitled, "Le Sommeil Magnetique Expliqué par le Somnambule Alexis en Etat de Somnambulisme," sold by M. Dentu, Galerie d'Orleans, 13, Palais Royal, Paris.

This complaint is quickly cured by magnetism. First magnetise the whole body, in order to procure for it a state of perfect quietude ; then lay your hand on the patient's heart, to the end that its pulsations may be restored to their usual order ; then breathe cold over the whole body, and demagnetise energetically.

**TUMOURS.** Magnetise direct, then all down the body, after which magnetic friction should be applied. Let the seances be twice a day, and give magnetised water for drink.

**ULCERS.** All ulcers can be cured by magnetism. For these complaints much acquired knowledge is requisite. It would not, for instance, be prudent to allow one's self to be magnetised by a person wholly ignorant of medicine.

**Treatment :** Magnetic friction ; encircle the part affected with the fluid, then draw it down to the extremities. After this, magnetise with the palm of the hand, so as to gather the whole of the fluid to a single point, and which may be done by giving to the hand a circular motion.



As it is necessary to attack not merely this illness, but its cause, the operator should, first of all, endeavour to make himself well acquainted with the latter.

**WORMS** (in the intestines). The worm is an animal without vertebrae, has the body long and soft, and which is divided by rings ; but its head is very slightly developed. We do not here allude to other worms than such as are to be met with in the human body.

**Symptoms:** Momentary disgust for certain aliments ; sometimes a voracious hunger returning by fits ; hiccups, salivation, nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea, clamminess of the tongue, tossing of the stomach, sometimes irritation or pain in some part of the intestinal tube, dimness of sight, expansion of the pupil of the eye, eyes looking black and blue, dry cough, irregular pulse, debility, sudden and involuntary movements, and agreeable sensation on taking a glass of water.

The presence of worms in the alimentary tube may be attended by epilepsy, convulsions, catalepsy, aphony, or loss of speech, by nymphomania, and hysterics.

Treatment : Magnetise from head to foot, and give magnetised water for drink.

VOMITING. Treatment : Magnetisation direct ; imposition of the hands on the stomach ; friction and magnetised water.

“ I have caused myself to be magnetised by M. Adolphe Didier, for a complaint of the chest, from which I had suffered for upwards of five months. During a considerable part of this time I was afflicted with a cough, and used to throw up blood, so that I could attend to no occupation. For four months medical men did all in their power to relieve me, but their efforts proved in vain.

“ According to the first somnambulistic consultation with which I had been favoured, I should, after fifteen or twenty days' seances, be cured, on condition, however, that I should abstain from the use of all medicaments.

“ To the praise of M. Adolphe Didier be it said, I was completely cured in the time specified, and could resume my ordinary occupations without interruption. However this fact may be explained,

I ought, for the sake of truth and science, to make it known.—MAUCORPS."

In this little dictionary I have not alluded to other illnesses than those which have, in the course of my practice as a somnambulist, come under my own notice.

For the length and progress of the treatments mentioned, I beg to refer to my work (shortly to appear) entitled "*Guerisons des Maladies Chroniques par le Magnetisme.*"

Patients should, above all things, avoid putting themselves under the care of an ignorant magnetiser. They should, previously to their undertaking a treatment, consult their medical adviser, and take his advice upon this important point. If they consult a somnambulist, they should test his lucidity, good somnambulists being very rare. They are, however, sometimes to be met with. But even such as are of an inferior degree can often render important service to the magnetiser who knows how to distinguish and direct their order of *clairvoyance*.

A somnambulist can distinctly perceive, whether by sympathy or vision, the organic state of a patient, and he will not indicate other remedies than such as are most likely to effect a cure. The practitioner should, therefore, do all that in him lies to class the clairvoyance of a somnambulist.

We are well aware that this is very difficult, there being somnambulists whose clairvoyance shines, for a moment, like capricious sparks. It is therefore, in order to magnetise well, of the first importance to make this art a serious study. It often happens that the tyro in magnetism, and its over-zealous advocate, do it more harm than he who is sincerely incredulous.

If a physician wishes to magnetise a female patient while she is in bed, she should be covered. If she can get up, she should be dressed in the most becoming manner. The magnetiser should not touch her but for taking her thumbs, or using friction. All the passes should be made at a certain distance. It being sometimes necessary to direct his action to a particular organ, he should then only point with

his fingers, or, in order to avoid contact, he may, upon such an occasion, make use of a steel or glass rod.

I have said that in doubtful cases it is necessary to consult a good somnambulist; but then, in order to gain his confidence, no mistrust of his powers should be shewn, and his lucidity should be tested by fair and impartial means, to which, if he be sincere, he will never object.

There are moments when the somnambulist appears to be enlightened by the same divine ray which the human soul first received from the Deity at its birth.

The truths of which the somnambulist has the strongest evidence are these: the existence, the infinite power, the goodness of God; the immortality of the soul; the certainty of a future state; a place of rewards and punishments; providence; the necessity and efficacy of prayer, and the preeminence of charity over all the other virtues; the profound conviction that God will never refuse to enlighten us concerning what it behoves us to know,

when, while submissive to his will, we claim his help. Such are the ideas which belong in common to all somnambulists.

Magnetism has been received by his Holiness the Pope as a curative agent.

If all who consult a somnambulist did not follow magnetism as it were by stealth—if they were all animated to publish the truth—in a very short time the science of Mesmer would be on a level with all the other sciences of our day.

## CHAPTER VIII.

*"Etudiez le magnetisme avec une longue persévérance, et votre esprit s'elevera dans de hautes régions d'une philosophie spiritualiste qui ne tardera pas à vous introduire dans les sublimes mysteres du Christianisme. L'esprit prophétique est naturel à l'homme."*

DE MAISTRE.

THE more we study the phenomena of somnambulism, the more we shall be obliged to admit that man is possessed of faculties which he has not, in his natural state, the power of manifesting.

The meditations suggested by somnambulism demonstrate in a striking manner the goodness of God and the greatness of his works; they lead to

so grand a spectacle of the beauties of nature, that all persons influenced by them feel their souls filled, as it were, with truths the most sublime and sentiments the most mild.

Yes, the practice of somnambulism allows man to perceive the infinite beneficence of the Supreme Being, shows him how to contemplate nature, and recognize divine wisdom in the most trifling object.

Somnambulism affords proof every instant of the immortality of the soul.

We are chiefly desirous of proving that somnambulism is not contrary to religion ; so far from its having this pernicious tendency, it proves, perhaps, more than anything else the spirituality and immortality of the soul ; and this it does by showing, after a manner the most clear and positive, how man's intelligence can, in separating itself, in some measure, from his nature, possess feelings and sentiments which cannot be traced to his external senses.

Thus, while in a state of somnambulism, the soul can travel to the most distant parts, take cogni-



zance of what is passing there, or it can look back to the past or anticipate the future.

During my career as a somnambulist, I have been opposed to those magnetisers who contend that a clairvoyant has the power of reading the future. But such a faculty cannot be constant. There are, it is true, situations, movements of concentration so profound, when the spirit of the somnambulist feels so inspired, that we may well expect it to reveal events yet to come. And this it can occasionally do, and so confounds the sceptic and the materialist. But these flashes of superior lucidity are excessively rare, and cannot be expected with any degree of certainty.

Should this work attract the attention of persons who have witnessed such phenomena, it may be in their power more than it is in mine—for I have never made prevision a serious study—to treat this part of somnambulism.

These phenomena enable us to perceive the prodigious development of faculties already known—as, for instance, the transmission of thought—they

show us a light by which we are enabled to over-leap the barriers of time and space. In short, they reveal to us anew the power of God.

In cases of illness the faculty of prevision—otherwise so uncertain—is very different. The somnambulist has now a starting point; he feels and sees what must bring about the fulfilment of what he foretells, so that he has the means of calculating with wonderful exactness the time when the event must occur.

But there are persons who express the most profound indifference for everything. Even in our own days of inquiry and enlightenment, there are minds wholly ignorant of the most ordinary phenomena.

But whatever attention and study we may bestow on the wonders of somnambulism, a vast number of them must ever remain beyond the reach of our comprehension. But, considering our imperfect state, we should be satisfied with acknowledging such things as we know to be true, without endeavouring to discover their causes.

Somnambulism has, during the last few years,

made immense progress, and through its experimental part, many truths have been discovered. Its phenomena prove us to be possessed of the power of feeling, seeing, and judging.

I am well aware that to many persons these phenomena must seem allied to the impossible. But ought not he whose conviction is supported by years of experience, to regard such wonders as immensely possible? And ought he not for this reason to show a bold front and resistance to all opposition?

For the last fifteen years I have been constantly engaged in the propagation of magnetism; and whether, while giving lectures, in order to convince the sceptic and incredulous of its reality, or while endeavouring to apply it as a curative agent for the relief of suffering humanity, I have never once, during all that time, shunned either annoyance or fatigue.

The faculty of prevision is wholly inexplicable. It is confined within narrow limits. It applies only to a few objects; and it can mistake, and lead us

into error ; but its existence is not the less real, and it cannot be called in question.

The opposition which we may expect to meet with from materialists is immense ; they who maintain that there can be no other substances than such as belong to matter.

We must, however, after a little reflection, admit that man in all times believed in the existence of the soul as well as in that of the body.

According to Pythagoras and his school, the soul is a number, and motion itself is indestructible, and immortal. Plato proves in *Phædon* that the soul is, from its simplicity, indissoluble, and that it is this quality makes it appear like God and different from the body, and he hence concludes that it is it alone is truly man, and that the body is only its instrument. Aristotle, perceiving the utter incapacity of the material elements to produce thought and all the intellectual faculties, admitted a fifth substance, which is intelligence, and to which he gave the name of *entelechio*. Cicero also formally teaches that the soul is made up of nothing, that is, composed of

nothing that has earth, water, air, or fire in it ; because in these elements there is neither memory, intelligence, or thought ; nothing that recalls the past, that foretells the future or knows the present. He further adds, that human intelligence is of the same nature as the Deity, exempt from mortal concretion.

It is wrong, it is even wicked, to say that there is anything bad in either magnetism or somnambulism ; this is so far from being the case, that magnetism leads man from his evil ways to religion. We must be religious in order to do good to our fellow-creatures.

It is happily in our power to state, that in the course of our professional career we have converted many materialists to a belief in the soul and its immortality.

Since the faculty of foresight has been witnessed in some persons so often as to leave no longer any doubt of its existence, it may not be too much for us to endeavour to prove its reality, however rare its occurrence may be.

Almost all the works on magnetism contain in-

stances of the reality of this faculty. Thus it is on record that an event was foretold three months in advance of its happening, and that the prediction was realized exactly on the day specified. In all times the gift of prognostication has been found with persons of certain peculiar temperaments. These facts have been differently accounted for, have been referred to various causes, but they have been admitted to be real not only by the multitude who do not reflect, and by the credulous who are easily deceived by appearances; and by such persons as are smitten with the wonderful; but even by men the most enlightened in all ages, from Aristotle to Leibnitz, from Plato down to our own days. Upon this subject these several authorities do not differ in their opinions but respecting the extent of this phenomenon, and their manner of accounting for it.

If we therefore divest ourselves of all prejudice, and do not reject facts merely because we cannot understand them, we shall be compelled to acknowledge the existence of this faculty.

But we should not confound presentiment with

prevision or the power of foretelling. Presentiment is a voice speaking within us—is something put in motion by an internal faculty with which we are gifted, without being able to explain its cause.

That which so essentially characterizes somnambulism is the development of new senses, of new faculties, and among which the gift of foresight occupies the first place. We cannot conceive this faculty, but facts the most positive and undoubted oblige us to admit its existence.

Though we may, by attentively observing, be obliged to admit the reality of a fact, it is often beyond the reach of human intelligence to show how it can be proved. But when an extraordinary phenomenon cannot be explained by any of the laws of nature, this only proves that all the laws of nature are not known to us.

It is impossible, they say, to see the future, because the future does not exist; but were we not gifted with memory, this reasoning would also apply to the past.

A moment's reflection upon the mechanism of the

memory were sufficient to show, that it cannot possibly have been produced by material organs. Nor does thought appear, during ordinary sleep, to be entirely inactive. It is not from dreams that we account for its activity; but it often happens that we can, on awaking, and after a quiet and ordinary sleep, find a solution for difficulties we could not solve previously to our going to bed. Every one also knows that when we awake at no matter what hour it may be in the night, we can mostly tell about what time it then is, and that it is possible for us to awake in the night at an appointed hour, provided we desire it with a strong will. Do not these facts serve to show that sleep does not entirely interrupt the action of the mind?

The will and the memory, which evidently belong to a being born free, and who is not only capable of knowing and directing himself, but also of choosing the best means of attaining his end, are perhaps the strongest proofs that can be adduced that the principle which rules within us, can, when it is excited by an active fluid, go beyond the present, and that



it is also essentially different from organization and organized powers. In effect, if we examine the brain, what does it present to us ? Considered with respect to itself, it is only as so much dull matter, which is purely passive, and incapable of exciting any kind of action whatsoever. Considered as a living organ, or as one made active by the vital power which is not matter ; it manifests itself, like the other organs, by its continual motion. But what are the characters of this activity ? To be uniform ; that is to say, to act always alike under the same circumstances ; to exist of necessity, never to have of itself the power of interrupting, recommencing, ceasing, or directing its action in one sense more than another ; but to continue or slacken its progress compulsively according to the impulse received, the end towards which it is blindly driven being unknown. Now the principle of the action of the will presents itself under quite different characters. That is too manifest to require being proved at length ; a thought is continued or interrupted, or it is resumed, or adhered to with force or weakness, or it is allowed to take

freely its own course ; even so is it with our memory, our judgment, and all our intellectual actions. It is therefore evident that this principle is essentially distinct from the brain as well as from all the other parts of our system, since the same arguments apply with equal force to every other organ.

The memory is a reaction of our intelligence upon our sensibility ; it consists in reproducing those emotions which give birth to our sensations and sentiments.

The soul performs in the brain the labour of the memory. The remembrance of a somnambulist vanishes when he returns to his natural state ; but he recovers it the moment he is again thrown into the sleep.

The power of magnetism governs the somnambulist's whole system ; and, as the brain is the centre of his impressions, his will can trace a crowd of images, well adapted to lead his judgment astray.

The circumstance of the magnetic fluid thus taking possession of the somnambulist's system, is the cause of his clairvoyance. The power of his

intelligence is extended, and he receives new means of judging.

The susceptibility of the somnambulist's organs, when he is in his lucid state, renders him fit to receive the impressions of the magnetic fluid ; and as this agent of the will is a luminous fluid, somnambulists make use of it for enlightening their objects.

It is after this manner they examine the state of a patient.

This manner of seeing becomes spiritual ; that is to say, it casts the light of life into the action of thought, in order to brighten the object considered.

There are magnetisers who can produce no phenomenon beyond the most ordinary kind. This may be attributed to their want of faith, strength, and perseverance. The souls of such persons are governed by their physical wants.

