

THE ANTI-MESMERIST.

April 22, 16

"THE EARTH HAS BUBBLES,
AS THE WATER HATH, AND THESE ARE OF THEM."

SHAKSPEARE.



Subscription found

No. I.]

LONDON, SATURDAY, MAY 18th, 1844.

Price 3d.
Stamped Edition 4s.

CONTENTS.

	PAGE
Preface	1
Challenge to Dr. Elliotson from the Editor	1
Detection at the Adelaide Gallery of Mr. Vernon's Patient...	2
Animal Magnetism	2
Modern Mesmerism by the Editor	3
Experiments of Mr. Wakley on the O'Keys	4
Mr. Vernon's Lectures and Experiments.....	7
Mr. Blackwell's Lecture, Southwark Literary Institution...	8
Correspondents, &c., &c.	8

PREFACE.

HAVING had ample opportunities of testing the exhibitions of supposed Mesmeric influence, for some years past; the EDITOR believes that he shall be doing much good, if he place before the public in a connected form, a dispassionate inquiry into the whole matter.

He will take great care to authenticate every statement—and in asking Correspondents to do the same, he by no means intends to doubt their words, but as he believes that a very few weeks will enable him thoroughly to expose this most palpable imposture, so does he well know that the parties he attacks will spare no expense, no slander, to crush him.

He had intended to publish the result of his investigations in another form, but the public mind is so excited upon the subject—each day is adding so immensely to the store of facts connected with it—and there are so many on both sides who wish to "say their say," that he has thought it more desirable to offer to all who are interested, a WEEKLY opportunity of becoming acquainted with all that is going on; and at the same time to incorporate his own personal experience in the Work. It has been deemed advisable, in a publication like this to devote as much space as possible to the occurrences of the day, and therefore, instead of bringing down the history of Mesmerism to the present time in an unbroken form, it will only occupy as much of each number as room can be spared—and thus the past and the present will be

linked together—affording by their *juxta position* a ready means of comparison, and a test of no small value when applied to modern pretensions.

He calculates that three months will be amply sufficient for both objects, at the end of which period he hopes to commence the "*London Monthly Phrenological Magazine*," so long promised.—Communications should be brief, and forwarded (post-paid) to the Editor, together with Advertisements, one week at least, before the day of publication.

CHALLENGE TO DR. ELLIOTSON.

SIR,—In a late number of the *Zoist*, you state that you lay before the public, the result of five years practice and experience in mesmerism; and ask which of your opponents have had any experience whatever? I bind myself not to the words, but this is the spirit of your remarks! In reply, I beg to send you this, the first number of a short series of papers, which will contain the result of *more* than five years experience, an investigation into the most authentic cases upon record, and an account of experiments made by myself upon nearly twenty of the most notorious patients which have been offered for exhibition, as evidences of the truth of mesmerism. It will be demonstrated in the course of the work, that there is not, nor ever has been such a thing, as Mesmeric influence, under whatever name, or in whatever shape it has been supposed to exist: that every public exhibition yet attempted, has been one of downright deception—every private manifestation, one of the grossest delusion! And I now repeat the challenge which I sent you privately, and which you did not think proper to answer, although you must be aware, that in my professional position, I am every way your equal, and I dare you to the trial!

Perform your experiments in my presence, before a competent tribunal, and I pledge my reputation against yours, to prove that you cannot show Phrenomesmerism, Clairvoyance, Attraction, Rigidity, Catalepsy, Insensibility to pain, or any other Mesmeric phenomenon whatever!

I am, Sir, your obedient Servant,
JAMES QUILTER RUMBALL,

Member of the Royal College of Surgeons,
of London, &c, &c., &c.

ADELAIDE GALLERY.

Saturday, March 11.—The long protracted investigation at the Adelaide Gallery, on the subject of clairvoyance as exhibited by Mr. Vernon, in the person of Jane Knowles, came rather abruptly and unexpectedly to a conclusion on Saturday last, in consequence of a split in the councils of the mesmerists.

The ordinary proceedings had occupied nearly two hours, when Mr. Henry Brooks proposed to test the child's power of seeing with her eyes sealed by goldbeater's skin, a proposition which was adopted by the scrutineers and carried into effect. While the operation was in progress, Mr. Brooks made some remarks upon his own knowledge, that the case was nothing but a deception, which implicated Dr. Collyer's cognisance of the fact, as well as his own, and called from Mr. Vernon a demand that these gentlemen should state without reserve, all they knew upon the subject. Thus pressed, Dr. Collyer stepped forward, and declared that he had some weeks previously, with the object of proving the integrity of her pretensions to clairvoyance made experiments privately upon her at her mother's house: the result of which had convinced him that she was not clairvoyant, but merely a very short-sighted child, whose vision it was extremely difficult to completely observe. He mentioned as the result of long experience, that goldbeater's skin was the most trustworthy means of sealing up the eyes, and that the girl in question had never been able to read when this test had been applied; he therefore, had no hesitation, when thus called upon to state his opinion, in saying that she does not possess the faculty of clairvoyance, and that in every instance wherein she had read with her eyes bandaged or plastered, she had done so in consequence of the inefficiency of the means used to blindfold her.

After about ten minutes trial with the skin, which was applied by Mr. Storer, one of the scrutineers, (Mr. Vernon refusing to permit Dr. Collyer or Mr. Brooks to officiate) the child declared herself unable to read; and the following resolution proposed by Mr. Gaye and seconded by two of the scrutineers, was carried with only one dissentient voice.

RESOLVED,—That, the effects with the little girl in reference to clairvoyance, do but tend to confirm the belief that she is deceiving, and do not establish the phenomenon of clairvoyance in the so called science of mesmerism.

I hereby certify the within statement of the proceedings after Mr. Vernon's Lecture on Mesmerism, at the Adelaide Gallery, on Saturday last, to be substantially and circumstantially true. Witness my hand this thirteenth day of May, 1844.

