

Magnetism and mesmerism. Matters relating thereto / Collected by Giles Deere [?].

Contributors

Deere, Giles.

Publication/Creation

[London, etc.] : [publisher not identified], [1840-1845]

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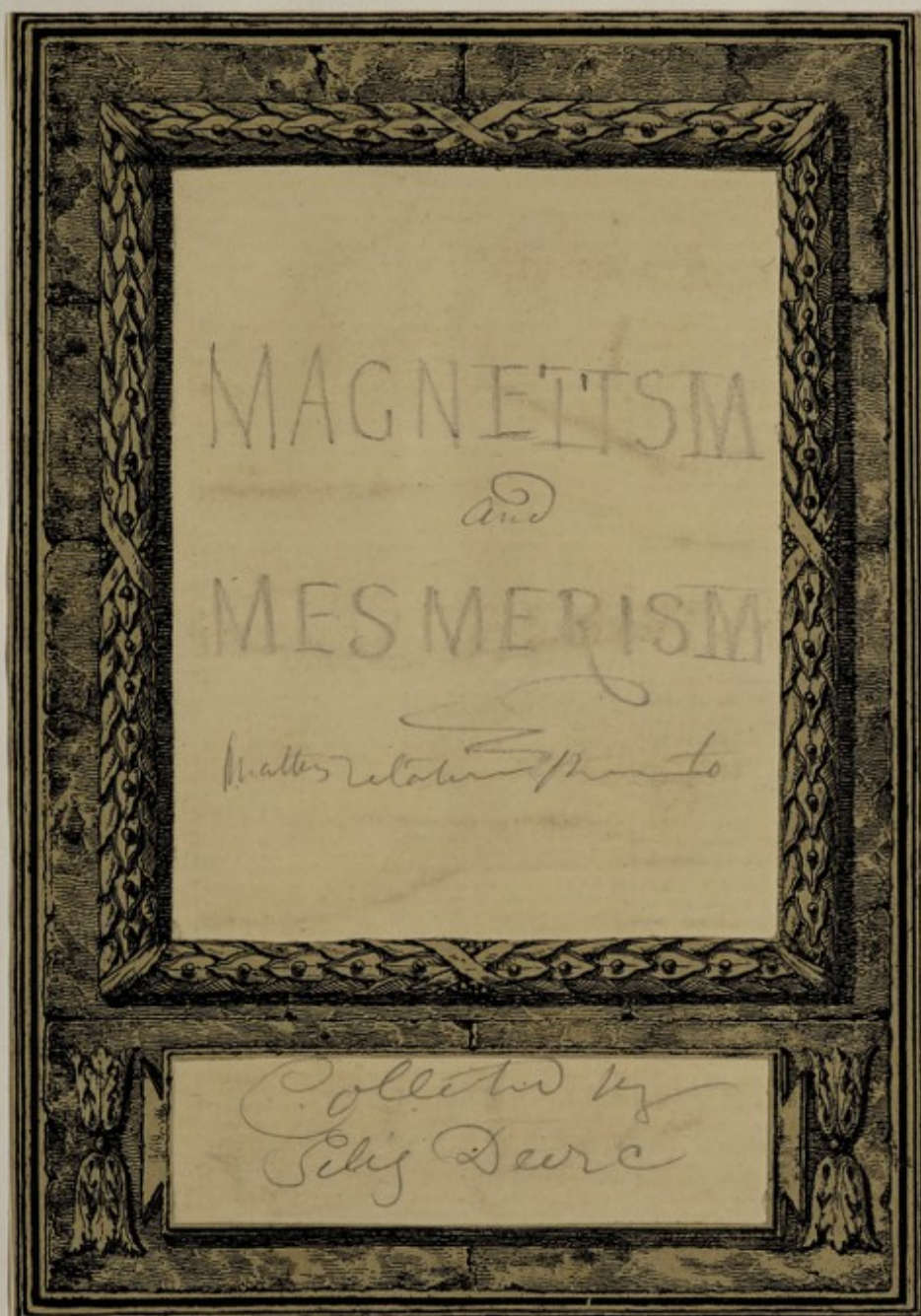


Wellcome Collection
183 Euston Road
London NW1 2BE UK
T +44 (0)20 7611 8722
E library@wellcomecollection.org
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MESMERISM
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[c. 1840-45]



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LECTURE ON PHRENO-MAGNETISM AT WORKSOP.

On Monday evening week, a lecture on phreno-magnetism was given in the New Concert Room, Worksop, by Mr. Spencer T. Hall, of Sheffield, to a numerous and respectable audience. H. S. Wake, Esq. was appointed to the chair, who, in a few well delivered words, introduced the lecturer. Amidst general congratulations, Mr. Hall rose and proceeded to show, ere he commenced his illustrations practically, how irreconcilable in former ages men and mankind were to newly discovered theories, and were disinclined to deviate from existing irrational dogmas, instancing, as satisfactory proofs, those of Galileo, Harvey, &c. He then gave a lucid sketch of phrenology as coupled with magnetism, in which he maintained that the head of a man was surrounded by innumerable faculties or organs, near which was seated or located each particular organ's antagonistic faculty; and that magnetism was undeniably its testing agent, under which influence, development of each faculty could be manifested, at once establishing the close connection of the sciences. Before he commenced experimenting, he would observe that to expound the cause of effects was not his aim, nor in his power, but solely and merely to exhibit, for the good of society, the unspeakable wonders of this invisible agent. Although he had brought two persons upon whom he proposed operating, he trusted they would not tax him with collusion or unfairness; observing that although he might or might not succeed in selecting persons hitherto untried, yet the want of susceptibility, perhaps, would prevent him developing satisfactorily the striking faculties he proposed calling forth. The first subject was a woman, whom he, by manipulation, in three minutes, threw under the influence, and such was the rigidity of her muscles that the united attempt of three persons selected from among the audience could scarcely relax them. The faculties of veneration, joy, adhesiveness, secretiveness, industry, tune, number, suspicion, combativeness, with various others, were wonderfully manifested. When under secretiveness, she abstracted from a gentleman, artfully and with facility, a watch, drawing the guard to which it was attached over the individual's head, afterwards, with sly expression, depositing the prize in her bosom; the organ of conscientiousness was touched, when, showing a most contrite and lachrymal countenance, she returned the property to its rightful owner. Under the faculty of industry, she imitated the occupation of sewing, and when subjected to that of tune, she, with wonderful precision and pathos, executed a song; curious to say, immediately the finger was withdrawn from the organ, that instant she ceased, and on re-touching it, did not recommence the verse or line, but like the rotary movement of a musical box, continued the air from the note at which she left off. Slips of paper were then presented to Mr. Hall by several of the audience, on which the names of the respective faculties wished to be manifested were written, amongst which was that of destructiveness; it would be impossible to delineate the fury and anger exemplified by her during the operation on this faculty, suffice it to say, that unless the lecturer had very adroitly lodged some other organ, the consequences would have been a most lasting impression on the operator's phrenological seat; the young woman was then re-associated, and her pulse found to have varied under the influence from 120 to 95. Mr. Hall wished to observe that he would introduce the young man he was about to practice upon by mesmerising him through the door, and that no appearance of deceit might be shown, he desired any two to appoint a time for producing the effects, when he would retire from the room, accompanied by one to communicate the arrangement. Two minutes was the period fixed upon, when the man, sitting on a chair in the centre of the room, received, to the astonishment of all, the magnetic stroke; the shock was electrical, momentary, every muscle was distended, rigid as a bar of iron. After demesmerising him, he performed the same through a table, at a given time producing a similar phenomenon. Different faculties, as in the case of the woman, were also manifested, to the apparently great satisfaction of the audience. Such was the susceptibility of the young man, that he was magnetised by those persons around him, much to the surprise of all present who were not aware of the fact. Mr. Hall remarked that any one might magnetise, providing his influence his greater than the one he undertakes. He begged to conclude by hoping that he had convinced some amongst the extensive class of sceptics; and that if he had added one mite to the store of general knowledge and use of society, his end would be gained and satisfaction complete. The audience then retired, portraying strong feelings of amazement and interest.

THE MYSTERY OF MESMERISM AND SOMNAMBULISM EXPLAINED.

Animal magnetism has, for some years, amused and bewildered the lovers of the marvellous. Ridiculed as a mere illusion or delusion, it has nevertheless perplexed the scientific; its effects are too palpable to be denied, but any rational solution of the cause or causes in which they have originated has hitherto eluded detection. The honour of unveiling this mystery was reserved for Mr. James Braid, an eminent surgeon in Manchester, who, having witnessed the recent experiments of Monsieur Lafontaine, in the Athenaeum of that town, determined, if possible, to bring the system to the test of physiological and anatomical principles. This gentleman, having satisfied his own mind that he could produce the phenomena without personal contact, and even induce sleep when in a different room from the person to be thrown into a state of somnolency, announced a public lecture on the subject, which he delivered at the Manchester Athenaeum on Saturday last, before seven hundred persons.

Mr. Braid first placed on the table a common black wine-bottle, in the mouth of which was a cork having a plated top. The individual on whom the experiment was to be performed was seated on a chair, and directed to gaze intently at the cork without winking or averting the eyes. The cork was about two feet from the person operated upon, whose head was inclined backwards, forming with the object an angle of about forty-five degrees. In this position he remained about five minutes, when profound sleep was produced.

The second experiment was completed in the same time. In the third case, a bandage was placed round the head, for the purpose of retaining in an immovable position a common bottle cork, a little above the root of the nose, as the object to be gazed at, and in about four minutes a complete state of somnolency ensued. In this case was proved the inability of the patient to open the eyelids, although consciousness was in no respect suspended, as he was able to reply distinctly to any question. The fourth experiment failed, either through the noise that prevailed, or owing to the person not fixing his gaze continuously on the object. The fifth was successful, and although the party made a desperate effort to open his eyes, so much as to agitate his whole frame, they remained as though hermetically sealed; when Mr. Braid took from his pocket a wooden ruler, and drew the end of it gently over the upper eyelids of both eyes, when the spell was broken, and the sense of sight restored with perfect ease. These experiments fully demonstrated that the phenomena were perfectly independent of animal magnetism, as in no instance was there the least approach to personal contact or any manipulation.

Having thus convinced the audience that sleep could be produced without pressure of the thumbs or waving of the hands, as employed by Monsieur Lafontaine, Mr. Braid proceeded to explain the rationale of his discovery.

The artificial mode of producing sleep is to fatigue the rectus and levator muscle of the eye, which is effected by a continuously strained and intent gaze at an object viewed under an acute angle. Under such circumstances, the irritability of these muscles becomes exhausted, as well as the irritability of the optic nerve; giddiness ensues, a mist rises up before the eye, and sleep ensues. Congestion is induced in the eyes, and carried from them to the optic and muscular nerves of the eye, and owing to their proximity to the origin of the nerves of respiration and circulation, affect them through sympathy, and enfeeble the action of the heart and lungs. The heart, thus acting feebly, is unable to propel the blood with sufficient force to the extremities, and hence their coldness. The blood consequently is accumulated in the region of the heart, and it is thus stimulated; and in order to remove the inordinate load, it is compelled to increase the frequency of its contractions, in order to compensate for the feebleness of its efforts. The brain, head, and face now become congested in consequence, and varied phenomena, resulting from irregularity in the circulation of that important organ, the brain, follow. The inability to raise the upper eyelid Mr. Braid accounts for on the principle of temporary paralysis of the levator muscles, owing to excessive and long-continued exertion at the commencement of the operation.

PHRENOLOGY AND MESMERISM, 3, GREEN STREET, CAMBRIDGE.

MR. J. TAYLOR, PHRENOLOGIST, (from London), begs to inform the Gentlemen of the University Nobility, and Gentry of the Town and County of Cambridge, that he has returned again for a few weeks only, for the purpose of examining the Heads of Ladies and Gentlemen desiring to know exactly their propensities and capabilities. The Science is now indispensable in the Education, training, and placing of Youth in positions suitable to their capacities, and in the government of ourselves, by preventing us from falling into the fatal consequences of an unknown conformation.

J. T. will shortly give a public Lecture on Mesmerism, when the various phenomena of the science will be shown, and one or two persons put to sleep under its power; persons suffering from fits, head-aches, or any nervous debility, (that is not organic) cured by the Mesmeric influence, which is free from pain, and perfectly Elysian in its effects. Apply to Mr. TAYLOR, 3, Green Street, Cambridge.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM. By a Surgeon. London.—This is, on the whole, a very fair compendium of animal magnetism, although the author errs not a little on the side of credulity. However, his object evidently is to speak the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, and in his laudable pursuit he imparts a great deal of information. Unfortunately, now and then he does not sift and scrutinize his matter with sufficient acumen. He speaks of what men of wisdom and probity have believed, and yet he knows that there is no absurdity or falsehood, however monstrous, that has not been maintained by men of wisdom and probity. It is, therefore, saying nothing in favour of mesmerism that it has had in its favour the support of a few great names. The same may be said of astrology and witchcraft. The author acknowledges that the most outrageous of the absurdities of one age have been the philosophy of another. The highwayism on human credulity has been immense. This surgeon fairly shows a few, and but a few, of the abominable falsehoods in favour of mesmerism which have been asserted of public characters. The charlatanism of this humbug science, with its mirrors and musical boxes and glasses, and trickery of every description, has been incalculable. The impostor, Mesmer, by his dupery could make nothing until he got the Priests or Clergy on his side, and then he made 400,000 francs as his share; but what he gave to the Clergy for connivance is not stated. The Minister of France offered him an immense sum, so it is said, to establish a College of Mesmerism. In this statement our author is mistaken, because Mesmer was a swindler, and would have grasped at such an offer; and at the time he states it to have been made, the French finances were in the most deplorable condition, and the Minister, Maurepas, fool as he was as events proved, was too cunning to hold out such a contemptible delusion. Every sect in philosophy or religion produces schisms, and among the mesmerites schisms were innumerable. Some maintained that mesmerism was a physical science, others that it was a religious mystery, and whilst one party were stout logical combatants for its being only a remedy for the body, others maintained that it was providentially revealed for the cure, and solely for the cure, of souls; whilst a third party would have it that mesmerism cured body and soul separately or conjointly. One teacher taught that mesmerism could affect trees, imparted from animal man to a tree, and that then the mysterious influence ended; but another school taught that if one tree were mesmerised it could, by sympathies, mesmerise all other trees; but as each intermediate tree could mesmerise only by deputyism, this doctrine was doubted. Cannot this have something to do with the forbidden fruit? One person maintained that all the miracles of the New Testament, and, of course, we suppose the Old, were performed by mesmerism, throwing out of the case whether they were performed at all. The author of this little work, which has, on the whole, a great deal of merit, speaks of the mesmeretic miracles performed at Paris, by Dupotet. What can be cheaper or more vulgar than miracles, provided the miracle-worker can get believers? The Abbé Paris worked hundreds of miracles in a churchyard, until the King forbade him to work any more; and mesmerism will work a prodigious number of miracles, until the good sense of the people destroys it. The author's exposures of Dr. Elliotson's delusions are very fairly stated. Such impositions were never before practised by a respectable man. As to the tricks played by that arch impostor, the Rev. Mr. Townsend, they are beneath contempt; and if this clerical mesmeriser can make men see from the backs of their heads or the apices of their necks or their bellies, he must be either a Saint or a Devil. We closely examined the mesmerising tricks of Monsieur Lafontaine, and more closely exposed in the little work before us. However great an impostor was this French adventurer, his performances were less disgraceful than the mendacious work of the Rev. Mr. Townsend. Whoever may be the author of the little book before us (he styles himself a surgeon) he has done a public benefit, and we trust that his work will be extensively circulated.

MESMERISM.—We thought that we had so effectually exposed this wretched and even dirty imposture, that it would die never to revive, and we were not mistaken with respect, at least, to that contemptible impostor, Lafontaine, for being reduced to a paltry repetition of quack tricks upon his French servant, is a proof that his trade, of humbug may become a police case, but cannot be a means of raising the wind. Sorry, however, are we to say that Dr. Elliotson is again exposing himself. We shall not be so uncharitable as to treat Dr. Elliotson as a man wishing "to make a property" out of popular ignorance and delusions, but he really goes far to provoke a suspicion and to justify a conclusion of his absolute want of integrity. We have an account in *The Times* (it is true the lying *Times*) of Monday last, of Dr. Elliotson's inspiring persons by mesmerism to forget death. Can he not equally mesmerise or fortune tell all gypsies and other fortune-tellers with the power of foretelling life, its sex, duration, its diseases, accidents, and ultimate fate? Surely, if by mesmerising a person, he or she can foretell the fate of a doctor's patient, he or she, by the "mesmeric influence," may equally foretell the fate of any criminal convicted or under trial. The Doctor informs us that his mesmerised patient, in her delirium, could foretell the death of one of his patients, by her mesmeric vision of the ill-fated patient's body or soul appearing before him or her in a white sheet. Surely the physician who can say this will soon stand strongly in need of a winding-sheet, and at present must stand under sad necessities of a strait waistcoat. If Dr. Elliotson does not contradict that which *The Times* states about his mesmerism, the only conclusion is, that he is as mad as "a March hare," or something very much worse in a moral sense. Who would have any confidence in a doctor that, instead of calculating the nature of a disease and the consequences of his prescriptions, would foretell the fate of his patient by the white-sheet visions of one of his mesmerised witches or wizards. Dr. Elliotson may shield himself in the contempt in which *The Times* newspaper is held for its total ignorance of science, its destitution of truth, and its general depravity; but papers of less infamy than *The Times* inadvertently copy from its columns, and thus an honourable medical practitioner may be made ridiculous, or even infamous. On Thursday M. Lafontaine appeared in the City for the first time, in order to exhibit his illustration of mesmerism. There was a considerable number of persons present, consisting of several elegantly attired females, and many scientific, medical, and literary gentlemen, provincial as well as metropolitan. The place selected for the exhibition was one of the large rooms at the London Tavern, at the upper end of which a platform was erected, on which were the operator, his interpreter, an electro-magnetic battery, &c. A slight-made young man (a foreigner), who has before frequently undergone the ordeal, was first subjected to the process, and a short time reduced to a state of unconsciousness, and thence to that of catalepsy; in each state he received a powerful shock from the battery, but which failed to counteract the effects of mesmerising. After some other tests had been applied, he was led round the room supported by three persons, having all the apparent inanimation of a lifeless corpse! By the command of M. Lafontaine, he was then brought to the condition of a Somnambulist, and suddenly restored to perfect consciousness, without exhibiting the slightest mode of exhaustion. Mr. Reynolds, a surgeon from the country, a powerful, muscular man, volunteered to submit to the operation, stating as his reason that he had formerly disbelieved that mesmerism would produce such effects, but had seen reason to alter his opinion from the sensation which had been produced upon him within these few days, by only a partial operation. But although subjected to magnetising for a quarter of an hour, he was not in the slightest degree affected. Mr. Eslingham Wilson, the bookseller; Mr. Clement, jun., of *The Observer*; and Mr. Tricheb, a Baltic merchant, were also operated on, but equally proved failures. The Professor then declared that he believed his magnetic power had been absorbed in the first operation. It was also stated by some gentlemen in the room, that the application seldom succeeds in the first instance with any party, and there were some who said it was necessary to be daily mesmerised for three months to insure success; but the majority doubted this assertion. Mr. Grant, the banker, of Portsmouth, stated that he had known some very extraordinary effects to have been produced by magnetism, particularly by Dr. Engledee, and said he was willing to try its effects, but as he was subject to spasms, in case any thing should happen, he would leave his card with the company (this remark excited much merriment). The test, however, was not applied to him. A lad, who had been brought for the purpose, and had been often magnetised before, was then operated on with much effect. The company then separated, after the exhibition had lasted three hours, under the impression that the whole was a decided humbug.