There are somnambulists who have no recollection of what they did at another seance. When awake, they are completely ignorant of what they saw, perceived, and communicated. It would seem as if on awaking, the mind withdrew its most inte-

resting ideas. When a somnambulist has spoken during his sleep, of things difficult to retain, and they are afterwards communicated to him in his natural state, he will commonly comprehend them, and preserve them on his mind better than any one else, which arises from his still being under the magnetic influence.

When a somnambulist speaks with vivacity, with a tone of interest, we may be sure that he has reached the highest state of lucidity. His language is, in this case, clear and distinct.

And a somnambulist is, when in this state, acquainted with our dispositions, and also with our complaints, and has the means of curing them. His knowledge even extends to the nature which is around us, and beyond us; to things terrestrial and spiritual; to the soul and to God.

A very lucid somnambulist can mistake when he is forced to answer against his will.

It is only by experiments the disposition of a somnambulist can be known. His forte, whatever it may be, should be studied, and his lucidity turned

to account. He should be allowed, as much as possible, to communicate in his own way, and be never compelled to answer. We should distrust ourselves, and be continually watching our imagination.

The presence of persons of contrary opinions is an obstacle to the development of clairvoyance.

When a magnetiser is not certain of his somnambulist's lucidity, it would be prudent in him to have all mockers, and such persons as are not impartially inclined, removed from his presence.

In order to develop the lucidity of a somnambulist to a high degree of penetration, the magnetiser should be possessed of profound knowledge, and pure and noble sentiments, his character and manners being frank and open. It is further necessary for this kind of magnetism that the subject be extremely susceptible, and that he be also of pure morals.

Often during sleep, when we are carried away by dreams; and imagination, which reason no longer controls by experience and the comparing of things, is alone active, we seem to go over long intervals, and

to be conveyed from one country to another. Space and time then disappear, and certainly we never suspect that what we behold is mere illusion. During an hour's sleep, we thus travel a long way, and see persons that live far off, and, it may be, pass from spring to winter. This hour seems to last a whole year, and this year to be crowded with events, of which each would require a period more or less considerable for its accomplishment.

By considering the human soul as representing the universe—this universe in which the liberty of spiritual beings does not change the order of things, any more than it prevents the prescience of the Deity—this universe in which effects are allied to causes by eternal laws—by taking this view of the human soul we can perceive how the results of these laws are represented, and how this soul may contemplate the past, the present, and the future, according to the impressions it has received.

But, in order to have faith in prophecies, we need only call to mind all those with which history abounds, as, for instance, those of Joan of Arc, and several

others which have since been made from time to time.

As to the truth of magnetic prevision, some very late and curious experiments, in which we had ourselves the happiness to act as principal, cannot allow us to entertain the least doubt of its reality; for never were experiments more fully discussed, examined, or submitted to tests more impartial and strict than were these. We must acknowledge that we cannot ourselves explain or comprehend the possibility of such phenomena; and this can be the more easily conceived, when we declare that we never seek such experiments, and sometimes know nothing of the results by which they are attended, until, perhaps, a year afterwards. This happens from the persons who consult us not only often concealing from us the object of their visit, but also what we communicate to them while we are in the magnetic sleep.

The several facts of this kind which we have been at some trouble to collect, are the result of considerable research and attention. We shall not fail submitting them presently to the reader, and in the order

best suited for their being referred to. We may also, at the same time, allude to phenomena of a similar kind in modern history.

We should receive with no small share of mistrust, accounts of extraordinary predictions ; but those relating to ourselves have occurred entirely unknown to us, and it has been always through mere accident we have learned anything of them.

We endeavour as much as possible to refuse all kinds of test experiments, unless they belong in some way to the treatment of illnesses ; so that it is by mere chance we are submitted to them ; and this generally happens at times when we are far from expecting anything of the kind.

It is usual with us to inquire of the persons who consult us, the object they have then in view ; and this we do in order to see if what they desire to know belongs to the province of magnetism. We have for many years past adopted this manner ; and as we do not depart from it, we have every reason to suppose that our conduct has tended to serve considerably the cause of science. There are persons who consult a



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EXAMPLES OF LUCIDITY

SULTATION

*Extracts from Letters add*

FIRST EX

MY DEAR ADOLPHE,

You know what infl

somnambulist just as they would a person who pretends to tell fortunes by the cutting of cards.

Magnetism being still, notwithstanding the great progress it has lately made, in its infancy, every magnetiser should be constantly on his guard, both against his own imagination and that of the clairvoyant. There are many persons so profoundly convinced of the truth of magnetism, that they affect considerably the clairvoyant they consult ; so much so, that the latter is often compelled, by the influence of their will, to answer as they desire.

From this it follows, that though a magnetiser entertain no doubt of the gift of prevision in a somnambulist, he should not, however, consult him concerning anything to which he has reason to suppose he may not be naturally inclined. For if he be questioned upon what he can neither understand nor conceive, if he be led through ways where all appears dark to him, his answers may, from their not being dictated by the requisite light within, be no better than so many vain conjectures and illusions. It should, in short, be known that with the most en-

lightened somnambulists, the faculty of foresight is of little value, and that it does not deserve our confidence but when it is spontaneously developed, and comes forth free of all foreign influence and control.

It may not be considered out of place to give here a few cases of prevision relating to ourselves, and for the possession of which we are wholly indebted to accident. We may also accompany these cases with some instances of prediction to be found in history. How happy we shall feel if by such quotations as the following, we shall induce any of those persons who make light of magnetism to consider with more attention than they may have hitherto done the varied phenomena it presents.

EXAMPLES OF LUCIDITY AT A DISTANCE. CONSULTATION BY LETTERS.

*Extracts from Letters addressed to M. A. Didier.*

FIRST EXAMPLE.

*December 17, 1848.*

MY DEAR ADOLPHE,

You know what influence every advice you

have given me while you were in a state of somnambulism, has had on me. It was almost only you who directed me. All you have foretold me appears upon the point of being realized. I trust in you, and expect the future with confidence. I have been extremely annoyed; but I have just derived new strength from your advice, which I had already found so salutary, &c. &c. You see I have directed all my affairs as you recommended. Examine now what I should do, and acquaint me with it; let me have a sure and certain advice. Your instructions have been always for me objects of veneration; for all you predicted has been either realized, or is now about to be so.

#### SECOND EXAMPLE.

*February 15, 1849.*

MY DEAR ADOLPHE,

Madame is ill, as you foretold me she would be. The blood ascended again to her chest, and she was almost suffocated, and had several crises. I have magnetised her, and she is now calmer.

Shall I continue to magnetise her twice a day

while I am in town, and shall I stop long enough to restore her to her health? If I happened to leave her for a time during the treatment, would not that do her more harm than good?

If you think I ought to magnetise her, you will tell me how I ought to do it.

Examine her well, and let me know how I am to proceed in order to relieve her.

Be so kind as to answer my questions. I am afraid that I am annoying and tiring you. I will write to you as seldom as possible, for I feel that I am encroaching too much on your kindness. But you are too just not to pardon the unbounded confidence I have in you. Your letters are for me, by turns, a source of consolation, meditation, and hope.

Adieu, dear Adolphe. Think a little of me, who am always near you.—A.

P.S. I make use of your remedy for my sore throat. I am better, and consider myself as already cured.

*January 18, 1849.*

MY DEAR ADOLPHE,

You, who know me better than I do myself ; you, who when asleep can see my intellectual being, whilst awake you perceive only the material individual, which is, like yourself, subject to all influences ; read, sound the recesses of the human mind ; and since you can see in advance the abyss into which human weakness so often tumbles, speak to me of yourself, of myself, of whatever interests you—of everything ; but above all, tell me nothing but what you are certain of. Confide in me without fear, without constraint ; tell me, even to the least word, what you think. I have unbounded confidence in your advice, and the moment you think proper to communicate to me a truth, I shall go wherever your thought directs, shall follow it everywhere as a blind man does his guide ; for I feel that it is a spark of the divine nature which thus reveals itself to mortals. Prescribe for me whatever you please, I will obey you religiously, be as blind as fortune, as silent as the grave. When you give orders that your counsel

and revelations be hidden, the thick cloud of oblivion shall darken your mysteries, and nothing will be able to remove the veil that conceals them.

Magnetism is still for me a mysterious, a divine science, a something I am unable to explain, but in which I believe, without knowing why or wherefore.

Thus, when you are disposed, when you are enlightened by a spark of lucidity, take up one of my late letters, and answer those questions I have put to you. Nothing occupying my mind is unknown to you; you are acquainted with all my desires, with all my projects. Speak, only speak, and believe me when I tell you that you shall be obeyed.

Adieu! receive my salutary influence; for I wish it may produce in you, whether asleep or awake, all the effects you desire when asleep.—A.

### THIRD EXAMPLE.

*May 9, 1849,*

MY DEAR ADOLPHE,

It is then all over; I have taken a final leave of this memorable town, in which I have experienced

so much uneasiness, so many crosses and annoyances. You alone, in whom I have placed my confidence, who can see my thoughts, read all my impressions, my forebodings, my fears, my regrets, my hope. God is then desirous of making me happy, of giving me health, capacity, and rendering the future more tolerable than the past, which I would fain forget for ever. But since human nature is thus made, I submit to the will of providence.

Under another sky, in another country, and with feelings quite different, I acquaint you with my thoughts.

Do you remember when, after I had failed in obtaining the place of solicitor I sought in my own country, I wrote to you that my future prospects were not perhaps on that account entirely ruined, you answered me that they were not? Your letters, which I preserve with a religious care, are ever present to my mind.

Do you still remember when I said to you almost with a voice of despair, "Since my future prospects are not wholly destroyed, let us see elsewhere," and



I again said to you : " Go to such a part of the country, to such a house, see such a notary, examine his office, and since you are my adviser, speak. What shall I do ?" And you did speak, and your letter, which is still present to my mind, was to me as a guide in the night.

You, who have visited this place in my absence, come now and see me. It is not the unknown and sour-looking notary you will find at the head of your office ; it is myself, it is my fluid will serve you as light, just as yours served me.

Enter the offices on the right-hand side ; your friend is there. The only happiness for me, who will not see you, will be to know that your thought, your invisible presence, will be then near me.

I am reading over again the three last letters you have written to me respecting this place. Yes, you have spoken truly, very truly ; what you foretold has happened precisely as you said. Through you I thank Providence for having so enlightened me.

## FOURTH EXAMPLE.

June 7, 1849. (A.)

MY DEAR ADOLPHE,

The last letter you wrote to me has filled me with the most agreeable sensations. In the midst of the disorder which is now reigning everywhere, this letter has been for me a source of real consolation. From it I have drawn sentiments of morality and courage, which no one knows better than I do, how to appreciate. You have told me the truth, stripped of all its errors: "A European war is on the point of breaking out."

## FIFTH EXAMPLE.

INDISPUTABLE CLAIRVOYANCE OF M. ADOLPHE DIER. By the Rev. Chauncy Hare Townshend. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"You assure me solemnly that you do not tell the medium anything. I declare unequivocally that you *do*. It is the same in all cases of clairvoyance: *you tell all*, and fancy you are told; you do not tell it in so many words, but unconsciously you are made to believe the very thing you believe is communicated to you."—Mr. G. H. Lewes, *Leader Newspaper*, March 12, 1850; p. 262.

MY DEAR ELLIOTSON,—As you were so good as to think my slight communication respecting Adolphe Didier sufficiently interesting to find a place in *The Zoist* (No. XL., p. 409), I am induced to give you a more detailed account of the circumstances referred to in my former letter.

My friend, Mr. Lawrence, now residing at Geneva, (and who has derived much benefit to his health from mesmerism), invited me, in September last, to come and test the clairvoyance of Adolphe Didier. The day after my arrival at the *Hôtel de l'Ecu* at Geneva, about a quarter past eleven o'clock in the morning, Mr. Lawrence entered my apartment, introducing to me a quiet, pleasing-looking young man, of an agreeable, honest countenance, and a gentlemanly exterior. This was Adolphe Didier. As my time was limited, I did not waste the moments in conversation, but soon threw Adolphe into the mesmeric state by the usual passes. In him I did not perceive any of the convulsive contortions of countenance which had preceded the sleep of his brother Alexis. With a slight sigh and a shiver, he closed

his eyes in less than five minutes from the first mesmerisation. Asking him if he slept—if he were clairvoyant, I received affirmative answers. I now begged of Mr. Lawrence, who sat slightly removed from us, to be attentive to my questions, and to Adolphe's answers, in order that I might have a corroborating witness of what should pass. My first question was, (I translate the French, in which the whole conversation was carried on), "Can you see *a person* (I was careful *not* to name the sex) whom I know at Laussanne?" Answer—"I shall be able; but you must first lead me to Lausanne by your thoughts."

Then, after a pause, "I embark on the steamer—I go up the Lake—the vessel stops at various places—I am now opposite a small town (this was Ouchy)—I get into a boat—I land—I walk up a broad road—up hill—now I turn to the right." (Here I must observe that Adolphe never had been at Lausanne.) "Now I see a house to my right," (here he paused): "the house stands in a sort of angle, *between two smaller roads than the one by which I first came*. It is very near the road. I go up steps to the door—

I enter a not large vestibule ; from this I go into a salon. There is a door open in the salon, which connects it with another room. The two rooms seem to me almost like one large apartment that stretches quite from one end of the house to the other." "And where is the person who lives in the house?" I asked. "Wait, wait," said he ; "there is no one in the salon. I go up stairs (again a pause)—*Je vois une dame,*" (this was uttered very slowly). "Describe her," said I. Now followed a very accurate description of the lady—my cousin—Mias C., on whom I had thought. The features, the hair, way of wearing it, &c., were all correct. Now, without further question from me, Adolphe went on, "*Quelle drôle de chose elle met sur la tête.*" I fancied this odd head-dress might be my cousin's "wide-awake," in which I believed she was accustomed to ride out. With this idea, I asked for a description, but was surprised at Adolphe's insisting upon it that the article in question was "*un filet brun.*" In vain I tried to get him away from this (as I thought) false scent. He persisted in the "*filet brun.*" Now again he began to

exclaim, "What an odd dress this lady wears! She has the upper and lower part of her dress quite unlike! The upper part is more like a man's—a sort of jacket; then there are skirts of quite another material." I must here observe that I thought this was a clumsy description of a riding habit. It is necessary also to remark, that, never having seen Miss C—— in her riding dress, save once casually, when she was attired in a full habit, and wide-awake, I was fancying all the time that Adolphe was very incorrect—a surmise, however, afterwards disproved. Adolphe went on: "She goes to the window—she looks out anxiously—she is doubting about the weather; ah! she is wishing to go out on horseback. *Monter a cheval!* (he repeated) *c'est sa passion d'aujourd'hui!*" Here I was indeed struck. for nothing could be more true than this assertion. Adolphe now seemed fatigued, and asked me to give him a few passes which he declared refreshed him. From this quiescent state he suddenly and spontaneously (and I must own this is one of the most extraordinary instances of true clairvoyance I ever met with)

cried out, "I am at a point of time *anterior* to that of which we were just now speaking. I see the same lady in another room—in another house. What I see, happened *before* you left Lausanne for Geneva. She sits in a large arm-chair by the fire. *You* are sitting on another chair (*not* an arm-chair) facing her. You are telling her about your going to Geneva : you seem interested : you lean forward in your chair. I see you both perfectly!"

