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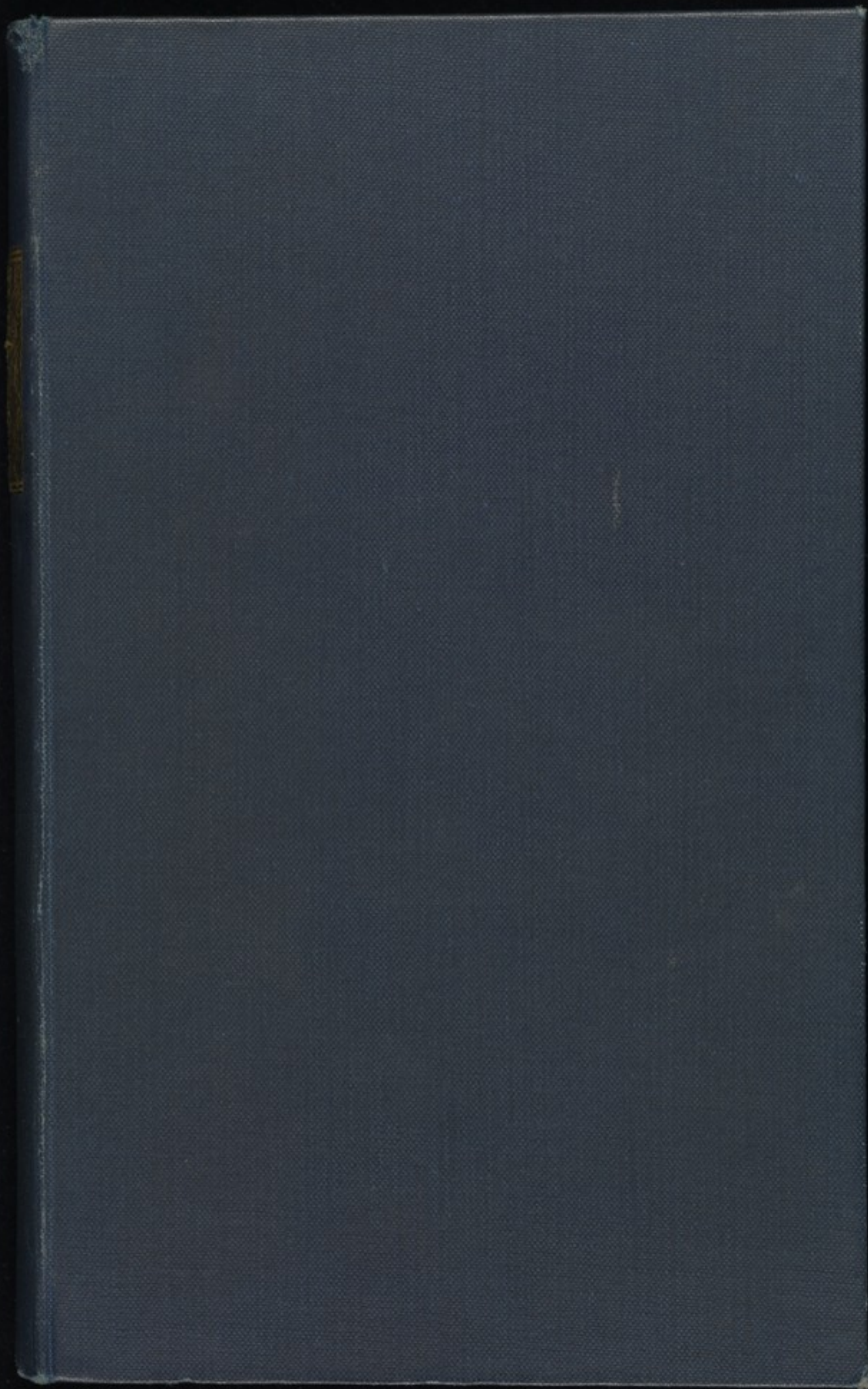
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ANIMAL MAGNETISM,

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HOMŒOPATHY ;

BEING

THE APPENDIX

TO

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

PRINCIPAL MEDICAL INSTITUTIONS

AND

PRACTICE

OF

FRANCE, ITALY, AND GERMANY.

BY EDWIN LEE, M.R.C.S.

FORMERLY HOUSE SURGEON TO ST. GEORGE'S HOSPITAL.

" We are such stuff
As dreams are made of."

TEMPEST.

LONDON :

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ANIMAL MAGNETISM AND HOMŒOPATHY.

MANY persons talk about animal magnetism and homœopathy, who know little or nothing about them, except that they are somewhat allied to the marvellous, and who are inclined, perhaps on that account, to place a reliance on their agency, which would be withheld, were it known on what foundations rest their claims to belief.

It is my intention, in the following pages, to present a brief exposition of these subjects, comprising some account of the experiments instituted by medical bodies and individuals, in order to exhibit to the public the manner in which the effects ascribed to these agents were produced ; from which it will be seen that their mode of operation is very analogous,—their supposed action on the body being referable to the same origin, viz. the influence exerted through the medium of the imagination.

Although animal magnetism, which at one time attracted so large a share of attention, has been in great measure superseded by homœopathy, which, however, is also rapidly passing into disuse, even in those German towns where it was most in request, and in Paris, since the recent opinion pronounced upon it by the Académie Royale de Médecine, yet the relation of the experiments and cases is interesting in a physiological point of view, as tending to show the manner in which some changes take place, which are often inexplicable to the physician, and which the vulgar are frequently apt to consider as effects of miraculous agency : moreover, as attempts have been made to introduce homœopathy into this country, I have thought that some account of it, in connexion with animal magnetism, would form a not inappropriate Appendix to a work on continental medical practice, and would be acceptable to those who feel interested in the matter.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

VARIOUS definitions of the nature of animal magnetism have been proposed by those who have written on the subject. The best is perhaps that which considers it to depend upon, "a certain state of the nervous system, presenting phenomena which may be caused in some persons by the influence of another individual performing certain actions with the intention of producing this state," this influence was supposed to bear some analogy with that of the magnet upon iron: hence the term.