MESMERISM IN CONSTANTINOPLE.

I chanced one day to witness the ceremonies performed by the magnetizer in the *hazan*, which were accompanied by some peticularities similar to those employed by our more civilized, but, perhaps, less

honest charlatans. Being occupied in cheapening some articles from the varied assortment of old weapons and antique curiosities displayed at Ibrahim Effendi's shop, I was interrupted by the approach of an Arab, ill-favoured and one-eyed, attired in a red-brown and broad white turban, followed by a sickly negress. After the customary salutations of peace and welcome, the Arab observed that the fame of Ibrahim's skill was the theme of general wonder at the *khan* where he lodged, and that he had come to consult him. To this the other replied with a compliment and renewed welcome, and the Arab then stated that the slave at his heels was certainly possessed of a devil, or under the influence of witchcraft; that, from a lively and intelligent lass, she had become sullen, indolent, and refractory, and that neither kindness nor correction produced any effect upon her. After detailing sundry other symptoms, all tending to prove that the master of evil had taken up his abode in the girl's bosom, the Arab ended by inquiring if the Effendi could work a cure.

This was to question the existence of the very science itself, therefore Ibrahim set aside the article with which he was tempting our poor purse, slipped several beads of his *tesbeh* (rosary) through his fingers, and, with a gentle affirmative motion of his head, replied, "Inshallah!" To this the Arab responded with a similar exclamation; and the negress was then thrust forward by her proprietor. Being seated upon his shopboard, elevated about three feet above the pavement, Ibrahim was enabled to operate without the trouble of displacing himself. The neighbours and passing crowds, either through decorum or familiarity with these performances, averted their heads, or paid no attention, so that I and my Armenian companion were the only observers.

The operation commenced by Ibrahim Effendi looking steadily during some seconds at the negress's downcast eyes, as she stood silent and motionless before him. Then slowly waving his hands in circles across her forehead, chest, and abdomen, in order to dispel malignant vapours, he placed them upon her shoulders, and uttered the *tesbehid* (profession of faith). He then spat to the right and left, to ward off any evil eye that might be peering upon his patient, and bending forward, whispered in her ear one of the last chapters of the Koran, especially directed against demons and witches. After this, he blew twice over each shoulder to drive away the foul spirit, in case it might have issued from her ears.

A pause then ensued, during which the negress trembled, and became as pallid as it was possible for one of her colour. This was natural. The weather was intensely cold, the poor girl was thinly clad, evidently ill-fed, and suffering from illness and harsh treatment. Presently the operator again slowly raised and waved his hands to and fro, both horizontally and vertically, and then extended them before him, as if they represented an open book, in the same manner as it is customary during certain portions of daily prayer. Having rapidly muttered a few invocations, he drew a small agate-handled knife from his girdle, and, applying the point successively to the girl's eye brows and chest with his left hand, he gently tapped the other extremity with the forefinger of the right, in order to transfix the demon. He then drew the edge repeatedly across her bosom, forehead, cheeks, back, and sides, for the purpose of dissecting her. This being terminated, he carefully wiped the blade and returned it to the sheath.

During the latter progress the negress became much agitated. She gasped for breath. Her chest was disturbed by nervous cramps and rambling sounds. Tears streamed from her eyes, and she at last opened her mouth with a loud hysterical sob. At this moment the demon deemed it prudent to escape. Such at least was the apparent belief of all three, as there was a simultaneous exclamation of "Mashallah!" (God's will be done), and of "Shuker Allah!" (thanks to God) from the operator; who added, in a half-whisper, "She is cured! It has departed, and probably, entered the mouth of this unbeliever."

Ibrahim Effendi terminated his operations by drawing from his bosom a small piece of bezoar stone. From this he scraped a little powder, wrapped it in a piece of paper, on which he wrote half a dozen words, and gave it to the negress with instructions for its employment. The Arab then put down two piastres, and a fine head of cauliflower, as the fee; and having invoked constant health and increase upon the magnetizer's head, his and his slave departed.

MESMERISM. 1944.

The Morning Herald, describes a visit to Dr. Elliotson, on Monday, in consequence of an invitation to witness an exhibition of mesmerism and clairvoyance, which latter term seems to be but another name for the second sight, a peculiarity in which our neighbours on the other side of the Tweed are thought so remarkably to excel. As what we witnessed, says our contemporary, on this occasion, was, in our opinion, very extraordinary, we shall simply relate the facts, without drawing any inference, or giving any opinion pro or con on the merits of the controversy now so warmly carried on between mesmerists and anti-mesmerists. If there was any collusion between the operator and his subject, it was managed most adroitly, for it entirely escaped our penetration, and we watched with carefulness, we had almost said with suspicion, the whole proceedings. The company being assembled, Alexis, a French youth of about eighteen or nineteen years of age, was introduced and seated in a chair. The operator, M. Marcellin, stood in front of him, and immediately there commenced between them a contention in the process of staring. The youth seemed to lose ground considerably in this encounter, for, after a few minutes had elapsed, he appeared slightly convulsed; his eyes rolled, his breast heaved, and after a few struggling efforts, he closed his eyes and sunk back in his chair, apparently in a state of catalepsy. The operator then proceeded to make certain passes with his hands over the body of the youth, without, however, touching him, and by means of these passes he appeared to render his limbs rigid or relaxed at his pleasure. On one of these occasions, after apparently stiffening his legs and extending them in an horizontal position, he invited the company to test the success of his experiment, and a gentleman actually stood upon the extended limbs of the youth without moving them an inch from their position. Now we say nothing as to the probability of this being a preconcerted trick. It may be possible for an individual, gifted with enormous muscular strength, to effect a feat as surprising as this; but the weak and sickly appearance of the youth is decidedly against any supposition of this kind. His eyes were next bandaged with three cambric handkerchiefs, and the interstices filled with wool in a way which one would think precluded the possibility of his using his eyesight, and he sat down to play at cards. He commenced, as is usual with this game, by throwing out all the low cards, which he did without the least hesitation, and went through the game with the most perfect precision. A foil book was next interposed between him and his antagonist, and he commenced a fresh game with equal success, and, in addition, actually named a prominent card held by his adversary. After this, a book, consisting of coloured engravings, was held open behind him, and he was asked to describe the plate of a particular page. With some hesitation, and several convulsive movements, he accomplished this in a manner, that is to say, he described the plate as consisting of a church with towers, and a little chapel in the distance. This was so far correct; but it ought to be remarked that the plates in the book consisted of views of ecclesiastical buildings, a fact which it is just possible he might have known previously. Other experiments of a similar nature were subsequently performed, with more or less success. For instance, Colonel Gurwood, who happened to be present, pulled a letter from his pocket, which he had just received from the Continent, and folding it up, asked Alexis to tell him the name of the writer. After a long examination of the outside, and applying the paper frequently close to his nose, he said the name commenced with a B. This was correct. He pronounced A to be the next letter; but here he was at fault, it was O. In the whole name, consisting of eight letters, he made three mistakes: thus, for Bonaparte, he wrote on a slip of paper Bonapell. Some of the company next asked him to describe the furniture, pictures, &c., of their rooms, which he did apparently to their satisfaction; but we had no opportunity of testing the correctness of his representations in these respects. The various experiments we have described continued for upwards of an hour and a half. We have attempted to give a description of the circumstances as they occurred at this singular exhibition of mesmerism, but purposely draw no conclusions from it, because we conceive that to be the province of abler and more experienced hands. All we can say is, that there appeared to be no symptoms of collusion between the operator and his patient; and that if any collusion did really exist, it was managed so artfully as to escape the observation and detection of the company.

Mesmerism at the Conservative Club.

MR. EDITOR.—I do not complain of the severity with which you have attacked the mysterious, miraculous powers of Mesmerism, to which I am most enthusiastically and extra-professionally devoted; but unfortunately you have made *The Times* rat from all its principles, and after I have been led by that Journal into a support of the sublimities of Mesmerism, it suddenly deserts both me and the science, on the grounds of your views of the subject. Permit me, Sir, to relate to you a few facts which were witnessed on Thursday last, the 12th instant, by nearly 800 of the Conservative Club, every one a Member of either the House of Lords or the House of Commons. I was summoned by the Duke of Wellington and Sir Robert Peel, as chairman and deputy-chairman of the committee of the Conservative Club in Pall Mall, in order that I might try what effects Mesmerism would have on the Tory Members of Parliament directly previous to its assembling; and I have now the honour of submitting to you a faithful report of the proceedings. Some of my experiments were eminently successful; others, I must confess, were failures, and several cases were of a doubtful nature; but through your medium I will honestly report the whole of them to you. I cannot communicate my matter to *The Times*, on account of the excessive dishonesty of that Journal, which, in one week, has taken three sides on this subject, having, I have ascertained by mesmeretic process, received on each occasion a bribe of 25 guineas for its change of opinions. Here are the cases and experiments at the Conservative Club:—

Case No. 1.—Mr. Plumtre (M.P. for East Kent) was submitted to my manipulations. I took a remarkably greasy dish-cloth, and bound it tightly round his head. The affinities and sympathies between the grease of the cloth and that of his brain completely formed a plaster round his eyes, and in this state of utter blindness he began to read by his belly, the Prayer-book and Bible topsy-turvy, and in all perverse ways. The club-declared that Mr. Plumtre always read and did every thing for his belly, and that he was accustomed to read every thing upside down, backwards or forwards, or zig-zag, according to his interests, but I count this a successful experiment.

Case 2.—Sir Robert Inglis I threw into a stupor in two minutes and thirty-five seconds, but the whole club said he was always in a stupor; but, on further mesmerisation, he began to damn and swear like a trooper, and blew up the Bishop of Exeter, and all the Prelates; he damned the Church, and declared he had no religion, but he supported the Parsons because the Parsons returned him to Parliament. Sir Robert Peel begged me to desist, for the Member for Oxford became blasphemous in the extreme.

Case 3.—I mesmerized Colonel Sibthorp, and in nine operations I succeeded in giving him six grains of common sense, and the whole club declared that I had performed a miracle.

Case 4.—Mr. Goulburn wagered me that he would throw the members of the club into a profound sleep much sooner than I could. I accepted the challenge, but in fifteen minutes I was beaten; for Mr. Goulburn, by repeating one of his clearest speeches, threw every person into a deep sleep, except two members who were as deaf as posts.

Case 5.—Lord Brougham suddenly burst into the room, but the whole club exclaimed that he was not a Conservative; but his Lordship declared that he was of all principles and of all opinions, and was ready for Conservative purposes, or any other purposes. I mesmerized him into taciturnity for ten minutes, and all present declared that his Lordship had never held his tongue for so long a period.

Case 6.—Sir Francis Barette. In three minutes I mesmerized a huge rat's tail to the Baronet's posteriors.

Case 7.—I threw Mr. Shaw, the Member for Dublin, into a mesmeretic fit, and he began to damn the Pope, and roared out such imprecations against O'Connell that he was given in charge of the police.

Case 8.—Mr. Serjeant Jackson and Mr. E. Tennant, in their fit, exclaimed most violently for more whiskey.

Case 9.—The Bishop of Exeter was so indecent, under mesmerism, that I cannot narrate his conduct in a newspaper. He flew at the Bishop of London like a bull dog.

Case 10.—On pressing to mesmerize Lord Stanley and Sir J. Graham, the whole club roared out "Take care of your pockets," and the members rushed, one and all, into Pall Mall, leaving me alone. I lost my gold watch on the occasion, and no one was by me except Lord Ashburton, but he was dreaming of the Corn-laws. Thus, Mr. Editor, do I prove the sublime truths of Mesmerism. DA. ELLIOTSON, Professor of Mesmerism.

Reported Aug. 15, 1844.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—On Thursday an exhibition of animal magnetism took place at the Hanover-square Rooms, when M. Delafontaine, failed in sending to sleep a gentleman who submitted to be mesmerized, and who laughed heartily at the attempt. A dumb child also was pulled and rubbed about until it burst into a fit of crying, and the company feeling dissatisfied, demanded tickets for another occasion, which having been granted, they departed. On Friday this humbug upon public credulity was fairly exploded. A large number of persons assembled, but M. Delafontaine did not make his appearance, and a placard informed the visitors, that as the boy who has been so repeatedly sent to sleep, and who is M. Delafontaine's servant was ill, the exhibition was postponed until Wednesday. Resolutions expressive of indignation at the conduct of M. Delafontaine were then proposed by Mr. Thomas, of Finch-lane, and carried by a considerable majority. Reported Aug. 1844.

MORE MESMERISM.—The 'Millford Bard' recently mesmerized a beautiful lady and kissed her. To his great surprise and rapture, the sympathy was so strong that she kissed him back again.—"Hel he!"—*The New York Sun.*

STURMER. A TALE OF MESMERISM. BY J. F. ROMER.—Bentley, N. ne Burlington-street.—In justice to the writer of this work, we must confess that its title-page gave us considerable prejudice against it at the commencement of perusing it; but, as we proceeded in our task of criticism, we were struck by its spirit and talents, and we concluded with the impression of regret, that a writer of such abilities should have devoted his mind to a subject so worthless. Mrs. Romer presumes that no person can be ignorant of the principles and properties, and physical phenomena of mesmerism, whereas its professors do not pretend to explain or understand any thing of its principles. It is all a mystery, and the very word mystery always conveys to our mind indelible impressions of fraud, although many clever persons may be completely the dupes of the term, and be very far from capable of imposing upon others in using it. "The trust" (of mesmerizing) "should, therefore," (says Mrs. Romer) "never be lightly confided, and the character and habits of magnetizers should be thoroughly ascertained before they are invested with the awful responsibility which attaches to their functions, or suffered to exercise an agency, which may shed its influence either as airs from heaven or blasts from hell, over the moral as well as the physical being of the persons who are for a time spell-bound under the dominion of their will; and therefore unaccountable for the actions to which that will may lead them." We differ from this ingenious, and, in our humble opinion, very mistaken lady; for if mesmerism be founded in reason, nature, and truth, its functions may be, and ought to be, intrusted to all, and we have no idea of licensing any persons in the exercise of awful responsibilities. But Mrs. Romer, although extremely clear of mind, and possessed of great natural acuteness and penetration, is thoroughly deluded when she comes upon her hobby-horse, and she most palpably contradicts herself, as in the passage we have quoted, for the mesmerized patient cannot be spell-bound under the dominion of the will, for not only the will, but all consciousness is supposed to be entirely annihilated under the mesmeretic influences. If she means the will of the mesmerizer, we hold it as chimerical, and to depend upon the will of the mesmerized, for the will to cheat can succeed only by the will to be cheated, and in the immense numbers of persons of every rank and station, who will, and must be cheated somehow or other by priest, parson, or other craftsman of infinite denominations, the padlock must be applied to the victimized and not to the sacrificer. The authoress says:—

When the writer of these pages was in Germany, where magnetism is now thoroughly understood, and more extensively practised than in England, many successful cases were related to her of cures performed by it when all the art of medicine had failed in bringing relief; and, among others, one instance which so forcibly illustrated her previous opinions of its uses and abuses, that she made notes of the occurrence at the time she heard it, and has since been persuaded upon by a dear friend, an enthusiastic disciple of mesmerism, to draw those notes from the deep recesses of her Scrap-book, and give them to light in their present form.

Upon this passage we may observe that the German quacks no more pretend to understand mesmerism than the quacks of England; for all quackery, religious or medical, depends upon a non-understanding, and immediately any understanding invades the province of quackery, delusions vanish, and the cheat is fly. We are, moreover, extremely sceptical of "miraculous cases," for all miracles, when investigated, turn out to be most scandalous frauds, and otherwise most contemptible humbugs; and let us tell this clever writer that the evidence of "enthusiastic disciples" is *ex-parte*, suspicious, and almost always to be rejected, with due tenderness to the enthusiast, if the enthusiasm be real, which is not the case in one instance out of a hundred, or rather a thousand. In all the parts of this work which have no relation to mesmerism, and in which Mrs. Romer's strong natural talents and deep feelings take an unprejudiced direction, the publication is highly interesting.

MESMERISM IN CHINA!—Something of every discovery under the sun has been found in a rudimentary state among the Chinese, and here we have another miraculous example:—It would appear from a recent work that the Chinese Barbers magnetise, for the purpose of rendering the operation of shaving less disagreeable, and, perhaps in some instances, where the sensibility is required to be blunted. "I observed," says the author, "that the greater part of the patients slept while they were being shaved, and could not account for this singularity; but one morning I observed a man seat himself a little apart from the rest. I began my task of sketching, when the barber, instead of commencing his operations, placed himself before his customer, and first of all took hold of his hand, then passed his hands several times over the shoulders and before the face of the sitter, who shortly fell into a state of quiet drowsiness, if he did not actually go to sleep. He then moved his customer's head about in every direction he pleased, to facilitate the operation of shaving. When he had finished, he shook the sleeper gently and awoke him. I frequently saw this thing practised afterwards."—*Lee's Animal Magnetism.*

UNFORTUNATE APROPOS.—At the dinner given by the judges to the magistrates on the first day of the late assizes, after the cloth had been removed, the health of the judges was drunk. Lord Denman was returning thanks, and saying, how happy he and his brother Patteson were, to come into the county of Kent, when, unfortunately, the worthy chairman of the Quarter Sessions and another worthy magistrate had, at the moment, brought an animated discussion on Mesmerism to a climax, and the former, striking the table, vehemently exclaimed, "They are the biggest humbugs on earth!" The room was convulsed with laughter, and none enjoyed the joke more than the distinguished judges.

MESMERISM.

