THE ZOIST.

No. XXXIX.

OCTOBER, 1852.

I. *Nervous Affections. Metallo-therapia, or Metal-cure: new properties of Metals illustrated through Mesmerism, by Dr. Burq, of Paris.* Translated, communicated, and supplied with a note, by Dr. Elliotson.

(Concluded from p. 140.)

"MESMERISM IN 'THE ZOIST.'

"To the Editor of the Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal.

"Sir,—The April number of *The Zoist* contains some amusing *romances*, and also some challenges to the common sense members of the medical profession; there is also a long letter from Professor Gregory, in which the celebrated bank-note development is mentioned, and its failure—*very consistently with mesmerism*, *evaded*. Now, to this gentleman I wrote some time back a very civil note, enclosing my card in an envelope, and requesting it might be read by some member of his Reichenbach Institute, but no notice has been taken of it, and no current of Odyle has flowed from the north to the south. I regret this, for I think it is high time to test this *infirmity* of the human brain, 'mind' I cannot call it; and I reside in a part of the world where there are several magniloquent mesmerists, but I cannot put faith either in their doctrines or experiments. I have seen the same performed by professed conjurors, who tell you at once they mean to *cheat* you.

"Yours obediently,

"E. B."

Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal, May 26, 1852. Joint Editors, W. H. Ranking, M.D., Norwich, & J. H. Walshe, Esq., F.R.C.S., Worcester.*

* No wonder that this twaddling correspondent is ashamed of disclosing his name. What must be his moral sense when, without a shadow of proof, he anonymously accuses men of character, who boldly declare their names, of renouncing, in other words, lying, and of cheating, and as much as pronounces them imbecile or mad. I never heard of the Reichenbach Institute. Dr. Gregory could not condescend to notice his "very civil note:" and it would have been to the credit of Dr. Ranking and Mr. Walshe if they had not inserted his anonymous "very civil" communication.

The April Number contains facts of as high importance and as well verified as any in the annals of medicine and surgery,—cures which abundant ordi-

SECOND PART.

Of Anæsthesia (absence of feeling) and Amyosthenia (absence of motility) in Nervous Affections.

INTRODUCTORY REMARKS.

SENSIBILITY: ANÆSTHESIA.—When we strike any very remote part, as the sole of the foot, with a rule or other hard substance, there is instantly a sensation of the contact of the instrument: but any pain which may be produced does not occur till a moment afterwards. The interval between the two sensations of *touch* and pain is much more marked if the temperature of the foot happens to be below the ordinary degree. Many have experienced this double sensation when they have cut a finger with a penknife: and many are able to recollect that the sensation of the cold of the instrument was felt distinctly before the pain. This would sufficiently prove the propriety of the distinction between the sense of touch and that of pain, did not numerous morbid phenomena, some of which will hereafter be mentioned, also establish it.* Thus general sensibility is composed of two kinds of sensibility, perfectly distinct in both health and disease.

Sensibility of touch: sensibility of pain.

General sensibility is natural when both these are unimpaired. *Anæsthesia* occurs when, through some alteration in them, impressions either do not reach the brain or produce incomplete sensations in it.

Anæsthesia (negation of sensibility) either may occur in one only of these two sensibilities, and then it always occurs in the sensibility of pain; or, what is less usual, may affect them both at once. In the first case it is termed *analgesia* (negation of pain), and in the latter, anæsthesia (negation of sensation). Analgesia, or negation of pain, may vary from dulness of the sense of pain under one of the two stimulations commonly employed to ascertain it,—pricking, pinching,—to its complete extinction under the most severe surgical operations: but, when the sense of pain is extinguished, the sense of touch is seldom, if ever, unimpaired. Anæs-

nary measures had failed to effect, and which we should be proud of, were we not thankful for them. Dr. Motherwell, Mr. Mayhew, Mr. H. S. Thompson, Mr. Parker, Mr. Clement, a Clergyman of the Church of England, and Dr. Elliotson, are not ashamed of their "romances:" and the world will estimate these, though the *anonymous* correspondent and the editors of the *Provincial Journal* prefer darkness and dark conduct.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

* This phenomenon was explained and detailed at full length in the *Archives Générales de Médecine* of 1848, by Dr. Beau, Associated Professor of Medicine of the Faculty of Paris.

thesia always follows analgesia, of which it is only the second degree; unless, what is very uncommon, it takes place at the same time. It comprises, therefore, an appreciable diminution of both the sensibility of pain and the sensibility of touch up to a complete extinction of general sensibility: so that a limb, for example, may become in this respect like a completely foreign, and in some measure a superadded, substance, which may be burnt, torn, and deeply wounded without the patient being aware of it except by his sight; and, if his eyes are bandaged, and the insensible limb is removed from its previous position, he would have the greatest difficulty in finding it with one of his hands that was free.

Analgesia and anæsthesia invariably proceed almost uniformly in the same region from the superficial to the deep parts. Instead of diffusing themselves and spreading continuously like an inflammation, they leave, unless they have become general, not only surfaces completely sensible between the insensible portions, but points even extremely sensible by the side of others which are insensible.

They affect every part of the body that is accessible to our examination; and, no doubt, may penetrate to every organ which receives nerves of sensation. They are observed first in the upper extremities, on the outer part of the fore-arm; much less frequently in the legs; and still less frequently in the trunk: we have never seen them commence in the mucous membranes.

Either may exist in a vertical (right or left) half of the system, or one may exist in each half *(hemi-analgesia,* or *hemi-anæsthesia,* simple or crossed): and either may exist in a transverse (upper or lower) half of the system *(paranalgesia,* or *paranæsthesia)*: but the most common occurrence is an analgesia or anæsthesia of the two arms, and it is usually greater in the left. From the arms the insensibility extends to the legs, especially to the right: but then, if the trunk and mucous membranes had escaped, these soon become affected. The face is generally implicated still later. There is sensibility of pain or of touch at the *second time of pricking,*—when the pin, after having been introduced vertically, is pushed onwards horizontally till its point is driven out at the skin and gives evidence of one or the other of these two sensibilities, although, *at the beginning* of the trial, in passing progressively from anæsthesia to some remains of sensibility, it had not given any such evidence.

Anæsthesia has a tendency to become general; but does not spread to certain spots till the nervous disease which gave rise to it has steadily increased for a length of time. These

spots are, 1. *The pit of the stomach*: 2. *The lower angles of the shoulder-blades*: 3. *The soles and palms.*

The ESSENTIAL CHARACTERS OF ANÆSTHESIA are:—an extreme mobility, which is equalled by the disease only,—hysteria, hypochondriasis, &c.,—of which it is a symptom; to proceed from different portions of the surface to the centre; to affect most frequently but one division of sensibility; usually to present deficiencies or anomalies which prevent us from referring it to any organic affection; to coexist with a collection of symptoms the course of which, as we shall presently see, it measures and regulates in conjunction with another sign—*amyosthenia* (absence of muscular power), and to participate with amyosthenia in the very remarkable property of disappearing entirely under the influence of the repeated application of certain metals.

Physiological consequences of analgesia and anæsthesia.

Notwithstanding some exceptions which are cited and appear of little value or to be ill-founded, it is the general rule that the *complete* analgesia of an organ *appears* almost entirely to destroy its impressibility and to deprive it of all sensibility of the quality of agents, mechanical and natural, capable of producing pleasure and pain in it. Thus in the mucous and other membranes, the various senses of taste, smell, sight, and hearing, even the feeling of the natural wants,—micturition, defecation, &c.,—which reside in it, cease: and thus in the skin, mechanical stimulants of all kinds, and chemical stimulants of all kinds, such as electricity, heat, cold, dryness, moisture, &c., have no longer any influence upon the brain. There remains only a very vague sense of contact, giving nearly the same sensation from all bodies with the same extent of surface in contact, which sensation serves no other purpose, if we may so speak, than to warm the eyes, and disappears, in its turn, into complete anæsthesia, after which nothing remains. The loss or alteration of certain functions, those of the uterus, for instance, ordinarily arises from no other cause.

Pathological consequences.

Every part in which there is very decided anæsthesia generally presents a considerable reduction of temperature and a very considerable diminution of the superficial circulation, so that even deep punctures cause in most instances little or no blood to escape, or even remain white instead of becoming red: sometimes a complete suppression of transpiration that in nervous patients occasions abundant renal secretion: and

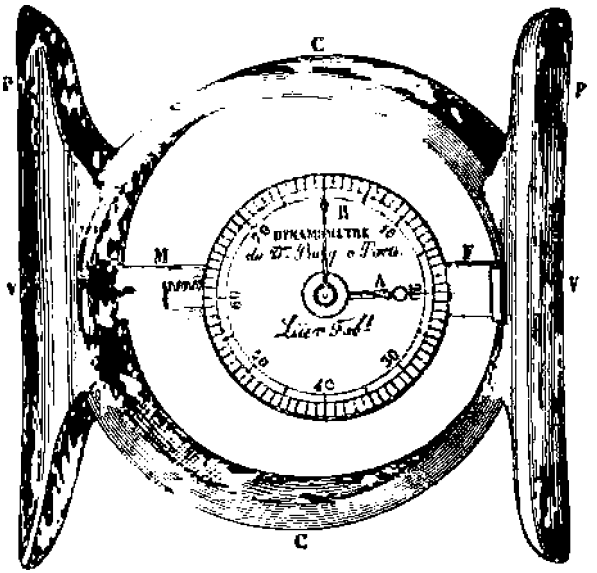
excessive sweating, frequently noticed in the extremities and other parts which still retain their sensibility.

Precautions to be observed in examining the sensibility.

Every examination ought to be made, as far as possible, without the patient's notice; and, before the pin is employed, it is prudent to give the patient a little lesson upon the difference between the sensibility of pain and the sensibility of touch, with the view of preventing him, and especially females, from crying out, through habit or the desire of exciting attention, when in simple analgesia they find themselves pricked.

Generally, in delicate examinations, not to employ metallic plates and wires, excepting, however, the pin, and we prefer one of platinum; and to take care that the spot to be examined has not been in contact, a few moments previously, with any metallic surface, as a bath, a bar of iron, &c.;—always to remember that an analgesia, or even a slight anæsthesia, may be suspended for a moment under strong excitement, and therefore to regulate the pin according to the presumed depth of the anæsthesia;—to examine the superficial parts first, because, if the skin outside, for example, is sensible, the other parts are equally so;—in all cases to employ both pinching and pricking, since many facts have proved that both are necessary to enable us to ascertain whether the sensibility is natural;—never, unless in exceptional cases and for the purpose of farther information, to employ agents, such as heat or cold, the action of which we cannot limit;—never to pronounce anæsthesia to be complete till there is no longer any sensation of pain or touch, either on sharply pinching the skin which lies, in the form of a wedge, between the thumb and forefinger, or on pricking, whether at the second period of the puncture or when long acupuncture needles are plunged into the substance of muscles. In the case of mucous membranes, to employ both pricking and tickling alternatively, and then to employ irritants capable of exciting both pain and the peculiar sense which is supposed to be affected.

MOTILITY: AMYOSTHENIA.—Motility (the power of moving) also undergoes in some nervous affections changes which are not less frequent and not less important to be known than those of sensibility, and which the *metallo-therapia* (metal-cure) requires us to examine with accuracy. For this purpose, and to avoid all the very imperfect modes of estimating muscular force, Dr. Burq has constructed the following dynamometer:—



The instrument is represented of its true size. CC is a steel circle 6 centimetres in diameter, and 1 centimetre broad, formed of seven or eight turns of good watch-spring. PP, steel handles with a surface calculated for the easy application of the hand, and hollowed below sufficiently to receive the greater part of the turns of the spring accurately. A channel is formed by this groove and a steel neck, against which on one side ends a supporting stem F, and on the other a rack M: and all is rendered firm by two strong screws VV at the extremities of one of the diameters of the instrument.

The mechanism is rendered perfect, 1. By a pinion with very fine teeth, its circumference being exactly equal to the difference of the two internal diameters MF of the circle, as at rest or subjected to the strongest pressure—80 kilogr.—which it is able to measure. 2. By a dial, divided into eighty parts, and fixed, as well as the cog, upon a part of the diameter VV, but at such a distance from the centre of the larger circle that its rim on the side M can never touch the spring. 3. By two indices: one, A, always returning to the point O, and the other, B, or the slider, always moving with the former, and remaining where it was drawn, to leave the degree of pressure notified.

The instrument is grasped at the handles as forcibly as

possible: and, if the full expression of the muscular power is not obtained at the first trial, a second, or at any rate a third, is sure to give it, if a few minutes rest is allowed between them.

The muscular power measured in healthy men with this instrument gives a mean of from 55 to 60 kilogrames for the right hand; and of from 45 to 50 for the left: in women of from 35 to 40 for the right hand, and of from 25 to 30 for the left. (A French kilograme is about 2 English pounds.) These figures, however, not being absolute, the true indications of the dynamometer cannot be thoroughly appreciated before some practice with the instrument. Besides, we must remember that, in almost every case where the motility was natural, whatever the numbers of kilogrames furnished by the right or left hand respectively with as strong an effort as possible, there was constantly a difference of about 8 in favour of the right hand. Whenever, therefore, in the examination there is nearly equality between the two, this is almost a certain sign of amyosthenia. This equality will be certain whenever the motility, as ascertained by the dynamometer, is below the power presumed from the volume of the muscles, their rigidity, habitual exercise, the moment (position of the arm) of their action, and the general condition of the individual. We shall apply this expression equally to all the diminutions of visceral contraction that are so frequent and often so obstinate in nervous diseases, and shall reserve the term *paralysis* for all the cases in which amyosthenia, wherever situated, becomes the dominant symptom of the disease from its fixedness, its depth, and its immediate combinations.

Amyosthenia varies, according to a number of circumstances the effects of which are appreciable with the dynamometer, from some kilogrames to 30, 40, or even 50. Thus motility may descend to 0 kilograme, and complete paralysis exist: or it may experience so slight a diminution—5 or 10 kilogrames, that this may not have been noticed before the cure.

Amyosthenia is observed in the same conditions and quite as often as anæsthesia. Like the latter, it may be absent or may attack one limb only. When the two are combined, amyosthenia generally begins the first. It begins in the lower extremities more frequently than anæsthesia: and, in a certain number of cases, it attacks them more than the upper extremities. Contrarily to anæsthesia, it is greater 70 or 80 times out of 100 in the right arm than in the left; and afterwards attacks the left leg (cross hemi-amyosthenia).

Its essential characteristics are nearly the same as those of anæsthesia. But it is less fugitive, and has a tendency to permanence, from which there may be some difficulty in the diagnosis and more or less resistance to the metallic treatment.

DR. BURQ'S DOCTRINE OF NERVOUS AFFECTIONS.

"All nervous diseases, we do not say," writes Dr. Burq, "*all nervous symptoms*, as for instance the cramps of cholera, viewed in reference to sensibility and motility, may be arranged in two very distinct classes:—

"1. Nervous diseases, which, like epilepsy and chorea," (St. Vitus's dance,) "appear *never to present of themselves the continued phenomena of anæsthesia and amyosthenia.*

"2. Nervous affections, which, like hysteria, hypochondriasis, the greater part of spasms and neuralgias (gastrodynia, migraine)," (sick or nervous head-ache,) "sciatica, &c., palpitation of the heart, fits of nervous asthma, habitual cramps of the limbs, &c., present almost always, *if not always, one or other of these symptoms, and most frequently both, continuously.**

"On the other hand, if we carefully examine the symptoms of the latter class of nervous diseases, those alone which we are desirous of considering at present, we shall find that, in spite of their inexhaustible variety, they may all be arranged in two very distinct groups.

"1. *Symptoms referrible to a simple increase or exaggeration* of the sensuous, motor, circulatory, calorific, secretory, functions or properties of an organ, and which, on this account, we will call *positive, sthenic,*" (with strength.) "Spasm and neuralgia hold the first rank.

"2. *Symptoms referrible,* on the contrary, *to a diminution or even an annihilation* of the same functions or properties, and which, in opposition to the preceding, we will term *negative* or *asthenic*" (without strength).

"In the first rank of the second group are anæsthesia and amyosthenia. The symptoms which result from a disturbance of the circulatory and other functions, such as *amenorrhœa,* take place subsequently.

"All the diseases of the second class appear to us to be but one affection, varying in degree and form according to certain circumstances, but springing from a common source, and requiring fundamentally the same treatment: and, on in-

* "Almost all that we have written of the second class of nervous diseases is equally applicable to a great number of the forms of curable insanity."

specting our registers, the following are the laws which we have learnt from scrupulous and multiplied observation.

"Whatever be the cause and commencement of the nervous affection, disturbances of sensibility and motility appear almost as soon as any of the positive symptoms take place.

"Considered separately, anæsthesia" (loss of feeling) "and amyosthenia" (loss of muscular power) "are neither constant nor continuous, but become so when regarded *as only one symptom.*

"More than 150 patients have furnished scarcely an exception to this law. However, an exception may occur: but such a case will generally be of short duration and the result of a negative condition of the uterus or some other important organ, unless it be a *fugitive* effect of a highly nervous temperament.

"There is a constant proportion between the degree of this symptom and the intensity, frequency, and continuousness of the positive or sthenic phenomena. *The exceptions are as rare as even its absence:* but the sum of these is indicated by the sum only of all the negative or asthenic symptoms wherever they be situated.

"There is, perhaps, in all disease no other symptom of such importance as anæsthesia and amyosthenia. Whether they be the *cause* or *effect* of positive phenomena, they never take place with impunity. They follow all the phases of the disease, increase or diminish in the same proportion with it, do not disappear before its last symptom, and remain absent as long only as the cure continues. In this respect, as well as in respect of all the information and indications which it furnishes, there is so much resemblance between this symptom and the pulse of inflammation that we do not hesitate to regard it *figuratively* as the true pulse of all nervous diseases of the second class, that every prudent practitioner will examine as often as the pulse itself. The information which it furnishes is very accurate, and sometimes more to be depended upon than the answers of the patient that it really makes unnecessary. Thus, if the anæsthesia or amyosthenia is increased, though the patient may perhaps be conscious of no change, we may expect some fresh attack: unless, what seldom happens, the increase arises from the cessation only of some negative symptoms which it will take the place of.

"It is absolutely impossible in the treatment of nervous diseases of the second class to treat one or other of the symptoms *efficaciously* without operating equally upon the others: and all curative measures, whether by medicines, regimen, or of other kinds, *must*, in order to cure the disease, *have a*

direct, or remote, but certain, action upon the anæsthesia or amyosthenia, or they will be of no use, though they may not prevent the spontaneous cure."*

But how do anæsthesia and amyosthenia play so important a part,—a part completely unnoticed hitherto, in those affections which are so varied, so obstinate, so often regarded as hopeless by both patient and physician, and which Dr. Burq has placed in his second class of nervous diseases?†

After having stated that nervous affections are the sad lot of persons especially who move in the world, that is to say, of persons who exercise their motility and external sensibility the least; and after having endeavoured to prove that the greater number of circumstances which have been justly considered to produce them are precisely all those which usually have the greatest tendency to weaken these two properties, and unfortunately to displace the nervous principle which presides over their action and to remove it to other organs in which, after the period of excitement, it speedily becomes a cause of disorder,—Dr. Burq reviews the different opinions respecting a nervous force or fluid circulating in the nerves almost in the same manner as the blood circulates in the blood-vessels. Then, fortified with the authority given to the, at any rate reasonable, supposition of this circulation by the names of Galvani, Cuvier, Matteuci, Dubois Raymond, &c., &c., he fully adopts the definition of anæsthesia given in the great *Dictionary of the Medical Sciences* (60 vol.) in the following words:—

"Anæsthesia is commonly the result of a suspension of the action of the nervous fluid which goes to different parts

* In a recent letter read to the Academies *(Gazette Médicale,* July, 1852, *New Application of the Metals to the study and treatment of Chlorosis)*, Dr. Burq has endeavoured to shew that preparations of iron which might throw the greatest doubt upon his view act precisely in this manner and on this account only in chlorosis (the pale disease of young women) and the numerous nervous affections which it accompanies, whereas their direct action upon *hæmatosine* (in improving the quality of the blood) is purely imaginary.

We know also that Dr. Burq is writing a fresh work, with the last passages from his Thesis as an epigraph: "In reviewing all the various external and internal means employed with unquestionable success from the time of Hippocrates in nervous affections, he will endeavour to prove that all, *without excepting mesmerism*, have succeeded solely through their action upon the negative symptoms."

† On the DIFFERENTIAL DIAGNOSIS (method of distinguishing) of nervous diseases, he remarks also, "The constancy and continuousness of anæsthesia or amyosthenia, their erratic character and anomalies, the invasion of analgesia first and then of anæsthesia on the surface and in portions of it, the constant relation between these two symptoms and all the positive phenomena of the nervous affection, the possibility of generally removing them by the application of metals, and still more the antecedents and the external circumstances of the patient, are almost always sufficient to distinguish these affections of the second class from all others which might be confounded with them."

of the body." This definition of anæsthesia the author naturally extends to amyosthenia, and to all the other *asthenic* (without strength) phenomena; and afterwards thus expresses himself:—"The nerves, being unable to act of themselves, or mechanically, as Cuvier says, draw from the vast reservoir from which they spring a power, a subtle fluid, *nervous* or *whatever else*, no matter what name we give it, *probably* a modification of electricity, collected, no doubt, by the ganglionic nerves at every point where the chemical and physical phenomena take place which support life,* elaborated perhaps in the ganglions, and transported from them along the same ways by which it had reached them, in the centre of the encephalo-spinal canal," (the canal in the brain and spinal marrow,) "for the purpose of being *distributed* automatically by the nerves of emotion,—of the great sympathetic, and by the brain itself, and voluntarily by the nerves of motion.

"The production of this fluid may slacken without serious inconvenience. But, for the maintenance of the harmony of the functions, its production must never exceed its expenditure, that is, the natural expenditure; for, as soon as from any cause, from the nerves of emotion, or those of the uterus, stomach, or some other important organ, having lost in part or altogether their conducting power, it becomes excessive, there presently takes place a *nervous plethora*, which from its intensity and the infinite number of nerves becomes the source of numerous and serious disturbances.

"At first there is a mere head-ache returning periodically: one or several spots are attacked with neuralgia: palpitations occur by day or cramps in the evening, and, being both cause and effect, they soon occasion farther derangement in the distribution of the nervous fluid, and accustom it to distribute itself more among certain nerves than others.

"Next, when the asthenic" (without strength) "phenomena have made fresh progress, cramps and head-aches are not sufficient for compensation, and therefore more serious disorders arise. Then the intensity of the first constantly increases, and at length, the sthenic" (with strength) "derivation, after having attacked several parts successfully, being no longer sufficient, the slightest cause, the slightest pretext, (and even sometimes we can discover no cause or pretext at all), is capable of making it rush violently upon all the nerves at once, and produce one of those violent attacks which may last from one to several days.

* "When a drop of water on the surface of the earth evaporates, when the sap ascends and circulates in a vegetable, electricity occurs: is it possible that this is not the case also in all the complicated operations of our existence?"

"In this state, if you have not an armature at hand, or some other agent capable of acting directly upon and drawing off from the nervous system, do not attempt to arrest the symptoms by palliative measures. This would be a loss of time. What would be the use of attacking the affection if you leave the causes untouched?

"On the contrary, allow the patient to plunge and contort herself to the utmost; allow the pelvis to make all the expulsory movements which are rendered necessary by the great nervous *afflux* to the uterus; allow the play of the lungs and of all their muscles to disperse the enormous quantity of nervous influence accumulated in them;—and all will soon be over.

"When the attack is over, employ the best means in your power, metallic plates, baths, gymnastic exercises, &c., to bring back the sensibility which has been diminished or destroyed, and to re-establish the functions of the uterus and stomach, intestines, bladder, organs of the senses, respiration and voice.

"In short, put an end as quickly as possible to all the *negative symptoms;* and, when you have accomplished what was nature's object in these disturbances,—have re-established, so to speak, the equilibrium between the receipts and expenditure of innervation,—you will have done almost all that is necessary for the cure.

"Sydenham was quite right when he said in his *Treatise upon Hysteria:* 'I think that what is termed hysterical affection in women and hypochondriasis in *men, and in general the vapors, proceed from a disorder or irregular movement of the animal spirits, which, streaming impetuously and in excessive quantity to one part or other, produces spasms or even pain when the part happens to be endued with exquisite sensibility, and disturbs the functions of the organs, both those which they leave and those to which they flow, each being of necessity much injured by this unequal distribution of the animal spirits, that is contrary to the laws of the animal economy.*'

"If Galvani had lived a century earlier, Sydenham would have expressed himself differently, and this illustrious physician, who understood hysteria so well, would have left little room for improvement in its treatment.

"CONCLUSIONS AND TREATMENT (metallo-therapia).

"I. Hysteria, hypochondriasis, the majority of spasms and neuralgias, or visceralgias, and, we may add by anticipation, even a certain number of forms of insanity, are only

one and the same affection differently manifested, but every form of which, however diversified, arises from a defect of equilibrium between the healthy production and expenditure of the nervous influence.

"II. Only two kinds of symptoms constitute them; 1. Negative symptoms. We should like to call them *anervous*, arising from the more or less complete absence of the nervous element in the organs which display them. 2. Positive symptoms (hypernervous), which result on the contrary from an excessive nervous afflux. Each has a necessary effect upon the other, and reason and experience agree in shewing that it is impossible to act successfully upon the second without exerting the same action upon the first. 3. Anæsthesia and amyosthenia, occupying the highest place among the negative symptoms, may consequently be regarded *as a sort of touch-stone of the disease calculated to point out the most suitable means of cure.* Hence we arrive at this conclusion, extreme in every point of view,—

"That, *a nervous affection with anæsthesia and amyosthenia being given, all the treatment consists in discovering an agent or means, whatever they may be,* (mesmerism, baths, gymnastic exercises, metals employed internally or externally, &c.,) *capable of bringing back the sensibility and motility to the healthy state.*

"4. The best agent known, the action of which almost never fails, is a metal which is a good conductor of electricity; and that, according to certain affinities still a mystery to us, is in some cases copper, in others steel, in others silver, gold, &c.

"*Selection of the Metal.*

"To select the metal proper in an individual case, we must be provided with an exploring box, containing,

"1. A dynamometer:

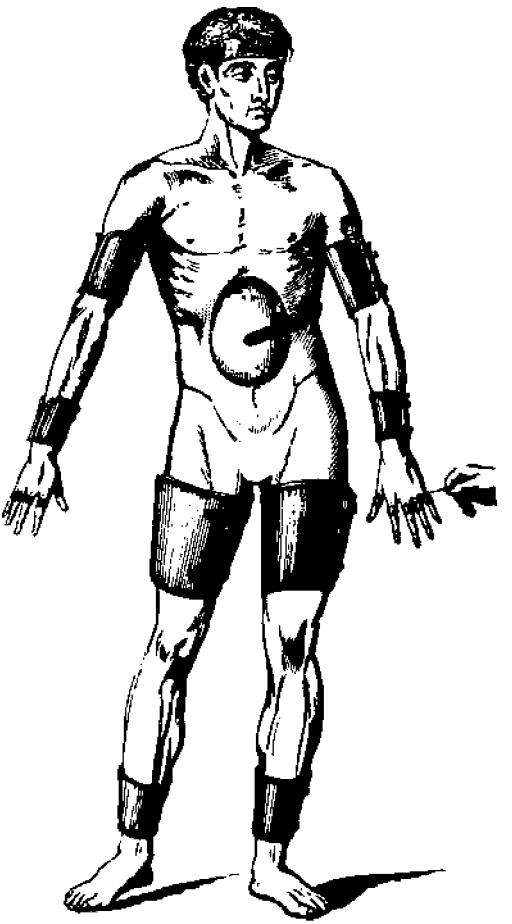
"2. From twenty-four to forty little plates of all sorts of metals, pure or alloyed:

"3. Some pins of platinum and steel.

