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# MESMERISM

AND

## ITS HEALING POWER.

BY

PROFESSOR ADOLPHE DIDIER.

AUTHOR OF "THE TREATISE ON ANIMAL MAGNETISM AND  
SOMNAMBULISM."

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## INTRODUCTION.

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THE decided advance that Mesmerism has made as a curative power, the variety of diseases to which it has been successfully applied, all show that it has been received and acknowledged as a healing remedy.

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 Mesmerism many valuable works, and which have contributed to raising it to a very high place in public opinion.

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It was Mesmer who first laid the foundation of this noble science, by the happy inspiration with which he so powerfully influenced his earliest disciples.

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 cures, collected by able practitioners, add to these proofs, already numerous, of the success obtained through the application of this science.

No one, not even those who make inquiries on the subject, are aware of the great extent to which the practice of Mesmerism is carried on, quietly and unobtrusively in private families. Having corresponded much on the subject, I have been astonished at finding the numbers who apply to it for relief. Men's minds are evidently ripening for its reception. They

have clearly reached that state in which an impression can be made. Till that state has, to a certain degree arrived, it matters not what may be the subject-matter, no new truth can be successfully established. Be it in religion, or politics, or natural philosophy, or medicine, all the books fall unheeded on the public, till its facts and statements have been for some time well shaken together in men's minds, and other and external circumstances pre-disposed them towards its acceptance. No undue exertions can force this period forward, or bring it prematurely into being. Prejudice, ignorance, bad education, and self-interest will have their triumph and their day. But when once the signs of vitality have shown themselves, we may accelerate the growth. We may then hasten the progress very materially. It is my conviction that Mesmerism has at length reached this point; that it has obtained a considerable lodgment among reasoning people, and that

from opportunities with which I have been eminently favoured, it is in my power to promote its establishment.

I could quote the highest names in the aristocracy, clergy, and medical profession who have acknowledged the healing power of Mesmerism, and who have themselves derived good from its effect.

The object I have in view is to prove that man is possessed of a supreme faculty, which constitutes his essence, and that he can transmit that 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 illness with which he may be afflicted.

Twenty-nine years of constant practice enable me to prove that Mesmerism has steadily advanced as a science of healing;

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curing diseases without producing any other symptom whatever.\*

My conviction is that Mesmerism is given to Man, by God, for relieving and curing his sufferings.†

Having given my whole life to the study of this noble science, I hope and pray that no more prejudice may stand in its way; and those who have appreciated its healing effect should mention it as much as they can.

ADOLPHE DIDIER.

10, Berkeley Gardens,  
Camden Hill,  
Kensington.

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\* See the Pamphlet, "Healing by the Hand and Will," by Sir Charles Isham, (Bart.)

† See "Mesmerism, the Gift of God," by a beneficed clergyman.





MESMERISM,  
AND  
ITS HEALING POWER.

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PART I.

“All things are marked and stamped with triple character; the power of God, the difference of Nature, and the use of Man.”—*Bacon's "Advancement of Learning." Book II.*

SINCE the remotest times, the wonders of Mesmerism appear to have been well known to all 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.

In the beginning of the eighteenth century, Mesmerism was considered as a particular agent. The study of it, may be well said to be study of life in Man.

The Mesmeric agent, or vital fluid, which has been also styled Animal Electricity, 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.

Mesmerism may be easily characterized. It is an imponderous fluid, which can be felt and measured, and the power is revealed by effects the most constant, although, when considered with respect to their origin, the most incomprehensible. It is undoubtedly of all agents the most subtle, and is infinitely quicker than lightning.

The more the Mesmeric agent, or fluid, abounds with us, the more we possess life, strength, health, and intelligence. Whilst if we be deprived of it, we become weak and

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feeble, and the mind itself lessens with our energy.

In effect our ideas are the more clear, our thoughts the more abundant, and our perception the more keen, as we invite to the brain a larger portion of the Mesmeric fluid.

I say, in order that Man may be in a sound condition of existence, both as to mind and body, an exact harmony, a perfect equilibrium must prevail between the material and spiritual life. Hence it is, if we exercise only the mind without taking any care of the body, the latter will weaken and decline. This 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.

Man can, through his will, and the power of that faculty by which he moves and breathes, often exercise upon his fellow creature an influence. This influence is the principle

which has received the name of Mesmerism. We have this faculty as much as we desire it.

In order that one person may, as a Mesmerist, act upon another, there must necessarily exist a feeling of sympathy both moral and physical. The physical sympathy is established by concentration; the moral sympathy by the desire that one has to relieve the other.

Thus the first condition necessary for Mesmerising is a strong will. The second, is that confidence which he who mesmerises has in his own power. The third is benevolence, or the anxious desire of doing good.

The action of Mesmerism is, in its principle, spiritual, because such is really its origin. But it is physical in its effects, because when it produces modifications on the system of the patient, these modifications cause themselves to be felt by the body animated by that principle.

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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. But is not the reciprocal influence of the mind and the body in man also astonishing? A nervous disease can elevate all his faculties; a single idea 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 metals 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.

The phenomena of Mesmerism have been

witnessed in all times, just as that of gravitation have been witnessed in all bodies.

Like all the intellectual and physical 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 have been studied with so much perseverance and success, that at present every one has an idea of Mesmerism.

There exists in Nature an universal fluid, which governs and modifies all existences, and which has, in its special relation to man, received the name of Animal Magnetism, or Mesmerism.

Mesmerism is an existing fact. It is the 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 patho-

logical accidents, is denied by no one who has taken the trouble of making the phenomena of the external world a 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 is within the province of our will to manifest or propagate.

By the study of Mesmerism, both the infinite goodness and the vastness of the work of the Supreme Being are displayed.

Habit and observation will soon remove the feeling of prejudice. The strangeness will pass away. People will perceive what a simple, easy, and natural power Mesmerism is; and when, day after day, they shall be privileged to witness some dear and beloved relative relieved or comforted by its means—or when they themselves, after the agonies of pain, shall have found a respite or a cure, their prejudice will soon be turned into gratitude to the Author of all good, and

with myself they will say that Mesmerism is a gift of God.

Mesmerism has no danger. Should it fail of doing good, it would do no harm. To be a good mesmerist, experience and knowledge are indispensable. Temper, patience, and presence of mind are also requisites ; and as we have stated, character and right principle must not be forgotten. As there is every certainty that Mesmerism will shortly take its rank among the established branches of the medical art, a supply of qualified practitioners will be soon forthcoming. Nurses will be taught to mesmerise. Prejudice in our days is becoming silent, because its application has been patronised by the greatest men of this land.

By Mesmerism, the diseases subdued have been very remarkable ; tic-douloureux, epileptic fits, brain fever, deafness, weakness in the eyes, neuralgic pains of all kinds,



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loss of voice, paralysis, fevers, inflammations, and a variety of other disorders; cures have been effected where all other means have failed.

If anything can lead to a happy reform in the habits of a people, it is surely Mesmerism. 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.

The usual means employed by Hippocrates, whether for the preservation of health or the cure of diseases, were frictions and manipulations.