We were present on Monday last at an exhibition of Mesmerism, given at the Hanover-square Rooms, by Mons. La Fontaine, and we are bound in justice to the public, and in our duties towards the cause of truth and science to avow, that a more flimsy, palpable imposition we never witnessed. "The Wizard of the North" surprises us by his dexterity, at what he confesses to be tricks, not meant to deceive, but only to astonish and amusingly perplex spectators, based on Mesmerism the trickery is of a very different character. The company, on Monday, consisted of about forty ladies, gentlemen and children—the ladies comprising many fashionable amatees of Mesmerism, and among the gentlemen were, Dr. Elliotson, and several professional men, who, by writings, or otherwise, have acquired a very enviable reputation on the subject. It is asserted that if Mesmerism cannot be of benefit to medicine, or to physiology, it can, at the worst, do no harm—a doctrine which we utterly deny. Persons of weak intellect, of nervous temperaments and delicate health, are extremely prone to delusions, which are, in themselves, painful, which increase disorders, and always make them the dupes of quacks, Cantwells, Mawmores and impostors of every description. When once this evil commences, it is impossible to prescribe it within limits, and one delusion introduces or facilitates another, until the whole mind is diseased, and becomes a prey to fallacies of every description. Hudibras says—

"For charlatans can do no good,
Until they're mounted in a crowd."

We can only add, that they do a vast deal of evil in private, and a patient of a quack doctor soon becomes the prey of a quack parson. But a parson of these quackeries and delusions is a professional practice, as it vitiate the mind, embues it with false modes of reasoning, and totally incapacitates it for pursuing scientific researches, and experiments, and philosophical inquiries, with the strictness of ratiocination, which is in dispensable. A proneness to credulity, and an inclination to the marvellous or mysterious is a bad passport to medical science or to science of any sort, and a still worse passport to moral confidence, and on the same grounds that Dr. Elliotson was so very properly dismissed from the London University Hospital, that gossiping, garrulous old womanly-semi-quack of yore, Abernethy, ought to have been dismissed St. Bartholomew's for the electro-fluid vitality or soulism, and other delusions with which he polluted, or attempted to innoculate, science. With respect to the exhibition of Monday last, we blush for the ignorance and credulity of the fashionable company that could be so deceived. A set of "the lower orders," of "the working classes," or "the unwashed," would have had by far more vigorous minds, or at least "more common sense," Mons. La Fontaine, imprimis, entirely conceals or buries the whole of the lower part of his face in a profusion of whiskers, moustaches, and beard, and thus appears in *Sidrophile*. His Ralpho, or patient, is an interesting French lad, of about seventeen, with an amiable but weak countenance; but, to do him justice, he plays his part, and obeys his instructions very ably. Neither master nor man can speak a word of English—a fact of importance, for it excludes scrutiny from those who can't speak French, or who speak it badly. The boy is set in a large arm-chair. The Mesmerizer simply presses three fingers on his thumb, and keeps straining him in the face, until the charm is produced, and the boy is conjured into a sort of Nourjahad or Rip Van-Winkle sleep, out of which even the three knocks of Don Giovanni's ghost could not rouse him.

"None sleep so fast as those that won't awake,
Those blindest are that will not vision take."

The "cock's shrill clarion nor the echoing horn," no, not the last trump itself, could awaken such a somnolent. "Mandagora and the drowsy syrups of the east" could not have such a composing effect. Well, now commences the extreme tomfoolery of waving the hands all about the face, head, body, and limbs, without their ever approaching nearer than six or twelve inches, and though the boy is supposed to be so deprived of sensation or vitality that he can bear any pain, this baboon sort of trickery produces the miraculous effect of tetanus, and all the limbs become dead and rigid, the legs being extended parallel with the floor. A pistol is several times fired close to his ear, and he is asked whether he heard it. An Irish patient might answer "honey, by the powers I didn't hear it," making an Irish miracle of hearing the soft inquiry of the master though he could not hear the pistol. The boy answered faintly in the affirmative. Pins are then pricked into his head, thighs, and hands—an exhibition unpleasant and nonsensical, for if they are pricked stronger than many persons of callous skins and lethargic systems can bear, it is cruel; and if the puncture be slighter, it is useless. Ammonia is applied to the nose, and a lighted match is held under it, though not so close as to blister or corrugate the skin of the cartilages. After this the boy receives voltaic shocks and electric shocks without sensation, at least until the shocks became severe. Some of the company tried these shocks, ignorant that this was no test, as they might be given to them with greater strength than to the lad. The *Sidrophel* was asked to try the experiment of what weight the right legs would bear, but he very sensibly would not comply. A most ridiculous part was that when made to stand, his whole frame being as stiff as iron, he brought his left leg to the ground only on the heel, and in order to bring the stone-like foot completely to the ground, the hands were merely waved in the former baboon or Jacko style, at about a foot distance round the shin and ankle, and thus the miraculous electro-chemical, or mysterious fluid, penetrated both boot and trousers, and down came the foot as flat and as firm as a soldier's in line at the word "attention." Silks and cloths are more or less non-conductors of the galvanic or electric fluids, so this mesmeretic fluid must be a mystery as great as and as incomprehensible as the renowned mysteries of Johanna Southcote, Irvine, Mad Tom of Canterbury, Swedenborg, or any other Saltinbanchos, quacksalvers or cushion thumpers. Without depreciating the French boy's performance, we have no hesitation in saying that in one week we would produce two hundred men, women, boys, or girls from Astley's, the Surrey, Sadler's Wells, and from strolling booth-players that would go through the part equally well. Delusions in medicine are akin to delusions in fanaticism, and "then partitions do their bound divide," and our countrymen and women are so proverbially prone to credulity, to miracles, mysterious, and super-natural agencies, that we expect the speedy revival of blackcatism and brownstickism, and will have a repeal of the act of Geo. IV., that prevented (in Ireland) any woman's being indicted for bewitching cattle or persons with black cats, or for flying through the air in a sieve or on a broomstick. Dr. Elliotson is very little to be envied in the reputation he has acquired on the subject. He has either been deceived (*simpliciter*) or has deceived others in a manner less honourable. The higher branches of the profession often have a nice tact in simultaneously and delicately touching the extremes of incipient quackery, and the termini of regular practice, and a somewhat eccentric doctor, if he manages well, is sure "to make a fortune." We will always zealously administer to "minds diseased," and do our utmost to cure the national distemper of credulity, let the symptoms exhibit themselves in Church or State, law or physic.

"Ten thousand times the pleasure's greater,
To be the cheated than the cheater."

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

(Continued from the Iris of Jan. 25.)

TO THE EDITORS OF THE SHEFFIELD IRIS.

SIR.—The proceedings and experiments at the third and fourth of M. Lafontaine's *conversations* were so similar to those of the first and second described in my letter a fortnight ago, that it is unnecessary to recapitulate at any length the various features which they presented. An essay, by M. Lafontaine, was interpreted by M. Vully, in which the claims of animal magnetism on the attention of the scientific world were put forward, and the various phenomena which it is said to be capable of producing were pointed out. These essays were extremely unsatisfactory to my mind, because they referred principally to effects which M. Lafontaine did not attempt to exhibit—effects so extraordinary that I do not think myself guilty of over-estimation, if I refuse to believe them until I have an ocular demonstration of their possibility. I think the majority of M. Lafontaine's audience would have been better satisfied had he confined his essays to those experiments which he brought under their immediate notice, and offered something like an explanation of the cause of the phenomena he induced in the cases on which he operated. I am aware that the latter is a difficult matter, but after seven years' practice in animal magnetism, he ought to be prepared with some theory not inconsistent with our present established knowledge of physiology, or if so, one that would bear minute analysis and investigation. But I am losing sight of the object of this part of my letter, which is to detail facts and not to quarrel with opinions. M. Lafontaine succeeded in inducing somnolency in the young woman who accompanied him in a few seconds, and the various experiments of pricking with pins in various parts of the body, the application of ammonia, and Lucifer matches in a state of ignition to the nostrils, fixing percussion caps close to the ear, and a moderate current of electro-magnetism failed to produce the slightest evidence of sensibility. A powerful charge caused a deep groan, and I was not surprised that such was the case, for it was quite evident that the state of rigidity and insensibility was not so great as on the first night, nor the other proofs of the magnetic influence so decided. I endeavoured to obtain an explanation of the cause of this failure from M. Lafontaine, but could not elicit from him any satisfactory solution of the apparent anomaly. The power possessed by the operator over the person being operated upon was shown in M. Lafontaine's demagnetising the upper part of the head and jaws, so that the young woman could sing and converse with those about her, which was instantly stopped by M. Lafontaine directing his fingers to the back part of the head on a signal given by one of the audience, in such a way as could not possibly be perceived by the patient. This experiment was repeated so frequently, and so much precaution taken to detect any collusion, that I should disbelieve the evidence of my own senses, if I doubted its honesty, or hesitated to record my perfect satisfaction with its success. I know that many persons possess so delicate an organisation of skin, that they are sensible of the presence of others, although they cannot see them; but I have never known or heard of an instance in which insensibility was produced by such an unseen presence as was the case in this experiment. At the termination of these experiments, several individuals offered themselves to M. Lafontaine, but he declined attempting with all but two, a young woman and a young man, with both of whom he was unsuccessful in producing any effect.

On Monday evening, the interest of the audience was excited by a report of the success of some experiments made by Dr. Holland on the previous Saturday, before several gentlemen who had narrowly watched the whole of M. Lafontaine's proceedings, and the presence of three young women connected with Sheffield, whom M. Lafontaine had mesmerised in the course of the forenoon. Dr. Bartolomé acted as interpreter, instead of M. Vully, who was prevented by some reason of a private nature, and read the usual essay. The experiments with the young woman accompanying M. Lafontaine were then proceeded with, and were more successful than on any previous occasion, the state of rigidity and insensibility being more distinct. During the process of demagnetising, a bandage was placed over the patient's eyes, and Mr. Palfreyman communicated in a whisper to M. Lafontaine what leg he wished him to demagnetise first, in order to prove that no collusion existed. He selected the right, and after a few passes the leg began to drop, leaving the other in the same rigid condition as before, which was continued for at least half an hour longer while the other experiments were going on. She bore the galvanic test better than at any previous trial, although when the full power was applied she gave a slight indication of sensibility. The intensity of the battery was tried by Dr. Harwood; but he cried "hold, enough," before it was so powerful as the patient had borne without any indication of suffering. The three young women already referred to were then brought on the platform and seated in a row, holding each other's hands, with M. Lafontaine seated in front of them, holding the right hand of the one and the left of the other. In three or four minutes somnolency was induced in all three, and their limbs placed in a rigid position. Various tests were used, such as pricking the hands and face with pins, but they evinced no feeling of

pain, although they were able to answer questions proposed to them in that languid manner which people do when awake suddenly from a sound sleep, or immediately preceding their going to sleep. They awoke at the end of about twenty minutes, but had not the power of altering the position of their limbs, or of feeling the pricking of pins about the hands and feet, which they saw inserted. These parts were demagnetised in succession by sudden passes of the hand, and they left the platform without complaining of the slightest uneasiness or fatigue. Mr. Palfreyman then submitted himself, having evidently made up his mind to be Mesmerism-proof, but after he had been under the operation about five minutes his eyelids began to drop, and other symptoms of its influence were manifested, when some noise in the room attracted his attention, and he continued proof against it during the continuance of the experiment, perhaps ten minutes more. He stated his conviction that if he had not been roused by the noise, the experiment would have been successful. This was decidedly the most interesting of the *conversations*, and not a few who had previously been sceptics went away under the impression that "there are more things in heaven and earth than are dreamt of in our philosophy."

The concluding meeting took place on Tuesday evening, when nearly the same experiments were made, and with results similar to those of Monday. Somnolence, insensibility, and rigidity were induced in all who were tried, among others, Mr. Palfreyman, who had been operated upon successfully by M. Lafontaine at the Tontine in the afternoon. The state of somnolence did not last so long with him as in the other cases, but the limbs continued to retain the position in which they had been placed by the operator, for some time after he was restored to consciousness, in fact until M. Lafontaine had made the demagnetising passes. These were the principal of the public experiments, and those which M. Lafontaine made in private were nearly similar in their results. He has not been able to show what are claimed as the higher and more wonderful phenomena of animal magnetism, such as clairvoyance, precision, &c.; but I understand he states that these can only be attained after an individual has been frequently operated upon by the same person. After what I have witnessed, I should be very glib in denouncing these claims as imposition or humbug, at the same time I must say that they are so contrary to all my preconceived opinions and experience, that I cannot pronounce them practicable unless I have more direct evidence to judge from than the assertion of a mesmerist, or even the record of a public print.

As in other places, the experiments of M. Lafontaine have excited great interest in Sheffield, and I know several instances in which medical men and others have operated both on females and young men, and with similar success to M. Lafontaine. In fairness to that gentleman, I ought to state that he does not profess to have a monopoly of the magnetic influence, but that he considers every person to possess a certain share of it, which becomes more fully developed after being excited by operating upon others. How far this may be true, or in what this influence consists, I cannot decide, but having seen gentlemen who, till within the last ten days, were thorough sceptics in every thing relating to animal magnetism, operate upon others and produce somnolence, total and partial insensibility, and other physical effects, which they had previously deemed impossible, I cannot deny his position as to the effect, however unsatisfactory and unexplained his assumed cause may be. If his *modus operandi*, of looking steadily into the eyes of his patient, is taken into consideration, the first effect produced, that of somnolency may be readily anticipated, as the experience of most people will at once suggest instances in which a fixed stare has produced extraordinary results on insane persons, and even the more savage of the lower animals. In the famous indictment of Rousseau against his quondam friend David Hume, the historian, the following singular instance of the effect of this stare is given as one of the counts:—"That, at another time, as the said David Hume, and the said J. J. Rousseau, were sitting opposite each other by the fireside in London, he the said David Hume did look at him, the said J. J. Rousseau, in a manner of which it is difficult to give any idea; that he, the said J. J. Rousseau, to get rid of the embarrassment he was under, endeavoured to look full at him, the said David Hume, in return, to try if he could not stare him out of countenance; but in fixing his eyes against his, the said David Hume's, he felt the most inexpressible terror, and was obliged to turn them away, inasmuch that the said J. J. Rousseau doth in his heart think and believe, as much as he believes any thing, that the said David Hume is a composition of a white witch and a rattlesnake." "Tired nature's sweet restorer, balmy sleep," can frequently be induced to visit a wakeful pillow by a monotonous noise, or by fixing the mind on one subject not sufficiently exciting to give rise to a new train of ideas, but this condition of sleep is not accompanied with muscular rigidity or insensibility in the organs of hearing, smelling, or feeling, which is the case with magnetic sleep, or the state of somnolence induced by the influence of one person over another and illustrated by the experiments I have endeavoured to detail.—As this communication has already extended to a great length, I must defer my general remarks on the subject of Mesmerism till next week.

Yours, &c.

THOMAS CARSTAIRS.
Devonshire-street, Feb. 7th, 1842.

THE MESMERIC INFLUENCE.—The wonders of Mesmerism are not altogether unknown to the people of Leicester, but a case has occurred this week which has eclipsed all previous facts, either here or at a distance. We allude to that of the amputation of a limb on Thursday last. The patient is a young woman of the name of Mary Ann Lakin, 16 Fleet street, in this town, who had been afflicted with a disease of the knee-joint for four years. The precise nature of the disease we do not know, but it was attended with enormous swelling of the limb, and with such excruciating pain as to prevent anything like consecutive rest for a long period. By these pains and want of sleep she had become reduced to a mere skeleton, and there was every probability that her life must be sacrificed or the limb amputated. In this critical state of the case, about a month ago, it was suggested that Mesmerism should be tried on the patient, and it was found that its influence was of the most beneficial and soothing nature. Under its influence pain would cease, and the patient would sink into perfect and refreshing repose. As amputation of the diseased joint was deemed essential by her medical attendant, it was decided that the operation should be performed while in the mesmeric state. Accordingly, 12 o'clock on Thursday morning was fixed upon for the operation to take place. Mr. Hollings was the Mesmeriser, and Mr. Tossell the operator, besides whom there were present Dr. Shaw, and Messrs. Paget, Seddon, jun., Downing, &c. Mr. Hollings having mesmerised the patient, which was accomplished in about nine minutes, Mr. Tossell proceeded to perform the operation. The limb was taken off within about five inches of the hip joint, the spot measuring 33 inches in circumference where the amputation took place, and which was effected in two minutes and a half. During the operation an all but inaudible moaning was heard, and a slight movement of the body was perceptible; but as far as could be judged there was an entire absence of pain. This was evinced by the countenance preserving throughout the greatest placidity, not a single motion of a muscle indicating such sensation. On being demagnetised the patient was not aware of what had taken place till informed by those in attendance. In the afternoon, great pains were felt in the loins, attended with considerable writhing of the body from the contraction of the muscles, but on resuming to the mesmeric influence these gradually ceased, the patient falling into a calm sleep, which lasted an hour and 40 minutes, and when aroused all pain had entirely left her, and has not been felt since. In this case, we do not pretend to decide anything about the nature of mesmerism, but the proceedings are altogether so astonishing, and at the same time so well attested, by the presence of several distinguished members of the medical profession, that no reasonable mind can reject them.—*Leicester Mercury.* Feb. 14th.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—Monsieur Bodin communicated a singular anecdote relating himself, the truth of which his unquestionable veracity places beyond suspicion. Having been attacked by brain fever, he lay almost at the point of death. Still he had occasionally lucid intervals. In one of these, perceiving his own danger, he insisted on being mesmerised. A practitioner was called in by his medical attendants; but before he arrived, my lamented friend was again in a paroxysm of his frightful malady. This was almost instantly calmed by the passes of animal magnetism, and he soon fell into the mesmeric sleep. While under its influence, he suddenly started upright on his couch of suffering, and imperatively called for pen, ink, and paper, which were immediately procured. To the astonishment of all present, he then, as if under the power of inspiration, rapidly composed and wrote down, though his eyes were sealed in deepest sleep, the exquisite stanzas and music, which, unaltered, he afterwards published under the title of "*La Langueur*." Monsieur Bodin has often described to me the emotions of profound astonishment with which, on being demagnetised, he contemplated this touching effusion of his genius; for being perfectly unconscious of all that had passed during his mesmeric trance, the friends who had witnessed its composition could scarcely persuade him to believe it his own, until an examination of his peculiar handwriting confirmed the fact.—*Polytechnic Mag.* for Feb. Feb. 1842.

LA FONTAINE'S, THE MESMERIZER'S, INVITATION TO JOHN BULL.

Come, Monsieur Bull, I'll magnetize—
You're blind, I'll give you back your eyes.
Good Monsieur Bull, why you no come,
I'll make you speak, although you dumb.
Ah coquise Bull, one English brute,
If you can speak, I make you mute;
And if your deaf, as Old King Priam,
I'll make you hear, for know that I am
One conjuror—can raise the dead,
And take the senses out your head—
Pull noses, or take eyes from sockets;
And quickly empty all your pockets;
Do ten times more, as sure as gun,
Or English Doctor Elliotson.
Ah, fool, Jean Bull, got d—n your eyes!
Why you no come for magnetize?
Your cash I'll take, but not for gain,
Your humble servant,

LA FONTAINE.

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MESMERISM and PHRENO-MAGNETISM in WHITLESEA.

To the EDITOR of the MERCURY.