Animal magnetism was introduced into France from Germany, about the middle of the last century, by an individual of the name of Mesmer, and was during some years in high repute for the cure of certain diseases, until it was subjected to examination, and condemned by the Académie des Sciences and the Académie Royale de Médecine. It consequently lost much of the credit it had previously enjoyed, and by degrees sank into comparative oblivion, till within the last twenty years, when public attention was again drawn to

it ; several works were published on the subject ; some physicians of professional and scientific attainments declared themselves believers in its powers, and numerous experiments were made relating to somnambulism or lucid sleep, the phenomenon said to be most frequently observed.

At length, in 1825, M. Foissac, a magnetiser, proposed to the Académie de Médecine, to produce before it a somnambulist, in whom the members of that body should witness the extraordinary phenomena caused by animal magnetism. The proposition gave rise to violent debates, which terminated in the appointment of a committee which was required to give its opinion as to whether the Académie ought or ought not to take cognizance of the subject. The committee decided in the affirmative, on the following grounds :—first, that the judgment pronounced by the Académie in 1784, was not founded upon reasons sufficiently conclusive ; and secondly, that the magnetism now proposed for examination, differed from the Mesmerian magnetism, inasmuch as its effects were produced without actual contact between the magnetiser and the magnetised, and without using metallic rods, magnetic chairs, and other similar means.

After strong opposition a commission was appointed, composed of twelve members of the Académie, to examine into, and report upon, the experiments to be instituted. The commission pursued its investigation until 1831,

when it presented a report to the Académie, containing an exposition of its labours, with the inferences deduced from them, arranged under the following heads.

1. The effects of magnetism are null in persons in health, and in some invalids.

2. They are but little apparent in others.

3. They are often produced by ennui, monotony, and the power of the imagination.

4. Lastly, they are developed independently of these causes, very probably by the effect of magnetism alone.

Thus after six years of inquiry, the commissioners pronounced no decisive opinion in their report, which, however, was not signed by three of the most influential among them, MM. Laennec, Double, and Magendie. The inferences under the three first heads, would have put down altogether the pretensions of the magnetisers; but in consequence of the statement under the fourth head, and as the commissioners declared that every precaution had been taken to prevent errors and deception, magnetism acquired in some measure the appearance of being under the sanction of the Académie. An account of the cases which were the subjects of the experiments, was published by M. Foissac; in looking over these it will be seen that the cases which come under the fourth head are extremely few: and in these instances so far from every precaution having been taken, it appears that the com-

missioners trusted greatly to the honesty and good faith of the magnetisers and the magnetised, between whom there is the strongest evidence of the existence of a previous understanding.

One of the most constant effects observed to be produced is a degree of somnolency, and sometimes actual sleep, especially when the person has already been magnetised two or three times. It is not surprising that this should be the case in an individual seated on a chair before whose face various movements are slowly made by the hand of the magnetiser, in perfect silence during a period varying from a few minutes to half an hour; but another state, somnambulism or lucid sleep, is also said to be produced; and the person in this state is termed a somnambulist, who, while under the influence of the magnetic action, is said to be insensible to exterior objects as in natural sleep, but under the control of the magnetiser, so as to answer questions proposed, and perform actions indicated by him.

One magnetiser, speaking of the wonders of magnetism before the Académie, says in reference to the absolute power of the magnetiser over the somnambulist—"If cold you can warm him, if warm cool him; you blow away his pains, and his pains vanish; you change his tears to laughter, his sorrows to joy. Are his country, his friends absent? you cause him to see them without seeing them yourself. You can blunt his sen-

sibility if he have to undergo any cruel operation. You transform water into any liquid he desires, or which you deem useful to him—you present an empty glass, he drinks, the movements of deglutition are performed and thirst is appeased—with nothing I have calmed his hunger, with nothing I have served him up splendid dinners," &c. &c.*

In order, however, to induce somnambulism certain actions are performed by the magnetiser. These consist for the most part in what are termed "*passes*," which are done in the following manner; the persons present being required to maintain the strictest silence.

The magnetiser seated in front, and at the distance of a foot from the person to be magnetised, prepares himself during a short time, placing his thumbs on the inside of the thumbs of the person till an equal degree of heat be obtained. He next places his hands on the shoulders of the person for about a minute, and brings them with a gentle pressure slowly down the arms to the extremity of the fingers. This movement is repeated five or six times. He then places his hands on the top of the persons head, whence he gradually brings them down, an inch or two distant from the face, to the epigastrium. These movements are repeated during the greater part of the sitting, and are sometimes varied by transverse *passes*,

* Dict. de Médecine et Chirurgie pratique. Art. Magnétisme.

or movements across the face and breast at the distance of two or three inches.

These movements are what the commissioners saw made on most of the individuals subjected to the experiments, and without further proof immediately accepted them as the causes of the phenomena they afterwards witnessed, and as the means by which the magnetic action was transmitted; but as M. Dubois, who was present at several of the experiments, remarks in his critical examination of the report in the *Revue Médicale*, "there is no doubt the commissioners saw the phenomena they have described, but there is an enormous difference between the facts observed and the conclusions drawn from them. They believed the absurd, the miraculous, the wonderful; yet the circumstances as they occurred, explain themselves rationally, either by very ordinary physiological phenomena, or by well known pathological laws, and sometimes by trickery (*supercherie*.)"

Somnambulism is, however, according to the magnetisers, merely the precursor of effects much more wonderful, as *clairvoyance* or mental vision, in which objects are seen, though the eyes be closed: the power of predicting the occurrence of events; that of ascertaining, while in somnambulism, the nature of the diseases in some individuals, and of prescribing the appropriate remedies, &c. though it must be acknowledged that not more than two or three exhibitions of

this kind were made before the commissioners, and even these failed, notwithstanding the instructions the somnambulists must have previously received, as will be seen in the sequel.

