

**Mesmerism : a few, from a number of cases cured / by Mr. William Fisher
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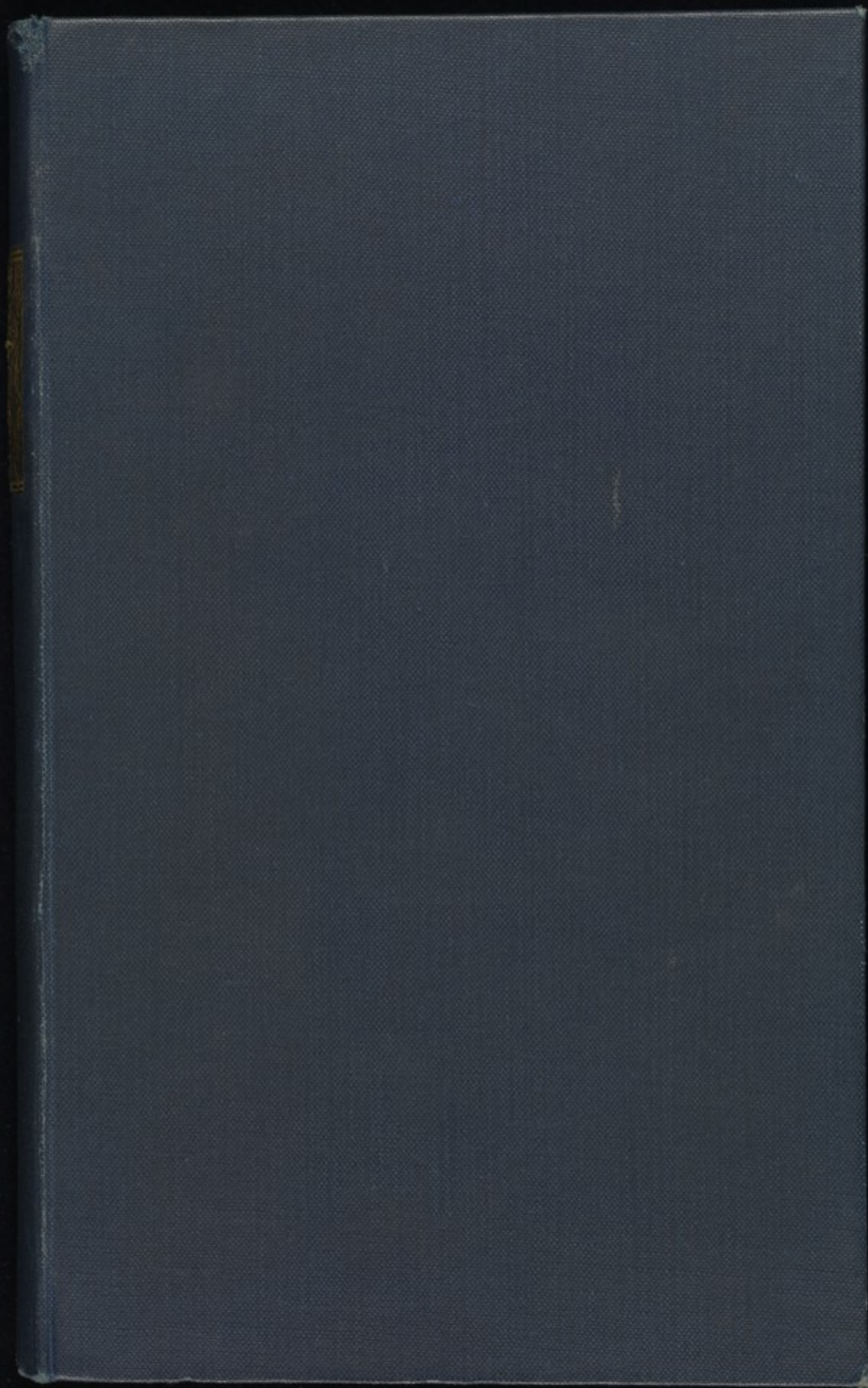
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MESMERISM.

A FEW, FROM A NUMBER OF

CASES CURED.

BY

MR. WILLIAM FISHER,

(Late of the Mesmeric Infirmary, 36, Weymouth Street.)