The imposition of hands, so commonly used in Asia, the miraculous cures effected by rubbers, are the operation of Mesmerism. Frictions have become quite an art of healing, and it is only a branch of Mesmerism.

Professor Laisné has published a book on

Massages, Frictions, and Manipulations. His cures are very numerous and marvellous. As I said before, frictions are only what I should call "direct Mesmerism."

Mesmer, aware how considerably electricity enters into human Magnetism, conceived the Mesmeric tube. 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 symmetrically fastened to 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 hands.

Every living being is a real electro-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 great measure, the difference that prevails in temperament and constitution. The mobility of this

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agent becomes still and simple in 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 to 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.

Mesmer was led by a series of minute experiments to proclaim the truth of an agent, of an 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.

Becoming possessed, through the kindness of his disciples, of a considerable fortune, he undertook to establish in all the principal towns of France, Mesmerism as a curative agent. The propagation of the system progressed as favourably as could be expected. Thoroughly convinced of the existence of a transcendent 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 principal of life, he felt that man is possessed of a power peculiar to himself.

De Puységur, by revealing the psychological virtues of which some persons are possessed while under the influence of Mesmerism, gave to this science an entire new aspect. From that time the phenomena of clairvoyance constituted Mesmerism.

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 great truth,

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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!

There exists an uncreated principle, which is God; there exists 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, and in a state of illness.

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 by means of food.

The quality of motion is renewed by sleep.

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

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 current: namely, gravity, and the magnetic current from one pole to another.

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

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

The vital principle being a part of the universal motion, and obedient to the common laws of fluid spread throughout 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 Mesmerism.

The Mesmeric 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 we should call 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 contact with us.

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 unvariable effect of the order of nature over each individual.



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The life of man is the portion of the universal motion, which, in its origin, becomes tonical and applicable to one part of matter.

Death is the complete abolition of the tonical motion; the life of man commences by motion, and finishes by repose.

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.

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 motion ; 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

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increase irritation, elasticity, fluidity, and motion.

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

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

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 Mesmerism.

A vast number of persons have been

cured by Mesmerism. Every day progress is made in the science. We now possess a great many works on the subject, many of which have been written by the most celebrated men of the day. The chirurgical operations performed during the mesmeric sleep were alone sufficient to prove the immense advantage that may be derived from the the use of mesmeric sleep.

As the limits of this book do not allow me to cite cases of operation, I shall refer the reader to my work on *Animal Magnetism and Somnambulism*.

## PART II.

“They are scarcely worthy of the name of physicians or physiologists, who say that Mesmerism determines no changes in the organization, or that it does not possess powers in the cure of diseases.”—*Rostan*.

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### DIFFERENT COMPLAINTS TREATED BY MESMERISM.

*Abscess*.—In the year 1870, I received a letter from the Countess de P——, dated from her château in France. In this letter, she said that her husband, whom I had already attended ten years previously in London, was suffering with an abscess, very deeply seated in the left groin. Some months before he had had a bad fall from

his horse. An abscess formed itself. A celebrated surgeon had been called to make an operation ; it was a most difficult one. The abscess began to discharge ; so much so that the patient became very weak. The leg became thinner and thinner. At times he was very feverish, and had no appetite, was unable to move on either side. Sometimes, by the help of ropes, he would move a little the upper part of the body, just to make room for changing pillows, but always with much pain. Seeing his health declining rapidly, the Countess wrote to ask whether I could not come and attend him—their last hope being placed in Mesmerism. I left London for their place. As soon as I arrived I began to mesmerise him. It was indeed a very serious case. I found the patient as already stated. The abscess discharging profusely ; the leg very much reduced and emaciated.

From experience, I saw at once what I had

to do. I mesmerised him strongly three times per day. I gave tone to the digestive organs; to all the vital functions. The beginning of the treatment could not have been more satisfactory. His appetite improved daily. He became cheerful. After the first mesmerisations he gladly acknowledged the good I had already done him. Mesmerism assisted Nature in every way possible. Whenever a new abscess formed itself, I always succeeded in curing it. After a few days the matter changed colour, and became less. When new abscesses were forming, he would have high fever, which I always took away in one mesmerisation. We all noticed a daily improvement. He always felt better after each setting. He acknowledged to Dr. Clinchamps, (the family doctor), that Mesmerism had saved his life. I mesmerised him during ten weeks; after which I gave a few lessons to his wife, but she was too

weak herself to undertake to mesmerise him.

Since my attendance I have heard good reports. He is able to use his leg which was almost despaired of.

My patient had been a Mesmerist himself, therefore he had faith in the science. He continued to be mesmerised for five weeks more.

During the year 1874, Mrs. H—— consulted me respecting a pain in one of her legs. For a few days she had a red spot on the leg near the ankle, very painful. The ankle was very swollen. A few days after, an abscess formed itself. I mesmerised her during five or six weeks, daily. She is perfectly cured.

In the year 1872, Mr. R—— was mesmerised during a week after an abscess, which had left the leg in a very weak state. Mesmerism gave him general strength.

Mr. H—— was attended in the year 1872



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for abscesses; they were small and painful. He was mesmerised during four months with good result. He gained strength, the nervous debility disappeared, the circulation much improved.

The surgeons of the present day are convinced that the discharge and healing of abscesses are done simply by force of Nature. To avoid stagnation of matter, they recommend cleanliness in dressing and fresh air. My opinion is that Mesmerism would always prove successful in such cases. Some cases of abscesses have given much trouble and fatigue. But I always found patients suffering from such disease, always resigned and able to appreciate the good of Mesmerism.

*Alienation.*—This dreadful complaint may be cured by Mesmerism; but it is very necessary to know how to conduct such treatment. It is generally very long, tiresome, and sometimes discouraging.

In the year 1845, I was consulted for a disordered state of the mind. The parents of the patient were anxious to try Mesmerism. When I arrived, I found it at first no easy matter to approach the patient. I was obliged to have recourse to auxiliary mesmerisations, by mesmerising him at a short distance, also mesmerising water to drink. After a short time, we perceived that he was 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. At the end of a few months, it was in every one's power to appreciate the happy change he had undergone. He, who so shortly before could not recognise any one, would now come and bid me good morning, and at every mesmerisation he would shake hands with me. In short, it was easy to perceive that his reason was daily returning, and

when I left he was in excellent health.

I have been consulted in London for a little girl who was recommended to me by Dr. Ashburner. 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. She could not, so deplorable was her state, recognise her mother. At the first attendance, Mesmerism had the effect to soothe her very much. The more I proceeded with the case, the more sanguine were my hopes. She progressed daily under Mesmerism.

In the year 1869, Mrs. E—— was suffering much with great depression of spirits. Her great trouble was that she must have offended the Holy Ghost, and she could not be saved. Her father came to me, explained the case, and wished me to attend her. I understood that she had been so for many years. She was married. After her con-

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finement she became worse, taking no notice of any one. I mesmerised her twelve times. Mesmerism was effectual from the first attendance. After the first sitting she became brighter, and promised to endeavour to struggle against these low feelings. At the second visit she felt so very happy, that I concluded Mesmerism had done wonders. At the sixth mesmerisation she was so well that I considered her cured. But her father and husband wished me to attend her again, which I did. She has never had any return of the malady.