The somnambulist proposed to be presented to the Académie by M. Foissac, who, he stated, would remove all doubt as to the power of magnetism, was the first person subjected to its operation before the commission. It appears, however, that no effect was produced in this instance, for in the report the commissioners say, "We must confess our inexperience, our impatience, our mistrust, too strongly manifested perhaps, did not permit us to observe any of the phenomena of somnambulism."

Some cases are adduced in illustration of the second and third heads, in the report, in which the effects produced were attributable to ennui, the power of the imagination, &c., it being sufficient to place the persons in situations in which they believed themselves magnetised. This will, however, readily be credited without my bringing forward instances in proof, I shall therefore merely insert one or two of the shortest among them.

Mademoiselle L. was magnetised eleven times at the Hôtel Dieu, within the period of a month. At the fourth sitting, somnolency, convulsive movements of the neck and face, with other symptoms. At the eleventh sitting her magnetiser placed himself behind her without making any signs, and without the intention of magne-

tising, yet she experienced more decided effects than on the preceding trials.

An hysterical girl was magnetised several times: at each time there occurred somnolency with strong convulsive actions. Being placed one day in the same chair, in the same place, at the same hour, and in presence of the same persons, the accustomed phenomena presented themselves, though her magnetiser was absent. A like experiment was made on an epileptic patient and produced a similar result.

According to the magnetisers, the action of *passes* is not always necessary to produce magnetic effects, which may frequently be induced by the sole will of the magnetiser, even if he be in a room separate from the individual on whom the experiment is made. This supposed influence of the will on the magnetised, was, however, never produced at the first sittings, but only after the person had been repeatedly magnetised in the ordinary manner. The symptoms which then took place may consequently be attributed, as in the cases above stated, merely to the effect of habit in individuals on whom the same circumstances of position, time, locality, &c. had repeatedly operated.

The following are some of the cases from which the commissioners inferred that the phenomena were produced by the action of magnetism alone.

A girl aged sixteen magnetised eight times. Somnambulism is induced at the first sitting.

When spoken to she does not answer, and the noise of a heavy shutter falling does not awaken her. At the second sitting, she answers by affirmative and negative signs. At the third sitting, she signifies that she will speak presently: she does not feel when the skin is pinched, and does not appear to be affected by a phial of ammonia held to the nostrils.

The next case does not answer the expectation of the magnetisers.

In a Madame C., *living in the same house as her magnetiser*, it was proposed to exhibit the mental power possessed by the magnetiser over the magnetised, as also the communication of thoughts between them, without the intervention of speech or gesture; the proposal was accepted by the commissioners, who repaired to the house, and on somnambulism being produced, gave directions in writing to the magnetiser, indicating the actions they desired to see performed, which were to be signified mentally to the somnambulist. Thus, she is first ordered to go and sit on a stool before the piano; she rises and looks at the clock; on being apprised of her mistake, she goes into another room, and on being again informed of her error she sits down on her former seat. She is next requested to raise her hand at the same time as her magnetiser, and to lower it at the same time; the two hands are raised simultaneously, but that of Madame C. is lowered in a few minutes. The back of a watch

is presented to her ; she mistakes the hour, and the number of the hands ; she is told to rub her forehead, but she merely extends her hand.

The result of this, and some other cases, rendered the commissioners doubtful of the effect of animal magnetism, and not without suspicion of a previous understanding between the magnetisers and the somnambulists. A M. Dupotet offered to solve their doubts, and engaged to produce at will, out of the sight of the somnambulist, convulsive movements in any part of the body, by the mere action of pointing towards the part in which the commissioners should desire to witness these effects. A man who had already been magnetised several times was somnambulised, and after some trials on his obedience, M. Dupotet announced that the commissioners might produce in him any effects that they pleased.

M. Marc, one of the commissioners, accordingly placed himself behind the somnambulist, and made sign to M. Dupotet to produce movements in the fore finger of his right hand, and afterwards in the toes ; the somnambulist made some movements, but not in the parts indicated ; similar movements subsequently occurred without magnetisation, and the experiment was declared inconclusive.

The next experiment which I shall relate, was made to exhibit before the commissioners the faculty of mental vision, or sight with closed eye-

lids, on a M. Petit, in whom the results of previous trials had been very satisfactory to the magnetisers. Somnambulism having been induced, M. Petit was requested to select a piece of money from others held in the hand of the magnetiser; this was done, the coin noted and mixed with twelve others, and the somnambulist was desired to point out the one he had selected; he however took the wrong one. A watch was presented to him, he mistook the hour. Other objects were also presented, but he could never discover immediately what they were; he took them in his hands, felt and turned them over, brought them near his eyes, and after all, generally guessed wrong; he was able to read a few lines, while the commissioners watched that his eyelids were closed. There is no doubt, however, that the eyes were partially opened, as he could not distinguish any thing, when a bandage was placed before them. Although *clairvoyance* had been talked of by the magnetisers as a very common phenomenon of magnetism, it was only exhibited two or three times before the commissioners, during a period of six years, and the results were similar to those above mentioned.

The following cases are given, as cures performed by magnetism.

A law student, labouring under a paralytic affection of the limbs, was treated by the usual means at La Charité, and at the expiration of five months was so far recovered as to be able to get about on crutches. In this state he was

magnetised by M. Foissac. In the ninth sitting complete somnambulism was induced; he answered questions, spoke of his disease, announced that in a month he should be able to walk about without crutches, and prescribed for himself nux vomica, sinapisms, and baths of Barèges water; these being the remedies from which he had already derived advantage. On the day he had named, the commission repaired to La Charité, anxious to see whether his prediction would be fulfilled. On being somnambulised, the patient declared that when he awoke he should return to his bed without crutches or other support. When awakened, he asked for his crutches, but was answered that he did not require them: he arose, traversed the courts, walked up stairs, and from that day he has never used the crutches. In subsequent trials he presented the phenomena of *clairvoyance* as completely as M. Petit.