"On visiting the patient, we must first carefully ascertain the state of the sensibility and motility: then apply successively one or more of the little plates, beginning with those of copper or steel, upon the parts where the sensibility is most defective, and, what is still better, around the fingers if their sensibility is at all impaired, till we arrive at a metal which restores it: next put on a ring of this metal ten or fifteen centimetres* broad, large enough to surround one of the

* A centimetre is rather more than the third of an inch.

limbs which is both anæsthetic and amyosthenic: and if, after it has been applied some hours (an hour or two is generally sufficient), all the phenomena,* except fatigue which certainly cannot result from so small a surface, that we ought to expect, take place, and if the *sensibility* and *motility* have decidedly come back, we have only to construct a general armature com-



* Dr. Burq has fully detailed these phenomena in his letter to the Academy of Sciences (February 4th, 1850), *Upon the Physiological and Therapeutic Effects of Metallic Armatures.* They are a sense of TINGLING *on the anæsthetic surface,* HEAT, SWEATING, and lastly a very remarkable sense of FATIGUE,—a symptom more than sufficient to prove the subtraction of nervous energy, and always proportionate to the degree of the employment of the metal,—of its surface and the duration of its application.—*Gazette Médicale,* Fevrier, 1850.

posed of two large rings for each limb and of two large plates for the trunk, and a crown for the forehead if it is desirable to act upon the head.*

"The patient should put them on at bed-time, and remain thus armed for two, four, eight or ten hours, according to the intensity of the effects desired.

"If the catamenia do not appear at their proper period, and have been long absent, a few partial applications of the metals should first of all be made upon the abdomen and lower extremities, and repeated almost invariably afterwards; with the simple precaution, necessary for cases in which a mistake has been made as to the proper metals rather than for those in which the proper metal has been selected, of warming the plates before they are used, by putting them either under the bed-clothes or before a fire.

"This treatment alone, aided by some additional advice as to the general management of the health by frequent exercise, even of a gymnastic kind if this is rendered necessary to maintain the sensibility and strength which are artificially produced by the metal; and, likewise, be it not forgotten, by the removal of the causes which gave rise to the disturbance of the distribution of nervous influence, will be sufficient, *almost always, we dare not say more,* to put a speedy termination *to the present nervous disease,* unless, *what seldom happens,* the metal loses its power.

"If at a later period a relapse occurs, the patients, warned this time by the state of the sensibility and motility that they have learnt how to recognize, must at once repress the fresh symptoms with the re-application of the same armature which cured them before, or with the application of another metal should the first have lost its power in the interval."

After Dr. Burq had written these observations, slight inconveniences or difficulties sometimes happened in the application of the armatures.† To avoid these and obtain as

* On the left limbs, in the cut, the rings are single and their edges united by any simple means. On the right, they are in two pieces, united by steel springs, which allow them to be opened and closed, and therefore to be applied very readily.

† The greatest inconvenience arising from the metal being applied for a length of time is a slight eruption, although in reality this is frequently a favourable sign. We should endeavour to avoid it by wiping the metal of the armature whenever it is soiled, just as is done with the most common utensils; by taking care not to apply the metals too long at a time, especially on persons of a very delicate skin; or by applying but one ring to every limb, sometimes that of the arm and leg, sometimes that of the fore-arm and thigh. If, in spite of these precautions, a few pimples appear, the skin must be protected from the metal by a littled gummed taffeta or diachylon spread upon cloth, or by not applying the metal on the same part for two or three days. These precautions are especially necessary in females when the parts of application are those habitually covered.

much perfection as possible, he resolved to employ his system under the form of corset-busks, elegant bracelets, collars and chains for children, strigils, and rods for friction and kneading, metallic poultices or wadding, and lastly of bathing vessels, or of baths made with filings of copper or steel; and the latter have the advantage of being conveniently applied without in general at all changing the habits of the patients. All these objects are so arranged that the patients may employ them in perfect safety, and without the necessity of previous examination of the effects of metals.

It now remains only for us to give proofs of the truth and practical importance of the discovery which Mesmer enabled Dr. Burq to make. They are so abundant that we hardly know which to select. Different Parisian medical journals have published a large number of cases. But, in order not to borrow more than a very few from Dr. Burq himself, we will limit ourselves to those which have been collected in the great hospitals by the house-pupils: many of the cases having been treated under the eyes of the committee of the Academy, which, we have already said, was entrusted with the examination of Dr. Burq's doctrine and treatment, and which affirmed that no medical novelty was ever made known with greater authenticity and proofs.

VARIOUS NEURALGIAS.

1. *Violent Neuralgia of the back of the head and temple; cured with English steel.*

[From the *Gazette Médicale* of Paris, March, 1852. Salneuve, house-pupil of the hospital.

M. B., a merchant of Genoa, was admitted on the first of April, 1851, into the *Maison Nationale de Santé*, under M. Monod. He is 48 years old, of a constitution which would have been perfect but for long habits of intemperance, and has never suffered from any severe disease. The only one worth mentioning was a neuralgia similar to that under which he labours at present, and under which four years since he laboured for four months in a town of Transylvania.

A fews days ago, perhaps under the influence of an unusual excess in living, he was seized with violent pains at the surface of the left occipital region, darting to the front and sides of the head. At first they were intermittent and transient, but to day have become very acute, and extend to all the nerves of the occiput, forehead, and temples, and to the left ear. The attack returns every evening about 8 o'clock,

rapidly reaching its height, and continuing a great part of the night, often till the physician's visit the next day. The pain is constant, but aggravated from time to time. Pressure relieves it. If, what is unusual, it begins in the day, it seldom lasts long.

Antiperiodic medicines, opium, chloroform, even the catheterism of the tympanum, having done no good, Dr. Monod* turned the patient over to Dr. Burq on the 2nd of April.

Exploration.—Complete analgesia of both the fore-arms under the pin,—a transverse puncture at the base of a large fold of the skin is decidedly felt, yet causes but little pain: on the contrary, these several parts are very sensible to the least pinching. Sensibility natural in the palms and the inner parts of the ends of the fingers. The lower extremities and the trunk are also analgesic under the pin, but less than the arm.

The compressing force exercised by the right arm is 26 kilogrames: by the left, 25 kilogr.

A large ring of English steel is put upon the right fore-arm, one of copper upon the left fore-arm, and one of brass upon the left calf.

After some minutes, tinglings, heat and perspiration under the right bracelet: none under the others.

In half an hour, the sensibility was nearly natural, and the compression amounted to 37 kilogr., on the side where the steel was placed: at the edge of the copper and brass the sensibility was the same as before, and compression on the left side was 26 kilogr.

On the 23rd of April, at five in the morning, the same exploring rings were put on the same places as the day before. At the hour of the visit (8 a.m.) we found the sensibility natural in the right arm: the compression of the right side was 28 kilogr; a little later 33:† on the left it remained at 27; then at 28.

* Dr. Monod, whose name frequently appears in these cases of metallic treatment, has adopted it for all his private patients and those in the hospital. This is the more flattering to Dr. Burq, because Dr. Monod has an exceedingly large practice and is one of the most respected physicians of Paris, and a member of the Superior Council of Hospitals, in which he represents the interests of his colleagues.

† It may appear strange that the muscular force, which the day before was 37 kilogr. after half an hour's application of English steel, amounted the next day to only 28 kilogr. after the application of the same metal for five hours. But in truth a period sometimes arrives when the metal which really acts causes a depression of the force after having elevated it, so that, on a subsequent examination, this may be found greatly diminished. Nothing, says Dr. Burq, is more easy to understand than this. We have only to consider for a moment the probable, if

24th, 25th. While a steel armature was arranging, Dr. Burq, wishing to shew us that the success of the armature was ascribable to the metal itself only, not, for example, to imagination, applied a brass armature every night, taking care to make promises to the patient that he informed us privately would not be realized. The patient assured us every day that he had suffered as much as on the previous nights, and wished to have no more of a remedy which he said was only an additional misery.

27th. This morning sensibility and muscular power have declined to what they were before the examination. There has been much pain in the night. The armature of English steel was given to him in the day, and in the evening, the pain becoming as severe as ever, he applied it. The pains lessened rapidly: at the end of half an hour they had nearly ceased, and in an hour he was asleep.

28th. The patient was again examined with the rings on. The part on which they were is all stained with rust. The sensibility has returned everywhere, except on the right side where it is still a little dull. After the application yesterday he felt a general tingling, a great heat, considerable perspiration, and something like cramps in all his limbs. A feeling of weariness this morning. The power is 28 kilogr. in the right hand, and 26 in the left.

29th. A fresh application with the same success.

May 1st. This morning perfect sensibility; good sleep. Power, 41 kilogr. in the right hand; 38 in the left.

3rd. M. B. has had no pain: sensibility is natural: his power has risen to 45 kilogr. on the right side, and 40 on the left. He returns home.

SALNEUVE, house-pupil to Dr. Monod.

NEURALGIA, HYPOCHONDRIASIS: CURED WITH COPPER.

[*Gazette Médicale*, March, 1852. Dr. Coffin, formerly house-pupil of the hospital.

M. T., 48 years old, apparently of a sound constitution, the possessor of a large fortune made in America, having grown idle after a very active life, became the subject of indi-

not certain, action of the metal upon the nervous energy, to understand that the latter, being exhausted at the end of a certain time of its application, as the patient's sense of fatigue shews, becomes insufficient to make the muscles contract with all their energy. We have heard the author quote, as one of the most remarkable instances of this, the case of an artillery man under the care of Dr. Boudin at the *Hôpital du Roule*, and upon whom a copper armature, applied for an intermittent fever, had been left a whole night, and who the next morning had scarcely strength enough to stand. Hence the diminution of strength that is otherwise but momentary was as instructive as its increase.

gestion and debility. Visiting Europe for amusement, he had several attacks of neuralgia in his abdominal organs every time he was in Paris, for which Dr. Monod was ultimately consulted.

Sept. 20th. Various measures having failed, Dr. Monod thought it right to apply the metals, and invited me in the absence of Dr. Burq to assist him in the metallic examination. The symptoms were indigestion; constipation; intermittent pains at the pit of the stomach, shooting around the trunk, and especially in the left iliac hollow; with a feeling of constriction at the lower part of the chest: also constant pain at the back of the head, especially in the morning; almost incessant restlessness; strong melancholy views of his own state of health. The sensibility of contact is perfect, yet the external surface of the two arms is but little sensible to pricking; the internal surface, especially of the left arm, is more sensible: all the parts to which the sciatic nerve is distributed are almost quite insensible on the left side; the sensibility is only dull on the right side. The sensibility of the whole trunk is unimpaired.

The patient complains of a great loss of strength: and, in fact, the dynamometer shows 24 kilogr. on the left side, and 42 on the right.

Different metals are tried: copper seems to act the most. To make the selection with more accuracy, different varieties of it are placed upon each of his limbs. In two hours, all the rings had restored the sensibility in different degrees: but in the right leg, where pure copper with no mixture of zinc was applied, the sensibility seemed absolutely heightened.

21st. The experiment is repeated: but this time the ring of pure copper is put upon the left leg. In a few moments sensibility returns under all the rings, and on the left there is almost an excess of sensibility, just as there was yesterday on the right.

25th. A complete armature of pure copper is applied to-night from 11 p.m. to 5 a.m.

26th. Sensibility is increased all over the body: there is hardly any pain at the pit of the stomach or back of the head.

The dynamometer gives 52 kilogr. in the right hand, and 48 kilogr. in the left.

The armature is applied every night.

27th. Sensibility has returned everywhere: there is no pain. The patient being in bed, the right hand gives 45 kilogr., the left 42 kilogr.

28th. State excellent; vigour returned; digestion perfect:

a wish to go out of doors. The right hand gives 80 kilogr.: the left 50 kilogr.

Oct. 7th. At his departure, he had never been better in his life.

Dr. Coffin.*

HYPOCHONDRIASIS CURED WITH BRASS IN PLATES.

[*Gaz. Méd.*, Paris, March, 1852. Dr. Liendon, house-pupil of the hospital.

March 16, 1851. M. S., a merchant, 38 years old, was received into the *Maison de Santé*. He appeared strong and healthy; rather below mediocrity in intellect, and of a dry nervous temperament. His countenance, though very sharp, expressed reserve, and strong passions, especially the lower instincts—animal. He had been generally healthy and subject to piles only; and had never suffered from any other disease than an inflammation of the lungs in 1845.

Last August, his chest had been struck by the pole of a carriage, and he was confined to his bed for a fortnight. During his convalescence he fell violently in love with a woman who had nursed him. Becoming dreadfully jealous, he experienced first moral and then physical sufferings, which have never left him. On each quarrel, each fresh fit of jealousy, he had a violent oppression at his heart, with a sense of heat at the pit of his stomach, where also there was occasionally a sense of agitation, occasionally of constriction. At the same time there came on gradually towards the end of December a degree of head-ache and some loss of sleep. The head-ache grew very intense, but was unaccompanied by vomiting, and by degrees was substituted for his sufferings at the pit of the stomach. Every week or fortnight it returned with shootings and pulsations at the right side of the head for eight or ten hours, and did not cease till sleep came on. About a month before his admission the head-ache gave place to a violent pain below the left breast. This pain was intermittent, as that at the pit of the stomach had been, and ceased and returned just as he happened to be jealous or contented. Soon afterwards cough and a little oppression came on: then shiverings: and he took to his bed on the 4th of March.

To-day, March 24th, his sleep is impaired: his appetite

* This physician, when house-pupil at Ourcine, had already cured a nun of the hospital, who had been under the care of Dr. Cullerier without any benefit for two years on account of an hysterical affection and an incipient palsy, with brass rings. The case was published by Dr. Coffin himself in Dr. Burq's *Inaugural Thesis*, p. 53.

also, which inclines to vegetables only. He sweats copiously, especially in the head. The cough continues with a very abundant thin expectoration; but neither percussion nor auscultation points out anything serious. The pulse is 130, small and irregular: the inspirations 28. His countenance is uneasy: discharges insipid and inodorous gas from the stomach and bowels: he has no tenderness of the pit of the stomach or any other part of the trunk.

Exploration.—March 24th. Dr. Burq, who kindly assisted us in the examination, and afterwards in the treatment, certifies with us that the upper extremities, although perfectly sensible to the touch, are almost quite insensible to pricking and pinching; and that the force of pressure, ascertained frequently by the dynamometer, varies according to the state of the patient from 35 to 45 kilogr. in the right hand, and from 30 to 40 in the left. Various small exploring rings are applied upon the fingers in our presence, and give results which are doubtful between *brass* and *English steel*, both which appear to restore sensibility at the spot of their application.

25th, morning. A large ring of English steel is put upon the right arm, and a large one of brass upon the left. The steel produced no effect: the brass increased the sensibility and motility. The following day, as a second examination of the right side with the brass gave the same result, a complete armature of this metal was prepared.

March 31st. The treatment, which had hitherto consisted of pectoral drinks, opiate potions, and narcotic pills, has not yet been productive of any benefit.

At 5 a.m. a general application of brass rings was made. In a few hours there was heat, copious perspiration, but a very little tingling, and complete freedom of the chest from suffering.

At 10 a.m. an examination made before M. Dumeril gave perfect sensibility in the upper extremities; a power of 50 kilogr. for the right hand, and 45 for the left.

This morning there was a little fatigue, and an unusual appetite.

April 1st, 2nd, 3rd. Every morning for four or five hours the metal was applied all over the patient, except his arms, the rings of which were repairing. The same effects resulted except the tingling. The symptoms of the disease are disappearing, and sleep is returning to its natural amount.

2nd. Strength enough: excellent appetite, and a return of the desire for meat. The patient was able to go out about his affairs the whole day. On returning in the evening with

a severe head-ache, he got rid of it in a few moments by means of an armature which he himself thought of applying. He has no sense of constriction; his chest is quite free; his pulse has fallen to below 80; the perspiration below the rings is less, and scarcely any fatigue is felt from their application.

4th. Perfect sensibility: the same force of pressure as before. Still a little want of sleep; but a great improvement which the patient is delighted to perceive. He breathes more easily, without the least oppression. The metal is applied again; a little heat and perspiration, but only slight tinglings; less fatigue than on previous days. A few wandering pains at different parts, but these are almost at once removed by the application of the armature. Sensibility perfect: pressure 55 kilogr. on the right; 41 on the left.

5th. Still a little cough: but no expectoration.

7th. M. S. leaves the establishment in a satisfactory state of health: has recovered his strength, his appetite, and even a degree of cheerfulness. Strength, 55 kilogr. on the right; 50 on the left.*

ENGLISH STEEL.—GOLD. (GOLD, 4 OUNCES; COPPER, 1 OUNCE.)

Two other patients, also under Professor Dumeril, were examined at the same period by Dr. Burq. The general influence of the metallic treatment could not be so well established in them on account of both the short time that one remained in the house and the impossibility from the want of the metal for Dr. Burq to put his plan in execution upon the other.

But it is not less true that in each a metal excited the happiest influence upon sensibility and motility, which, as in the former patient, had been greatly impaired.

The following facts were ascertained.

The first patient was a lady, 38 years old, who suffered from violent sciatica of the right side. She had been treated two years before for gastralgia, which still plagued her a little, and had remained subject to violent head-aches, which ceased on the appearance of the sciatica. Dr. Dumeril in vain employed opium in large quantities, internally and externally, flying blisters along the sciatic nerve, vapour baths, &c. The neuralgia was still excruciating, occasionally abating for only a few instants. She was always in bed, and had not slept for twenty days.

March 20. Sensibility as well as motility greatly impaired

* Dr. Burq saw him, Nov. 14, and found sensibility and motility perfect and not a trace of nervousness left.

in the upper extremities: a long needle plunged through the base of a fold of skin occasions no pain. Many metals were applied, but English steel only produced a satisfactory result. Rings of this metal, therefore, were applied one evening upon the arms and legs. On the very same night the pains abated so much that she slept.

The next day, the force of pressure and the sensibility were much increased. The applications of the same metal were continued; and, in about a fortnight, she was able to leave the institution much improved.

Unfortunately we have known nothing about her since.

The second patient, Mrs. B., 59 years of age (a dresser at the theatre), was admitted March 4. Her temperament was very nervous: she had formerly suffered various pains, and especially severe head-aches. She has now a sciatica on the right side, and has tried all the receipts in the town for it.

Various frictions, blisters, chloroform, &c., under my direction, were just as useless. As she lay in a double-bedded room near the former patient, the examination of both was made upon the same day. The sensibility was found very much lessened in the upper extremities, and the muscular power to be nearly gone. One spot only of the left hand preserved its natural sensibility. *It was the ring-finger of this hand, and on it a ring of gold alloy had been worn for many years.* The sensibility was very acute under this metal, and much less so around. Struck with this coincidence, we removed the ring to other fingers, and at the same time put rings of common metals upon the adjoining fingers. Sensibility returned every time under the gold alloy, but, under the other metals, remained just as before their application. The patient, at length convinced by what happened to her neighbour that nothing but gold would cure her, left the establishment to borrow bracelets of this metal of the actresses whom she had dressed.

L. Liendon, house-pupil to Dr. Dumeril
in the *Maison de Santé de Dubois.*

COPPER.

Hôtel Dieu, St. Magdalen Ward, No. 39.

Bertambois, a sailor, 22 years old, admitted November 12, 1850, was born of an hysterical mother; lost a brother in convulsions; has been subject to nervous affections from infancy; went into the navy of his own accord at thirteen years of age; was seized with typhoid on board the *Phæton* at seventeen; on his convalescence had *anæsthesia* and *amyos-*

thenia, indigestion, increase of head-aches, cramps, &c. On his going to the North Seas soon afterwards his insensibility was such that, to the astonishment of the crew, he went up and down among the rigging when it was all covered with ice without feeling the cold. Being invalided in 1827 *on account of weakness*, he returned to Paris, where, from various circumstances, he soon grew worse. In two months he two or three times a week experienced symptoms like hysterical choaking, that still exist in conjunction with other symptoms of the same kind, but without any loss of consciousness. He also frequently shed tears, became gloomy and taciturn, and his nights were disturbed by melancholy and frightful dreams. He went under Dr. Rostan, in the ward Sainte Jeanne, No. 4. We demonstrated to M. Vigla and the numerous pupils of the teacher whose place he then occupied that this patient's sensibility and motility, both which were seriously impaired, returned quickly under applications of *copper*.

Having quitted before his treatment had commenced, he was afterwards admitted into the wards of M. Tardieu. At this time, says M. Pierre, there was analgesia of the upper limbs, and superficial anæsthesia. Pressure by the right hand was 26 kilogr.; by the left 30 kilogr. There was indigestion, partial-loss of smell and taste; insensibility of the mucous membranes of the eye and nose to irritating vapours; various disorders of the nervous system, and particularly attacks of hysterical choaking, occasionally of long duration.

On the 16th and 17th we ascertained that *sensibility* and *motility* had been almost perfectly restored in the left arm with partial applications of *copper*. From the 18th to the 26th inclusively the *copper armature* was worn all night upon the limbs only: *tingling, heat, sweating* and *fatigue*, especially during the first days, and a gradual disappearance of all the symptoms.

26th. General and special sensibility natural. Pressure on the right 70 kilogr.; on the left 55 kilogr. Good appetite, digestion and sleep. S. P.

Let us now pass to *Hysteria*, with *amenorrhœa, chlorosis*, &c., and its various forms of spasm and neuralgia in the female; and study the action of the metals in this usually obstinate disease. Dr. Burq does not pretend that these means are a *panacea* for nervous affections, since he gives many instances of their failure, and moreover is aware of all the power of MESMERISM over them: but he believes, and almost proves, that the *metal cure* alone may become one of the most useful and certain remedies in medicine.

On another occasion he will inform us of the immense advantage of the metals when combined with their fruitful parent.

I. HYSTERIA, CHLOROSIS, DAILY VOMITING FOR MANY MONTHS: RAPID CURE WITH BRASS RINGS.

In his last paper on chlorosis (see the recapitulation at the end) Dr. Burq, addressing the National Academy of Medicine, publicly read the following case.

In June, 1850, a young hysterical and chlorotic girl, affected also with anæsthesia, amyosthenia, amenorrhœa and dyspepsia, was two months in one of Dr. Rostan's wards, vomiting every day almost all the solids and fluids which she was prevailed upon to swallow. *Iron, it is remarkable, had been prescribed in vain, as well as many other substances: and only pills of oxide of zinc had appeared to do a little good.*

Chance having led me to examine this patient, the eminent professor of the *Hôtel Dieu* kindly allowed me to try my treatment. I began by ascertaining the suitable metal, and it proved to be brass in plates. Afterwards the committee of the Academy, many distinguished physicians, Drs. Jobert (of Lamballe), Horteloup, Pasquier, Beau, Tardieu, and Gosselin, whom I had assembled to witness the power of the metals upon sensibility and motility, and Dr. Rostan himself and his numerous clinical pupils, had satisfied themselves that this metal, applied experimentally, removed the anæsthesia and analgesia at the spot of its application and nowhere else,

On the 6th of June, in the evening, I made a general application of brass. The next day, general and special sensibility had returned to three quarters of the surface, and the muscular power had mounted to from 10 to 16 kilogr. on the right side. The patient was greatly fatigued by the *spoliation* which the metal had effected, and, even in the morning, asked for food and took it with pleasure, and digested it properly.

In the evening and on the following days a fresh application of the brass armature was made at night: and after the second day of the treatment, sensibility and motility having become almost natural, the patient, who has not vomited subsequently to the 6th, has no longer enough of the full diet (four portions), and does all sorts of little jobs for the sister of the ward to gain additional allowance.

Five or six days more pass during which the colour of the skin shews a tendency to become natural, and the bellows-sound lessens more and more in the two carotids.

On the 16th and 17th the catamenia, which had been absent several months, return so abundantly under the

influence of the metal applied to the stomach and lower extremities that the patient fancied she was flooding.

On the 18th, sensibility natural; pressure 40 kilogr.: we suspend the use of the metal, and gradually, first, the *anæsthesia and amyosthenia, then the attacks, the indigestion and vomiting, returned, and with the latter all the symptoms of chlorosis.*

June 26th. Analgesia of the upper extremities: diminution of taste and smell: pressure by the right hand 20 kilogr. instead of 40 kilogr.: weakness of the legs.

I resumed the metals permanently, and the return of sensibility and motility again preceded the re-establishment of the digestive functions and the return of the healthy composition of the blood.

At the end of two months, the patient, being perfectly cured, left the *Hôtel Dieu,* after having acted as a servant in the wards for six weeks.

SLIGHT HYSTERIA: CURED WITH PLATES OF BELL-METAL.

[*Gazette Médicale*, March, 1852. Salneuve.

June 16th, 1851, Miss O. was admitted into No. 13, of the ward No. 2, of the *Maison Nationale de Santé,* under Dr. Monod. This young women, 16 years old, born and brought up in the country, tanned, was of small figure, but robust complexion, firm substance, and well-developed muscles.

Two years previously, without ever having had pain in the head, or any nervous symptom, she began to suffer from palpitation and suffocation, sometimes accompanied by faintness, and more seldom by fainting. Three or four months later, menstruation became established, and these symptoms in part disappeared till September, 1850, at which period, without any assignable reason, fresh nervous disturbances began.

One day, after a fainting, leeches were applied to the thighs: and then a fresh fainting took place, and in the evening a violent fit which lasted four hours. This first attack was followed by several others, especially at the periods of the catamenia, which however were undisturbed. At the end of a month, the attacks, which had not appeared again, returned with fresh intensity, daily and even three or four times a day.

They were preceded by no warning; and commonly lasted for four or five minutes. They began suddenly with violent palpitations, after which the neck swelled greatly, the head was drawn backwards, the breathing grew quick, and then there was suffocation and a kind of strangulation. All this

time, the patient uttered no cry, did not lose her consciousness, and the upper extremities alone were slightly convulsed.

Her general health remained unaffected except that the appetite fell off, her taste was a little depraved, and the bowels torpid.

June 17th. The day after her arrival, Dr. Monod, who had tried many plans of treatment with her out of the hospital in vain, put her under the care of Dr. Burq.

Exploration.—A careful examination detected at the forearms only a superficial *anæsthesia*, but very great *analgesia*; pricking and pinching, although perfectly felt, gave no pain except at the palm and the under part of the finger ends: everywhere else the sensibility was natural.

The dynamometer shewed the muscular power of the forearm to be much less than it ought to have been in a person of such firm and large muscles. The right hand gave a pressure of 22 kilogr.: the left one of 20. The lower extremities had lost nothing of their muscular power and sensibility, and thus these properties were impaired in the upper only. Dr. Burq, considering this to be the sole cause of the disease, thought he could remove it if he found a metal capable of restoring the *sensibility* and muscular *power*. The examination was long and difficult. Many of the usual metals, many kinds of copper and steel, produced no effect: and the frequency and severity of the attacks continued all this time. At last, on June 26th, no change had occurred, and two small plates of *bell-metal* were tried. As they appeared to have some effect, a ring of this alloy was put upon each forearm on the evening of the 26th, and allowed to remain till the morning.

27th. Miss O. said she felt heat and tingling under the rings, had slept better, passed a calmer night. The sensibility was nearly natural to-day in both arms, and the pressure amounted to 30 kilogr. in the right hand and 25 in the left. No attack during the day.

28th. The metal has remained on till now. Sensibility is perfect on both sides. The right hand gives 32 kilogr.; the left 26.

The treatment was continued every day, and the patient who, the day before the first application, had three attacks, had not experienced one since.

July 8th. Miss O. leaves the establishment to-day in a very satisfactory condition: the sensibility is perfect; pressure gives 38 kilogr. on the right side and 27 on the left.

On enquiry at her house (Rue Faubourg-Poissonnière, No. 162), Aug. 10th, 1851, we found that on the 14th of

July she fainted for a few moments, and that ever since her return home she had neglected to use the rings. They were applied again the next night, and Miss O., having ever afterwards put them on from time to time, has enjoyed uninterrupted good health.

SALNEUVE.

Dr. Salneuve gives a second very curious case, which occurred in another hysterical female under the care of Dr. Monod, and in which Dr. Burq could find but one metal (virgin gold) capable of acting upon her sensibility. This unfortunate circumstance rendered the treatment impossible, not through the difficulty of procuring the metal, for this was easy, but because, in the midst of the most evident effects of the gold upon the anæsthesia, the amyosthenia, which was equally intense, would not yield at all; and we have already said, in the words of the author, that the metal, *to be efficacious*, must act equally upon the motility and the sensibility.

HYSTERIA, AMENORRHŒA OF FIVE YEARS, AND CHLOROSIS, CURED WITH BRASS. *Hôtel Dieu at Paris.*

The first and following cases were communicated to the Academy of Medicine by Dr. S. Pierre, formerly house-pupil of the hospital.

[Dr. Burq's *Inaugural Thesis*, p. 40.