MESMERIC INFIRMARY,

104, LISSON GROVE,

MARYLEBONE ROAD.

1859.

Mesmerism.

MR. WILLIAM FISHER, many years Mesmeriser at the Mesmeric Infirmary, 36, Weymouth Street, begs to inform the gentry and public, that he intends with the assistance of others, to open a Mesmeric Infirmary, at 104, Lisson Grove, Marylebone Road, where it is his intention of devoting two hours daily, from nine to eleven a.m., for poor patients, for cure of disease by Mesmerism. Ladies and Gentlemen attended at the Infirmary, or at their own homes, by male or female Mesmerisers. W. F. feels satisfied that, it requires but a trial to convince the most sceptical of the cure of disease by the power of Mesmerism.

The following are a few Cases selected from numbers cured by him.

P.S.—Mr. W. Fisher, intends for the convenience of many persons who are unable to attend, to take Indoor Patients at the Mesmeric Infirmary, 104, Lisson Grove, Marylebone Road.

The Infirmary is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sundays excepted.

CASES.

A Case of Dropsy of the Abdomen.

Mrs. Granger, aged 46, the wife of a brickmaker, residing in Teetotal Row, Yewsley, near Uxbridge, had given birth to four boys, the last in 1846, and for six years laboured under violent pains and enlargement of the abdomen, being told by her surgeon, Mr. Stillwell, of Uxbridge, that her disease was *dropsy*. She took medicine from him for six months unsuccessfully, was advised to go to London, and became a patient in University College Hospital in October, 1849. In that institution she took large quantities of medicine under Dr. Parkes without benefit, and was tapped. On examination of the abdomen after the dropsical fluid had been let out, she was found to have an ovarian tumor, and was directed to prepare for a surgical operation in order that it might be cut out. To this she objected; and, after remaining in the Hospital six months, and having been tapped three times by Mr. Richard Quain, she was discharged uncured. She then placed herself under Dr. Coffin at 32, Hatton Garden, and took his medicines in vain for six months, and was tapped at his direction

three times by Mr. Hardwicke, at her sister's, the Metropolitan Lodging House in the St. Pancras Road, but was uncured. Being pronounced an incurable both by him and at the hospital, she returned home after great suffering, and having swallowed immense quantities of drugs. Her neighbours gave her many receipts, which she followed in the hope of some relief to her extreme and constantly increasing sufferings. Her sister visited her occasionally from London, and heard her cries before reaching her house: and at the last visit was informed by the medical attendant that she would find her sister in a coffin at her next visit:—which, indeed, she hoped would be the case, so great and continued were the pains. Medicine was still taken, with the view of procuring a little ease. The sister had heard of the cures effected by Mesmerism, and a trial of it was determined upon. We have not funds sufficient to receive in-patients; and therefore Mr. Fisher, who has been one of our two male mesmerisers ever since we opened the Institution in 1850, very nobly offered, without consulting with any of us, to go to Uxbridge and mesmerise her gratuitously, after his six hours' work at the Infirmary was over, provided the friends would pay the expenses of his railroad journeys. He performed this laborious act of disinterested kindness and mesmeric zeal from the 19th of February, 1854, till the beginning of November. The people of the village sneered and hissed while the treatment was continued; often saying, 'There goes the devil's imp,' when they saw Mr. Fisher proceeding to the house, and told the husband when accompanying Mr. Fisher to the station that he ought not to allow his wife to be mesmerised nor himself to be seen with such a fellow, who would be sure to run away with her.

"She was tapped fifty-five times: six times in London, as already mentioned, and forty-nine times in the country by Messrs. Stillwell and Kane. At the fifty-third operation she measured five feet in circumference, and six pailfuls, or ninety-six pints: for each pail held two gallons. The average quantity removed at every operation was nine gallons—so that the whole amounted to four hundred and ninety-five gallons, or three thousand nine hundred and sixty pints.

"As soon as mesmerism was adopted, she began to suffer less, to improve in her general health, and to decrease in size. But there was so much fluid in her when mesmerism was begun on the 19th of February last year, that Mr. Stillwell tapped her on the 6th of March: and this was the last operation required. The fluid on formerappings had always been of a light yellow greenish colour and nearly inodorous: on this occasion it was of a dark brown and very offensive.