THOMAS DAY.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM,

Or, as it is now called, Mesmerism, "appears to have originated in 1774, from a German Philosopher named Father Hehl, who greatly recommended the use of the Magnet in Medicine."* But M. Mesmer, by adopting and extending the principles of Hehl, became the direct

* London Encyclopedia.

founder of the system which bears his name. In treating therefore of the supposed science during its early rise and fall, we can scarcely separate it from the personal history of its founder, and we therefore proceed at once to state such facts respecting him as will suit our purpose.

Anthony Mesmer was born either at Vienna or in Switzerland, about the year 1740—a hundred years ago. He seems to have been a man of some learning, and to have attracted considerable attention by his Works; but it was not till he was between thirty and forty years of age, in the year 1772, that he made any very great noise in the world. At that period he announced his asserted discovery of a universal fluid "The Immediate Agent of all the Phenomena of Nature; in which life originates, and by which it is preserved." By an easy gradation he soon began to proclaim himself divinely commissioned to direct this Fluid, and commenced a voyage of wonders, by launching this simple assertion, "There is one health, one disease, one remedy, and one Physician—and that Physician am I."†

The novelty and the boldness of the assertion, acting upon morbid imaginations, and weak intellects, soon brought him into fame; and wealth as speedily followed—340,000 francs‡ in hard cash were paid him by his devoted disciples, for an initiation into those secrets of nature of which he boasted himself to be the sole discoverer and depository—the contributions to this fund being in no single instance less than 100 Louis each. In 1784 his income was not less than 400,000 francs, or 16,000*l.* sterling, and his reputation rose at length so high, that the French ministry offered him 20,000 francs per annum, and 10,000 francs to build himself an establishment. This however, he rejected, and squabbling with the government, retired in disgust to Spa, in Germany. Deslou, an early convert and pupil seized the opportunity, declared himself in possession of the secret, prosecuted it successfully, and realised a large fortune. In 1794 Maine Duc, a pupil of Deslou's came over to England, and soon amassed a sum of 100,000*l.*

Abundant evidence is here given that the present excitement upon the subject is as nothing when compared with the absolute insanity of ancient times. True! large sums of money are lavished upon the minor adventurers of the present day, but their pretensions are far more humble, their gains, far less enormous than they were. Mesmer operated upon a large scale. His pupils were many, the high and mighty of the land, crowned heads even lent a listening ear to his dogmas; and thousands of unblemished fame, testified to the reality of his cures. La Fayette and D'Epreninil, Deslou, physician to the Count D'Artois, the celebrated Berthollet, physician to the Duc D'Orleans, Richlieu, Gmelin, and a host of the most celebrated men throughout the continent, became converts to his doctrine, and publishers of his praise, nor were they justly chargeable with too easy faith. Fame, like a snow-ball gathers as it goes—be its nucleus large or small; each teller of a tale adds something of his own, and the whole mass becomes so blended that it becomes impossible at length to separate truth from false-

† British and Foreign Medical Quarterly, vol. 7, April, 1839.

‡ A Frano is Ten Pence; a Louis, a French Pound.

hood, or to winnow the chaff from the corn; besides, reports of cures, attested by unimpeachable witnesses and sworn to, by the parties cured, flew thick as autumn leaves, and covered the length and breadth of the land. In Bavaria, Mesmer was declared to have restored a celebrated singer M^{lle}. Paradis to sight, after she had been treated unsuccessfully for ten years by the Court Physician Herr Von Störk. Mesmer thanked Heaven that he had cured her, but "when she was got out of his hands, she was found to be as blind as ever."

Shortly after this Mesmer repaired to Paris, and declared himself a "man of genius and a benefactor of the human race—and supported his pretensions, by curing Count de Gibelin, author of "Le Monde Primitif,"§ who addressed a long appeal to the public in his favor, in which he speaks of him in extravagant terms.

He details his own cure by Magnetism, and that of a Mademoiselle de Berlancourt, who is represented as saying—

Infans, cæca, trahens gressus, te, Mesmere posco
Verba, pedes, oculos; Ambulo, cerno, loquor!

Which may be thus freely translated—

Speechless, blind, and lame, Oh! Mesmer thee I seek—
Give words, give feet, give eyes—I walk, I see, I speak.

The recovery of this young lady is authenticated by her uncle M. Michel, by the Bishop of Beauvais, by a Physician, three Surgeons, and to give weight and force to the testimony, by nearly a whole regiment of soldiers who were quartered in the Town in which she lived—"To whom" says Gibelin "do I, the Author of "Le Monde Primitif" owe my existence? to Mesmer the saviour of men." This was no vulgar dupe; he was a royal censor, honorary president of the Parisian Museum and member of several Academies. Shortly after the publication of his appeal, he died whilst under a course of Magnetic treatment, and instantly the following paragraph went the round of the Journals.

"M. Count de Gibelin vient de Mourir, gueri par le Magnetisme animal."||

Monsieur the Count de Gibelin has died, cured by Animal Magnetism."

§ The Primitive world.

|| British and Foreign Medical Quarterly, April, 1839—page 308.

(To be Continued.)

MODERN MESMERISM.

BY THE EDITOR.

At the same time that we lay before our readers a short history of Mesmerism as it was, let us also examine it as it is, and we shall not fail to be struck with the startling fact, that professors of Magnetism of the present day, have arrogated to themselves a title to which they have no earthly right. The mummery as now practised does not pretend even to the development of any one law or hypothesis. In Mesmer we see a bold man, drawing largely upon the credulity of the world, but exhibiting originality and daring, and who in the commencement of his career, might possibly have been

a deluded enthusiast; but those of the present day! Well, we wont anticipate! and as the following account contains—principally the Editor's personal experience he must be excused if he drops the magilloquent We, and speaks in the first person, the more especially as he pledges himself, if called upon, to prove the truth of every syllable of his narrative.