Aug. 23rd, 1850, an unmarried woman, 26 years of age, was admitted into the *Hôtel Dieu*, No. 29, St. Ann's Ward, under Dr. Tardieu. She had enjoyed good health till her 21st year, at which age she had typhoid fever, which she had scarcely recovered from before she was attacked with inflammation of the lungs. Active, perhaps too active, anti-inflammatory treatment was adopted. A mere fright was afterwards sufficient to produce a most wretched nervous condition. Ever afterwards she was constantly liable, in spite of everything, to violent attacks of hysteria and to all kinds of nervous symptoms. The catamenia being completely suppressed at the very commencement of the attacks, and having returned but once during the five years, frequent vicarious discharges of blood took place, sometimes from the nose, sometimes from the stomach, sometimes from the urinary organs, and twice from the eyes.

At the beginning of June, ten weeks before her admission into the hospital on the 23rd of August, there happened, whether spontaneously or from mechanical injury, a profuse flooding which lasted the whole day. At the time there was

strongly-marked anæmia or rather chlorosis, and in the evening a violent hysterical fit with precursory symptoms in the chest. On the next day,—24th, a second, and on the 27th a third, hysterical attack took place, and the latter lasted five hours.

30th. A careful examination gives the following results: motility a little lessened, pressure with each hand 50 kilogr.; sensibility to touch perfect everywhere; but general analgesia of the skin and mucous membrane,—the severest pinch and the deepest prick giving no pain. The special senses of sight and hearing are unimpaired, but all the rest are more or less affected: there is hardly any excess of sensibility: constant head-ache with shooting: gastralgic pains: violent choaking: frequent cramps of the lower extremities: indigestion: arterial bellows-sound: face pale and bloodless: very copious catamenia, and, notwithstanding this, occasional epistaxis.

Metallic examination.—Sept. 2, morning, and in the presence of Dr. Tardieu and myself. A first examination made on the right side by Dr. Burq shewed *the restoration of the natural sensibility with copper and gold only.*

Steel, tried three times, had no effect: nor had silver. Sept. 3, evening. The precursors of an attack: at 6 p.m. it is beginning, the hysterical ball rises, and then speech becomes embarrassed. A copper armature is applied, and in a few seconds all is over. In twenty minutes tingling is felt all over the body, there is general heat and sweating, then agitation and sleeplessness the whole night.

The next day, at the visit, *great fatigue* and lightness of the head, which seems hollow to the patient: sensibility of pain natural under the metal, a little dull around it: the armature was not removed till 9 o'clock.

In the course of the day *the flooding ceased completely.*

4th and 5th. No treatment.

6th. The analgesia returned with all the other symptoms: in the evening the precursors of an attack: general application of the copper, and the same immediate and subsequent effects as at first: at night the perspiration was still more profuse, the body and bed linen being literally soaked. In the morning the same fatigue, the same sense of void in the head, and the same progress of sensibility: bleeding twice from the nose since yesterday: the uterine hæmorrhage has not returned.

7th, 8th, 9th. No treatment: and a return of the symptoms in succession. (The treatment was resumed, and with the same benefit as before. We omit the daily report to the 16th).

16th. Sensibility natural everywhere: pressure of each hand 70, from having been 50: no attack since the 10th. *But now some fresh symptoms arose which were very remarkable, as shewing that* A TOO PROTRACTED USE OF THE METAL, *although apparently harmless,* MAY ITSELF PRODUCE SOME DISAGREEABLE EFFECTS.

Evening. The same treatment (notwithstanding the state of the sensibility and motility). All the night, agitation, feverishness, sleeplessness: and in the morning, extreme lassitude, diminution of appetite.

17th. For four hours to-day choakings, threatening suffocation, great difficulty in speaking, rigidity of the head and limbs, swelling of the pit of the stomach, feeling of strangulation, but no convulsions or loss of consciousness, and especially *no diminution of sensibility.*

Night. No treatment; but constant tranquil sleep.

18th. Natural sensibility and motility. The day passes comfortably: in the evening, *a general application* of the metals; agitation, feverishness, and all the symptoms of the night of the 16th to the 17th. The heat and perspiration were intolerable: but the patient, firm in following all directions, kept on the armature the full time.

19th. Morning: general feeling of illness; but still natural sensibility and motility. Day-time: a fit for two hours and a half, exactly like that of the 16th. Evening: *no treatment; a quiet night.*

20th. A good day: *the armature is applied in the evening again, and the symptoms returned* in the night.

21st. The same sufferings and even attack as on the 16th and 19th. This time rings alone were applied, but, instead of lessening the symptoms, increased them. Evening: *no treatment; a good night.*

22nd. Sensibility and motility natural: *perfect calm.*

The experiment was now considered decisive. Neither Dr. Burq nor ourselves could doubt that the improper use of the metals had caused all the disturbances.

22nd, 23rd, 24th, 25th. No treatment therefore, and no symptoms: but undisturbed sleep every night and due performance of all the functions during the day. The last bleeding from the nose was on the 20th.

Remarkable influence of the metals upon the catamenia.

25th. In the afternoon, about 4 o'clock, the catamenia, *which had been entirely suppressed for five years,* returned, and lasted till 10 o'clock the next morning, without *the use of the rings*: the fluid was very red, but *scanty.*

26th. At 11 o'clock they stopped completely: at 1 o'clock the patient, uneasy at this circumstance, put on the armature before the time which was ordered, and went to bed, covered with metal. In half an hour they began again, and continued *without interruption and in great abundance* till 5 p.m. the next day. The rings, remaining on all night, produced great heat and sweating, fatigue, but no tingling.

27th. No armatures all night and *also* no catamenia.

28th. Morning: they seem to have entirely ceased: by noon they had resisted two strong mustard foot baths. She was then ordered to bed; and, at all hazard, a continued application of copper upon the abdomen and lower extremities prescribed. In an hour the catamenia had returned, and did not quite cease till the morning of the 30th, having lasted four whole days.

The armature was not removed till the visit, October 4th. The patient having applied it again as a last precaution all night, the old symptoms slightly returned from this fresh abuse of the metal.

5th. Natural general and special sensibility: motility above the natural degree. Pressure in each hand 80 kilogr.

6th. The patient is quite well, and at her own wish is permitted to leave with a distinct promise to call again, and to use the armature at home occasionally, especially at the catamenial periods.

SIMON PIERRE, *house-pupil at the Hôtel Dieu.*

After her return home the catamenia appeared abundantly on October 23rd, two days before the time. They appeared again on November 24th, and lasted till December 1st.

Dr. Burq published in his *Inaugural Thesis* two other equally striking examples, which Dr. Simon Pierre collected and communicated to the National Academy of Medicine. We shall detail one only; and make extracts from the rest.

Hysteria, Paraplegia, Suppression of the Catamenia, Incipient Palsy of the lower extremities, & excruciating Head-aches.

We began August 9th (1850) with a brass armature.

15th. Her head, which she had been unable to touch with a comb for a month, is nearly free from pain.

18th. Return of taste and appetite.

24th. Return of the catamenia after an absence of four months.

Sept. 4th. Left. S. P.

Hysteria in an unmarried female 22 years old. There

were amyosthenia and analgesia in an equal degree as the hysterical convulsions.

Rapidly cured with rings of English steel. S. P.

A case precisely like that reported at p. 244. Steel plate acted imperfectly only on the sensibility, whereas a silver coin (silver 9 parts, copper 1 part) restored it entirely. But neither metal had any influence on the motility. Therefore the treatment, as in Dr. Monod's patient, could not be employed. S. P.

A case of *various hysterical symptoms* was yielding completely to steel rings when the patient suddenly left. S. P.

Another case related by M. Pierre was the only instance in which Dr. Burq could not discover any metal able to influence the patient.

The last case of this class extracted from those reported by M. Pierre was one of *Hysteria* and *Chlorosis* (the pale disease) with *absence of the catamenia.* The patient had often been very intractable from childhood, so that treatment had repeatedly been begun over again.

Influence of the rings upon the sensibility and motility, and of these upon the usual symptoms.—"As often," says Dr. Pierre, "as the steel rings were applied long enough during the state in which the patient was at her admission, they caused the same effects,—*great heat and sweating, tingling* of all the palsied parts, and at last *fatigue* in proportion to the duration of their application: next, *sensibility* first of the skin, then of the mucous membrane: *return of motility, taste, touch, smell, appetite* and *voice.*

"The attacks and other nervous symptoms disappeared whenever the natural sensibility and motility returned; as they did from August 12th to 25th, when the pressure by each hand was 60 kilogr. The attacks never occurred spontaneously unless either was impaired; and the intensity and frequency of both the attacks and the spasms and other nervous symptoms were always proportionate to the diminution of these two powers."

Direct influence of the metals upon the attacks.—"At whatever periods of the attack or its precursors the armature was applied, if applied accurately and completely, the usual symptoms of the attack did not take place, or they soon ceased and did not return unless the armature was removed too soon or accidentally deranged."

Then M. Pierre mentions, that twice, once in the presence of Dr. Tardieu, Dr. Burq, arriving in the morning at the moment of an attack, made it appear and disappear almost at will, not merely all over the body, but even upon a single limb, by applying and removing the whole or a part of the rings, as was recorded above in the case of the patient in the *Hôpital Cochin*.

Influence of the metal upon the catamenia. For three months these had but just appeared.

July 26th. To-day they began but slightly: at 10 o'clock the patient put on the armature, and they became so abundant qu'une alèze en est traversée.

27th. They stop at noon. The armature was applied permanently upon the abdomen and lower extremities. In an hour they reappear and do not entirely cease till the next night.

Aug. 26th. They return at 8 p.m. The rings being applied, they continue abundantly all night.

27th: the morning. The patient gets up, contrary to orders, and puts her hands in cold water. They stop: at noon they had not returned. The armature was placed on the abdomen and lower extremities. At 1 o'clock they returned freely and continued till the next day. S. P.

Of the five patients spoken of in the first part of this article, Sequerlay and Verdelet left the *Salpetrière*, as Miss Ch—— had already done, after Dr. Burq's departure. Valois remained only because, being an orphan, she had to wait till she was of age before she could leave of her own accord. Sylvan and Peffert continued in the same state. We lately learnt these unprecedented circumstances from Dr. Burq, whom very grave reasons have obliged to enquire into the matter.

After all the facts now narrated, in which the action of metals upon sensibility and motility in morbid conditions of these properties without structural disease is so satisfactorily demonstrated, we should not mention any more had not Dr. Burq said, at the very beginning of his work, that nervous paralysis, whether of the different senses or of motility, might, when at the highest intensity, often resist the metallic treatment. We shall close this interesting list of cases with some others which will complete its unique character.

1. There was the case of Sequerlay, the *paraplegic* (palsied in the lower extremities) patient at the Salpetrière, who gave him the first hint of the efficacy of metal in such an affection.

2. A *hemiplegic* (palsied in a vertical half of the frame)

woman, under Dr. Louis at the Hôtel Dieu, was treated with an armature of English steel and rapidly relieved.

3. A third female, *hemiplegic* and *amaurotic* (blind in the optic nerve), under Dr. Rostan, was cured in a week of both affections with an armature of half English steel and half German steel, after having laboured under her diseases for many months.

4. The young Baroness of R., who had been confined to her bed with *palsy* for four months, and had been unable to see enough to read for three, was treated with an armature of silver of second purity (silver, 4 parts; copper, 1); and could see to read on the third day, and took a walk in a public place on the fifth.

[Dr. Burq's *Inaugural Thesis*.

5, and last, *Palsy*, recorded by Dr. Pierre.

St. Ann's Ward, No. 6. Brass. Admitted Aug. 27, 1849, a country girl. *Perfect nervous paraplegia* (palsy of the lower extremities), *amenorrhœa, and hysterical spasms.*

In March, 1850, in spite of various kinds of treatment, she was seldom able to leave her bed. The catamenia appeared once in January, 1849, and but twice since, and then à peine son linge avoit-il-été taché.

March 23, says Dr. Pierre, the patient, examined in my presence by Dr. Burq, shewed a phenomenon indicating much to him and perfectly novel to myself. *A copper thimble* kept for a few minutes on a finger of her right hand, which had somewhat lost its sensibility, rendered it more sensible than the neighbouring fingers.

This phenomenon, which was not very perceptible even to persons little accustomed to witness it, convinced him that, if the palsy arose, as there was every reason to suppose, from no structural cause, it would in all probability be lessened by an armature. Dr. Tardieu allowed Dr. Burq to employ it.

25th. A copper armature was applied for eight or ten hours. The same was done on the 26th, 28th, and 29th.

On the 27th she was so fatigued that the treatment was suspended: and the metal acted with such rapidity that on the 28th, in the morning, the catamenia appeared eight days before the period calculated, and lasted till the 31st, kept up by the copper, and that on the 30th, Easter Sunday, she was able to go to chapel, leaning only on one of her friends, and to return in the same manner after sitting and standing during the whole of high mass.

June 27th. She left the hospital for her home (Clermont, in Auvergne), where she now remains in perfect health.

S. P.

INSANITY.

In a new work upon the *anæsthesia* and *amyosthenia* of mental affections, Dr. Burq says,—

"Previously to the researches of Drs. Gendrin and Beau and myself, the insensibility of hysteria and the neuralgia of those convulsive affections which have been epidemic at different periods were known: and so were the same symptoms in hallucination, ecstasy, melancholia, mania, &c.: and abundant instances are recorded of madmen, after having undergone severe surgical operations, or meeting with dreadful falls, walking upon frightfully mutilated stumps without the least pain. Since anæsthesia (we shall presently speak of amyosthenia) has been observed in insanity as long as in nervous diseases, but turned to no more advantage in the one than in the other, it has been regarded as only a curious circumstance—a symptom to be set down with all the rest. But, the more or less perfect absence of sensibility in mental affections, alone, or more frequently, as in nervous diseases, united with a deficiency of motility, that we were the first to investigate, if not to discover, appears here also to play the principal part: and to be calculated to throw the greatest light upon the course, distinctive character, causes, and treatment of those diseases. In fact, extensive observations, which I had an opportunity of making at my ease among the vast number of patients in the Salpetrière under Dr. Falret, the learned and modest professor of insanity, prove that all I have advanced respecting *anæsthesia and amyosthenia, negative or asthenic symptoms and positive or sthenic symptoms, as well as about the division of nervous diseases into two great classes,* is equally applicable to *curable* mental diseases. We make this latter distinction, because, just as we have passed over in silence the incurable anæsthesia and amyosthenia, or palsies of certain organic affections, so we shall say nothing of the general palsy of the insane, which indeed also presents these two symptoms, but with a regularity, a fixedness, and peculiarities, in the strongest contrast with the anomalies, fugitiveness, and irregularity which so characterize them when occurring in nervous diseases."

The proofs of this new and striking assertion are almost all to be found in the cases of those insane females who have recovered on the restoration of the catamenia: and of those chlorotic patients, with or without amenorrhœa, but with more or less disorder of the feelings or intellect, who have been cured with the internal use of iron, which appears to act then exactly as when employed in the form of an armature. Proofs are afforded also by those numerous mad per-

sons whose sensibility and motility were first unquestionably impaired by intellectual labour and neglect of their health, and who are often cured with travelling, exercise, gymnastics, and even mental occupation without fatigue.

Melancholia, Delusion, and Suicidal Mania: rapid cure with jewellers' gold and English steel.

1st Case. In November, 1850, a lady, 32 years old, was brought to me from the country on account of a *mental affection*. Her parents were nervous: and two or three relatives on the father's side, which is high in society, have disturbance of their intellect. She was exceedingly excitable, neglected exercise and other matters necessary to health, cultivated the fine arts, read imprudently, and mixed too early with the world. From her 12th year to her 31st she had various nervous symptoms, and fits alternating with various neuralgias. The catamenia went on well from her 19th year. At 21 she married unhappily, always disagreeing with her husband, and became a mother; and fell into a state of melancholy, against which she struggled hard. After three pregnancies, the last with twins, she became worse and resolved to live no longer with her husband, quarrelling continually with him, falling into despair and all kinds of delusion, and at length, three weeks before I saw her, on being reproved by him for neglecting the education of her children, she in the coolest manner swallowed a large dose of laudanum, which was rejected by the stomach and did no great harm. For a few days she was better and then became worse than ever, and was placed under my care. She reasoned well upon all subjects, and knew all her duties, but felt unable to perform any of them and yet was astonished at her own indifference—she had a moral analgesia. The most fixed of her delusions was that of a woman in white, who stood between her and every object she wished to reach, pursuing her even in the street and striking her on parts which she would point out.

Perfect insusceptibility of pain in the upper extremities: considerable, but less, in the lower. Evident diminution of muscular power in the arms and legs. Force of the right hand, 20 kilogr.: left, 15 kilogr. Habitual constipation: catamenia a little lessened: for three months dyspepsia and chlorosis.

The only sthenic (with strength) symptoms were, rather too much sensibility at the top of the head, at the edge of the fourth and fifth dorsal vertebræ, and at the pit of the stomach. The old convulsions, spasms, neuralgias, hysteria, and other

nervous symptoms, which had tormented her till the beginning of 1849, lessened in proportion as the symptoms of insanity increased, so that for a year she had experienced no fit and for nearly a month not the least of her head-aches. Reflecting that probably the very condition which had before existed in the organs of sensibility and motility had now become transferred to certain parts of the brain, and was producing the mental disturbances, and might be as readily cured as if in the former situation, after trying metals for several days, as I do for nervous disorders of the second class, I fixed upon gold of second quality ($\frac{1}{5}$ copper) and upon English steel. In the night, an armature of English steel: and in the day, rings, bracelets, and necklaces of gold, such as she wore habitually. I ordered her to go out frequently and to exercise herself till she was fatigued, and to be rubbed briskly with the bare hand and flannel brush on the limbs and upper part of the body alternately. Every other day a large salt-water bath (I wish it could have been in an iron vessel), followed by friction and percussion of the whole body, food less nourishing than before, and less time spent in bed. This treatment began Dec. 4.

10th. Sensibility of all the limbs much improved. Pressure with the right hand, 28 kilogr.: left, 20. Legs stronger: bowels act more easily: appetite improved.

Delusion greatly lessened the last four days.

On the 8th there was a severe head-ache: on the 9th she busied herself cheerfully with her children: and to-day her expression of countenance is better. She is less lost: her pulse is calm: and she sheds tears when her former state is mentioned.

The treatment is continued to the 15th, only that she is allowed more nourishing food.

15th. Sensibility almost natural. Force of the right hand, 30 kilogr.: of the left, 25.

The bowels have acted daily except once. She always eats with an appetite and sleeps well; she devotes several hours a day to the education of her children, and the rest to domestic concerns, an airing, or gardening. Reading is still forbidden, and but one hour a day allowed for music. At our earnest entreaty she consented two days ago to one short interview with her husband.

Dec. 20th. No hallucination since the 15th: her moral feelings are perfect. On our moderately reproaching her, she sheds tears profusely, and is most grateful to me. 18th. A head-ache of shorter duration than that of the 8th. From the 16th, she is perfectly reconciled to her husband and is

with him for good. All the treatment goes on as before, except that she takes only two baths a week instead of three and the steel is applied every other night only.

22nd. Catamenia perfect in all respects, though they had been scanty for three months.

26th. Sensibility natural everywhere. Force of the right hand, 33 kilogr.: of the left hand, 28.

Every function is perfect, and my visits ceased. She came to me now and then for a short time, and afterwards all her letters gave me a good account. She continued a little nervous, and she must long be upon her guard against the effects of her hereditary tendency, of her bad physical education, and early entrance into the world. She soon after this gave birth to another child.

2. *Melancholia with a tendency to suicide; but without distinct delusion;* and in the latter point only was there much difference in this case from the preceding.

Mad. P. had always been very nervous, but less and less so as the *mental* affection came on; and at length lost all her nervous symptoms when it became established. There was the same moral indifference or *analgesia*, and even more marked anæsthesia and amyosthenia.

He tried in vain for several days the most common metals to excite sensibility and motility, the diminution of which he considered to be the sole cause of the complaint. Every thing remained in the same state for three weeks, at the end of which, her intense apathy preventing her from seconding his efforts, he was at a loss what steps to take, and thought of electricity,* which had been of some use in a case of hysteria equally uninfluenced by metals.

Strong electric currents were passed along the insensible limbs—three times stronger than usual on account of the intensity of the anæsthesia—sometimes with dry, sometimes with moist excitants, and never desisted from till the needle and dynamometer shewed an improvement in sensibility and motility. The progress was slow from the great tendency in the intervals of his visits to lose the ground which had been gained. But at every advance he made, the mental condition equally improved. At the end of a month, all the benefit which the metals usually effect so quickly and easily

* Electricity is highly extolled in palsy: but far too highly. For electric frictions and currents, directed, not, as hitherto has been the practice, upon the seat of spasm and pain, but upon limbs with loss of sensibility and motility, are seldom as beneficial as they were in the present case: yet we ought not to neglect it when other things fail.

had been nearly gained, when he was obliged to leave her for some time. The head-aches were beginning again, and her moral feelings and ideas were nearly natural. She was sent into the country, compelled to fatigue herself with exercise, and above all to take baths of *barèges*, that he has often seen exert a very favourable influence upon the sensibility of surface, and continued to improve. Her conditon is now satisfactory, and the sensibility and motility nearly natural. She had been placed under his care by a distinguished physician, who is her relative.

In conclusion, Dr. Burq urges physicians to examine the state of sensibility and motility in certain cases of insanity, just as he considers that he has shewn we ought never to lose sight of it in hysteria, hypochondriasis, neuralgia, &c.: and contends that they will soon be convinced of the *influence of sensibility and motility upon the mental (cerebral) functions*, and that, if more is desired, or even an inverse proof, viz., *the influence of the state of the mind upon sensibility and motility*, the frequent reciprocal transformations of the disorders of the two sets of functions will soon produce conviction.

*** Dr. Burq promises an article for our next number respecting the light thrown upon mesmerism by the metals.

NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

When I reflect upon the facts which have presented themselves to me during the last fifteen years—from 1837, from the period when the exquisite phenomena of the Okeys and other patients suddenly opened to my astonished sight a view of nature altogether new to me, down to the present moment, I feel a greater pleasure in reading Dr. Burq's very remarkable communication than probably most other persons, however glowing their love of knowledge and intense their pleasure in acquiring it and applying it to the good of their fellow-creatures.

I had met in mesmeric patients with facts perfectly new to me, as well as others rare and wonderful but described in books upon disease and other subjects: and, although these facts were palpable, they usually excited only a look of ineffable superiority of wisdom and dignified pity whenever I shewed or mentioned them to medical men of either high or humble station.

Palsy of the sense of touch is a disease acknowledged, though seldom seen unless in conjunction with palsy of mo-

tion in the same part, or with other nervous diseases,* or from external causes. Abundant instances are recorded of simple anæsthesia or palsy of touch, just as of simple palsy of sight or simple palsy of hearing.

Among the facts new to me was that of the insensibility to cutting, pricking, or pinching, although the contact of objects was perceived as perfectly as ever. Dr. Bean pointed out the distinction between sensibility of contact, temperature, dryness, and moisture, &c., and sensibility of pain, in 1848: and restricted the title *anæsthesia* to the palsy of the former, giving the name of *analgesia* to the palsy of the latter. But in the mesmeric sleep-waking nothing is more common than insensibility of pain from cutting and pinching, and yet for the sensibility of contact to be unimpaired.

In 1839, I found that my patient, Master W. Salmon, in his mesmeric sleep-waking had no sensibility of pain, yet perfectly possessed his sense of contact. He felt the contact of every object in his mesmeric state, and yet, having open sores on his head which he could not bear to be touched in his ordinary state, suffering agony whenever they were dressed, he had no pain from the hand being laid upon them, and had them dressed in his mesmeric state without any uneasiness.† In 1843, I mentioned in *The Zoist*, No. II., p. 178, that in 1842 I had a patient whose hands bore cutting and pinching without pain (No. VI., p. 209), but who, if her eyes were blindfolded and her mesmeriser and a score of others touched her hand with the point of their finger, distinguished his finger and grasped it, but repelled the finger of another. The same sensibility of touch and insensibility of pain I noticed in an interesting case in 1842, and described it in *The Zoist*, No. IX. In short nothing is more common.

In Paris, so long ago as 1829, when M. Jules Cloquet removed the breast and many glands from a lady in the mesmeric sleep-waking without her feeling the least pain, the sensibility of touch was still observed: for, when the water of

* In 1830 a case of catalepsy with anæsthesia was in the Edinburgh Infirmary. The whole was unquestionable, yet Mr. Liston, the surgeon, thought proper in his ignorance of such cases to doubt its reality, and "*tore with his nails two separate pieces of skin* from the hand of the patient." In the lecture upon her case by her physician, Dr. Duncan continues, "She was not aware of the cruel and unwarrantable experiment, but she feels its effects in the intervals (of her paroxysms) very acutely." Dr. Duncan called it also, "unmanly, wanton, and barbarous." Mr. Wakley, who had not then joined Mr. Liston in his mad hostility to mesmerism, called it "inhuman," *Lancet*, May 22, 1830, p. 278 and the Index.

† *Zoist*, No. III. See my account of Miss R. Barber's exquisite case in No. VI., p. 210; 1844: and my *Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations without Pain*, 1843.

the sponge used on the occasion trickled down, she felt tickled, laughed aloud, and several times said, "Come, leave off, don't tickle me."*

Sensibility to temperature often remains in mesmeric insensibility to pain. Of this I had an instance in 1841, and recorded it in No. VI., p. 210.† In palsy of touch, sensibility to temperature has frequently been noticed, and Dr. Darwin therefore conceived that there must be distinct nerves for temperature. I may be allowed to quote some passages which I wrote in *The Zoist* (No. III.) in 1843:—

"The facts in sensibility displayed by mesmerism are very curious. In the mesmeric state, a part insensible to the severest pinching, &c., may not only feel contact, whether the contact of a person or an inanimate thing, but the patient, if not annoyed by it, may even grasp and pull it. This may occur in one part and not in another. I have in some cases known all parts to be insensible to pinching, &c., except the face, which was as exquisitely sensible as ever. Tickling may be acutely felt, when the same part is insensible to the severest pinching, &c., as was observed in the lady whose breast was removed by M. Cloquet. I have seen the most exquisite sensibility to temperature when the same part was totally insensible to the severest pinching, &c. There may be complete insensibility to mechanical violence, temperature, and to all contact. There may be a peculiar sensation from the touch of the points of the fingers of the mesmeriser and all other persons, so that his shall be distinguished from theirs, and be felt warm and agreeable, whilst theirs is disagreeable and feels extremely cold, though the eyes be thoroughly closed and blindfolded, and no ordinary means of distinguishing be possible." p. 339.

In the mesmeric state, contrarily to what Dr. Burq alleges to happen in disease (pp. 230—232), there may be complete insensibility of pain, while the sense of contact and other agencies is unimpaired: and the analgesia may occur for years, as often as the mesmeric state is induced, and anæsthesia never follow.

Through mesmerism I also became acquainted with properties of metals in reference to the living body that I had never heard of or suspected. When mesmeric phenomena

* See this most interesting account copied in my pamphlet on *Numerous Surgical Operations without Pain in the Mesmeric State*, pp. 78—81. The facts were among the most astounding and important in medicine, but the profession utterly disregarded them: nor has M. Cloquet, who is still alive, ever performed a second such operation or turned his mighty fact to the good of his fellow-creatures; so that thousands of human beings, who might have been spared all pain, were tortured by surgeons for twenty years—till the time of recent mesmerists and their offspring the employers of anæsthetic drugs. Sir Isaac Newton's apple would have dropped unheeded before all the Colleges.

† Mr. Prideaux recorded one in my Pamphlet, p. 69.

were first presented to me I knew nothing of the subject, and they were too astounding and too absorbing to allow me to spend my time in reading accounts of it when nature was spreading before me the very treasures which authors described, and for the contemplation of which all the time I could spare was far too little. Nor have I yet read a single foreign work upon mesmerism, though I have dipped into half a dozen, and read quotations from them in English authors. There was generally too much mysticism, superstition, and hypothesis, and too little calm and laborious physiological investigation to suit my taste: and, whenever we can apply to nature herself, it is poor work to obtain things second hand. I therefore worked on patiently. Some persons had told me that metals produced peculiar effects upon mesmeric patients: but what I did not learn. I therefore applied metals to persons in the mesmeric sleep-waking: and found spasm, pain, insensibility, exhaustion, frequently produced.