Now I must observe that the circumstances described were rendered remarkable by this, namely, not only that the whole was true, but that the visit of Miss C—— to me just before I left Lausanne was *accidental*. In passing, she had seen my carriage at the door—had entered to ask where I was going, and had been seated exactly as described while I was speaking of my going to Geneva.

These are the chief circumstances of Adolphe Didier's clairvoyance, as witnessed by me : and to the correctness with which I have narrated them, my friend Mr. Lawrence can add his testimony, though all was an enigma to him, until (the somnambulist

having gone away) I explained to what lady the revelations had alluded, and how far they were founded on fact. "But," I added, "I think Adolphe was wrong on some points, namely, about the being able to see from one end of the house to the other—about the brown net and the dress—possibly, even, about my cousin riding out at all to-day, for I believe it is not her day for going to the riding school."

But now comes the most singular part of the business. On returning to Lausanne, I related the whole history to Miss C——, pointing out where I thought the somnambulist had made errors. What, however, was my surprise to hear her say, "But he was *not* wrong. The day you left Lausanne, I opened the door between my two rooms, to let in the warmth from the stove in the dining room, and so they have remained ever since."

"But," I said, "he was wrong about the brown net?"

"Not so! I was putting on a brown net to keep my hair up: I will show it you. I did not wear my wide-awake that day. Moreover, though *not* my



regular day for riding, I went to take a lesson, because the days had just been changed. I also had put on only my jacket, but had my usual dress below it."

"And what o'clock was all this?" I still rather incredulously asked.

"Between eleven and twelve," replied Miss C—.

This indeed was the very time I had been questioning Adolphe. In short, it turned out that he had been right in every particular, and even the apparent failures substantiated more the accuracy of his assertions.

This I declare to be an accurate account of one of the most searching investigations possible. No leading questions were asked: the somnambulist almost spontaneously made the statements. I tell but the truth, and leave the readers of *The Zoist* to draw their conclusions.

Believe me, my dear Elliotson,

Very faithfully yours,

C. HARE TOWNSHEND.

*London, March, 1853.*

SIXTH EXAMPLE OF LUCIDITY AT A DISTANCE.—  
PREVISION.

ADOLPHE DIDIER'S CLAIRVOYANCE.—By Mr. Barth

"We know but too well that popular fancy must have some vent; the days of astrology and witchcraft, of ghosts and hobgoblins, have passed away, and have been succeeded by homœopathy and *clairvoyance*." — *Lancet*, Nov. 2, 1852; p. 429.

Last summer, Lord —, who holds a commission in the Guards, called upon me, accompanied by a brother officer, to request that I would attend and mesmerise a clairvoyant for them as soon as he had arrived from Paris. One gentleman was perfectly convinced, from his past experience, that the clairvoyant faculty really did exist; the other was willing to be convinced, if he could only obtain personally sufficient evidence. He wished to obtain the evidence afforded by the exercise not only of his reason but of his senses, and therefore Adolphe Didier was engaged to leave Paris for a few days, and come to London. One

day, soon after their visit, I received a message to go and see them as soon as possible, Adolphe Didier being expected. I arrived before Adolphe, who was perfectly a stranger to Lord —, but had been consulted a few years previously at Paris by his brother officer.

On Adolphe being announced, a quiet, retiring, well-bred man entered the apartment, and, after the customary exchange of salutations and some courteous enquiries about his journey from the gentlemen present, I proceeded to mesmerise him. Having ascertained that he had passed into the clairvoyant state, and announced that he might now be interrogated, the question was put, "How shall we test him, Mr. Barth?" I replied that he must indicate how he would be tested; that no mesmeriser of experience would allow a clairvoyant to be subjected to any test which the clairvoyant objected to attempt; and therefore we would ask Adolphe Didier what he would do, and then try and ascertain if he could do it, subjecting him to as rigid a testing process as we could devise. On putting the question,

Adolphe said he would read in a book without having the book presented to him; or would visit and describe any distant place; and would try and do anything required, provided it was not insisted upon if he found that he was unable to oblige them. Lord — directly reached (*quite at random*) a book from a shelf, and, holding it behind him, asked, "What book have I now in my hand?" Adolphe Didier in a few seconds replied, "*Voyage en Suisse.*" The inquirer immediately held up the book, that we might perceive that Didier had correctly read the gilt lettering on its back. Placing the book behind him again, and without opening it, he requested that Adolphe would read the first four lines on page 27. Adolphe immediately repeated several sentences in French. On opening the book and turning to page 27, we found that Adolphe had correctly read four lines from the twenty-seventh page of a closed book, held behind his querist, entirely out of all possible range of natural vision. He then went mentally to a nobleman's residence, in one of the midland counties, and described it most accurately, even to

the pictures and costumes of the portraits hanging in the dining-hall.

An hour before my interview with Adolphe, I was at the house of a lady patient, when my servant found me and gave me Lord ——'s note, asking my immediate attendance. This lady had lost a very valuable and much-prized brilliant ring, which she was anxious to know something about. As I happened, on perusing my note, to say that I must now go and mesmerise Adolphe Didier, the French clairvoyant, the lady remarked, "I wish he could tell you about a ring which was stolen from me two years ago." I rejoined that I would, if an opportunity occurred, ask him about it; that I did not know anything of his method of perceiving, but that if she wrote her name on a piece of paper I would give it to him, and try if he could make out her wishes, or discover anything respecting the lost article. I now placed this piece of paper in his hand: He put it to his lips and on his forehead; and, after a short interval of apparent reflection, he stated that it was written by a lady, whom he described correctly; and

that she wanted to know about a lost ring. He then described the ring ; the apartment from which it was taken ; what articles were in the box where it had been previously deposited ; who had taken it, and where it was pawned ; adding, that it would not be recovered unless the pawnbroker would admit having received it, and declare where he had disposed of it.

His description of the lady ; of the apartment ; of the box, and the various articles contained therein, one article being very curious and having therefore puzzled him much, *were all perfectly correct* : the person who he stated had taken it is deceased. There was some difficulty in ascertaining the pawnbroker indicated by him. The party who was presumed to be meant denied ever having taken in pledge any ring of so great a value, and thus verification of the latter part of his statement was not possible. This was not cerebral sympathy or thought-reading. The particulars were totally unknown to any one present, and the event to which they referred had taken place two years previously. It is somewhat curious and corroboratory, that on

Alexis Didier being asked in Paris, and Ellen Dawson subsequently in London, also respecting the ring, they each described the same person as having stolen it. For these three clairvoyants each to have described the same person and circumstances without a possibility of any of them knowing what the others had said, is a fact somewhat too remarkable to be accounted for on the ground of "extraordinary coincidence," or "fortunate guess-work."

I had several other opportunities of testing Adolphe's powers, and found him a very good clairvoyant, far superior to the average in the extent or range of his powers, but, like all others who do not confine their faculty to one special purpose, occasionally liable to be in error. I will add an account of the first experience of Lord ——'s friend with Adolphe. As the narrator is a gentleman and an officer in Her Majesty's service, and mentioned the following circumstances in sober earnest, we are bound, I presume, to accept it as truth, particularly as there are many analogous cases in the pages of mesmeric works to corroborate it.

About four years ago the narrator called on Adolphe in Paris, never having previously seen him. When Adolphe was put to sleep, the question was asked, "Can you, M. Adolphe, tell me my name, and where I come from?" In a few seconds Adolphe replied, "You come from England, and your name is Monsieur ——;" both being correct. Adolphe might easily have perceived that his visitor was an Englishman, but to hit clairvoyantly on his surname was a feat that very few clairvoyants have ever accomplished. The next remark was, "M. Adolphe! I have now in my pocket a letter; can you tell me anything of its contents, or the circumstances to which it relates?" Adolphe presently replied, "You have received that letter from London, from a military commandant,—from a place where military business is transacted; in it he tells you that your commission is ready for you if you can pass the proper examination; and that you are to go to a place—a brick building, which I can see a good way from London, to be examined next Tuesday." The letter was an official letter containing the very information which



Adolphe gave, and which might have been obtained by thought-reading, as the questor knew the contents of the letter in his pocket; but that which follows was prevision, which is more extraordinary, and not easily accounted for as a power. Having told the substance of the letter, Adolphe added, "But you need not go to England till next Tuesday, because you will not pass your examination." The gentleman exclaimed, "What! shall I be rejected?" "No," replied Adolphe; "you will not be rejected—you will not pass." The interrogator could not comprehend this; and remarked, that if he did not pass, he must be rejected. Adolphe said, "You will not pass on Tuesday—you will not be rejected—you need not leave Paris—you will pass your examination and get your commission, but not on Tuesday." Of course M. — did not heed this admonition of Adolphe, but hastened to London, and reached Sandhurst on the Tuesday morning, as ordered. However, when he presented himself with his official letter to the examiner, it was found that, through some oversight of secretaries or clerks, his

name had not been inserted in the list of names forwarded to them from the Horse Guards, and that consequently he could not be examined. He applied to the proper authorities; the mistake was rectified; he passed his examination a few days afterward, and received the commission which he now holds. Thus all that Adolphe Didier prevised was verified by the event; the question still remains, "*How did he know it?*"

Gentlemen, I beg leave to hand you the above for the Zoist, should you have room for its insertion, and am,

Gentlemen, your obedient servant,

GEORGE BARTH,

4, Mornington Crescent, Dec. 4, 1852.

To the Editors of the Zoist.

I was, I must confess, on reaching London, not a little surprised, to have my attention drawn to the above articles in the Zoist. Until then I knew nothing of the nature of the tests to which my clairvoyance had upon these two occasions been sub-

mitted. I should, of course, have many such proofs of my lucidity to offer, were the parties who consult me only to make me acquainted with the results they then obtain. But we have not yet reached that happy place where the foolish prejudices of our earth will be despised, and the truth, no matter what it is, will be made no mystery of, but be told openly.

I every day meet with persons deeply read in philosophy; persons who hold a very exalted position in the world; yet who, when they come to consult me, order their coachman to stop a few doors off from my house, which they usually enter as silently and secretly as they possibly can. But if these distinguished persons knew how very disagreeable this conduct of theirs is to me, they would scarcely come near me at all. It astonishes me how, under such circumstances, they so often succeed in finding me lucid.

#### SEVENTH EXAMPLE.—PREVISION.

In the year 1853, I used to go every morning from

London to Slough, which is near Windsor, to magnetise a young man who was one of my patients. The 25th of May, having met at the railway Lord — with two of his friends, we travelled together. On the way our conversation turned upon magnetism. It was then the grand day for the races, and which is, I think, called the Epsom day. Lord — asked me, "Could you, Monsieur Didier, tell us what horse will win to-day at Epsom?" "No," I answered, "I have never tried such an experiment." "Oh! why not?" asked Lord —; "you have often made experiments which were much more extraordinary. If you will allow me, I shall magnetise you, and we shall see what will come of it." "No, my lord, I would much rather not try such an experiment. I consider its success impossible. Though never having seen a race course, it must, I fancy, be full of confusion and disorder, and that the distance between the horses is too slight for a clairvoyant to be able to distinguish, from among a body so compact, the one which arrives first." "Never mind that, Monsieur Didier, let us try what we can do; and as I am now seated opposite

to you, I mean to magnetise you." The nobleman's magnetic power was so great that I had scarcely time to articulate *no* when I felt myself going out of my natural state. When near the end of my journey, Lord —— awoke me suddenly, saying, "You have reached Slough. You have given me an exact description of the race course, and have told all that is to happen there to-day, as well as the name of the horse that is to win, namely, West Australian." I had only time to bid Lord —— and his friends good bye, for my thoughts were then wholly occupied about my patient, and I felt rather bewildered, having never been magnetised in a railway carriage before.

How is this phenomenon to be explained? I had no idea of the races, and I was less acquainted with the locality of Epsom than I was with Pekin.

I leave my readers to form their own opinions of these experiments, for I do not pretend myself to understand them. Such extraordinary proofs of the powers of the human mind, while in a state of somnambulism, are as astonishing for me as they are for any one else.

## EIGHTH EXAMPLE.

Subjoined is a phenomenon so extraordinary, one which I understand so little myself, that I beg to submit it to my readers just as I have received it.

In 1852, I came to London for the purpose of giving a medical consultation to a gentleman of the English aristocracy. Since then I have sometimes had occasion to see this gentleman, and to be consulted by him. He has lately communicated to me the contents of a note which, on removing from his barracks, he happened to find in his desk. This gentleman cannot now recollect upon what occasion this note was dictated by me, or how he could himself have put such questions to me. But we have come to the conclusion that it must have been perhaps dictated in the course of inquiries which he made respecting his future career in the army. My lucidity as a somnambulist must have been struck at the time with the gravity of the coming events. This gentleman has kindly favoured me with a copy of this note, and has also authorised me to publish it,

and give his name. Here is, word for word, what it contains :

“ ADOLPHE, *May 25, 1852.*

“ A war next year.

“ England and France. England’s moral force and envoys v.\* The Northern Powers united on the border of Turkey upon a question of the Ottoman Empire.

“ *Our undoubted success.*”

I am so thoroughly convinced of the truth and the value of somnambulism, that I not only believe wonderful cures may be effected through its means, but that from the enlightened information which every true somnambulist has the power of affording, it can also render great service to scientific men in their researches.

Having never made a profound study of psychological phenomena, my own remarks on this subject cannot instruct my readers. I am convinced from experiments which I have myself witnessed many

\* We may assume that this v is for versus.

times over, that the human mind can, when under the influence of a powerful concentration of somnambulism, solve certain problems, which solution must, on account of its difficulty, appear to persons of ordinary capacity wholly impossible.

But with respect to things still in existence, I maintain that they can, however distant they may be from us, be seen by a good somnambulist without his being influenced to that effect either by the thoughts of his magnetiser, or by those of any one else present at the time of his being magnetised.

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#### PREDICTION OF CAZOTTE RELATED BY LA HARPE.

“It seems to me as if it were only yesterday ; it was, however, in the beginning of the year 1788. We were dining with a brother academician, who was a distinguished nobleman, and a man of superior understanding. The company was numerous and of all casts ; courtiers, lawyers, literary men, academicians, &c. &c. We had, as was then the custom, feasted well. At the dessert, the wines of Malvoisie



and Constance went round, and raised the general merriment to that pitch which did not in those times always keep within the bounds of discretion. But society was then in that state when anything that excited a laugh might be said. Chamfort had read to us some of his tales so full of impiety and libertinism, and all the noble ladies then present had heard him, without being under the necessity of making use of their fans, which circumstance gave rise to a world of jokes. One recited a passage from Voltaire's *Pucelle* ; another some philosophic verses from Diderot.