Thirty years ago the farce of Mesmerism had spread over Europe, and although the French committee had delivered its report condemning the whole as a cunning imposture, communications between the two countries were not free or frequent as they now are, and like many others I had only the means of knowing one side of the question. When therefore, I read that Mesmer had discovered new connexions between mind and matter, new sympathies between man and man, and new laws governing them; I was quite prepared to hail an important era in mental philosophy. The absurdities and contradictions of metaphysical writers had left me darker and more confused than they found me. In seeking through their means a knowledge of human nature, I was introduced to monsters, not to men; and as Phrenology was only heard of as a wild German dream, or baseless theory, I was left without any standard work or opinion. Whilst the laws of the material world and their application were daily becoming more familiar, more fruitful, man was still as ignorant of himself as the philosopher, who when full of years and wisdom, declared that all he knew was, that he knew nothing.

Moreover, from the doctrine of sympathies, I expected a flood of light that should expose the hidden secrets of the mind: that "like produces like" is an indisputable moral axiom: that a look of extreme fear, or love, or hate, or passion, gives rise to corresponding emotions in the minds of others, who may be entirely ignorant of the cause of such look, I well knew; and military panics, as well as military daring, are familiar instances of the electric force with which a single mental spark will fire a multitude! Reading, therefore, with attention the only works I could get upon the subject, (which were French), I was partly, but not entirely, convinced that Mesmerism was true. For many years I thought so, but had little opportunity of hearing or knowing much about it, until Dr. Elliotson and the O'Keys startled us with apparent results, which, if real, altered the whole constitution of man. For a year or more, men of strong minds were taken in by these girls; with the enthusiasm of genius, Dr. Elliotson pursued his inquiries into this field of wonder, and when certain discrepancies aroused in cooler heads a suspicion of the truth, and satire and scandal aimed their poisoned shafts; the Doctor steadfastly held to his opinion, and pursued his experiments, although he well knew that he was suffering the loss of fame and fortune too. This is at least a voucher for his honesty then, although it may be no evidence of his power of analysis. But upon the signal detection of the imposition that these girls had been guilty of—the full and perfect discovery made, that not only had there never been any mesmeric influence exhibited by them, but that their whole conduct had been

a studied system of wilful deception and fraud—when all this was indisputably proved by Mr. Wakley, in the presence of several medical men, (Dr. Elliotson included), I was not surprised that Mesmerism was pronounced, the greatest delusion that had ever imposed upon human credulity. A minute detail of the experiments performed, and their results, was drawn up by two of the medical men present, and published in "The Lancet," September 1, 1838, p. 805, vol. 2; but as they were the occasion of my own experiments, and are of themselves sufficient to smash Mesmerism to atoms, I may be excused for reprinting them.

EXPERIMENTS OF MR. WAKLEY.

"At the wish of several professional gentlemen who had witnessed many of the experiments which had from time to time been performed on Elizabeth and Jane O'Key by Dr. Elliotson, with a view to prove the influence of mesmerism on the human frame, an appointment was made for the attendance of the girls at the house of Mr. Wakley, in Bedford-square, on an early day in the month of August, when Dr. Elliotson exhibited several of the results which he considered to arise from magnetic manipulations and processes. On this occasion the experiments were conducted wholly by Dr. Elliotson, and regarded by Mr. Wakley not as tests of the reality of the phenomena displayed, but as demonstrations of the supposed discoveries and the real opinions of the Doctor. Accordingly, a fresh appointment was made for Thursday, August 9th, when the experiments were again commenced and conducted by Dr. Elliotson, and a second time rejected by Mr. Wakley as evidence of the correctness of the views entertained by the advocates of mesmerism.

After some days had elapsed, Dr. Elliotson addressed a note to Mr. Wakley saying that he would send the girls again to the house of Mr. W. at 3 o'clock on Thursday, the 16th of August. Dr. Elliotson's note not reaching Mr. Wakley until 12 o'clock on that day, Mr. W. had not invited any persons to witness the experiments, but Dr. Elliotson had asked Baron Dupotet, Dr. Richardson, Mr. Herring, and Mr. Clarke, to be present, and these gentlemen, with Mr. Wakley, and Mr. G. Mills, (who had drawn up all the accounts of the various experiments performed by Dr. Elliotson at University College Hospital which had appeared in this journal) formed the spectators on this occasion.

EXPERIMENTS ON ELIZABETH O'KEY.

"After some of the often-repeated experiments had been performed by Dr. Elliotson, with various results, it was proposed by the Doctor, that the metal *nickel*, should be used, the effects of which he said had been found by him to be, and would now *prove* to be, quite astounding. A piece of nickel was produced by the Doctor, of about three quarters of an ounce in weight, and of an oval form, and also a piece of lead, of nearly the same shape and smoothness, but somewhat larger. Elizabeth O'Key was then seated in a chair, being, as was stated, in the "ecstatic delirium." A piece of thick pasteboard was placed in front of her face, and held in that situation by two of the spectators. By this contrivance it was rendered impossible that she could see what was passing either below or in front of her. Mr. Wakley being seated directly opposite to the girl, and at a short distance from her, received the lead and nickel from Dr. Elliotson, in order that he might rub the two on her hands in such a manner that from merely touching the substance, or from its form, it would be impossible for her to decide which of the two was being used. Dr. Elliotson had, as has been stated, previously described the effect of the magnetic nickel to be of a most extraordinary character, and said at the same time, with much earnestness, that the lead might always be applied with impunity, as no effect ever resulted from the application of that metal to the skin.

