

THE

PHRENO-MAGNET,

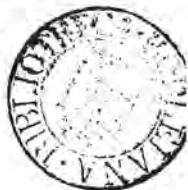
AND

MIRROR OF NATURE :

A RECORD OF FACTS, EXPERIMENTS, AND DISCOVERIES
IN PHRENOLOGY, MAGNETISM, &c.

EDITED BY SPENCER T. HALL,

LECTURER ON PHRENOPATHY.



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Yours, in the love of Truth,
Spencer T. Hall.
Sherwood Forest.

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 ERRATA.

Page 17, line 1, erase "Chapter I."

Page 34—lines 9 to 12—For—"It was little more than a fortnight ago that we discovered a most important class of mechanical faculties," &c., read—*Within the past fortnight we have observed striking INDICATIONS and corroborations of a most important class of faculties, &c.*

Page 228, last line—for "loose" read *lose*.

Page 270, lines 5 and 16—for "sanguine sympathetic" read—*sanguine-lymphatic*.

Owing to the Editor not having always been able himself to revise the sheets, several verbal as well as literal typographical mistakes have gone forth. None of them, he however trusts, beyond those above corrected, would be likely to involve a misunderstanding.

ADVERTISEMENT.

WHEN this Publication was first announced, there was not in Britain—nor, so far as the Editor is aware, had there been projected on this side the Atlantic—any periodical work expository or advocatory of PHRENOPATHY and its kindred principles; neither was there in existence any that had exhibited a disposition to lay open its pages for the purpose, although there were not wanting several of a contrary tendency. Had there been such a medium extant, as freely open as this has ever been, to the lucubrations of all honest experimentalists, the PHRENO-MAGNET probably would never have appeared. It is, therefore, more with gladness than otherwise, that its projector has hailed several rivals, aroused into activity, as it would seem, by his very announcement, and abroad in the field so speedily after him, as almost to make it appear that the impulse to their labours operated simultaneously upon them all. Nor is it less gratifying, that during its progress, several ample volumes have been sent forth on the subject by able investigators and commentators, to take the place they merit as oracles of Mesmerism.

That in the present volume the Editor has not been able to elaborate into a very definite system all those views which dawned upon him at first, is only because his horizon has

so continually expanded—so much new experimental matter has been accumulated, and the subject has presented so many varied phases to the light—that he chose rather to reserve many of his conclusions for another volume than risk an abuse of the Truth by prematurity. The farther his labours have progressed, the more will his circumspection on this account have been marked by the reader, who will therefore be induced to value the volume more than the greatest portion of the numerous facts it records are left for future digestion, than if they had been regularly strained and seasoned at the time of eduction for the mere sustenance of hypotheses already popular. One fact is worth a hundred reasons; and there is seldom a newly-developed fact that does not sooner or later shame the mere reasoner for having come to decided terminations upon the few other facts he had previously acquired. So true is this, that mere striplings have often made accidental discoveries which have set aside the theories of ages.

The Editor has not unfrequently been blamed by those less earnest than himself for meeting the opponents of Mesmerism in a spirit too severe. But the candid reader will soon find, on turning to the following pages, that it has never been for the denunciation of honest opinion he has dipped his pen in tartaric acid: it has only been when men pompously pluming themselves on great scientific acquirements, or when the tools and toad-eaters of such, have resorted to vituperation and abuse of Mesmerism and its professors, instead of investigating the matter in a simple honourable spirit or leaving alone those who would, that his zealous ire has been occasionally provoked. But stay—there may be another class at whom he has now and then aimed a slight philippic—those who,

under pretence of defending the faith of the Mesmerist and Phrenologist, have played Harry the Eighth with the Science of Human Nature, and assuming to themselves the privilege of dictators, have not only set at defiance the old metaphysical school, but, on the other hand, pronounced all who venture to go beyond themselves as heretics not to be tolerated. Alas, that man should thus be the man he always has been ! By a somewhat similar spirit were animated the "pilgrim fathers" who fled from persecution here in the seventeenth century, and whose specific degree of dissent was withal so dear to them that they strangled the poor Quakers, in New England, for venturing to dissent a little further ! Against all such lovers of toleration for themselves—religious or scientific—the Editor is certainly apt to speak at times somewhat plainly ; not that there is any particular merit in so doing : with him it is—as Burns said of his own benevolence—"just a carnal inclination like"—and hard to avoid gratifying.

It should not be forgotten that the PHRENO-MAGNET started avowedly an Advocate as well as a Repository of Mesmerism, and has so continued through a time in which seven-eighths of the press-influence of the country has been at the service of its opponents. Those opponents, generally speaking, are men who, styling themselves B.L., M.R.C.S., M.D., L.L.D. S.A., and Omniscience only knows what besides, have, under the authority of such high-sounding distinctions, made use of the newspapers of their various localities, and the medical journals, as media for the most abominable falsehoods, in their aspersions of Phreno-Mesmerism and Mesmerists ; and few, perhaps, have had more opportunities of knowing and feeling to what an extent this has been carried, than the Editor of the PHRENO-

MAGNET. If, therefore, those who descend to be sweeps and scavengers *will* run against a decent man as he passes along, he should not be blamed for making in return a little dust when shaking himself clean of them. This done, however, the Editor can truly say that the worst he wishes to those who honestly differ from him in opinion is, that they may soon make a convert of him if they be right; and to those who have abused him, or judged him or his Mesmeric brethren wrongfully, that they may have more sense than to repeat their folly; for, being no misanthrope, he could then give even those of them who have been the worst, a cordial hand-shake.

