

THE ZOIST.

No. XLIII.

OCTOBER, 1853.

- I. *Remarkable Cures: three of agonizing Head-aches, two of Neuralgia of the Stomach, and one of Insanity: with phenomena in two cases.* By a Doctor of Divinity of the University of Oxford. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"The GREAT MEN of the day do *not* consider the truth of mesmerism established, but that the phenomena are owing to impressions made upon nervous and susceptible individuals."—The Editor of the MEDICAL TIMES, June 11, 1853; p. 617.*

THE gentleman who has favoured me with the following remarkable cures has written in a manner which shews that he is not desirous of publishing his name. In taking the liberty of printing a private letter to myself which accompanied them, I shall therefore suppress his name: but may not do wrong in mentioning that his grandfather and uncle were created, the one a spiritual, the other a temporal, peer, through their intellectual distinction only.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

—, July 5 | 17, 1853.

My dear Sir,—I take the opportunity of my son-in-law, Mr. —, starting to England per steamer to-morrow, to send you a few *cases* culled from my journal, that will be in good time for *The Zoist* of October.

The *pervading* power of mesmerism is most *wonderful*. Only a few months ago a poor patient was almost in *extremis*, had *fearful fits*, constipation, cough, and a tumor in the sigmoid flexure of the colon, so tender that to touch it would bring on a fit immediately. Dr. R—, who saw her in one

* Mr. Spencer Wells; house-surgeon to the late Lord Dacie.—*Zoist*.

of these fits, said that nothing could do her any good but mesmerism.

I accordingly commenced: the cough ceased, the action of the bowels became regular, the tumor disappeared and she could bear to have it rubbed, the fits she had no more of; when they were commencing—limbs stiff and head turning back—one hand on the top of the head, and another on the epigastrium, completely subdued them, the limbs relaxed, and she sank into a tranquil sleep.

All that I could do was to render her last few weeks quiet and free from pain, and she went off so tranquilly that her friends were taken by surprise.

I attended the autopsy—a mass of disease, enlarged liver, heart shrunk, the colon (sunk into the pelvis) exhibited ulcers, most of which had evidently been only *recently healed*; i. e., since the time that I began. Could I fully describe the case to you, you would think it (as Dr. R. decidedly did) a wonderful triumph of mesmerism, and what nothing else could have effected. But, when all the stamina were gone, with nothing to work upon, *recovery* was of course hopeless.

I have only undertaken cases when particularly requested to do so, and have rarely failed, and always produced an amelioration where a perfect cure was not to be expected.

I may yet have a *few more*, but not perhaps many; for though I am (thank God) hale and hearty, I am fast approaching the climacteric of 63, which Cicero speaks of in one of his epistles. When I can work no more, I must then say with our old friend Entellus—

“ — victor cæstus artemque repono.”

Believe me to remain, with much esteem, my dear Sir,

Yours very sincerely,

Dr. Elliotson, F.R.S., &c., &c.,

37, Conduit Street, London.

The following selection of cases was communicated to Dr. Elliotson by an English clergyman, D.D. of Oxford, who has resided abroad for many years past. He was once a derider, but has long since become from conviction a firm believer in the sacred truths of mesmerism, which he considers as eminently calculated, by the Divine Blessing, to promote the glory of God, by soothing, alleviating, and removing the pains and sufferings of so many of our fellow-creatures. That this noble cause may still more widely triumph over the malice and ignorance of its opponents, many of whom presumptuously and dogmatically condemn

that which they scorn to examine or investigate, is the sincere prayer of

X. Y. Z.

I. Dreadful Head-aches.

Betsy N., aged 18, subject to dreadful head-aches for *three years*, scarcely a day without them. At the request of Dr. H., began to mesmerise her, Dec. 1, 1844.

At the third *séance* her head-ache entirely removed, though it returned very slightly, at intervals, till the 14th, after which she had no return, as I continued to mesmerise her, by way of precaution, for several days after, during which she improved in health and appearance.

Nov. 30, 1845. Saw Mrs. N. and her daughter, who has had *no return of head-ache since I mesmerised her, eleven months ago, and her general health decidedly improved*. In this case there was no decided sleep.

II. Violent Head-aches.

Mrs. J. B., aged 22, afflicted with violent head-aches for *five years past, rendering her occasionally quite blind*, so that she is obliged to remain in bed all day, and apply ice to the head, &c.: *has tried homæopathy and every drug in the pharmacopœia without effect*. Recommended to apply to me by a Swedish physician, Dr. T.

During the treatment of this case, if she had head-ache on arriving, I removed it by making passes from behind, round the head, and then drawing it down to the back and the shoulders, which always succeeded. The second time she slept, as she did afterwards, varying from ten to fifty-three minutes, occasionally very deep. I mesmerised with the downward passes, during the sleep, at certain intervals. It was a work of time and labour.

I commenced Jan. 11, 1845, and continued it for a fortnight after I had noted her in my journal as "*quite well*," and the entry on the 7th of April is, "I consider her, by God's blessing, completely cured, and shall discontinue, except that she will drink mesmerised water, which she finds does her good."

She is quite well up to the present time.

III. Violent Head-aches.

Miss M., aged about 46, has had for *many years past every ten days violent head-ache, which lasts for thirty-six hours, and an affection of the stomach: formerly suffered from rheumatism and tic douloureux*. Recommended by Dr. R. to try the effects of mesmerism.

Commenced Dec. 27, 1845. Eyes closed in eight minutes: partially conscious sleep, but she was unable to open her eyes or move a limb: a pleasing sensation. *Opiates generally fail to produce sleep with her.*

Dec. 29. Has slept better for the last two nights, and woke without sickness and an uneasy feeling which she had before. Her last attack of head-ache was Dec. 18.

Jan. 5, 1846. Has had *no return of head-ache*. Her eyes were generally closed in from one to three minutes simply by gazing, after which I made the usual passes. She described her feeling to be that of a *delightful heavenly trance*, quite incapable of motion, but generally aware of anything that was done or said in the room. At the commencement I mesmerised her every day, then three times in the week, and so lengthened the intervals gradually.

March 6. *No head-ache for two months.*

March 13. Much better and stronger in every respect.

March 22. *Perfectly well*; no return of head-ache.