The substances were then applied to the hands of the girl. First the lead was applied to each hand, alternately, but in a manner which might have led the girl to believe that both metals were used. No effect whatever resulted from these applications. After the

expiration of a considerable period, the nickel was employed, having been received from Dr. Elliotson, who, for some time had held it in his hand in order to charge it strongly with the magnetic influence. By this proceeding the metal was necessarily heated to the temperature of the skin. Mr. Wakley had previously thought it right to hold the *lead in his hand*, and heat it in a similar manner. In consequence of this obviously necessary precaution, no indication was offered to the mind of the girl by which it could be guided during the experiment, by the same *temperature* of the substances which were employed.

The nickel was now used, precisely as the lead had been applied. There was a pause. The expected results did not appear. After, probably, a minute had elapsed, the lead was again used; and then again; and after the last application of the nickel, the lead having been repeatedly employed during the interval, the face of the patient became violently flushed, the eyes were convulsed into a startling squint, she fell back in the chair, her breathing was hurried, her limbs were rigid, and her back and abdomen assumed the position which are produced in an attack of opisthotonos. In this state she remained during nearly a quarter of an hour. Certainly that time elapsed before the condition of the patient appeared to warrant a repetition of the experiment. A short conversation then ensued between Dr. Elliotson and Mr. Wakley, as to the cause and reality of the symptoms. The Doctor contended that the effects clearly resulted from the application of the magnetised nickel, but they had not come on with their usual rapidity. Mr. Wakley expressed a contrary opinion, and wanted to know of what value the experiments could be if there was nothing like *certainty* in the results, and if the effects were to be attributed to one metal so long after another had been employed, as on that occasion. Ultimately it was determined that another experiment should be tried with the nickel, Dr. Elliotson suggesting that that metal, in its magnetised state, should alone be employed.

Mr. Wakley was now again the operator, and before the experiment was tried he stated privately to Mr. Clarke, that instead of using nickel only, he would not on this occasion employ any nickel, and desired Mr. Clarke to take notice of the fact, that he would put aside the nickel unperceived by any other person, the moment that it should be handed to him by Dr. Elliotson, and before either of his (Mr. W.'s) hands should be allowed to come in contact with those of the patient. The experiment was then again performed. Mr. Wakley had taken the nickel from Dr. Elliotson, and put it on one side, when it was taken, unseen, by any other person, by Mr. Clark, who placed it in his waistcoat pocket, and walked with it to the window, there remaining during the performance of the experiment. Mr. Wakley employed both hands, but his fingers were so held that it was impossible for any person excepting the operator to know *what* he was holding. Presently, on applying the substance which he held in his left hand to the right hand of the patient, the pasteboard being again held before the eyes of the girl, Mr. Herring who was standing near, said, with much sincerity of feeling, in a whisper, but loud enough to be heard at a short distance, "Take care; don't apply the nickel too strongly." Scarcely had these words escaped from his lips when the face of the girl again became violently red; her eyes were fixed with an intense squint, she fell back in her chair, a more evident distortion of her body ensued than in the previous paroxysm, the contraction of the voluntary muscles were more strongly marked, producing a striking rigidity of the frame and limbs, and the shoulders were thrown back to the utmost, the spine displaying as complete a bow as in an attack of opisthotonos. In a word, all the severity of the symptoms appeared to have undergone marked increase. Dr. Elliotson again observed that "no metal other than *nickel* had ever produced these effects; that they were most extraordinary;" in fact, that "they presented a beautiful series of phenomena." This paroxysm lasted during upwards of half an hour, and was admitted by all who were present to be much more violent than the one which had preceded it.

Mr. Wakley now suggested that the girl should retire into an adjoining room, where her sister was waiting, as he was anxious to make a statement to Dr. Elliotson in her absence. The girl objected to depart, and therefore her sister was called from the adjoining room, and the gentlemen retired into that room. Mr. Wakley then said to Dr. Elliotson, "that he felt it to be his duty to state that the Doctor was entirely deceived respecting the cha-

acter of the experiments and the cause of the symptoms. That all present had been witnesses of the violent effects which appeared to result from the application of the nickel to the hand, and had heard Dr. Elliotson state that such extraordinary symptoms could be produced by no other magnetised metal, whereas he had *not used NICKEL on that occasion*. He had *not even approached her with it*; but that on the instant that it was handed to him by Dr. Elliotson he had put it aside, unobserved, and had merely rubbed upon the skin of the girl a piece of lead and a farthing, which he had respectively held in either hand, but the metals were so held that he was certain that no person could discover what he was applying."

Dr. Elliotson replied, that he saw the nickel used; that Mr. W. must have touched her with that metal without knowing it himself; that he was certain of the fact, and that he was positive that the effect could be produced in no other way."

Mr. Wakley then said that there was a gentleman present who could confirm the accuracy of his statement—a witness, in fact, who had the nickel at that moment in his pocket, and had stood with it at the window during the whole of the time that he was applying the lead and the farthing to the hands of the girl.

Dr. Elliotson again declared that this was impossible, when Mr. Clarke produced from his pocket the piece of nickel, and said that it had really been there during the whole of the experiment, and that it had not been near the girl during the entire trial.

After a somewhat lengthened conversation Dr. Elliotson suggested that the experiment with the nickel should be tried once more. This proposition was consented to; and during the performance of the experiment Dr. Elliotson remained in the other room, while Mr. Wakley, Mr. Herring, and Mr. Clarke, went to the patient to renew the operation. Again was the nickel handed privately to Mr. Clarke, and the lead and farthing were applied as before, with the pasteboard held in front of the patient's face. In three or four minutes there was a re-appearance of the flushed countenance, the staring eyes, the rigid limbs, the bent back, and the distorted frame, although *no nickel had been used*—nothing, in short, but the lead and the farthing.