The next case was at the time matter of great astonishment, as illustrating the extraordinary power of magnetism.

A lady laboured under a nervous disease, which had resisted all the efforts directed against it; she at length became impressed with the idea that magnetism alone could cure her, and was accordingly magnetised by M. Chapelain. "One day she goes to M. Chapelain, supporting herself with difficulty on crutches; it was pitiable to see her suffer. Armed with a bene-

volent will, M. Chapelain by magnetism dispersed the pains in the limbs, the sighings and gloomy thoughts with which she was affected, and restored tranquillity to this person, so cruelly agitated an instant before. "Are you well?" he inquired. "O yes, sir, I thank you." She slept for about two hours, and on awaking walked away carrying the crutches which had supported her on her arrival!

In the first of these cases it is pretty evident that the patient was already convalescent at the time the magnetic trials were made, and could most probably have walked without crutches, had he so chosen, as well at the expiration of a week as of a month. The second is one of those cases which so frequently puzzles the practitioner,—of the nature of which I have offered an explanation in my work on nervous disorders, requiring for their cure an exertion of the faculty of volition, which is frequently induced by strong moral impressions. I have related one or two analogous cases suddenly cured in this way, and capable of rational explanation, without the intervention of magnetism or supernatural agency.

I subjoin one more of the cases brought forward in proof of magnetic influence.

A journeyman carpenter, aged twenty, subject to epileptic attacks, was magnetised at the hospital of La Charité. Somnambulism was not however induced till after several sittings. The

patient at length announced, that on a certain day, at a certain hour, he would have an attack. It accordingly took place at the time he had specified. When interrogated, while in somnambulism, respecting his disease, he declared that at the end of a year the attacks would cease; he also mentioned the exact time at which the two following attacks would take place. These occurred at the time he predicted, and the fact of his cure only remained to be proved; but before the expiration of the year, he was run over by a cabriolet and killed; a circumstance which magnetism did not enable him to foresee.

The profession will not form any very exalted opinion of the intelligence of the commissioners from the relation of these cases, as illustrations of the effects produced by magnetism alone. It is well known that epilepsy is one of the diseases most easily simulated, and, consequently, that there would be no difficulty in predicting the period of an attack: but had the somnambulists been able to foretell the occurrence of diseases which cannot be simulated, as intermittents or inflammatory affections, the commissioners might with some reason have brought these instances forward as a testimony of the magnetic power. I shall conclude by extracting from the *Revue Médicale* the rational conclusions of M. Dubois, in his critical exposition, with the conclusions which terminate the report of the commission.

Conclusions of the Report.

1. Contact of thumbs and movements, termed *passes*, are the means of relationship employed to transmit magnetic action from the magnetiser to the magnetised.

2. Magnetism acts on persons of different age and sex.

3. Many effects appear to depend on magnetism alone, and are not reproduced without it.

4. The effects produced by magnetism are varied: it agitates some, calms others; it generally causes acceleration of the pulse and respiration, slight convulsive movements, somnolency, and, in a few cases, what is called somnambulism.

5. The existence of peculiar characters, proper to recognise in all cases the reality of a state of somnambulism, has not been proved.

6. It may, however, be inferred with certainty that this state exists when it gives rise to the developement of new faculties, as *clairvoyance* and

Rational Conclusions.

1. The *passes* are means employed to transmit a pretended action to the magnetised.

2. Magnetism does not act on any persons, whatever be the age or sex.

2. We have not seen any effects that could be attributed to magnetism: the phenomena observed depend on other causes.

4. There is no proof that the agitation or calmness of the individuals, any more than the other circumstances, are produced by magnetism.

5. Ditto, ditto.

6. It has been impossible for us to come to the conclusion that this state was real; even when it gave rise to the above-mentioned phenomena, and pro-

Conclusions of the Report.

intuitive foresight: or when it produces great changes in the physiological condition of the individual, as insensibility, sudden increase of strength; as this effect cannot be attributed to any other cause.

7. When the effects of magnetism have been produced, there is no occasion, on subsequent trials, to have recourse to the *passes*. The look of the magnetiser, his will alone, have the same influence.

8. Changes, more or less remarkable, are effected in the perceptions and faculties of persons in whom somnambulism has been induced.

9. We have seen two somnambulists distinguish, with closed eyes, objects placed before them. They have read words, estimated the difference of colours, the points on cards, &c.

10. In two somnambulists, we have met with the faculty of foreseeing acts of the organism to take place at periods more or less distant. One announced the day, hour, and minute of

Rational Conclusions.

duced insensibility and other physiological changes, inasmuch as these effects may be referred to other causes.

7. It has not been demonstrated that *passes* have really produced any phenomena, still less that the look or will of the magnetiser has had this influence.

8. These changes in the perceptions and faculties, which appeared to be effected in somnambulists, may be referred to other causes than magnetism.

9. We have seen two somnambulists, capable, as it was said, of reading, &c. with closed eyes, but it has not been proved to our satisfaction that the edges of the eyelids were at all times in immediate contact.

10. We have seen two somnambulists capable, as it was said, of foreseeing acts of the organism; but one predicted attacks of a disease that may be simulated; the other announced

Conclusions of the Report.

the invasion and recurrence of an epileptic attack: the other foresaw the period of his cure. Their anticipations were realized.

11. We have only seen in one instance a somnambulist, who has described the symptoms of the diseases in three individuals presented to her.

12. In order to establish justly the relations of magnetism with therapeutics, one must have observed the effects on a number of individuals, and have made many experiments on sick persons. This not having been done, the commissioners can only say, they have seen too few cases to enable them to give a decisive opinion.

13. Considered as an agent of physiological phenomena, or of therapeutics, magnetism should find a place in the circle of medical science, and, consequently, should be either practised, or

Rational Conclusions.

the period of his cure when already in full convalescence.