I found some persons not at all affected by metals placed in contact with them, which produced great effects upon others: different persons affected differently by the same metals: some affected by no metal which I tried: some affected for a period and afterwards not at all. In some a metal produced no effect unless first mesmerised by being breathed upon or kept in contact with a living body: or, if not in contact with it, in contact with something which was in contact with a living body, and the time required was always shorter in proportion to the less density or thickness of the intervening body. Some persons were unaffected, however long the metal had been in contact with another living body, if it was first well wiped. The Okeys were affected by no metal, not by gold, silver, platinum, nickel, not previously mesmerised: they were affected by some only when the moisture of the mesmeriser's breath or perspiration was adhering to the metals.

When speaking of the Okeys in my *Human Physiology*, I said,—

"Many things that another person, or, indeed, I may say, another animal, has touched, acquire the influence. Thus, gold, silver, nickel, platinum, if held in the hand or mouth, will, though wiped, on being brought into contact with them, when they are susceptible, occasion sudden sleep if the susceptibility is extreme; in which sleep there may be convulsive actions; or a spasm of the part, and at length sleep; or a spasm only. Just as in the case of passes, when the susceptibility is extreme, a pass knocks them down senseless and relaxed; if they are not so susceptible, it merely stupifies them, makes them senseless, with their eyes open, rigid

throughout, and fixed in the very attitude in which they were at the moment. This fixing with the eyes wide open, and senseless, is one of the most wonderful and magical-looking phenomena of the whole. Its success behind their back, and by perfect strangers, has converted hundreds who, not understanding the subject, were bewildered by the more delicate phenomena. A beautiful experiment showed the gradual diminution of the power imparted to the gold: and could, for the most part, be made upon the younger only, as her susceptibility was, in general, not so great as to show powerful effects from moderate causes. A sovereign is held in a person's hand, and then given her. Instantly her hand closes violently upon it, she becomes stupified with her eyes open, and at last falls senseless and relaxed: on waking, in a minute or two, she is desired to pick up the sovereign, and again it causes her hand to close, and stupifies her; yet not so soon but that she has time to rise a little from the floor, before the stupefaction and rigidity come; and the perfect sleep and relaxation are longer in supervening. On waking she is desired to pick up the sovereign again; the effects are longer in supervening, so that she rises higher from the floor before they come, and there is time, by pointing one's finger at her closed hand, to cause it to relax and drop the sovereign; and, in consequence of the absence of this, the rigidity and stupefaction are not kept up and terminate in waking instead of perfect sleep and relaxation. She is desired again to pick up the sovereign; she does so, and rises higher than ever before the effects come, and they are shorter. All is repeated, she rises completely before they come, and they are still shorter. Again all is repeated, and she not only rises but goes about, and talks before the effects come, and they are slight. On repetition a still longer time intervenes, and still slighter are the effects; and so experiment after experiment goes on till the sovereign has lost its power altogether. The sovereign often rolls far away; and in such cases it has been changed for one charged by contact with another person, it being impossible for her to observe the change and impossible for her to detect any difference in regard to warmth or moisture, as the original sovereign has been as much in her own hand as the new sovereign in the hand of another person. The new sovereign has always produced a far more quick and strong effect than the exhausted one.

"By means of chargeable metals, I devised a mode of showing very accurately the influence of health upon the mesmerising power. I took one of the sisters into a female ward in which she had never been, and respecting the inmates of which she and I were perfectly ignorant. Every ticket with the name of the disease on the head of the bed was removed: every patient had the clothes drawn completely over her. A sovereign, which had lain long untouched, and had therefore no mesmeric charge, was taken up by her, and we proceeded to the ward. She put the sovereign under the bed-clothes into the hand of each patient in succession, and at the same number of moments by my stop-watch took it out again and kept it in her hand. I noted the period at which the effect began, the length of

time it lasted, and the amount of it,—whether it caused spasm of the hand only; of the hand and arm; or spasm and stupefaction. So we went round the ward, and at one bed, by the request of a certain student, I repeated the experiment. As soon as each experiment was finished, the bed-clothes were turned down and the ticket examined. The effects were in every instance precisely proportionate to the strength of the patient in whose hand the sovereign had been placed. Those in consumption or worn down with paralysis produced little or no effect: those who had complaints not impairing the health and strength produced full effect: and all the intermediate degrees were exquisitely proportionate to the condition of the patient. One patient had produced a great effect, who, the student said, was continually bled and kept constantly on low diet. But I found she had not been bled for some weeks, had been for some time on full diet, was taking bark, looked in capital condition, and had only some cutaneous disease not interfering with her strength. Of the two experiments made at one bed, the first had produced a full effect proportionate to the strength of the patient. The second experiment produced only a moderate effect: the clothes were then turned down, and it proved that a nurse said to be in good health, and to do all the work of the ward, had been laid in it. The woman, however, looked very sickly, and I found that she had just lain in, and had come back to her place very weak, and long before she was competent. The experiment was triumphant, and an apology was the next day made to me by the student who had so misrepresented to me the state of those two patients, and at whose request I had willingly made the experiments in this his wise uncle's ward, because the results in the case of both sisters, perfectly accordant in every instance up to that time with the strength of each patient, though modified like all results in their form in each sister, had been made in my own ward, where they and I knew every patient."

"Screens lessen the effects. The thicker any given one is, the greater the impediment. But the effects through them, when so managed as to prevent the patient from knowing what is doing, are very satisfactory. Mesmerised gold or silver produces its effects more slowly and faintly in proportion as it is more wrapped up; and is thus proved to have power, because, if wrapped up and rubbed against the patient, it is impossible for her to know what metal is used."

"Some metals, as lead and copper, could never be charged so as to affect the elder: and nickel had always a tremendous influence over her, such as I defy any human being to imitate. But lead and copper affected the younger, if, after having been held in the hand of another, the perspiration was not wiped off them. If it was wiped away, no effect ever occurred. Iron could never be made to affect either, under any circumstances; on the contrary, it invariably destroyed the power in charged gold or silver. Nothing could be more interesting than to see a charged sovereign or shilling lying in their hand, a screen being held between it and their head; and, as soon as the hand began to close and the eyes to fix, to observe these effects

instantly arrested and subside when a short iron rod was brought into contact with the metal, and increase again when it was withdrawn. I have often substituted a rod of silver or of some other metal, for I had rods made of various metals precisely similar in form and size, when it was impossible the girl could know which was being used; and in the case of a leaden rod I myself should not have known by the eye at the moment, but to prevent confusion had put each into a separate pocket. The silver, copper, and lead had no neutralizing power, and therefore never diminished or arrested the effect. I recollect one day having put a charged sovereign into the hand of the younger. Her hand began to contract, and she could not by any effort open it. She was very cross, and, seeing two rods exactly alike, took up one, thinking it was iron: and told me now she was a match for me and would open her hand. But her hand would not open. I then went to look at the other rod, and found that it was the iron rod, and that she had taken the leaden. I pulled the leaden one out, and introduced the iron one between her fingers and palm, and her hand immediately opened."

"Another curious fact is that, although lead and copper have no power of producing spasms of the hand, however long they may have been in contact with another person, and however long and with whatever friction they are applied; yet, if rubbed against charged gold, silver, or nickel, they acquire a charge, and, when applied, produce the effects, in a less degree, of the metal with which they have been in contact. I have made such experiments many thousand times: and allowed others to make them: and, when the susceptibility existed, the effects have been invariable. I have taken a short rod of copper or lead in my right hand, put both my hands behind me under my coat, and even had a large pasteboard placed at the same time before the face of the girl with its lower edge close against her chest, and then rubbed it five hundred times (first wiped if the subject was the younger sister) on the palm of either of them. No effect ever ensued. I have then put its extremity against a sovereign or shilling which I had in my left hand, still behind me and under my coat, and, soon after rubbing her palm with it, the hand has closed with strong spasms. I have put the rod of lead or iron behind me in different experiments again and again without bringing it in contact with the gold or silver, and never saw an effect; but after I had silently, and without the possibility of any one knowing what I did, rubbed it against the gold or silver, friction of the palm with it invariably, when there was any susceptibility to gold or silver at all, excited spasm."

The long or repeated application of an efficient metal caused violent symptoms and extreme exhaustion. In some persons the slightest application does this.

My long mesmeric experience perfectly agrees with Dr. Burq's in unmesmerised persons—that different metals act differently upon different individuals—that their effect may wear out, and I have sometimes found it return—that their

application may be so long as to exhaust and injure a patient —that like all mesmeric effects they may be perfectly independent of imagination.

I found also that persons affected by metals in the mesmeric state were often affected by them in the natural state.

I never turned the effects of metals to any other use than to induce coma when this was desirable and could not be effected by manipulations, gazing or breathing; to increase the effect of manipulations, &c.; and to remove pain. I never tried metals extensively and long as Dr. Burq has done:—coins and pieces of metals of the size of coins, and small rods a few inches long, were all I ever used.

It is now known that crystals form another class of agents, even when not mesmerised. The power of magnets upon the body has been long known: and that in many cases it is the magnet and not the metal I proved by causing patients to touch iron not made into a magnet, and, while they were touching it to make it into a magnet by means of a galvanic battery in an adjoining room, when strong effects instantly took place.*

It is impossible to read Dr. Burq's article and not remember that there has been a practice from time immemorial in China, that spread thence ages ago to Japan, of plunging needles of the purest gold or silver, but preferably of gold, into parts pained or otherwise disordered. In Europe we term it acupuncture, and employ needles of steel. I published an article upon it in the *Cyclopædia of Practical Medicine* in 1833; and in 1827 the Royal Medical Society published in the 13th volume of their Transactions my report of my experience of it. Dr. Copland, with the want of information and judgment which have characterized his violent opposition to phrenology, mesmerism, and all means of preventing the agony of surgical operations, which, Good Christian! he contends *ought* to be painful, strangely declares off-hand that the practice of acupuncture has deservedly fallen into neglect: and for no other reason that I can guess, but that he is very furious at our mesmeric victory. The power of acupuncture is wonderful in uninflammatory rheumatism of fleshy parts. I reported that in St. Thomas's Hospital, "of 42 cases of uninflammatory rheumatism, taken in succession from my hospital books, 30 were found to have been cured, and the remaining 12 had clearly not been adapted

* My experiments with the magnet will be found in *Zoist*, Nos. XIII., p. 107; XV., p. 278. Examples of the effect of gold, &c., in my patients are to be found in Nos. III., IV., V., VI., IX., XII., XIII., XXXIV. In very many, gold causes a burning sensation.

for the remedy, as either heat had existed in the affected part or heat had aggravated the pain." Dr. Churchill's experience had given all my own results. The proper cases were the uninflammatory. Of 129 rheumatic cases treated in Paris by M. Jules Cloquet, about 85 yielded to acupuncture. I found that the benefit was proportionate to the length of time during which the needles remained. "One needle," I reported, "remaining an hour or more, is more efficacious than several speedily withdrawn." Therefore I allowed them to remain for an hour or two, and observed no harm from their remaining four and twenty hours. Failures were frequently ascribable to the shortness of their application. It will now be important to ascertain whether an occasional cause of failure may not be that the proper metal has not been selected. We should henceforward have needles of various metals. The Chinese used their needles to let out some imaginary acrid vapour, which they regarded as the cause of disease. I was ignorant of the mesmeric influence of metals when I examined into acupuncture, and had no idea of what will probably turn out to be the nature of the operation of this Eastern practice. But I did not attempt to explain the effects by fancies: I confessed my ignorance. "The *modus operandi*," I said, "is unknown. It is neither fear nor confidence: since those who care nothing about acupuncture, and those who laugh at their medical attendant for proposing such a remedy, derive the same benefit if their case is suitable as those who are alarmed or who submit to it with faith. Neither is it counter-irritation: since the same benefit is experienced when not the least pain is occasioned, or when pain is felt."*

Mr. Saunders, of Clifton, sent me a few years ago a steel apparatus which he had constructed for application to the head when this part ached, and which he found extremely useful. I have begged him to communicate his experience to me, and received the following letter:—

"1, Upper Portland Place, Clifton,
"Sept. 11th, 1852.

"Dear Sir,—In reply to your note of the 8th, I beg to say that the idea of curing the head-ache by the means of my steel apparatus occurred in this way. Having read in some mesmeric book (I forget which) that by holding a piece of polished steel tightly in the hand

* It is amusing to read in Dr. Copland's Dictionary (article *Age*), that it is a good practice to rub babies' gums with a ring, and that he recommends a *gold* ring as the most efficacious. He also (article *Debility*) insists upon the undoubted fact that infants often waste and die from sleeping with old persons—a mesmeric fact: the active and abundant vital powers of the infant passing into the languid and powerless frame of the old person.

for a few minutes, and then placing it in the hand of a patient, sleep would frequently be induced. I tried the experiment upon Mrs. Saunders, and she immediately went into the mesmeric sleep, keeping tight hold of the steel, and saying that it made her hand and arm feel so comfortable that she did not wish it to be taken away. Two or three days afterwards she had a bad head-ache. I sent her into the sleep, and it occurred to me that, as the steel had made her hand and arm feel comfortable, it might also produce a soothing effect upon her head. I accordingly held the steel to the right temple, where she said she felt the greatest pain, and it began to give immediate relief: but she said that her left temple pained her and also her organ of Veneration. I took up the poker and held it to the left temple, still holding the steel to the right temple: but I was at a loss to know how to get any steel to the organ of Veneration. I, however, placed a pair of scissors on the organ, and in a very short time her head became perfectly free from pain. Soon after this, a boy, John Brooks, complained of head-ache. I sent him into the sleep, and held a sovereign over the part which he said pained him. He immediately cried out that it made the pain worse and burnt him. I then changed the sovereign for the steel, and he said, "There now, that be good: I feels cooler, and got no pain." A short time afterwards having removed to Bristol, Mrs. Saunders had a return of her head-ache: and, finding great difficulty in holding steel to both her temples and organ of Veneration at the same time, I had an apparatus made of steel, which, after trying its powers upon many individuals with the greatest success, I sent up to you begging your acceptance of it. This was in the year 1847; the early part of it. Since then I have made considerable use of steel for head-ache and in cases of local inflammation. But it requires great care; for, when the disease is not the result of too great an accumulation of electricity (or whatever the force may be called), then the steel produces a degree of cold, causing numbness in the part. When once the steel becomes charged, it should be removed, and fresh steel applied. One of my patients, a young lady, who suffers from severe pains in the head, has two or three pieces of steel constantly by her side: and, when the pain comes on, her mother or sisters hold the steel to the part affected; and, as the pain leaves her, they feel the heat pass off into their fingers, and the patient herself says that she feels the heat as it were forcing itself out of her head. When once the steel becomes charged, it discontinues to do good, and they change it for another piece; and by the time that this second piece has become heated the first is again ready for use.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Yours obediently,

"Dr. Elliotson. "S. D. SAUNDERS.

"I will just mention that the steel apparatus is chiefly of use in the *absence of the mesmeriser*; and, although I frequently make use of it, yet I find that the cures effected by my *hand alone* are of a more permanent description. But where there is head-ache with pain

in some other part of the body, say the leg (neuralgia), then the apparatus is of great use, as it relieves the head and allows you at the same time to devote your whole energies to the leg."

A lady consulted me several years ago on account of intense nervous and muscular debility. I discovered no structural disease or other affection, and considered that iron was the proper remedy. I gave it her long and in large quantities: but in vain. She consulted a real and respectable clairvoyante at Paris, who gave also the same opinion as myself and prescribed iron, but in the form of a bath. She remained long daily sitting in a bath into which many pieces of rusty iron were kept: and she perfectly recovered and is well to this day.

One of the best forms of iron, especially with children, who take it willingly mixed with treacle, is the brown or chocolate-coloured powder called sesquioxide. A small quantity often suffices. But I found that large quantities frequently cured obstinate diseases when small quantities had failed, and cured common cases more quickly. These facts were met not by opposite facts, but by the assertion that the preparation is very insoluble and so minute a quantity is absorbed that a minute dose *must* be always as good as a full dose, and that we see the far greater part of it pass off black from the bowels. Now if a most soluble form of iron is given, so large a quantity passes off as equally to blacken the evacuations: and I always replied that I did not know that absorption was indispensable; I did not know that the simple contact of the medicine was not the agency; and, if it were, that a quantity enough to produce constant contact all along the immense surface of the alimentary canal might be advisable. I cured two very bad cases of lock-jaw, arising from a contused wound, the one of a great toe, the other of a thumb: and the Royal Medical and Surgical Society recorded the cures in its Transactions. Each patient took many ounces daily of the iron powder.

All these facts harmonize beautifully with Dr. Burq's observations.

Silver, copper, iron, zinc, and other metals have a high reputation in nervous affections.

Just as he found with his external plates, we find one metal given internally succeed in the nervous disease of one patient, another in that of another.

Knowing how much both mesmeric power and susceptibility are increased by warmth, it might be well to ascertain whether the power of metallic plates is greater when they are applied warm and kept warm by coverings: and the facts

which I noticed in augmenting and reviving the mesmeric effects of metals make it desirable to ascertain whether friction with the metallic plates ever adds to their power. Would they ever be more efficacious if mesmerised?

I will not close this note without expressing my coincidence with Dr. Burq in his recommendation not to repress the muscular violence of fits. I always allow a patient in a fit to agitate himself to the utmost, taking care that he shall not hurt himself. The force ought to expend itself: and, besides this consideration, I am satisfied that there is usually some consciousness in the deepest apparent insensibility, though all may be afterwards forgotten, and that by restraining the muscular actions we only irritate and distress the patient and aggravate the disorder.

II. *An Account of the Mesmeric Hospital in Bengal since Dr. Esdaile's departure from India.* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"The *monster delusion* of the century, however, may detain us somewhat longer. It, too, has not sprung to life in our generation, though it has equally received the stamp which marks the time in which it flourishes, in having had its marvels multiplied by engrafting it upon another so-called science, resuscitated for the purpose from fast-approaching oblivion.

"The amalgamation has, as might be supposed, made but a motley figure of the *two absurdities*; the mesmerising system came with pretensions to a power actually *superhuman*, which, applied by instruments the most puerile, was sufficient to remodel the physical condition of man, and overturn his whole moral state. *We have been told that a few starings or grimaces, or holding of another human being's thumbs, was enough to cause the spirit 'to shuffle off its mortal coil,' and endue a creature with a sort of omnipresence and omniscience.* We start at all this pure essential spirituality, and are then presented with a strange contradiction in the assertion that the recipient of these marvellous powers remains still prostrated beneath the mesmeriser's will, and that the functions both of mind and sense, which can be exercised without their proper organs, may still be excited and directed by his touch upon certain *imaginary organs* in the brain, mapped out upon the skull. There is excuse enough in the face of these absurdities to release us from the weary task of trying to disengage the few grains of truth from the mountain of nonsense which composes this so-called science, especially as one of the earlier features of its history is repeated and brought forward in a form most whimsical at the present moment. *Each professor in his turn has accused his predecessor of imposture.* Mesmer denounced Hell, and D'Eslon, Mesmer; and the electro-biologist now in his nightly exhibition defies all the world to prove that his philosophy is connected in the most remote degree with that of the mesmerists. *After the often-repeated investigations, and as many confutations, by really learned and impartial men,* it is hard to be continually appealed to, as we are, to bestow time which might be far more usefully employed than in sifting the *tricky evidence.* I conceive that the same test which was given us to distinguish between true and false prophets may without impropriety be applied to discriminate between true and false philosophers: 'You may know them by their fruits.' Tried by this rule, we shall find that while our men of real science have bestowed on this generation two benefits which are actual blessings to society,—that while the natural revulsion of the frame under surgical assistance is altogether spared, and while most distant friends have gained the

consolation of immediate communication,—WE MAY SEARCH IN VAIN FOR ONE SINGLE WELL-ATTESTED PRACTICAL BENEFIT FROM THE INVENTORS OF THIS SYSTEM, WHO CLAIM A MYSTERIOUS CONTROL OVER THE MOST SUBTLE AND POTENT AGENCIES. It is pleasant to pass from these 'speciosa miracula' of *empiricism* to glance at the practical advantages which we are daily deriving from the advance of science in the legitimate path of sound induction."—A LECTURE DELIVERED BEFORE THE LONDON COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS THIS SUMMER BY Dr. ALDERSON, a Graduate of Cambridge and Fellow of the College! and published in the LANCET for July 24th, 1852.*

I RECEIVED the following accounts, the one by a native surgeon, the other by a Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge, from Dr. Webb, accompanied by a letter, which I will take the liberty of prefixing to them. Dr. Webb's excellent, honest, and courageous introductory lecture, delivered at the

* Mesmerists are blessed beyond other people. Their occupation is to lessen the sufferings of their fellow-creatures and to study the greatest of all nature's wonders: and for their recreation after their toils there is provided for them a set of merry mad wags, who refrain from no broad farcical misrepresentation nor from any kind of language which they hope will produce a laugh. Dr. Alderson is at the head of these performers, now that Mr. Wakley has retired into the shade. Throwing aside fact and argument and all politeness of language, as harlequin does his cloak, he comes forth full of fun, flourishing his baton, hitting to the right and left, cutting delightful capers, and, by "amalgamation" with the functions of another personage who is always present in pantomimes, he exclaims that we grimace, pretend to superhuman powers, send off the soul on errands, endow people with *a sort* of omnipresence and omnipotence, and that we do this by a few grimaces. He deserves thunders of applause for the self-sacrifice which such performances require. Poor me! I have never *grimaced*; I have never pretended to *superhuman power*, never attempted more than a simple natural process,—a process as simple and natural as turning an electric machine; I have never tried to loosen any body's soul and make it *shuffle* off, I have never even looked for it; I have never tried to endow people with *omnipresence* and *omnipotence*, nor did I ever suspect there was more than one *sort* of omnipresence and omnipotence: I have never thought of *amalgamating* the *absurdity* of mesmerism with any other *absurdity*; I have never *accused* my predecessors *of imposture*, nor my cotemporaries either. We mesmerists do not quarrel, but imitate the successors of Mesmer, the virtuous Puységur and Deleuze and a host of others, and are united heart and hand to support truth and benevolence. I have never seen a *confutation* of mesmerism, nor known it to be *investigated* and *confuted* by any *impartial* and *learned* man: I have never offered *tricky evidence*: I did not know that *not one single well-attested practical benefit* has arisen from mesmerism. I thought that hundreds of the most dreadful surgical operations had been performed under mesmerism without pain: I thought that thousands of unquestionable cures had been performed with mesmerism after the failure of all other means,—cures of pains, convulsions, insanity, palsy, ulcers, tumors, cancer, &c.: and I thought that they were recorded by careful, truthful persons, with the names and addresses of the patients, the mesmerisers, and the professional brethren of Dr. Alderson who had failed to effect a cure by respectable means, as well as with the opinions of those former attendants respecting both the nature of the disease and its future result: I thought that the ten volumes of *The Zoist* were as authentic and satisfactory records of medical benefits as any medical work ever written: I was quite proud of our *fruits*.

Fiddle de dee, says Dr. Alderson on hearing this. Fiddle de dee. Have I not investigated mesmerism for myself laboriously and practically? Am I not the very cleverest man in Europe? Who are you?

Oh the merry rogue! He is almost too bad, but we can't help laughing at him.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

opening of the sixteenth session of the Calcutta Medical College in 1850, and published at the request of the Council of Education in India, was laid by me before the readers of *The Zoist* in No. XXXII.

"Calcutta, June 3rd, 1852.

"My dear Dr. Elliotson,—I dare say it is quite possible that you may find some difficulty in making out by recollection your ancient *vis-à-vis* neighbour at Mr. Alcock's, in Burlington Street, of above twenty years ago, whom you used to take in your carriage to St. Thomas's, and shew the use of the stethoscope, by induction upon the living and demonstration upon the dead, in diseases of the heart and chest. Twenty years have not effaced my gratitude to yourself, nor have years of silence diminished my admiration of your talents: for, if ever there was one man in England more legitimately entitled to fair medical fame, I only regret that I never met with him. Physiology and pathology were studied and reasoned upon with more comprehensive grasp and more patient industry than by any other physician. It is evident, therefore, that you were best fitted by the excellence of your talents and reputation to exert some lasting influence upon medicine and guide us to new lights in science. In mesmerism you have done just what those who most highly valued your character would have known you must do,—'stand by it for the truth's sake.'

"Well, for six years I have followed you *here*, as I did with the stethoscope. I had risen so high in the *clairvoyant* estimation of my friend Esdaile that he made it a last request with the Government that I should succeed to the mesmeric hospital. Should you see him, he will learn with surprise that that charge which was *promised him*, and *given to me*, as I understood, was, after fourteen months, supposed never to have been given, but conferred on some one else, as I learnt from the newspapers first, who, so far as I know, never had a mesmeric case.

"However, here is a statement of eight months' practice at the hospital while under my charge.

"The native figure of a tumor, to remove which from the neck *the carotid artery and jugular vein were exposed while the man slept quietly* in the mesmeric trance, may amuse you or the readers of the journal if you give it a place.* I fancy that these *enormous scrotal* operations would have interest elsewhere if no English medical journals give them publica-

* See Plate.



KHANOO (MUSSULMAN) AGED 42.

The tumor had been growing for 10 years, and weighed 5 lbs. It was cut away during the mesmeric trance without his knowledge, by D^r Webb, in Calcutta. Oct^r 20th 1851. and he was discharged well at the end of December

P.P. 280 & 282

Digitized by Google

Digitized by Google

tion. The improvements in scrotal operations are very great: upon this subject I am preparing a work, and, if England will not give it a place, I will give it publication abroad.

"Yours sincerely,

"ALLAN WEBB, M.D.,

"Professor of Anatomy, Med. Col., Calcutta."

"*Report of the Government Sukeas' Lane Dispensary and Mesmeric Hospital.* From May to December, 1851. (Drawn up by the Native Sub-Assistant Surgeon at the request of Dr. Allan Webb, Surgeon Superintendent.)

"After the departure of the late Dr. Bose to Lahore, in December, 1849, the Sukeas' Dispensary was enlarged, and incorporated with Dr. Esdaile's Mesmeric Hospital (May, 1850), and confirmed by orders of Government in July, 1850. The present establishment of officers therefore consists of an European surgeon* superintendent, a sub-assistant surgeon, two compounders, one dresser, and three mesmerisers, with nine inferior servants, as durwan, bhistee, cooks, and coolies, &c. The monthly expense, including the house-rent, amounts to rs. 397, and rs. 53 for bazaar expenses and dieting of sick. Total—Co.'s rs. 450.

"The total number of out-door patients, treated during the past half year, amounts to 3,646; of whom 3,270 were relieved, 6 incurable, 327 absconded,† 4 died, and 35 remained under treatment on the 31st December, 1851. The daily average of attendance was 63·54.

"The accompanying returns of the house-patients show the total number treated 67, cured 40, incurable 5, ceased to attend 10, died 5, and 9 remain under cure. The daily average of sick was 11·49.

"The reputation and the utility of the institution, it is pleasing to state, are now even greater than formerly. Occasionally, in order to be operated upon under mesmerism, respectable persons gladly become house-patients, bearing the cost of their own support. Gopaul Chunder Bose, a writer to the Bengal Secretariat; Rammohun Roy, a merchant; Isser Chunder Sircar, a merchant; and Nufferloll Ghosain, priest to His Highness the Maharajah of Burdwan, were patients of this class.

"Cases of hypertrophied scrotum, for the cure of which this institution has especial reputation, continue to come in for relief from the remotest parts of Bengal, as for instance,

* It is not now under European superintendence.

† Gave up attending.

Beerbhoom, Purneah, Chittagong, and Cuttack,—places distant from two to five hundred miles from Calcutta, and in one instance (30th October, 1850), a patient, by name Assub Khallasee, came round from Bombay for scrotal operation under mesmerism. He was mesmerised and operated upon on the third day, and returned perfectly well to Bombay.

"Mesmeric treatment has not been confined, however, to scrotal operations. From among the out-patients, other cases requiring capital surgical or other operations have been admitted.

"From the annexed descriptive roll of operations performed at this hospital, it will be seen that they amount to 29 during eight months. The corresponding period of the previous year shows only 25: increase 4.

"In the month of August last, hospital gangrene breaking out; and in November last, the building undergoing a thorough repair; it became necessary to reject all applications for operations. At least half a dozen were sent away, one of them after being completely mesmerised and ready for the knife.

"Of three operations, which shall be detailed hereafter, there were two cases of unusually large adipose tumors: one situate on the back of the right shoulder, twisting round into the axilla; and the other hanging down from the side of the neck, commencing below the angle of the lower jaw.* The tumors were nearly as large as the head. Dr. Webb removed both of them by single incisions and dissected out the contents, leaving the flaps of skin entire, ultimately to contract. This was effected by keeping the adhesive and granulating processes confined to the edges of the enormous sacs: and the consequence was that the utmost freedom existed in raising the arm in the one case, or in turning the head in the other, after the cures were complete. The third was a case of hypertrophied scrotum of huge size. It weighed after operation *upwards of ninety pounds* and was of *twenty-eight years' growth*.