On the 25th of April I received a note from her of which the following is an extract: "I am happy to say that with one little exception, at the breaking up of the ice, I have been uniformly well since I was last with you, and now, in the prospect of quitting ———, I must once more express my warmest thanks to you for all your kind labours on my behalf; for certainly to these labours, under the blessing of God, do I attribute the unusual degree of health and comfort which I have enjoyed since Christmas last, and am still enjoying."

IV. *Violent Neuralgia at the Stomach.*

Mrs. A., aged about 40, has been afflicted for a *whole year* with violent spasms in the stomach, sometimes twice a day, scarcely a day without, and has tried various medical remedies *without experiencing any relief*. Came to me by the advice of Dr. R.

Dec. 20, 1846. Mesmerised for three quarters of an hour, without any perceptible effect—like a statue—says she feels nothing.

Dec. 23. Ditto.

27th. Ditto; but says she has been better for the last two days.

31st. Ditto.

Jan. 2, 1847. Mesmerised for fifty-five minutes; drowsiness, and almost asleep. Her attacks of late much less severe.

Jan. 4. Ditto; attacks of late less frequent.

Feb. 25. Mesmerised for fifty minutes; during almost the whole time partial sleep and perfect tranquillity. No pain. No attack for the last three days. Feels decidedly better.

Feb. '27. Ditto. Has had *no symptom* for several days, and *no attack since the 17th*.

My last entry is March 8. Mesmerised with brief pauses for more than forty-five minutes, of which time she slept soundly for thirty-five minutes.

Has been perfectly well since she was with me last, and no attack. As she lives in the country, and the roads are very bad at present, she will not come to me again for some time, and I trust will not require it.

N.B. She called on the 15th of March, when I was from home, and told my daughter that she was *perfectly well*, and so continued up to Oct. 6, when she called on me to request my kind offices on behalf of a friend who accompanied her, Mdle. K., aged 41, affected for twenty-five years with violent head-ache *every week*, lasting latterly for three days! At this case I laboured hard for four months, but without effecting a radical cure, only that the attacks were *much less severe and less frequent* and the duration of them a few hours instead of *days*.

V. *Violent attacks of Neuralgia at the Stomach—Phenomena.*

Mrs. J. W., aged about 30, formerly subject to rheumatism, but for the last *two years and a half* has been afflicted with violent spasms and shooting pains in the region of the epigastrium, extending to the side and back (sometimes lasting for twenty-eight hours), formerly every week, and latterly every other day. Has tried *water cure, mineral waters, and various medical remedies, without experiencing any relief*. Recommended to me by Dr. R.

Jan. 14, 1847. Mesmerised at intervals for nearly an hour, *generally and locally*. Visible effect produced in five minutes, shortly after which she slept tranquilly till the end of the *séance*.

16th. Eyes closed in three or four minutes, and partially turned back; heavy sleep for three quarters of an hour. Had an attack yesterday, which lasted for nine hours, but when it was past felt better than on former occasions.

18th. Effect nearly the same as last time: has had no attack since I saw her last.

21st. Effect produced in less than three minutes: slept for fifty-five minutes. Had a sharpish attack on the 18th, which lasted not quite five hours, and another on the 19th,

for two hours ; but felt better than on former occasions when it ceased.

23rd. Eyes closed in two minutes, and she slept *tranquilly* for nearly an hour. An attack yesterday, which lasted about seven hours, but recovered herself afterwards better and sooner than before.

25th. Effect as last time. No attack since she was last with me.

27th. Precisely as last time. Had a *very slight* attack on the evening of the 25th for less than an hour.

28th. Eyes closed in one minute without a pass : slept about fifty minutes, not quite so *tranquilly* as before. A sharp attack yesterday, lasting from 8 p.m. till 4 o'clock this morning.

Soon after this she had a much sharper attack than usual. Her friends became alarmed, and thought that mesmerism had done her harm ; but I considered this as the crisis of the disorder, and urged a continuance of the treatment ; and the result was most satisfactory.

Feb. 3. Mesmerised her in her own room, lying on the sofa ; still weak from a severe attack on the 29th ult. Eyes closed in a few seconds. Deep sleep, with partial consciousness, for about forty minutes. During the time feels uneasiness and pain in the right side, which she indicates, and on putting my hand on the spot the pain is instantly removed.

Feb. 5. Most tranquil sleep for fifty minutes, and feels refreshed.

10th. Eyes closed in one minute : slept profoundly and *tranquilly* for a full hour, and felt refreshed : is better and stronger than when I saw her last. Not the least symptom of any attack. After this she came to my house, as before, three days in the week. The seven following entries, much as before. Feels better and stronger than she has done *for a long time past*.

26th. Placed two small oval spectacle glasses, previously mesmerised, in her two hands. Eyes closed in less than two minutes : hands firmly clasped and immoveable, as usual. Deep and tranquil sleep for more than an hour. *No symptom of an attack for four weeks past*. From the beginning (my usual request) she has *taken no medicine whatever*, nor does she require it. *Stronger and better in every respect*. Continued the passes and *local* mesmerism during the sleep.

27th. Same experiment with the glasses and same effect : slept nearly an hour. As I requested, she yesterday placed the glasses (which I had previously mesmerised) in her hands, at a given hour, in her own room. Was asleep in ten mi-

minutes, and slept for thirty-five, and would probably have slept longer, but woke by a sudden noise at her door.

March 3 and 5. Much as before. *Better and stronger every day. No symptom of an attack for five weeks.*

March 7. As before. Slept for an hour. *Feels perfectly well in every respect, and shall leave it off gradually,—have it but once in every week.*

12th. Eyes closed in two or three minutes, she holding the glasses as before. Dr. R., who was present, *pinched her hand pretty sharply*, but she *smiled* in her sleep and said, "*I do not feel it.*" I *pricked* the other hand with a pin, but *no feeling*.* Limbs, as before, rigid, but yielding to my touch.

19th. Eyes closed in one and a half minute. Sound deep sleep for nearly an hour and a quarter. During the time lifted up the eyelid, and held a lighted candle to the eye. She told me, after waking, on my asking her, that she remembers having perceived a light, as if the sun were shining into the room, but not painful or unpleasant.† *Feels better than she has done for years, and has quite got rid of her nervousness.* I trust she is perfectly cured, but will probably come once more, in order to satisfy Dr. R.

26th. Eyes closed in two minutes. Sound sleep for nearly an hour. *Feels perfectly well*, and has not had a single symptom for two months; so that she may now, by God's blessing, be considered as perfectly cured.