A report of these results was conveyed to Dr. Elliotson and the gentlemen who had remained with him, when Dr. Elliotson said that the occurrence was most extraordinary; that he could not at that moment account for it; and that he had no doubt that an explanation could soon be found which would remove all appearance of anomaly in the results. He would, he said, again suggest, that the nickel should be re-employed; and as this request was so urgently made, Mr. Herring, Mr. Wakley, and Mr. Clarke, again visited O'Key, for the purpose of proceeding with the trial, but, *instead of using the nickel*, the lead and farthing were *again employed, with the same results as before*. There was another fit.—Afterwards, when the girl had recovered from the apparent paroxysm, Mr. Wakley suggested that the magnetised nickel should be rubbed over both hands freely, on the skin, in different places, but not exactly in the manner in which the lead and farthing had been employed. *No effect was produced by this application of the nickel*.

On hearing a further report of the effects which appeared to arise from the use of the lead and the farthing, and the *absence* of effects when nickel was really used, after the other experiments had been concluded, Dr. Elliotson candidly admitted that he "could not explain how the thing had occurred; it was most extraordinary, but still he had not the slightest doubt that the whole would yet admit of a satisfactory explanation."

Mr. Wakley on the other hand, contended that what had been done was, in his opinion, perfectly conclusive with reference to the character of the supposed phenomena, and that he did not consider that a single additional experiment could ever be necessary in connection with such an inquiry.

Afterwards it was proposed by Dr. Elliotson that the nickel should be again tried on the next morning.

Accordingly, at nine o'clock, A. M., August 17, the girls arrived, when Mr. Wood also attended, and at the earnest request of Dr. Elliotson, the experiment with the nickel was renewed, the Doctor stating that he had no doubt that the apparent contradictions which had been exhibited on the previous evening arose from the circumstance that the lead, in the *three last experiments*, had been rubbed *on that portion of the skin where the nickel had been applied in the*

first experiment, and that thus the effects which were exhibited arose, in reality, not from the mesmeric influence of the lead, or the farthing, but from the mesmerised *nickel*. Mr. Wakley said that he believed that O'Key could herself give a better explanation of the nature of the supposed phenomena, than any other person.

The experiments were again renewed, Mr. Wakley stating, however, that he could take no interest in them after the exposition of the previous evening. The piece of pasteboard being held before the girl's face, instead of applying the *nickel* Mr. Wakley used the *lead*. The patient repeatedly fell back, in the chair, during these operations, in what has been repeatedly called the "mesmeric sleep." This apparent sleep was produced so repeatedly from the use of the lead, that Dr. Elliotson said he must admit that he had been deceived in supposing that *lead* could not convey the magnetic influence.

After a considerable time had elapsed the *nickel* was applied to her hand in the same way as the lead had been, both metals being of the same temperature. Apparent sleep was still the product, *without convulsions or rigidity*. At length Dr. Elliotson proposed that the nickel should be applied to the inside of the *lips*. The two metals were, therefore, thus used. *First*, the lead, *then* the nickel; but the *lead* by far the more frequently. Presently all the effects which were represented as being the results of the application of the nickel, were apparent, and the patient appeared to be thrown into as violent a paroxysm as she had exhibited during the trials of the previous evening. Dr. Elliotson, in the performance of these experiments, complained "that the lead had been applied *too soon* after the nickel—that *time* had not been given for the latter to operate—and that it was not fair to use the lead so much more frequently than the nickel, but that the same chance should be given to the latter as to the former."

Mr. Wakley replied, that in testing the truth and accuracy of the alleged phenomena, any person would be justified in using the *lead* throughout the entire day, and not employing the *nickel* at all, especially since it had been contended that when the nickel was once used, frictions on the same parts, at subsequent periods, of remote dates, with *any other metal*, would produce the results which were attributed to nickel alone.

At this stage of the proceedings, Mr. Wakley was obliged to leave the room to see a person on business, and before he could return, Dr. Elliotson, who was pressed for time, left, with Mr. Wood. The Doctor took with him the nickel and lead, not knowing, probably, that it was intended to use them again. When Mr. Wakley returned, after an absence of about half an hour, he suggested that although Dr. Elliotson and Mr. Wood had left, it might be well, for the purpose of presenting a brief report to the profession on the subject, to repeat with all the necessary precautions against imposition, some of the experiments which had been so often reported in THE LANCET, made with mesmerised water, gold, &c. He then sent to Mr. Garden's for a lump of nickel, and had a musket ball beaten in the shape of the piece of nickel which had been used in the previous experiments. There were now present, besides Mr. Wakley, who conducted the experiments, Mr. Farr, Dr. P. Hennis Green, Mr. George Mills, and Mr. Clarke.—Subsequently Mr. Hale Thomson and Mr. B. Tipper joined the party.

JANE O'KEY.

It was arranged that the experiments should commence on this occasion, with Jane O'Key, her sister being at the time labouring under the exhaustion of the apparent fit which had followed the use of the metals, and very few observations having as yet been made on Jane. Both sisters were kept in the adjoining room, while the experiments were arranged, and thence brought in as soon as the preparations were severally completed. The new investigation occupied about five hours, and consisted of the following series of experiments:—

EXPERIMENT 1.—Six wine glasses, nearly filled with tepid water, had, a considerable time previously, been placed on a table at a distance from each other at the end of the room, no person having been allowed to touch or go near them. The whole were unmesmerised. Jane O'Key being then called in, was requested to drink from each of them, successively, every person but herself keeping away from the table and the glasses. She complied.

No effect was produced, and she was then requested to retire.

EXPERIMENT 2.—The same six glasses, the water in the *fourth* having been strongly mesmerised, that is, according to the opinion of the believers in the doctrine, she was again called in, and partook of the water in the whole of the glasses.

No effect was produced.

EXPERIMENT 3.—The same six glasses remained on the table. On this occasion the *fourth* glass, which had previously been mesmerised, was placed in the position of the first on the table, and was again mesmerised, the first being carefully shifted to the place of the fourth. All the others remained in their previous positions, and were untouched. She was again introduced and drank from each.