11. We have seen a somnambulist endowed, it was said, with the faculty of ascertaining the disease under which persons presented to her laboured; but in the first case, she only mentioned insignificant symptoms: in the other two cases, all the circumstances show that she had received her information beforehand.

12. There are no relations to be established between magnetism and therapeutics, because the pretended magnetic effects have been absolutely null: and it is not from the small number of cases, but on account of their nullity, that the commissioners cannot determine.

13. Magnetism cannot be considered as an agent of physiological phenomena, still less as a therapeutic measure: it, consequently, ought not to have a place in the circle of medical

Conclusions of the Report.

its employment superintended by a physician.

14. The commission could not verify, because it had not opportunities, the existence of any other faculties in somnambulists; but it communicates, in its report, facts sufficiently important to state, that in its opinion, the Académie ought to encourage researches on animal magnetism as a curious branch of psychology and natural history.

Rational Conclusions.

knowledge, and, far from recommending its employment, physicians ought to oppose themselves to the charlatanism which seeks to spread it abroad.

14. The commission could not perceive, because it had no opportunity, so many other faculties said to exist in somnambulists; but it communicates facts, important enough to determine the Académie to abstain from encouraging researches on magnetism, as it could not constitute, as some believe, a curious branch of psychology and natural history.

HOMŒOPATHY.

THIS doctrine was first promulgated about thirty years ago, though it did not attract much attention till within the last few years. It originated with Dr. Hahnemann, a native of Saxony, who after having resided in various parts of Germany, at length took up his abode in Leipzig, and instituted experiments on the action of medicinal substances upon himself and others. Having in 1790 taken some bark, which produced, as he states, paroxysms of intermittent fever, he was struck with the circumstance that the substance employed for the cure of intermittents should occasion a similar disease in a healthy person. This led to the inference that substances which produce certain symptoms in healthy individuals can remove these symptoms when induced by other causes; hence a fundamental point of the doctrine, that diseases are cured only by medicines which have the power of causing similar diseases in healthy persons: *Similia similibus curentur*.

Homœopathists consequently do not consider

a knowledge of anatomy, physiology, or pathology, as contributing to the cure of disease, but restrict themselves to noting the different groups of symptoms in diseases, and to ascertaining the appropriate remedy, without regard to the organic changes, or other circumstances, by which the symptoms are caused, or whether they affect the nervous, vascular, or other systems. For example, in following the rules of homœopathy, if a person have headache, whether arising from exhaustion, inflammation, or stomach derangement, the same remedy should be had recourse to, and that remedy must be a substance capable of causing headache in a healthy individual.

Medical doctrines are divided by Hahnemann into the allopathic, or method in general use, of curing diseases by remedies of an opposite nature—*contraria contrariis*,—the antipathic, or palliative method, and the homœopathic, the only true method; the principles of which are contained in his *Exposition de la Doctrine Médicale homœopathique*. This work contains an abundance of absurd reasoning, of extravagant and unfounded assertions; of some truisms, from which erroneous conclusions are drawn; of exceptions to general principles; and isolated examples, extracted from various authors, and adduced as the principles themselves, in order to corroborate the positions laid down by the author. Thus, to prove that many of the cures hitherto effected have been so by the chance

employment of homœopathic means, several instances are brought forward, among which are, that rose-water cures ophthalmy only because it has the power of causing a kind of ophthalmy. In like manner bark cures intermittents, because it occasions these diseases: ipecacuanha arrests fluxions of blood, only because it possesses the faculty of exciting hæmorrhage; generous wines, in small doses, cure homœopathically inflammatory fever; hyoscyamus could not cure spasms resembling epilepsy, if it had not the power of exciting convulsions; the same remedy could not have cured a case of mania from jealousy, if it did not occasion mania and jealousy in healthy individuals.

Again, the popular customs of using snow to frost-bitten parts, of putting a scalded hand near the fire, are adduced to prove the homœopathic nature of the remedies to these accidents; vaccine is considered to act homœopathically in preventing small-pox, &c. These examples will suffice to show that the style of argument adopted is opposed to established truths; for who ever heard of rose-water causing ophthalmy, of bark causing intermittents, of ipecacuanha exciting hæmorrhage, or being employed to arrest it, of generous wines curing inflammatory fever, of hyoscyamus determining convulsions, mania, and jealousy? If snow is used to frost-bitten parts, it is used with friction, in order, as is well known, to bring the parts gradually to

their natural state ; whereas, if used on homœopathic principles, it would be kept constantly applied ; and, as may be imagined, with a certainty of aggravating the evil. So also with respect to the application of heat to scalded parts ; and to prove vaccine an homœopathic agent, it should be shown that it has the power to cure small-pox when already existing ; which indeed it is asserted it would do, were it not surpassed by the small-pox in intensity.

Medicines, then, are not considered by the homœopathists as direct remedies, but to act by giving rise to morbid symptoms, surpassing in intensity those of the disease against which they are employed ; on the principle that two similar diseases cannot coexist in the same individual: the original disease consequently yields, being overpowered by the artificial disease caused by the remedies ; and this, on the discontinuance of the medicines, is in its turn speedily overcome by the powers of the constitution. The particular symptoms to which each medicinal substance gives rise, and against which it is to be employed, are to be ascertained by experiments made by the homœopathist upon himself or other healthy persons.

But it must not be supposed that these surprising effects are produced by the ounce, drachm, or grain doses employed by ordinary practitioners. According to Hahnemann, the effects of medicinal substances are two-fold, viz. primitive, as the violent action produced by

large quantities of certain drugs; purgation, sweating, &c.; and secondary, or homœopathic, in which the action is determined towards the diseased part; the active properties becoming more developed in proportion to the minuteness of the dose: in fact, homœopathists are cautioned against too minute a subdivision of the medicine, lest it should become so energetic as to give rise to dangerous symptoms. I cannot, however, do better than extract one or two passages from the Exposition, in order to illustrate this position.