N.B. The next time that I saw her was in October, when she came to church to stand godmother to a child, and she was *so improved in size, health, and appearance that I could scarcely recognize her*, and was actually afraid of looking at her lest I should put her to sleep with the child in her arms.

She came to me again *two years afterwards*, not having *had the slightest return of her former complaint*, but had suffered of late from palpitation of the heart, nervousness, and low spirits, owing to particular circumstances. She came to me nine times, more perhaps than was absolutely necessary, but I always prefer being on the safe side. The effect was as before, and she was *completely recovered*.

VI. Insanity—Phenomena.

Mrs. B., aged 35½ years. Married in 1836, and has had

* Of course all gross imposition, as in our English patients,—the two Okeys, Wombell, whose leg was amputated in Nottinghamshire, and every other given in *The Zet* to posterity.—J. E.

† The impostor shewed herself again. She was as bad as Wombell, who excited the disgust of the Medical and Chirurgical Society by saying on his waking after his leg had been sawn off that he had heard a sort of crunching in his sleep.—J. E.

several children, the last born May 2, 1851, which she nursed herself: but at the beginning of July, from imprudence in cold bathing, the milk flew to the head, and she became deranged; her *idée fixe* being that * * * was to drag herself and children through the streets in chains; and of this she had a constant dread. She was *confined* for a time in *two* separate establishments; and, when she became somewhat better, her husband, after his return from England, took her to his own house again, keeping a strict watch upon her. When her husband called on me on the 11th of October, previously to the christening of the child in the church, I advised him to mesmerise her, gave him directions how to proceed, and a few books on the subject; but as, after several trials, he could produce no effect, I undertook the case at his request. When I commenced she was *taking medicine ten times a day, which I ordered to be entirely discontinued.* There had been a suppression of the catamenia for nearly five months, *which several doctors had in vain attempted to bring on by all kinds of medicine.*

Nov. 14, 1851. Mesmerised for thirty-five minutes, producing *much relief, warmth, and tranquillity.* Says she felt *cold* when her husband mesmerised her.

Nov. 15. I found that after I left her yesterday she *slept quietly for a quarter of an hour, and felt more comfortable than she had done for some time past,* and, as she expressed herself, *more social, i. e., alive to and interested about her family, &c.* The mesmeric influence was much more powerful than yesterday; she slept more than an hour; said she felt warm and comfortable. Made the usual passes, and specially mesmerised the epigastrium, back, &c.

Nov. 16. Result most satisfactory; influence more speedy and powerful; answered *me* in the sleep, but not her *husband.* Arms cataleptic, and I could move and place them in any direction or position, but in his hands were stiff and unbending, shewing the usual *rapport* between the mesmeriser and patient. Slept most tranquilly for about an hour, and felt comforted and refreshed.

Nov. 17. *A wonderful alteration for the better; her countenance quite different, and perfectly natural.* Yesterday and this morning, *for the first time since her illness,* she took and played with her infant, *of whom before she would take no notice!* Every symptom highly satisfactory; slept tranquilly for an hour and ten minutes.

At the commencement I asked her how long she would sleep, and she said, "*long;*" and at the end of the hour her answer to the same question was "*ten minutes;*" and *awoke*

exactly at the time to a second. The catamenia had not appeared, but at the end of the *séance* she said she had a pain in her back.

Nov. 19. Just before I left home I received a note from Mr. B. saying that "*yesterday morning the long-desired result took place;*" and on going to the house I found that his wife had the usual flow, and appeared quite a different being. Results as before—rigidity, attraction, answered questions, and said, when half an hour had elapsed that she should sleep a quarter of an hour longer.

Nov. 21. Effect much the same as before; slept for some time with her eyes half open, and a *lighted candle placed before them produced no effect upon the pupil.** Named, as before, the exact hour of waking.

Nov. 22. Slept tranquilly the usual time—three quarters of an hour, and named the exact time at which she would wake. Dr. R. present; had never before witnessed *mesmeric attraction*; i. e., when I lifted up her arms and placed them in any position, my fingers held at a short distance from her hands attracted them in any direction, whereas his (Dr. R.'s) had the contrary effect, viz., of *repulsion*.

Nov. 23. As usual, named the exact time of waking. I placed a mesmerised spectacle glass in each hand, that partially drew down the fingers, which I closed. When she awoke she found herself utterly unable to open her hands or move her arms till I demesmerised them by transverse passes and blowing.

Nov. 24. Effect as yesterday. I placed a glass in one hand, which, when she woke, was stiff and immovable, whilst the other was perfectly free.

Nov. 27 and 30; Dec. 1 and 3. Usual effect; health improved.

Dec. 4. *She tells me in her sleep that mesmerism will do her good, and that she shall be quite well at Christmas.*

Dec. 7. Slept about an hour. Arms and legs, &c., strongly cataleptic. Her husband could not raise them in the least, but under my hands as tractable as those of an infant. Placed a lighted candle before her eyes. *When she woke, on being asked, said she remembered seeing something like a red lantern in the dark.†*

Dec. 8. Slept more than an hour deeply and tranquilly. Effects as usual.

Dec. 10. Ditto. Yesterday the catamenia came off,—a week before the time.

* Another impostor!—J. E.

† She must have learn these tricks from Wombell.—J. E.

Dec. 12. A singular *séance*, as shewing the effects of cross mesmerism. [Dr. W., a German physician, was present. After continuing the passes, &c., for much more than the usual time, surprised that she was not yet asleep, and complained of great anxiety. Dr. W., who was standing two or three yards behind her, leaning against a table, looked very pale and unwell, and was very glad when Mr. B., perceiving his state, asked him to go with him into another room, and they had scarcely passed the threshold of the door before she was fast asleep. It seemed as if part of my mesmeric influence went to Dr. W., and part of his to my patient. Some time ago Col. P. mesmerised his mother, and as long as Dr. W. was in the room could produce no effect, although a powerful mesmeriser; but she fell asleep as soon as Dr. W. went away. When Dr. W., after recovering himself, came into the room to see the usual experiments, no bad effect was produced on my patient.] *She named, as usual, the exact time of waking, and said she should be quite well at Christmas.*

Dec. 14 and 17. Effect as before. *Appeared much better in every respect.*

Dec. 20. Improving in every respect. Slept about an hour very quietly. Told me in the sleep that she must be mesmerised *four* times more, and *will then be perfectly well.*