"The passes when reaching the abdomen gave her excruciating pain. When Mr. Fisher had mesmerised her only six times, he saw that she required tapping, and advised her to send for her surgeon, Mr. Stillwell, saying that after this tapping he felt certain he could cure her and prevent the necessity for another operation. She replied that then she never should be cured: for Mr. Stillwell had declared after the previous operation, that he would not dare to tap her again as she would die under the next operation: and she added, that indeed she would not be mesmerised again, since it had given her more pain than she had ever felt before, and wished her sister had not interfered, and that Mr. Fisher had never come to her house. However, Mr. Stillwell did tap her once more and expressed his surprise at the improved state of her health when he went to her house to tap her, and he wished to know how it had been brought about. But she dared not tell him that she had been mesmerised, and had nothing else done. He of course now knows the whole history: and we trust he will give up his weak prejudices.

"The Secretary, hearing of the case, mentioned it to the Council in the beginning of the summer. Two members, Mr. Shaw and Mr. Kiste, went into the country, accompanied by Mr. Driver, surgeon, of Lower Grosvenor Place, Pimlico. On examining the patient and hearing her statement, he pronounced the case to be 'marvellous, most marvellous!' but afterwards said that the fluid would gather again (an amount of it being still in her), and moreover that she would soon die. The Secretary was requested to go to Uxbridge and ascertain the facts. At his return, General Bagnold, Dr. Elliotson, Messrs. Colvin, Purland, T. A. Shaw, W. Underwood, Gardiner, and Mrs. Herring, feeling that she ought to be mesmerised daily, and that Mr. Fisher could not do this, and was already doing what few would have done, resolved to subscribe together and defray the expense of her journies and remunerating Mr. Fisher: while Mr. Frere paid for her board and lodging. She accordingly came up in the beginning of November, and first called on Mr. Stillwell to thank him for his attention and kindness: and he seemed much pleased with her improvement, but thought that the fluid would accumulate again: was daily mesmerised by Mr. Fisher, till the 16th of March, though she appeared before the Council and was found to be entirely free from dropsy, and in excellent health on the 3rd of January, 1855. The hard ovarian tumor could still be felt: but it gave rise to no inconvenience whatever, and she believes it has lessened.

"She remains well; and all the people in the country who know her are astonished at her healthy appearance.

A Case of Insanity.

"A healthy looking lad, named William Ibez Rowland, 15 years of age, living at No. 1, Gould's Hill, Shadwell, the son of a man belonging to the Land Transport Corps, A division, had spent the last three years on board a collier as an apprentice. On the 11th of January, 1856, his mother went to him on board the *Swainson*, collier, Captain Pearse, that was about to sail for Hartlepool, and informed him that she had received a letter communicating the death of his father at Balaklava on the 1st of the previous December from frost, in consequence of the tents being blown away. He was immediately distracted, felt as if his heart was bursting, and passed a sleepless night. In the morning he was seized with an epileptic fit, and had six or seven in the course of that day and the next. He continued to have them for a month on board the vessel, and was then sent home by the captain: and at home he had three or four daily for three weeks. The mother applied for assistance to the Patriotic Fund, and he and her two other children were sent by the gentlemen to the school called the Orphan Home, at Barnet, established for the orphans of soldiers who perished in the Crimea. He remained there a year. The fits did not cease, but took place once, twice, or three times a-day, and he became violent, to a degree insane, sleeping very badly at night, so that he could not be allowed to remain in the school any longer, and it was considered that he must be placed in a lunatic asylum. A little before Christmas last he was in the Westminster Hospital for a week. Growing worse and worse, he was brought, exceedingly wild, to the Infirmary on the 18th of last April, by Mr. Ross, of the Orphan Home, in a cab. We appointed William Fisher his mesmeriser.

"He was perfectly ignorant of Mesmerism—in fact had never heard the word; and his mother, when she brought him, had no idea of it, fancied he would have medicine given to him, and was astonished on seeing passes made before his face. Yet the very first time this was done he went to sleep; and from that day was always thrown into the sleep after passes before his face during very few minutes. At the end of a week the fits were fewer and milder, and he was calmer and more manageable.