*Asthma.*—In the year 1852, I was at Berne, attending several patients, among them was a gentleman who had been suffering from asthma for upwards of twenty years. Every medical treatment to which he had been submitted, proved wholly ineffectual. He followed my treatment. During six weeks I mesmerised him three times a day. A great improvement in his health was

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soon perceptible. He could eat, walk, and sleep in his bed, which he had not done for many years. Being obliged to return home, one of his daughters, to whom I taught how to mesmerise, continued the treatment with success. I received the following letter a little time after.

“Dear Mr. Didier,

“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 mesmeric 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.

“Deign, Sir, to accept my profound gratitude.

“F. DE G. M.”

In the year 1851, I was residing at Tor-

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point, near Plymouth, at the house of Lady H——. During my visit, I was requested to attend Lady S. W—— for asthma, and general debility. The attacks were very severe. I mesmerised her for one month. The cough and expectoration disappeared totally.

I shall always remember the kindness of this lady. In order to show her gratitude to the science which was the cause of the recovery of her health, she spoke of it to everyone. Through her kind patronage, I was enabled to convince many persons; to that effect I gave several lectures at the residence of General Murray.

It was the same some years after, when Lord Ingestre became, under my instructions, a Mesmerist. By his kind recommendation I gave a lecture at Lord Combermere's.

Captain H—— of the 1st Life Guards consulted me in 1851. He was a great

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sufferer from asthma. I mesmerised him twice per day, during six weeks. I may say Mesmerism had a salutary effect from the first attendance. The crises of coughing were not so frequent. He soon gained strength, and was able to go through his duty without those paroxysms of coughing, for which he was in fear that he would have to give up his profession. Some time after I received the following.

“Dear Didier,

“I have delayed some time without writing to you, in order to convince myself of my having been radically cured.

“It is now with the greatest pleasure I can 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 Mesmerism was the powerful agent.

“H——

“1st Life Guards, 1852.”

In the year 1860, Mr. M——, who had been suffering for many years from asthma, consulted me, and placed himself under the mesmeric treatment. He was in fear to have to give up his studies at Cambridge, owing to that painful disease. He was mesmerised for two weeks. Left cured.

In the year 1864, Mrs. H—— was suffering from asthma. Her husband, the Rev. Mr. H——, sent me a telegram to go down and attend her at Malvern. I mesmerised her during one week, twice daily. This lady had been mesmerised many times before, therefore, she was very sensitive to the treatment. Only a few mesmerisations were sufficient to cure her.

In the same year, Mr. B——, recommended by the Rev. Mr. G——, (who has had recourse to mesmerism more or less for twenty-five years) was attended for asthma. Ten mesmerisations were sufficient. When



he left he could breathe with ease, and had no cough.

In the year 1871, Miss H——, twenty-one years of age, had been suffering since her sixth year—fourteen years. I was told that she had been under the care of nineteen doctors. She coughed and expectorated almost constantly. She had been attended by some medical men for bronchitis. She was very weak, the slightest fatigue would bring on paroxysms of pain, yellow complexion, no appetite, very emaciated. Her long sufferings had rendered her very nervous. Even after some time, I was in fear for her lungs. She came here accompanied by her mother, who had not left her since the beginning of her illness. The first mesmerisations were so successful in soothing her, that it gave us hope to continue the treatment. She was attended during the whole winter. After a month, there was a decided change for the best. Her appetite

was better, she was less nervous ; the cough had diminished, she had gained flesh, and was stronger. All symptoms of fever had disappeared ; the feeling of soreness on the chest also ; there was no more prostration. She became cheerful. She continued to progress under Mesmerism, until she was radically cured. She was attended six months every other day. Now she is quite well. I may consider this case as one of the best in Mesmerism. After a lapse of three years I have again seen her. Having caught cold, they thought it would be wise to be attended without delay. Certainly a few attendances proved very beneficial.

Few cases suffice to show the power of healing which Mesmerism possesses. I may here state that patients are never sent to sleep. During the mesmeric manipulations, conversation goes on. When Mesmerism succeeds, the disease is healed without the patient feeling anything whatever.

*Catalepsy.*—In the year 1865, through the kind recommendation of Lady L——, I was requested by the Rev. Mr. R—— to come and attend his daughter, who had been suffering many years from cataleptic fits. She had invariably two fits per day; sometimes they would last four hours, and leave the patient in great prostration. Many physicians had been consulted, and for some long time she had been under medical care. I went down into Northamptonshire, to their country seat. When I arrived, the patient was in a fit. I mesmerised her twice per day. At the sixth sitting she had so much improved, that her father, delighted at the result, consented to let her accompany me to London, and be placed under my care. The Reverend gentleman was not acquainted with Mesmerism, but he saw, with much pleasure, the happy result we obtained in such a short time. She was mesmerised twice daily. The treatment

lasted six weeks. During the treatment she had no attack. Mesmerism gave her much strength. Instead of going out in a Bath chair, she could walk a few miles without fatigue or reaction. After the treatment I constantly heard from her; she continued to keep well. It may be considered one of the best cures achieved by Mesmerism. Her brother, who was suffering with disease of the heart and debility, was cured in ten mesmerisations.

Through their kind recommendation I attended a reverend gentleman who had his arm amputated. It had left an excessive state of nervousness. He tried the effects of Mesmerism, and said he never felt so soothed since his accident.

*Consumption, and diseases of the chest.*— In the year 1851, Miss N——, who had been consumptive since her infancy, came to consult me through the recommendation of Dr. Hands. She was mesmerised during

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three weeks, daily, without perceiving much progress, after that time the effects of Mesmerism began to show themselves. She gained much strength. The expectorations diminished after each sitting. After six weeks daily attendance, she considered herself quite cured.

In the year 1862, I had to attend a young lady in a similar case; but in this instance the patient was exceedingly weak, and the expectoration very great.

Determined to spare no effort on my part, I acceded willingly to the request of the excellent parents of this patient to reside in the family for a short time. I mesmerised her three weeks, twice each day. She gained greater strength, more tranquillity, and less expectoration.

Mrs. T—— had suffered many years from pains in the chest, with expectoration. Greatly relieved in six mesmerisations.

Her husband, Major T——, was also

suffering with pains in the chest, also neuralgic pains in the legs, heart, and head. He had been suffering for some long time. I attended him during six weeks with good result.

In the year 1871, Mrs. T—— had been suffering for many years with pains in the chest; at times so much so that she despaired of ever being well again. Through the recommendation of her medical man, she came to try Mesmerism. Having felt the good effects of the treatment after only a few sittings, she determined to continue it until thoroughly cured. We were all highly rewarded for her perseverance. She was mesmerised every other day for eight months.