Sir,—Having repeatedly read articles in your paper for and against Mesmerism, I resolved, if the opportunity occurred in Whitlesea, to do for myself. Accordingly on Wednesday evening the 9th inst., when the Crier announced a lecture on Mesmerism at the Falcon inn by Mr. J. S. Fields, I at the appointed time attended. Thinking that a plain statement of what actually occurred would be amusing to your readers, and enable those who have seen nothing of the kind to form a correct judgment, I have sent the result to you, hoping you will publish it in your next Mercury.—On entering the lecture-room, I found Mr. Fields in conversation with three ladies: he is rather a small, spare man, and not a man of many words. In a chair by himself sat the subject to be operated upon—a young man, apparently half asleep, and of an idiotic appearance. Mr. Fields commenced his lecture with an exceedingly brief account of the rise and progress of Mesmerism. He then told us what Mesmerism meant. He said every individual is surrounded by an imperceptible fluid; that by means of this fluid, when acted on by a person of more powerful temperament, all the phenomena of Mesmerism and Phreno-magnetism are produced. He now commenced his operations, by putting his hands on the feet of the subject, and each starting the other full in the eyes. I placed my chair so as to see every move, when Mr. Fields rather abruptly turned himself and his subject in another direction, excusing himself by saying that he wished the company to have a full view. Presently he placed his extended fingers of one hand close before the eyes, and with the other made passes (he moved his open hand about) in various directions near the face and head. In a short time the head of the youth operated upon fell back, as if convulsed. This convulsive movement is a sure sign the Mesmeric sleep is produced. Well, now then, to convince us that no imposition was practised, the following expedients were resorted to. The right arm was first extended, and by means of a few passes made from the shoulder to the hand, stiffened so as to be able to sustain itself. Mr. Fields said this arm might be kept extended for many hours by merely making passes over it. He asked us to examine the arm and observe that the muscles were lax, proving the arm was not sustained by muscular power. I examined the arm, but really could tell no difference between it and any other arm held in the same position. Observing that, in making the passes from the shoulder to the hand, the lecturer often put his fingers under the hand, as if to rest the arm, I requested him to make the passes without touching the hand or arm in any way, and to keep it for a few minutes longer extended. Whereupon he said he would extend and stiffen the other arm, as the young man had held that steady two days ago; forgetting, or rather not wishing to remember, that a few minutes before he had said the arm was supported by mesmeric influence, and consequently it could not matter whether the shoulder had been hurt or not. He next extended and stiffened the legs, and then showed us how he could extend any limb we might choose to write upon a slip of paper, standing at a great distance. Indeed, he said, the distance was almost unlimited. The young man was blindfolded. I gave the lecturer a slip of paper with "right leg" written on it. This he showed round to the company, and then making a few passes over the limb and the head, he withdrew to a distance, and by waving his hand towards it gradually raised it to an extended position. Observe, said he, on making the passes before moving to a distance, I do not touch him. He accounted for the effect by saying it was the mesmeric fluid, he extended, and which might be extended to a great distance with the same results. Having now invited us to examine the rigidity of the leg, he began to operate on the cerebral organs; but, previously to doing so, he said it was necessary to convince us of the truth of Mesmerism, or we might think this part of the proceedings mere nonsense. He touched various organs, and some astounding phenomena were produced. On touching distinctiveness, the mesmerised lifted his chair and smashed it down with fearful violence. Touching benevolence, he offered the operator a penny. Touching acquiescence, he tried to pick his pocket. Touching tune and language, he sang a Jewish song. Touching tune, language, and veneration, he sang a hymn. But the most amusing organ was imitation: he laughed when we laughed, spoke what we spoke, stamped when we stamped, sang what we sang, clapped his hands when we did so, and, in short, did everything we did when any noise was made. Several other organs were excited.

This done, several of us submitted to a phrenological examination; and I almost blush to record it,—but I feel it necessary to do so, that Mr. Fields may not think me too hard upon him, when I condemn, which I certainly must, the whole proceeding as one of the greatest humbugs ever practised on the credulity of John Bull. He found my most prominent organ to be benevolence. I drew so much on this organ, that I believe if the scale admitted he would have made it very, very large. During the evening, he told us of wonderful cures performed by Mesmerism—the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak—and related a most wonderful cure of King's evil after the doctors had all failed. His method of curing a disease is this: suppose the thigh diseased, he makes passes from the seat of the disease down the leg, thence to his toe ends, where it leaves the patient and comes into his fingers, which being shaken scatter the disease in the air.

The above is the substance of the first evening's lecture. Every thing stated is true, and can be attested by a crowd of witnesses. Thursday evening's lecture was attended more numerously, but did not prove any better than the first. Mr. Fields commenced by observing that, as he saw many who were present on the previous evening, he should be very brief in his introductory remarks. Accordingly he began mesmerising directly, with this difference—he sent his patient to sleep by making a few passes about the face with his hands. Mr. Fields had told us on the previous evening that by repeatedly mesmerising one subject, the person became so susceptible of the influence as to fall asleep by his merely going near him. On this evening we had a proof of this assertion, for the young man fell asleep almost immediately. We had a fine display of the cerebral organs. After which, I observed to Mr. Fields that he had said the limbs could be extended and sustained by mesmeric influence for any length of time; and therefore, if he would extend and sustain the young man's leg in a horizontal position, sitting on the chair as he then sat, I would become a convert to mesmerism. He said he would try. He raised the leg, but not to an horizontal position. This experiment proved to my satisfaction that Mesmerism will support the limbs as far as they are supported by muscular power, and no farther.—The company was now on the

air, several wishing to be mesmerised. Mr. Fridmore, however, sat first, though the lecturer thought he could not mesmerise him; he would, however, try. After having passed down the back for half an hour, he thought he felt his coat drawn through the chair back. Another thought his nose-end as big as a bushel; but none fell asleep. It is due to Mr. Fields to say that he held out no hopes of mesmerising any one, the following conditions being necessary to success, viz., privacy, stillness, quiet temperament, and (most of all) faith. Now followed a scene which baffles all description: a dozen mesmerisers sprang up at once; arms were extended in all directions in order to be stiffened, but I believe only one instance succeeded. A lady from London who had taken great interest in the proceedings, and appeared to have great faith, had her arm stiffened by Mr. Fields' making passes over it. She said she could not put it down; on which, Mr. Fields made two or three motions under the small, and liberated it immediately.—It seems, from what transpired this evening, not to be necessary to go to sleep in order to have the limbs stiffened. Indeed, Mr. Fields said he cured diseases by making passes without inducing sleep; though sometimes it happened the patient fell asleep during the operations. Such was the evening's amusement. There was another lecture on Friday evening, which I did not attend. I am informed he succeeded in putting two to sleep, viz., a little girl at the Falcon, and Mr. Croft, printer. My informant examined Mr. Croft's eyes: when sleep is induced in a natural way, the pupil ought to be fixed; but in this case, his eye rolled about most unaccountably, until the pupil got in the corner nearest the nose, when it remained fixed. I have not heard that the cerebral organs were excited. I cannot conclude this letter without observing that Mr. Fields seems from his manners to be a mild, candid, and sincere man. He appears to me to have adopted this mode of gaining a livelihood, not from choice, but from the mother of inventions. Such is Mesmerism; and such what meets with proselytes in this enlightened century!

Your's,
THOS. NORRIS, Watch-maker.

MESMERISM.

Verse,—"Tom Thumb."

(From the Scotsman of Wednesday.)

O! what an art, what a wonderful discovery,
Folks have got to set their noddles all a-lee;
Search o'er the land from John O'Groat's to Dover, ye
Deuce the thing but Mesmerism now will see.
Not a mortal could get up a party of an evening,
If of this new science he should tip them not a leavening;
When beside this fund of rare, and comical, and jolly jests,
Dished are all the other arts of alogists and ologists.
O! what an art, &c.

Ruinous the time has grown for fashionable novelists,
Dramas and dramatics have sunk below par;
Commonly to foreign pipes each connoisseur covey lists—
Now they won't give these a mite to carry on the war.
Peers, so proud about their sires that each one calls the
Norman his,
Condescend to gaze for hours on these most rare perform-
ances;
Commoners who trust in Pitt, or, as it may be, more in Fox,
Shy their duties night by night to sit and watch the snoring
folks.
O! what an art, &c.

Once, to close their hearers' eyes contented all our holy ones,
Now, they sleep, or set asleep, from morn till night;
Not on the Bench alone does slumber seize our Solomons—
Lawyers try on more than courts their soporific might;
Doctors high in fashion used to choke the sick with medicines,
Now a novel dose expels the ills of lords and ladies hence;
Surgeons, who in pulling teeth would torture you most
frightfully,
Whip an arm or leg away, the while you snooze, delightfully.
O! what an art, &c.

Every trade and every age is bent on mesmerising you,
Go wherever you may choose you'll find it so;
Little boys with sounding words will quickly be surprising
you,
And ladies, bless their pretty souls! the whole trick know.
Fingers poked in people's eyes do wonders that astonish one;
Snoring folks of all the ills one suffers will admonish one;
Others all their neighbour's thoughts are skilful in unravelling.
While some go fifty miles a second—mighty pretty travelling.
O! what an art, &c.

O! what an art, what a wonderful discovery,
Never such a miracle did mortals see!
Let but the paws of the Mesmerist come over ye,
Ere you say "Jack Robinson!" asleep you'll be:
All the wonders you will see exceed by far my numbering,
Wide awake you grow, they say, to everything when slum-
bering;
And your mind is never more for talking and exploring fit
Than between the intervals of some mesmeric snoring fit.
Oh! what an art, what a wonderful discovery,
Folks have got to set their noddles all a-lee;
Search o'er the land from John O'Groat's to Dover, ye
Deuce the thing but mesmerism now will see.

DANGEROUS USE OF MESMERISM.—A young lad, a baker, in High-street, Glasgow, who had for some time past allowed himself to be mesmerized by all and sundry of his companions who desired it for their amusement, was for two days past put so completely in the magnetic sleep that it was found impossible to get him out of it. During this time his eyes were shut, his jaws firmly fixed, and neither food nor drink could be administered to him. It was feared that the unfortunate youth had forfeited his life to his folly. We are glad to be informed, however, that he was taken out of this unnatural sleep on Monday afternoon by a lecturer on Mesmerism, after two hours' work. This ought to act as a caution to inexperienced operators.—*Glasgow Chronicle.* Aug 16/43—

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Debate. Mr. EDITOR,—In your real or pretended fervour against imposi-
tions, delusions, and superstition, you have very roughly han-
dled me, a clergyman of the Church of England, merely because,
in my celebrated work, I stated the positive fact, of Mesmerism
having produced perfect hearing in persons born deaf, or who
had otherwise become as deaf as posts, and that it had produced
perfect vision in the stomach, forehead, and other parts of the
body of persons who had been born blind, or who had lost not
only their sight but actually their eyes, the sockets being entirely
empty. These are irrefutable truths, and I beg to inform you,
that on Monday next, the 9th inst., myself, Dr. Elliotson, and
M. Lafontaine, at twelve o'clock precisely, at the Hanover
Square Rooms, the doors of which will be open gratis to the
public, intend to restore ten blind children to sight, and ten deaf
patients to perfect hearing, and ten thoroughly dumb persons to
the free use of the English, Irish, Scotch, or Welsh languages,
according to the country in which each may have been born.
The patients are to be supplied from the deaf and dumb and
blind asylums, the governors, matrons, and head physicians,
surgeons, and apothecaries of which are to attend, and witness
the cures. Mr. Liston, who has acquired such a fame by opera-
tions which restore noses, will be present; we having procured
six patients, male, female, young and old, from the Lock Hospi-
tal, the medical officers of which will attend, and pledged our-
selves by Mesmerism, to restore to each his or her nose in a per-
fect state of health, and olfactory nervousness. As you have doubted
the truth of Dr. Elliotson's having mesmerized persons lame or
asleep into powers of active walking, we have procured two per-
sons, one of whom lost both his legs at the battle of Navarino,
and the other at the recent battle of St. Jean D'Acre, the one
being seventy-five and the other thirty-five years of age, and we
pledge ourselves, by the mysterious powers of Mesmerism, to
enable these men to walk, run, leap, or hop with the activity
of any harlequin or clown you may produce. The heroes of Na-
varino and Acre will attend. The chief medical officers and
nurses of the Lock Hospital will be present, and the head Sur-
geon and Physician of Bedlam will produce, for our experiments,
twelve males and females in the worst state of madness, to be
mysteriously cured. I have, by mesmerism, discovered the male
and female parents of ninety-nine children in the Foundling
Hospital, and intend to repeat the experiments by which mesme-
rism has restored the worst of criminals to a perfect state of mora-
lity, and all the sensibilities of honour; and I have written to the
Lord Mayor, who will be present, to beg him to order the Go-
vernment of Newgate to produce, at the Hanover Square Rooms, on
Monday, at twelve o'clock, thirty-six of his worst criminals, and
his Lordship has kindly consented to my request. I expect the great
room to be crowded by the female nobility, and a large body of police
will be present to prevent disorder, and hinder the thirty-six culprits from
picking pockets, should the mysteries of mesmerism have only an
external and not an immediate effect. Myself, Dr. Elliotson, and
M. Lafontaine, invite or challenge your severest scrutiny.

Aug. 8 1841
C. TOWNSEND.

MESMERISM AND PHRENO-MAGNETISM in WHITNESS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE MERCURY.

Sir,—Having repeatedly read articles in your paper for and against Mesmerism, I received, if the opportunity occurred in Whitless, to see and judge for myself. Accordingly on Wednesday evening the 6th inst., when the Crier announced a lecture on Mesmerism at the Falcon Inn by Mr. J. S. Fields, I at the appointed time attended. Thinking that a plain statement of what actually occurred would be interesting to your readers, and enable those who have seen nothing of the kind to form a correct judgment, I have sent the result to you, hoping you will publish it in your next Mercury.—On entering the lecture-room, I found Mr. Fields in conversation with three ladies; he is rather a small, spare man, and not a man of many words. In a chair by himself at the subject to be operated upon—a young man, apparently half asleep, and of an idiotic appearance. Mr. Fields commenced his lecture with an exceedingly brief account of the rise and progress of Mesmerism. He then told us what Mesmerism meant. He said every individual is surrounded by an imperceptible fluid; that by means of this fluid, when acted on by a person of more powerful temperament, all the phenomena of Mesmerism and Phreno-magnetism are produced. He now commenced his operations, by putting his hands and feet to those of his subject, and each starting the other full in the eyes. I placed my chair so as to see every move, when Mr. Fields rather abruptly turned himself and his subject in another direction, exclaiming himself by saying that he wished the company to have a full view. Presently he placed his extended hands on the forehead of the young man, and with the other made passes (that is, moved his open hand about) in various directions near the face and head. In a short time the head of the youth operated upon fell back, as if convulsed. This convulsive movement is a sure sign the Mesmeric sleep is produced. Well, now then, to convince us that no imposition was practised, the following expedients were resorted to. The right arm was first extended, and by means of a few passes made from the shoulder to the hand, stiffened so as to be able to sustain itself. Mr. Fields said this arm might be kept extended for many hours by merely making passes over it. He asked us to examine the arm and observe that the muscles were lax, proving the arm was not sustained by muscular power. I examined the arm, but really could tell no difference between it and any other arm held in the same position. Observing that, in making the passes from the shoulder to the hand, the lecturer often put his fingers under the hand, as if to rest the arm, I requested him to make the passes without touching the hand or arm in any way, and to keep it for a few minutes longer extended. Whereupon he said he would extend his arm stiffly, as the young man had hurt that shoulder two days ago; forgetting, or rather not wishing to remember, that a few minutes before he had said the arm was supported by mesmeric influence, and consequently it could not matter whether the shoulder had been hurt or not. He next extended and stiffened the legs, and then showed us how he could extend any limb we might choose to write upon a slip of paper, standing at a great distance. Indeed, he said, the distance was almost infinite, as he was now writing on a slip of paper written on it. This he showed round to the company, and then making a few passes over the limb and the hand, he withdrew a distance, and by waving his hand towards it gradually raised it to an extended position. Observing, said he, on making the passes before moving to a distance, I do not touch him. He accounted for the effect by saying it was the mesmeric fluid he extended, and which might be extended to a great distance with the same results. Having now invited us to examine the rigidity of the leg, he began to operate on the cerebral organs; but, previously to doing so, he said it was necessary to convince us of the truth of Mesmerism, or we might think this part of the proceedings mere nonsense. He touched various organs, and some astounding phenomena were produced. On touching destructive, the mesmerized lifted his chair and smashed it down with fearful violence. Touching benevolent, he tried to pick his pocket. Touching tune and language, he sang a jovial song. Touching tune, language, and veneration, he sang a hymn. But the most amazing organ was imitation; he laughed when we laughed, spoke what we spoke, stamped when we stamped, sang what we sang, clapped his hands when we did so, and, in short, did everything we did when any noise was made. Several other organs were examined.

This done, several of us submitted to a phrenological examination; and I almost blush to record it,—but I feel it necessary to do so, that Mr. Fields may not think me too hard upon him, when I condemn what is certainly most, the whole proceeding as one of the greatest humbugs ever practised on the credulity of John Bull. He found my most prominent organ to be benevolence. He dwelt so much on this organ, that I believe if the scale admitted he would have made it very, very, very large. During the evening, he told us of wonderful cures performed by Mesmerism—the blind to see, the deaf to hear, the dumb to speak—and related a most wonderful cure of time's evil after the doctors had all failed. His method of curing a disease is this: suppose the thigh diseased, he makes passes from the seat of the disease down the leg, thence to his toe ends, where it leaves the patient and comes into his fingers, which being shaken scatter the disease in the air.