"This tumor measured at the neck 2½ feet; the antero-posterior measurement was 5½ feet, and the oblique one 6½ feet. In the Mesmeric Hospital practice this case stands alone, from the circumstance of a tumor of this size being removed under the influence of chloroform. The man could not be mesmerised either under Dr. Esdaile's instructions, or at a later period under Professor Webb's. The probable cause of this is that the man was accustomed to take opium,

* See Plate.

lately to the enormous extent of four drachms daily (solid opium). The distress, however, of his life, from the size of the tumor, induced him to beg its removal under any circumstances; and the only question then to consider was the best means of removing it. It was resolved by Dr. Webb on consultation not to save the testes, not to dissect nor look for hernia, but, having secured the colis, to remove at once the rest.

"The passage from the orifice at the surface of the tumor to the symphisis pubis was two feet six inches; and hidden, for the greater part of its length, under five inches of flesh. To have laid open this passage, as is usual in small operations, would have caused great, and, as Dr. Webb thought, fatal, hæmorrhage. He therefore first introduced the long bistouri caché, opened it, and thus determined, roughly, the position of the end of the colis, which was three inches below the surface. One cut, about 12 inches long, was made across the anterior half of the base, down to the point of the bistouri: two short cuts of about 3 inches long were made at right angles to this—one up to the pubes, the other down along the bistouri. By these three cuts, the blood was immediately drained off, and the colis conveniently laid open. It was seized and pulled upwards, and, by a single stroke below, dissected out. One of Liston's longest knives was then thrust quite through the neck of the tumor, and, by one cut to the right and another to the left, the huge mass was completely severed from the body. Thus the cutting part was reduced to five strokes, and the whole only occupied five seconds, as stated by the Rev. J. Long, C.M.S., who carefully took the time;* the hæmorrhage was very little, not more than in the ordinary-sized tumors removed daily. One reason why so little blood was lost is that the tumor was drawn up by a pulley fastened to the ceiling, and well *drained* before operating.

"The intolerable burden of this enormous appendage, added to the excessive quantity of opium which the man took, had so much worn out his constitution, that he did not long survive the operation! The digestive powers of his stomach wholly failed, and he expired, on the eleventh day, of exhaustion.†

* "The tumor cut off from the poor Chinaman, Hoo-Loo, in London, was smaller than this considerably. It took the surgeons, Sir A. Cooper and Key, one hour and forty minutes to remove it. The man left the table a corpse. Brett's first case, 20 minutes; Goodeve's, 14 minutes. Two minutes and a half or three minutes, suppose, generally."

† "The constitutional force—*vis vitæ*, is greatly upheld by using mesmerism, instead of, as in this instance, chloroform. This man would perhaps have sur-

"One case came in of false passage in the urethra, and another of compound fracture of the pelvis. The urethral case was admitted on the sixteenth day of the accident. There was incipient sloughing from urinary infiltration of the perineum, and the bladder was paralyzed. An operation, therefore, becoming imperative, the patient absconded. In the other case the proper bones of the pelvis had pierced the urinary bladder. He came on the third day. The accident was caused by the man's being crushed under a huge bale of cotton, while carrying it with three others on their heads; and, except the local injuries, there was not much constitutional disturbance present. But after five days the man was compelled by his wife to go to his native village, whence she came to escort him.

"Of the five incurables, that of dislocation of the femur, backwards and downwards, into the ischiatic notch, merits mention. The man, the subject of this case, applied ten weeks after the accident. Dr. Webb, however, by steady tension of the limb for about an hour at a time under chloroform, succeeded on the second attempt in drawing out the head of the bone from its new attachments as far as the edge of the acetabulum, which, having been filled up, the dislocated bone could not re-enter: yet an artificial but useful joint was formed at the acetabulum by proper position. The man, with lacerated wound, came down from Beerbhoom: part of his right forehead and cheek, and the globe of the eye, were torn off by a wild bear six years ago, and the frontal and nasal sinuses exposed to view. The unprotected state of these passages was a source of constant distress to him from dust and insects; and, with the view to relieve the man by rhinoplastic operation, he was at first ordered to be mesmerised, which succeeded quickly and completely: but, the scalp becoming diseased by numerous little abscesses and exfoliation of bone, he was dismissed the hospital, as the attempt to transplant new skin upon parts so diseased would prove fruitless.

"Another case was one in which Dr. Webb detected by percussion an inguinal hernia imbedded in the large scrotal tumor, for the removal of which the patient had come down

vived, if it had been possible to mesmerise him. Another case of *eighty pounds' weight, upon which I operated in mesmeric trance, did well.*

"The *shock* is diminished in our days both by mesmerism and by chloroform. In tumors of equal size *bleeding* is governed by the time. If the operation be over in four minutes, it will be two-thirds less than in fifteen minutes. Dr. Goodeve estimated thirty or forty ounces to have been lost in his case. Now in ordinary cases it is ten or fourteen ounces.—A. Webb."

from Beerbhoom. Had the intestine been cut, the man must have died.

"The deaths which occurred were unavoidable. Three were cases of scrotal tumors, one of which has already been noticed. The second died of serous apoplexy, which manifested itself on the second day from the operation. And the third died on the nineteenth day from the operation, when the wound was healing rapidly, of obstinate diarrhœa, completely exhausting him. The fourth casualty occurred from protracted spleen disease. And the fifth and the last from gangrene. This last man had malignant disease of the face and of the testis. He came in in a hopeless state; the dead and the diseased parts were cut off to give him a chance of recovery; the man already sinking, died on the next morning. The miscroscopic examination of the testis by Professor Walker presented some very rare and curious results: the man had the same disease in other parts apparently.

"To return to the operations, sixteen out of the twenty-nine cases, including fourteen of scrotal tumors, that of adhesion of the arm to the chest, and the tumor on the neck, were operated upon in the mesmeric trance. Two more completely mesmerised were sent back after they were mesmerised, as stated above. Eleven were chloroformed, and two had not any anæsthetic agent. They remained in hospital at an average forty-four and a half days.

"It is extremely to be regretted that no purely medical cases have been admitted, for *want of means and of space in the wards.*

"It might be mentioned appropriately in this place, that, unlike other hospitals, the extensive suppurating wounds consequent upon scrotal operations (larger than in any other kind of amputations, excepting perhaps at the hip-joint) require constant cleaning of the wards, and very soon spoil the mattresses, &c.: and it is palpable that the want of cleanliness, and the crowding of the wards to any extent, become highly obnoxious to the patients. There are at present three wards capable of holding *altogether a dozen of beds only.* The greatest number of patients at one time was fifteen, and thus it was that the hospital gangrene, in August, 1851, broke out. *This could be avoided* by frequent changing of the mattresses and blankets, &c., and increasing the wards by building out-offices of accommodation for the compounders and dressers, &c.; but unfortunately *there are not funds for it.* Any surplus money of the late mesmeric hospital could hardly be more appropriately applied than to the wants and purposes of this institution.

"With regard to the mesmerisers attached to the institution, they have been quite as successful as formerly in inducing trances, in many instances on the first day, and so intense as to allow of an operation on the same day, or on the second. It was upon three occasions that two or more mesmeric operations were performed in one day. On the 27th of October last, His Excellency the Ex-Governor of Batavia and suite were present, and were quite struck with admiration and astonishment at witnessing for the first time the practical application of mesmerism. *When His Excellency observed the man who had suffered amputation of the largest tumor still sleeping calmly a quarter of an hour after amputation,* he emphatically said to Dr. Webb, 'I was mistaken, for I thought mesmerism was but charlatanism; you have most honourably convinced me of its vast utility. I am astonished, I cannot tell you how much so, at what I have witnessed. This is most honourable to you and to the Government. On my return to Europe, I will mention in every country I may visit, the wonders which I have witnessed in the Calcutta Mesmeric Hospital.'

"On the second occasion, of three operations in one day, Professor Walker was present and many students of the Medical College. On the third occasion, a large concourse of natives of respectability and of missionary clergymen.

"There have been several applications for the services of our mesmerisers in medical cases from persons of the highest rank and respectability, and occasionally from professional men.

"Our mesmeriser, *Meajaun,* obtained a reward of rs. 300 for his success; which may be permitted an appropriate mention in this place.

"When the tumors have not been very large, or the operations not greatly dangerous, as amputations of the leg and foot, &c., or the patients for many days resisted the mesmeric influence, or where the cases urgently demanded immediate operation, Dr. Webb has used chloroform.

"PURMANUND SET,
"*Sub-Assistant Surgeon.*"

"*A Visit to the Mesmeric Hospital.*

"It was my good fortune to be present at the Mesmeric Hospital on the occasion of the visit of His Excellency, the late Governor-General of Java, M. Rochusen; and, though I have often witnessed expressions of surprise and approbation at the uniform success of the terrible operations there performed, yet nothing ever approached the ecstatic commenda-

tions of that noble stranger. He had, as usual, been sight-seeing, and not a little startled by the uproar at a Government opium sale; but neither the heat of the day, nor the fatigues of the morning, could prevent his making his way to what he justly considered a 'grand spectacle.'

"Few persons know where the hospital is now situated, and fewer still can spare time and horses for the journey. It was certainly most unfortunate for the mesmeric cause, that Government removed the establishment from Dhurrumtollah to the distant and unknown region of Sukeas' Street: for men of business have lost sight of the institution, when, from the number and magnitude of the operations, a visit would have been doubly interesting. Cases which, five years ago, would have attracted the Deputy-Governor, and a host of high officials, are now without a spectator.

"His Excellency's curiosity had been aroused at the Bishop's breakfast table, where, for the first time in his life, he heard mesmerism spoken of with respect. Hitherto he had considered it as little better than humbug, or, if not, as something akin to the black art. The whole party, by assuring him of the reality of its effects, disabused his mind of the former notion, and our venerable diocesan, as in duty bound, combatted the latter, and saved the character of poor mesmerism from such an unhappy aspersion. Fortified by the word of a bishop and of Dr. Webb, who looked a most unlikely man for an arch wizard, His Excellency determined to see the whole with his own eyes.

"The hospital may be reached either by a long drive down the Circular Road, until groves of palms begin to take the place of houses, or by Amherst Street. To persons not knowing the locality, the latter is the better road, as a sign-board, a little beyond the Alms-house, points out the way clearly. The building is situated in a narrow lane, over-arched by palms, between Amherst Street and the Circular Road, and is shewn by an English and Bengallee inscription to be the Mesmeric Hospital and Sukeas' Dispensary. It looked dingy and neglected, a peepul tree flourishing at the top sent its long roots to the very foundation. On the trees outside the compound wall, large flocks of bats were hanging from the half-withered branches, like rows of soda-water bottles. The lower floor contained three large, and five or six small, rooms, while a single apartment, perched on the roof, formed the upper story.

"The gentlemen who were present to receive the Governor, conducted him into the dispensary, where about one hundred patients are every morning treated for all the ills that flesh is

heir to. Dr. Webb introduced to him a gentlemanly-looking native, the resident officer of the hospital, and a most skilful practitioner. His Excellency remarked, that it was very creditable to the Medical College to train such superior men for sub-assistant surgeons; and added that he had made some attempts of the same kind in Java, but that *his most successful measure was the prohibition of inoculation, and the universal introduction of vaccination, by which small pox had been banished from Java as completely as it is from Denmark, where doctors live and die without ever seeing a single case.*

"The next room, ornamented with a curious ceiling of carved wood, was large, dark, and dirty. The filthy beds, covered for the occasion with white sheets, were occupied by patients in all stages of recovery, most of whom had been operated on in the mesmeric trance. One had lately been freed from an extraordinary tumor, as big as his head, and projecting from his neck or rather his lower jaw, which was still hideous with large bags of skin; the arm of another which had grown into his side, had lately been dissected out; the rest seemed cases of those monstrous elephantoid tumors for which the hospital is celebrated. On this occasion, or the week after, I forget which, I saw one poor man in a side room ward, who seemed anchored on his bed, or rather moored to a great buoy—a tumor apparently heavier than the rest of his emaciated body. In these extreme cases, the outline of a man approximates to that of a gigantic wasp. The sufferer had so altered his nervous system, by the habitual use of opium, as to be insensible to mesmeric action, and was to be treated with chloroform as soon as he recovered from a violent attack of fever.

"We were now introduced to the third ward, where the objects of our visit were dimly seen through the gloom, each with a mesmeriser at his head brooding over him. A door was now opened, and *a flood of the brightest light poured into the room, without disturbing the proceedings. The three patients slept soundly as before,* and the mesmerisers, all vigorous young men, two of whom were Hindus and one a Mussulman, continued their labours: each, with a serious earnest expression of countenance, bent over his subject's face, as though about to kiss it, breathed on the eyes, and laid his hands on the pit of the stomach, or moved them with hooked fingers before the brow.

"To test the intensity of the coma, the first man was pricked with a sharp pointed knife on the most sensitive parts of the body. As no flinching was perceptible, a live coal was dropped on the inside of his thigh; and, as he still slept pro-

foundly, he was declared ready for the operation. Dr. Webb now drew His Excellency's attention to some of the distinguishing features of the mesmeric trance. The jaw was rigid, so that none of us could open it; the eyelids kept up a constant quiver; and the limbs, when lifted up, fell back like those of a corpse. He then went to the second and third beds, and treated their sleeping occupants to the same experimentum crucis of fire and steel. *There was something awful in the imperturbable repose, which stood out against this.* Those who at first thought that they could not endure the sight of blood, *were now convinced that there could be no pain, and determined to remain.* The instruments, which had been previously examined, were now brought in; and murderous weapons they looked. One, called the bistouri, especially attracted attention, being a long thin reaping hook, and opening from its attached sheath like a pair of scissors. The doctor now donned his hospital suit, which consisted of oil-skin trousers, terminating in a pair of fisherman's boots, and an apron reaching to the neck.

"He informed us that it was an unexpected pleasure that he could shew us three cases, as he had heard only of one, for the two others had come in only the day previous. They were, however, quite ready. Two were scrotal tumors and the third something else, I think a cancer. The first tumor, the size of a cow's udder, was laid bare, and the bistouri introduced. It was a sickening yet wonderful sight, to see the long knife slashing through the mass, and yet avoiding, as by a miracle, the parts to be preserved; and the fingers of the assistants who pounced eagerly on the spouting blood-vessels. The *long deep preliminary gashes, the careful dissection out of parts hidden in the centre of the mass, the severance of the tumor, when these were secured, the tying up of nearly twenty blood-vessels*—all did not occupy, by my watch, three minutes. While this was going on, the mesmeriser, doubled up at the head of the bed, was pouring his whole soul into the patient's face, who *continued to slumber like an infant.*

"The second case was then disposed of, but even more quickly and with the same success.

"The first patient, who, after the operation, had been left by the mesmeriser, now began to awake; and the Governor, who was standing near, called our attention to him. He was *very composed*, but *perfectly ignorant that anything unusual had happened*; and, on being asked when he would like to have the operation performed, calmly answered, '*now.*' The sheet was removed, and *he saw with unutterable amazement that his burden was gone.*

"There was something so touching in his look of surprise when fully satisfied that all was over, something so grateful in his efforts to kiss the doctor's extended hand, that the whole party was affected.

"His Excellency, *with tears in his eyes*, now withdrew from the room, and, after grasping Dr. Webb's hand energetically, and pouring out a torrent of English, Dutch, and French gratulations, in which 'brave man,' 'respectable man,' were chiefly distinguishable, took leave of the Mesmeric Hospital.

"It is pleasing to know, that, not only in Calcutta, but subsequently in the North West, he has declared his intention of vindicating the claims of mesmerism in his own country, and will, perhaps, be able to obtain some recognition in Europe of the benevolent exertions of that extraordinary man, Esdaile, who performed these painless operations before ether or chloroform was known, who prevailed upon the Government to found this hospital, and who established a reputation among the natives of India through a wider circle than Great Britain itself. Jews, Mussulmans, and Hindus speak of this 'great hakeem,' as more than mortal: 'By a look he could kill, by a look he could make alive.'

"H. Woodrow, M.A.,
"*Fellow of Caius College, Cambridge.*"*

* He who can read such accounts without deep emotion must be lost to the best feelings of our nature. So must the practitioner, who, hearing of them, refuses to examine seriously into the subject; and lost to all sense of honour also. For, when he receives money from patients, it is implied that he has treated them in the best method according to the knowledge of his day: and yet, aware of the existence of such important practical truths as are in *The Zoist*, he has proudly refused to read a word, to hear a word, or to witness a fact.

When in 1838 I had a seton inserted into the neck of Elizabeth Okey without her knowledge in the wards of University College Hospital, every one of my colleagues was absent and sneered at the matter. When the touching account of the painless amputation at Wellow was read in the Medical and Chirurgical Society in 1842, the members united in one movement of contempt: and at the following meeting with rabid violence ordered that no minute of such an account having been read should appear in their books. The numerous important operations since performed painlessly in England, America, and France, and the hundreds of operations, many of them terrific, performed painlessly in India, and all recorded in the volumes of *The Zoist*, are passed over in contemptuous silence by the medical journalists, no less than the accounts of all the beautiful and blessed cures and alleviations of disease by mesmerism.

The profession not only live in the completest and proudest voluntary ignorance of our science, but, when entreated by unbenefitted patients to allow a trial of mesmerism, cruelly object; and, when too well off to care for the patient, declare they will never attend again if mesmerism is employed, and they allow the disease and the suffering to continue and death to ensue without a trial of it.

The world are beginning to stand aghast at this fearful spectacle. They have hitherto believed the profession to be ardent in the acquisition of know-

ledge, enlightened and liberal, disinterested and benevolent. They cannot reconcile the present dulness, the present bigotry, the present intolerance, the present selfishness and hard-heartedness of the profession, of its members, both high and humble, metropolitan and provincial, with their former ideas. Deep is the self-inflicted injury done to the profession, and certain is the severity of the judgment of posterity against its members of the present generation.

The account of the support given by Government at present to mesmerism is dismal. Where is the Governor-General? Where are those good men under him who formerly behaved so nobly in the matter of mesmerism?* Where the numerous rich natives who came forward?—"*Three wards capable of holding altogether a dozen beds only!*" "*and thus it was that the hospital gangrene broke out!*" "*This could be avoided, &c., but unfortunately there are not funds for it!*" The Hospital removed by Government "to the *distant* and *unknown* region of Sukeas' Street!" "*The building is situated in a narrow lane!*"—"*dingy and neglected!*" "The next room *dark* and *dirty!*" *No purely medical cases have been admitted for want of means and of space in the wards!*

If Dr. Esdaile had destroyed half as many lives as he has saved, if he had caused half as much misery as he has caused happiness, had led on troops as he leads on his medical brethren in India, living and future, to victory, he would have been made a K.B., been styled "Sir," or "Lord" and after him his heirs male lawfully begotten, he would have received a shower of stars and ribbons, and been banquetted both on leaving India and on arriving in England.

I have just met with the following passages in a new and interesting book—*Journal of a Writer's Tour in India: with a visit to the Court of Nepaul.* By the Hon. Capt. Francis Egerton, R.N. 2 vols. London, 1852. vol. i., p. 137:—"During the day Grosvenor went with Sir John Littler to see an operation performed on a native in a state of mesmeric sleep. I was to have gone, but missed Capt. M., who was to have driven me to the house of the operator, Dr. Esdaile. The operation was completely successful: it was the removal of a tumor weighing twenty-five pounds. The patient suffered no pain, knew nothing of the operation until he was awakened, lost comparatively little blood, and was not weaker than usual after an operation of the kind. When he felt for the tumor and found it gone, he said, 'My life is saved.' Dr. Esdaile has performed many severe operations under similar circumstances with complete success. It seems strange that a science so little known or used in England should be so successfully carried out in India."

Thus it is that the world becomes gradually informed of mesmeric painless surgical operations, while the medical journalists, compilers of *Restrospects* and *Vade Mecums*, fancy they are able to hide our great truths from mankind. They are as absurd as children, who shut their eyes and then believe that nobody can see them: and like great babies they fancy that their profession, with its journals, its colleges and societies, is the universe; and in that narrow circle they move, having no understanding of aught beyond it, of sublime truths, of true glory, of anything large and noble.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

* Nos. XVII., XXII.

Return of House Patients, treated at the Government Sukeas' Lane Dispensary and Hospital, from May to December, 1851.

Dated 1st January, 1852.

Diseases.	Remaining.	Admitted.	Total.	Cured.	Relieved.	Incurable.	Absconded.	Died.	Remaining.	Remarks.
Adhesion of arm to chest	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Adipose Tumors	..	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	1 of neck, 5 lbs.; 1 shoulder, 6 ditto; 1 thigh, 8 ozs.
Cancer	..	2	2	..	..	a1	b1	..	..	a cheek; b ham.
Diarrhœa	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Elephantiasis scroti	9	21	30	16	..	..	5	3	6	
Dislocation, hip	1	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Exfoliation	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	Right ulna.
False Passage in Urethra	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	
Fracture, compound	..	1	1	..	..	..	1	..	..	Pelvis, laceration of the urinary bladder, which opened into the rectum.
Gangrene scrotal	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Hernia, inguinal direct	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Hypertrophied labia pud.	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Necrosis foot	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Paralysis	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	
Piles, external	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	
Rheumatism	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Splenitis	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	1	..	
Stricture, rectal; and fistula, anal	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Syphilis, primary	..	2	2	1	..	..	1	..	..	
,, secondary	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Testicle, diseased	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
Tumor, scirrhous	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	Soft cancerous of upper jaw.
Typhoid Fever	..	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	1	Re-admitted case of Scrotal Tumor; the wound nearly healed.
Ulcers, indolent	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	Leg.
,, phagedenic	..	1	1	1	..	..	..	..	..	
,, sloughing	..	3	3	3	..	..	..	..	..	In cases of scrotal tumor re-admitted.
,, with sinuses	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	
Urine, retention of	..	2	2	2	..	..	..	..	..	
Wound, lacerated	..	1	1	..	..	1	..	..	..	Forehead, by a Bear.
Total	10	57	67	40	..	5	10	5	7	

Daily average of sick, 11·49.

Digitized by Google

List of Surgical Operations performed at the Sukeas' Mesmeric Hospital, from May to December, 1851.

No.	Admission.	Names.	Caste.	Age	Residence.	Disease.	Duration of Disease.	Ibs.	Mesmerised or Chloroform.	Operation.	Discharge.	Death.	No. of days	Remarks.
1	12th May ...	Koylas Chunder.	Hindoo	45	.....	External Piles	.....	—	.....	12th May .	24th May ...	—	12	Excised.
2	22nd May ...	Biseo Nauth	Hindoo	30	Calcutta	Scrotal Tumor	6 years ...	15	Mesmerised .	31st May .	11th Aug. ...	—	72	*Excised.
3	4th June ...	Ram Dass	Hindoo	60	Calcutta	Inguinal Hernia	.....	—	.....	4th June...	6th June.....	—	2	Reduced by taxis.
4	7th June ...	Kamesese, F. ...	Hindoo	21	Calcutta	Hypertrophied Labia.....	.....	—	Chloroform..	8th June...	3rd July.....	—	25	*Excised.
5	7th June ...	Bunoo	Musulman	36	Pemrah	Scrotal Tumor	4 years ...	8	Mesmerised .	10th June .	16th Aug. ...	—	69	Excised.
6	10th June ...	Retchnee, F.....	Hindoo	30	Calcutta	External Piles	.....	—	Chloroform..	12th June .	28th July ...	—	40	Excised.
7	1st June.....	Hakimulla	Musulman	32	Calcutta	Diseased Testis and scrot.	1 year	—	Chloroform..	12th June .	15th Aug. ...	—	64	*Excised scrotum and testis.
8	12th June ...	Dwarkey Nauth .	Hindoo	30	Calcutta	Adipose Tumor	.....	—	Chloroform..	13th June .	30th June ...	—	18	Excised.
9	27th June ...	Gholam Hosain..	Musulman	28	Hoogly	Scrotal Tumor	2 years ...	6	Mesmerised .	30th June .	24th Oct. ...	—	116	*Excised.
10	10th July ...	Hullodhur.....	Hindoo	50	Hoogly	Scrotal Tumor	6 years ...	15	Mesmerised .	23rd July .	6th Oct.	—	75	Excised.
11	18th June ...	Punchrungee, F.	Hindoo	30	Calcutta ...	Stricture, Rectum; and Fistula in ano	2 years ...	—	Chloroform..	29th July .	4th Oct.	—	67	*Divided.
12	24th July ...	Uddoyto Sing ...	Hindoo	40	Beerbhoom ...	Scrotal Tumor	12 years ...	6	Mesmerised .	4th Aug....	.....	22nd Aug.	19	*Excised.
13	22nd July ...	Kisto Mohun ...	Hindoo	60	Calcutta.....	Adipose Tumor	20 years ...	6	Chloroform..	5th Aug....	11th Oct.....	—	67	Excised from the back of shoulder.
14	1st Sept.....	Gora Chund	Hindoo	30	Dacca	Scrotal Tumor.....	2 years ...	8	Mesmerised .	4th Sept...	9th Dec.....	—	96	*Excised.
15	12th Sept. ...	Coober	Hindoo	20	Purneah.....	Adhesion of arm to chest	Infancy ...	—	Mesmerised .	16th Sept.	5th Dec.....	—	89	*Divided.
16	22nd Sept....	Tobur	Musulman	35	Calcutta.....	Scrotal Tumor.....	2 years ...	15	Mesmerised .	24th Sept.	9th Dec.....	—	76	*Excised.
17	23rd Sept. ...	Panchoonry	Musulman	45	Hoogly	Scrotal Tumor.....	3 years ...	10	Mesmerised .	24th Sept.	9th Jan. '52.	—	107	*Excised.
18	12th Sept. ...	Soodhoram	Hindoo	42	Hoogly	Necrosis, Foot	5 years ...	—	Chloroform..	30th Oct...	24th Dec. ...	—	—	*Amputated.
19	2nd Oct	Khanoo	Musulman	42	Hoogly	Adipose Tumor	10 years ...	5	Mesmerised .	20th Oct...	31st Dec. ...	—	71	*Excised side of neck.
20	23rd Oct. ...	Sudderuddin.....	Musulman	38	Puridpore	Scrotal Tumor.....	3 years ...	20	Mesmerised .	27th Oct...	1st Dec.	—	35	*Excised.
21	26th Oct. ...	Call Prosono.....	Hindoo	36	Nuddeah	Scrotal Tumor.....	5 years ...	5	Mesmerised .	27th Oct...	15th Feb. '52	—	110	*Excised.
22	5th Aug. ...	Lukhee Mony, F.	Hindoo	22	24-Pergunnahs	Cancer in the ham	7 years ...	—	Chloroform..	19th Oct...	11th Nov. ...	—	19	*Excised.
23	1st Nov.....	Iseer Chunder ...	Hindoo	33	Hoogly	Scrotal Tumor.....	7 years ...	25	Chloroform..	6th Nov....	9th Jan. '52.	—	64	Excised.
24	3rd Nov.....	Kanhai	Hindoo	50	Beerbhoom ...	Scrotal Tumor.....	9 years ...	35	Mesmerised .	6th Nov....	.....	14th Nov..	9	*Excised.
25	3rd Nov.....	Beesoo	Hindoo	25	Beerbhoom ...	Scrotal Tumor.....	3 years ...	25	Mesmerised .	6th Nov....	10th April...	—	94	*Excised.
26	1st Nov.....	Nufferlell	Hindoo	45	Burdwan	Scrotal Tumor.....	28 years ...	90	Chloroform..	11th Nov. .	.....	21st Nov..	11	*Excised.
27	8th Dec.....	Ram Gopaul	Hindoo	65	Nuddeah	Scrotal Tumor.....	15 years ...	50	Mesmerised .	15th Dec. .	16th March .	—	92	*Excised.
28	10th Dec. ...	Modoosudun	Hindoo	33	Balasore.....	Scrotal Tumor.....	8 years ...	20	Mesmerised .	15th Dec. .	25th March .	—	100	Excised.
29	16th Dec. ...	Udoy Chaund ...	Hindoo	32	24-Pergunnahs	Gangrene, scrotal	.....	—	Chloroform..	16th Dec. .	.....	17th Dec. .	1	*Excised.