Since the mesmeric treatment, she never has had the slightest return of the disease. Her husband and herself are the greatest friends to Mesmerism, and they never lose an opportunity of mentioning to whom she owes her recovery.

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Some years ago, I was travelling in the company of Sir J. G——, Bart, attending him at the same time. We made the acquaintance of Mr. and Mrs. H—— of S—— Castle. Mrs. H——, who was a great sufferer, consulted me. It was decided that she should be mesmerised. I attended her for several days; these mesmerisations had the most happy result. Some time after I was again sent for, to continue the work so auspiciously commenced. I mesmerised the lady twice a day. She was in a state of great nervous debility, and was not far from her confinement. After a few sittings, we observed a sensible improvement. Taking into consideration her precarious state, we were obliged to proceed with great precaution. After a few days of mesmerisation, she was able to go out in the carriage; at the expiration of eight days, she was further able to walk with the help of my arm. All around it was known that this lady's restoration was

due to Mesmerism ; for they would not conceal that it was to this remedy that the happy result was attributable. The good woman of the farm, seeing the lady walking with only the support of my arm, exclaimed, "Oh! this mesmeric treatment has done wonders." At the end of a fortnight I took my departure, leaving this lady completely well.

A few years ago, the Hon. Mrs. H. H——, who had been suffering for some years from general debility, difficulty in breathing, poverty of blood, and constant pains in the left side. Having witnessed the beneficial effects of Mesmerism in the family of her husband, although rather a sceptic herself, she at last felt anxious to try the treatment. Her husband consulted me respecting her case, and told me how very happy they would be if I could manage to come down to their place in Northamptonshire. It was arranged that I should go down for two weeks, and



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should they see an improvement, they would come up to town and continue the treatment. I mesmerised this patient five weeks, and she improved daily. At the end she was cured. Ten years after she suffered from general debility. I mesmerised her again about thirty times, with the same satisfactory result.

In 1871, I attended Miss M——, for consumptive atrophy. She had been suffering for some long time, was unable to leave her bed, could not obtain any sleep, and took scarcely any food. The physician, who was called in consultation, saw no reason why she should not try Mesmerism. After a few days she felt the good effects of Mesmerism, and was able to eat. She became stronger very rapidly, her nights were better, and she could sleep without narcotics. After twenty-two attendances she was strong enough to travel. She has ever since kept well, and is very grateful to the science to which she considers she owes her recovery.

In the same year I attended Mrs. C——, 86 years of age. She benefited much. I mesmerised her during three months, and she gained much strength; she found that each mesmerisation gave her enough strength to go through the day. I attended this patient for some years, and she was well acquainted with the healing power of Mesmerism. Seeing the strengthening influence upon a person so old and so feeble, I have come to the conclusion that Mesmerism, as a preservative and preventive of diseases, would be a good remedy.

In the year 1872, the Marquis of D—— was mesmerised twelve times for consumptive atrophy. His lordship found that each mesmerisation did him much good, and he considered himself much better for the treatment.

In the year 1873, Mrs. B—— was attended during twenty-seven days for consumptive atrophy. She was cured at the end of the month.

Mr. S—— was mesmerised for the same disease, and was greatly relieved after the ninth mesmerisation.

Miss D—— came to try Mesmerism; she had suffered very much from debility and swelled knees, and came here to be mesmerised. I attended her daily during three weeks, and she could then walk with the help of knee-caps. Some time after she wrote to say that she continued to keep well, in spite of much fatigue.

Miss R—— was attended for debility, and a few mesmerisations were sufficient. This lady declared that, without the assistance of Mesmerism, she would have been unable to manage the school she had just began to start. She was mesmerised twelve days.

Miss L——, daughter of a clergyman, whose wife I was attending at the time, was mesmerised and cured in six sittings of general debility, brought on by excessive

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fatigue whilst attending her mother, who was very ill at the time.

In 1871, Mrs. H—— was attended for general debility, poverty of blood, and irruption and sores on the face, arms, and legs. She had been very ill during the winter, and medicine had no effect on her. She was mesmerised daily during three weeks.

*Diabetes.*—In the year 1861, Mrs. H——, aged 67, had been a great sufferer for a long time. At first I was consulted for her by her eldest son. She had been treated for diabetes by medical celebrities; indeed, she presented all the symptoms of this distressing disorder. Constant thirst, sleeplessness, general relaxation, neuralgia, sensitiveness of the limbs, so excessive, that the slightest touch caused her great sufferings. She was, from being robust and embonpoint, now weak and emaciated.

From the first mesmerisations there was an evident amelioration, which imparted to

us the greatest confidence. She submitted herself then to the treatment, full of hope.

After a few weeks the patient was able to take exercise, to walk the length of the terrace, supported only by some one's arm. Desirous of not neglecting a cure which promised so very favourably from the very commencement, I willingly acceded to the wish that I should take my abode with the family at their residence, in the midst of one of the most beautiful sites in the world, and whither Her Majesty the Queen, when at Osborne, has sometimes visited. After a few days, my patient was able to take her walks, sometimes with the assistance of my arm, but often alone, and without the assistance of her cane. Once, wishing to afford us an unmistakable evidence of her strength, she resolved not only to take a long walk, but ascend, in spite of a rough road, to the summit of the downs in the vicinity of the Castle.

At length, becoming stronger, my intrepid patient, for the honour of the science, resolutely walked from Ryde along the pier to the steamer. These unusual exertions, for her, did not prevent her, on her subsequent arrival at her residence in London, from engaging in her affairs without fatigue. For almost twenty years her fingers had been in a state of rigidity; they recovered their natural flexibility.

Her satisfaction was only equal to her gratitude to the science to which she was indebted. Her husband had been relieved by Mesmerism. I attended him two months, and whenever he had an attack, whether at night or in the day time, Mesmerism always succeeded in relieving him.

During my stay with this family, I was introduced to Mrs. C——, 70 years of age. She had relaxation of the muscle of the neck, and her head was constantly inclined on her chest. I mesmerised her, and under the

salutary vivifying power of Mesmerism, her head became erect again, and her sight, much enfeebled, became strong.

This lady called me her Esculapius. I wish I had some of her spirit to give to the recital of my cures, and the interest which, while relating, she imparts to them. I must be satisfied, however, with simply relating the truth, without pretension.

*Diphtheria.*—Captain H—— was suffering from an attack of diphtheria. I cured him in a few sittings.

Some years back I was called, by the recommendation of Dr. W——, to attend a little boy who was between life and death with this terrible disease. Mesmerism succeeded in curing him.

Miss S—— was cured in a few sittings of the same disease.

Mrs. B—— was attended in the year 1873 for the same affection, and ulcerated throat. She was attended during two months, and cured.

*Dropsy.*—General R—— was mesmerised for dropsy. Mesmerism gave strength, and after each sitting he found himself better. His nights were also less agitated.

Mr. R—— was mesmerised in the year 1874 for partial dropsy. He had been very weak for many years, and Mesmerism was very successful in soothing him. The legs were less swollen, and much water would pass after each sitting.