“ The conversation becomes more serious. Every one is loud in his admiration of the revolution effected by Voltaire, and they admit that his is the highest title of glory. He has given, they exclaim, a character to his age, and he has caused himself to be read in the ante-chamber, as well as in the drawing-room. One of the guests then informed us, while bursting his sides with laughter, that his hair-dresser said to him that morning, while in the act of powdering him, ‘ You see, sir, though I am only

a very common fellow, I have no more religion than any one else.' They concluded that the revolution would be soon accomplished, and that it was high time superstition and fanaticism should give way to philosophy; and from this they were led to calculate the probable epoch when the event was to happen, and who of the present company would live to see the Age of Reason. The eldest amongst us, regretted that they could not flatter themselves with such hopes, whilst the young men, on the contrary, rejoiced that they might safely do so. The Academy was then highly complimented for having prepared the great work, for having been the chief place, the centre, the grand mover for the liberty of thought.

"There was only one among us who seemed to take no part in our joyous conversation; he even allowed to escape him, in a very quiet manner, a few jokes on our fine enthusiasm. This was Cazotte, an amiable and original character, but who was unfortunately infatuated with the reveries of the sect called the Illuminati. He now began to speak, and in a very serious tone, said :

"Gentlemen, be satisfied, for you shall all see this great, this sublime revolution, which you desire so much. You know that I am a prophet; yes, I tell you again, you shall see it." He is answered with the well-known chorus :

"Faut pas être grand sourcier pour ça."

"So be it," continued Cazotte; "but perhaps it is necessary to be something more than a conjuror, for what I have yet to tell you. Do you know what will happen at this revolution—what will happen to all you who are here—what will be its immediate result, its undoubted effect, its solemn, its serious consequence?"

"Ah! let us hear what that is," said Condorcet, with his sullen air, and foolish laugh; "a philosopher is not sorry to meet with a prophet."

"You, Monsieur de Condorcet, you will die on the floor of a dungeon; you will, in order to escape the hands of the executioner, die of poison administered by yourself—of poison which those happy times will oblige you to carry always about you."

At first this excited great astonishment ; but on our recollecting that the dear creature, Cazotte, was accustomed to dream while wide awake, our laughter increased to a roar.

"Monsieur Cazotte," continued Condorcet, "this story is not so pleasant a one as your *Diable Amoureux*.\* But what the deuce has put this dungeon, this poison, and this executioner into your head? What, in the name of common sense, has all this to do with philosophy and the age of reason?"

"It will be exactly as I tell you ; it will be in the name of philosophy, of humanity, of liberty ; it will be in the reign of reason, you will thus happen to end your days. And it may be well styled the reign of reason, for Reason will then have temples dedicated to her—indeed, there will be then no other temples throughout all France."

"Verily," said Chamfort, with a sarcastic laugh, "you will not be one of the priests of those times."

"I hope so ; but you, Monsieur Chamfort, who will

\* The name of a novel by Cazotte.

be one of them—and worthy of the office will you be—you will give your veins twenty-two gashes with a razor ; you will not, however, die from your wounds until several months after.”

We look at one another, and continue our laughter.

“ You, Monsieur Vicq d’Azir, you will not open your veins yourself, but, in order to be sure of your set, you will, while suffering from a fit of the gout, cause them to be opened six times in the same day, and you will die in the night. As for you, Monsieur Nicolai, you will die on the scaffold ; you, Monsieur Bailly, on the scaffold ; you, Monsieur Malherbes, on the scaffold.”

“ Ah ! heavens be praised,” said Koucher, “ he bears an ill will only to the members of the Academy ; he has just executed some of them in a most cruel manner ; but as for me, thank God—”

“ You, too,” interrupted Cazotte—“ you will die on the scaffold.”

“ Oh ! it is a wager he has laid,” we all exclaimed ; “ he has sworn to exterminate every one of us.”

"No; it is not I who have sworn it."

"But we shall be then subdued by the Turks and the Tartars? Yet—"

"Not at all; but it will be as I have told you: you will be then governed solely by philosophy, solely by reason. Those who are to treat you so, will be all philosophers; will have continually on their lips the same sentences you have been delivering for this hour past; will repeat, will recite, like you, verses from Diderot and the Pucelle."

The company whispered to one another, "You see he is deranged;" for his look was still all gravity.

"Don't you perceive," said some one, "that he is only joking? and you know that he always seasons his jokes with a touch of the wonderful." "That may be," answered Chamfort, "but his wonderful is not now very pleasant; it relates to the gibbet. And when is all this to happen, Master Cazotte?"

"Six years will not have flown by, before all I have just said will be accomplished."

"Behold many miracles (and it was now I who spoke), and you put me down for nothing?"

"You will be at least as extraordinary a miracle as any other," answered our prophet ; "for you will be then a Christian."

Loud exclamations followed this assertion.

"Ah!" cried Chamfort, "I am no longer afraid ; if we are not to perish until La Harpe becomes a Christian, we may look upon ourselves as immortal."

"But whatever may happen," then said the Duchess of Grammont, "it is very fortunate for us women, to have nothing to do with revolutions. When I say that we have nothing to do with them, I do not mean by that, that we do not meddle with them somewhat ; but it is usual not to make us in any way responsible for them ; and then our sex—"

"Your sex, madam, will not this time protect you ; and it will be in vain that you meddle with nothing ; you will be treated like the men ; there will be no difference whatever made between you."

"But what is this you are telling us, Monsieur Cazotte ? You are surely preaching the end of the world."

"I cannot say ; but what I know is this, that you, madam, will be led to the scaffold, you with many other grand ladies besides, in the executioner's cart, and having your hands tied behind your back."

"Ah ! I hope that in that case, I shall have at least a mourning carriage."

"No, madam ; and still grander ladies than you, will go like you in the cart, and having, like you, their hands tied behind their back."

"Grander ladies!—what ! the princesses of the blood royal?"

"Grander ladies still."

Here a very sensitive shock seemed to be felt by all present, and the countenance of the master of the house began to darken. It now seemed to us that the joke was being carried rather too far. The Duchess of Grammont, in order to disperse the gathering gloom, made no allusion to this answer, but said, in the lightest tone of voice possible : "You will see that he will not allow me so much as a father confessor."



"No, madam, you will not have one, nor you, nor any one else. The last sufferer who will be allowed a father confessor, as a favour, will be—"

He paused for a moment.

"Well then, who is to be the happy mortal that will be allowed this privilege?"

"It is the only privilege that will then remain with him; and he will be the King of France."

Upon hearing this, the master of the house rose suddenly, and so did we all. He went over to Monsieur Cazotte, and said to him, in a deep and solemn tone: "My dear Monsieur Cazotte, this gloomy pleasantry of yours has lasted long enough; you carry it too far, even to the pitch of compromising the company in which you yourself are."

Cazotte made no answer, and was preparing to withdraw, when the Duchess of Grammont, who was still anxious to banish our seriousness and bring us back to our former good humour, approaching him, said: "Master prophet, you, who are telling us all our fortunes, say nothing about your own."

He remained for some time silent, with his eyes cast down.

"Madam, have you read in Josephus the siege of Jerusalem?"

"Oh! to be sure I have! who has not read that? But imagine that I have not read it."

"Well, madam, during that siege, a man went seven days successively round the ramparts, in the sight of both the besiegers and the besieged, crying incessantly, in an ominous and loud voice: 'Woe to Jerusalem!' and on the seventh day he cried, 'Woe to Jerusalem, and woe to me!' and at that instant an enormous stone, which was cast by one of the machines of the enemy, struck him, and crushed him on the spot."

And Cazotte having given this answer, made his bow and withdrew."

Another prediction, which appeared at least fully as extraordinary as the above, was that which Cazotte made on entering his house the day his daughter had succeeded in snatching him from the monsters who were taking him to the scaffold. Instead of then participating in the joy of his family as they gathered around him, he announced to them

that in three days he would be again arrested, and that he would then be obliged to submit to his fate. And as he foretold, it happened, having perished the 25th of September, 1792, at the age of seventy-two years.

Even the history of the heathen world abounds with proofs that the gift of prevision is natural to the human mind, since it contains many well-attested prophecies. As to those of Joan of Arc, I had intended to submit several of them to my readers; but, on further consideration, I think it unnecessary to do so, these prophecies being in all libraries, and known to almost every one.

## CHAPTER IX.

PUBLIC EXPERIMENTS RELATING TO LUCIDITY ;  
EXPOSITION OF FACTS.

THOUGH I am in possession of numerous printed and written documents containing accounts of my public seances, yet, as I have already transgressed the limits assigned to this treatise, I cannot now submit to my readers more than a few of those testimonials, and of which some refer to the early part of my career, while others are of recent date. But if I had even more space allowed me, where would be the necessity of swelling my book with such documents ? The tests used for proving the truth of magnetism are always the same : they consist in the power of seeing through opaque bodies, or at extraordinary distances, or into

closed objects ; or they are applied to the discovery of illnesses. To cite many instances of the success of these tests, would therefore be only a constant repetition of nearly the same things.

It is reasonable to suppose that seances in which lucidity has been tested, must, when they are given before a large assembly, and are successful, render great service to the cause of magnetism. There are, however, persons who object to such seances, on the ground that they are calculated to do more harm than good. But this cannot possibly be, except when those exhibitions are conducted by mere mountebanks ; by persons who deal in everything else rather than magnetism, though they generally ascribe their tricks, which they call the transmission of thought, to this source.

Robert Houdin, who was the first to discover the means, by the manner in which he put his questions, of communicating to his son the name of whatever object he held at the time in his hand ; was so honourable as to inform his audience that his performance was only a trick, and that they were wel-

come to discover the secret if they could. And it was at last discovered; and then jugglers and sharpers began to turn it to account, and they called it Animal Magnetism.

But thus it ever is. In all new discoveries, cheats and quacks are sure to make their appearance, and, to the great prejudice of truth and science, to impose on the public.

But such magnetisers as are not convinced of the perfect lucidity of their subjects, become also the enemies of magnetism, as they rarely fail exposing it to ridicule.

It was by means of public seances, largely attended, that magnetism has made such progress in England and France, as a curative agent.

For several years I felt so animated with the desire of convincing persons who required only facts in order to submit to the evidence of their senses, that I shunned neither fatigue nor annoyance. And as I thought if I could succeed in convincing certain persons that I possessed the power of seeing through opaque substances, this might serve to show

that I could necessarily see into the interior of their bodies, I was ever willing to have my lucidity tested in this way; and when I consider what somnambulism is now in this country compared to what it was only a few years ago, I cannot help flattering myself but that I have done my part towards bringing it to its present advanced state.

At the first magnetisation to which we had been submitted, we showed great susceptibility, as we were then found to be endowed with the faculty of vision at a distance and through opaque bodies. Animal magnetism was at the time made an important question, it being debated everywhere, and proofs of its reality anxiously sought for. I was then very young, yet I well remember what effect the first magnetisation had on me. And as I am fifteen years older now, it were impossible to give here any thing more than a faint sketch of the tithe part of the experiments by which my lucidity has been tested during so long a period.

Dr. Frappart, who has made himself so celebrated for his able defence and support of the cause of

magnetism, had brought together at his house, in 1841, a large number of men, who were not less eminent for their social and amiable virtues than their scientific knowledge. They had thus met for the express purpose of investigating the question of somnambulism. They numbered, at least, as many as a hundred. They had adopted every precautionary measure for precluding the possibility of doubt in the event of the experiment they meant to try being successful.

After a preliminary discourse, I was magnetised by M. Ricard. When this gentleman announced to the company that I was in the somnambulist state, Dr. Frappart and three other medical men covered my eyes with sticking plaster ; and this they did so much to the satisfaction of all present, that when their task, which lasted twenty minutes, was complete, no one could suppose, not even the most incredulous, it was possible for me to see through such a covering. Different papers were then presented to me, and read, such being, at that time, the only phenomenon required.



After the experiment, the covering was removed from my eyes, and though warm water was used for the purpose, the operation could not, however, be effected without causing me considerable pain.

After this, the experiment called obedience to the order of the will mentally expressed, was tried. The magnetiser was placed in an immovable position a hundred feet from me, and then I was to execute the order expressed to him in a very low whisper by one of the company, without his either changing his position or uttering the least sound. The order thus mentally transmitted to me, was, that I should walk four steps backwards, and which I did immediately. Several other experiments of a similar kind were afterwards tried with equal success.

But the one which appeared to afford the greatest satisfaction, was the exact account I gave, while in the somnambulistic state, of the sufferings of patients chosen for the occasion, and who bore no outward symptoms of their complaints.

Some time afterwards my lucidity was again submitted by Dr. Frappart and his friends to other

severe trials, and nearly always with the same success.

A Lyons newspaper gives the following account of my first seance in that town.

“A meeting of physicians, journalists, and other gentlemen, took place yesterday in this town, at the Hotel du Nord, for the purpose of testing the truth of magnetism. The company at once proceeded to experiments. Some of the gentlemen had previously written a sentence, which was folded and enclosed in a sealed envelope. This paper was presented to the somnambulist, who, after a considerable time, called for a pencil, and wrote out the very words of the writing in the envelope.

“A short repose being granted, a journalist who had no faith in clairvoyance, being put *en rapport*, requested the somnambulist to describe to him his apartment. ‘Travel there mentally yourself,’ said the somnambulist, ‘and I shall follow you.’ ‘Well, I am doing so,’ said the journalist. ‘Your apartment,’ observed then the somnambulist, ‘is on the third floor. Yes, it is on the third floor, and I am

now in your room. Everything in it appears to me in disorder. There is a table by the side of the window, with many papers upon it; but I can see nothing striking in your apartment; in short, there is scarcely anything in it.' 'That is very true,' admitted the journalist; 'but now I am thinking of something. Can you see what it is?' 'You are thinking of a portrait which hangs over the mantel-piece. It is a daguerreotype; it is even your own likeness.' 'Still very true,' again admitted the journalist.

"Another gentleman tried the same experiment, and the very objects he only thought of were named to him, which further proved the extraordinary lucidity of the somnambulist."

In the year 1842 a seance was given in one of the large salons of Père Lathuille in Paris, to which were invited the most eminent medical men of the day, as well as many celebrated literary characters. As few persons then believed in magnetism, the difficulty to contend with was very great. At this meeting all was doubt and discussion. I was sub-

mitted to the experiment of vision at a distance by M. Theophile Gautier, which, though he allowed it to be exact, did not appear to create a very favourable sensation. The decisive experiment, and which the company so much desired, came next. This was to read in any book the gentlemen present might choose; but having been then some considerable time in the sleep, I was too fatigued to produce this phenomenon, and I consequently failed. But my magnetiser, who was endowed with extraordinary magnetic power, induced me to persevere, begging me to observe that the success of the seance entirely depended on this single experiment. Being thus strongly influenced by his will, I again endeavoured to comply with the wishes of the company; and by making a great effort, I succeeded in reading the phrase indicated with considerable facility. No words of mine could express the delight of my magnetiser, the moment I triumphed. The journals of the day gave an account of this seance. No one, however, dared yet to express his opinion aloud; no one, for instance, had the moral courage to say, "I

have seen and I believe." We were, however, then, as we are now, in the nineteenth century. Honour be to him, who, uncontrolled by the prejudices of his age, dares to acknowledge what he knows to be true.