Dec. 22. Slept for an hour profoundly and tranquilly. Told me in the sleep that she must be mesmerised three times next week. Her husband told me that she had *perspiration for the first time since her illness.*

Dec. 24, 1851. Slept soundly and tranquilly for a full hour. Mr. T. present—a firm believer (from having read different numbers of *The Zoist* which I had lent him), but had never seen a case before, and is perfectly satisfied with what he sees.* Limbs as usual rigid and unbending to every touch but mine; raise up her leg and back; perfectly stiff; she was fast sleep when Mr. T. came into the room, nor did she know that he was coming, and had only met him once, a long time ago, in a mixed company. When asked how many persons (beside herself) were in the room, answered three. "Who are they?" "John (her husband), Dr. —, and Mr. T." *She twice told me exactly what o'clock it was when I held a watch to the side of her head, where she could not have seen it had she been awake and her eyes open: named the exact time of waking twenty-five minutes before the time. Said she must be mesmerised twice more. To the question, "In*

* How could Mr. T. be so silly! He would not be elected to a chair in any British school of medicine, nor to a fellowship of any medical college.—J. E.

how many days shall you be perfectly well?" the answer was, five days.

Dec. 26. Slept deeply and quietly for about an hour. Whilst she was in the deep sleep, eyes firmly closed, Mrs. —, as previously agreed upon, entered with noiseless step, her head and face covered with a shawl, went behind the chair, and sat down on the window seat. I asked her some time after, "How many persons are there in the room?" Answer, "Three." "Who are they?" "John, Dr. —, and Mrs. —." *When I held my watch to the side of her head she told me the exact hour; when I held a book there she told me what it was; when I held up a dark lantern she said it was an inkstand.* After Mrs. — had quietly left the room, she told me there were two persons. When asked how many more times she must be mesmerised, answered *once*. "In how many days she would be quite well?" "In three days;" exactly corresponding with her former answers. Asked, towards the end, how much longer she should sleep, answered, "Two minutes," and *woke accordingly at the time.*

Dec. 29. Dr. R. and Mr. T. came into the room after she was asleep, and, as usual, when asked she named them. Dr. R. was behind the chair, a high Voltaire, and made signs to me to hold up *his* watch to the side of her head, and when I asked her what o'clock it was, she replied, "That is not your watch;" but when I afterwards held up my own, she gave the exact time. Limbs rigid as usual; slight *attraction* to my hand, and *repulsion* to that of Dr. R., but not so strong as on a former occasion. When I asked, "How many more times she ought to be mesmerised?" answered, "*No more*;" and when I asked her, said she would be perfectly well next week. Named, as usual, the *exact* time of waking. She has now been mesmerised twenty-seven times.

A few days will shew whether she is *perfectly recovered*, which I think highly probable, both from her constantly affirming it when in the mesmeric sleep, and also because the hallucinations which she had before have for some time past become gradually weaker every day, and her general health and strength wonderfully improved.

Jan. 7, 1852. Mr. John B. called and gave me a very favourable account of his wife, who has been *much better* since she was last with me, although she still *occasionally mentions* being afraid of something, but without any expression of uneasiness or alarm. This mist which still hovers over the brain will, I doubt not, be entirely removed and melt away at the return of the catamenia, which ought to come on now.

Such, however, was not the case, inasmuch as some time afterwards her husband informed me that she was *enccinte, and perfectly well both in mind and body*. When I next saw her she was looking *marvellously stout and well*. She visited England and France during the summer, and after her return in October became the mother of an unusually fine child, both of whom have continued to thrive up to the present time.

I have given this last case more in detail, because I consider it a very remarkable one, and a triumphant proof of the powerful and sanatory influence of mesmerism.

My only fear has been that of trespassing too largely upon the valuable pages of *The Zoist*, to which and to the noble cause which it so ably advocates, I sincerely wish all possible success.

NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

The cure of the case of insanity is surely deserving of the attention of all the practitioners in insanity who scoff every day at mesmerism in society and chuckle at their medical parties; being such GREAT MEN as not to consider the truth of mesmerism established or to feel themselves bound by Christian duty to give their wretched patients the benefit of its blessed remedial agency. Those who did not blush to declare the poor lunatic Mrs. Cumming to be of sound mind, like themselves, must allow Mrs. B. to have been insane. The cures of head-aches deserve deep attention. For the treatment of this form of disease is known by the mass of medical practitioners to be almost always a failure in their hands, with mercury, quinine, arsenic, and all the drugs of their ordinary routine.

Oh! the barbarity of so many of my professional brethren in exerting themselves from the first of January to the end of December to prevent the sick from obtaining the blessings of mesmerism! All the medical journalists co-operate by excluding from their pages every one of the splendid medical and surgical facts of *The Zoist*; and it is a shocking truth that, when the last Number of the last volume of *The Zoist*, mentioning in its index all the facts of the past year, was presented to the College of Surgeons and to the Medical and Chirurgical Society, neither of those institutions allowed it to be placed on the table of their library with the other magazines and new books.

It is most gratifying to mention that all do not follow their bad example. Sir James Clarke lately was willing that

I should meet him in consultation upon the propriety of trying mesmerism in one of his cases, and consented to its use; and Dr. Locock has frequently acted in the same way; so that the Queen and her Consort have those about them who set a good example.

It is no pleasure to me to censure, but a very great pleasure to bestow merited praise upon, my professional brethren. Happy should I be were I able to soften the hearts of Sir Benjamin Brodie, Dr. Copland, Sir Henry Holland, Mr. Lawrence, and all the others who are chiefly instrumental in keeping back our holy cause and occasion such a mass of human suffering to continue which might be cured or alleviated. Reflection upon the sufferings which would already have been prevented but for them is sufficient to destroy their peace of mind if they ever reflected.

II. *Powerful and remedial influence of Mesmerism in Puerperal Convulsions.* By JAMES MOUNT, Esq., Surgeon of the 9th Regiment of Infantry, now stationed in Ireland.

"We must all bestir ourselves in the cause of medical education, if we ever wish to see the FOLLIES OF MESMERISM, homœopathy, table-turning, and spirit-rapping, received by the people with anything like cautious reflection or sound judgment."—The Editor of the MEDICAL TIMES, July 9, 1853; p. 48.