No effect was produced from either, and she withdrew.

EXPERIMENT 4.—The six glasses remained on the table, untouched and unapproached by any one. After a few minutes had elapsed she was again called in and drank of the water in each.

No effect was produced, and she withdrew.

EXPERIMENT 5.—On this occasion the mode of proceeding was changed. The water was now *strangely mesmerised in the whole of the six glasses*. She partook of the whole.

Not the slightest effect was produced, and she withdrew.

EXPERIMENT 6.—Six glasses were again used, containing fresh water. None of them were mesmerised. She was again called in, and drank from the whole of them.

No effect was produced and she retired.

EXPERIMENT 7.—Six glasses were again used. All six were *strongly mesmerised* by Dr. Green and Mr. Farr, who for a considerable time kept three fingers of each hand in the water of every glass. She came in and drank every drop from each glass.

No effect whatever was produced, and she withdrew.

It was now considered by Mr. Wakley that nothing could be more conclusive in refutation of the supposed influence of what had been denominated *mesmerised water*, on Jane O'Key, than the foregoing experiments, and that it was quite useless to pursue them any farther. This opinion was shared by every person present.* The investigation was then directed to the alleged influence of gold.

EXPERIMENT 8.—Five unmesmerised sovereigns had long been placed at some distance from each other on the table. One of them had been warmed in water at a temperature of 80 degrees, care being taken not to touch it with the fingers. Jane O'Key was now again called in, and directed to take up each separately. This she did.

No effect was produced, and she retired.

EXPERIMENT 9.—The whole five sovereigns being now suffered still to remain *unmesmerised* she was recalled, and desired to take them all up, one after the other, retaining each in her hand until she had taken up the whole. She did so.

When she had seized the whole of them, in this manner, her hand seemed to be *spasmodically fixed*. This effect having been produced by *unmesmerised* sovereigns, it was thought right to reverse the proceeding, and mesmerise the whole of the sovereigns on the next trial.

EXPERIMENT 10.—The five sovereigns were all *mesmerised* under the influence of all the gentlemen present, by the formation of a "mesmeric battery." Jane O'Key was then again introduced, and took them up, and squeezed them, one after the other.

No effect was produced, and she retired.

EXPERIMENT 11.—The five sovereigns were again *all strongly mesmerised*. She was called in again, and desired to take them up and squeeze them. She did so.

No effect was produced, and she retired.

EXPERIMENT 12.—A sovereign from another table, which had not been touched by the hand for a considerable time, and was completely *unmesmerised*, was now pushed on the floor, and slightly warmed by placing over it a jug which contained hot water. It should be stated here, in explanation of this experiment, that Jane O'Key, when desired by Dr. Elliotson to pick up a mesmerised sovereign from the ground, has almost invariably become "fixed," as she picked it up, time after time, in a gradation of attitudes, until the supposed influence of the magnetism was alleged to have

* It should here be stated that Jane O'Key, at this time, appeared to be highly sensible to manipulations made in her view. She was repeatedly during the day, fixed, or sent to sleep, by passes made before her, by pressure on the palms, by the touch of a "mesmerised" gold watch, and by pointing to her face.

died away. In the experiment now before us the sovereign had been slightly and gradually *warmed*, and she was requested to take it up.

She did so, and walked away with it, when her hand became *fixed*, as the spectators watched for an effect, and the arm turned upwards behind her back, with the clenched fist placed between the shoulders. In this state she walked about the room, and on being asked what had become of her hand, she said that she did not know. After the hand was loosened she was requested to retire.

EXPERIMENT 13.—A sovereign which had long been untouched was knocked from the table with a stick, on to the floor, *thoroughly unmesmerised*. She was again called in, and requested to pick it up. She did so.

She was immediately *fixed*, while her hand was a few inches above the floor. On letting the metal drop she was again requested to raise it, and, on complying, a second time became *fixed*, with her hand a few inches higher from the floor. Having again let it fall, she was requested to pick it up a third time. She did so, and, for a third time, became *fixed* by the *unmesmerised* sovereign.

After this exhibition, and those which had preceded it, Mr. Wakley considered that it was quite unnecessary to perform another experiment with gold. Every person present concurred in opinion with him.

EXPERIMENT 14.—The girl was placed on a chair, and the pasteboard was held before her face. Mr. Wakley then took two flattened bullets, one in each hand, and rubbed them alternately on each hand of the same patient, Jane O'Key six or seven times.

No effect was produced.

EXPERIMENT 15.—The eyes were then carefully covered with a thick bandage of silk, and the lead was rubbed several times along the insides of both lips.

No effect was produced.

EXPERIMENT 16.—A piece of *mesmerised nickel* was now applied to the insides of both lips.

No effect was produced.

EXPERIMENTS 17, 18, 19.—This experiment was *repeated* three times more with the same result.

EXPERIMENTS 20, 21, 22.—The *magnetised nickel* was now rubbed freely along the backs and the palms of the hands, unseen by the patient, *three* times, with the same result.

It was now agreed by all the gentlemen present, that it would be useless, and even ridiculous, to subject the alleged magnetic powers of Jane O'Key to a single additional test. The analysis was complete, and the conclusions were self-evident.

ELIZABETH O'KEY.

EXPERIMENT 23.—Six glasses of water were placed on the table, with all the precautions that were used in the case of Jane O'Key. Not a single glass was now mesmerised. Elizabeth O'Key was called in, and requested to drink from each glass. She did so.

She became *fixed* on restoring the *fourth* glass to the table. She then retired.

EXPERIMENT 24.—The same water and glasses were allowed to remain, but the *fourth* glass, which had just stupified her, was removed to the place of the second, and the second to the place of the fourth. She was again called in, and drank from the whole of the six glasses.

No effect was produced by either glass, and she again retired.

EXPERIMENT 25.—The same six glasses remaining as in the last experiment, the patient was again called in, the whole of the water being *unmesmerised*. She drank from each.