#### MESMERISM, CLAIRVOYANCE, MENTAL TRAVELLING.

"On Thursday last, an address was delivered on these subjects in the lecture room of the Mechanics' Institution. After the lecture, M. Adolphe Didier, 'the somnambule de Paris,' was mesmerised, in looking at the eyes of the operator, which gave him a number of apparent convulsive starts. His eyes were then bandaged, a quantity of cotton wool being first placed over them, which was secured by a handkerchief tied round the head in the usual manner; a handkerchief was then tied from each side, crossing each other in the centre, by which both eyes were double bandaged. This was all executed by M. M. Cree, who declared himself satisfied that M. Adolphe could not see. He then played several games at

ecarté with a gentleman, distinguishing the cards with the most perfect ease, and, on one occasion, continued to select all the best cards into his own hands and put the worst into those of his antagonist, naming each of them before a card was turned; the cards were obtained for the occasion, by a gentleman belonging to Lewes. He afterwards deciphered a number of names on address cards with more or less ease, but with unvarying correctness."—*Sussex Provincial News*.

"In spite of the great interest excited by the lecture on Mesmerism, which has taken place during the past week, some gentlemen of Lewes, wishing to investigate the various points adduced more fully and satisfactorily than is possible at a public lecture, engaged M. Adolphe to a private seance, held at the house of one of the gentlemen alluded to. Through the kind courtesy of the party, we were enabled to be present, and witnessed a succession of experiments conducted so successfully as to leave no doubt whatever on the minds of the audience of the truth of the principle of magnetism.

“After several experiments on the subject, the great curiosity of the evening, M. Adolphe Didier, was then placed under the wondrous power of magnetic influence—the experiment inducing the powerful rigidity of muscle, a rigidity the more extraordinary in so slightly made a youth. The power of clairvoyance, the card playing, &c., as were exhibited on Thursday, at the Mechanics’ Institution, were then given amidst the most minute and careful investigation of those present. After reading with ease the different papers, books, &c., placed before him, while his eyes were bandaged in the most secure manner, after a very few moments of quiet, the great attempt of the evening, ‘the Mental Traveling,’ as it is termed, was commenced. The master of the house took a seat by the side of Adolphe, who requested him to place his hands within his. This gentleman, whom, for convenience sake, we will denominate as B., then told Adolphe that he was going to a house, No. — on the Marine Parade, at Brighton. Having named the number, Adolphe immediately exclaimed, ‘J’y suis,’ and at once pro-

ceeded through the lower rooms of the house (mentally), describing the situation of the doors, windows, and the nature and relative size of the furniture, pictures, and ornaments. Mounting the stairs, he proceeded to make similar explanations of matters on the first floor, expressly pointing out particularities in the family portraits, the figures of the chimney-piece, &c. ; one of the latter he described as dancing, on which Mr. B. stated that he was right in this, as he had been throughout in his description, for the figure of Taglioni, in an operative attitude, was one of the chimney ornaments. It is impossible here to follow Adolphe through his marvellous relation ; suffice it to say, that those to whom the house described was familiar, pronounced his portraiture to be perfectly correct."—*Sussex Provincial News*.

#### CLAIRVOYANCE, "THE MARKED HALF-CROWN."

"At the conclusion of the opening address to the lecture on mesmerism, at the Town Hall, on Satur-



day evening, a little interlude came off, which claims some notice at our hands.

“It appears that on Thursday evening last, when M. Adolphe Didier, just arrived from Paris, was exhibiting, eight half-crowns were gathered from among the company, one of which was marked and mesmerised; which being done, the eight half-crowns were put into a hat, shaken up, and the clairvoyant, in his mesmeric sleep, was to select, among the eight half-crowns, the one which had been marked and mesmerised. This he did, and the coins were returned to their several owners.

“On Saturday, Mr. Laurence obtained permission to make a statement in connection with these proceedings. He stated that when he gave the lecturer the half-crown on Thursday, it had three separate marks upon it, but when it was returned to him, one of those marks was obliterated, and he told the lecturer at the time, that it had been done by means of some chemical process; and so convinced was he of this fact, that on the following day he sent the identical half-crown to Mr. Montagu

Phillips, of Hove, who was well known as a scientific man and a practical chemist, for the purpose of being analysed, and he had the authority of M. Phillips for saying that he had detected mercury upon the half-crown. The lecturer said that he would not deny that mercury might have been found on the half-crown ; but he did deny that they had proved that he put it there. A long discussion followed, which resulted in an agreement to try the experiment again. Adolphe was then introduced, and reduced to mesmeric sleep ; eight half-crowns were selected, and Mr. Cordy Burrows volunteered to assist in the performance. It was here suggested, however, that the lecturer should wash his hands ; and, after some delay, a bowl of hot water and soap were brought upon the platform, and the washing proceeded ; and, lest there should be anything in the water, Mr. Burrows washed his hands also. This being done, Mr. Burrows handed a half-crown, which he had marked, to the lecturer, who placed it between the palms of his hands, and blew upon it and rubbed it ; Mr. Burrows at the same time rubbing the seven

other half-crowns in his hands. They were then all put into a hat, which was 'shaken before taken' to the clairvoyant, who took them separately from the hat, and having selected one, it was handed to Mr. Burrows. The experiment succeeded: the announcement was received with applause."—*Brighton Guardian*.

#### LECTURE ON MESMERISM.

"A course of lectures was concluded last night at the new Town Hall. M. Adolphe Didier was magnetised; his arm was rendered cataleptic by a mere effort of the will, without contact. The gentleman who was the chairman used various means to test the genuineness of the experiments, and concluded by assuring the company that he could detect no appearance of fraud. The rigidity seemed extreme, and the pulse beat considerably slower than in the patient's other arm. Adolphe's next feat was to read different printed lines—his eyes being covered. Last experiments were repeated with similar results,

he read several sentences in French and English. It is fair to add, that they bore every mark of genuineness, and appeared fully to satisfy the audience."—*Cheltenham Chronicle*.

#### MESMERISM AND CLAIRVOYANCE.

"The first series of lectures on these mysterious subjects was delivered in this city on Monday afternoon, at the Natural History Society's room, Foregate Street. The lecturer, in his opening remarks, endeavoured to show that mesmerism ought not to be looked upon as exceedingly strange, inasmuch as there were many things recorded in medical reports which were very similar to mesmeric phenomena. He combated some of the prejudices against mesmerism.

"After Adolphe was introduced to the company, and having been mesmerised, the medical gentleman standing at the other end of the platform whispered to the operator which arm he wished to be rendered cataleptic. This one was accordingly rendered stiff by

a glance from the operator's eye ; and Dr. Steward having again felt the pulse in this arm, he said there was a great difference in its rapidity to that of the pulse in the arm which remained in a flaccid state. Two pieces of cotton wool were then placed upon his eyes, which were bound down by several handkerchiefs ; in this state he read out several address cards which were handed to him. Dr. Steward then unbound his eyes again, expressing his belief at the same time that they were so bandaged that he could not have seen the different objects which had been put before him. The company consisted on that occasion of between twenty and thirty highly respectable individuals.

“In the evening the attendance was numerous, and Dr. Owens delivered the introductory lecture ; he explained his own theory of mesmerism, which was, that it was an effect produced by abstraction of the patient's own mind, and this was the reason that mesmerism could not operate upon persons inclined to disbelieve the matter. After several experiments, M. Adolphe Didier read several things which were

written down upon paper correctly, and also deciphered some seals which were put into his hands. Mr. Walsh, on being appealed to, said publicly, that this case was certainly one of the most extraordinary of the kind he had ever seen, and he certainly did not understand it. It being ten o'clock, the experiments were declared to be at a close, and the company separated with various opinions, and many of them in 'deep converse and high discussion.'"—*Worcestershire Chronicle*.

#### MESMERISM AND CLAIRVOYANCE.

"Doctor Owens has concluded four experimental lectures on Mesmerism, more especially on that peculiar manifestation of it known as Clairvoyance. As this is nearly the first introduction of this branch of the subject in Cheltenham, a short sketch of the experiments may be acceptable.

"Clairvoyance is that condition in which a patient, placed under the mesmeric influence, does not appear in a state of unconscious sleep, but with all

the faculties in action, and capable of efforts which, in the ordinary demesmerised state, they are quite unable to accomplish.

“ Each lecture was prefaced by explanations of the theory of the new science ; but, as a few well-established facts on the existence of the phenomenon itself are necessary, before we proceed to explanation and theory,—we shall confine ourselves to a fair and impartial narrative of the experiments of M. Adolphe Didier — which experiments were of a startling character.

“ After being placed in the mesmeric state, his mesmeriser offered to produce rigidity in either of the arms or legs, in obedience to a word handed up from the audience,—himself standing at a considerable distance, making no gesture or movement after the receipt of the paper. This was done several times with perfect success. During the experiment, Dr. Freeman examined very attentively the state of the pulse at each wrist, as well as the beating of the heart, and found nothing to induce suspicion of unfairness. The mesmeriser then offered to mes-

merise a marked half-crown, which Adolphe should pick out from among six or eight others, placed together in a hat. This was attempted ; but owing to the mark having been made with pencil, it was obliterated in the handling, and it was impossible to tell if the right coin had been selected or not. But a similar one in the evening was attended with perfect success,—the patient, with his eyes closed, selecting the marked coin very readily. Immediately on the coin being picked out, it was examined by Dr. Freeman and other gentlemen, and found not to differ in warmth, or any other particular, from its fellows. The patient's eyes were then securely bandaged, under the superintendence of Dr. Freeman : large pieces of cotton wool being applied, and silk handkerchiefs tied transversely over that. The patient played several games of *ecarté*, with gentlemen present, in the whole of which he was successful,—shuffling the cards with great rapidity, often reading them the reversed way, and playing altogether well. After this, he was put to a very severe test, with the bandage still remaining—when he read cards,



title-pages of books, and French sentences, with apparent ease.

"A lady then handed him a up trinket-box, covered and sealed, to see if he could discover the contents. Another was then tried, of a card, securely wafered in an envelope. The gentleman who handed the packet, said it was a French sentence of two words. After some difficulty, the patient said, 'No! there are three words!' and on a further trial, he said the middle word was You; and the third had like two y's at the end: and the first he could not make out. On the packet being opened, the paper was found to be doubled over the first word, and the sentence, instead of being a French one of two words, consisted of the words, 'Can you Polka?' Under these circumstances, the experiment was considered a very successful one,—the middle word being made out, and the letters in Polka being easily mistaken for two j's.

"But the most decisive test applied to the patient was by Miss Wallace, of Pittville, well known as an eminent devotee to the truth of mesmerism; her

brother, on the contrary, was a firm disbeliever, and, we believe, the subject had almost led to an estrangement between them. Mr. Wallace was, however, persuaded to attend these lectures. At the one on Monday evening he was still unconvinced; and after closely scrutinizing the experiments, set the whole down to collusion or imposture. On returning home, however, he determined to prepare a test. Locking himself in his own room, he procured a small jewel case of morocco, stuffed and lined with white silk. He then wrote legibly on a slip of paper a test word, and, folding it in paper, applied his seal to it, so as to prevent the possibility of its being opened. This he brought with him to the meeting, and placed it in the patient's hand — while his eyes were bandaged, as above described, to make the test more severe. The word was chosen so that two of the letters would, if reversed, read for others. The patient, after some time, said he saw something like a y, then two y's; and then he said it was a funny word, whatever it was. On being told to reverse the box, he read first, 'H,' then 'a;' and then he

pronounced the word 'Hash.' The box being opened, it was found to be correct.

"The approval of the audience at this unexpected result was very marked. Mr. Wallace, being called on for his opinion, said it was impossible to stand against such a convincing proof. He pledged his word that no person besides himself knew what was written; and that he purposely wrote a word with h's, so that their resemblance to y's, when reversed, might puzzle the patient.

"Several other experiments were made in the course of the day, in each of which, the audience, who watched them closely, gave it as their decided opinion that no collusion or deception was possible.

"We give these facts as we witnessed them, to enable the public to judge for themselves, and stand or fall on their own merits. We can only exclaim with the poet,—

" 'Can such things be,  
And overcome us like a summer's cloud,  
Without our special wonder?'"

—*Cheltenham Examiner.*

## PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE INVESTIGATION OF MESMERISM.

“The fifth meeting of the society was held on Wednesday, the 12th instant; arrangements having been made for enabling the society to test the existence of clairvoyance, said to be possessed by Monsieur Adolphe Didier. There was a very full attendance of members and visitors. Monsieur Adolphe having been introduced by his friend, to whom he confides the duty of making the necessary arrangements for the exhibition of his power; a gentleman having been voted to the chair, certain precautions, in the way to do the experiments, were adopted. It was determined that all questions and suggestions that might be proposed to test the clairvoyant should be made in writing, and conveyed to the chairman, who was alone to communicate with the somnambule. A gentleman also was deputed to make notes of the proceedings, who, with the chairman, was selected, from the presumption that, if

biassed at all, it was rather against than in favour of mesmerism.

“Adolphe took his place in the chair, and was mesmerised. His limbs were catalepted by the mesmeriser at will; and, obedient to such written directions as were furnished, it was proposed to affect the pulse in a catalepted arm, while that of the opposite arm should be undisturbed.

“Monsieur Adolphe was now blindfolded; every precaution was adopted in bandaging the eyes—wads of cotton wool were placed over each eye, extending down to the nostril; one handkerchief was then placed horizontally over both eyes, and one diagonally over each eye. After the most careful examination, the chairman and others present pronounced vision to be impossible. A pack of cards, which neither magnetiser, patient, nor the party who sat down to play *ecarté* with the somnambule, knew, were produced. Adolphe sorted the cards with greater rapidity than most players would have done with their eyes open, making one or two mistakes, which immediately, and of his own accord, he corrected. The parties then

played several games. The correctness of Monsieur Adolphe's play was acknowledged, throughout, both by his antagonist and the bystanders. He made no mistake. He played two games without looking at the face of the cards, or raising them from the table until he named them; further, in one game he called the cards in his adversary's hand correctly, before they were played. During the whole of these proceedings, his antagonist, and all present, were narrowly scrutinizing his proceedings, but could detect nothing of a suspicious nature.

“Several address cards were then given to him (not through the chairman). He read them instantly. One instance is curious. A card was handed to him by a person who had not read the address it bore, and was even ignorant whose it was. Adolphe immediately read the card correctly. This fact is interesting, since it negatives the hypothesis that the somnambule always reads the mind of the party *en rapport* with him. A book taken at hazard from the table, which proved to be the Landscape Annual, was open before the clairvoyant; and he

read a line of it promptly, and with apparent ease. The bandages were now removed, and a piece of paper folded eight times, in which was written, in a small round hand, the words, 'Believe what you see,' was given to him by the same gentleman who had played at cards with him; and it is proper to add, that these words were written by the gentleman before he came into the house, and that no one present had been told, or had the opportunity of ascertaining, what they were; and further, the gentleman who had been staggered by the card-playing, stated that if this were read, he would be thoroughly convinced of the existence of clairvoyance; and offered to bet a friend, with whom he had come, twenty guineas, that the feat would not be accomplished.