I WAS sent for in a hurry at 11½ a.m. to see Mrs. B., wife of an officer in the regiment, who had been confined at 6 a.m. I was informed that the labour had been natural, but rather tedious, and that some hæmorrhage had followed the extraction of the placenta and left her rather exhausted, and that half a grain of acetate of morphine had been administered, which had induced sleep. On my arrival I found her lying on her back, with a wild confused look, tossing to and fro, and complaining of her ears, into which she kept thrusting her fingers: the pulse was rather quick, soft, and feeble: the pupils were slightly contracted: the skin was hot: respiration hurried. In two or three minutes she became more restless and excited, and the jactatory movements amounted almost to convulsions, the hands and teeth being firmly clenched, and the eyes fixed and staring.

Finding it impossible to quiet her by ordinary means, and being quite at a loss what measures to adopt, it fortunately occurred to me to try mesmerism, being aware that she had once been mesmerised with some success. I took hold of her right hand with my left, and commenced making longitudinal

passes from the crown of the head towards the epigastrium. In about a minute or so, I observed a slight change in her countenance, particularly in the eyes. In another minute the convulsive movements had much diminished, in fact, nearly ceased, and the eyelids closed. I continued the passes, and in about five minutes or less had the satisfaction to find her in a sound mesmeric sleep, with slow, regular respiration, and a fall of the pulse a few beats. I then desisted, feeling tired and a painful rigidity of the muscles of the arm.

She continued asleep for about half an hour, when she suddenly awoke with a start—apparently from some noise; I believe from the crying of the child. I may here state that, just before I was called in, she had been suddenly awakened from a sound sleep by the barking of a large dog, which occasioned a severe fright. This may have been the exciting cause of the convulsions. It is interesting to speculate what, with the tendency to hæmorrhage, might have been the result, had the convulsions remained unchecked. The tossing and convulsive efforts returned the moment she awoke. She was partially conscious, but looked wild and confused, complained of her head, and said her ears were full of water and *fies*. She likewise complained of thirst, and was allowed to take a mouthful of cold water.

I recommenced the mesmeric passes, but from the constant movements of the head and limbs, which required two persons to hold, I experienced more difficulty this time in sending her to sleep. I however succeeded in a few minutes: and I left her as before in a tranquil sleep, recommending her husband to mesmerise her should she shew signs of waking.

She was again awakened by the barking of a dog. Her husband tried to mesmerise her but without success.

I again commenced the mesmeric passes, and in a few minutes again succeeded in sending her to sleep. This time she remained asleep three quarters of an hour, and on awaking was more calm and composed: the delusions had nearly subsided, but she still complained of her head.

Her husband again tried to mesmerise her without success: and she requested I might be sent for to send her to sleep again: and I did in about two minutes. I, however, continued the passes some time longer, and she remained asleep until 6 p.m., when she awoke quite free from convulsion and delusion, and has continued well ever since.

This case needs but little comment. The effects were marked and obvious, and occasioned no little surprise to the

nurse, who devoutly crossed herself and prayed she might be protected from harm. I think the nurse's conduct on this occasion, in spite of her superstition, more natural and more rational than that of some professional men, who will not believe what they see, and whose eyes appear to be as firmly closed by some mysterious process as those of the patients are by a natural and obvious one.

J. MOUNT, F.R.C.S.,

Surgeon H.M. 9th Regiment Infantry.

London, June, 1853.

Note by the Editor of The Zoist.

Mr. Mount was a student at University College, London, in 1837-8: and at the late Annual Meeting of the Mesmeric Infirmary bore public testimony to the truth not of mesmerism only, but of all the phenomena of the two Okeys, whose cases he carefully watched during all their stay in the Hospital. He formerly bore the same testimony in No. XXV., on his arrival with his regiment from India in 1849.

How little does the Editor of the *Medical Times* appear when contrasted with him: little either in medical intelligence, or in moral penetration, which when strong sees that honesty is the best policy. Wolsey at length saw that it would have been better to have served his God than to have served his selfish, heartless king. When Mr. Churchill, the proprietor of the *Medical Times*, got rid of Dr. Bushnan, we trusted that he had engaged a very different editor. Great is his shortsightedness also, though he fancies himself wise in his generation.

III. *Cure of Palsy of the Arm in a few weeks after the failure of all LEGITIMATE means for several months.* By Mr. CHASE, of West Clifton. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"To Dr. Elliotson.

"Elgin, January 27, 1852.

"Sir,—The following is a copy of a letter which I sent last night to Mr. Churchill, stopping the *Medical Times and Gazette* in consequence of its repeated attacks on mesmerism. My sympathy is of no great value, and my giving up the *Medical Times and Gazette* will have little effect. But, if all medical men who believe in mesmerism would have the honesty to go and do likewise, very likely the editor would be obliged to change his tune.

"Yours respectfully,

"H. MACBEAN, F.R.C.S. Ed."

"Sir,—From the commencement, and until now, I have been a constant subscriber to the *Medical Times*, but throughout its chequered existence I always observed that a change of editor brought out a change in medical ethics. In your leading article of Saturday last, the 24th inst., there is an unmerited attack on Dr. Davey of Colney Hatch Asylum and against mesmerism; an attack quite out of place at this time of day and unbecoming a journalist.* It betrays in a certain scale that species of petty jealousy and narrow-mindedness which unfortunately so often characterize medical men in circumscribed localities, and which is the reproach of the profession. That there is something in mesmerism no one of a "sound mind" who has impartially examined for himself can deny, and that it is a very powerful curative agent is beyond controversy. Can your Editor explain to his readers why a compound dislocation or some other serious injury of the thumb or great toe should so frequently terminate in tetanic convulsions and death? This fact is too *notorious*, but the *explanation* is a very different thing. So it is with mesmerism: the facts which bear on this subject are too weighty for any one to gainsay, but the *explanation* of the phenomena is beyond the limited comprehension of mortals.

"As your Editor is so thoroughly 'orthodox' both in *medicine* and *theology*, I would, with all due deference, remind him of what the orthodox *Jews* did of old, and the wholesome advice which Gamaliel gave them in reference to the doings of the apostles, and which is related in the fifth chapter of the Acts, verses 34—40, and to which for brevity's sake I refer him. It is a poor, pitiful spite on the part of your Editor, and I have no doubt he will yet have to 'digest the venom of his spleen' behind some obscure shade.

"Mesmerism, I mean legitimate mesmerism, will go on to prosper in defiance of all opposition: and when such men as Sir David Brewster and others similar are enlisted in the cause, surely your Editor ought in deference to his readers to *suspend* his judgment, and let the 'poor thing' alone.