The above is the substance of the first evening's lecture. Every thing stated is true, and can be attested by a crowd of witnesses. Thursday evening's lecture was attended more numerous, but did not prove any better than the first. Mr. Fields commenced by observing that, as he saw many who were present on the previous evening, he should be very brief in his introductory remarks. Accordingly he began mesmerizing directly, with this difference—he sent his patient to sleep by making a few passes about the face with his hands. Mr. Fields had told us on the previous evening that by repeatedly mesmerizing one subject, the person became so susceptible of the influence as to fall asleep by his merely going near him. On this evening we had a proof of this assertion; for the young man fell asleep almost immediately. We had a fine display of the cerebral organs. After which, I observed to Mr. Fields that he had said the limbs could be extended and sustained by mesmeric influence for any length of time; and therefore, if he would extend and sustain the young man's leg in a horizontal position, sitting on the chair as he sat now, I would become a convert to mesmerism. He said he would try. He raised the leg, but not to a horizontal position. This experiment proved to my satisfaction that Mesmerism will support the limbs as far as they are supported by muscular power, and no farther.—The company was now on the

stir, several wishing to be mesmerized. Mr. Fields, however, sat first, though the lecturer thought he could not mesmerize him; he would, however, try. After having passed down the back for half an hour, he thought he felt his coat drawn through the chair back. Another thought his nose and as big as a bush; but none fell asleep. It is due to Mr. Fields to say that he held out no hopes of mesmerizing any one, the following conditions being necessary to success, viz., privacy, stillness, right temperament, and (most of all) faith. Now followed a scene which baffles all description: a dozen mesmerizations began up at once; arms were extended in all directions in order to be stiffened, but I believe only one instance succeeded. A lady from London who had taken great interest in the proceedings, and appeared to have great faith, had her arm stiffened by Mr. Fields' making passes over it. She said she could not put it down; on which, Mr. Fields made two or three motions under the arm, and liberated it immediately.—It seems, from what transpired this evening, not to be necessary to go to sleep in order to have the limbs stiffened. Indeed, Mr. Fields said he cured diseases by making passes without inducing sleep; though sometimes it happened the patient fell asleep during the operations. Such was the evening's amusement. There was another lecture on Friday evening, which I did not attend. I am informed he succeeded in putting two to sleep, viz., a little girl at the Falcon, and Mr. Croft, printer. My informant examined Mr. Croft's eyes: when sleep is induced in a natural way, the pupil ought to be fixed; but in this case, his eye rolled about most unaccountably, until the pupil got in the corner nearest the nose, when it remained fixed. I have not heard that the cerebral organs were excited. I cannot conclude this letter without observing that Mr. Fields seems from his manners to be a mild, condescending, and sincere man. He appears to me to have adopted this mode of gaining a livelihood, not from choice, but from the mother of inventions. Such is Mesmerism; and such what meets with proselytes in this enlightened century!

THOS. NORRIS, Watch-maker.

MESMERISM.

From the Scotsman of Wednesday.

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Folks have got to set their noddies all a-jee;
Search o'er the land from John O'Groat's to Dover, ye
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Ruinous the time has grown for fashionable novelists,
Dramas and dramatics have sunk below par;
Commonly to foreign pipes each connoisseur covey lists—
Now they won't give those a mite to carry on the war.
Peers, so proud about their sires that each one calls the
Norman his,
Condescend to gaze for hours on these most rare perform-
ances;
Commoners who trust in Pitt, or, as it may be, more in Fox,
Shy their duties night by night to sit and watch the snoring
folks.

O! what an art, &c.
Once, to close their beaver's eyes contented all our holy ones,
Now, they sleep, or set asleep, from morn till night;
Not on the bench alone does slumber seize our Solomons—
Lawyers try on more than courts their soporific might;
Doctors high in fashion used to choke the sick with medicines,
Now a novel dose expels the life of lords and ladies hence;
Surgeons, who in pulling teeth would torture you most
frightfully,
Whip an arm or leg away, the while you snore, delightfully.

O! what an art, &c.
Every trade and every age is bent on mesmerizing you,
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Fingers poked in people's eyes do wonders that astonish one;
Snoring folks of all the ilk one suffers will admonish one;
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"The same is true in relation to electricity, a substance more purified and light than air. If two clouds are equally charged with this small fluid, they may pass and repass each other, or mingle into one, yet not a flash of lightning will be seen. But if they are unequally charged, or what is called the electrical action, 'positively and negatively charged,' then the lightning will descend with forked lightning on the clouds are equally charged. By long drought and heat, electricity becomes very unequally distributed throughout the atmosphere. One portion of air contains a much greater quantity than another, and when that surplus of electricity is to a certain extent, nature can hold out no longer. A terrific storm takes place. Convolving clouds roll the heavens with darkness—the high winds blow, the thunders roll, and the voice of the storm is heard until the electric fluid is equally divided throughout the atmosphere, and also equalized with the earth. Nature, having thus guarded her end in the electrician produced, a rest—well is calm. If we pass on from this matter to animal nature, we shall find that the same law there also holds its empire. If, for instance, a healthy child, three or four years of age, be permitted to sleep every night, for a year or two between two very old, decrepit grandmothers, it will give away, and if not more, perhaps it may die. There is, perhaps, not one use or the cause of my voice, but what has led the remark, that 'it is very unhealthy for young children to sleep with very old, infirm people.' It is true, and parents should be aware of this. This child is full of animal life, and its nervous system is charged with the vital fluid, secreted by the brain. This gives that suppleness to the limbs, and that buoyancy to the heart which we witness in the young. The grand principle here the proper quantity of this nerve-vital fluid which maintains that rigidity of the limbs we witness in the aged. The same common law of equilibrium that pervades the universe, is here also in operation. The nerve-vital fluid passes from this child to the two aged persons in contact with it. The aged, and they continue to receive, and as this fluid is one can never bring these infirm persons up to an equilibrium with itself, so it must go down to them. Nature will have her equilibrium, if the law is broken. Once more there is the nervous system or blood. By the nervous system, I mean the brain and all its ramifications. The blood belongs exclusively to the circulating system, which embraces the veins and arteries. I grant that the blood vessels pass round among the convolutions of the brain; but in the nerve itself there is no blood, and the whole mass of brain is not a congeries of nerves. These are charged with a nerve-vital fluid, which is manufactured from electricity. Hence, the circulating system containing the blood, and the nervous system containing the magnetic fluid, are not to be blended, but distinctly separated. Now, as a human being may lack the proper quantity of blood in its circulating system, so he may lack the proper quantity of the nerve-vital fluid in his nervous system."

Again, he says,—
"It is admitted, that the air we breathe is composed of two substances, namely, oxygen and azote. Their relative quantities are about one-fifth oxygen and four-fifths azote. But these are not all. It is evident, that hydrogen and electricity are also component parts of air. Oxygen and electricity are the principles of flame and of animal life, while hydrogen extinguishes both. There is not a single square inch of air but what contains more or less electricity. To air in its compound state is drawn into the lungs. The oxygen and electricity are communicated to the blood which is charged with life, while the hydrogen is discharged and expired. This life, which gives colour to the blood, is a statically rendered magnetic under the influence of electricity, analogous to the needles in the galvanic battery, which become magnets merely by induction. The blood itself is, at the same time, exposed to the oxygen of the air, and instantly becomes charged red. This oxygen, however, is not in the blood in some degree answering to the solution of the sulphate of copper in the galvanic battery."
"The nerve-vital fluid is manufactured out of electricity, taken into the lungs at every inspiration. It completes charges the whole brain, which organ is in a healthy state."

"There is no direct contact between mind and gross matter. There is no direct contact between the length of a thought and the breadth of that door. Nor is there any direct contact between my mind and hand, than there is between my mind and the stage upon which I stand. Therefore, we cannot touch with hands; yet it must be true, as mind may come in contact with matter, otherwise I could not raise my hand at all by the energies of my will. Hence, it must be true, that the highest and most subtle of matter in the universe, being the first step in reality, it comes in contact with mind. And electricity, the god-like nerve-vital fluid, (which is living substance) is certainly the highest and most ethereal sort of substance of which we can form any conception. Hence, as before remarked, it must be true, that we put forth a will—by the energies of that will this galvanic substance or nervous fluid is properly stirred; that stirring vibrates the nerves—this vibration excites the muscles—the muscles raise the arm, and thus we move dead matter."

"It may be said that what is thought, reason, and understanding, and then be asked, whether thought, reason, understanding, occupy any space? But I deny that these occupy space. Thought, reason, and understanding are not mind, but the effects of mind. Mind is something altogether higher than all these. I yet ask what is that which thinks, reasons, and understands? It is the mind. This mind is something distinct from these effects by which it manifests. What, then, it may be asked, is mind? I answer, it is that substance which has innate or living motion; and the result of that motion is thought, reason, understanding, and, therefore, power. As electricity, the highest and most subtle of inert substance, as it fastest on mind, and, therefore, more easily moved than any other inert substance, in being, so mind is the next step above electricity, to the growing perfection of all other substances in immensity, in living motion; and the result of that motion is thought and power. It is the living Spirit from whom emanates electricity, has created all worlds. Hence, the Creator is the power or being, possessing perfect thought, and is infinite in every perfection of his adorable character."

To the objections urged against clairvoyance, he answers,—

"We will now take into consideration the philosophy of clairvoyance. It is evident that seeing, hearing, feeling, tasting, and smelling, being exclusively to the mind. As we have clearly proved that electricity is the only substance that can come in contact with mind, so it is through the agency of this fluid that sensations are transmitted to the mind. Hence, it is through the medium of electricity that we see, hear, feel, taste, and smell. The power of sight being in the mind, it is evident that we never saw anything out of our eyes. The whole of this congregation, with their different costumes, their various complexions and different appearances, and all their relative distances from each other, are struck upon the retina of the eye, as about the brightness of a quarter of an inch. If the agency of electricity is conveyed through the optic nerve to the mind where it is seen. Hence, we never saw a piece of leather but only its shadow, or the same as when you look into a mirror, it is not yourself, but your image that you see. Electricity is that substance that passes through all these substances. Air cannot pass through your cranium, nor through these walls, nor material substances. But as these have countless millions of pores, electricity can pass through them. Now if our nervous system could be charged with the nerve-vital fluid, so as to render the brain positive, and thus bring it into an exact equilibrium or balance with external electricity, then we should be clairvoyant. Because, the nervous system being duly charged, and even overcharged, the great quantity of this fluid passing in right lines from the mind, as a common country, and is every distance through the pores of the skull, renders it transparent. Using with external electricity which passes through these walls and all substances, which are also transparent, the image of the whole universe, as it were, in this transparent form, is thrown upon the mind, and is there seen, and seen, too, independent of the retina. On this principle, the whole of those objects which are opaque to natural vision, are rendered transparent to the clairvoyant, and he sees through walls in succession, and takes cognizance of their relative distances, on the same principle that we in a watery state, could look through said walls if they were thin, transparent glass. On this principle, if the subject is charged too much or too little, he cannot see clearly. Or if he might be rainy, or even damp, and unfavourable to electricity, these experiments in clairvoyance must fail, or be very imperfect. The subject must be magnetically charged exactly to that degree which will bring him into magnetic equilibrium with external electricity. Then, if the subject be favourable, the experiments will most likely prove successful."

In illustration of the truth of this, he gives some examples of natural clairvoyance, in the persons of somnambulists, and of patients in a state of catalepsy. It will be seen by our extracts that the book is well worth perusing.

—

In the performance of our primary duty of destroying every

The works that we have seen on the subject, expose a roguery

1880

Her Majesty, Prince Albert, and suite left Woburn on Thurs-

It is understood that between 800 and 1,000 individuals are

Lord John Russell intends, before he tenders his resignation, to require a distinct decision, and full discussion of the Corn Law.

The unfavourable accounts respecting the health of Mr. Roe-

tain persons to point out the source of springs was long treated as fictitious

Now, we ask, is there any thing more wonderful in Mormonism than in the facts we have enumerated? We think not. But we are not insisting on the

What analogy is there between a man's seeing at an extraordi-

We have no objection whatever to Mesmerism, but let it be subjected to scientific experiments, and the facts being established

[We have brought this Mesmerism to the point, that it now

* The philosophy of self-delusion is curious, and the facts are equally

1947 10 20

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GLEANINGS FROM LITERATURE.

HUMAN MAGNETISM.

Its claims to dispassionate inquiry. By R. NEWNHAM, Esq., M.R.S.L.

Mr. Newnham has certainly produced a most interesting book. Without, however, becoming converts to the science, we cannot deny, with the extraordinary cases which the author presents, that the subject is not well worthy of investigation. They are truly wonderful; but so are the performances of the Wizard of the North. Mr. Newnham is candid enough, however, to admit that there is much in IMAGINATION; which he acknowledges goes a long way to produce many of the phenomena, but insists that it could not produce the whole. Be it so: but Mr. Newnham by no means clears up the mystery, but leaves it where we found it.

We shall now proceed to extract some of the most remarkable cases from the report of the Commission of the Royal Academy of France, and leave our readers to draw their own conclusions of Somnambulism and Clairvoyance:—

CASE OF M. PETIT.

M. Ribes, member of the Academy, presented a catalogue which he drew from his pocket. The somnambulist, after some efforts which seemed to fatigue him, read very distinctly these words:—*Lasater, it is very difficult to know men. These last words were printed in a very small type. A passport was placed before his eyes; he recognized it, and described it under the term pass-mans. Some minutes afterwards, a license to carry arms was substituted for the passport, to which it has the greatest possible resemblance, and it was presented to him by its blank surface. M. Petit could only distinguish that it was a framed document, and very like the former; but on the other side being turned to him, after some moments of attention, he read distinctly these words, *de par le roi*, and on the left, *port d'armes*. An open letter was then shown him, which he said he could not read, not understanding English; it was, in fact, a letter in English.*

M. Bourdois drew from his pocket a snuff-box, on which was a cameo set in gold. The somnambulist could not at first see it distinctly; he said that the gold case blinded his eyes. When the gold setting was covered with the fingers, he said he perceived the emblem of fidelity. Being urged to say what was that emblem, he added, I see a dog; he is as if prepared for a sacrifice before the altar:—this was, in fact, the figure represented.

A sealed letter was shown him: he could discover nothing of its contents. He merely followed the direction of the lines with his finger:—but he read easily the address, although it contained a very difficult name—A. M. de Rothenstroth.

All these trials fatigued M. Petit extremely. He was left to rest for a short time; then, as he was very fond of play, it was proposed to him, in order to relieve him, to take a hand at cards. In proportion as these experiments of pure curiosity seemed to have annoyed and fatigued him, so did he accomplish with ease and dexterity that which gave him pleasure, and to which he was led by his own inclination.

One of the party, M. Raynal, formerly inspector of the university, played a game at piquet with M. Petit, and lost. The latter played his cards with the greatest ease, and without ever being wrong. Many times we uselessly tried to put him out in his play by abstracting or changing the cards—he counted with surprising facility the number of points marked on the cards of his adversary which he had to play to.

CASE OF PAUL VILLAGRAND.

On the 12th of January the commission reassembled at the house of M. Foissac, where were already M. Em. de Las Cases; M. le Comte de Ramin; first aide-de-camp of the king; and M. de Ségalas, member of the Academy. M. Foissac told us, that he was about to somnambulise Paul, and that in that state, with a finger placed upon each closed eye, he would, notwithstanding the complete occlusion of the eyelids, distinguish the colour of cards, read the title of a book, and even some words or lines taken by chance from the body of the work itself. After two minutes of magnetic passes, Paul was asleep. The eyelids being held firmly closed, constantly and alternately, by MM. Fouquier, Haré, Marc, and the reporter, a pack of new cards, of which the stamped envelope was torn at the moment, was presented to him: they were shuffled, and Paul recognised easily and successively the king of spades, the ace of clubs, the queen of spades, the nine of clubs, the seven of diamonds, the queen of diamonds, and the eight of diamonds.

The eyes being still firmly closed, but now by M. Ségalas, a volume which the reporter was furnished was presented to him. He read on the title-page, *Histoire de France*. He could not read the two next lines, but then read the name *Anguelin*, which was preceded by the preposition *par*. The

book was opened at p. 69, and he read in the first line *le nombre de ses*; he passed over the word *trouver*, and continued, *au moment où on le croyait la plus occupé des plaisirs du carnaval*. He read also the running title *Louis*, but could not read the Roman figures which followed. A paper was given to him on which had been written the words *applaudissement* and *magnétisme animal*; he spelt the first and pronounced the other two. Finally they presented to him the *procès-verbal* of this sitting; he read distinctly the date, and some words more legibly written than the rest. In all these trials the fingers had been applied over the whole of the opening of both eyes, pressing the upper downwards upon the lower eyelid; and we remarked that the globe of the eye had been in a constant movement of rotation, and seemed to be directed towards the object of vision.

CASE OF M. CALIXTE.

Calixte, being magnetised, a card was applied over the region of the heart, and he pronounced it to be, without any hesitation, the ace of spades. The eyes being plugged with cotton, and then covered with a thick bandage, he played with perfectly new cards, several games at *écarté*, with some of the most sceptical, and that without being once wrong. If his adversary announced a card different from the one which he had actually played, the somnambulist was displeased, complained of the bad faith, and generally added:—Why do you wish to deceive me? I see better than you do, and in order to prove it, there still remain in your hands such and such cards.

One of the players, being extremely distrustful, having raised the bandage of the magnetised, in order to convince himself that no ray of light could possibly reach the visual organ, received from the somnambulist a violent apostrophe in rather unmeasured language, and owed his conversion to magnetism to the following experiment.

"You think, then, that I can see by my eyes, do you?" said the somnambulist. "You yourself, then, are blind enough not to understand that my eyelids, being compressed by the plugs and bandage which are horribly uncomfortable to me, it is perfectly impossible for me to perceive anything by my ordinary senses. Well, then, go into the next room—fasten against the wall with a white wafer, any card of your own choice, and you will then know whether I can recognise it or not." Calixte in a short time announced the king of diamonds, which was the fact.

Twelve pieces of ribbon of different colours or shades, were next presented to him, and he distinguished each in the most precise manner.

A watch "*en saronette*," that is in the form of a globe, was shown to him, the hands having been previously misplaced; and this being placed over the region of the heart, he told the precise hour which it indicated.

"Gentlemen," said M. Ricard on another occasion, "we intend to try to make Calixte execute certain movements which you will indicate to me—and without any ordinary communication with him; as soon as the card shall be given me, on which the movements to be executed have been described, I will speak to him no more, and will remain without movement. Calixte," said he, placing himself before his somnambulist, who was seated, "I am about to give you some directions—attend to me—and do what I tell you." At this moment, M. L.—look one of the cards and presented it to M. Ricard, who, after having read it, dropped both his arms, looked steadfastly at Calixte, and remained himself immovable. After some minutes waiting, the somnambulist said, "*I know not what to do!*" and the first experiment failed. The second and third failed equally.

"Gentlemen," said he then, "negative facts, however numerous, cannot invalidate positive facts;—thus should all the experiments which I am about to institute fail, vision, notwithstanding the closure of the eyes by a thick bandage, would not be in any measure unproved. Moreover, we are perhaps too numerous; and I should not be surprised if the clairvoyance of the patient were exhausted for to-day; nevertheless, we will continue the trial." Consequently a fourth, and then a fifth experiment was tried, and partially succeeded, but only partially, for it was necessary to prompt the somnambulist a little. A sixth experiment was then tried, which I will describe, because its success was complete.

Calixte, his eyes bandaged as before, sat with his face turned towards the wall; three paces behind him were M. Ricard and M. Teste, and at twenty paces there stood an organ. All was quiet, the sound of the organ began, and at the same time Calixte beat time; but after some minutes, and immediately after a sign which M. Teste made with the hand to M. Ricard, the somnambulist ceased beating the time, although the magnetiser said nothing, and although the sound of the organ continued.

Such was the sixth experiment, and I will now relate the last, which was also attended with complete success.