"Monsieur Adolphe took considerable time for the undertaking. He first stated there were four words, and made separate dashes with a pencil on the paper before him, to indicate the number as given in the fac-simile subjoined. He added that the first word was the longest, and after a little

while, said the first letter was D. On being told he was wrong, he corrected himself, and wrote B.E. He now stopped for a brief while, and then wrote continuously B.I.E.R.E., and without being told he was correct, pronouncing the word spelt Believe, accentuating the second e. The next word he made out all but the first letter, which he stated he did not know. The letter was the w, which it must be recollected is wanting in the French alphabet; hence the difficulty to the clairvoyant. The letters were written to his dictation by the gentleman who made notes of the proceedings. He now wrote, after a pause, and earnest endeavour to decipher the writing, the word 'You,' and subsequently added the letter s above the last named word.

"The wonder here expressed, and the commotion attendant upon it among the gentlemen present, was now so great, that the clairvoyant, who had so far succeeded, relinquished his task. After this, the meeting broke up; yet not before the pretty general and full interchange of opinion amongst those present that the experiments had been most



cautiously and rationally conducted, and that the result was perfectly satisfactory."—*The Critic*.

#### CLAIRVOYANCE IN BRISTOL.

"The savants of Bristol have, during the week, had an opportunity of witnessing several experiments in clairvoyance of a novel description, rendered still more interesting by the absence of anything like collusion. A French gentleman, named Adolphe Didier, arrived here on a tour through the English towns. Monsieur Adolphe Didier very kindly and courteously acceded to the request of the committee of the Bristol Mesmeric Institution, to perform a few experiments to prove the truth of the science, and accordingly a numerously attended meeting took place at Dr. Storer's, on Thursday evening. The room was quite filled with a fashionable audience, a large portion of whom were ladies; we noticed, too, a large number of professional men among the audience.

"Monsieur Adolphe Didier having been introduced

to the audience, in the short space of a minute and a quarter, he was thrown into a trance, his eyes were then bandaged with cotton-wool, and pocket-handkerchiefs were tied round his head, so as to prevent the possibility of seeing, and gentlemen present were requested to write any sentence or name upon cards, and the somnambule read it. Mr. Cumberland and Mr. Saint did so, and in each case the clairvoyant was able to decipher a portion. A lady had written the word *Paris*, and doubled it over in such a manner as to make one letter to fall upon another, leaving only the 'Pa' uncreased. When the sealed envelope containing the word was handed to the clairvoyant, he said he could read the part of the word uncreased, and explained the fact of the doubling up, which before was unknown, to the lady herself. A pack of cards, which had never been opened before, was then produced, and the magnetiser, on the part of the clairvoyant, challenged any gentleman in the room to a game at *ecarté*. Mr. Grant accepted the challenge, and when the cards were placed before the clairvoyant, he exhibited the greatest excitement ;

when the cards were dealt, he played with the utmost rapidity, not making a single mistake, and sometimes correcting those of his opponent. He played three hands, one in which he played in the ordinary way, one with the cards turned from him, and one in which he named every card of his opponent's hand. He next accompanied Mr. Prideaux on a mental journey, describing to that gentleman the interior of a house where he (Mr. Prideaux) had not been for ten years ; he described the parlour, the pictures, and many articles which Mr. Prideaux had forgotten. Watches were then handed to him, and in one or two instances he was able to tell the position of the hands.

"During the time of performing the experiments the mesmeriser stood a considerable distance from him, so that there appeared to be no possibility whatever of collusion. The result of the experiments gave great satisfaction to the audience ; at the conclusion a vote of thanks was tendered for his courtesy, and in reply he assured them that all the experiments were genuine, and if any one was sceptical, he was willing

that a committee, either of medical men or gentlemen of the press, should be formed, who should conduct the experiments themselves. He announced, also, during his stay in Bristol, one public evening should be given for the benefit of the institution."

*The Bristol Times.*

#### THE SEANCE DELIVERY AT THE INSTITUTION.

"Mr. Herapath, the Rev. H. J. Roper, Mr. G. Smith of Catherine Place, and Mr. Gillon were appointed to conduct the experiments. Mons. Adolphe was introduced. The operator offered to show the power he possessed over the clairvoyant's circulation while in the trance, by checking the pulsation in his arm. Mr. Herapath then caught hold of Adolphe's right arm, and Mr. Gillon held his left; they reckoned 128 pulsations, the latter 120 or 124 per minute. Mr. G. took the patient's right arm and made a few passes down it, shaking his hand afterwards over his breast; the pulsations, however, were found the same. Mr. G. repeated his manipulations, and Mr. Hera-

path then found that in the right arm the pulsations had decreased to eighty-two, in the other arm the number had slightly increased to 130 : the experiment was declared perfectly successful. Another experiment was then attempted. Mr. Herapath and Mr. Roper then bandaged the clairvoyant's eyes. Mr. Roper evinced much anxiety to prevent the admission of a ray of light to either eye, and M. Adolphe remarked that 'he would not trouble himself to begin until Mr. Roper was quite sure.' The bandaging being completed to Mr. Roper's satisfaction, Adolphe walked to a table, and taking a pack of cards, which were opened by Mr. Herapath in the state in which they were received from an adjoining stationer's shop, challenged any one to a game at *ecarté*. The challenge was accepted by a gentleman in the audience, and on his seating himself at the table, the remarkable tie of cravat elicited a commentary from Adolphe. In conclusion of the game, a card was handed to him, and he almost immediately read the name of Mr. William Love upon it; then two more handkerchiefs were tied

across his face, and he read large and small type. The mesmeriser had no doubt the clairvoyant would have been able to have seen the interior organization of human beings. Mr. Herapath, Mr. Roper, and the other gentlemen on the platform, expressed their decided opinion that the patient could not, by any possibility, have seen with the ordinary means of vision during the experiments, which they pronounced highly successful. The bandages were then removed, and Mr. Heaven, taking a seat by the patient's side, took him mentally to a cave of Mundy Island."—*The Bristol Gazette*.

#### CLAIRVOYANCE. THE PRICE OF PREJUDICE.

"Thursday morning, a clergyman well known in Bath, attended, with the strongest prejudice and scepticism upon the subject, so he gave the somnambule a five pound note to read, when his eyes were perfectly secured by cotton wool and bandages, with the offer of it if he should succeed. After a few minutes of painful suspense, it was read distinctly

from top to bottom, to the most perfect satisfaction of the reverend gentleman, who, with a candour equal to his generosity, expressed a wish that he should have published its failure. It would be only fair that Monsieur Adolphe Didier should mention the circumstances, and his name also; and at the same time, to express his firm conviction of the truth of the science. The name has also been sent to us. No. 18,847."—*The Bristol Examiner*.

## CLAIRVOYANCE.

"During the week some very interesting lectures were delivered on the science of Mesmerism, illustrated by experiments on the celebrated somnambule Adolphe, who astonished numerous audiences by the power of his sight.

"Each lecture was remarkable by the experiments which were tried upon M. Adolphe, yet there were some, who, placing no trust in mesmerism, considered the conversation was communicated to Adolphe by private intimation, but of which, they admitted,

there was no appearance whatever. In order to satisfy the doubt of some gentlemen, it was arranged that a billiard match should be played by Adolphe when blindfolded, in the somnambulic state. This took place immediately after the public seance, on Monday evening ; when, his eyes having been bandaged with three handkerchiefs, under which were two large pieces of cotton-wool, and all possibility of seeing in the ordinary way quite done away with, Adolphe took the cue, and played his game as well as many could have done in their natural state with, open eyes. He described the position and colour of the balls, and made his remarks on the strokes, showing that he was perfectly clairvoyant. As he expressed himself as being much fatigued, the game was brought to an [early conclusion ; most sceptics being convinced of the astounding fact, that in a peculiar state of the human brain, preception can and does take place without the use of the ordinary means of vision.”—*Cardiff Journal*.

“ After the morning lecture yesterday, the Rev. M.



Carrow, Mr. F. Burroughs, solicitor, and Mr. Bisdec took part in the experiments, and having covered the eyes of the somnambule, and minutely examined the bandages in every part, Mr. Burroughs and Adolphe then engaged in a game of cards. The somnambule rapidly, and without the aid of touch, named his own and his opponent's cards as they lay before him. In some experiments with the Rev. M. Carrow, Adolphe displayed the same facility in distinguishing dominoes. At the conclusion of the experiments the mesmeriser inquired of the gentlemen who assisted, if they were satisfied that the patient had seen by some medium other than of eye-sight; and they each replied in the affirmative."

\* MESMERISM AND CLAIRVOYANCE.

"This week, we have had several lectures on mesmerism, at the room of the Mesmeric Institution, Park Street, illustrating the subjects on each occasion by experiments with the somnambule, Adolphe Didier. The experiments were tested by Doctor

O'Brien and Mr. Bartly, surgeons, who expressed themselves fully satisfied by the clairvoyant power of Monsieur Adolphe Didier."

#### LECTURE ON MAGNETISM.

"A lecture on mesmerism was delivered in the large room of the Phrenological Institution. The lecturer proceeded to read from a list of names of several of the most eminent men, all of whom were convinced of the truth of Mesmerism, or, as it is also termed, Animal Magnetism, among whom were Cuvier, the great naturalist, Empieux, Prévost, George, Depusé, Brewster, Trépas, Bertrand, La Rue, Patisé, Lavater, Hoffman, Paris, Elliotson, Colquhoun, and Gregory, the professor of chemistry at Edinburgh, the latter of whom was so thoroughly convinced of its truth, that in his lectures delivered to his classes, he had reported many cases he had effected by means of mesmeric fluids. In France and Germany so convinced are the medical practitioners of the truth of mesmerism, that no less than 400 works have been

published on the subject. The members of the second commission of the Academie des Sciences, at Paris, were so well convinced of its truth, that under the twenty-third head of their report, they entered very fully into the subject. Then the professor gave a lucid account of the property of mesmerism, which, he stated, was produced by external causes—it was the medicine of nature, the exuberance of vitality in one person, given to another deficient in such vitality; merely a change produced in the nervous system of the human being. Does not the thunder-storm produce a change in our nervous system? A pleasant change by a smiling lip; a different one by a down-cast eye? Also are the feelings of joy and despair produced by external circumstances.

“Persons mesmerised, or whilst under a state of nervous excitement, have no immediate recollection of what transpires whilst in the mesmeric, or nervous state, yet many, after six or seven years, have a very distinct remembrance of all the circumstances: witness only the following anecdote:

“Lockhart, in his biographical history of Scott,

relates that his work, 'The Bride of Lammermoor,' was written by that great author whilst labouring under a severe fit of excitement, and that his daughter was compelled to act as his amanuensis on the occasion, writing from her father's dictation; and, that, on the recovery of Sir Walter, he had not the slightest recollection of that fact; and so fearful was he that he had committed some blunder in its composition, that he immediately sent for a copy of that beautiful work, and was highly delighted, when he found, that so far from having committed any errors, he had never produced a more interesting novel.

"The Rev. Mr. Ryne, of Hook, in the county of Surrey, stated that he has effected upwards of one hundred cures by means of mesmerism. Miss Martineau, than whom there is not a stronger-minded woman, was so convinced of the truth of the science, that, after five years of severe suffering, she underwent an operation. She immediately got better, and though not being able previously to walk from one room to another without assistance, she was in a short

time so far recovered as to walk a considerable distance without feeling fatigued. But what said her physician ? he told her it was all nonsense—she was not any better—a mere fancy. The Editor of the *Athenæum* went so far, on remarking on this lady's case, as to say that as she had not received a medical education, it was impossible to say whether she was better or not. A patient, a young lady, the daughter of one of the judges in Bombay, who, from some disease under which she was labouring, was unable to walk, and was compelled on every fourth day to be leeches ; placed herself in the early part of December last under the care of the lecturer, and she was so far recovered that on Friday last she walked from her residence to the Regent's Park, a distance of three miles.

“On Monsieur Adolphe Didier being placed in the magnetic state, the first experiment was to produce rigidity ; this was easily accomplished. The magnetiser asked whether any gentleman would like to try the limb so operated on. A gentleman stepped forward, and having tried to bend the limb, declared most unequivocally that there could not be any de-

ception ; that the arm was as stiff as a bar of iron. Then two large lumps of cotton wool having been handed round to the company, several of whom tried to look through this opaque substance, but ineffectually, were placed on the eyes of the subject, and kept on by a thick handkerchief, fastened at the back of the head, as well as by two others put crosswise, thus rendering it a matter of total impossibility for the patient to catch even the slightest glimpse of light. In that state Mons. Adolphe Didier played at *écarté* with a gentleman. Having, according to the laws of the game, taken from the pack the deuces, threes, fours, fives, and sixes, the remainder was shuffled. The opponents cut for deal, and having played two hands, the gentleman stated in the most positive manner that he was fully convinced that it was a fair trial, and positive proof the subject was a powerful clairvoyant. Monsieur Adolphe was then subjected to various other trials, such as reading printed cards, slips of paper on which there was writing—all of which he read most correctly, causing much laughter at his curious pronunciation of our language ; it is

however, but right to observe, that this gentleman has but very lately arrived from Paris, and scarcely understands one word of English. Mons. Adolphe read also various phrases placed in envelopes and boxes. He read several lines of a printed book, a list of London bankers from a pocket-book, a card of a maker of Banbury cakes, folded up in an envelope, and a portion of a lady's address card, also in an envelope. We were not astonished at his not being able to decipher the whole of the latter, the letters being engraved in a flourishing style, and of so small a character, that many gentlemen who examined this card afterwards were compelled to look at it very closely for some seconds, before they could distinguish the writing. On the whole, the seance proved very satisfactory; We can bear our decided testimony that the experiments tried were fairly tested, and we have no hesitation in pronouncing that magnetism, which has so long been held up to ridicule, has that in it which will well repay the trouble of an inquiry."—*Literary Institution, March.—Kentish Mercury.*

## MAGNETISM, SONAMBULISM—MONDAY, JULY 23.

*To the Editor of the Commerce, of Dunkirk.*

“ You wish us to send you an account of the seance of somnambulism, given by M. Didier. We will then endeavour to describe to you succinctly, and within the limited time you allow us, what we have both seen and heard upon this occasion. Though we did not consider ourselves as one of the incredulous, we felt rather anxious to be convinced, by what we ourselves should witness, of the result of those experiments, of which we had been already informed ; and from what we know of the uncertainty of the phenomena of magnetism, we were fain to compare facts with what we had heard on this subject. We arrived at the appointed hour, and found ourselves in the midst of a considerably numerous body of people, but select, and consisting more of ladies than gentlemen. M. Didier and his magnetiser soon made their appearance. The former appeared to us as a slender young man, with a pale complexion. His magnetiser



having caused him to be seated in an arm-chair, began to make passes on his subject from his head down to his stomach. A change came over the magnetised under this influence; his face appeared contracted, there was an evident twitching of the hands, and a lifeless hanging of the limbs. As it happens to one who is on the point of going to sleep, his eye-balls turned up, and he had all those symptoms which we have seen so often precede a state of natural catalepsy. After the lapse of a few minutes, the magnetiser informs the company that M. Didier is in a state of lucid somnambulism.