Mrs. H—— was mesmerised for water in the legs. Mesmerism was very successful, and after a few sittings she could walk without much pain, and without any assistance.

*EYES. (Weakness of Sight.)*—Mrs. H——, aged 69, was mesmerised for weakness of sight. After a few mesmerisations she could see much better.

*Cataract.*—Mrs. C——, aged 75, was mesmerised for cataract. Mesmerism had the most successful result upon her. After a few



mesmerisations, she declared that she could see very much better. She often said, "It is as if you had removed a curtain."

Lady B—— was attended for cataract and congestion of the brain. For six weeks Mesmerism was applied daily; congestion was cured, and the sight much better.

Miss S——, recommended by Dr. C——, was mesmerised for great inflammation of the eyes, blindness, and general debility. After six weeks of Mesmerism, every other day, the inflammation was cured, and the sight much stronger. During the treatment, her general health was much improved.

Mr. C——, M.P., suffering from inflammation of both eyes and dyspepsia, was mesmerised daily for three weeks and cured.

Mr. N—— was mesmerised every day during three weeks for inflammation of the eyes, and was greatly relieved by a few mesmerisations.

In the year 1868, Mr. D——, who was suffering acutely with inflammation of the eyes, blindness, with great pain, general health very bad, great debility, and inflammation of the stomach, consulted me, and was very anxious that I should attend him. I advised him to leave London, and go where he could have some fresh air. He took his abode at Richmond, at the Star and Garter Hotel. I used to go down twice a day. He was very ill. I mesmerised the eyes, head, and stomach, and he kept mesmerised water on his eyes and stomach. I mesmerised him during six weeks. The inflammation was cured, he recovered his sight, and the inflammation of the stomach was cured also. He has studied with me the science to which he owed his recovery.

Mrs. B—— was suffering from inflammation of the eyes, with great pain. Her daughter wrote to ask me to come down to their residence. I mesmerised this lady

three weeks, three times a day. The pains were relieved, the inflammation subdued, and one eye was preserved. In this case I used also, with great success, compresses of mesmerised water. The whole family are great mesmerists.

Miss S—— was attended in 1868 for neuralgia in the eyes, with great pains in the head and face. The first mesmerisations were very successful in relieving the pain. I was requested to come again the next day, when we obtained the same success, and after ten days she was cured. The mother decided to place her other daughters under my treatment, as she had been herself cured of rheumatism.

*Fever (Typhoid.)*—The Baroness de P—— had been suffering from typhoid fever, and medical men were despairing of her state. The family had consulted me by letter. Seeing that she was getting worse, and medical men giving no hope, they sent me a tele-

gram, asking me to come, if possible, without loss of time. I started at once for Hungary ; I set out full of hope and faith in my curative power. On my journey, I made the acquaintance of Prince W——, who wanted me to make a stay at Dresden ; but, urged by the importance of the case, I determined to continue my route. At length I arrived at Buda, the residence of my patient, after three days and three nights of continuous travelling. I found the invalid overwhelmed with weight of suffering, a yellow countenance, great oppression, expectoration tinged with blood, palpitation, and fever. I mesmerised her three times per day. The beneficial effects of Mesmerism soon made a change for the better. From day to day there was progressive amendment. All the Baroness's friends complimented me on the daily progress, and the delight of the family was excessive. I was able to return to England after fourteen days, leaving the Baroness well.

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On my way home, I visited the Baron Reichenbach, at Vienna, to whom I explained my philosophy on Mesmerism.

Since that period I have been in correspondence with the family, and I have had the happiness to be informed that she has not in any way retrograded.

I have had many patients to attend in fever, also many children, and, whatever has been the state of fever, Mesmerism has done some good.

*Gout.*—In the year 1865, Mr. A—— came expressly from Ireland to follow Mesmerism. He was ailing from suppressed gout, giddiness, and inability to lie on the left side. He was mesmerised seven times. On his return home, he was so kind as to report his progress to me. He wrote thus of the state of his health :—“ I thank you very much for your kind attention to me. I am happy to tell you I never felt so well as I do at this moment.”

In the year 1870, through the recommendation of Dr. M——, I attended a young lady who had been suffering for many years of excessive pains in the head, noises, and inflammation. She was unable to lie on her bed, and was losing flesh every day. I attended her during three weeks. From all the symptoms, I concluded she was suffering from gout. The first mesmerisations did her much good. While she was mesmerised, it was the only time she was without pain; therefore she wished me to attend her twice a day.

In the same year, the Rev. H—— was mesmerised, and cured in a few sittings of gout in the knees.

Also, the Rev. G—— was cured of gout in the foot, knees, and hands, after three weeks' daily attendance.

In the year 1871, Mr. L—— was attended for gout in the stomach. Mesmerism cured him in six sittings. He had been unwell for

many years, and was very desponding when he came to me.

In 1873, Mr. C—— was mesmerised for very painful rheumatic gout, and was greatly relieved in five sittings.

*Liver (Diseases of the.)*—Some years ago, Sir J——, Bart., consulted me, and placed himself under Mesmerism. I mesmerised him during three weeks. He left comparatively well. His malady was of such a nature that, after some time, the irregularity of the functions of the liver returned, and the paroxysms of pain were great. The liver was badly affected, which sometimes caused great dulness of spirits, prostration, and despondency. At his request, I went down to his place in the country. I mesmerised him during three months daily. All the digestive organs were very weak, with chronic dyspepsia, general weakness, great nervous susceptibility, and other troubles, which rendered him very weak and unable to take

exercise. In some paroxysms of sufferings, the most desponding thoughts would overcome his mind. It was a great responsibility, but I was, as I am now, full of confidence that Divine Providence would crown my efforts with success. Therefore I did my best to restore the equilibrium, and put a "*mens sana in corpore sano.*" He was cured. This gentleman had been himself a great Mesmerist, when young and healthy.

Mr. N—— had been suffering for many years with torpidity of the liver, and weakness in the digestive organs. He was mesmerised every other day during two weeks, and was cured.

General R——, who had been a great sufferer with liver complaint, contracted in India, was mesmerised daily during six weeks. He was very weak. He had taken much medicine, which, according to his opinion, did him more harm than good. During his illness he had lost much flesh ;



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the loins, back, and bladder caused him much pain. ' I was consulted, and he placed himself under the mesmeric treatment. He felt the beneficial effects of Mesmerism almost from the first day. Mesmerism gave tone to the whole system. He became stronger daily. After the tenth mesmerisation, the patient gained flesh (about six pounds). During the treatment the patient had several bad attacks, but they were always relieved by Mesmerism. It was a most successful case, which did great credit to the science.

Miss L——, who had been recommended to me by Dr. W——, was attended for congestion of the liver. She had been suffering for many years, and was unable to take exercise. After the mesmeric treatment, which lasted eighteen days, I received the following lines from her sister :—

“ Dear Sir,

“ I am happy to give you a good report of

my sister, who is going on favourably. I have had the pleasure of sending your address to several friends, to whom I have mentioned your success in our family.

“ L.”

About a year after, I attended this patient for a return of the same disease, and succeeded in curing her in a few mesmerisations.