N.B.—In cases marked thus *, the operation was performed by the Superintendent: those remaining under cure will soon be discharged from the Hospital.

PURMANUND SEN, Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

ALLAN WEBB, M.D., Surgeon Superintendent, and Prof. Anat. Med. Col. Cal.

III. *Cursory Notes of a late Visit to London.* By the Rev. J. Peed, of Slevoy Castle. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"We have stated as our firm belief that there is an unearthly, evil power in mesmerism and clairvoyance. In every country throughout Christendom wonders are being wrought and being witnessed by its agency, while the character of it is manifestly and strikingly godless. If the term 'familiar spirit' has any popular signification, surely it is most appropriate here; for no subject is too familiar, no circumstance too trifling, to be beneath the spirits which are at work in those 'arts.'"—*Mesmerism and Spiritual Agency*, p. 31: London, 1852. A Sermon understood to be by a Mr. Tarbot, of Liverpool, Elder of the Irvingite Church.*

A clergyman brought a letter of introduction to me several months ago from the Archbishop of Dublin. Some time afterwards His Grace sent me some notes which he had received from the gentleman; and I requested permission to publish them. The Archbishop enclosed my letter in the following one from himself to the clergyman:—

"Dublin, August 12, 1852.

"My dear Mr. Peed,—I have thought the best way of answering Dr. Elliotson's inquiry about you is to send you his note, and let you send him your direction, and where you will be, when.

"Pray say to him at the same time that he is at liberty to mention me merely as knowing you, and having full confidence in you; which is all I can *attest* in the case. As I do not shrink from giving my testimony when needed, so I do not wish to obtrude myself on the public.

"Yours truly,

"Rev. J. Peed." "R. Dublin."

His Grace's letter was enclosed in the following one to myself from the clergyman:—

"St. Anne's Hill, Blarney, Cork,
"16th August, 1852.

"Dear Sir,—From your letter of the 11th to the Archbishop of Dublin, which His Grace has forwarded to me, I understand you desire to publish my notes of a late visit to London in the next *Zoist*. My impression is that the notes are not by any means fit for publica-

* A surgeon named Mr. Thomas Flintoff, who practised at No. 73, Great Titchfield Street, on producing mesmeric phenomena in patients and benefitting the sufferers, became so warm a convert that he put his name down for £5 to the Mesmeric Infirmary and became a member of the Committee. But, espousing Irvingism, he viewed mesmerism as the devil's own work, and gave up it and all the good which it did to his fellow-creatures; and to this hour has not paid his promised donation. Applications were made repeatedly to him, but he forgot St. Paul's precept that we should be courteous, and never took any notice.

Mr. Flintoff had cured a case of epilepsy with mesmerism, and, in conjunction with Mr. Fradelle, a breast condemned to excision in the Middlesex Hospital, and extracted a tooth painlessly, and published all this in No. XIV., p. 240. See also p. 218.—John Elliotson.

tion, having been written in a hurried manner, and sent according to promise to the Archbishop for his private perusal. The notes are however very much at your service, if you think the testimony of a stranger like myself of any use in advancing our good cause. I enclose the Archbishop's letter to me, which will answer your query respecting his attestation of credibility. I expect to remain at St. Anne's for about six weeks longer, where I am under hydropathic treatment. My address when at home is Slevoy Castle, Foulkesmill, New Ross. With many thanks for the kind reception you gave me on the occasion of my last visit to London,

I remain, dear Sir, yours very faithfully,

"Dr. Elliotson." "JAMES PEED.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

7th October. Visited the Mesmeric Hospital, Bedford Street; saw, amongst some other interesting cases, that of a woman between 50 and 60 years of age, who had been blind for seventeen years, and declared incurable by Alexander. Both eyes were suffused with a thick opaque film. Patient under treatment at the Bedford Street Hospital for some months. Could already distinguish near objects, her hands, &c. I magnetized her by placing my right hand over her eyes, my left at base of brain. After some moments she declared she could see less indistinctly. Magnetized her again by placing fingers of right hand *vertically* over centre of cornea: fingers of left as before. After five minutes I withdrew my hands; patient exclaimed with surprise, "I can now see both windows," (the windows were about 12 feet in front of her,) "and all round the room." Mr. Capern (secretary and principal mesmeriser) took a note of the method used and said he would follow it. About three days after I visited the hospital, Mr. Capern said he had mesmerised this patient (then present) after the method I had shewn him, and had for the first time produced a slight moisture in the eyes—an effect which Alexander, after many efforts, had failed to produce, and declared the woman had a "dry eye," and was consequently incurable. I asked Mr. Capern if he had ever tried gold? said he had not. On my left hand I wore a plain seal ring of solid gold; I have worn it for many years: on my right a plain gold ring—my wife's guard ring, which I had worn for about ten days. Placing the fingers of the left hand at the base of the brain, a little on the side of the left eye, I magnetized the woman's left eye with the signet ring by rubbing the eyelid over centre of cornea. After a few moments she cried out that bright stars were shooting across the eye and falling to the ground. Thinking the pressure might have simply produced a spectrum, I changed the posi-

tion of the ring; but the stars still fell over the same spot (centre of eye), yet fainter in proportion as the ring was removed from centre of cornea. Tried same experiment with guard ring—effect far more faint; with fingers of right hand —effect about equal to that of guard ring: ultimate result—eye suffused with tears, a bursting sensation over base of upper eyelid as if much moisture hung there which wanted vent. Capern and his patient in unqualified surprise at the fact of moisture having been so speedily drawn from the eye. From this experiment I would infer,

1st. That the cornea of the eye is peculiarly susceptible of the mesmeric influence.

2ndly. That the efficacy of the precious metals is partially intrinsic, principally from their power of imbibing, and afterwards imparting the mesmeric influence which they may have imbibed. This same signet ring placed in the hand of a strong healthy man, but very susceptible of mesmeric influence, without his having been acquainted beforehand with any effect likely to follow, caused after a few seconds his eyes to close, and then threw him into strong convulsions, so much so that I had much trouble to demesmerise him. I allude to an experiment tried on a Mr. Lloyd, of Dorset Square, with whom I was sitting in the drawing room paying a morning visit. Now he was unaware that gold had any mesmeric influence, wore a ring, and handled other rings with impunity.

3rdly. Perhaps we may infer from the above experiment on blind woman, that whatever it be the mesmeriser emits, it is in some cases perceptible to the vision of the patient.

Oct. 18th. Spent the evening with Dr. Elliotson: saw Mr. James Salmon, whose case was mentioned in *The Zoist*.* Dr. E. and I each mesmerised one half of said Salmon, who clasped the hand of each mesmeriser with equal affection, saying he felt very happy, but very odd. Dr. E. then mesmerised my half, and eventually became possessor of the whole Salmon. As Salmon stood between us, clasping the hand of each, Dr. Elliotson remarked, "that this was clearly an allowable case for polygamy." Here I met a French gentleman,† who pretended that by clasping a thin plate of copper on the fore-arm he could increase its muscular power. The experiment certainly succeeded in the case of Salmon, who was able to bend a curiously constructed spring some degrees more by a small graduated table than before the copper was clasped on the arm; but with me it produced not

* No. XXXIV. † Dr. Burq.

the least effect, to the undisguised disgust of monsieur—however, "one swallow makes no summer."

Oct. 14th. Returning from royal apartments at Windsor Castle, saw, at entrance door, a tall, spare policeman, whose left arm was in a sling. As the visitors crowded by him, one gentleman accidentally touched his hand, whereupon policeman winced and turned away apparently in great pain. Went up to him: "What is the matter with you?"—*P.* "I am in great pain; I have a gathering in my thumb' and have had no ease these five days." "Give me your thumb." *P.* "What do you want to do?"—"No matter; give it here." Policeman consents with a comical expression of countenance. I mesmerise the thumb (which is bandaged) for perhaps five minutes, placing it between the palms of my hands, and occasionally making tractative passes. "How do you feel now?"—*P.* "My thumb is very comfortable; I feel no pain: you have put me into a perspiration all over: you are not mesmerising me, I hope?"—"Yes, but I am; try if you can stir your thumb." *P.* "I can now the pain has left: I can move it without pain." "Press with your fingers." Policeman obeys with fear and trembling: he tells me the pain and soreness has been so intense he dare not touch the thumb: I urge him; he takes courage, and finds he can handle it without pain. *P.* "But my arm! I have not been able to straighten it these five days: the inflammation runs up to my shoulder," (he traces its course.) "No matter, your arm shall be straight in less than five minutes." I take it from the sling, make passes from shoulder to tips of fingers: the arm gradually becomes straight to owner's unfeigned astonishment. *P.* "Can I move it myself?"—"Try." He does so; bends his arm, then shakes it up and down—tossing it about like a child with a new toy. In a word, so completely were both hand and arm restored to Her Majesty's service, that he would have pocketed the sling but from advice to the contrary.

The scene was a curious one. I had many spectators, and with the exception of the old beefeater, the passers by looked on me as insane. An hour afterwards I met the policeman, asked how the arm was; he replied first by taking the hand out of the sling and brandishing it, then thanking me repeatedly for setting the thief-catching member all right again.

I may pass over a curious exhibition of so-called electro-biology, for this sub-mesmerism cannot, in my mind, be productive of any good, and may be of much evil; it may suffice to mention that Mr. Capern biologized *one* side of a man, depriving him, as he gave the word, of sight, smell, speech, and motion on that side. The side unaffected was first mes-

merised by patient himself, who made a few passes down it (the right side) with his left hand: the effort to speak with one side of the mouth ludicrous enough, but unavailing.

Query,—would rubbing oneself down beforehand be an antidote, *pro tem.*, against biology. I wish one were found out. Biology can only bring discredit upon pure mesmerism.

I will mention a curious thing I saw on my return to Ireland, at Mr. Dawson's of Cullaynmore, county Carlow. One of his daughters tied the end of a thread of about four inches long round a shilling: the shilling was suspended inside a tumbler glass. After a few seconds, shilling and string began to pendulate (if there be such a word), until, striking the sides of the empty glass, it actually struck the hour by the clock, and then ceased to vibrate for a time, when it began again, ending with a similar result. This was repeated at several hours, when the shilling marked the time (*i. e.*, the last hour struck by clock) with like unfailing exactness. There was no trick in this: one young lady whom I saw at her own house the next day tried for the first time the experiment with equal success. By the way, I relieved her mother, a Mrs. Kough, of Rilbride, that same evening, of pain in chest, difficulty of breathing, and loss of voice, at a single sitting.

I tried the shilling experiment without any success. The matter naturally set me thinking, as

1st. Why did the shilling vibrate? Evidently the experiment was connected with those relating to the od (better sense and orthography *odd*) force. It was in fact an odometer,—silver and crystal,—case was plain; still more, as in my hands the odometer uniformly becomes motionless. Why? I have my guesses on that point too, but won't enter on it; it is enough that both the persons who tried the shilling experiment *are very susceptible of mesmeric influence.*

2nd. Why did the shilling strike the hour? A poser,—but now for a conjecture. I have observed persons in the mesmeric sleep singularly accurate about time: they will generally tell the hour by a given watch without consulting it or being capable of so doing. I speak of the non-lucid. Could this occult faculty of time-keeping have been called into action in the experimentalist, and thence communicated to the shilling,—the string acting like the wire of an electric telegraph? All fudge this, perhaps; yet the time-keeping power of the somnambule is a link in *some* chain,—in what, I leave to some quicker wit to discover. An odd link is a fact, isolated though it be; and a fact or a piece of old iron should never be thrown away. No man can say how unexpectedly he may find use for either.

Mesmerism is as yet a mystery: its facts almost as *various* as numerous. A safe induction; almost impossible to be come at, hence a general principle rarely to be arrived at. One must live and learn with (mentally) the stomach of a dog to digest bones, of a cow to ruminate the semi-digested mass.

Trusting Your Grace will excuse these cursory notes of my late excursion, I remain, my Lord,

Your faithful servant,

J. Peed.

IV. *Examples of painless Extraction of Teeth: with remarks upon the ignorance displayed by Mr. Druitt, in his* Surgeon's Vade Mecum. By Mr. Rawe, Lemaile, Cornwall. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"'Hamburgh, July 28, 1852.

"'Electro-biology is the offspring of the old root, *Mesmeria officinalis*, and which here is nearly *rotten* and *forgotten*.'"

Extract from "a letter received by *our* correspondent from a *celebrated* professor at Hamburgh."—*Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, August 18, 1852. Editor, Mr. Walshe, of Worcester.

Dear Dr. Elliotson,—The capital operations performed on mesmerised patients, and reported from time to time in *The Zoist*, render the minor achievement of painless tooth extraction rather insignificant. But I think well-attested occurrences, even of this sort, possess some value as evidence of the anæsthetic power of mesmerism.

In the conversation which I had the honour of having with you last autumn, you remarked, in reference to a case I spoke of in which three teeth were extracted from a mesmerised subject, that a person insensible of that would not feel the cutting off of a limb. This confirmed an opinion previously expressed to me by a surgeon of this neighbourhood, Mr. Fry. I beg to offer you a short account of what I have met with in this way,

And remain, dear Dr. Elliotson,

Yours most respectfully,

John Rawe.

S. H., a young woman, aged 22, had suffered, during the spring of 1849, very severely from pain in the teeth, and submitted to the extraction of one of them. Three more were carious: but, when their removal was suggested, she affirmed that whatever she might endure she could not make up her mind to have another tooth drawn. She had been the subject of neuralgic pains, for which she had been mes-

merised with immediate relief, and consequently entertained a very high opinion of its remedial value. When, therefore, it was proposed to her to have her teeth removed while under mesmeric influence, she readily assented, and, my relative, Mr. Robartes, a surgeon-dentist, now practising at Plymouth, being on a visit at my house, we determined on embracing the opportunity thus afforded us of testing the anæsthetic power of mesmerism.

After mesmerising S. H. about fifteen minutes, I made some passes over Mr. R.'s hands, breathed on the instruments, and requested him to proceed. The gum was lanced, and the first lower molar on the left side extracted with the forceps. There was no sign of consciousness. Being confident that the coma was sufficiently permanent, I requested Mr. R. to wait until the mouth was rinsed out. He then proceeded to extract a bicuspid on the same side, and then a bicuspid on the opposite side. There was not the slightest motion in the patient, and she appeared throughout in a composed slumber. A short time after, when she was about to be awakened, the teeth were placed in one of her hands. On awaking, after a momentary look of surprise to find herself there, she observed the teeth and exclaimed, "Oh! they are out!" and said she had felt nothing of it—an assertion which the five or six persons present fully believed. This young woman still keeps the teeth as a memorial of a painless operation.

Since this experiment I have on five occasions produced complete insensibility in two other individuals while teeth were drawn. I will only further allude to one.

F. E., whose case of chlorosis and cure by mesmerism is reported in No. XXXIII. of *The Zoist*, having a painful tooth, Mr. Wilkins, surgeon, of Wadebridge, agreed to extract it while she was under mesmerism. It happened that Mrs. Balfour, the able authoress and lecturess, was at his house at the time, and this lady with Mrs. Wilkins went into the surgery. I believe their sensitive feelings prompted them not to look at the operation; but, immediately after it they saw the young woman in the same image-like state of insensibility which had appeared throughout. Mr. W. remarked that on this and two similar occasions he had observed that the hæmorrhage was unusually small. I suppose the undisturbed state of the circulation would account for this.

In a recent edition of the *Surgeon's Vade Mecum*, by Mr. Druitt, at the conclusion of a chapter on chloroform, is a short article headed "Mesmerism." It would appear that the author felt that he could not ignore it; but, as an apology

for his admission that mesmerism does, under certain circumstances, "produce a kind of catalepsy accompanied with insensibility to external impressions," he strings together all the hacknied slurs on the art, in a paltry paragraph, quite out of keeping with the other contents of the work. It is here quoted entire.

"MESMERISM.—There can be little doubt but that the manœuvres which are called mesmeric passes, if practised long enough upon a person, whose credulity is great and strength of mind little, (no matter whether the mind be weak originally or rendered so by illness,) are capable of producing a kind of cataleptic condition, accompanied with insensibility to external impressions; and that, in this state surgical operations have, in some instances, been performed without the patient's cognizance. But this one fact in mesmerism is mixed up with so much extravagant pretension, and with so much knavery and folly, besides that the very operation of mesmerising is one that no virtuous woman ought to be submitted to, that we cannot consent to admit the mesmeric sleep into the list of therapeutic agents until it can be shewn that it has advantages over chloroform and the other remedies which lay no claim to supernatural virtues."

As to the assertion that the weak-minded are particularly susceptible of the influence, my own experience, as far as it has gone, is opposed to it. Credulity, if meant to signify a belief in the power of any means used to affect the system, is not to be despised in mesmerism any more than in medicine: but there are abundant facts to prove that the mesmeric coma is not *dependent* on it. I will mention one that has come under my notice. About two years since I tried mesmerism on a young man,—a journeyman miller, who, owing to long-standing deafness and the isolation of rustic life, *did not know there was such a thing as mesmerism*. I had known him from a boy to be an honest, trustworthy fellow; and, meeting him one day, just after his return from an eye-infirmary nothing improved, I requested him by writing on my pocket-book to call on me next day. He did so, and answered my enquires of what had been done to him. But, when I wrote, "Have you ever been mesmerised?" he could not tell what it meant; and, after one or two attempts on my part to explain, he still shook his head and said, "I can't tell what you mean." I then requested him to look steadily at my eyes, and made passes down in front. His eyes soon became unsteady, and in about two minutes he was asleep. At the end of an hour, I thought to dismiss him. But the usual means of dispelling the sleep produced no effect on him: neither did pricking with a needle. He was left to

slumber another hour, and then by transverse passes and blowing in the eyes was aroused.

Some of Mr. Druitt's objections to mesmerism may be dismissed as simply absurd: and all could be easily answered. But it is to be regretted that such a prejudiced and erroneous allusion to the art will probably be considered by many young surgeons as containing sufficient for them to know of the matter.

It is only a portion of our fellow-beings who can be sufficiently narcotized by mesmerism for surgical purposes. But, with those who can, the state induced is as far preferable to that resulting from chloroform as sound sleep is to dead drunkenness. The several precautions to be observed in using chloroform, as given by Mr. Druitt, are no doubt very proper. But they serve also to illustrate the superiority of the mesmeric coma. Thus he says:—"The commonest accident is vomiting: if it occur during the inhalation, the patient's head must be turned to one side to let the vomited matter escape: if very troublesome afterwards," &c.: and, "It must not be used for operation for cataract; after which any accidental fit of vomiting might cause the whole contents of the eye-ball to be forced out." Mesmerism would not produce vomiting, but might, on the other hand, be used to remove any previously existing disposition to vomit or cough. Again: "Epileptic patients are liable to have their fits induced by the inhalation." I have effected the mesmeric coma, in different degrees, on nine individuals afflicted with epilepsy, and altogether about two hundred times; none of them ever had a fit during the sitting.

On the paramount consideration of *safety to life*, no remark need be offered.

J. R.

NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

Mr. Druitt ought to blush at having his apparent gross ignorance thus exposed by a gentleman not of our profession. It would be disgraceful in him not to know, but I am persuaded that he does know, and that all the profession knows, that the most fearful operations, so gigantic that neither he nor any of the older surgeons whom he short-sightedly and meanly hopes to please by this folly, has ever performed, or ever will perform, have been performed in India without a pang; and severe operations in this country, in France, and in America, also without a pang,—in mesmeric insensibility.

Let him blush. But let him repent, and cease to aid in preventing his afflicted fellow-creatures from obtaining at the hands of the profession one of the greatest blessings placed within the reach of mankind.

I prefixed another passage from this man's book to the eighth article in No. XXX.:—

"'*The avoidance of pain.*—This we need scarcely say, is an object of the highest importance; not merely in order to lessen the amount of physical suffering attending operations, but also because severe pain has a most serious tendency to depress the nervous system, and induce death from exhaustion; and because many patients have so great a dread of the knife that they put off applying to the surgeon till their case is almost hopeless. Up to the end of 1846 we knew of no means for effecting this very desirable object save the previous administration of narcotics and long-continued compression of the nerves supplying the part to be operated on; means both of which are so uncertain and inefficient that no one ever thought of employing them. We do not include mesmerism in the list, because this so-called science is so intimately connected with *quackery, obscenity, and imposture, that very few respectable persons would consent to meddle with it, even for a good purpose.*"*

Mr. Druitt is a Fellow, forsooth, of the Royal College of Surgeons. Truly he deserves to be put upon the Council and to sit by Mr. Lawrence, who is still so silly as to grimace, and shrug, and sneer, and cut what he considers witty jokes, when the blessing of mesmerism is mentioned, and, as well as Mr. Druitt, would do well to follow the good example set him by Mr. Wilkins, though a quiet country surgeon, and by Mr. Robartes, though a quiet country surgeon-dentist.

V. *Phenomenon of Levity in the Human Subject.* By Non-Wist, Edinburgh.

"Periculosum est credere, et non credere.
* * * *
Ergo exploranda est veritas multum, prius
Quam stulta prave judicet sententia."
Phædrus, fabula x., *De Credere et Non Credere.*

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ZOIST.

Gentlemen,—In continuation of the subject of my communication published in *The Zoist* for January last, I beg to send you the accompanying extracts from a weekly periodical entitled *Notes and Queries*, for the 3rd and 24th instant.

* The moral and intellectual state of the medical profession may be appreciated from one of its members daring to publish such a paragraph.—J. Elliotson.

"July 3, 1852.

"QUERIES.

"*Remarkable Experiments.*

"A living man, lying on a bench, extended as a corpse, can be lifted with ease by the *forefingers* of two persons standing on each side, provided the lifters and the liftee inhale at the moment the effort is being made. If the liftee do not inhale, he cannot be moved off the bench at all; but the inhalation of the lifters, although not essential, seems to give additional power.

"The fact is undeniable. I have never met with any one who could explain it. Has it ever been, or can it be, accounted for?

"W. CL.

"[This curious fact was first recorded by Pepys, who, in his *Diary*, under the date 31st July, 1665, (vol. iii., p. 60,) writes as follows:—

"'This evening with Mr. Brisband, speaking of enchantments and spells, I telling him some of my charmes; he told me this of his own knowledge, at Bourdeaux, in France.

"'The words were these:—

"'Voyci un Corps mort,
Royde come un Baston,
Froid comme Martre,
Leger come un Esprit,
Levons te au nom de Jesus Christ.

"'He saw four little girls, very young ones, all kneeling each of them, upon one knee; and one begun the first line, whispering in the eare of the next, and the second to the third, and the third to the fourth, and she to the first.

"'Then the first begun the second line, and so round quite through; and putting each one finger only to a boy that lay flat upon his back on the ground, as if he was dead: at the end of the words, they did with their four fingers raise this boy as high as they could reach. And Mr. Brisband, being there, and wondering at it, as also being afraid to see it, for they would have had him to have bore a part in saying the words, in the room of one of the little girls that was so young that they could hardly make her learn to repeat the words, did, for fear there might be some slight used in it by the boy, or that the boy might be light, call the cook of the house, a very lusty fellow, as Sir G. Carteret's cook, who is very big: and they did raise him just in the same manner. This is one of the strangest things I ever heard, but he tells it me of his own knowledge, and I do heartily believe it to be true. I inquired of him whether they were Protestants or Catholique girles; and he told me they were Protestant, which made it the more strange to me.'"

"July 24, 1852.

"*Lifting Experiment.*

"(vol. vi., p. 8.)

"In reference to the observation of your correspondent W. CL.

on the experiment of lifting great living weights, that it is essential that the liftee should inhale at the moment the effort is made, but not essential that the lifters should, I think it right to state that I believe the very reverse to be the truth. I have seen the experiment repeatedly made, but never with such success as to make me believe for a moment that the 'two very young and little girls' could with a finger each raise Sir G. Carteret's big cook.

"The inhalation of the lifters the moment the effort is made is doubtless essential, and for this reason:—When we make a great effort, either in pulling or lifting, we always fill the chest with air previous to the effort; and when the inhalation is completed we close the *rima glottidis* to keep the air in the lungs. The chest being thus kept expanded, the pulling or lifting muscles have received, as it were, a fulcrum round which their power is exerted, and we can thus lift the greatest weight which the muscles are capable of doing. When the chest collapses by the escape of the air, the lifters lose their muscular power. The inhalation of air by the liftee can certainly add nothing to the power of the lifters, or diminish his own weight, which is only increased by the weight of the air which he inhales. Those who are not satisfied with this view of the subject, we must hand over to the mesmerists.

"D. Brewster.

"St. Andrews."

The passage from *Pepys's Diary* is curious, and shews that the lifting charm was known and practised in France a century and more before the *Letters on Natural Magic* were published by Sir David Brewster. But for the experiment of which he and Sir Walter Scott were eye-witnesses, we should have smiled at Pepys's credulity and given no credit to his story. It may still be difficult to swallow Sir George's Carteret's big cook, who seems to stick also in the philosophical gullet; but, if the feat vouched for by Sir David himself be admitted, namely, that the heaviest person of the party was raised by the others with the same facility as if he was no heavier than a feather, are we warranted in withholding our belief from that of the little girls in lifting the lusty artiste as if he had been a denizen of Ayr or Cork. The explanation now given by Sir David Brewster in his letter to the editor of *Notes and Queries* would have been more satisfactory if the performers in his experiment had exhibited that violent straining of their muscles which is manifested when our strength is exerted, with the aid of an inflated chest, in raising a very heavy weight. They lifted, we are told, the subject of the experiment, as if he were as light as a feather, and without any apparent effort at all,—the natural inference from which is, that the liftee had become imponderable, and not that the lifters were Samsonized. As Sir David has handed over to

the mesmerists those who may not be satisfied with the only explanation he can give of so unaccountable a phenomenon, it is to be hoped that you or some of your correspondents will undertake the further investigation of this singular physiological fact.

We have seen how impressible subjects in the submesmeric state, miscalled electro-biology, strain and labour to lift, for instance, a pillow of eider-down when told that it is a sackful of Australian nuggets; but hitherto we have not had the experiment reversed, nor witnessed a ponderous sack uplifted on the assurance that it was only a bag of feathers. The case of one of the Okeys is so far in point, inasmuch as on one occasion she raised from the ground, by a cord, with the back of her hand, which was fully extended, not closed, a weight far beyond her natural strength; but it is still very problematical if she could have tossed the fat cook in the air, like a pancake in his own frying pan. Possibly there may be a limit to the quantity of deponderizing force, be it odic, galvanic, or electric, with which the lifter can be charged; and this is a fit subject for further enquiry. It would appear also that the intervention of inorganic or inanimate matter vitiates the experiment, as the charm is said to fail when the liftee is laid on a board. Let this too be further investigated, and, if a mass of lead or iron, or a dead subject, equal in weight to the liftee, cannot be lifted as light as a feather, we must presume that it is a case of suspended gravity, not of increased muscular strength. There is, however, one fact in favour of the latter supposition, namely, that a limb of the liftee sometimes lags behind and shews its subjection to the law of gravitation, when one of the performers fails to play his part: but to this objection to the levity theory it may be answered that one or more members of the body can be mesmerised, paralyzed,—and why not deponderized?—without affecting the rest.

To conclude.—As it is certainly more philosophical to adopt the hypothesis of an extraordinary concentration of a known physical force, than that of the existence and mysterious agency of an unknown and disputed fluid, such as Od, we must be content, I presume, to accept Sir David Brewster's explanation. But, at the same time, no liberal-minded philosopher will deny that there may exist certain occult powers of nature which may have been discovered by the sages of a preadamite or antediluvian race, some traces of which may have descended to us in practices common amongst the vulgar of most nations, whilst the memory of their origin and principle has been lost in the lapse of countless ages. We are told, in-

deed, that in those days beings of a celestial nature held frequent converse with the then inhabitants of the earth, who may have been instructed by them in those secrets of nature, which have since received the name of the Black Art. Let us reflect also that not many years ago we should have more readily believed the fact related by Pepys, than that of instantaneous communication with a far-distant friend through the mysterious but now familiar agency of an electric wire; and may it not be on the cards, that some Sir Joseph Paxton yet unborn may emulate the feat of the slaves of the lamp, and transport a crystal palace from Hyde Park to Sydenham on the tips of his digits.

To return to Sir David Brewster's explanation. Anatomists may be able to say what sort of fulcrum is afforded to the muscles of the arm by an inflation of the chest: but, with all deference to that high authority in matters of science, I would rather ascribe the effect to the suddenness and simultaneity with which the lifters make their effort, unaided by any such fulcrum; as we know how by a slight but rapid stroke of a hammer, a man can with the greatest ease drive a nail into a plank, which he could not do by any pressure of his hand.