As soon as the attention of the somnambulist was thoroughly gained by his magnetiser, M. L. gave him one of the hundred little cards, of which I have before spoken: then Calixte, his eyes being still bandaged, arose from his seat, advanced some steps towards his magnetiser—stopped for an instant—returned—stopped again—got up into a chair—stamped

his feet impatiently—then finally placed his heels upon one corner of the chair—closely applied his arms to the whole length of his body—became stiffened all over—then inclined himself backward—and finally fell in a heap into the arms of M. Ricard, who had purposely come and placed himself behind him.

The card was now given to us, and contained the following sentence:—"Make the somnambulist get up into a chair, and then make him fall backwards into the arms of his magnetiser."

Thus terminated our sitting, the most interesting, and perhaps the most complete, which has ever taken place in Paris. I have thanked M. Ricard for it, as for a great benefit which he has conferred upon me.

INTERESTING CASE OF NATURAL SOMNAMBULISM.

The patient was a young lady who had been thrown into a state of nervous excitement by the sudden death of her father. Some of her senses were lost, and others exalted to an extraordinary degree.

All colours she can distinguish with the greatest correctness by night or by day, whether presented to her on cloth, silk, muslin, wax, or even glass—and this as easily on any part of the body as with the hands, although of course the ordinary routine of such an exhibition of power takes place with the hands,—the other being that of mere curiosity. Her delicacy of mind, and high tone of religious feeling are such, that she has the greatest objection to make that which she regards in the light of a heavy affliction from God, a matter of show or curiosity to others, although to ourselves, of course, all these unusual extravagances of nervous sensibility are manifest for at least twelve out of every twenty-four hours. She can not only read with the greatest rapidity any writing that is legible to us, music, &c., with the mere passing of her fingers over it, whether in a dark or light room (for her sight is for the most part suspended when under the influence of the attack, or paroxysm, although she is perfectly sensible,—nay, more acute and clearer than in her natural state); but within this month past she has been able to collect the contents of any printing or MS. by merely laying her hand on the page, without tracing the lines or letters, and on one occasion declared the contents of a note just brought into the room in this way with a rapidity with which it could not have been read by daylight.

ON MESMERISM.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NORTHAMPTON HERALD.
Sir,

A few years since it used to be the custom of foreign physicians to praise the good sense of their brethren in England, for not having written a single line upon Animal Magnetism. This praise they cannot now lay claim to, thanks to the labours of Dr. Elliotson and others. Books issue from the press, itinerant lecturers parade each town, and the lovers of the marvellous retail to their friends the wonderful effects of this pretended science. But, surely, if any person did understand Mesmerism, it must be its own apostle Mesmer himself. I therefore shall lay before your readers some of his own words, leaving their good sense (if they possess any), to say whether the under-described magnetic fluid ever existed. "It is a fluid universally diffused; it is the means of a mutual influence between celestial bodies, the earth, and animated bodies. The action and virtue of Animal Magnetism may be communicated from one body to other bodies, animate or inanimate. This action occurs at a remote distance, without the assistance of any intermediate body; it is augmented and reflected by ice, communicated, propagated, and augmented by sound. Though this fluid be universal, all animated bodies are not susceptible of it; there are some even (though small in number) who have a property so opposite, that their presence alone destroys all the effects of this fluid in other bodies. By means of magnetism the physician knows the state of health of every individual, and judges with certainty of the origin, the nature, and progress of the most complicated diseases; he prevents their increase, and succeeds in curing them, without ever exposing the patient to dangerous or fatal effects, whatever may be their age, temperament, or sex."—*Mémoire de Mesmer, sur la découverte du Magnétisme Animal*, p. 74.

Mesmer says that the action of his fluid is augmented by sound, and in his practice he used to call in the aid of the piano to produce his Mesmeric effects. Now it is well known that music has exciting or depressing effects without the assistance of his pretended fluid.

But there was one thing that ought to open all eyes, which formed a part of the practice of Mesmer. It was this. In the different trials which his solicitude for his pretended science led him to institute, he perceived that convulsive attacks equally arose in patients disposed to them, whether he passed his artificial magnets over the patients (for he first used mineral magnetism) or simply used for this mysterious operation a bar of common iron, or even his hand only. This fact once proved, should have convinced him that the convulsive agitations which he excited were caused neither by the magnets, nor any magnetic emanation, and that when such opposite agents as a magnet and the simple application of the hand produced the same effects, the cause of those effects must be sought in a third principle, viz., in the diseased imagination of the patient.

It is singular that the persons who attend lectures on Mesmerism do not require the operator to perform on some of the company, taken at hazard, and not upon their well-drilled puppets. Where this condition has been required, the magnetisers have generally failed. But I shall be referred to facts, to experiments, which they say cannot be denied. To this I reply in the words of Hippocrates: "Experimentum fallax, judicium difficile." If to establish the solidity of a doctrine, experiments alone sufficed, is there a single one in medicine that has any more striking and numerous facts than those in favour of animal magnetism? All the cities of France have seen the singular and unequivocal effects of this miraculous power. The people, astonished by these phenomena, believed in the agent of Mesmer, and prostrated themselves before his magnets; but the philosopher reasons, and easily distinguishes through the outside of these extraordinary events, not a physical, but a moral agent. The power of the secret play of the passions over the human body, has been long known. The annals of Medicine offer examples the most striking and authenticated. Many times convulsive epidemics have seized upon entire cities, without any cause but this internal action. What is still more surprising, on some occasions this physical trouble, excited by a moral trouble, has produced curative effects, and suddenly removed diseases, vainly attempted to be cured any other way. Many years before Mesmer, Dr. James in his Dictionary of Medicine, speaking of the talismans and amulets of the ancients, said "that these remedies, inert in themselves, sometimes made impressions upon the mind, which were communicated to the body, which on certain occasions, might change for the better the state of its parts." This observation is strikingly illustrated by an anecdote given by Blackmore, the poet, and physician to William and Mary:—"A learned and worthy clergyman of Oxford, said thus to me one day in conversation:—'While I was at dinner with a country gentleman and his lady, she complained to me that her young son was afflicted with such an obstinate ague, that no medicine that the doctors had prescribed could remove. I replied, though I was not in earnest, Madam, there are many celebrated charms for curing that disease, why will you not make use of one for the child's recovery? Her answer was, Sir, I should not be unwilling to employ any which you should recommend; and with that I turned the conversation to another subject, hoping to hear no more of the spell. When I had taken my leave and was come to my inn, she sent to me for my charm, when, calling for pen and ink, I writ in a character these words, 'He is a fool that will be cured by this;' and I sent the paper rolled up to her with this direction, 'that she should tie it with a blue silk string about her son's elbow an hour before the fit;' and about a month after I was surprised to see her servant sent on purpose some miles to give me thanks for the cure of her son, who was then, as she assured me by the messenger, perfectly well, having had no return of the ague after the first application of the charm.'"

This effect is easily accounted for by the moral confidence and courage produced in the boy by the charm. But, if any person is disposed to use Mesmerism as a therapeutic application, he should remember that in every kind of trouble excited in the body by the passions of the mind, whether dull or vehement, physical good but rarely happens, and by accident. It is a game of hazard, the chances of which are almost always bad. Some years ago, there existed in France the Abbe Paris, whose whole life was a course of the most absurd and painful superstitious. He abridged him-

self even of the necessities of life, and was, in fact, accessory to his own death, by refusing proper assistance and better nourishment, when he was manifestly drawing near his end, in consequence of his extreme austerities. The people used to go on pilgrimages to his tomb, convulsions, swoonings, &c., &c., were produced, some cures effected, and the Abbe passed into a saint. Now, I can no more believe that these miracles were produced by supernatural agency, than I can believe that the case mentioned by Racine and Pascal of a person afflicted with fistula lacrymalis, was miraculously cured after having touched with his eye a relic which they pretended was one of the thorns of the crown of Christ. There were some scrofulous tumours which sank under the royal touch of the kings of England and France: are we to attribute to them the power of working miracles, or the cure to the imagination of the patient?

When the Mesmerisers assure us, that their patients can tell the time from a watch placed behind their backs, or at the pit of the stomach, or through a door, I may be permitted to state, that I could not believe such a thing, even if I saw it, simply because it would be contrary to the laws of nature. Delaplace has laid down the value of evidence too clearly to permit any person to be deceived by such assertions:—"The probability of the error or lying of a witness is so much the greater, as the fact which he attests is more extraordinary. Some authors have advanced the contrary; but simple good sense repels so strange an assertion, and the calculation of probabilities, confirms the indications of common sense, and appreciates, moreover, the improbability of evidence on extraordinary facts. We may judge by it of the immense weight of evidence necessary to admit the suspension of the natural laws; and how absurd it would be to apply to this case the ordinary rules of practice. All those who, without offering this immensity of evidence, support what they advance by recitations contrary to these laws, weaken rather than increase the credibility which they wish to inspire; for then these recitations render error or lying very probable. But what diminishes the credence of enlightened men, often increases that of the vulgar, who are always fond of the marvellous. There are things so extraordinary that nothing can balance their improbability. An absurd recital, admitted unanimously in the century which gave birth to it, offers to the following centuries but a fresh proof of the extreme influence of general opinion over the best minds. Two great men of the age of Louis the 14th, Racine and Pascal, are striking examples of it."

M. Follécuc, in his book on Magnetism, has had the temerity to class Moses and Christ amongst the Mesmerisers. But M. Follécuc should have remembered that the Divine Author of our most holy religion could not work miracles sometimes, because of the want of faith in his hearers, whereas the Mesmerisers pretend that they can work their miracles whether the patient will or no.

In conclusion, it appears to me that the pretended magnetic fluid, which makes of two persons, the mesmeriser and the mesmerised, one person, does not exist; that all the effects produced must be referred to the power of the imagination, but that Mesmer deserves our thanks for having made more known the immense power and great sensibility of the mind, soul, sensitive being, or whatever name you may give it, which governs our organs, and for having displayed before our eyes all the extent of this concealed and marvellous principle.

I purpose, in a future letter, to expose its sister-delusion, Phrenology.

Your obedient servant,

WM. PINKARD.

Towcester, Dec. 26, 1843.



FRANCIS ANTHONY MESMER, M.D.
Copied from the only authentic portrait published in
this country.

MESMERISM.—II.

The believers in animal magnetism of the present day declare that their process, and the result of their manipulations, differ materially from those of Mesmer and his immediate followers; placing on one side therefore any deductions that may have been drawn from the proceedings of the first practisers of the art, let us see to what the Mesmerists of the present day lay claim.

They say that by certain manipulations, which are well understood, that in the first instance, a state of *coma*, or mesmeric sleep, takes place, and, in the words of Dr. Elliotson, "the patient becomes insensible to all around, but may have the inward senses augmented as in common extasis—may sing well for the first time in his life, and talk so unguardedly as to disclose secrets. The external senses may become so impenetrable, that a pistol fired in the ear is not heard, nor melted wax dropped on the body felt, nor ammonia applied to the nostrils perceived, although the gentlest word of the operator (magnetiser) is heard and answered; water similarly treated (magnetised) by him, tasted and found ferruginous, and his gentlest touch recognised. A delightful feeling of ease and lightness is experienced, the body grows warmer, and perspires freely, though sometimes anxiety, palpitation, slight convulsions, and wandering pains, take place. On the first attempt, these occur, generally, without sleep-waking, the person is unconscious of all that has occurred, but when thrown into the state again, recollects the whole and converses on it. The magnetiser can put an end to this state at pleasure: and when he is a good magnetiser, and the patient very susceptible, a single movement of the hand may instantly magnetise, and even knock down, and kill—a look may magnetise; and we are told that all these effects may sometimes be produced at great distances by the mere volition of the magnetiser."

"But this is not all; we are assured that matters often go much further: that a person can often be so highly magnetised, not only as to taste magnetised water, and recognise the magnetiser by hearing and touch, but even to perceive objects of sight, hearing, taste, and smell by the epigastrium, fingers and toes—by the organ of touch, so as to read a letter by these parts, even though it be folded in several envelopes; may, more, to discover a person in the next room, though the wall intervene; to foretell events entirely relating to others, and describe things going on at incalculable distances, as well as learn the thoughts of persons present; to relate the most minute points regarding persons who touch them, though never seen before; to see the interior structure of his own body, and describe the seat and appearance of a diseased organ; predict the future events of a disease of either himself or others, and point out the remedy. This state is called 'Clairvoyance.'"

Although all the believers in Mesmerism do not go to the extent of believing in Clairvoyance, with that exception, the above may be considered as a fair

statement of their creed. The application of animal magnetism is chiefly resorted to for the cure of disease, and there is no doubt that in many cases the disorder is relieved, but a few instances of the effects produced by an excited imagination will prove that the latter is fully capable of producing the same results, as far as the cure of diseases is concerned.

At the siege of Breda, in 1625, the garrison were dreadfully afflicted with scurvy, and their spirits depressed in such an extreme degree that the soldiers threatened to deliver up the town to the enemy. The Prince of Orange, when he heard this, addressed a letter to them, promising speedy relief, and accompanied it with medicines against the scurvy, said to be of great price and of still greater efficacy. Three small phials were given to each physician, not enough for two patients, and it was publicly given out that three or four drops were sufficient to impart a healing virtue to a gallon of water. The result was (the spirits of the men having been raised by the prince's letter) the disease was cured in a very short time.

Turner mentions a young gentleman, who became so disgusted by a course of violent emetics, that he could vomit by merely thinking of the subject, and the very sight of a bolus, or even the mention of one in the course of conversation, had the same effect.

Imagination has also been the cause of disease, as well as its cure; an unfortunate occurrence of this nature occurred during the prevalence of the Asiatic cholera, a few years back. To test the contagious nature of the disease, several medical men offered a reward to a careless fellow, who apparently had no dread of the disorder, on the condition that he would sleep in the bed of a cholera patient, who had recently died; the task was readily undertaken; deeming it possible, however, that imagination might have more to do with the case than contagion, the man was placed in a perfectly clean bed; but no doubt in the stillness of the night a feeling of fear arose, and before proper relief could be afforded he fell a victim to his imagination, dying of a confirmed cholera.

Bread pills have proved themselves as efficacious as the strongest drastic, and a story is told of a French physician, which may possibly be true, who, having written a prescription for his patient, handed it to him saying "Prenez cela" (Take that); the man supposing he spoke literally, swallowed the paper instead of the medicine, and with an equally beneficial effect. We have, in our last number, noticed the effects produced by the application of the imitation metallic tractors; the following are two instances of their mode of acting on the imagination:—

"Five cases were chosen of chronic rheumatism in the ankle, knee, wrist, and hip; one of the patients had also gouty pains, and all of them had been ill for several months. The wooden tractors were then applied, and all the five patients, except one, assured us that their pain was relieved, and three were much benefited. One felt his knee warmer, and he could walk much better, as he showed us with great satisfaction. One was easier for nine hours, until he went to bed, and then the pain returned. One had a tingling sensation for two hours. The wooden tractors were drawn over the skin so as to touch it in the slightest manner."

"A servant girl afflicted with a most acute headache, which she declared had rendered her nights restless for nearly a fortnight, readily submitted to the application of these potent electrical instruments, as they were called. They were moved about near her forehead, never touching her, and in four minutes she said she felt a slight chilliness in the head; in a minute or two more she felt as if cold water was running down her temples, and the pain was somewhat diminished, but in the space of ten minutes she declared the headache entirely gone. The following day she came to thank the operator for the good night's rest he had been the cause of her enjoying."

It is a well known fact that the various emotions of the human mind may be roused by the most trivial causes, and under their influence the body is violently acted upon. A feeling of shame or bashfulness will cause the blood to rush to the face and neck of a girl or an ingenuous youth. Fear stops the circulation of the vital fluid, and the features become pale; if the effect be violent, the limbs tremble, or a fit of apoplexy takes place, succeeded possibly by death. In anger the veins are distended with blood, and every muscle quivers. Joy, hope, love, all produce their effects upon the human organization, through the human mind; why, then, should not the mere look of the magnetiser produce astonishing effects upon a susceptible patient? The noise of the school-room is hushed at the entrance of the master, that is, if he is seen to enter; if he comes in unseen the effect is not produced; for the cause lies in the imagination of the pupils; they dread punishment

Unfortunately for the fame of the double-sighted Youth, a man who exhibited a learned dog was at the Egyptian Hall at the same time, some dispute arose between the two worthies, and one fine morning, a large placard appeared, announcing a "Double-sighted Dog," and when put to the test, the dog was found to be capable of performing all the lad had done, and that much quicker, with one exception: in fact, as his master affirmed, he could do anything but speak. The success of this imposture was so great, that in the course of a few months, the wife of the master of the dog, made her debut, under the title of the "Mysterious Lady," and exhibited all the properties of double sight, and since that time she has travelled several thousand miles through Europe and America, her faculty improving by practice.

In 1816, a young lady of Liverpool, Miss Mc Avoy, became blind at the age of fifteen, and she accidentally discovered it was said, the same year, that she could read with her fingers, "the Lives of the Saints," the "Life of Thomas a Becket," and the Bible. She told an object placed under two plates of glass by touching the upper plate of glass with her fingers, and could read with her fingers nine inches from the book by a convex lens, which she touched. But it is clear that if the lens could have assisted her fingers to see, it must have been when they were placed at that particular distance from it, at which the rays formed an image of the object, and not when they were in contact with it.

One hysterical young lady at Grenoble, whose case was read to the Philomathic Society, at Paris, was able to get through a great deal of business for in copying letters she read with her left elbow, and wrote with her right hand.

One of the peculiarities of magnetic sleep is said to be the utter forgetfulness when awake, of what transpired during sleep, and the instant recollection of every circumstance when again in the ecstatic state; much the same as the drunken porter, who having, while in an inebriated state, left a package with which he had been entrusted, at a certain house, was unable when sober, to remember where he had deposited it, but on the very first occasion when he again became tipsy, he found his memory and the parcel also.

Dr. Elliott, the most honest and earnest supporter of animal magnetism limits his belief in the effects of mesmerism in the following manner: "But I have never witnessed any thing than what it is certain takes place in health and disease. I have seen persons sent to sleep, I have felt, and heard others declare they had tingling, and heard some declare they had various other sensations and pains. I have seen twitches, convulsions, and spastic contractions of muscles, loss of power and muscle, and the most profound coma; I have seen these evidently and instantly removed by the process. I have seen one sense restored in the coma by the process, so that the person was insensible in taste, smell, sight, and yet heard and answered questions well. I have seen paroxysms of sleep-walking and ecstatic delirium, which had been originally induced by its disturbance of a system already epileptic, put an end to evidently, and in general quickly by mesmerism. But I have not witnessed persons seeing through walls or pasteboard, nor tasting nor smelling with the epigastrium or fingers; nor speaking nor understanding languages, they had never learnt, nor telling the circumstances, past, present, and to come, of persons they had never before heard of." In his later writings, however, the doctor goes a step further he says: "I have mentioned my persuasion that persons in a mesmeric state may predict, without any guess, the changes in their own disease, and general health, but no more. This seems to be the extent of his faith."