“ Besides, the homœopathic medicament acquires at each division or dilution an extraordinary degree of power by the friction or the shock imparted to it, as means of developing the inherent virtues of medicines, unknown before me, and which is so energetic, that of late, experience has obliged me to shake only twice, whereas formerly I prescribed ten shakes to each dilution.”

“ Gold, silver, platina, charcoal, are without action on man in their ordinary state, but from the continued trituration of a grain of gold with an hundred grains of powdered sugar, there results a preparation which has already great medicinal virtue. If a grain of this mixture be taken and trituated with another hundred grains of sugar, and if this process be continued until each grain of the ultimate preparation contains a quadrillionth part of the grain of gold, we shall

then have a medicament in which the medicinal virtue of the gold is so much developed, that it will be sufficient to take a grain, place it in a phial, and cause the air from it to be breathed for a few instants by a melancholy individual, in whom the disgust of life is carried so far as to incline to suicide, in order that, an hour afterwards, this person be delivered from his evil demon, and restored to his taste for life."

The only division of diseases by Hahnemann is into acute and chronic; of the former but little is said in the Exposition; although they may arise from exterior causes, as cold, excesses, &c., yet in many cases they depend upon a psoric affection, and almost all chronic diseases originate from sycosis, syphilis, or psora (*vulgo*, itch.) This latter especially is the cause of innumerable diseases, which great truth it took Hahnemann twelve years to find out. In mentioning some of the evils produced by this miasm, I quote his own words: "This is the only fundamental and exciting cause of all the morbid forms which, under the names of nervous weakness, hysteria, hypochondriasis, mania, melancholia, epilepsy, spasms of all kinds, rickets, caries, cancer, gout, hæmorrhoids, jaundice, dropsy, amenorrhœa, hæmoptysis, asthma, and suppuration of the lungs, sterility, deafness, cataract, and amaurosis, gravel, palsy, pains of all kinds, &c. figure in pathology as so many separate diseases, distinct and independent one from the other."

The modifications this miasm has undergone in its passage through millions of human constitutions, during several hundred generations, explain how it can assume so many forms.

In the treatment of cases, the precaution has been taken by the homœopathists of regulating with extreme care the diet of their patients. Abstinence from every thing of a stimulating nature, as condiments, coffee, &c. is recommended; even the smelling of delicate perfumes is prohibited, although the smoking of tobacco is allowed; which, considering Germany is the country whence homœopathy originated, is an extremely politic measure.

The absurdity of a doctrine equally opposed to reason and every-day experience, could not fail to be immediately apparent to the medical profession, as well as the injurious effects that might arise from its professors being allowed to practise on the credulity of the public, ever ready to be attracted by novelty, especially if it be clothed in the garb of unintelligibility and mystery. In order, therefore, to show the value of the pretensions of homœopathy, the experiment was made in Germany, Russia, France, and Italy, of treating a certain number of patients in public institutions by homœopathic means, and an equal number by the usual methods; the results are such as might have been anticipated.

A German homœopathist, practising in Russia, was invested by the Grand Duke Michael with full powers to prove, if possible, by a comparison of facts, the advantages of homœopathic measures over the ordinary modes of treatment; and a certain number of patients in the wards of a military hospital were entrusted to his care. At the expiration of two months, however, he was not permitted to proceed further; for, in comparing results, it was seen that within this period, of four hundred and fifty-seven patients treated by the ordinary means, three hundred and sixty-four, or three-fourths, were cured, and none died; whereas, by the homœopathic method, tried on one hundred and twenty-eight patients, one half only were cured, and five had died.

In order to ascertain, and give publicity to the results, the Russian Government caused a certain number of patients to be treated homœopathically in one hospital, while in another an equal number of patients were merely subjected to low diet and appropriate regimen, without the exhibition of any medicine. The results were very similar in both instances, and the medical council appointed to superintend the experiments, thus gives its official opinion:

“The medical council, after having attentively weighed the results of the experiments made according to the homœopathic method, and compared

them with those made according to the principles of the *médecine expectante*, finds that they greatly resemble the latter, and are probably based only on the *vis medicatrix naturæ*; for the infinitely minute doses can produce no effect on the human body. The medical council is therefore of opinion that the homœopathic practice should be prohibited in sanitary establishments dependent on government, for the following reasons:

“ 1. Acute diseases require energetic means of treatment which are not to be expected from homœopathy.

“ 2. The homœopathic treatment of external lesions and surgical diseases, is altogether out of the question.

“ 3. Some slight affections get well while under homœopathic treatment, but similar affections disappear equally well, without any medical treatment, by the adoption of an appropriate regimen, good air, and cleanliness.”

The experiments made in Paris to show how far homœopathy had claims to public confidence, also tend to prove that, where any effects are produced, they are to be ascribed to the influence of the imagination.

1. Several medical students at the Hôtel Dieu, chosen by a homœopathic physician, were subjected to the homœopathic regimen, and took at first one, then two, then ten, and at last eighty globules at a dose, of the most active medicines prepared by the only homœopathic chemist in

Paris. In not one instance was the slightest effect produced.

2. A number of pills, made with inert substances, as flour, gum arabic, and starch, were given to patients who believed them to be homœopathic remedies. I subjoin two or three of the results obtained.

Aphonia, of six weeks duration, cured in a few hours by starch pills *given homœopathically*. A girl, aged twenty, was admitted on the 4th January, with complete loss of voice, which had existed since the middle of November. She had experienced a similar attack the preceding year, but had recovered in fifteen days. Menstruation was regularly performed; a few days rest, and the usual hospital regimen, produced no effect; she was consequently placed in the department where the homœopathic experiments were made, and was ordered two starch pills; the first to be taken in the presence of the physician, the next when four hours had elapsed. A few minutes after the first pill had been swallowed, the following symptoms manifested themselves—*anxiety, pain and uneasiness in the region of the heart and thorax, perspiration, with heat and eruption on the skin.* The second pill appeared to aggravate these symptoms, with the addition of hiccough. She afterwards fell asleep, and on awaking, was astonished to find she could talk in a loud tone. The complaint did not recur, and she soon quitted the hospital. This

case is of a similar nature with that which I related a few pages back, where the patient so speedily recovered the use of her limbs after having been magnetised.