NON-WISE.

Edinburgh, July 30th.

VI. *An instance of Introvision, with the verification after death.* By Mr. SLOMAN, surgeon, of Farnham, and Mr. MAYHEW, late of Farnham. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"The follies and falsehoods of Mesmer would have attracted but little attention, at least in the present day, but for the pretended wonders of clairvoyance," —Mr. WAKLEY, *Lancet*, Sept. 11, 1852.

THE readers of *The Zoist* will remember the case of introvision by Miss Hewitt, recorded by Mr. Sloman and Mr. Mayhew in No. XXXV. This other example is equally striking, and I have just received the account from America.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

37, Conduit Street, London.

Fayetteville, Onondaga Co., State of New York, July 7th, 1852.

My dear Doctor,—Perceiving in your report of Miss Hewitt's clairvoyant examination of Hopwood that Mr. Sloman had mislaid his notes of a subsequent examination of another person, I hand you my notes of the same, together with

notes of the post mortem, as they were given to me by Mr. Saunders, who is Mr. Sloman's assistant, and afterwards approved by Mr. Sloman himself.

I have been retained for the last six months in this place to treat a case of spinal disease, which is very satisfactorily progressing, and I hope to be able to report the same in time for your January number.

I am very respectfully yours,

To Dr. Elliotson. JOHN MAYHEW.

On May 30th, 1850, at the request of Mr. Sloman, Miss Hewitt and myself repaired to his private residence for the purpose of clairvoyant examination. Neither she nor I was aware who or what was to be the subject or character of the examination till after she had been brought into the clairvoyant state; when an individual was introduced whom I had never seen before, have never seen since, and whose name has never been made known to me. Moreover Miss Hewitt knows not to the present day, while in her normal state, any thing about the person then examined by her, either as regards his name or in any other respect.

The subject took his seat in silence by her side. She took his hand, and sat evidently in deep study of his case for five or more minutes, when she relinquished her hold on his hand, saying, "That will do." The person examined then withdrew, leaving present Mr. Sloman, Mr. Sloman's student, the clairvoyant, and myself. Miss H. now proceeded to state the result of her examination, which I have arranged side by side with the notes of the post mortem conducted by Mr. Sloman and certified by himself.

CLAIRVOYANT.	POST MORTEM.
He will never be well any more.	Died June 26, 1850.
Head very much affected. Brain on the top of left side is very much affected; appears to be watery.	Brain soft throughout, and thoroughly saturated with water.
The lungs are very much diseased—much white fur on them. On the right lung, one large and two small ulcers, on the front near the top: on the left, *several* extending from the top more to the back part.	Very much diseased. Very strong adhesions. Very full of ulcers.
Blood in the vessels of stomach not very pure, causing an improper action of the heart.	Pericardium full of water; valves very much diseased; vessels enlarged and choked up.

Clairvoyant.	Post Mortem.
Several small tumors in the liver; one larger one toward the bottom part of it.	A large tumor pendant from the bottom of the liver, similar in substance to the liver itself. There might be others similar and smaller, but they could not be discerned.
Spine is much affected, but more towards the kidneys. There appears to be an abscess or some large swelling inwardly, just above the kidneys, which causes much pain; left kidney much affected.	A large tumor near the spine, close to the kidneys.
A great deal of pain in the bowels—much unpleasant corruption towards the lower part of them.	Bowels in a very offensive state.
Bladder affected towards the top.	Not examined.
Spleen very much out of order.	Not examined.
Tightness at chest, cough, and great weakness.	Correct.
His disease in the brain has affected his intellect a little.	Correct.
He appears to have fits—wild, unsettled kind of fits.	Correct.

Mr. Sloman informed me that the post mortem, on account of the impatience of the relatives, was very hurriedly taken, and they had no time to examine minutely or even to take notes on the spot; the above were arranged immediately after.

John Mayhew.

VII. *Cure of an Arm rendered useless by Lightning.* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"In regard to the charge brought against the medical press of this country by Dr. Esdaile in his preface, we can only say, that his remarks indicate a lamentable degree of ignorance. We assert, without fear of contradiction, that, at the present time, the medical press of this country is as free as it ever has been or ought to be. No better proof of the truth of this exists than the history of the investigation of the phenomena of mesmerism. *The adverse opinions of*

the medical journals having been uniformly expressed only after careful consideration of the subject, and after the frequent immoral," &c.*—Dr. Bushnan, editor of the *Medical Times*, April 17, 1852; p. 400.

Dear Dr. Elliotson,—The case of the arm struck by lightning is as follows.

John Pressley, a boatman of this place, in telling me, on Thursday, August 19, that some boat-racing was expected on the following Monday, lamented that he should be unable to row as his left arm had been struck by lightning about ten weeks before. He had shewn it when the accident first occurred to a chemist in the place, who said that nothing could be done, but that the arm might perhaps get well by itself; however the boatman said that so far from its getting better, it became worse, and during the recent stormy weather it had become very painful. On that very day his wife had cut his dinner for him, and he was unable to skin some fish which he sold to a friend of mine, as that lady afterwards told me.

That same evening at my desire, J. Pressley came to our house, and his arm was mesmerised. Its appearance I noticed before the operation began. It was drawn, rather shrunken in some parts, and swelled in others. The middle finger was extremely weak, and the third and fourth were powerless and contracted, so that he could not unbend them. The skin of the hand, besides being drawn, was of a dead white in the affected parts, and the arm and wrist were numb and weak from above the elbow-joint. The accident had occurred when he was out fishing. In throwing the oyster-dredge, which he held in this hand, he observed during a flash of lightning that the iron was on fire, and directly afterwards felt that his arm had been struck.

I mesmerised the arm without contact from above the elbow: the sensation of "pins and needles" was felt *immediately*, and in about ten minutes the elbow-joint was stiffened, and the arm rendered insensible to pain. On demesmerising it the poor man found that he could unbend his fingers. The next evening, Friday, the mesmerising was repeated with the same effect. It was not done again till after the boat-race, which occurred on Monday 23rd August; but on that day my patient not only rowed in a winning-boat, but enacted the part of *duck*, and escaped his pursuers in a very dodging duck-hunt, and afterwards rowed to Margate and back.

* A servant girl *of all work* who had told a great fib, said, "Well, and what then? I thought I might as well tell a good bouncer when I was about it."—*Zoist.*

The power of moving the muscles and the strength of the arm were thus restored by twice mesmerising: but as a little numbness remained in the fingers the process was repeated three times after; and the arm and hand are now quite as well as before the accident occurred. On the two last occasions of being mesmerised, this strong boatman went to sleep and became quite stiff in about five minutes.

The application of the mesmeric power to a limb struck by lightning seems to me analogous to the application of snow to a frozen limb, and it acts with as much certainty and rapidity.

I am, dear Dr. Elliotson,
Yours very truly,
Herne Bay, Sept., 1852. S. E. De M.

*** A case of a child rendered blind by lightning and restored under the use of mesmerism by Dr. Storer will be found in No. XIX.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

VIII. *Medical Opposition to Mesmerism at Northampton.* Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"Mr. De la Garde commenced his observations. 'The wonders of reality pour in with such a flood that the marvels of impossibility are admitted with them.' 'Should we combat these idle fallacies? I think them best met by cold contempt. The educated man who believes that an ignorant servant, who cannot with both her eyes read "slut," visibly written on a dusty table, can, by virtue of certain mysterious pawings, read a Greek chorus with her elbows,' 'is beyond the reach of argument. Besides, we place ourselves in the invidious position of assailants, and may inadvertently substitute the austere spirit of martyrdom for simple silliness. I leave psychologists to determine the mental condition of such persons. Associate with them by all means, (I mean the patients, not the practitioners,) for many of them are refined and amiable—but do not reason with them.'"—Meeting of Medical Gentlemen at the Devon and Exeter Hospital, August 13. *Provincial Medical and Surgical Journal*, Sept. 1, 1852.*

MESMERISM is deeply indebted in England to the clergy. The first English treatise on the subject was by the Rev. C. H. Townshend, and it soon went into a second edition. The next was by the Rev. G. Sandby, and it also soon went into a second edition. The third was by the Rev. T. Pyne, and, being smaller, it soon went into a third edition, as I am informed. The Archbishop of Dublin has long advocated mesmerism in season and out of season, presented a handsome donation to the Mesmeric Infirmary, and accepted the office

* However unwise are some things said, some wise things are done by the Association: for at their meeting on the 3rd of June at Hull, lest their spirits should be damped before dinner, the report says, "As the dinner was close at hand, it was agreed that Mr. B. W. Brown should adjourn the reading of his paper on Intestinal Obstructions to the next quarterly meeting."—J. ELLIOTSON.

of vice-president: in *The Zoist* is recorded one of the most splendid cures by Mrs. Whately ever effected, not to say with mesmerism, but with any human means—the cure of blindness of twenty-six years' duration.* The late Bishop of Norwich saw such good in it that he scarcely talked of any thing else some time before his unexpected death, and told a a friend of mine that Dr. Holland always laughed at him for his conviction. The Bishop of Oxford does not conceal his conviction and has often mesmerised, though he has not given any support to the Mesmeric Infirmary, on the committee, of which, however, is one of his brothers. The Bishop of Calcutta, convinced, unlike a medical man, by his own eyes on witnessing Dr. Esdaile's operations, advocates it against medical sceptics and the Satanites (above, p. 287): and the Bishop of Jerusalem argues for it,† while poor Dr. Macgowan of Exeter, who, when he went to Jerusalem, figured so unfortunately in Mrs. Bird's case,‡ pretends not to believe in it. Clergymen in many parts of the country practise it as far as they have time, following the example of their Master in going about doing good and healing the sick. The only persons with whom they have to contend are the medical men, who in too many places offer them every opposition.

Nowhere has medical opposition been more bitter or unscrupulous than in Northampton. Many years, ago when a lecturer named Spencer Hall was there, a Dr. Robertson of the place opposed it at the lecture, and no man ever talked greater nonsense or shewed a more determined hostility to a sacred cause. A surgeon named Terry joined in the sad and ridiculous exhibition, attacking me also in the local papers, and adopting stale and absurd expressions and thoughts from medical journals.§ These two practitioners have just now come forward again and exhibited a spirit worthy of times of the darkest persecution. Let us no longer say *odium theologicum* to signify deadly hate: *odium medicum* must be the term.

The following is the account which I have received of the Nottinghamshire display.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

In the middle of April last Northampton was visited by an itinerant lecturer or rather experimenter of the name of Froy, who announced a lecture on "Electro-biology," with experiments upon persons offering themselves from the auditory. The lecture was thinly attended, and only one of the persons

* No. XXVI. † No. XXIII., p. 236. ‡ No. XVIII.

§ No. II., p. 201. I had cured a case with mesmerism after he and Dr. Robertson had failed: but he did not mention this in the papers.

who submitted to be operated upon was found susceptible; but on a subsequent evening better subjects were procured, and some very extraordinary effects were exhibited. The lecturer, with much candour, professed his entire inability to account for the result of his operations: he acknowledged that the disks which he employed possessed no kind of virtue, and by substituting for them, in some cases, small pieces of card or paper, shewed that the susceptibility was induced simply by fixing the eyes upon some given object, without any regard to the material of which it might consist.

The following week another lecturer made his appearance upon the same stage, and exhibited a variety of experiments on many successive evenings. The lecturer had been previously announced as the Rev. Theophilus Fisk, but in his stead appeared a Mr. Reynolds. This person, unlike his predecessor, declared that the effects produced were to be attributed almost entirely to the magical disk, (a small piece of zinc and copper united,) of which he sold a considerable number at the door of his lecture-room at the price of *one shilling* each.

Mr. Reynolds, without deigning to give any explanation or to propose any theory, declared that all his effects were produced by electricity emanating from the mysterious little circle upon which his subjects were required to fix their eyes for a given time,—which electricity was then to be applied and directed by certain passes and movements of the hand known only to himself. The key to all this mystery he was ready to commit to any person on the payment of one guinea, and he actually succeeded in forming a large class for instruction in electro-biology on these terms. Mr. Reynolds asserted that his *new science* was a totally different thing from mesmerism, though the phenomena were only such as mesmerism has again and again exhibited, and the method of producing them evidently nothing else than the hypnotic process with which all mesmerists are familiar.

He ventured to assert that he and his party had "discovered the principle of human life;" and though maintaining some kind of distinction between animal life and spiritual, he *virtually* ignored the existence of the soul, and furnished the infidel party with a new and specious argument against its immortality.*

* The conviction that the phenomena of mind in man, and in all other animals from the microscopic animalcule in water to the elephant, which all will, feel, and think, result from a peculiar composition and organization of matter placed in certain external circumstances, and by *nature* vary, decay, and cease for ever, with the variation, decay, and death of the brain or other bodily seat

These lectures having been repeated night after night and week after week before large and still unsatisfied audiences, the Rev. Mr. Millington, curate of St. Sepulchre's, Northampton, in order to refute what he conceived to be erroneous, announced a lecture on the Phenomena of Dreams, Clairvoyance, Mesmerism, and Electro-pathology, which he delivered on the 18th of May to a large company in the Parochial

of them, excludes the belief of a future state, is erroneous. "In Adam, (by the condition of our *nature*)," says Bishop Watson, "all die;" "suffer an utter extinction of being." (*Apol. for the Bible*, Letter x.: and *Miscel. Tracts*, Sermon iii.) I can conceive no power, force, or immaterial agency, except as a property of matter. (I speak of nature, not of what is beyond nature—not of God, to whom there is *nihil simile aut secundum*, for he is "incomprehensible:"—"*difficulties*," "*incomprehensible* maker." Watson, *Apol.*) And why such a fancied, and to me unintelligible, thing, should be necessarily immortal, is to me still more unintelligible.

Locke says, "All the difficulties that are raised against the thinking of matter, from our ignorance or narrow conceptions, stand not at all in the way of the power of GOD, if he pleases to ordain it so." The faculties of brutes prove, "either that God can and doth give to some parcels of matter a power of perception and thinking, or that all animals have immaterial and consequently immortal souls as well as men; and to say that fleas and mites, &c., have immortal souls as well as men, will possibly be looked on as going a great way to serve an hypothesis."—*Second Reply to the Bishop of Worcester*, p. 466, 8vo. edition.

Dr. Law, Bishop of Carlisle, in his *Theory of Religion*, &c., which went through seven editions, asserts that the sentence of death passed upon Adam and Eve meant nothing less than a *total destruction of existence*; and that the idea of its implying a continuation of consciousness and real existence in some other place than earth, is not sanctioned by Scripture, but is the *philosophy of after-ages*.—p. 345. He adds, that Archbishop Tillotson, though a patron of this notion, confesses it is not found in the Bible: and, after a critical and elaborate examination of the words used in Scripture to denote *soul* and *spirit*, and their various applications, he sums up the enquiry thus:—"But neither do *these words*, nor any other, so far as I can find, *ever* stand for a *purely immaterial principle* in man, or a substance, whatever some imagine they mean by that word, wholly separable from, and independent of, the body."

"Bishop Sherlock employs strong expressions:—"Scholars may reason on the nature of the soul, and the condition of it when separated from the body: but the common hopes of nature receive no support from such enquiries. We die and moulder to dust; and in that state, what we are, or where we are, nature cannot say." *Discourses* ii., p. 85, and vol. iv., p. 79.

Yet with these convictions a man may be a Christian and believe in a future state. But he believes in a future state because he is assured of it in the New Testament: and this is all sufficient for him. If he believes it for no other reason, he raises the importance of the New Testament. For if he believes it from *fancying* the existence of something immaterial, independent of matter and necessarily immortal, he requires not the New Testament for his belief. "I have no hope," says Bishop Watson, "in a future existence except that which is grounded on the truth of Christianity:" (*Anecdotes of his Life*, &c., vol. i., p. 107:) "not as any appendage to the nature I derive from Adam, but as the *free gift* of the Almighty." *Ap.*, ib. He also says, "When I went to the University, I was of of opinion, as most schoolboys are, that the soul was a substance distinct from the body, and that when a man died, he, in classical phrase, breathed out his soul, *animam expiravit*; that it then went I knew not whither, as it had come into the body, from I knew not where nor when, and had dwelt in the body during life, but in what part of the body it had dwelt I knew not." "This notion of the soul was, without doubt, the offspring of prejudice and ignorance."—"Believing as I do in the truth of the Christian religion, which teaches that men are accountable for

School-rooms. In this lecture he asserted the truth of mesmerism and exhibited its effects. He represented the nervous fluid (which he supposed to be a modification of electricity) as the connecting link between mind and matter. He endeavoured to shew how, by this agent, the impressions of the bodily organs were conveyed to the mind, and how a living and immortal principle residing in the body employed this fluid, as its minister, in maintaining the necessary functions of animal life, and in accomplishing all the purposes of its volition. He noticed the principal features of analogy between the phenomena of sleep, dreams, somnambulism, &c., and the effects produced by mesmerism, and deduced from all these considerations an argument for the greatness and dignity of the soul, its ultimate independence of the body and its future and eternal existence in a far higher condition and with more exalted faculties than are developed during the present life.

After this Mr. Reynolds's lectures were discontinued for a fortnight, but resumed for two evenings at the end of that time; and a third lecture was announced at higher prices in the hope of obtaining a more select audience. On this last occasion Dr. Robertson and Mr. Terry, medical men of Northampton, attended, and with more zeal than courtesy interrupted the lecturer; and though they could not deny the reality of the effects produced, offered so much opposition to the proceedings as to excite a great disturbance in the lecture-room, and to provoke the indignation of many who were present. Mr. Terry on this occasion thought proper to allude to Mr. Millington's recent lecture (on the phenomena of dreams, clairvoyance, mesmerism, &c.), and to denounce clairvoyance as "the height of human absurdity."

Desiring to perpetuate and to extend the memory of this creditable demonstration, Mr. Terry the following week wrote to the editor of each of the local papers a letter from which the following paragraphs relating to mesmerism are extracted.

"Mesmerism has within the last ten or fifteen years got into sad disgrace. The complete overthrow of Dr. Elliotson's exhibition by Mr. Wakley, M.P. for Finsbury, and his powerful and persevering exposure of mesmeric fallacies in the *Lancet*, where he says, at the conclusion of one of his very able articles, 'What he had done

their actions, I trouble not myself with dark disquisitions concerning necessity and liberty, matter and spirit; hoping as I do for eternal life through Jesus Christ, I am not disturbed at my inability clearly to convince myself that the soul is or is not a substance distinct from the body."—*Anecdotes, &c.*, p. 14. sqq.

For my solemn convictions on all these subjects see my *Human Physiology*, from p. 27 to 48. I conclude with these words: "The Christian doctrine teaches the resurrection of what we obviously are—*bodies*, and that through a *miracle* of the Almighty."—JOHN ELLIOTSON.

was, in his opinion, perfectly conclusive with reference to the character of the supposed phenomena, and that he did not consider that a *single additional experiment could ever be necessary* in connexion with such an enquiry,' *Lancet*, September, 1848, added to this the detection and confession of the two notorious females, Elizabeth and Jane Okey, who had been, I think, about two years, the most attractive performers on Dr. Elliotson's stage, that they had been all the while feigning mesmeric convulsion, &c., &c., so imposing upon his credulity; these disasters, I say, discredited mesmerism, and rendered it expedient to adopt a new name."

The incorrectness of all these statements was pointed out by the Rev. Joseph Cautley, of Thorney, in a letter to the editor of the paper in which they appeared, in the following words:—

"It is not true to say Dr. Elliotson's exhibitions have been overthrown by Mr. Wakley. It is not true to say Elizabeth and Jane Okey have been detected in, and confessed to having feigned mesmeric convulsion, &c., and so imposed upon Dr. Elliotson's credulity. It is not true to say, 'These disasters discredited mesmerism, and rendered it expedient to adopt a new name.'

"The first assertion is not true, for Dr. Elliotson, whose word is as much, at least, to be relied upon as Mr. Wakley's, states in a letter now before me,—'The two Okeys were perfectly respectable little girls, whose disease and mesmeric phenomena were all real, and respecting whom every word that I published was perfectly true, notwithstanding the misrepresentations of Mr. Wakley,—which misrepresentations I have denied over and over again at full length in my well-known farewell letter to my pupils and in *The Zoist*. I defied Mr. Wakley publicly to refute my denial, of which he has never once attempted to take any notice. The phenomena exhibited in the Okeys have been observed by others in endless cases in Great Britain, on the continent, and in Asia. The Okeys never once confessed that they had imposed upon me or any one else, and have long been respectably married.'

"Dr. Elliotson is one of the most manly, noble, truthful, and kind-hearted men alive, and allowed by all to be one of the first, if not the very first diagnostic physician of the age, and should not be allowed to be written down by false imputations from such a man as Mr. Wakley, who knows very well that if he did not write against mesmerism, homœopathy, hydropathy, and such new or partly new practices, neither Mr. Terry, nor Dr. Robertson, nor any other of the orthodox practitioners, would buy or read the *Lancet*, by which Mr. Wakley gets his bread. I do, therefore, entirely deny Mr. Terry's assertions respecting Dr. Elliotson and the Okeys, and am surprised that he should do so great an injustice as to state publicly Mr. Wakley's accusations without giving also Dr. Elliotson's contradiction and challenge of proof. Mr. Terry is evidently well read on the side opposed to mesmerism, and can quote from Dr. Cowan and Mr. Wakley; but on the side publicly advocating mesmerism,

and publishing most able and interesting works upon this mysterious agency, he seems (in charity I say so,) not to have read at all."

Mr. Terry's letter proceeds thus :—

"These delusive agencies (mesmerism, &c.,) act only through the medium of the imagination, and in many cases dangerously aggravate that morbid condition of nerve through which alone their effects are produced. That there may not be here and there a case of some nervous malady in which this or any other powerful mental emotion may be productive of good, I am far from denying. There are, I believe, on record, well-established facts, where even palsy has been cured by terror, the afflicted person finding his house on fire; and a man, crippled by gout, has ran away from an infuriated bullock. The wonderful effects of charms, also, some few of which, I believe are merely illustrations of the abnormal action of mind upon our physical organs. The many and varied effects, however, of strong mental emotion in the influence both upon mind and body are common to every one's experience. I would here ask some of my highly-esteemed friends, upon whose judgment and truthfulness in matters of the most grave importance I entirely rely, and who yet so extensively patronise this and such like irregular proceedings—'Are we to do evil that good may come?' Are we to practise a decided fallacy on the vague chance of some one deriving benefit from it? which I am told has happened in a case of deafness in this town. Are we rationally and profitably employed in searching for a grain of wheat in such a bushel of empirical chaff? It is not, however, the practice of electro-biology to be reprobated, or the practice of rational medicine to be sustained, that I think the most important part of this discussion. The practice which I think most in danger is 'the practice of sound thinking.' The rejection of such and such like quackeries, I consider a question of principle not of practice, a question of morals not of etiquette, as has been well said by the able and accomplished Dr. Cowan, of Reading. In reference to nervous susceptibility, as the great agent to which I have referred, I would observe that the medical term idiosyncracy, or peculiarity of habit, whether of mind or body, expresses my meaning. Some persons, we know, are powerfully affected by objects of sight, smell or taste of which others take no notice, and every one is familiar with the powerful though varied influence of fear, and other depressing or exciting mental emotions. Should it be considered that I have not sufficiently established the identity of mesmerism and electro-biology, I would refer to a handbill lying before me, in which I see, 'the Phenomena of Dreams, Clairvoyance, Mesmerism, and Electro-Pathology,' announced as a lecture, 'in evidence of the capacity and dignity of the human mind.' Now, on the subject of clairvoyance, I must speak without reserve, and I do not hesitate to say that I consider it the utmost pitch of man's absurdity. No power upon earth can make me believe that any human being can see through a deal board or a stone wall; or, that living in London, he can see what is doing at Northampton. Persons entertaining such ideas,

set at defiance all common sense, and are acting under the influence of pitiable, or else of wilful deception. They are well described by Dr. Cowan, from whom I have already quoted, in a dissertation upon another and not very dissimilar folly. 'The man,' he says, 'who believes in this is a mystic, his creed is at variance with all rational experience, and subversive of all previously acquired knowledge. He has lost the ballast of his reasoning faculties, and set at defiance all those means by which the human mind is regulated. I distrust his judgment upon every subject.' Again, 'Such belief is but the symptom of a mind without stay or ballast, liable to be driven hopelessly into every folly, ever ready to spurn to-day, what it yesterday believed.' 'I do not attempt its refutation by merely pointing out its arithmetical absurdities and physical impossibilities, but I banish it at once beyond the pale of discussion, and class it amongst the fallacies too extreme for investigation.' See *Report of Speeches on Irregular Practice*, printed by Churchill, London, 1851. Clairvoyance may well participate in this reproach."

"In conclusion, I beg to state that in attending the meeting on Friday last, I was influenced by an observation frequently made by my friends, 'Why do not you doctors go and see?' We and those I have named have done so, and are satisfied. In what I said at the time, and in what I have now written 'liberavi animam meam.' I shall be glad if I have thrown any light upon the subject; if not, error must still prevail, and I will only add, 'Qui vult decipi, decipiatur.'"

The principal points of this letter were thus answered by Mr. Millington.

"Mr. Terry says, 'No power upon earth can make me believe that any human being can see through a deal board, or a stone wall.' Has any one attempted to do so? Certainly *I* have not; yet the remark is made immediately in connection with my lecture. The stone wall against which the writer plants his borrowed* artillery is a structure of his own imagination, which certainly he has no right to impute to me. If he mean to say that the mind can apprehend nothing but through the medium of its bodily organs, he asserts more than he can prove, he shews an unworthy appreciation of the living principle within him, and manifests a sad want of common historical faith.

"Mr. Terry acknowledges that wonderful effects may be brought about by the influence of the imagination. He says this is the *medium* by which these delusive agencies (mesmerism, &c.) act; where, then, is the cause? But how can imagination be the medium? Does imagination strike immediately upon the nerves or contract the muscles? Does it descend into the foot to set it in motion? Does it act directly and mechanically upon the body? He says again, 'In reference to nervous susceptibility, as the great agent to which I have referred, &c.' Here, then, *susceptibility* is advanced as the

* *Borrowed* from Dr. Cowan's work on a different subject.

great agent; but how can susceptibility be an agent? The capacity of receiving an impression is one thing; the means by which that impression is produced is another. The wax may be as soft as you please, but that will not enable it to assume any shape or impression without external agency. Every man is susceptible of pain or pleasure, but that susceptibility will not of itself procure him either the one or the other. But Mr. Terry says *susceptibility is the agent;* and above *mesmerism* is the agent, and imagination is the *medium!* Your readers will form their own opinion of a cause that can produce no better arguments than these; they will judge for themselves how far the man who can write thus is competent to charge another with having '*lost the ballast of his reasoning faculties.*'

"Mr. Terry asks, 'Are we to do evil that good may follow?' What evil does he anticipate? He can adduce no instances of injury from mesmeric treatment, widely and wildly as it has been practised; there would be still less danger if medical men would investigate its principles, and apply them in a systematic and careful manner.

"Directing this argument against the old system of medicine, he might say with equal reason—because men have been blistered and bled to death—because they have died under surgical operations—because their constitutions have been ruined by violent medicines, therefore we ought to have no surgery, no medical treatment at all. Neither he nor any other sensible person would agree to this conclusion.

"Again, he says, 'Are we justified in searching for a grain of wheat in such a bushel of empirical chaff?' The happy finder of the wheat—the deaf restored to hearing—the paralytic to the use of his limbs, will answer, 'Yes.' If cures are the wheat and failures the chaff, it will be found that the practice of mesmerism has yielded, even in its present undeveloped character, quite as large a crop of wheat, in proportion to the chaff, as any field that was ever sown with pills and powders under the old system.

"Mr. Terry says there are facts on record where palsy has been cured by terror, and a man crippled by gout has run away from an infuriated bullock: here, as in every other case, he makes no attempt whatever to account for the effects produced. The theory of electro-pathology accounts for everything of the kind; it shews the mind as the cause, electricity as the agent, susceptibility as the contingent. The mind, that cannot act upon gross matter, employs the electro-nervous fluid in its communications with the body; this fluid is excited by the emotions of the mind, and the more violent those emotions, the more intense will be the energy put forth, and the more extraordinary the effects produced.