The supposed faculty of clairvoyance is so open to deception on the part of the patient, or of collusion between him and the operator, that all those who earnestly and honestly wish to examine philosophically the wonderful properties of the mind, that have been incidentally developed during the manipulations of mesmerism, would do well to detect and drive from the field the host of impostors, who eager only to astonish, care not to what tricks they resort for that purpose. Such trash as the following, perhaps, will illustrate this point.

"Do you see any other picture over the mantel-piece?" "Yes; I see a little boy." (Wrong.) "Look again: are you sure it is a boy?" "No; it is a lady." "Is there any thing remarkable about her?" "Yes; she has a scarf of several colours over her shoulder." (The picture is a miniature, by Conway, of a lady in the character of Flora, and has a garland of flowers over the shoulder, crossing her

bosom.) "Now tell me what other picture you see?" "I see one with large trees, mountains, and a great deal of water." "What else do you see in it?" "A bridge, a boat with two men, and a house—no, not a house, but a rock." (There is this singularity about these particulars: the picture once had a bridge in the middle distance, and a boat, with two figures in it, which, however, for some artistic objections, as disturbing the sentiment of the composition, have been painted out.) The questioner is not at all conscious that the memory of this fact at all presented itself to his mind during the conversation about the picture.

Wishing to try the effects of mesmerised water, I procured a tumbler full, and gave it to her to drink, asking her if she knew what it was." She replied, "Yes, it's water." I then took the glass from her, made some passes over the liquid (though I doubt whether this was necessary, or had any effect), and willed that it should be 'wine,' thinking at the time of 'sherry wine.' I then gave her the glass, and asked her to drink, and tell me what it was. She sipped the water twice, and then told me that it was wine." I asked her if she knew what wine. She said, "Yes, sherry." I again took the glass from her, made some fresh passes over it, and willed the liquid to be 'beer.' I then gave it to her, and again requested her to drink, and tell me what it was. She did so, taking the glass from her lips, once or twice to consider; she then told me 'that it was beer.' I said, "Nonsense, it is water." She replied, "No, it is not; it is beer; I can smell it quite strong."

The most violent opponent of animal magnetism will not deny that the subject of these irregular and extraordinary powers of the mind is one that well deserves attention but it never can receive that calm and dispassionate notice it requires, while the extravagant pretensions of charlatans are allowed to go unnoticed. Such cases as the following for instance, if carefully selected and verified, would tend much to elucidate the subject, and improve our knowledge of the wonderful works of the immaterial portion of our nature.

A poor girl in Scotland, seven years of age, looked after cattle at a farmer's and slept next to a room often occupied by an itinerant fiddler of great skill, and in the habit of playing his most refined pieces of music at night, but his performance was always spoken of by the child, as a most disagreeable noise. She fell ill, and was removed to the house of a benevolent lady, whose servant she became. Some years after this change, she had fits of sleep-walking, in which, after being two hours in bed, she became restless, and began to mutter, and after making sounds precisely like the tuning of a violin, would make a prelude, and then dash off into the most elaborate pieces of music, clearly and accurately, and with the most delicate modulations. She sometimes stopped, making the sound of returning her instrument, and began exactly where she left off. After a year or two, she imitated an old piano also, that she was accustomed to hear in her present residence, and in another year began to talk, decanting fluently, acutely, and wittily, and with astonishing mimicry, and abundance of illustration and imagery. For several years she was ignorant of all around her during her paroxysms; but at the age of sixteen she began to observe those who were in her apartment, and could tell their number accurately, though the utmost care was taken to have the room darkened, and when her eyelids were closed, and a candle brought near the eye, the pupil seemed insensible to light, she soon became capable of answering questions, and noticing remarks made in her presence.

During the whole period of this remarkable affection, which seems to have gone on for ten or eleven years, she was, when awake a dull awkward girl, very slow in receiving instruction, though much care was bestowed upon her, and in point of intellect much inferior to the other servants of the family. "She was probably," observes Dr. Elliottson, "very reserved and contemplative, and could learn in her own way only; the really cleverest children are often considered stupid, while the quick and prattling, who turn out but ordinary adults, are thought prodigies."

MESMERISM.—III. CLAIRVOYANCE.

Clairvoyance is the mystery, *par excellence*, of the practise of mesmerism: for if it be true, it exhibits a power in contradiction to all the established laws of Nature. The existence of a faculty of seeing objects at a distance, or when hidden from ordinary sight is no new notion. Cornelius Agrippa, who flourished at Cologne, in the fifteenth century, asserted that a man naturally, and without a miracle, unassisted by the Holy Spirit, or any other, might convey his thoughts in the twinkling of an eye, to another at any distance: "this," he said, "I myself knew how to do, and I often did it; and the late Abbas Trithemius, was also acquainted with the method and practised it." A professor of philosophy at Padua, Petrus Pomponatus, born in 1502, contended for the power of the imagination, or will of one person to send forth an influence upon another. At the beginning of the eighteenth century it is recorded, in PEARCE's work on religious superstitions, that a man confined in one of the provincial prisons, pretended to possess the power of seeing through any substance, except a piece of red cloth; his wonderful faculty became known in the neighbourhood, and the jailer's wife was in the habit of introducing her female acquaintance to the clairvoyant; on one occasion the prisoner burst out into a loud laugh, and when asked the cause, he shocked the feelings of one of the women present by asserting that she was deficient of one of the most usual garments of a lady's toilet, the truth of the imputation was acknowledged, and the fame of the man increased in proportion.

But this peculiar faculty of seeing through material obstacles has been claimed, in many instances, in modern days, in which it is clear no mesmeric influence can be supposed to have existed, and consequently even a mesmeriser must allow that they have either to be attributed to natural causes, or must have been the result of imposture; a few instances will suffice to illustrate this part of the subject, and show how open to deceit is the subject of clairvoyance.

Some few years back, a Scotchman exhibited a boy in London, at the Egyptian Hall and other places, whom he pretended to be gifted with what he called double sight, by means of which faculty he was enabled to tell the colours and other qualities of things, without seeing them, the names and ages of strangers in the room, and so on. But the father required that the objects should be, in the first instance shown to him, and the names and ages told him, or written down, the boy when questioned by the father, almost invariably answered correctly: the latter stated that he had five children, all gifted with this extraordinary double sight.

MESMERISM.

Aug. 8, 1841

The public will have occasion to rejoice at the success with which we have put down this gross and dangerous quackery, and at the decided manner in which we have defeated the frauds, and exposed the ignorance and stupidity, of *The Times* on this subject; but, that ever depraved and bare-faced journal, instead of getting out of its awkward scrape manfully, escapes in a manner which shows that its attempts to deceive the public were well planned, and founded on the most corrupt motives. *The Times* had two long articles praising this wretched imposture to the skies; but, after our severe castigation, the rogue had two articles on the subject in the same paper (Tuesday), the one in favour of Mesmerism, and the other against it, and after thus disgracefully taking both sides at once, on the following day it comes out with a well-written article blowing Mesmerism to atoms.

We witnessed, on Monday, at the Hanover-square-rooms, another of the grossly fraudulent, and cruel and disgustingly indecent exhibitions of Mesmerism, and it is the last we ever will witness. How modest ladies can sit out such an exhibition is little to their honour, but it has often been our lot to see public spectacles and exhibitions at which the impure of the sex have blushed and retired from the scenes of indecency, whilst the chaste matrons and delicate young ladies have remained to witness and even enjoy the sight. We believe that if a dozen of the more respectable class of prostitutes were taken to witness this Mesmerism, not three out of the twelve would remain in the room; and not one out of the whole number could be induced to repeat the visit; and we are convinced that if a hundred of the lower classes of prostitutes were selected, not one would degrade herself to the extent of sitting in a chair before a large company, and suffer a man to be "making his passes," or pawing or fondling about the organs of generation in the manner which we witnessed the operator to inflict his charms and conjurations on a young girl on Monday last. The same disgusting actions are repeated to men, and a boy; to the latter more offensively than to the others, but we were astonished when two young men (professing to be members of Cambridge University, and one having his father with him), voluntarily seated themselves in the chair, and suffered this bearded mountebank to assimilate to taking those indecent liberties with their persons, for any attempt at which any man ought to knock another down, and every Magistrate would justify the assault, and send the indecent offender to the Sessions. We should be very sorry to keep company with either of such Cambridge gentlemen, one of whom professed himself of Caius College. His name ought to be exposed. Even *The Times* of Wednesday denounced this unmanly, unnatural performance, which men and boys could submit to, and which women, with shame be it spoken, could witness without disgust. Such things are as bad as the celebrated quack of Pall-mall, Dr. Graham, who formerly exhibited naked females (one of whom was Lady Hamilton), and then lectured on his spring beds, and other contrivances, for ladies and gentlemen who had large estates or good fortunes, with no children to inherit them. The police interfered then, and might now do the same.

On Monday a translator, or interpreter, told the company that touching was not necessary to the operation; then why touch, or pretend to do so,—that children were the fairest subjects, as they could not be taught impositions, and that success depended on the patient's susceptibility and predisposition, and be forthwith produced a stunted, cadaverous girl, quite old enough for tricks, but whose face, poor creature, evinced very little of susceptibility. She was "up to it," and, of course, duly mesmerized. The only other patient was the boy, the constant victim, and whose health has evidently very much suffered by his frequent exposures to these painful and harassing tricks. A spectator observed, that it was fraudulent always to have the same patient, and he long in the pay and service of the mesmerizer. On which M. Lafontaine replied, that, in a place like London, it was difficult to procure a succession of patients; and yet we should have supposed that London, of all places in our empire, is that which could the most easily supply them by the hundreds. A spectator urged that it was cruel, useless, and most unsatisfactory, to victimize the boy; he had borne all the experiments already, and had played his part before, and could consequently bear the one and play the other again. However, the jugglers proceeded; and, in the midst of it, a scoundrel jumped on the stage and played his part, in collusion with the quacks, and whilst he was so doing, a cowardly villain contrived to run a knife in the boy's thigh, which brought plenty of blood, and evidently occasioned commensurate pain, in spite of the mesmeretic sleep and insensibility. The rest of these worthies was much pressed for his name, and, at last, he reluctantly said it was Jackson. It being very easy to call out Tom Smith, Jack Jones, Bill Smith, or John Jackson, this gentleman was asked for his address, which he avoided giving by saying, he was Mr. Jackson of St. Bartholomew's. But he was not let off so easily, and the awkward querist, a connexion of this paper, asked him what he was at St. Bartholomew's? and at this he was confounded, and merely replied, "I am of St. Bartholomew's Hospital." He was then asked whether he was a Pupil, dresser, house-surgeon, or what? and it was clear that he was totally ignorant of the distinctions, but caught at the word pupil, and said he was a pupil. The next question of course was, under what surgeon he had entered and paid his admission fees to, but he could only reply that, "he was a pupil of the Hospital." He was told that no man could be a surgical pupil of a Hospital without his being under one of the three Head surgeons, and, on the name of Mr. Lawrence being mentioned, he took advantage of the querist's incaution in supplying him with the name, but even in this he blundered, by ejaculating that he was a pupil of Dr. Lawrence. This blunder was fatal, for, although the vulgar confound Doctors and Mistresses, Surgeons and Physicians, the mistake is never made by the profession, or by men of education. To the last, he refused to give any address; and, we merely mention this to show the collusions practised. By the by, the two youths from Cambridge, to neither of whom we could apply the "ingenius cultus," being asked for their address, refused to give any, and on one (of Caius) being asked if he could be found in the Cambridge Almanac, confessed he could not.

Whether the science exist or not, or to what degree, or whether the whole be what we believe it, an impudent imposition in some, and a strong self-delusion in others, is not the point. All we contend for here is, that the exhibitions of M. Lafontaine are not conducted in the usual style of medical scrutiny, but in a manner which not only admits of every species of fraud, but which actually justifies and provokes suspicion. For instance, were such a man as "the Wizard of the North" sufficiently dishonest to play such a part, he could jugglerise the company ten times better than M. Lafontaine, and Heaven knows, that a vast number of the company seem sufficiently credulous to be bamboozled without difficulty. There is no merit in cheating such an audience. The imposition should be suppressed, for it pollutes our hospitals, and leads to other corruptions, most injurious to patients. Re-

ference has been made on this subject to one of the physicians of Middlesex Hospital, and let us only state, that to such a scandalous excess was superstition and delusion recently carried in that hospital, that the house-surgeon of it published a work proving that the secretions around the kidneys were the identical sacred oil mentioned by Moses, and that diseases of the kidney could be cured by the Pentateuch. This is on a par with the late Capt. Brenton's delusions, who, in his "Naval History," stoutly contends that the dry rot can be cured by a prescription in a chapter of Exodus, which merely directs that one dove should be allowed to fly over the infected structure, whilst the ear, and we believe the nose, of a priest should be tipped with the blood of another dove. Had Dr. Elliotson been allowed to proceed in his notions of supernatural visions and miraculous disclosures, and his predictions of the day on which his patients were to die, we should have had the London University Hospital a scene of nothing but folly on one side and murder on the other; for if a doctor is such a victim of delusions to the extent of miraculously foretelling the death of his patients, he has plenty of means of verifying his prophecies. Such a doctor might never be out at a guess. We heard a practising physician of fifty years old and upwards defend the monstrous lies and absurdities of the Rev. Mr. Townshend's assertions, that mesmerized patients could see without eyes. The physician argued that after amputation of a leg, the patient would feel for some time the pains which he might have been accustomed to feel in the obtruncated limb, and, therefore, the optic nerves could perform the functions of vision when the eyes were lost. Such false analogies are innumerable in certain minds, and they are as dangerous and destructive as they are innumerable. If a man, after the amputation of his leg, could walk without it, as well as he had formerly done with it, it would be analogous to a man seeing after his eyes were out; but as, in one case, the man wants a wooden leg, in the other, perhaps, he may stand in need of a wooden eye. Had Dr. Elliotson been allowed to play his tricks at the hospital, he would not have stopped at Mesmerism—for when once a system of delusion commences, the torrent of them is prodigious and overwhelming—and Mesmerism might give way even to Biblicalism; and Moses and Aaron, Ezekiel, or King David, might be referred to instead of Celsus, Galen, or Hippocrates. Mesmerism is sixty years old; and not a single new fact or principle has been elicited. Learned bodies have investigated it, and denounced it as delusion and quackery, and not one has given it its sanction. No respectable surgeon or physician has ever practised it, except in a very few cases of strong and most unfortunate idiosyncrasy, such as that of Dr. Elliotson's. Although Mesmerism is to make wonderful cures of incurable diseases, the patients at these exhibitions, whether mesmerised once, or one hundred, or one thousand times, always revive with the fits not having a particle of effect, good, bad, or indifferent. If it can perform the wonders attributed to it, why are there not more mesmerisers, medical and non-medical, resident and itinerant. If the subject were respectable it would be met one way, or

the other by the College of Surgeons, or that of Physicians; and yet these learned bodies do not condescend to take the slightest notice of it. In Germany, the place of its birth, it has made no progress, and yet the Germans are the best scrutinizers, the closest reasoners, and the men of all others the most free from prejudices. Why is it not adopted by our Military and Naval surgeons? "It were a desperate stratagem to show a troop of horse with felt," according to Lear, but it would be a by far better plan to mesmerise your enemy's cavalry, infantry, and artillery, and to let our soldiers march fearlessly into a battery, on the assurance that the guns could not fire, for they were all mesmerised and fast asleep. The Christians of yore had a vast number of magical contrivances in war, but nothing to equal Mesmerism. Finally, let the case be what it may, we warn all persons from trusting life or health in the hands of any regular surgeon, apothecary, or physician, who has a faith in Mesmerism. The parson's work, at best, is a tissue of abominable falsehoods, and M. Lafontaine's experiments deserve a coarser name. On Monday he was requested to try the experiment of a weight on the boy's legs, and after shuffling off, by various silly excuses, he was at last forced by "pressure from without," to comply; and all he did was to place on the ankle of the boy a small cotton table-cover, that could not have weighed six ounces and some gentleman's hat. This occasioned ridicule and indignation. A gentleman silly thrust a pinch of snuff up the boy's nose, and he began to sneeze, although he was so mesmeretically insensible that he could bear, without sensibility, ammonia, at least a hundred times more powerful than snuff. The police ought to interfere, for the sake of humanity; and M. Lafontaine ought not to permit any body to mount his stage without declaring his name, profession, and address; for the cruelties practised on Monday on this unprotected foreign boy were most shameful, and the cowardly villain who stabbed him in the thigh ought to have been given in charge to the police. The whole scene was cruel, indecent, immoral, and palpably fraudulent.

MEANS OF PRODUCING SLEEP AT WILL.—There is no journal in existence so susceptible of being humbugged as *The Times*. The other day the Editor fell into a trap which had been set for him by M. Lafontaine, the mesmeriser, and he had scarcely escaped from it by making an apology, than he has fallen flop into another. Read the following paragraph, taken from an early number of *The Times* during the past week:—"SLEEP AT WILL.—A mode of producing sleep without narcotics has been for some years communicated to any one desirous of obtaining the acquaintance with it by a gentleman of the name of Gardner, and we understand that he has instructed hundreds in the art, many of whom have borne public testimony to his success. From the actual experience of persons in whom we have been long accustomed to place entire confidence, it seems to be ascertained that his remedy for sleeplessness requires no particular condition of the human constitution; that it is equally applicable to both sexes, and to persons of any age; that it overcomes the effects of mental anxiety or of bodily pain, unless the former be excessive, or the latter unusually violent and acute; that it is equally available in bed, on a sofa, in an elbow chair, a carriage, or a steam-boat; that the process can be repeated as often as the patient may happen to be disturbed during the hours intended for repose; that no medicine need be administered, no external application, no aid from other persons; above all, there are no opiates of any description used, and the process is so evidently harmless that it may be adopted in any state of health or of disease, without the slightest hazard. It is so simple and obvious that it might have occurred to the mind of any one, but Mr. Gardner has the merit of being the first to make the discovery publicly known, and practically to teach the art. His plan possesses almost all the advantages derivable from narcotics, and is at the same time wholly exempt from any of the disadvantages well known to be attendant on that class of remedies. The sleep obtained is as perfect and as refreshing as the patient can enjoy under any circumstances, for it is thoroughly natural, and in no respect dependent on any causes which, properly speaking, might be called artificial. To some classes of insane patients it may be highly useful, and to the asthmatic, or to those labouring under chronic rheumatism, it must be peculiarly advantageous. It may, perhaps, be necessary to add, that neither animal magnetism, nor any thing resembling it, is ever resorted to by Mr. Gardner, on the contrary, he emphatically disclaims any knowledge of that so mis-called 'science.' This wonderful discovery of Mr. Gardner, it appears, was the cause of a vast influx of letters to *The Times*. Many of the readers of that Journal, whose deeds would not let them sleep, applied to the Editor to be made acquainted with the wonderful Mr. Gardner's residence. In answer to all the communications, and to get rid of the business—for the Editor felt that he had again been imposed on—he directed the following notice to be inserted in his notices to correspondents:—"In consequence of a paragraph, which mentioned that a Dr. Gardner had discovered a process by which it is possible to produce sleep at will, we have received so large a number of applications for the address of the gentleman who professes to have invented so desirable a faculty, that we have no other means of replying to our correspondents than by stating that Dr. Gardner resides at No. 216, Piccadilly. At the same time, we beg to be understood, as expressing no opinion as to the Doctor's competency to make good his professions." After stating that Dr. Gardner's "plan possesses all the advantages derivable from narcotics," the Editor has now the assurance to announce that he was not to be understood as expressing an opinion on the subject! Very modest. D. Ed. Feb. 16, 41

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Impartial are our eyes and ears.—RICHARD II.