A man, aged forty, was admitted about the same time as the preceding patient, complaining of a sense of oppression on the chest. He had experienced an attack of hemoptysis a year before, and was exceedingly hypochondriacal. During the first few days no treatment was adopted, and he continued in the same state. Four starch pills, which he supposed to be homœopathic remedies, were then prescribed; one to be taken regularly every six hours. Half an hour after swallowing each pill, the patient experienced anxiety, sense of oppression, spitting of blood. The pills were discontinued, and resumed on alternate days during a fortnight. Each time they were taken, they were followed by oppression, headache, acceleration of pulse, diuresis, and pains in all the limbs.

A girl, aged twenty-three, labouring under cough with hectic fever, and insomnia, was also treated by these inert pills, which she imagined to be homœopathic. Each time, after taking a pill, the fever diminished, the cough was less fatiguing, and she slept better; she suffered more when she did not take it, and always requested to have her "calming pill."

The following case occurred to a physician at St. Petersburg. "A lady, aged forty-eight,

phthisical, had been treated by the homœopathic method during two years, when I became her physician; and as my efforts were unsuccessful, she requested me to treat her homœopathically. I consented, and gave her two grains of sugar, assuring her she would experience the effects of this powerful medicine for six days. The following day she received me with an ironical smile, saying, "One may easily see, doctor, that you are not accustomed to handle homœopathic remedies: that which you gave me was too energetic; it caused so much disturbance, that I did not expect to outlive the night; however, its action is in the end salutary, for I have not felt myself so well for a long time as I feel to-day."

Two physicians attached to an hospital experimented upon the *infirmiers*, or male attendants in their wards. One physician desired his *infirmiers* to note down every half hour the sensations they experienced, after taking what they supposed to be a homœopathic agent. They all experienced various sensations, of which the following is a specimen:

A young man in perfect health took eight pills, containing a minute portion of charcoal, and at the expiration of half an hour had noted the following symptoms: headache, confusion, imperfect vision, flushing of the face. On repeating the dose, the same symptoms recurred, with violent perspiration.

The other physician conducted his experiments differently: he took every morning six homœopathic pills, and at the end of a certain period, asked his *infirmiers* if they were willing to do the same; they consented, and did not experience the slightest effect.

Thus, in the first experiment, the individuals expecting to experience extraordinary sensations, from being required to note them down, do not fail to feel some, as would be the case with most persons under similar circumstances. On the other hand, those who saw no effect produced on their superior by the pills, also take them, and not expecting any particular sensations, do not experience any.

I might adduce various other examples, but being desirous not to extend this article, I shall content myself with briefly alluding to the experiments of M. Andral at La Pitié.

An hundred and thirty individuals were treated by homœopathic remedies in the presence of numerous witnesses. The regimen recommended by Hahnemann was strictly adhered to, and the prescriptions prepared by a homœopathic chemist. The experiments were of two kinds; first, to ascertain whether symptoms can be produced in healthy persons by medicines which cure similar symptoms when arising from other causes. Bark was one of the first substances chosen, and its various preparations were taken by M. Andral and ten other persons, at

first in homœopathic doses, which produced no effect; then in ordinary doses, which were gradually increased up to from six to twenty-four grains of sulphate of quinine per day. None of these persons experienced the least symptom of an attack of intermittent fever: the only effects produced by these large doses were slight indisposition and headache, in some whose stomachs were not so strong as the rest.

Aconitum, which, according to the homœopaths, is of superior efficacy to blood-letting in febrile diseases, was tried, and produced no effect. Sulphur was also tried, by several persons, without any eruption being produced on the skin.

Thus the statement that remedies cause diseases resembling those which they cure, is an assertion utterly groundless.

The second kind of experiments was made to ascertain whether homœopathic remedies would in any case affect the progress of disease.

Several cases of intermittent fever were treated homœopathically. Some got well at the end of a certain period, which would in all probability have been the case, had no remedies been employed: in other cases no effect was produced, and on the usual method of treatment being adopted, the patients got rapidly well. Similar results were obtained in treating febrile diseases, and several chronic complaints, except that in some cases the patients got worse while under the homœopathic system.

The homœopathists in Paris having petitioned the Minister of the Interior to permit the establishment of dispensaries for the treatment of patients by the homœopathic method, the minister requested the opinion of the Académie de Médecine on the subject. The reply of that body is made in the following terms :—

“ MONSIEUR LE MINISTRE ;

“ Homœopathy, which presents itself to you at the present time as a novelty, is not a new thing. For more than twenty-five years this doctrine has wandered here and there ;—first in Germany, then in Prussia, afterwards in Italy, and now in France ; seeking every where, though in vain, to introduce itself as a branch of medicine.

“ The time of the Académie has been repeatedly taken up with the subject, and, moreover, there are but few of its members who have not sought to ascertain its basis, and its effects.

“ With us, as elsewhere, homœopathy has been subjected, in the first place, to logical examination, which has exhibited in it a formal opposition to the best-established truths, a great number of striking contradictions, and many of those palpable absurdities which inevitably ruin all false systems in the opinion of enlightened persons, but which are not always a sufficient obstacle to the credulity of the multitude.

“ With us, as elsewhere, homœopathy has also

been subjected to the trial of facts, and put to the test of experience. Observation, faithfully interrogated, has furnished the most categorical answers; for if it be admitted that some examples of cure have occurred while under the homœopathic treatment, it has been ascertained that the success is justly attributable to the bias of a weak imagination on the one hand, and to the remedial powers of the constitution on the other. Observation has also shown the great danger of homœopathy in frequent and serious cases of disease, where the physician may do as much harm, and cause no less injury, by inactive measures, as by those which are directly prejudicial.