No effect was produced, and she retired.

EXPERIMENT 26.—The glasses and water again remained exactly in the same state as in the last experiment. No person had approached or touched either of them during the girl's absence from the room. She was again called in.

On drinking from the *fifth* glass she became fixed for a few seconds, with her finger touching her forehead. On recovering from this state she retired.

EXPERIMENT 27.—The same six glasses, and the same water *unmesmerised*, as in the last experiment, were again used. No one had approached them. It was agreed that Mr. Wakley and Dr. Green should stand, for a few seconds, near the corner of the table on which the third and fourth glasses were placed, and then hastily

quit the spot, so that on her coming into the room she might see them leave it.

On drinking from the *third* unmesmerised glass, she apparently became firmly fixed, with the glass in her hand, and after a few seconds, fell backwards, as if dead, on the floor.

EXPERIMENT 28.—The same six glasses were again employed, with *unmesmerised* water, and she was again called in, and drank from them all.

No effect was produced, and she retired.

EXPERIMENT 29.—Fresh water, at a temperature of 80 degrees was now put into the six glasses, and the water in all the six was strongly "mesmerised," by fingers long held in the glasses, and by breathing on the water. She was again immediately called in, and voluntarily drank nearly the whole of the water, leaving only about an ounce in the last glass.

She was neither "fixed," nor "stupified," nor sent to "sleep" by the act, but on reaching the *fifth* glass she complained of sickness, by no means an improbable result, considering that in this experiment alone, she had swallowed altogether hardly less than a pint of warm water.

No other experiment with "mesmerised" water was required after this. Six glasses of water, which had been strongly impregnated with the subtle and marvellous "magnetic" fluid, had produced no effect on the patient, while in two other instances, mere sippings of *unmesmerised* drink, appeared to produce stupefaction, sleep, rigidity, and ultimately, in one case, prostration on the floor and snoring.

The girls had now been under experiment from nearly nine in the morning until ten in the evening, and as Elizabeth O'Key was evidently suffering from a sensation of sickness, and as there did not exist amongst the spectators two opinions as to the character and causes of the symptoms which had been observed, the experiments ceased, and the girls left Bedford-square for the hospital. After the girls had departed, Mr. Wakley made a few remarks on what had been witnessed, and declared that, in his opinion, the effects which were said to arise from what had been denominated "animal magnetism," constituted one of the completest delusions that the human mind ever entertained.

The accuracy of the description of the experiments herein recorded, has been affirmed by all the gentlemen present, three of whom, Mr. George Mills, Dr. Green, and Mr. Farr, took notes of them at the time of their performance, and from whose notes the above report has been prepared by two of them.

Let it be remembered that these two girls were the most successful patients, and exhibited the most extraordinary phenomena of any who had been experimented upon up to that time; that they had not merely astonished, but converted, some of the most philosophic minds in London, whose names it would be invidious to give, because it is probable that they have long since seen "the error of their ways."

For a considerable period after this, I ceased to take any interest in the subject. All major propositions contain the minor; and if the best cases that could be produced were thus proved to be fraudulent, I had a right to conclude that others were very similar; and after the death-blow, the (*science!*) received at Mr. Wakley's hands, so thought the world generally. Professors of Mesmerism were themselves Mesmerised and thrown into a state of coma, if not convulsions. Then they quietly subsided, and would have continued buried, had not Dr. Elliotson been too vain to acknowledge defeat, and too rich to care for loss of fame or practice either. He continued his experiments, imitators arose, and the moment it was found that people would pay to see the farce, a swarm of needy adventurers dubbed themselves lecturers, and took their circuits as regular as barristers or judges. Not content with the ancient manifestations,

new discoveries were made; and above all, was phrenology said to be demonstrated by them. It was asserted that not only were all the preceding Mesmeric phenomena capable of being produced in patients upon whom no moral imputation could rest, but that the phrenological organs could be excited during the mesmeric sleep, by simply pointing to them, and that their manifestations were in strict accordance with phrenological averments.

The first opportunity I had of witnessing this supposed discovery was at Birmingham, during one of Mr. Brooks's lectures. A girl was there introduced, who sang or talked, was merry or sad, according as the various portions of brain, supposed by phrenologists to manifest these powers, were pointed at. No contact was attempted on Mr. Brooks's part, by whom the whole thing was conducted in the fairest manner; nor did the patient move her head, or at all attempt to touch his fingers; they were held near enough, however, for the hair of her head to touch them, or for the warmth emanating from them to inform her of their whereabouts. This, was not done with any sinister intention; but merely upon the supposition, on the part of the lecturer, that the nearer they were the greater the influence.

(To be Continued.)

MR. VERNON'S LECTURES AND EXPERIMENTS.

No man of the present day has created more sensation than this gentleman, whose lectures and experiments have been listened to, and witnessed for several weeks past, in London and the neighbourhood, by thousands; and it is but doing him justice to say that a majority, perhaps a large majority, of his numerous audiences, have been satisfied with his arguments, and concede his facts. Of the former I shall say little; without the facts they are valueless, with them useless. To the facts then! to the experiments, we call especial attention. He generally exhibits a lad, and one or two delicate nice looking girls: usually beginning with the lad; and such adepts are the three in (I had almost said the art) that a minute or two suffices to pass them through what the Lecturer is pleased to call the comatose state, into the state of lucidity. And lucid enough they are, Heaven knows—except that they shut their eyes, they do not pretend to be in the least different from their healthy state, they have not even the decency to sit still—they walk about, listen to what is said, talk, and play with each other, and utter witticisms upon those around them, the only difference between them and others being, that their eyes are shut; nay, they open them sufficiently to see, without being seen. How then are we to know that they sleep—that the mighty mystery has begun—that the laws of life are transposed? How? Why, Mr. Vernon says they are, and he's an *honourable* man! but except his bare word, we defy any one to point out the slightest differences between these artistes, and that of any other saucy girl, who chooses to poke fun at us. We defy any physiologist, even Dr. Elliotson himself, to say, that they are not wide awake, as even he himself. But Mr. Vernon says they are mesmerised, and thus he sets about proving it. The boy is laid with his head upon one chair, his

feet upon another—then Mr. Vernon stands over him, and draws him up or pushes him down by corresponding passes—and the multitude declare that no mesmerized boy, can *lie* as this boy does, or so

“Sink or swell as Vernon pleases.”