"In conclusion, Mr. Terry 'hopes he has thrown some light upon the subject;' and modestly adds, 'if not, error must still prevail.' I trust not; others may yet succeed even where he has failed. Mesmerism has for a long time been 'banished beyond the pale of argument;' like all new and important discoveries, as vaccination, the use of chloroform, &c., it has to contend with old fashioned prejudices; but it is now rapidly gathering strength, and will, ere

long, be generally recognized as a science not only deserving in itself of the highest consideration, but capable of conferring the greatest possible benefits upon the human family."

Mr. Terry did not venture any reply to these letters, but a fortnight afterwards forwarded to the editors of the two papers a letter from his friend, Mr. Langdon, whom he designated "the scientific and highly-gifted house-surgeon of St. Bartholomew's Hospital." This gentleman's remarks, so far as they relate to mesmerism, were thus answered by Mr. Millington.

"Mr. Langdon's remark about the earth's rotundity obstructing the line of vision between distant objects, is no argument against clairvoyance, inasmuch as it is not asserted that the organs of sight are employed by the clairvoyant. The eyes do not see through the earth, nor through deal boards and stone walls; but there is a sympathetic knowledge and perception in the mind independently of the bodily organs. Mr. Langdon cannot understand this, and therefore he will not believe it. He might with as much reason deny (and perhaps if he had never seen a compass, he would deny) that there is any power in the earth to influence the magnetic needle, because he cannot certainly tell whence that power proceeds, nor how it acts.

"Mr. Langdon glories in his 'old-fashioned prejudices,' and says, 'It could not be wondered at, *if as a surgeon I hesitated to believe* (there is more meaning in this than he intended), that disease could be cured by a look or a movement of the hand, after the experience of my daily practice.' He should rather say *the want of experience*. He would judge of mesmerism by his daily practice, in a sphere from which it is altogether excluded. He cannot believe that disease can be cured by any other than the old remedies, drugs, blisters, phlebotomy, and surgery, simply because he has tried no others: his remark only proves that his opinions are, to a certain extent at least, rightly characterized as *old-fashioned prejudices*. If he had real experience in mesmeric practice, he would see, as I have seen, diseases of long standing yielding to the touch whose virtue he derides; he would find acute disorders and grievous pains relieved in a few minutes, after having baffled ordinary doctors for as many years; he would be aware of many things belonging to his profession which he has never yet seen, only because he has never looked for them. After hinting that the phenomena of mesmerism *may* proceed from Satanic agency, he sums up by declaring his opinion that the 'whole misnamed science is a mixture of falsehood and delusion.' Let me tell him that its advocates are, to say the least, as highly distinguished for scientific knowledge, as honourable and pious and truthful as the best of its adversaries, and that no abuse or ridicule will avail to injure a cause, which only gathers strength from all candid investigation and honest argument."

While this correspondence was going on, other events occurred to shew the reality of mesmerism and the folly and

prejudice of those who, instead of studying its phenomena denounce what they cannot deny, and ridicule what they cannot understand.

Mr. Millington's account of these circumstances is as follows:—

"On the 15th of June last, a boy, aged 14, who had attended one or more of Mr. Reynolds's lectures, and, as he asserted, had been operated upon by him, after exhibiting unusual excitement for two or three weeks, was suddenly seized with insanity of a most alarming and violent character. He had lately surprised his parents by his wilfulness and disobedience, and had evinced a strong propensity to appropriate to himself whatever he could lay his hands upon. Any worthless rubbish that he could purloin from his neighbours was brought home and treasured up with care, and the complaints of those who had suffered from his depredations became so frequent that, after beating and punishing their son in various ways, they sent for a policeman in the hope of frightening him into better habits. At length one of the neighbours remarked to the father, that the boy did such strange things, he must surely *be wrong in his head*. The mother, who had had some misgivings, replied, (alluding to the recent experiments in electro-biology,) 'I hope no one has been acting upon him.' The boy, hearing this, sprang up, and exclaiming, 'They have, they have,' instantly broke into a state of violent madness.

"I was sent for on the following morning, and found the lad tied by his hands and feet, gnawing at the bandages, swearing, and tossing himself furiously to and fro. He had been in this state all the night, and had been visited by a Mr. Dodd, a surgeon of Northampton, who ordered him to be thus restrained, and his head to be bathed with vinegar and water. The boy asserted that Mr. Reynolds had made him fly, and that he had been flying ever since. He also said that the operator had taken him to India, and that he was still in India when he left the lecture room, and had often been there since.

"The boy seemed to be endued with extraordinary strength during the time of his insanity: he ran with great swiftness, and leaped over places where none could follow him; and once, under the impression of flying, he scaled the walls of the house, and was seen seated upon the gable of the roof.

"After he had been in this state a week, getting rather worse than better (as his parents said), wearing out the whole family, who could neither work nor rest, and exciting a great commotion in the neighbourhood, the father brought him before the magistrates at Petty Sessions. I had in the meantime written to Dr. Elliotson, who with the utmost promptitude and kindness replied as follows:—

"'Dear Sir,—I have no doubt that all will end well. Pray let some healthy person mesmerise the youth twice a day, *very slowly, very calmly, and very kindly*, taking one hand and squeezing it, and slightly rubbing it, as we should do to a child when we might wish to

encourage and shew kindness to it, while *very slow* passes are made with the operator's other hand from opposite the forehead to opposite the stomach. Breathing *very* slowly upon the eyes and nostrils and lips at the end of the half hour may be extremely beneficial. Perseverance in this, in spite of all difficulties, will succeed. No violence or harshness of either voice or look should be allowed from any one. If possible, nobody but the mesmeriser should touch the patient or be close to him. Kindness and gentleness from every person are absolutely necessary.

"'I was sent for to an exactly similar case lately, and presently brought on the most perfect calm and restoration by putting every other person aside, and breathing slowly and perseveringly all over the patient's face and bosom.

"'This disturbance is a common effect of mesmerism badly undertaken. It frequently happens that disturbance arises if more than one person operates on the same individual within a short time in the purely mesmeric way: but the violence of electro-biology is too much for the nerves of some. Pray write again and inform me how you go on. . . . I entreat you not to be uneasy about the youth, because I am satisfied that all will end happily, but mesmerism must not be trifled with in this way.

"'I remain, dear Sir, yours very truly,

"'JOHN ELLIOTSON.'

"This letter the parents submitted to the magistrates, but as they had not been able to procure the services of any person in following its directions, they proposed that the boy should be sent to London, and as I happened to be in town at the time, a communication was addressed to me there on the subject. I returned the following evening to Northampton, and finding it impossible to engage the assistance of any person more competent (in regard to health and strength) than myself, I resolved to mesmerise the boy according to Dr. Elliotson's instructions.

"I mesmerised him the first time on Thursday morning (June 14th). With some difficulty I persuaded him to let me take him gently by the hand, and thus soothing and coaxing him, induced him to sit down opposite to me for a little time. At first he was very troublesome, snatching at my watch, biting at my fingers, and trying every now and then to jump up and escape from me, and at the end of about twenty minutes he started up, sprang out of the window and ran away.

"'During the day he became more tranquil, and in the evening I again mesmerised him, put him to sleep, and left him in bed. On Friday he was *much better*, and, after being again mesmerised, appeared a second time before the magistrates by their desire. Mr. Reynolds and myself were also present to answer any enquiries that might be made, and the father having given his account of the whole of the circumstances, I briefly stated all that had occurred within my own observation, and declared my opinion that the restraint and harsh treatment to which the youth had been subjected had been the means,

not only of retarding his recovery, but of increasing his malady. Mr. Dodd defended his treatment of the boy, saying that restraint was absolutely necessary, and that four men were required to hold him while his hair was cut off; but the mother testified that all this violence had made him worse, and that kind and gentle treatment, together with mesmerism, had produced a most beneficial effect, adding that 'Mr. Millington was the best friend the boy had.'

"Dr. Robertson and Mr. Terry had also seen the boy, and the latter told his mother, who repeated it to me, that 'if he recovered without going to the lunatic asylum it would be a miracle.' I took this opportunity of remarking, that if the doctors, instead of ignoring the powers of mesmerism, had condescended to study its laws and effects, they would not be so utterly at a loss how to proceed in cases of derangement arising from the abuse of an influence so strange and powerful.

"The magistrates having remarked upon the very great improvement that had taken place since the boy's first appearance before them, recommended the parents to leave the case in my hands, and having expressed my confident hope of effecting a speedy cure, the parties withdrew.

"It is fair to Mr. Reynolds to say that he denied having operated upon the boy at all, but the lad persisted in his assertion, and became so violent on being contradicted in this matter, that the magistrates desired he should be led out by a different door from that by which he had entered, in order that he might avoid passing near Mr. Reynolds, whom he threatened to assault with a stick which he carried with him.

"On Friday evening I again put the boy to sleep, and during that night his arms and legs were every few minutes convulsed by spasmodic working of the muscles; but though causing much disturbance and alarm to those who observed him, he did not awake until late the next morning, when he seemed nearly well. I mesmerised him for the last time on Sunday night, after which no traces of his malady remained beyond great lassitude and debility, the natural consequence of his excited and restless condition.

"On the evening of the day of our appearance before the magistrates I was sent for to another case of madness, caused by 'electro-biology.' One of Mr. Reynolds's constant and most susceptible subjects, having been operated upon on the public race-course by a companion, had suddenly been seized with the most violent raving madness. He had been brought home with difficulty, and at the time I saw him was lying upon a sofa, held by four men. His struggles, his roaring, and his wild appearance were frightful; but these symptoms subsided at short intervals into a death-like calm; and from the improvement that had taken place in this respect during the two hours that had elapsed from the time of his first seizure, and from what I had read and observed of other cases, I encouraged his friends to hope that this state of derangement would be of short duration. Being requested to mesmerise the young man, I began to do so, but was interrupted by the appearance of Dr. Robertson, who,

having enquired into all the circumstances, desired that he should be put to bed. It being suggested to the doctor that mesmerism seemed the most promising remedy that could be employed, he replied that he entirely set his face against it, as against everything else that was wicked and delusive: that it was powerless to do good, but would probably make the young man worse. He took this opportunity of delivering a philippic against all mesmeric proceedings, declaring that mesmerism was often applied to the vilest and most abominable purposes, and that a case would shortly be made public through the courts of justice in which it had been thus shamefully employed. I may here say, by the way, that I have watched the papers for a report of this case, but have not yet been able to find it.

"On Saturday morning I heard that the young man was much better: the violent character of his attack had passed off, but the mind was still affected, and he was now in a state of idiotcy. This lasted many days, and, but for the interference of the Rev. Thomas Storer, incumbent of St. Andrew's Church, Northampton, supported and encouraged by the kind advice of Dr. Elliotson, who, though a stranger to all the parties, responded most readily to every appeal for counsel and assistance, the young man would have been removed to the lunatic asylum. Happily this step, which would have retarded if not prevented his recovery, was averted, and in the course of a fortnight the young man entirely recovered his senses, and was able to resume his usual occupations."

It seems very surprising that, after the curative powers of mesmerism had been so strikingly exhibited in the first of these two cases, and its beneficial results made known, any medical men should have been found so prejudiced and unreasonable as to forbid its application in the second, especially when they had no remedy to propose in its stead: and yet more surprising that after one of their patients had escaped the lunatic asylum they should still have been willing to allow the other to be sent thither. It is quite possible that, had either of these persons been placed in confinement, they might have become confirmed lunatics, and never again left the walls of the prison to which with so little consideration they had been consigned.

A. B.

NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

I have heard upon good authority that, in consequence of Mr. Millington's noble advocacy of mesmerism, Dr. Robertson and Mr. Terry, with others influenced by them, withdrew their subscriptions from the fund for providing a curate for the parish, which is *very* poor, and in which the schools and all other good works for the benefit of the poor depend chiefly

upon the exertions of the curate, and great indeed have been his exertions and most exemplary has been his conduct.

Too conscientious to give up mesmerism, which he saw was a truth and a blessing, Mr. Millington resigned his curacy, though he had no other appointment. This was conduct worthy of a place in the history of virtue and of science. On his taking this noble step, much indignation was excited. Some of the most influential men of the town waited upon him, and offered to make good all deficiencies, and to guarantee the parish against all loss, if he would continue there. On this he agreed to withdraw his resignation. But his vicar, though he had *himself* no objection to mesmerism, refused to allow this unless Mr. Millington would promise to have no more to do with it—a stipulation which he of course rejected; so that he will be compelled, notwithstanding the efforts which have been made, and in opposition to the wishes of the parishioners, to leave the parish.

IX. *An instance of the Prolongation of Life by Mesmerism, and great benefit from it in Epilepsy.* By Wm. Forbes Laurie, M.D., Dunstable.

"Who does not remember, that towards the end of the last century, the so-called age of philosophy, crowds of all ranks flocked to the cemetery of St. Medard, at Paris, to witness miraculous cures of paralysis upon the tomb of a saint? People were, however, soon undeceived, and the cemetery was closed by order of the magistrates.

"We all know how glaringly the juggleries of mesmerism were exposed in France by a scientific committee, presided over by the celebrated Berthollet, after four years' careful investigation.

"It is well known that homœopathy, which has had so many foolish supporters throughout Europe, is dying away, destroyed by its own absurdities.

"The votaries of animal magnetism and clairvoyance still find dupes here and there, though, especially in France, they are daily brought before courts of law, and punished for swindling.

"In fine, no one is unacquainted with the fact, that the tenets of phrenology have been exaggerated and disfigured; that they have come down to sleight-of-hand deception; and that their vagaries have been confuted by sound logical reasoning, and the ridicule which they richly deserve."—*Lancet*, March 27, 1852. An article by the Chevalier Le Molt* to prove that hydra-electric chains and belts are useless things.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Sir,—I have long considered that the value of mesmerism in prolonging life was as much to be regarded as its efficacy in a more immediately curative point of view.

The following case will illustrate its beneficial effects in the prolongation of life.

I was sent for one evening in January, 1849, in great

* A merry friend says that the *rara avis* chattering such trash is *molting*.—*Zoist*.

haste to see Mrs. G ——, a lady in a very delicate state of health, who had for many years been suffering from dilatation of the heart, and who was subject to a usual concomitant of this affection—frequent faintings. On my arrival at her residence, I found her quite cold and apparently lifeless, no vapour from the breath being apparent on a looking-glass which was held to her lips.

I immediately mesmerised her, and after persevering for some time, the cheeks changed from a deadly whiteness to a rosy glow, and the general warmth of the body was quite restored. From that time she gradually improved in health, the mesmeric process being continued by me daily.

Although she is at the present time, as she always has been, in a very infirm state of health, she is still living, and I have invariably found mesmerism invaluable in restoring her, when the distressing faintings connected with the organic disease under which she labours have manifested themselves.

Elizabeth Jackson, of Sundon, Bedfordshire, æt 38, has now, September 1st, 1852, been under treatment by means of sub-mesmerism for a year and a half. She has had epileptic fits ever since she was born, her mother having had them very severely before her, so that they are in every respect hereditary.

When seized, she used to have foaming at the mouth, to fall down suddenly, and feel as if she should lose her reason. The fits, she says, used to be upon her for a week together. A sensation would come on all in a moment, as if water were rolling round the abdomen; this was accompanied by a feeling of nausea, violent eructations, and occasionally great pain from excessive flatulence. The appearance of the hands, which were frequently drawn together for five or six hours, so that she could not move them, was perfectly frightful; indeed her general character and entire expression of face was so horrible, as to represent exactly what one would imagine to be that of a person possessed with an evil spirit. She has been mesmerised in my house once a week for a year and a half. During this period she has only had two fits of any consequence for a year and a half; whereas she was in the habit of having at least one or two, and sometimes three or four, fits in a week. So susceptible was this person when first she presented herself to my notice, that I could bring on a fit in a minute; but now it requires a quarter of an hour, and a greater number of manipulations to produce any change whatever. Indeed the only alteration from the normal state now perceptible is a fixedness of the eyes

and of the frame. There is no other appearance of a fit, nor are there any movements or contortions of any kind, nor any nausea or flatulence. The patient also says that she feels her health, strength, appetite, and spirits improved to an extraordinary degree, and the poor creature expresses herself as extremely grateful for what I have done for her.

It is worthy of observation, that she was so susceptible at first that she shewed the effect of the metal the moment it was placed in her hand, by frightful contortions of the features and writhings of the limbs, but now she does not appear to suffer from it at all; indeed no perceptible change manifests itself until pressure has been made upon the forehead several times by my hand.

On one occasion at an early stage of the treatment, at the request of a gentleman, a patient in my establishment, I interrupted the crisis (the fit) which I had produced, by pattings of the back and gentle succussions of the person. This however, as I had feared, produced a more severe, and in fact a far more violent and dangerous crisis, so that I have never on any occasion dared to repeat the experiment, but find the true curative plan is to bring on the crisis, and leave the patient to go through it. In short to go with nature, and not against her.

So severe were the epileptic seizures in this case, that people who had been in the habit of seeing her said they had never seen any one worse. In fact so hopeless a case did it seem to be, that I was quite laughed at and scornfully treated for ever undertaking to attempt in such a case any thing of a remedial nature.

The patient now says she feels so much better, that she thinks by and by she shall have no fit at all.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Wm. Fobbes Laurie, M.D., Editeurs.

Hydropathic Establishment,
Dunstable, Bedfordshire, Aug. 23, 1852.

X. *Dublin Mesmeric Association.*

A meeting of the Dublin Mesmeric Association was held on Monday evening, August 9, in Mr. Porter's large rooms, Great Brunswick Street, for the purpose, as stated in the circular calling the meeting, "of submitting to the members a statement as to the present position of the Society." At eight o'clock, Capt. Falconer Miles, president of the Association, was called to the chair. Mr. J. Pitt Harris, A.B.

(in the unavoidable absence of Mr. I. M'Donnell), acted as secretary.

The CHAIRMAN, in rising to address the meeting, was received with much applause. He said they were called together for the purpose of having laid before them a statement of the proceedings of the Association since its establishment in December last, It was not necessary for him to enter into elaborate details of what might be effected by mesmerism in its higher branches, but rather to refer to some facts, to shew the work they had accomplished in their Infirmary. Having attended to the excellent lectures of Messrs. Davey and Jackson in the Rotundo last year, he had come to the conclusion of using mesmerism as a curative power, and he thanked God he had done so with the most complete success. After visiting the Mesmeric Infirmary in London, he had determined to aid in establishing an Association in this city, with the ultimate object of opening a similar Infirmary in Dublin. In pursuance of this object, a few friends met last December in Anglesea Street, where they formed the Association, having drawn up such rules and regulations for their guidance as, he felt satisfied, on inspection, and they were open to the perusal of all, would meet their cordial approval. They had many difficulties to contend with, many opponents, but they went boldly forward, and the work performed would be laid before them that evening. He presumed that all present had seen their prospectus, a copy of which he then held in his hand, in which the object, the sole object of the Association was set forth. It was there stated that "the Committee wish it to be distinctly understood that their object is not to devise any scientific *theory*, but simply to extend the knowledge of certain important *facts*, and facilitate the beneficial application of that knowledge, in the relief of suffering, and the cure of disease." They did not put forward mesmerism as a remedy for all diseases, nor as interfering with or antagonistic to medical men, but merely as an agent calculated to be of vast good in many diseases, such as nervous or chronic, and which medical men generally admitted were not to be subdued by drugs alone. After referring at some length to the many objections made to the practice of mesmerism, he said he thought that highly intelligent meeting would agree with him that the Association had left nothing undone to guard themselves against the charges and suspicions of their opponents. About the 8th of March last, they found themselves in a position to open the Infirmary for patients twice a-week, and they went on, thank God, most successfully, as they would see by the Report which would be read

to them. After a little time they were enabled to appoint two paid operators (male and female), in addition to the gentlemen who acted gratuitously, which enabled them now to open that Infirmary daily. It should be recollected that theirs was all up-hill work, for patients seldom came to them until they were pronounced past the physician's aid, notwithstanding which they had performed several cures. They did not work for gain, but were solely prompted by a benevolent feeling towards their fellow-men; neither did they work in the name of Satan, as had been stated by some, but in the name of God, and by their fruits he was perfectly satisfied that they should stand or fall. The Infirmary had been at work but a very short time when it was visited by several distinguished citizens, including the Archbishop of Dublin, who, he was happy to tell them, expressed themselves highly pleased with what they had seen. The Chairman then referred to the case of a patient, named Doyle, who was recommended by His Grace the Archbishop of Dublin, and who was suffering from partial insanity, caused by a fall from the top of a house some years since, and who, during the week before being operated upon, had attempted to destroy his children. This man was only mesmerised three times, in all fifty-five minutes, when he was perfectly cured, and able to resume his work, as borne testimony to by the Archbishop of Dublin. He then alluded to another case, that of John Ryan, who was recommended by one of their subscribers; this man had a pain in his back for seventeen weeks, which incapacitated him from walking or attending to his work; after being twenty-one days in hospital, he left it, as he himself stated, "worse than when he went in;" he was brought to him (Capt. Miles), and he only mesmerised him once when he said he felt that he was a new man; he sent him home in a car, but on the following day the poor man was so much improved that he was able to walk from his house at Ball's Bridge to his (Capt. M.'s) residence at Cullenswood; on the next day he was able to walk to the Infirmary, and in four days he was perfectly restored to his health, as he himself would inform them. [Ryan here stood up and fully corroborated the statement of the Chairman, remarking that he was "now as strong and well" as he was twenty years previously.] After mentioning some other interesting cases of cure, the Chairman said that on taking up his note-book that morning, he was forcibly struck with the number of various diseases he had had in hand since he commenced mesmerising, and he had the gratification of stating, that out of that number he knew of but one in which the greatest benefit had not been derived. Here

he enumerated the cases as follows:—inflammation of lungs, cancer, gastric fever, tic douloureux, sciatica, deafness, mumps, sore throat, neuralgia, influenza, rheumatism, ear-ache, tooth-ache, abscess, sprained foot, stomach-ache, cough and colds, palpitation of the heart, disease of heart, partial insanity, epilepsy, pains in the back, spinal disease, diarrhœa, ophthalmia, cataract, general debility, extreme mental nervous disease. Before he concluded he wished to allude to a fact which might be considered of some importance. An idea had gone abroad that cures could not be effected without putting the patient to sleep; now this was a mistaken notion; out of the numerous cases he had taken into hand there were very few instances in which he had put the patient to sleep, so that persons would see this objection should not prevent them from availing themselves of the benefits of mesmerism whilst in their wakeful state. It was now strongly urged upon them to open a Mesmeric Infimary for the higher classes, somewhere about Stephen's Green, where patients would be received on paying a small fee to defray the necessary expenses. The difficulty was to get a place for the purpose, so many unfair prejudices existed upon the subject; but he had no doubt that with the support and coöperation of the respectable meeting he saw around him, they would overcome this difficulty as they had already done many others of a more formidable nature. After some further observations, the speaker concluded, amidst loud applause, by calling upon the Secretary to read the list of cures from the Infirmary book.

Mr. Harris then read a list of sixty cases, which had been treated in the Infirmary, out of which twelve had been perfectly cured, and the remainder, the majority of whom were still under treatment, had been much benefitted.

Mr. John Gray, of Windsor Terrace, Kingstown, moved the first resolution, as follows:—"That we have heard the statement of our President, and the Report of the working of the Infirmary by the Secretary, with much satisfaction, evidencing as they do a far more successful progress of the practical uses of mesmerism than the most sanguine could have anticipated previously to the formation of this Association." He said he felt called upon to attend that meeting to bear his testimony to the exertions of their worthy President, to whom the Society owed he might say, its present proud position. He (Mr. Gray) was the first, he believed, in this city to stand upon a public platform to bear testimony to the benefits of mesmerism, as evidenced in his own person. Mesmerism he could assure them, was making rapid strides in Dublin of late. He attended the lectures of Lafontaine,

who was a really clever man, but he laboured under the difficulty of not speaking our language; then we had Mr. Adair, and subsequently Messrs. Davey and Jackson, who had done much to spread the truths of mesmerism; for we had no such lecturer as Mr. Jackson, no such operator as Mr. Davey. In conclusion Mr. Gray paid a high compliment to the Chairman for his zeal in the cause, and resumed his seat amidst loud cheers.

Mr. Poole seconded the resolution, which as well as those subsequently moved, were unanimously adopted. He said, they were called impostors; if so, it should be admitted they were impostors in very excellent company; they had joined with them men of all creeds and classes, including nobles of the land, clergymen, members of the learned professions, and he was happy to add, medical men of the first standing in their profession.

Mr. Aitkin referred to the progress which mesmerism had made in India, under Dr. Esdaile, and on the Continent of Europe; he then combatted the objections raised by its opponents, and concluded by proposing the next resolution, as follows:—"That the success here shewn fully warrants us in calling upon all the friends of humanity to co-operate with our Association."

Mr. Johnston briefly seconded the resolution.

Mr. Rogers moved and Mr. Tighe seconded the third resolution:—"That those gentlemen who have so unremittingly devoted themselves as operators in the Infirmary are entitled to our warmest thanks."

Capt. Miles having been then moved from the chair, which was taken by Mr. Gray,

Mr. J. Pitt Harris, A.B, after a suitable preface, in which he entered into an able and eloquent defence of mesmerism as a curative power, moved the following resolution, which was seconded by Mr. Crawford, and carried by acclamation:—"That our sincere thanks are due, and are hereby given, to Mr. Miles, our President, for his constant attendance at the meetings of our Committee since its formation, as well as for his untiring and successful labours as operator in the Infirmary."

Major Wolseley rose and stated that, as an old soldier, whose motto was deeds not words, he hoped he would be excused for intruding upon the time of the meeting, but he could not let that resolution pass without standing up publicly to offer his thanks to Mr. Miles for the rare display of practical philanthropy he had evinced in spreading the knowledge of mesmerism; he had also to thank him on behalf of a

member of his own family, who had been much benefitted through its healing influence (cheers).

A vote of thanks, moved by Mr. O'Farrell, seconded by Mr. Rogers, was then passed to Mr. Harris for his kindness in acting as Secretary to the meeting, and to Mr. Porter, for placing his rooms at the disposal of the committee for the evening, and the meeting separated, evidently highly pleased with the proceedings.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Buckland's Handbook of Mesmerism. Third Edition.
We have already recommended this.

Barth's Mesmerist's Manual. Third Edition, enlarged.
No book of the size contains a greater amount of various mesmeric information.

The Mesmeric Guide for Family Use. Containing instructions for the Application of Mesmerism as a Curative Agent. By S. D. Saunders.
This is a much smaller book than the other, and is as it were a collection of good receipts for mesmerising individual cases.

A Letter to Dr. Lyon Playfair, C.B., F.R.S.: being a medical co ▼ on the recent results of the Analogies of the Buxton Tepid Baths; to added a statement of the improvements now in progress at Buxton, Playfair's Analytical Report. By Wm. H. Robertson, M.D., Senior P to the Buxton Bath Charity.

The Medical Report of the Female side of the Colney Hatch Lunatic A Middlesex. By J. G. Davey, M.D.

The Russian Bath; published with a view to recommend its introduction England for Hygienic as well as Curative purposes. By Mathias Roth, M.D. physician to the Hahnemann Hospital; author of the "Prevention and Cure o Chronic Diseases by Movements," &c., &c.

Examen Phrénologique ou Analyse et Synthèse des principaux traits du caractère primitif et actuel de Vincenz Priessnitz. Fait a Freiwaldau, Septembre 1849. Troppau, 1852.

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

In our next will appear an Account of a Cure of a singular Nervous Affection: and one of the effects of mental impression upon a Cat. By Dr. Elliotson.

Cures by Mr. Phelps, late of the Bristol Mesmeric Institute.

Successful issue of a severe Case of Fever treated with Mesmerism by Dr. Ashburner; and an account of the unprecedented conduct of a surgeon who was not attending the case.

Remarkable Facts, and Cures, by Mr. Barth.

More instances of Clairvoyance in Alexis Didier and Ellen Dawson.

Cure of an enormous and condemned Bursa, by Mr. Capern.

Cures by Mr. H. S. Thompson.

A Letter from Dr. Collyer in San Francisco, California, successfully asserting his priority of claim to the practice of the so-called Electro-Biology: with notes upon the subject by Dr. Elliotson.

A fact in Electro-Biology, as it is called, by Mr. Hannent.

A Cure of St. Vitus's Dance, with other facts, by Mr. Colbourne, of Sturminster.

Cures and Clairvoyance, by Mr. Chase, of Shaftesbury: and some others.

*** *It is earnestly requested that all communications be sent four weeks before the day of publication.*