Miss N—— was cured of liver complaint after a few sittings. She had been suffering many years.

Mrs. G—— was cured of liver complaint, also from inflammation caused by a fall. She was mesmerised three weeks daily.

Mr. D—— was mesmerised for liver complaint, brought on by excessive smoking. I mesmerised him two weeks. He was very much better, and could have been cured if he had been more moderate in the use of tobacco.

In the year 1869, the Rev. B—— came here to ask me to attend his wife, who was very ill. He said, "Could you come with me now? If you delay, I fear my wife may not survive." She had been ill in bed many months with liver disease, (gall stones), the last consultation of physicians gave very little hope of her recovery. One of them, Dr. W——, advised Mesmerism. When I arrived, I found there was no exaggeration in what the reverend gentleman had said. The patient looked very ill indeed. Great pain; impossibility to keep anything on the stomach; complexion very yellow, very emaciated.

On seeing her, I was in fear that it was too late for Mesmerism; but, during my career, I have seen so many severe cases relieved by the soothing influence of Mesmerism, that I attended this case with habitual hope and quietness. I mesmerised her for one hour. During the first sitting

I could see a great change—a great change in the countenance, the pains at the liver appeared better for the mesmerisations. I was requested to come again next morning. Next day, I was told that the patient had been better the whole day; that she had passed a better night. In fact, the first mesmerisation, had proved so very successful, that they wished me to continue the treatment until total recovery. I attended this lady nearly the whole winter.

Little more than a year after, I received the following letter:—

“ Dear Sir,

“ Let me take this opportunity of expressing my grateful sense of your kind and assiduous services to me in my illness to which I shall always feel I owe, in great measure, under God, my recovery.

“ B.”

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The husband and daughter were also mesmerised with success.

*Neuralgia.*—The Rev. Mr. H—, who had been subject to neuralgia since many years, placed himself under Mesmerism. He was cured in a few days.

Major T— was mesmerised daily, during six weeks, for neuralgia in heart, stomach, and legs. In the first few weeks, he was so very ill, that it was necessary to attend him twice per day. During the treatment, he gained flesh and was cured.

Mr. N—, recommended by Dr. W—, was attended for neuralgia in the face; few attendances were sufficient to cure him.

Miss F—, by the recommendation of Dr. E—, was mesmerised every other day for neuralgia in the head. She was cured in a week.

Mrs. M— was mesmerised during a whole winter for acute and chronic neuralgia in the head.

Miss S—— had been a great sufferer for many years with neuralgia in the eyes. Her parents, fatigued at trying remedies, and having faith in me, proposed to send her under my care. This young lady resided in my house. I attended her during one month, twice daily. By Mesmerism she progressed steadily. When she left, she was quite cured. Some time after, her kind mother wrote to say that she continued to be doing well, and complimented me on the happy result.

In the same year, Mrs. C—— came to reside in my house in order to follow Mesmerism. This lady, having suffered many years, proposed to remain with me two months. She was attended twice daily. She progressed satisfactorily. The neuralgic pains diminished gradually. She left quite cured.

Lord L—— was mesmerised for neuralgia during six weeks, and cured. He consulted

me during many years. Being a great author, if he had written a book on Mesmerism it would have done good to the science. It is sad to think that so much labour should not be rewarded by some important persons, who, possessing the courage of their opinion, should not hesitate in publishing the truth.

Lord P—— was mesmerised for neuralgia. Ten days were sufficient.

Mrs. B—— was a great sufferer. She was mesmerised during six weeks for neuralgia—cured.

*Paralysis.*—Mrs. T—— had an attack of paralysis. I was requested to go down to her place in Warwickshire, and attend her. In spite of her great age, Mesmerism did her much good. Every sitting appeared to strengthen her much. The swelling of the leg gradually disappeared. She could move her fingers. Mesmerism gave power to the affected part and tranquillised the whole system.

Captain C—— was mesmerised for paralysis of arm and leg. He had been in that state for ten years. I mesmerised him for three months. He gained much strength, and was able to walk better. He stood firmer on his leg, and he could press and move his foot better.

Mr. H—— was attended during two months for paralysis of the tongue, with symptoms of apoplexy, and constant running from the nose. He had lost his voice and speech. Mesmerism did him much good—was much relieved, and cured at the end.

*Rheumatism.*—Mrs. H——, recommended by the Marchioness of D——, was mesmerised during five weeks for acute rheumatism in the limbs—unable to walk and put a foot on the ground. After she had been mesmerised she was able to walk, the pains were less and less; and after each mesmerisation, she was able to walk home.

Mr. M—— was suffering for many years



with rheumatism in the joints, hands, knees, and ankles; he was mesmerised during six weeks, when he was cured.

Mr. M—— was attended for rheumatism in the marrow of the spine, he was cured after six months of the mesmeric treatment.

*Spine (Diseases of the).*—In 1871 Mr. T—— consulted me for his health. He had been ill for many years with an affection of the spine. He came purposely up to London to be attended. He was constantly in pain and very weak—unable to take any exercise, or bear any fatigue.

He followed Mesmerism for six months. At the beginning of the treatment every day; at the end, three times per week. He improved very much under the treatment. He recovered owing to his perseverance.

The Rev. Mr. G—— was attended with success for an affection of the spine. I mesmerised him for about three weeks; and

whenever he felt a return of pain, he would come up to town for a few days and be attended. I have had the pleasure of attending in the family of this gentleman for upwards of twenty years.

Mr. B—— was successfully attended for disease of the spine. He consulted me, and the result of the consultation was that Mesmerism would succeed. He was very weak—could not walk. He had been told there was no cure. I attended him with success. At the end of six weeks he had no pain; he could stand upright and walk steadily.

Lady J—— was attended for disease of the spine. She was mesmerised for two weeks. I had been consulted before for her, but medicine had no effect. Mesmerism gave her strength almost immediately.

Mrs. B—— had been suffering with great pains in the spine. She consulted me and was very anxious to try Mesmerism. I mesmerised her during three weeks. Con-

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sidering her age, and the chronic state of her affection, we thought we had progressed most favourably. It was arranged that I should accompany her to Brighton in order to continue the treatment there. After two weeks, she could walk without the assistance of her sticks. One of her daughters became a good mesmerist, and she continued the treatment when at home.

Mrs. H—— consulted me, and was mesmerised for disease of the spine. When I mesmerised her, she had been for a few months on a sofa unable to move. She was mesmerised six weeks. Up to the present time, she is convinced that without Mesmerism she never would have recovered.

Mr. W—— was mesmerised for the spine and brain. Very acute pain at the top of the spine, and back of the head. He was obliged to keep his room. I mesmerised him for ten days when he was perfectly cured, and has been well ever since.

Mr. M—— was suffering very much with spine disease, and great difficulty in moving his legs. This gentleman had consulted the greatest celebrities in the medical world. He had been treated for rheumatism in the marrow of the spine. I mesmerised him with success during three months.