"My reason for writing, however, is to *stop the Medical Times and Gazette* in consequence of the repeated attacks on *mesmerism*. I had hoped that the new series would cherish in its columns a more liberal view of a matter in its nature as yet little understood, but of which the existence is known as a stubborn fact; but finding that no change has taken place, I am constrained to stop, and forego the reading of a journal which panders to such bigotted and intolerant ignorance. I enclose postage stamps to pay the four numbers from January 3rd to 24th, and am," &c.†

Dr. Elliotson.

Vittoria Lodge, West Clifton, Bristol,
June 17, 1853.

DEAR Sir,—In the early part of May, 1852, Mr. Hann, of Marnhull, near Sturminster, called upon me to request my advice in a case of total paralysis, the invalid being his eldest daughter, about 16 years of age. His wife and daughter accompanied him.

Calling my attention to her right arm, which was hanging perfectly useless at her side, they first informed me that it had been in the state in which I then saw it *nearly twenty weeks*. I enquired if she could move it at all. The reply was, "Not at all, unless she does it with the other hand; nor can she move the smallest thing with the fingers of that hand if it was to save her life." I said, "Your daughter looks remarkably stout, and well in every other respect. Can

* See *Zoist*, No. XLIII., p. 1.—*Zoist*.

† The *Medical Times* dared not notice this letter.—*Zoist*.

you account in any way for this affliction?" "The only way in which we can at present account for it, is, that during the last few years she has grown very fast, and is very weak, though she *looks* very well." "Have you tried many remedies?" "She has been in Dr. F——'s hands for a long time (I think they said *fifteen weeks*). He has *tried everything he can think of*. When medicine failed to produce any effect, he tried *galvanism* for some weeks, but *without the slightest symptom of benefit*. Do you think you could do her any good, Sir?" "Well," I said, "from what I have seen and heard, I believe that mesmerism is the remedy: my present conviction is that it will not only restore the paralyzed arm, but strengthen her in every way." "How long do you think it will take you to perform the cure?" "That is impossible for me to say. It may be some weeks before she will be quite well, but I don't think it will be many days ere she will find an improvement." This was very cheering news to the good folks, for they were beginning to fear it would be a hopeless case, and accordingly they left her with me in Shaftesbury.

The *next day* I succeeded in less than a quarter of an hour in putting her into the sleep-waking state, and I made passes for a quarter of an hour over the arm, and for ten minutes over other parts of the body.

This I continued to do every day.

I ought here to state that Miss S. Smith, the clairvoyante, examined her, and told me that the blood in the right arm was not circulating, and looked quite black; that the passes would soon put the blood all right, but that it would be some time before the nerves would be healthy, for they were in a completely relaxed state; that I had only to persevere, and the patient would certainly be cured. She also said that the lungs were a little inflamed, and recommended her to drink two or three wine-glassfuls of mustard-seed tea daily, and to bathe the arm with some quite hot, and keep a flannel bandage constantly round it. All this was done.

At the *expiration of a week* the patient was able to move her fingers slightly: at the *end of a fortnight* she could knit: and so she gradually improved until the right arm became as strong as, if not stronger than, the left. In *seven weeks* the patient was *cured*, and would have been well before, but for a little inattention on her part and my being unwell for a week.

Dr. F., as well as others *opposed* to mesmerism, said, when she returned home and they saw the change produced by such simple means, "*Wait a few days, she will be as bad*

as ever." I am happy to state that they are disappointed. More than *three hundred and sixty-five* days have passed away, and Miss Hann, a friend who *saw her* a few days ago assures me, is in perfect health.

Any one who questions the veracity of the above statement may apply to her parents, or W. Colbourne, Esq., Bank, Sturminster, Newton, Dorset, to whom the family is well known.

I have just heard through a person from Dorsetshire that the patient continues perfectly well; and you may consider the case deserving a place in the valuable *Zoist*.

Dear Dr. Elliotson,

Yours respectfully,

C. W. CHASE.

IV. *Cure of Epilepsy in a young man.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"Dr. Parker, Professor of Surgery in the College of Physicians and Surgeons, New York, has first *trepined the cranium*, and then *tied the carotid*, in a case of epilepsy. The patient, an Irishman, survived the operation, but the *disease was not removed*."—*Medical Times*, Nov. 27, 1852. From the *New York Journal of Medicine*, May, 1852; p. 48.

ON the 13th of February, 1851, a youth, named Edward William Dovey, residing with his parents at 17, Elizabeth Terrace, Liverpool Road, Islington, and between seventeen and eighteen years of age, was brought to me by his mother on account of epilepsy.

He looked healthy: was of ordinary height and bulk, fair, and had black hair.

He had laboured under epilepsy *four years*:—from the age of 13.

When a child he was subject to head-aches, sickness, and feverishness every three or four months; and various articles of diet produced disturbance in him.

The first fit had occurred in the evening of the Sunday before Christmas-day, 1846, after a dinner of stewed goose giblets in the middle of the day. Nothing was done for him, and he was very well the next day. He had frequently eaten stewed giblets before.

The second fit occurred in a year, on the Sunday after Christmas-day, subsequently to a dinner of roast pork with sage and onions: all which also he had often eaten before.

The third occurred in seven months, on a Sunday likewise, and was severe.

His parents placed him under the care of a general prac-

titioner—"an eminent surgeon," are the words of the account given to me—in Islington, named Bateman, who treated him for *two years without the slightest benefit*. Indeed the fits became more and more frequent. For the fourth fit took place in five months, and he then had one every few weeks, and at all hours, and frequently in the night, but in truth at all hours day and night.

The attack in the waking state was usually preceded by deafness for three or four minutes, and left after it head-ache, heaviness, giddiness, debility, pains and disagreeable feelings in various parts of his frame, till the middle of the next day.

Besides the perfect fits he very frequently had seizures of deafness for a few minutes. These were of course fragments of fits or imperfect fits; and fragments of fits are very common in epileptic patients, and are endless in variety.

He was next placed under the care of Dr. Hamilton Roe, for a year, with *no relief*.

As his health now began to decline and the fits were very frequent, his parents tried homœopathy under Dr. Chapmell, and continued it seven months. But the disease became *more aggravated than ever*, so that in the last attack while under homœopathy he had four fits in seven hours; and he oftener than ever was seized with deafness when no epileptic fit occurred.