On a perusal of these sheets, it will be observed that a few articles designed at first to extend through the work have been suspended. The cause of this, in one or two instances has been, that discoveries during numerous and varied experiments have occasionally thrown so new and sudden a light upon the subject as to induce a pause, and a consideration as to the propriety of persevering in designs which might be renewed with greater advantage after a little further experience; and the character assumed by the PHRENO-MAGNET as an unprejudiced magazine of facts rather than a pertinacious theorist, may be deemed in some measure a qualification of such a course; for, however disorderly it may by some be thought to deviate from a plan once prescribed, the lover of truth knows well that dogged adherence may sometimes be much more inconsistent.

To those steady and ardent Investigators who have favoured him from time to time with their valuable communications, the Editor tenders his heartiest thanks and kindest wishes, as well as to the numerous Subscribers,

scattered widely as they are over Europe and America, who have thus far taken an interest in and supported this undertaking. Their future co-operation he earnestly and respectfully solicits; but after much deliberation, and the consultation of several friends—taking into account his health, that has suffered severely of late from the intense ardour with which his labours as a Mesmerist have been prosecuted—he has to announce to them his intention of henceforth continuing *THE PHRENO-MAGNET AND MIRROR OF NATURE*, not as hitherto in Monthly Numbers, but as an *ANNUAL VOLUME*, to be published about the close of each year. The advantages of such a plan over the present one will be—1st. An opportunity of giving, in some concise and systematic form, a more complete digest of his own experience than he could in a work divided into so many and short periodical sections. 2nd. A more ample and satisfactory medium for those correspondents who may wish to lay before the world the maturer fruits of their investigations, so that the merits of their several conclusions may be the more fairly compared and appreciated. And 3rd. The means of so collecting and arranging the matter as not only to render the work valuable as a journal of new discoveries, but as a standard Manual of Mesmeric Science in all its departments.

It is, therefore, proposed that all articles for future publication be forwarded, as they may be prepared, to the Publishers, so as to reach the Editor before the middle of July—the Volume to appear at the close of Autumn. To render the work still more interesting, it is intended to embrace, carefully prepared Memoirs of the most distinguished Mesmerists of past and present times, and to have it embellished with portraits, and such other appropriate

pictorial illustrations as will render it at once one of the most elegant and engaging, yet at the same time instructive and useful, of Scientific Annuals.

The Editor confidently hopes this contemplated change in the Publication will not in the least interfere with the correspondence between himself and the various Phreno-Mesmeric societies or other friends of the science, whose communications will ever be attended to with all possible promptitude; and (as heretofore) every correspondent entrusting him with fresh facts, may rely that no misappropriation of such information will occur—no confidence will be abused—but every new discovery will be ingenuously attributed, when possible, to the rightful author, and a fair representation of his sentiments scrupulously observed. The importance of a good understanding on this point will be apparent to every one that may have had his brain sponged (as is very common) by men of more tact than talent, who have so expeditiously published his ideas to the world as theirs, that when he has at length himself come forth, he has appeared to be quoting from the very parties who have forestalled him with his own facts and sentiments! The Editor could mention a few curiosities of this kind in relationship to men who have made a stir even in the Mesmeric world, were this the proper occasion. He often wonders how plagiarists who have thus manufactured books feel when, on being reviewed, that which they have so stolen is most copied and approved by the public press, whilst their really original passages are passed over as mere ballast! Any man worthy at all of reputation “would rather be a kitten, and cry mew,” than court a name by such nefarious means.

It would be gratifying for those friends who may have information to forward for the next volume, to observe the Diagram at page 264 of this, and adopt the method of recording experiments there suggested. By such a mode of conducting investigations, a mass of excellent and intelligible matter may be thrown together by different parties, the results of whose labours, whether as variations or coincidences, may be of the utmost importance to the science. To mesmerise the whole of the inhabitants of one parish would fail at present to convince those who dwelt in the next, unless they were mesmerised too—that is pretty certain. But the coincident results obtained by parties experimenting independently of, and far away from each other, being laid from time to time before the world through the medium of the press, will not only at length produce conviction, but acquaint us better with the true nature of the various phenomena. For though we are aware that in the eduction of what are termed Mesmeric phenomena such a variety of facts have been observed—and so accordant too with the WILL of the experimenters—as almost to indicate that men may have the power of making bye-laws to Nature, it must still be evident that the will cannot work without agencies, and that the agents themselves must have an elementary existence.

It may, in conclusion, be proper to observe that though the Editor has not yet felt justified in publishing a chart of the more recently discovered cerebral organs, he has not been unmindful of such a work. His delay has been occasioned, not by anything he has met with to controvert his belief in the great amplification at first announced—although he has, he trusts, kept his mind perfectly open to evidence, of every tendency—but because there really are

some idiosyncrasies requiring further consideration ; and some important indications which it will be well to see properly corroborated before making known. He would likewise take this opportunity of requesting those who may not be prepared to embrace his views regarding an amplification, to bear in mind that the names of many organs have been only temporarily given, as descriptive rather of their *modes* of manifestation than of their radical functions. In registering their operations, this, for the time, was almost unavoidable ; and it is a well-known fact—if such be any extenuation—that the venerated Gall did the same ; designating Destructiveness, for instance, as the “ organ of murder,” &c. In connexion with this branch of the subject there is one passage especially he would wish to revise. It is at page 34, commencing at the ninth line ; and he begs the reader will turn to the “ Errata” at the end of the Index, where a correction of it will be found. On now taking a calm review the matter, he is not disinclined to agree with some who have criticised him a little upon it, that at first, in his eagerness and earnestness, a few such passages were allowed to go forth too loosely worded ; but he trusts that this admission will in some measure remedy the fault.

With these general remarks the Editor of the PHRENO-MAGNET closes for the present,—repeating his cordial thanks to his friends and the public for their many favours.

Norfolk-street, Sheffield, 6th Dec., 1843.