Those who watch closely however, are ill tempered enough to remark that if the motion of the arm cannot be seen, (though this is a matter of doubt,) yet that it is perfectly audible—and that the sound indicates the motion so palpably, that any other boy could do it equally well. Mr. Blackwell's boy did it better, far better, but of this anon.

Then the boy stands up, and the Magician goes behind him, and when he hears the arm move, incontinently he falls back as though he meant to fall upon the ground; only Mr. Vernon is always there to catch him, and always does catch him, and the boy knows full sure, always will catch him, so long as people will pay a shilling a piece to see a game at see-saw. And then Mr. Vernon ties a handkerchief over the boy's eyes, and sometimes puts cotton on either side of the nose, so determined is he that the lad shan't see; but he may see, and this is the way he may do it. If there be any difficulty at first, he holds the book in his hands, and puts it up to his face—his thumbs being inside the book and close to his nose, so if the cotton should be obstinate he has but to rub the book up and down, and let his thumbs (by accident) displace the cotton, and then holding the page below his chest, a small ray of light may by accident, (only by accident) pass between the cotton and his nose, and lo! he reads. You shout, he turns, and the cotton somehow finds its place again. Mind, we don't say that this is the way he does it, we only know that it can be done so, that we ourselves can do it—and we think the boy far too clever not to have discovered the mode.

(To be Continued)

SOUTHWARK LITERARY INSTITUTION, BOROUGH ROAD.

MR. BLACKWELL, SURGEON,

Gave a Lecture at the above Institution, on Thursday Evening, May 2d.

ENTITLED “MESMERISM DEMESMERISED.”

About 70 people assembled to hear it and to witness the experiments—70 people! to hear the truth, whilst as many as 700 have congregated to be deluded. How is this? Let man ask his own vanity, and it will tell him, that few are courageous enough to court conviction, if self condemnation follow. We like not to be convinced of credulity, or weakness—and believers in Mesmerism are beginning shrewdly to suspect themselves of both.

THE LECTURER professed not a detailed discourse, but introduced his arguments to prove that it was unnecessary to resort to an unknown influence, to account for all that Mesmerizers were able to effect; that he could do the same he now proceeded to show, in the following order:—

Experiment 1.—A boy was introduced, and after making the supposed Mesmeric passes—became apparently

stiff and was suspended blindfold between two chairs, his head upon one, his feet upon the other. He was then drawn up or down at the Lecturer's pleasure, in the same manner, and to a much greater extent, than was exhibited by Mr. Vernon's patient.

Experiment 2.—Two watches were then regulated, Mr. Blackwell and a gentleman retired with one, the other gentleman remaining in the room. The object being to *will* that the boy should wake at a certain time. After about seven minutes the boy woke up—shortly afterwards the two gentlemen entered the room, when the gentleman announced that he directed Mr. B. to wake the boy at a quarter past nine. The boy did actually begin to wake up at that exact period, and started on his legs at sixteen minutes past.

Experiment 3.—The boy was supposed to be deaf—and certainly endured most unmovably the various noises, whistlings, &c. which were made to startle him.

Experiment 4.—*Phreno Mesmerism*, was now illustrated, and in all the Lectures we have had the patience and self-denial to attend, we never saw any thing at all approaching the neatness and accuracy with which the manifestations were given.

The Lecturer requested any gentleman to name privately, or to write, the organ he wished excited. After receiving his directions Mr. B. went behind his patient, and *without contact*, holding his finger at least two inches from the head, he pointed steadily at the required spot, and the following were the results upon the supposed excitement of—

Benevolence.—The boy arose and gave Mr. Blackwell Sixpence.

Destructiveness.—Flew at, and attempted to injure him.

Veneration.—Knelt as in prayer.

Tune.—Sang a song.

Combativeness.—Fought him.

(To be Continued.)

FINE ARTS.

GREAT SALE OF FIRST CLASS ENGRAVINGS from Pictures by the best Modern Masters, selected from the Stock of COLNAGNI and Co., and other Masters, five hundred per Cent. under the Publishing Prices.

On View, at 126, REGENT STREET, near the Quadrant.

NOTICE.—Mr. RUMBALL is in Town for the Season, and may be consulted daily from twelve o'clock on Monday, until five on Saturday afternoon, until further notice. His fee for a Craniological examination and written development is Ten Shillings Three Members of the same Family £1. 1s.

REMARKS OF THE PRESS.

“Mr. Rumball's eminent success in describing the characters and dispositions of individuals, after a craniological examination, is, we think, of itself, one of the best proofs that can be adduced of the truth of *Phrenology*.”—Gloucester Chronicle, Dec 8, 1838.

“The correctness of his conclusions are startling, and his skill in reading characters by the aid of his science, is little less than marvellous.”—Plymouth Gazette, Oct. 5, 1841.

The Editor is obliged by Mr. Gaye's communication respecting the proceedings at the Adelaide Gallery, on Saturday last, but another account having been previously obtained from a Co.-Scrutineer, it is unnecessary to insert it. He will, however, hold it as a corroborating proof.

LONDON:—RUMBALL, King William Street, Strand; STRANGE, Paternoster Row; and Sold by all Booksellers.

Star Press:—20, Cross Street, Hatton Garden:—JAMES TURNER.