They were now advised by somebody to try galvanism, and accordingly applied to Mr. Halse, of Brunswick Square, who told them that he had never known galvanism cure a case of epilepsy, and recommended that he should be mesmerised, but could not inform them of a mesmeriser.

After searching for one in vain, his parents heard of the Mesmeric Infirmary. But, on going there, they were told that he could not be received for a length of time, on account of the very large number of applications still unattended to from want of funds, the long continuance of mesmerism that epilepsy in general required, and the excessive proportion of epileptic persons who were already patients there compared with those labouring under other diseases for which mesmerism is a most successful remedy. He was therefore brought to me, and I will, in duty to him for his good feeling, quote the grateful words of this worthy youth from his own narrative of his case: "By the kind providence of God I was led to apply to yourself, (for whose great and disinterested care and kindness I return you my most sincere and humble thanks,) and from that time an improvement in my general health and a diminution of the fits took place."

I immediately made very slow passes downwards from

opposite his forehead to opposite his stomach, at the distance of five or six inches, looking steadily into his open eyes in perfect silence: and very soon his upper eyelids drooped, and he was half asleep. But I had not time to continue the process for above a quarter of an hour, and, on my leaving off, he very soon opened his eyes.

I gave him permission to come to my house every evening to be mesmerised by me with a few other patients in whose cases I took a great interest. At the end of a week he went to sleep: and I mesmerised him every evening for three months, invariably producing sleep in a few minutes. From this period, as he had to come a distance of about three miles, his mother mesmerised him every evening, with the same effect of sleep in about ten minutes, though a week elapsed when she first took my place before she completely sent him off. The other patients in my room exhibited various phenomena, peculiar in each individual: but nothing ever occurred in him beyond silent sleep; and this generally ceased of itself in about three quarters of an hour, and he could be awakened at any time by transverse contact passes on his brows or forehead.

His mother continued to mesmerise him daily for above a year, and then two or three times a week only, and she still repeats the process at this rate.

Although all the drugs used internally and externally and more or less making him suffer, especially mercury and blisters (he wisely stood out against issues,) all kinds of diet, cold shower baths, &c., had failed to do him the least good up to the very time he was mesmerised, he mended *very soon after the process was commenced*. Not only did his general health improve and become established, his habitual bilious attacks and head-aches cease, with every sign of indigestion, and he grow stronger, but the periods of the attacks became less frequent, and at each attack the fits were fewer. During the first nine months he had but four attacks, with three fits in each attack. *The last fit occurred on the 30th of November, 1851*: and he is in the enjoyment of perfect health, and has been for nearly two years.

The attacks of deafness, the fragments of fits, or imperfect fits, gradually disappeared some time after the perfect fits had ceased. In many cases the imperfect fits are cured before the perfect, and in some are entirely cured though the perfect fits cannot be subdued.

This was a cure of epilepsy with mesmerism if any cure of any disease was ever effected by any remedy. I defy our

adversaries to reject it. The disease was *simple and true* epilepsy: consisted of sudden fits of violent convulsions and insensibility, with foaming at the mouth, and, when care was not taken, with biting of the tongue, followed by deep coma. There was *no hysteria* or any other nervous affection. It had resisted all established medical treatment for three years, and certainly without any blame attaching to his medical attendants. It had resisted homœopathy for above half a year; and was worse than ever, and his digestion and general health were worse than ever, when mesmerism was commenced. Mesmerism only was employed. *Not a particle of any drug was used: nor any other remedial measure.* No change was made in his diet or mode of life. He continued to live in the same place and go to his business in the same shop—that of Mr. Simonds, ironmonger, 82, Goswell Road. He cut no teeth during the time, nor has he yet more than a small portion through of two of his wisdom teeth. No visible change occurred in his frame: none occurred in his habits or any of his functions.

No harm was done by mesmerism: no pain or even annoyance given him.

The cure began very soon after mesmerism was begun; and remains perfect to this day—a year and ten months.

Another point deserving of remark is that *no phenomena could ever be induced* beyond sleep—no sleep-waking, rigidity, catalepsy, traction, attraction, sympathy, excitement of cerebral organs or of any separate part, or local dissipation of the general mesmeric insensibility. I have known cases resist mesmerism in which endless and exquisite phenomena occurred. And the public cannot be too strongly and repeatedly told that *no sensible effect from mesmerism—not even sleep, has occurred in many cases of the best cures of diseases with mesmerism.* Diseases are frequently cured with local mesmerism only.

The last point of importance is that the remedy was continued long after the disease appeared to have been cured: that it is continued twice a week to this hour, and will be continued for a year to come.

There is no greater absurdity than to relinquish a successful remedy as soon as a disease appears cured, except the very common absurdity of relinquishing a successful remedy as soon as there is any improvement, and that of relinquishing a remedy before it has time to effect a cure. Mercury, quinine, and some other drugs, sometimes require to be given moderately, but regularly, for a year or two, before certain diseases which have thoroughly got hold of the system

can be completely eradicated. I am often obliged to enforce perfect abstinence from all fermented and distilled fluids—all drinks containing alcohol—for very many months after the cure of an inflammatory complaint; in some cases even for years: and in some cases abstinence from flesh food also.

I am certain that thousands of chronic cases occur in which a degree of inflammation exists, or may be even the entire disease, and, partly through ignorance of this fact, and partly through ignorance of the necessity of rigid and protracted abstinence, continue, and perhaps grow worse and worse—certain forms of affections of the eyes, head, throat, chest, abdomen, pelvis, and skin, gout and rheumatism,—while the patient is plagued with drugs useless in their nature, or rendered useless by the want of abstinence from alcoholic drinks, perhaps coffee and tobacco, and even from flesh food.