MR. EDITOR,—I have read with great interest the different articles which have appeared in the daily and weekly press on Mesmerism, and few have been so impartially written, or have a greater anxiety to approach the truth of the subject, than your own. The public owe you a debt of gratitude, for, although it might be supposed that a quackery, which is so entirely contrary to our animal economy, and the object of which is to supersede rules and practices which have always been looked up to as correct and efficacious, would have undergone the deepest scrutiny before it could be placed before us as it has been; yet the public, or part of the public, always open to delusion, have been sacrificed by paying their money for the furtherance of an imposition, and might have continued to do so, had you not so ably come forward and opened their eyes to the trickery. Such a science as Animal Magnetism, which, as Deslon, the Deputy of Mesmer, said in his report,* handed in to the Commissioners appointed by Louis XVI., in 1784, is the only remedy for "the ills that flesh is heir to," would have been, ere now, if there had been any truth in it, in a very different position in the Medical world. The argument, that physicians and surgeons would not inquire into its merits, because it would destroy their own practice, is false; for Mesmer or Deslon (I forget which), says, that it is a means by which medicines could be made to produce greater effects on diseases than they do now. But in quackeries and impositions, the disciple often makes his practice different from the one taught to him by his master. What Mesmer practised is very different from what is now exhibited by M. Lafontaine. Thus the latter, when mesmerising an individual, commands the greatest silence to be observed; yet we read in the Report of the French Commissioners, that "sound is a conductor," and during the mesmeric process, a piano was placed in the room. But, Mr. Editor, you have not, nor have any of your contemporaries, quoted from the celebrated Report of the Commissioners, in 1784, nor have you given any of the numerous cases which are described in it. It appears to me that sufficient reasons are there given for the effects produced on the patients; and it would be both amusing and instructive to quote from it the most convincing proofs against animal magnetism; for the opinions of such men as Franklin, Lavoisier, Bailly, Roy, Le Roy and Guillotin, are not to be slighted. Bailly says, that M. Deslon, the representative of Mesmer, operated on many statesmen. In the middle of the room was a large chest, called a *banquet*, which had holes in it, through which curved rods of iron were placed; the patients sat in a circle, with one another's thumbs and fingers joined, and the curved bars of iron were placed on the diseased parts; a tune was played upon the piano, for music diffused the mesmeric principle through the air. The patient, as it is said in *Hamlet*, "waxed desperate with imagination." This wonderful chest, more potent than "the wonderful lamp" of Aladdin, then produced divers sensations, convulsions, &c. The report goes on to say that "the least unexpected noise made the patient start;" so that there was a great difference between an expected and an unexpected noise; and yet we have just seen that sound was a conductor. The sensations of these patients were so acute, that even a change in the measure of the music affected them. The crisis, or when either a convulsive and lethargic state had arrived, did not take place for one or two hours, and they were aroused from it by the voice of the operator. The Commissioners saw these effects, and consented to be magnetised themselves, but no alteration in their systems took place, and consequently they reported that "magnetism has no agency in a state of health, or even in a state of slight indisposition." The next experiments took place at Dr. Franklin's house, and the results were very unsatisfactory to the science. There were eleven persons operated upon, though no phenomena were produced; but it was rather an astounding fact that all the patients of Deslon were easily magnetised. A woman, a servant of Le Roy's, was next magnetised by M. Jumelin. When he placed his fingers to her head she said she felt a heat there; he then made some passes at her back and face with the same effects. She was now bandaged, so that she could not see; and when asked what she felt, she described the same sensations, although the magnetiser was not operating, and such was the force of imagination that she actually fainted. A very similar case, although characterized with a greater degree of impudence and effrontery in the magnetiser, occurred soon after. Mesmer asserted that he could not only magnetise human beings, but trees, fishes, and almost every thing he could think of. M. Deslon, therefore, mesmerised a tree in the presence of the Commissioners, which tree when embraced by the patient, would produce the required effects. The patient was blindfolded and led into the garden, with the knowledge of what they had just done. He was conducted by one of the commissioners to a different tree, and the result quickly exposed the humbug. He immediately on embracing the tree, felt a slight convulsion; he was taken to several others, one after the other, until the crisis was obtained, although the last tree was twenty-five feet from the one mesmerised. Another case was that of a woman in a separate room with the commissioners: in the space of three minutes, says the report, under the supposition that she was being magnetised, she began to feel a nervous shivering (*frisson nerveux*), then she felt a pain in her head and arms, and pricking in her hands, and became rigid, and stamped on the floor, and the crisis was obtained; at another time, under the belief that M. Deslon was magnetizing her, in another room, a woman bit her tongue so as to leave the marks of her teeth. Many are the cases which are put down in the report, but let me notice one which shows the mischief that magnetism may occasion. A lady, in order to remove some obstructions, consented to be magnetized. Her convulsions lasted several hours; persevering in the same treatment for three months, her convulsions were so frequent that she could no longer be conveyed to M. Deslon's house, but although she discontinued the operations, she became delirious, and an obstinate spasm of the oesophagus impeded deglutition, and in spite of medical aid she died in four days. The commissioners very properly came to the conclusion, that Animal Magnetism was imaginary, and that the effects on the patients were to be set down to the imagination alone. They say, "If we figure to ourselves a poor ignorant person, suffering from disease, and anxious to be relieved, brought before a large company, partly consisting of physicians, with some degree of preparation and ceremony, and subjected to a novel and mysterious treatment, the wonderful effects of which he is already persuaded he is about to

experience, and if, moreover, it is recollected he is paid for his compliance, and supposes that the experimenters will be gratified on being told that they perceived certain operations, we shall have natural causes by which these effects may be explained, or at least a very legitimate reason for doubting that the real cause is magnetism." Extraordinary phenomena, far greater than those I have enumerated, can be produced on the nervous system; and it has been known that, in the excitement of a battle, a soldier has not felt for some moments the pain from the loss of his leg by a cannon ball, nor, in an extreme case of drunkenness, is the nervous system easily affected, but is callous to kicks and blows, although they may be felt afterwards, when a state of sobriety ensues. I therefore am not astonished at the exhibition I witnessed at the Hanover Square Rooms, where needles and pins were stuck into the patient's arms and head. Although Mesmerism is making a stir now, which is to be attributed to the notices in the press, it cannot long do so. The excitement was extreme when it was first introduced into England by Dr. Mainauduc, in 1785, but it soon subsided, and will again. This doctor published a pamphlet, entitled, "Proposals to the Ladies." The quack says in it, that Mesmer revived the science from the ashes of the ancients, and that he offered Mesmer 4000 guineas for his secret, but the latter found his imposition to be more valuable to him, and would not part with it. He adds, that magnetism will need little assistance to support itself, and then asks fifteen guineas for his subscription. The impostor had the impudence to afterwards charge for a course of instruction from twenty-five to a hundred and fifty guineas. After Mainauduc came Mr. Cue, Mr. Louthembourg, Mr. Holloway, Mr. Parker, Dr. Bell, and others, who certainly were animal magnets, for they had, as an Irishman would say, an "innumerable number" of followers. Louthembourg had 3000 people wait on him, and the tickets of admission were from two to five guineas. This must have been a profitable occupation. But the best of the joke was, that a Mrs. Pratt quoted Scriptures in support of this wonderful science. "Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish, for I will work a work in your days, which ye shall not believe, though a man declare it unto you;" and again, "Verily, verily, I say unto you, he that believeth in me the works that I do shall he do also, and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto the Father," &c. The Animal Magnetism exhibition has been only equalled by what is called Perkinism. An American of that name came over here in 1795, and took out a patent for two metallic tractors, which he applied to the body for the cure of all diseases. Such was his success, that he left the country in six years, with £10,000.

VERAN.
* There is but one nature, one disease, and one remedy, and that remedy is Animal Magnetism.—Deslon's Report.



A Ghost-story

MESMERISM AND TORYISM AT THE CARLTON CLUB.

Mr. Editor.—Having read in your (I am sorry to say) most widely-circulating paper, my friend, Dr. Elliotson's interesting account of his mesmeretic performances at the Carlton Club, I wrote to the Duke and Sir Robert Peel to be permitted to exhibit my experiments on the members. My request was refused, on the ground of my being not a doctor but a divine, and I consequently replied, that George the Third was cured of his madness by Dr. Willis, a clergyman, when the members of the faculty had failed; and I argued that if one parson could make a mad King sane, another parson could make sane people mad, and, on this mesmeretic logic, Wednesday evening last was appointed for my mysterious exhibition. At first the Baronet and the Duke took me into a private room, and locking the door and stuffing the key-hole, they proposed that I should mystify certain members of the party, that I should oblige others to be more cautious and silent, and induce others to keep their heads from poets which they obstinately would run against, to the great annoyance of their leaders and to the certain up-set of the Conservative interests, and that so far from making men see out of the forehead, the belly, the knee, or the *os coccygis*, as I solemnly swore in my book that I had done, they wished me to mesmerize certain persons so that they could not see at all. Looking over the four lists, I agreed to the secret proposal, provided they would give me a Prelacy, and particularly that of York, the venerable Archbishop being 94, his vacancy might be the soonest expected. Sir Robert and the Duke solemnly assured me that they had sacredly promised the Archbishopric to 47 Peers, and the first vacant episcopal see to 29 Lords and 17 rich and influential commoners, and that they had done the same with respect to Colonels of regiments, to all Military, Naval, and Civil offices whatever, and it was by this system alone that they hoped to gain and retain power. I argued that an archbishopric, promised to 47 Peers, must end in 46 being disappointed, and turning enemies to the party; but the Duke promptly replied, "But, Sir, in the meantime, I get their votes, and after that Peel will talk them over by excuses and new promises. He is the man for bothering a fellow out of his senses." Peel smiled, and squeezing my hand, said that they had given Dr. Elliotson nothing, that the secret service money, the Civil List, and Pension List, were all mortgaged twelve deep, but if I would wait I might depend on his generosity. He hinted at establishing a Bishopric at Sierra Leone, to gratify me with a mitre, but sneering at the idea of a statesman's promises of generosity, I disdained to disgrace my cloth by accepting a bribe, or by acting on any interested motives whatever, and with unsullied integrity I entered the great room to perform my mysterious, miraculous, mesmeretic mystifications, over 500 staunch Tories; and I most solemnly assure you, on the sacred word of a Clergyman, that the following account of what I did is as literally true as any thing and every thing I have stated in my work. Dr. Elliotson and Professor Lafontaine were present:—

Case 1.—It was said that I could not possibly mesmerize a man with an uncommonly thick skull and fat head, but I succeeded on Lord Kenyon, so that he began to roar most lustily for Colonel Fairman, for Orange Clubs, and for a general massacre of all Roman Catholics.

Case 2. Succeeded on the Earl of Aberdeen, who vociferated most loudly for deposing the Queen, and putting the King of Hanover on the Throne. (Loud shouts of applause.)

Case 3. Success on the Duke of Wellington. His Grace exclaimed, "Surprised at Waterloo, beaten; Blücher saved me, Marshal Ney, fight from Busaco and Talavera. Shall be upset this Session if Tory Peers are disobedient, and ask too much," &c. His Grace began to mention individual Lords and Commoners, with the terms they demanded, but Sir Robert Peel most earnestly begged me to unmesmerize his Grace, which I did immediately.

Case 4. Succeeded eminently on Sir R. Peel. I placed his face at the back of his head, and the back of his head where his face should be. I made him see from his forehead, or shoulder blades, &c., and speak from his stomach, fingers, and elbows, &c., but all I could do I could not make him speak from his heart or mind. The Baronet was a perfect Proteus, and "was every thing by starts, and nothing long."

Case 5. Lord Stanley was quickly affected. In two minutes he placed the tip of his right thumb on the tip of his long-curved nose, and elongated and stretched out his fingers to the utmost, and then placing the tip of his left thumb on the tip of his right little finger, he elongated the fingers of his left hand to the utmost, and stretching them out as much as he could, he began to work his fingers of both hands about in an astonishing manner—the whole club being in roars of laughter. All Lord Stanley exclaimed was—"Peel, Peel, no go—won't do—quite awake." I consider this experiment as most pre-eminently successful.

Case 6. Lord Bexley wagered me two sovereigns that I could not mesmerize him. "Done," said I, "and done and done, is enough between gentlemen." I succeeded; but he tried to escape payment, by quibbling about Nature having from youth mesmerized him into a perpetual drowsiness and torpor. The Club cried "Shame! shame!" and Lord Bexley paid me the money, wrapped up in silver paper. When I got home, I found that the paper contained an old fimsy or one pound note and a brumagem sovereign, downright brass. Lord Bexley evidently had been thinking of his old financial schemes and of the currency question.

Case 7. I mesmerized Sir Andrew Agnew and twelve of the Saints, and they all fell on their knees; but Peel and Wellington declared that the saintly Members were always on their knees, either praying God to renounce somebody, or praying Ministers to give them something.

Case 8. I mesmerized the Marquis of Anglesea and Sir Henry Hardinge together. I restored the Marquis's right leg with the identical boot and stocking which it had on when it was shot off at Waterloo, and I restored to Sir Henry his left hand with the identical glove it had on when he lost it at Albuera. Both were delighted, but presently they discovered that it was only a change, and that the Marquis in getting back his right leg had lost his left arm, and that Sir Henry in getting back his left hand had lost his right leg. Neither liked the transmutation, and I mesmerized them to their former respective conditions.

Case 9. This was remarkable. I mesmerized Lord Cardigan, and he roared out like a town bull, "black bottles," and began spouting from Shakspeare, "Is this a cat o' nine tails that I see before me." His next line was, "Oh, that an enemy should put a man in his mouth to steal away his brains!" &c.

Case 10. Mesmerized Lord Granville Somerset's hump off his shoulders, and I then mesmerized Lord Lowther's face and linen into a state of cleanliness.

Case 11. I found twenty-six Lords and sixteen Commoners, with heads too thick to be mesmerized. Lord Londonderry,

under mesmerism, kept exclaiming,—"Rob us the Exchequer, Peel; nothing's 'too bad.'"

Case 12. Lord Lyndhurst, under mesmeretic influences, raved so much about old husbands with young wives, and quoted so much from Pope's January and May, and from Prior's poems of Hans Carvel and the Padlock, that the whole Club entreated me to unmesmerize him.

Case 13. Mesmerized, with difficulty, the Duke of Newcastle, and I could get out of him but three exclamations; namely,—"Has not a man a right to do what he likes with his own—I never could understand the difference between *meson* and *tuon*," and then came the Latin maxim, which he enjoined to his son.

"Rem facias; rem.
Si ponis, recte; si non, quocunque modo rem."

His son, Lord Lincoln, solemnly promised to obey the parental injunction. The Duke sat close by my left side the whole evening, and when I entered the Club, I had in my left-hand breeches pocket a purse containing a shilling, two sixpences, and three fourpenny pieces, and when I left the Club I found I had lost my purse.

Case 14. The last case afforded me the most astonishing proofs of the omnipotence of mesmerism. I was told that the process could not succeed with very thick skulled, dull, and wrong-headed men with hard skins, no feelings, and great muscular powers, but the event proved the reverse. In three minutes I so thoroughly mesmerized the Earl of Winchelsea, that his left arm became horizontally extended, and his right leg began to assume a horizontal position, and on my not obeying his order to desist, his thumb and forefinger of his left hand suddenly came like a vice or pair of pinchers to my nose, and the toe of the right right foot came repeatedly and violently in contact with my dorsal extremity, so that I was sent over six or seven benches, and to this hour the discolouration is very great. The whole Club acknowledged this was a very strong exhibition of the proper results and consequences of the art mesmeretic.—I am, Mr. Editor, in all Christian feeling as a Clergyman of the Church of England, yours, &c. C. TOWNSHEND.

N.B. His Holiness the Pope has issued his Bull against mesmerism, a Scriptural proof of its truth to all good Protestants.

FROM THE ZOIST OF JULY, 1845.

Baillière, Regent Street.

Extraction of Teeth in the Mesmeric State.

TO THE EDITOR OF "THE ZOIST."

SIR,—I beg to offer to your notice, and if you think fit for insertion, the following case:

Miss C— had suffered from a spinal complaint for ten years, and the powerful remedies used to facilitate a cure, acting upon the Teeth and Gums, caused intense suffering, and finally decay of almost all, and loss of many of the molars; the pressure being transferred to the incisors, they were soon reduced to stumps, and mastication being impracticable, indigestion followed as a matter of course.

The case growing serious, it was determined to have recourse to artificial substitutes, to do which, with accuracy, it was requisite to remove *ten teeth and stumps*, and that the operation might be performed *without pain*, Dr. Elliotson recommended that myself and Mr. Vernon should be applied to for assistance.

The result is as follows:—

April 4, 1845. Mesmerised by Mr. Vernon for the first time. In five minutes there was a quivering and moving upwards of the eye-ball, in two minutes more the lids fell; the head went gently backwards, and volition appeared to be destroyed, the arms falling heavily if raised. In five minutes she sat up and began to talk, said she saw the magnetizer, and a beautiful light,—*bluish*; felt sparks when touched; could see the fingers if passed before her closed eyes; felt the hand hot, but was very easy and comfortable.

Continued to mesmerize her daily, till Wednesday the 16th, during which the same state was induced, with occasional insensibility of only a few minutes duration; manifested the sympathy of taste with extraordinary precision, and is clairvoyant, seeing, or rather knowing how many persons are in the room, and if any are strangers; discerning objects at the top and back of the head, and reading fluently ordinary sized print with the eyes closed; one strange fact occurring, viz., the book being royal octavo, "*The People's Phrenological Journal*," the finger was moved along the lines, within six lines of the bottom of the double columns, while she read correctly the lines at the top of the page.



Alto Nobilissimo, Excellensissimo, Domino DAVYDO THOMAN, IC^{to} Consiliario Reg. Au-
gustinae Praemario, Scholarcha meritis &c. Artium Gaudori, Aestimatoresq; magno
Cuius cultus gratia offert et hanc
Joann. Heinrich Schönbach.