"When at the Infirmary on Monday afternoon, May 19, he told his mesmeriser that he had been attacked with a fit in the morning, at 10 o'clock: and that he had dreamt at the Infirmary that he should have it at that time, and that he should have two more fits only: one on the Thursday at 10 o'clock, and one on the Saturday at the same hour. After his mesmeric sleep was over, he was desired to attend on the Thursday and Saturday, at a

quarter before 10 o'clock, in order that it might be observed whether his prediction would be verified. He attended at those times, and on the Thursday and Saturday at 10 o'clock precisely he had a fit; none at any other time, and he has had none since.

Another Case of Insanity—1856.

"John Postill, of 7, Walmer Place, Stingo Lane, had been ill for seven months, at first complaining of pains in his head, loss of appetite and debility, and then becoming strangely negligent of himself, forgetful, silly, and occasionally very violent, so that one day he was only just prevented from stabbing his sister. Perfectly cured in three weeks. Mr. W. Fisher was his mesmeriser.

A Case of Deafness.

Deafness arises from so many different causes, that there can be no one mode of cure for it. Some cases may be irremediable. The following is an instance of the power of mesmerism over one form of it. David Boyd, a postman, aged 46, living in Little Marlborough Street, became deaf from cold nearly seven years before. He came to the Infirmary, on the 25th of August, 1857. He had been a patient at several hospitals, was obliged to give up his occupation, and was never worse than when he became patient in the Infirmary. He had great noise in his head, and nothing could be seen wrong in the ear passages: he was always very nervous. Mesmerism was applied locally, and generally at the same time with passes over the ears, and looking at him, by W. Fisher. In October he was far less nervous, and could hear much better, he persevered for a week afterwards, and can now hear a whisper, has no noise in the head, and his general health is better than it has been for years.

A Case of Ovarian Tumor.

Mrs. Sarah Powell, living at 92, Regent Street, Vauxhall Bridge Road, was admitted on the 14th of January, 1852, with an ovarian tumor, pronounced to be such by the medical members of the Committee, and by her former medical attendants. It had commenced in 1850, and she mistaking its nature, engaged an accoucheur in the October of that year. As it continued to increase, she became a patient at the Homœopathic Institution, under Mr. Dudgeon; but it still enlarged. She was mesmerised daily, and decreased fifteen inches in circumference in eight months; and

now, after visiting the Infirmary for a year and a half, considers herself cured. She was inspected by Dr. Symes at the meeting of the Committee last week.

Extracted from the Report of the Fourth Annual Meeting, 1853, page 13.

A Case of Leprosy.

Elizabeth Morris, living at No. 10, Little College Street, Westminster, applied on the 14th of September, 1854. She had suffered from violent pains of the head for a month; but for five and twenty years her skin had been beset with leprosy, produced by drinking cold water, when hot. For this she had been treated by numerous medical men, and used medicines and baths abundantly. She had been told that her disease was white leprosy. She was mesmerised by Mr. Fisher in the usual manner, and by the 12th of October she was completely cured.

A Case of Dropsy—June 1st, 1856.

A statement of the cure of Mary Conden, aged 11 years.