“Reason and experience are consequently united to repel a similar doctrine, and counsel that it should be left to itself and its own resources.

“If the precedent were once established, application would be made for dispensaries for Mesmerism, animal magnetism, Brownism, and other conceptions of a heated imagination.

“From these considerations and motives, the Académie opines that government should refuse to entertain the petition which has been addressed to it in favour of homœopathy.”

Having heard of the existence of a homœopathic hospital at Leipzig, the head-quarters of the doctrine, I had the curiosity to visit it during my brief sojourn in that city, last July, and was

directed to a small house in one of the suburbs, with an inscription on the outside denoting its destination. I had no difficulty in obtaining admission, and was accompanied through the house by the assistant homœopathist, the principal being in the country.

From what I had previously heard, I expected to see at least from thirty to forty beds, occupied by patients, and was somewhat surprised to find that the house only contained eight, of which but one was occupied by a phthisical patient, who had been there several months without any amelioration. There were, however, five other patients, able to get about, viz. a case of chronic swelling of the foot; one of delirium tremens, which had also been a long time under treatment by *arnica* and *hyoscyamus*, in doses of the decillionth part of a grain, which I was gravely assured produced sound sleep; a young girl, with no other complaint than deranged menstruation, who had also been some months in the house; a case of necrosis of the tibia, treated by the internal exhibition of homœopathic remedies; and a woman, with a cutaneous disease, of a syphilitic nature, who had been treated with sulphur, carbon, gold, and other homœopathic remedies, since the month of February, but with little advantage, as the disease appeared to me likely to be interminable under a similar system.

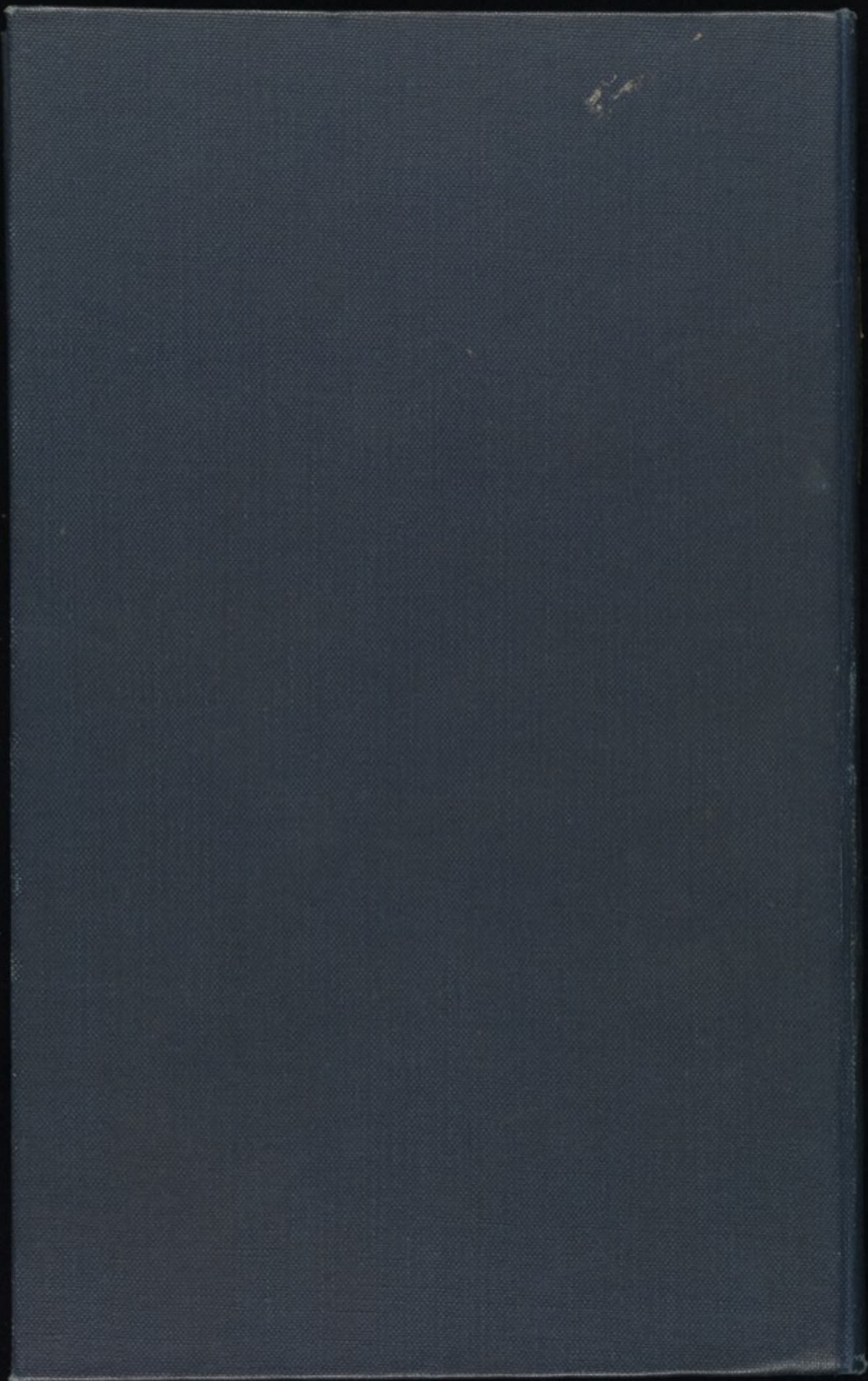
During my visit two or three out-patients presented themselves. One of these was a healthy

boy, with tinea capitis, for which he had been taking homœopathic globules since February, the hair having been allowed to grow, and no external application having been used. The appearance of the patient's head did not afford any favourable evidence of the good effects of the treatment, and I should imagine the disease was much in the same state as when he first applied for relief. It would be superfluous to lengthen this Appendix by any further observations, enough having been stated to enable those who have perused it to form a pretty correct estimate of the value to be set upon animal magnetism and homœopathy.

THE END.

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