Mrs. B—— was attended for weakness of the spine. This patient was extremely weak when we began the treatment. Half of her life was passed lying on the sofa. She was first mesmerised by a mesmerist attached to the Infirmary, from whom she derived some good. I attended her during five weeks. When she left she was strong and had no pain.

*Tumour.*—In the year 1869, Dr. C—— wished me to attend one of his patients who was suffering from a tumour in the stomach. In my experience I never saw a person suffering so much and looking so ill altogether. She was very thin and emaciated;

could not take any food. Constant sickness.

The first four mesmerisations did her much good. She felt revived, more cheerful. At the end of each sitting one could perceive an amelioration in the countenance; I used to leave her always more cheerful. She was mesmerised forty-eight times. Every one in the family remarked the beneficial effects of each sitting. In that case the healing power of Mesmerism was very striking.

In the year 1871 Mrs. R—— was attended for a tumour of the size of an egg. Mesmerism was successful in diminishing the size of the tumour, and taking away all the inflammatory symptoms.

I am of opinion that Mesmerism would prolong life in old age. I have been attending an old friend who is 87 years of age. She was very weak. She found that Mesmerism gave her much power, and renewed, as it were, all the system with fresh vigour.

Among the cases I attended in the year

1874, was a lady who had suffered for thirty years from fistula. She was very anxious to try Mesmerism. The treatment was very successful ; although she would not have been disappointed if she had not received any good, as she had been suffering for so many years. She is very grateful and considers that Mesmerism has done wonders in her case.

PROFESSOR ADOLPHE DIDIER,

*Medical Mesmerist,*

*Attends Patients and gives his Consultations for  
Diagnostic of Diseases at his Residence daily from  
2 till 5 o'clock,*

10, BERKELEY GARDENS,

CAMPDEN HILL,

KENSINGTON.





REVIEWS  
UPON  
PROFESSOR ADOLPHE DIDIER'S WORK  
ON  
ANIMAL MAGNETISM  
AND  
SOMNAMBULISM.

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“*Morning Post*, October, 1856.

“The fault of most works upon Animal Magnetism or Mesmerism, is that they are too theoretical, and do not convey any information as to the practical application of this extraordinary agent, which is said to be so potent in the cure and relief of many of the ills that flesh is heir to. Mr. Didier, however, makes no scruple in giving to the public plain directions for availing themselves of the discovery of Mesmer, observing that he has laid down no principles, which long and repeated experience has not satisfied him to be infallible, while he has omitted all which he had reason to consider as doubtful. In fact, the directions, for the treatment of different complaints, are given with the same brevity and authoritativeness as the instructions in a book of household surgery; and if people are not too incredulous, we may expect by and by the moment any disaster happens to body or limb in a domestic

establishment, to see the matron exercise her skill. No one, in truth, was ever more confident of the unerring efficacy of a novel discovery, than M. Didier is of Mesmerism; for he boldly asserts that it must always be, when properly and well applied, a sovereign remedy in every illness.

“In the book, authenticated cases are mentioned in which cancers were removed from the breasts of two females during the mesmeric sleep, without their suffering the slightest pain, or scarcely moving a muscle.

“This book is written in a temperate spirit, and with a candour and a confidence which shows that the author is a firm believer in what he states, and those who have a desire to become acquainted with this new science, as it is called, cannot do better than consult its pages.”

“*Sunday Times*, December, 1856.

“We know of no man to whom we should be more disposed to confer with on the phenomena treated of in the volume before us, than Adolphe Didier, with a highly cultivated mind, large experience, and ever active benevolence, he combines, we believe, thorough honesty; and in the plainest and most straightforward manner—in language as intelligible as he would employ upon any other and well understood subject—he treats of the nature, methods, and phenomena, and especially of the curative effects of mesmerism; while he fortifies some of his most startling statements by the citation of authorities from whom it is difficult, if not impossible, to withhold our assent.

“The book is full of curious and interesting matter, which strongly challenges the attention and investigation of scientific men.”

“*Le Courrier de L'Europe*, 1858.

“L'ouvrage de M. Adolphe Didier est un résumé assez complet sur la matière. Il commence par nous faire l'historique du magnétisme dont Mesmer fut le premier apôtre en France. Il en explique ensuite les particularités et ses relations avec l'organisme humain. Puis il arrive au point le plus intéressant de son livre et passe en revue les différentes maladies qui peuvent être guéries au moyen du magnétisme. En somme, ce livre mérite d'être lu par

tout le monde—indifférents et enthousiastes—ceux-ci y trouveront ample sujet de se confirmer dans leurs croyances, et ceux-là ne pourront manquer d'être intéressés par les faits nombreux dont fourmille l'ouvrage de M. A. Didier."

*"Journal of Health, 1858*

"What a change in few years;—for half a century is but a few years in philosophy. The French Academy of sciences offered a prize for the best essay of the subject of Mesmerism. In the estimation of our acknowledged best thinkers, Mesmerism takes rank with the positive Sciences; thanks for this to Reichenbach's demonstrations of the universal element. It is demonstrable also that every living, nay, every naturally formed thing on the earth, has its special polarised or sphere. It is that M. Didier calls the Mesmeric fluid; the Mesmeriser's Mesmeric fluid, actuated by his will, affects the corresponding mesmeric fluid of the patient, whose weakness renders him receptive or polarly negative, just as a magnet whose force has been impaired is repolarised by the proper application of the magnetic fluid of another stronger magnet.

"But although our best thinkers in the scientific world accept this as an established science, there are so many who have not come to that conclusion, that good practical books upon the subject will be wanted for a long while to come. Facts, facts, are ever wanted to invalidate by their inductive force the hypotheses of sceptics. M. Didier's book abounds with facts, and is in every respect a good practical treatise; and as such we recommend it.

"M. Didier is an enthusiast as well as a practitioner in Mesmerism. He gives a synopsis of important cases in which, he says, cures have been effected. More than that, he gives an account of his *modus operandi*.

"The processes which I employ are of the greatest simplicity. I isolate myself, and concentrate myself as much as I possibly can. I neither see nor hear anything that is passing around me; I make a mental prayer that God may bless and aid my efforts, my thoughts once fixed, my will is firm, I mesmerise. An invocation so sincere by pure intents cannot but succeed. The persons whom

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I have had the happiness to cure, have never been mesmerised for the sleep. I have only occupied myself with the malady and the cure. All diseases can be cured by Mesmerism."