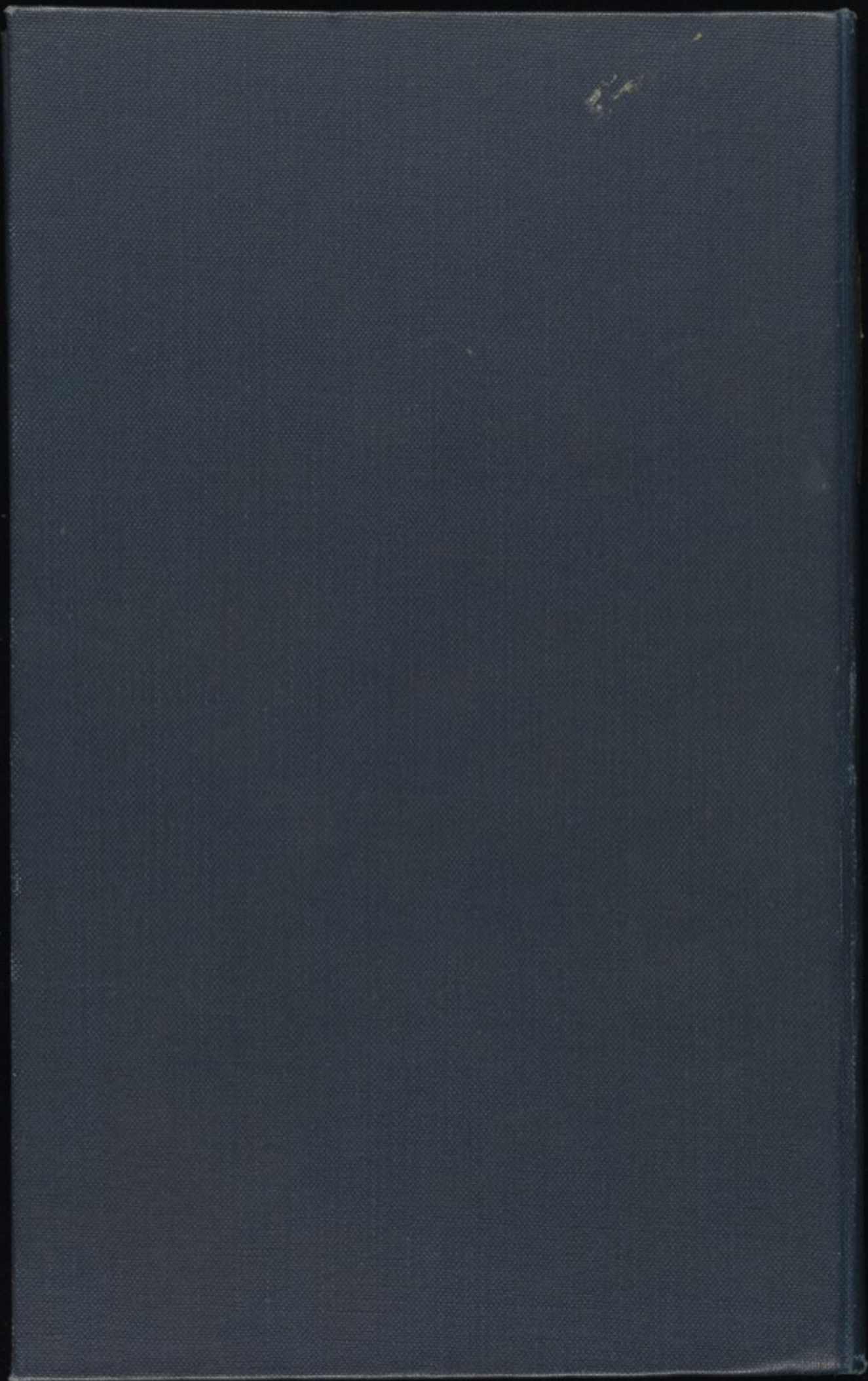
Suffering from a severe case of dropsy, full of water from head to foot. She applied to the parish doctor, Mr. Joseph, he could do nothing for her, and stated, there was no cure. She then applied to Dr. Shecker, of Baker Street, Portman Square, he stated that he could do nothing for her, but gave her an order to go to Marylebone Infirmary; but hearing of Mr. W. Fisher, she applied to him; and his wife, Mrs. Fisher, also a mesmeriser, attended her for six weeks, and made a perfect cure of her. Mrs. Conden returns her most sincere thanks to Mrs. Fisher, for her kind attention to the cure of her daughter.

Mrs. Conden, No. 3, York Court, Earl Street, Manchester Square.

A Case of St. Vitus's Dance.

Henry C. Hall, aged nine years, was troubled with a nervous affection, which had been coming on for some time, and being recommended to the Mesmeric Infirmary, he was taken there on the 17th of June, 1857, and seen by the doctor, who pronounced his disease to be St. Vitus's Dance. He was placed under the care of Mr. W. Fisher. The benefits derived were perceptible after the first four days, and at the end of three weeks he was perfectly cured.

Henry Hall, 30, Robert Street, Hampstead Road.



MESMERISM