“Before beginning the experiments of lucidity, and in order to preclude the possibility of any kind of trickery, the eyes of the magnetised are well covered with balls of carded cotton, which are kept in their place by means of large silk pocket-handkerchiefs, which some of the persons present fold several times around the subject's face, so as to completely obstruct all power of vision.

“These precautions being taken, M. Didier rises, and goes and seats himself at a card-table, and

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then proposes that some one of the company will play a game with him.

“At this moment we heard several ladies and gentlemen exclaim that M. Didier was not asleep.

“To this we beg to reply: That such persons as made this objection can know nothing of what is called natural somnambulism, and of which the reality cannot possibly be called in question. It is a state which is susceptible of the most varied kind of phenomena,—from that when the somnambulist delivers a well-connected discourse, to that when he rises from his bed and performs with ease the most finished movements. If, then, natural somnambulists see, walk, hear, and answer questions, while asleep, it cannot be otherwise with such persons as are thrown into an artificial state of somnambulism; for natural does not differ from artificial somnambulism, but by the circumstances through which it has been brought on.

“Magnetic somnambulism can, therefore, as well as natural somnambulism, perform all the acts of life while it is under the influence of, not only the

ideas which have been awaked during its state, but also of the impression connected with those ideas.

“These facts are, therefore, incontestable; and our intellectual faculties can, during sleep, so persist in their ordinary state as to possess the power of controlling all our sensations, movements, &c.

“To return to M. Didier. After having broken the seal of the envelope which contained a complete pack of cards, he began by separating the lower from the higher cards—and which he did more easily and expeditiously than we could have done with our eyes open. These cards having been then shuffled and dealt by one of the company, he named without the least difficulty the one that was turned up. He then names those which are held by his opponent, or he takes from the pack, without turning them up, such as he requires in order to win the game. After various tests, which prove his perfect lucidity respecting the cards, two gentlemen submit to M. Didier their visiting cards, which he also deciphers, though not without some hesitation.

“Several persons then write words on different

scraps of paper, which, on being folded, are presented to M. Didier, who succeeds in deciphering some of them—being always upon those occasions put in connection with the writers by holding one of their hands.

“After these experiments, two ladies approach M. Didier, and beg of him to favour them with a description of the interior of their houses. These descriptions are very exact for one of the ladies, but for the other they are not without some variations, though all the particulars are given in detail.

“The somnambulist being now exhausted, he was no longer in a fit state to reply to the questions of the company.

“Some of these persons made a great mistake by supposing they went to see a man capable of telling everything, and of foreseeing the future as well as giving an exact account of the past,—and all this without end, without limit, as to hour or time. But it is not so with magnetism. In the magnetic sleep, the will of the magnetiser can supply somnambulists with an accuracy, a precision of tact, by

means of which they are enabled to see what is passing within them and around them. But nothing can be more singular, nothing more irregular, than this faculty. When the somnambulist's lucidity comes to him, it may not remain with him fully developed for more than a few instants, and this too may be only for certain days and certain hours. To expect somnambulism to be continual, and always the same, is to confound it with legerdemain—with the tricks of a Robert Houdin.

“With respect to what we think of animal magnetism, we may say that we suppose a somnambulist to be possessed of a multitude of extremely sensitive perceptions, which have to a certain extent the power of taking cognizance of what passes around them. But others besides ourselves have heard of somnambulists [that is, those who are naturally so]—of those persons who, while fast asleep, get up, go out, or work at things in the dark, for which the use of one's eyes were otherwise absolutely necessary, yet who have not, when they awake, the least recollection of what passes upon such occasions.”

“C. A. L.”

## THE FOLLOWING IS FROM THE SAME.

“It is undeniable that magnetism and the wonders by which it is attended, are now exciting to a very high degree the curiosity and interest of the public. And magnetism is well deserving of such consideration, especially when it is exercised naturally, and free from everything like charlatanry.

“Now, this is what distinguishes the seances of Monsieur Adolphe Didier, who has already become so celebrated in France and other parts of Europe. His seances are destined to advance magnetism, and render unbounded service to mankind.

“A seance of magnetism was given on Thursday, at the Circle of Commerce, by M. Adolphe Didier. He was still more lucid in his sleep than last Monday. He again produced those experiments with which you have already entertained your readers; he read still more correctly than before, several words enclosed in envelopes; described the profession of a person, his character, and habits. But that which

astonished the spectators more than anything else, was the accuracy with which he detailed all the circumstances connected with a travelling bag which had been some time lost. He named, without making a single mistake, all the articles which this bag contained;—linen, razors—all, in short, even to a peculiar kind of cake, called *gaufre*, of which some (for there had been several in the bag) were broken. This latter proof of lucidity brought home conviction to all present. At another seance, he gave, with the most exact details, descriptions of the apartments of several persons. But that which struck every one most, was the obstinacy with which, in spite of her reiterated denial of the fact, he assured a lady, whose apartment he had admirably described, that he saw a glass of water on her piano. But this fact has been verified and acknowledged, as we have since learned, by the lady herself on her return home.”—*Journal of Dunkirk.*

\* \* \* \*

“And every one withdrew, delighted with that wonderful lucidity which, up to the present hour,

has been darkened by no cloud. On Saturday, at the public seance which was given at the *Salle du Lloyd*, the honours of the evening were awarded to M. Didier, whose clairvoyance, which is really miraculous, filled the believers in magnetism with enthusiasm, confounded its sceptics, and excited to the highest degree the interest of the profane world."

—*Journal du Havre*.

"At the magnetic soirée, success attended the experiments of M. Didier. After various tests, letters were submitted to him; he read some parts of them, told the places whence they came, and the name of their author. On being questioned concerning some persons who were absent, he gave in detail several circumstances characteristic of their individuality and occupations; he even described minutely the moral and physical state of one of the spectators.

"The experiment which struck ourselves the most forcibly, and which proved to us the entire absence of everything like charlatanry, while it convinced us of the truth of the perceptions effected by the mag-



netic fluid, was an experiment which we at first regarded as a failure. One of the spectators, having cut a lock of his hair, and wrapped it up in a scrap of paper, submitted it to the somnambulist, to the end that the latter might tell him to whom the hair had belonged. M. Didier, on having both felt and smelt it, declared that he saw a sick child, a little boy. Then he began to cough, while holding his throat, and to make wry faces, as if he were then tasting something disagreeable. The audience, who had just learned that the hair belonged to the gentleman who presented it, were greatly surprised at this description, but were still more so, when this gentleman, who is the father of a family, declared to them that he had a child some months old, which, from its having lately suffered from a very severe cold, happened to be seriously ill during the day, and that, in order to free its throat from the slimy matter that clogged it, it was found necessary to administer an emetic, which caused the child to throw up bile. This information accounted perfectly for those signs, and this pantomime, so expressive of

the somnambulist. During the whole day, this father had attended to his child, so that he became impregnated with its fluid. Even at the seance he was still thinking of it, and the somnambulist catching this idea, did not go beyond it, but held to it, to the exclusion of everything else; and hence the curious details with which he favoured us.”—*Le Narrateur Fribourgeois.*

“Last Saturday’s seance had drawn together a much larger concourse of spectators than the preceding one; the hall was full to overflowing. There was, by way of introduction, a discourse delivered on the science of magnetism; but, notwithstanding the novelty of this subject, the experiments, which are always expected with impatience, were soon begun. As we consider it unnecessary to enter into those details which we gave of the first seance, we shall only state that the experiments were perfectly successful, notwithstanding the extraordinary strictness of the new committee which had been named for the purpose of directing them. In effect, these

gentlemen no longer considered the balls of carded cotton as sufficient, for they literally closed up M. Didier's eyes with two real plasters, which they first took care to scrutinize. But all this could not hinder the somnambulist from playing with extraordinary celerity, and remarkable certainty, several games of cards, dominoes, and draughts, nor from reading at the instant whatever was presented to him. And as to the consultations, they appeared, as far as we were able to judge of them, to satisfy the persons who addressed M. Didier.—*Republicain Neuchatelois*.

#### MAGNETISM AT NEUCHÂTEL.

“The magnetic soirée, and which was announced for the 29th inst., came off at the Concert Hall. After an introductory discourse, which was as lucid as it was learned, a committee of three members was appointed by the assembly; namely, Messrs. le Docteur Regnier, and Professors Vouga and Secretan. Professor Vouga taking in one hand a watch, upon which the seconds were marked, and feeling with his

other hand the somnambulist's pulse, declared that under the influence of the magnetic fluid, his pulsations increased from seventy to one hundred and twenty the minute. This is a remarkable phenomenon, and which proves even to demonstration the modifying influence of the magnetic agent. After various experiments, several of the company approached the clairvoyant with letters and locks of hair of persons then absent, respecting whom they desired to be favoured with some information. M. Didier described so exactly the places inhabited by those persons, their physiognomy, their character, and the state of their health, as both to astonish and delight all who consulted him."—*Republicain Neufchatelois*.

#### PROCES-VERBAL OF A SEANCE OF MAGNETISM.

"As soon as an explanatory discourse of the view that should be taken of animal magnetism was delivered, and M. Didier was announced to be in what is called a state of somnambulism, Professors Vouga and Secretan, with Dr. Regnier, are chosen by the as-

sembly for the purpose of surveying and controlling the experiments. They covered, as well as this could possibly be done, M. Didier's eyes by means of two balls of carded cotton, and three silk handkerchiefs folded crosswise. A watch is then handed to M. Didier; he seizes it, and conveying it to his lips, tells what o'clock it is, even to the minute. He cannot, however, read what is engraven on the case, this arising from the effect produced by the gold.

“ M. Didier, with his eyes still covered, plays at piquet and *écarté* with one of the spectators; he names the cards, gives them out, and plays with so much the more advantage to himself, as he can see those which are held by his opponent. His magnetiser being placed behind his chair, shewed, upon his receiving a signal from one of the spectators, without a word being uttered, how, by the different movements he caused him to perform, he could affect him just as the magnet does iron.

“ The bandage being now taken off, a spectator hands him a lock of hair (it belonged to his wife, who was not at the seance), and wishes to know if he can

see the person from whom it came. He points out exactly the way to her house, gives a description of her person, and also indicates what persons are in the same room with her. The spectator admits that all the circumstances are just as M. Didier stated. Another gentleman hands him also a lock of hair. M. Didier declares, on receiving it, that the young woman to whom it belongs, is suffering from a complaint in her chest, and he then gives a minute account of her sufferings, but says he cannot notice her case further at a public seance, lest he fatigue himself (this young woman's complaint is hypertrophia of the heart). M. Didier, on being now awaked, left the seance. The undersigned declares that he has witnessed the above-mentioned facts.

“L. REGNIER,

“Docteur-Medecin.”

*Neufchatel, Dec. 30, 1852.*

“The first seance given by M. Didier produced so advantageous an effect, that the large concert-hall of the Abbaye des Boulangers contained yesterday even-

ing some of the most distinguished characters of the political and financial world. The theoretical part of the seance was very short. The company confined their proceedings to a recapitulation of the previous evening, not omitting, however, to produce some pathological facts of the highest interest. The experimental part of the seance was only the more attractive. The French Ambassador handed to M. Didier, who was in the somnambulist state, and whose eyes were covered with cotton and bandages in the way already described—a sealed pack of cards, and had the pleasure of losing two games at écarté. M. Druey, late president of the confederation, handed some letters to the young somnambulist, who described perfectly the persons from whom they came. Other experiments were also made, and not without fully satisfying this distinguished audience, among whom we remarked several deputies of the Jura. There were also present some of the physicians of Bern, who had themselves inscribed for the purpose of attending the private lectures.'—*L'Indépendance Suisse*.

“ M. Didier's lucidity at the seance given yesterday evening, was really wonderful. At the preceding seance, which came off last Saturday, he had consented, in order to convince such persons as were extremely incredulous that he could not see, to have two sticking plasters applied to his eyes. But this operation, which caused him some pain, was wholly superfluous. After many experiments, several ladies and gentlemen consulted him successively respecting their absent friends, their different situations, and other interesting particulars. Letters enclosed in envelopes were distinctly read by him. And as to his answers to the most complicated questions, they were prompt, precise, and formal—were delivered with the decision of one who does not guess, but who attests what he knows, and what he sees.

“ One of those consultations excited great interest, on account of its singularity. A gentleman handed to M. Didier a small chain enclosed in an envelope. The somnambulist sees by means of his second sight this object, and gives a description of it. But this



chain might belong to a gentleman, a lady, or a child. The somnambulist, on being requested to state to whom it belonged, gave the description of a dog : and that, too, very minutely. He went even farther, for he said that the dog had forsaken the house to which he belonged. The somnambulist was right in every particular. This seance was really astonishing.”—*L'Independance Suisse*.

“The third soirée has still added to the interest excited by the two previous ones. The somnambulist played at dominoes with a doctor. A foreigner of distinction, who resides in the town, had brought a pack of cards with him, of which the seal had not been yet broken. He begins to play with the somnambulist ; but his astonishment, as well as that of the spectators, is increased to the highest, when M. Didier, of his own accord, informs him that he has in his coat pocket a certain paper, of which he gives him a description. Then a member of the diplomatic body handed to the somnambulist a rather voluminous folded paper, and requested him

to read what it contained. M. Didier wrote upon the same paper the whole of what was enclosed within this thick envelope, and which made only one word. He had guessed it, or rather the second sight had, upon this occasion, wrought one of its miracles."—*La Suisse*.

#### MAGNETISM AND SOMNAMBULISM.

"M. Didier went through all his experiments with his usual lucidity. We were principally struck by two circumstances during these experiments. The first is the power of the magnetiser over his subject, whose voice he can stop and restore to him upon a signal given by one of the audience. The second is that astonishing experiment of M. Didier—we mean his reading, while in the magnetic sleep, what is written on a paper carefully enclosed in an envelope. One of the audience handed to him, in an envelope six times folded, his card of admission for the evening, having forgot to give it up as he came in; and M. Didier, who could not expect anything of the

kind, succeeding in reading what this thick envelope enclosed.

“Several of the faculty of Bern, who went to the seance with no very favourable opinions, came away completely astonished.”—*La Suisse*.

### MAGNETISM.

“There has been at the office of our Journal, one of the most curious seances of magnetism. M. Adolphe Didier, a somnambulist of wonderful lucidity, completely succeeded in the series of experiments which were tried on Sunday last, in the midst of a numerous company, in the offices of the ‘Journal des Théâtres.’ His attitude during the magnetic sleep is really extraordinary.

“In this assembly he described the apartments of several persons, with an accuracy so very minute, that he was several times obliged to say: “Oh, no! I will not go that way; there is something there not very fine to look at.’ But, at the close of this seance, there was an experiment, which, in our opinion, sur-

passed the others. A gentleman wrote a phrase upon a sheet of paper, which, on its being enclosed in an envelope and sealed, was presented to the somnambulist's second sight, which did not fail him now any more than it did before; for at the end of a few seconds he read this sentence, leaving us all in the most profound astonishment."