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"What is Mesmerism? it is defined by some as a pretended science, others treat it rather more respectfully, and say it is a theoretical agent, of a peculiar nature, supposed to be capable in some mysterious mode of producing the most powerful effects upon the human body. These effects, according to Mr. Didier, are caused by man through his will, and the power of that faculty by which he moves and breathes, and so forth, the origin of the term is attributed to a fancied analogy between the action of the mineral magnet, and that of the animal energy, or *vis vitæ* in the human species. It is not a new discovery or phantasy in which ever light we regard it. It was first authoritatively promulgated by Anton Mesmer, a native of Mersberg, in Suabia, who, in 1776, on taking his degree of M.D. at Vienna, maintained in his inaugural thesis, that the planets had an influence over the human body. At that time there was a Jesuit at Vienna, one Vatter Hehl, who believed in the efficacy of the load-stone in curing certain diseases. Mesmer became acquainted with him; embraced his theory; put it in practice; and if we are not entirely to disbelieve contemporary records, he did so with great success. From him the science was called Mesmerism, though he himself termed it "Animal Magnetism." It attracted considerable notice on the continent. In England it was comparatively disregarded till 1829. Then a discussion on the subject was opened by Mr. Richard Chevenix, in the London Medical and Physical Journal, in which subsequently, Dr. Elliotson, Mr. Colquhoun, Mr. Herbert Mayo, the Rev. Hare Townshend, and others, took part. Some had the faith of M. Didier, and were implicate believers in the entity of the mysterious occult influence. Friends and upholders have been working quietly; they have made some converts to their faith, and have established a Mesmeric Infirmary in Weymouth Street, Portland Place. The majority of the people in this country, and we believe in every other, are of opinion that some very extraordinary effects have been the results of the mesmeric treatment.

"The author of the work before us, is a teacher of the science. It

contains, Mr. Didier dares to hope, the fundamental principles of his theory, with proofs, not a few, that the mesmeric fluid when well directed, very often cures, but always relieves those sufferings to which poor human nature is so subject. He claims great antiquity for the science."

*The Brighton Gazette.*

"It behoves us at all times to be extremely careful that we do not allow our prejudices, our love of things as they are, our fear of innovation, our suspicion of new lights thrown upon old subjects, to warp our judgment and lead us to interpose obstacles in the way of the onward advance of science. This injunction is especially applicable to the present day, when we recognise on all sides an uprising of new theories. Nearly the whole of the sciences have been submitted to criticism; geology, astronomy, zoology, physiology, psychology, the philosophy of the mind and of matter, are beginning to be regarded by many in different aspects. Time will prove the truth or fallacy of these theories; but while we are careful not to exclude a theory simply on account of its dazzling newness, but in justice before we condemn, apply ourselves to examination, to research, to inquiry, and it may be to adoption. The truth will prevail; let us not shut our eyes to it; but let us be wary of sophisms.

"Animal Magnetism or Mesmerism is, in the work before us, fully explained and powerfully advocated.

"We find in one portion of M. Didier's work a great many local allusions and descriptions of experiments undertaken in the presence of Mr. Laurence, Mr. Cordy Burrows, the late Mr Robertson, and other gentlemen well known in Brighton, and which add to the interest of the volume. Our limited space prevents our entering into the merits of the question, and we will therefore content ourselves with recommending the work to all those interested."

*The Literary Observer.*

"This is a treatise on subjects which are daily exciting more attention. It appears to us that human magnetism is a better and more specific name for the new science than mesmerism, The human being is proved to be a magnet, and able through the

mysterious interpenetration of spirit and matter to operate on the human frame with sudden and marvellous power. We have said this power is proved; and if this proposition should be denied, there is a mass of evidence at hand enough to convince the most sceptical. We might refer to the "Zoist," a quarterly publication which has lately ceased, but which abounds in cases. But there is a little volume, "Curative Mesmerism," published by Baillière.

"This subject is attracting even more attention on the continent than with us. There were in the year 1855 more works written in France upon Mesmerism than upon anything else. The scientific world can no longer ignore the discussion. The Academy of Sciences lately offered a prize of 2,000 francs for the best treatise on the subject.

"One good effect has already resulted from the demonstration of a spiritual power working physical effects. Materialism is confounded and abashed before the presence of a power which it cannot comprehend, and which it cannot deny.

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"A very interesting and curious book, some of the cases being actually startling, and the cures wrought through the potency of mesmeric influence truly surprising. That the science is only as yet in its infancy is less the consequence of any lack of power in the potency of the agent itself than traceable to the bigotry of the profession is, unfortunately, beyond contradiction. For the sake of humanity, we trust the good sense of our medical men will, before long, rouse them to shake of this prejudice, and investigating the facts of this new system of cure honestly and boldly take it by the hand, and prove to the world that the love of science, and the claims of suffering nature are superior to all the prejudices of class and education.

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"M. Adolphe Didier, who has been long known in this country as a medical mesmerist, has now come forth as an author, with a view to place his "experiences" in a form in which they may at once be more generally accessible to the public, and more useful in advancing the interests of the science to which he is devoted, and to which he has thus made himself the double exponent. M. Didier says in his preface that his work contains at least the fundamental principles of his theory, with proofs, not a few, that

the mesmeric fluid can, when well directed, very often cure, but always relieve, those sufferings to which poor human nature is subject. M. Didier is an ardent follower of Mesmerism, and a firm believer in their efficacy in alleviating the 'ills that flesh is heir to;' and his book will be read with interest by all those who desire to inform themselves on a subject which has of late years excited so much discussion, and given rise to the exhibition of such striking, not to say bewildering phenomena. The first part of M. Didier's work, is devoted to a philosophical consideration of the nature of Mesmerism; the second portion treats of the diseases on which that influence can be successfully brought to bear, while the conclusion comprises a large body of recorded cases of the professor's own triumphs in developing Mesmerism and its powers. The book brings these matters quite within reachable compass, and will no doubt find welcome reception amongst the believers in the Science as well as among those who desire to inform themselves on the subject.

#### *Literary Circular.*

"The mysterious subject that this work treats upon gives it a charm that is entirely independent of its literary or scientific value. That extraordinary medium of intercommunication between souls, known by the name of the magnetic fluid, if it really exists—and experiment and experience both would seem to demonstrate that it does—is one of the most wonderful of the numerous great idiosyncrasies that mark our development.

The author deals with this mystic principle with all the faith of a devotee and all the zeal of the faithful.

"The author opens his volume with the history of Mesmerism, and then proceeds to explain the method of his application. The Science appears to have advanced so far as to be placed under the discipline of rules. Each disease that is to be cured has its peculiarity in the mode of applying the mesmeric powers, and locality generally is found to give the guide for its application.

"Disease is said to be cured by the mesmeric fluid that is evolved, restoring the vital or healthy functions. It is not extraordinary, when we consider the mystery of our existence, and the unexplainable cause—except in the word life—that gives thought, power, and action, to make the animal existence—when the mysterious Sciences of electricity and galvanism are so little understood, so

thoroughly appreciated, and are wrapped up in such mystery, particularly in their influence upon life—it is not extraordinary, we say, that Mesmerism is found to be so fascinating, and so enthralling to its worshippers. Cold, indeed, must be the heart and soul of the man who, believing in the full efficacy and truth of what is alleged for Mesmerism, adopts the Science with indifference, or passes it by without consideration. It would now seem clear that sufficient facts have been proved to warrant a closer and more general examination of the Science than has yet been attempted.

“Some of the anecdotes in M. Didier’s work are most wonderful, and appear to be well authenticated; but to read them, and to understand the author, and the Science he follows, we refer our readers to one of the most interesting and enthralling scientific works we had ever had the good fortune to meet with.”



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