"We have been present at the seance of magnetism given by M. Didier in the great Hall of the Société Mutuelle. We remarked with pleasure among the audience several of our medical men, professors, writers, and officers, besides some ladies. It was a large assembly—so much so, that there were many who could find no place in the Great Hall.

"At eight o'clock precisely, the seance was opened with the delivery of a simple, but clear, exposition of the principles, causes, and effects of magnetism. The lecturer traced on a broad scale the programme, and, to a certain extent, the summary of those important questions, to which is connected by different points of contact the science which is

now being professed with so much talent and address.

"We cannot praise too highly the extraordinary lucidity of which M. Adolphe Didier gave so many proofs during the seance. It would require much more space than we can to-day dispose of, to relate all these phenomena. To give a detailed account of them, would only take from their merit; they are, moreover, so very extraordinary, that in order to form a just opinion of them they should be seen."—*Gazette Officielle de Savoie.*

"M. Didier's experiments were very interesting. He played and won two games, on having, in a few seconds, been thrown into the sleep. A lady, on consulting him, was told she would soon go travel; which she said was most likely, it being her intention to do so. To another lady he indicated the place where she would find an article she had lost."—*La Suisse.*

SOMNAMBULISM—MAGNETISM. ADOLPHE DIDIER.

"Life is, like intelligence, everywhere. All nature

is animated, all nature feels and thinks. He who has not perceived this, has never reflected upon the insatiable fecundity of that great creatress—Thought. She ought not, she cannot stop; infinite space is peopled; and wherever life is, there also is she. Thought has, of course, her inequalities, but they are not blank. Do we require physical demonstration of this fact? If so, let us only examine, with the solar microscope, a drop of water, and there we shall see thousands of worlds gravitating; worlds even in the tear of an insect! and if we can succeed in dividing these thousands of worlds, thousands of others will again make their appearance. If from these numerous worlds so infinitely small, we suddenly ascend to the countless globes of the celestial vault—if we dive into the milky way, so crowded with suns, of which each governs a system of globes more vast than the moon and earth united, the mind will sink under the weight of numbers, but the soul will bear up against it, and glory in belonging to this great work, in having the power to conceive it, in owning a sentiment of love and gratitude for its author.

“Away then with those who anathematize magnetism and somnambulism ! as if they were both stained with irreligion : if ever there was aught capable of making us believe in the Almighty Being who has created the heavens, the earth, and human intelligence, it is certainly that rare faculty with which the sovereign Creator of nature has, under certain circumstances, endowed some men ; it is that faculty of a second and better sight than the one we possess in ordinary ; that sight which can look into the mysteries of creation, and by so doing, relieve the sufferings of mankind.

“ M. Adolphe Didier's visit to London cannot but reconcile many persons to the cause of magnetism. He who writes these lines has seen many changes of opinion. Before he had assisted at M. Didier's seances, he himself even doubted in the existence of a sixth sense ; but as he has, like the apostle St. Thomas, put his finger on the reality, he no longer doubts. M. Didier's lucidity is not greater than his candour, and nothing can be more simple and unpretending than his exposition of magnetism and its

Three of the company then covered his eyes with large lumps of wadding, over which two handkerchiefs were folded crosswise, so as to completely obstruct his vision, and to satisfy all present of the utter impossibility of his being able to see through such an obstacle. From the several tests of his lucidity which now followed, it was allowed by all present that he could see better while in this state than when awake.

"A lady being put *en rapport* with him, asked, 'Can you tell me what I lost a few days ago?'

"M. Adolphe Didier replied, 'I see something in gold, encircled in metal; you always carried it about with you; when you lost it, it was in a little bag.'

"'Where did I lose this article?' asked the lady.

"'At the theatre, where you were at the time with one of your friends.'

"This experiment appeared to satisfy the lady.

"Lady S— was then put *en rapport* with M.



Didier, and asked him if he could tell her where her brother was at that moment.

“ ‘He is,’ answered M. Didier, ‘in Italy, at Milan, and he is at this instant on horseback.’

“ ‘Can you describe him to me?’

“ ‘He is tall ; has large whiskers ; has a cigar in his mouth ; and wears a military dress.’

“ ‘It is very true. Can you tell me his name?’

“ M. Didier requested the lady to think well of the name herself, and then taking a pencil, he wrote on a scrap of paper, *Charles*. Lady S. was astonished and delighted.

“ Madame Lemourier then put to the somnambulist a rather singular question. ‘What shall I do,’ she asked, ‘in a few days’ time?’

“ ‘You will take,’ he answered, ‘the Great Western Railway. You will go into a large house where there are many young ladies, and there you will be as mistress.’

“ A gentleman on being then put *en rapport* with the somnambulist, wished to know if he could be told what he had bought that morning.

"M. Didier, though now nearly exhausted, answered: 'You were this morning very far from London—you were at Oxford; there you bought a sculpture, a religious subject.'

"This seance was altogether one of the most extraordinary."

#### SEANCE OF THE 7TH OF APRIL, 1853.

"On the seventh of April fourteen persons had met at M. Didier's, for the purpose of testing his lucidity. As soon as he was thrown into the magnetic state, it was easy to perceive from his manner that he was then in a favourable disposition. Mr. \* \* \*, who was noted for his incredulity, handed to the clairvoyant an envelope, declaring that unless what it contained were deciphered, he could not believe in the truth of clairvoyance.

"After having held the envelope several minutes between his hands, M. Didier said: "What a funny thing! I see a dash, then a sentence in a circle.

With much difficulty he gave this drawing of the enclosed sentence :



"This sentence, from its having been written with a pencil and in a circle, was not deciphered without considerable difficulty.

"Mr. \* \* \* then presented a ring, upon which there was something engraved that could not, from its being so very small, be read with the naked eye. However, M. Didier deciphered these three words : '*Espère of God.*'

"Then followed an experiment more decisive than any of the others. A gentleman handed to the clairvoyant a gold watch, requesting him to read

what was written inside. M. Didier answered as quickly as the question was put to him, *Venitia*. The watch was then opened and this word was, in fact, found inside."

"Being fond of new discoveries, especially those relating to science, and having often heard of the wonders of magnetism, I was resolved not to lose the chance which was offered me, of satisfying my curiosity by M. Didier's stay in London. I have attentively followed his seances, and have several times invited him to my house, in order to be convinced by my own investigations of the reality of somnambulism. There, surrounded by a few friends, I could submit him to experiments both sure and positive; experiments respecting which there could be no doubt.

"For the sake of that respect which is due to truth, I purpose here to relate, as well as I possibly can, some of those experiments which appeared to me very astonishing.

"One day I requested M. Adolphe to give me a

seance. When he was in the sleep, I put a letter into his hand, asking him what it contained.

“ *Answer* : ‘ Yes, I see a bank-note.’ ”

“ *Question* : ‘ Are you certain of that ?’ ”

“ *Answer* : ‘ Yes, but it does not seem to have been made like other bank notes : I see only a half.’ ”

“ *Question* : ‘ You are right ; but can you tell me where the other half is ?’ ” .

“ *Answer* : ‘ It is here, close by me ! it is in the box hanging up there.’ ”

“ Nothing could be more satisfactory than this experiment.\* ”

“ At another seance, I handed him a letter, on having first torn off the signature. To my great astonishment, he told me the names and relationship of the person.

“ At another seance, in the presence of M—, who was an officer like myself, I was fain to submit his lucidity to a third test. I put into his hands a large

\* A few days afterwards, his Lordship begged my acceptance of the two parts of this bank-note, as a souvenir of the experiment.—A. D.

book, which was closed by means of a lock it had in the middle, and I requested him to direct his vision to the last words I had written.

“Having apparently reflected, he answered : ‘I see a C, an H, an A, a P, then the figure 2, as well as some small letters, and a dash under them.’

“I thought that the number was in Roman characters. I immediately opened the book, when to my great surprize I saw, as the somnambulist had indicated, the figure 2.

“I must, however, admit that I sometimes found Adolphe less disposed. Thus, one afternoon, I magnetised him at Lady Cambermere’s, and the experiments of which I thought I might be certain, failed. Nevertheless he played a game of cards with Lady Barrington, and, agreeably to some one’s request, he gave his partner five trumps. A gentleman, having some doubts about the fastening of the bandage over his eyes, asked the somnambulist if he had any objection to his placing, instead of this bandage, his fingers on his eyelids. Upon his answering that he had none whatever, this gentleman laid his fingers on the som-

nambulist's eye-lashes ; but in spite of this obstacle, he read several visiting cards."\*—*London, July 12, 1852.*

*"Athenæum Club, Feb. 12, 1853.*

"SIR,

"I hasten to communicate to you the result of our experiments of this morning. You remember that I presented you a sealed envelope, of the contents of which I was myself entirely ignorant. You told me that it contained first a box in pasteboard, then an article wrapped up, and still in paper ; that the article had a round form, and then, in indicating its size, you drew a circle much less in extent than the square of the envelope. You said at first that the article was a medal ; then that you saw it like a medallion, but that you could not say positively that it was a medallion. You were, however, positively convinced that there were letters upon it, and that there was also something folded. You always declared that the

\* The original of this letter is in French.

article was not simple, that it was somewhat complicated.

“On leaving you, I returned to the house where I had received that envelope. I immediately wrote down the facts of our consultation, and then, in the presence of several persons, the sealed envelope was opened: We first found a box in pasteboard, then wrapped up in a paper an article which was not exactly a medal nor positively a medallion, since it partook of the character of both the one and the other. It was a *piece de huit sous*, won by a lady in a wager, and it was set in gold, with a small chain of extreme thinness, which was folded over the face of the coin.

“I should further state, that the lady who had given me that sealed envelope, admits that you gave an exact account of her proceedings while you were looking for the object in question.

“Receive, Sir, &c.”

“MY DEAR ADOLPHE,

“You wish me to send you some account of



what has occasionally come under my notice at your seances ; but I have had, for several years past, so many very astonishing, yet clear and undoubted proofs of your lucidity as a somnambulist, that to relate only the twentieth part of them would be, I presume, to fill a volume of no very moderate dimensions. Allow me therefore to limit all you have left it in my power to say, on this all-absorbing subject, to a bare account of how I was, through a specimen of your powers, first converted to a thorough belief in the phenomena of clairvoyance and artificial somnambulism.

“On entering the apartment in which you gave this seance, my impressions in favour of the wonders I was told I should witness, were so very slight, that I could not help considering both yourself and your magnetiser as two clever conjurors, and the whole of the spectators, with perhaps the exception of a few dupes, as so many confederates. But I had, previously to setting out, settled in my own mind how I should proceed with you all ; and my plans were so well laid, that I no longer entertained a

doubt of being able to detect and expose all your tricks and connivance, however well contrived they might be.

“The lecture, to which I had paid little or no attention, being concluded, and your magnetiser having made a few passes in front of you, you were declared to have gone into a state of somnambulism. Of the truth of this statement, I had, however, some very grave doubts ; and an elderly gentleman who sat next me, soon allowed me to perceive, from the shrugging of his shoulders and a few expressions that he dropped in an under tone, that he was partly of my own opinion. This man, thought I, must be one of the dupes, or rather one whom they expect to dupe.

“The lecturer then held up to our view several large lumps of cotton, and, I think, as many as three silk pocket-handkerchiefs, and asked who of the audience would come forward and blindfold you with them. From the suspicion with which I looked upon every one present, I was the first to offer my services, and as more than one person was needed

to perform your toilet, I was not slow in claiming the assistance of the elderly gentleman who sat next to me ; and though he did not appear to have any more confidence in you than I had myself, I was, however, determined upon watching him narrowly ; for who knows, thought I, but this nice old gentleman may be, after all, one of the confederates.

“ I need scarcely inform you that I submitted both the cotton and the handkerchiefs to a rigid inspection, and that I did not return to my seat until I felt as convinced as I was of my own existence, that whatever your trick might be, it did not at least consist in being able to see through such a covering as I had then, conjointly with the old gentleman, veiled your eyes with.

“ I had scarcely sat down, when your magnetiser asked, in a tone of defiance, if any of the company would choose to play a game of cards with you. As I could rely upon no one but myself, I was again the first to rise, and to beg to be allowed to accept the challenge. ‘ He will,’ I thought ‘ refuse me, under some clever pretext or other, in order to bring

forward one of his confederates ;' but, to my astonishment, no objection was made ; and what surprised me still more, was to perceive that your magnetiser now withdrew to a very considerable distance from us, and requested that no one present would utter the least sound. As I do not play at cards more than about once in ten years, the only game I have any recollection of is *écarté*, and this I proposed we should play, to which you acceded. I examined the cards very carefully, and soon felt assured, from finding them so new, and perfect in all respects, that neither was it through them you could deceive me. I then looked under the table and all about us, but still in vain—I could perceive nothing capable of exciting the least suspicion. As the pack was a full one—that is to say, as it consisted of fifty-two cards, and as only thirty-two are needed for *écarté*, it was necessary to take out all the others, and this you requested me to do. But aware that this would be a grand test of your lucidity, I declined, and begged you to do it yourself. You did not hesitate, but taking the pack, you threw out the objectionable cards with the

greatest ease and rapidity, while I, now doubly astonished, kept looking suspiciously on. You won the game, and so well you might, since though I held my cards in the most guarded manner I possibly could, you saw every one of them as well as I did myself. You then told me you would let me win, and for that purpose, while giving out the cards, you chose them from different parts of the pack, the face of each one being still downwards, and previously to your turning up the trump, you named it to me, telling me as you did so that you had given me five cards of the same suit, but none of that kind to yourself; and this, on laying down our hands, I found to be exactly as you had stated.

“I then drew from my pocket something I had written for the occasion, though what it was I cannot now call to mind; it was folded many times over, and enclosed in an envelope. You could not, however, decipher this writing, on my requesting you to do so. ‘I can see it,’ you said, ‘but the letters are so crushed that I cannot make out one of them.’ From this I understood that it was not the number of folds

you objected to, but, if I may so express it, the crowding of the words upon one another. I then withdrew to the farthest end of the apartment, and turning my back on the company, wrote with a pencil on a scrap of paper the name *Voltaire*, which I folded without crushing it, and then having enclosed it in the same thick envelope, I presented it to your magnetiser, requesting him to submit it to you, and ask you if you could decipher it; but he, putting his hands behind his back, and drawing away from me, declared he would not touch it, and told me I should hand it to you myself, which I immediately did. 'I see,' said you, as you pressed the envelope to your lips and then to your forehead, 'the first letter; it is a V, but I cannot make out the second; I see the third letter, it is an l; I can now see the second, it is an o; I see all—the word is *Voltaire*.'

"The result of this first seance, though it was nothing compared to all you have since allowed me to witness, was sufficient to convince me of the existence of clairvoyance, and of your extraordinary luci-

dity as a somnambulist. If there be still any one who, on having attended only a few of your seances, declares that he cannot believe in their reality, you may be sure that such a person is either not sincere in what he asserts, or that his views and reasoning powers are very limited ; for such characters have ever been, as they ever will be, the greatest sceptics.

“ Tout à vous,

“ M. KAVANAGH.”

THE END.