Indeed I am sure that the majority of mankind would be better if they never tasted alcoholic drink; would feel more comfortable and happy,* and be more vigorous in brain and muscle, (mentally and corporeally, to use common language,)—find their sleep, breathing, and digestion better, be more efficient in their occupations, and more able to regulate their passions and their tempers, so that those around them and under them would be happier, especially youth and dear young children, who would be allowed that constant happiness for which their period of existence is evidently constituted, but upon whom school-masters and mistresses, parents and servants and others, have too often no mercy, indulging their own bad

* Nothing is more wrong than to attempt to drown sorrow by stimulating drinks. I am convinced that, if I had taken alcoholic drinks and gone about all day ever so little feverish and retired to bed hot, I could not for fifteen years have borne up against the unprovoked persecution of my professional brethren,—the abuse and ridicule bestowed upon me in all the medical journals and other works and in the daily conversation of medical men among themselves and with their patients—the cessation of so many medical men to consult me in town and the provinces who previously sent for me continually and professed to regard my sagacity as superior to that of any other physician and to have the highest opinion of my knowledge and good sense—and, what is more than this cessation, their unceasing attempts to prevent my being called in when patients or their friends expressed a wish that I should be consulted,—so that my professional income was really reduced to one-third. But these were not my only nor my greatest afflictions: for a man in whose judgment and honour I had confided, and whose position, acquired by himself, I thought precluded the possibility of his being fool enough to play the rogue, occasioned me losses equal to those in my profession: and, what was worse than all, those whom I had loved from infancy and whom I could never have suspected of falsehood or malice, unexpectedly turned upon me without any provocation whatever and conducted themselves in a way which nothing but jealousy and positive mental aberration can explain. Happily, I have lived through all this, and, I am persuaded, from abstemiousness: and I trust that my sufferings will be for my benefit, so that I shall be able to say, "it is good for me that I have been afflicted."

tempers and dispositions, and forgetting while they swallow alcoholic stimulants how irritable they render themselves.

At the same time I know that some persons require a little stimulus habitually as well as food. But most of such persons would, I am persuaded, find equal benefit from stimulants which nature has provided in abundance without any alcohol in their composition—spices of all kinds, cinnamon, ginger, cloves, caraways, mustard, pepper, and endless others. Unalcoholic stimulants, while answering every purpose, induce no disease in the textures of our organs, when taken in the quantities likely to be taken by any one, and leave no exhaustion. From such stimulants I exclude narcotics, tobacco, coffee, and tea. The former is a decided poison, and its use in any mode is filthy and disgusting, and in any but the smallest quantity it occasions debility, irritability, loss of appetite, palpitation, tremors, &c., and may prevent a local inflammatory state from subsiding. Tea and coffee in moderation are innocent, but injurious if taken strong: and coffee even in moderation frequently injures the dyspeptic and those who have an inflammatory condition of any part. At the same time I know also that alcoholic stimulants are requisite in many serious diseases with exhaustion, and I frequently give wine, malt and spirituous drinks, continually and even in large quantities.

The crimes occasioned by drinking are terrific. The suffering to children and youth from the ill temper engendered by the habitual use of alcoholic drinks is also frightful. The mothers among the poor scold and cuff them from babyhood till the arrival of youth, and fathers are savage to children and youth. Tolerable tempers are made bad, and bad tempers rendered cruel, by the feverishness of alcoholic drinks. Far happier, more peaceful and moral, are the families from which they are banished. Were they generally banished, how much less crime should we have! How much happier would youth and dear children be, to whom our duties are most solemn! The youth of both sexes are disposed to goodness and affection if well treated and managed: and little children are positively heavenly beings, far superior to ourselves in moral excellence—affectionate, confiding, disposed to truth, anxious to learn everything for which their faculties are calculated. Youth and young children are, I am convinced, the most persecuted, both at home and at school and elsewhere, of all human beings.

I never go to sleep at night without a pang in reflecting upon the ignorance and unfeelingness usually displayed towards the innocent and naturally joyous young, whose

faults are chiefly the result of bad management, and who require only good example, good advice, with regularity and firmness so that they may know as much what to expect as the engineer from the fixed laws of inanimate matter or as culprits should be able in the administration of the laws of the country, without flogging, caning, even slapping, or any infliction of bodily pain—an infliction which disgraces, not to say Christianity, but civilization, and engenders bad feelings in the young victims, is *most cowardly*, is the lowest cowardice, gratifies a bad, low, brutal passion in the inflicter and renders him during his gratification as hideous and disgraced a spectacle as a drunken man. Poor dear children cannot have recourse to newspapers, cannot draw up petitions, nor can they call public meetings, or defend themselves in any way against their cowardly grown-up inflictors of blows and other barbarities, and their persecutors with needlessly sharp words and passionate scolding, heavy tasks, and other severities.* All should be done by kindness and firmness united. Because some acuteness and great verbal memory are displayed, allowance is not made for the tenderness of many of their intellectual and moral powers, of their comprehension, memory of things and time, and self-restraint: and the little failures of these from time to time in the day, like the exhaustion from time to time of their muscular strength, are never thought of. They are overtasked, and regarded far, very far, too much as not so different in powers from adult persons as they are. They are not only overworked, but taught much that is useless, especially girls: and much that they should be taught later. Girls and boys are often overdone in order to make a great show for the benefit of their instructors. They require more fresh air, relaxation, and repose than are allowed them. Children should sleep in the middle of the day till they are six years of age, and never sit up beyond an early hour in the evening.

* The custom of fagging in some of our public schools is a disgrace to the nation. It destroys the happiness of the poor little boys who ought to have the full enjoyment of what is intended to be their sunny period of existence, and injures their natural good feelings: and it works mischief upon the bigger boys who perpetrate the *low* barbarities, for it inflames the worst parts of their nature and habituates them to what is vile. When I reflect upon the number of clergymen who encourage this and corporal punishment, or who are concerned in the misappropriation of funds left by the kind-hearted for charitable and educational purposes; and reflect upon the intolerance of feeling that pervades religious society, and the absurd doctrines, fancies, and practices of so many of the numerous religious denominations which flourish here, and upon the cruelty of the medical body in opposing the spread of the blessings of mesmerism, I think England should not vaunt herself as she does upon her morality and her religion, nor regard herself so much above the cruel partizans of slavery.

Dulness of comprehension and crossness of temper and little naughtinesses are the common result of over fatigue and want of rest; and the poor child is punished when he ought only to be put to bed. We are conscious how many little things regarding health make us cross, but no allowance is made for the young. Children are every day punished as naughty when they are only ill, and perhaps very ill.* Girls are confined far too much: and in many cases allowed no other exercise than a joyless, formal walk, and that perhaps so long, to make up for its infrequency, that they are fatigued and injured rather than benefitted. Children and youth require better food, more of it, and more frequently, than is supposed by many; though they should not taste fermented drinks, except as medicines. How absurd ever to give them wine as a treat and make them feverish, when some simple, innocent, fluid would be as great a treat and they would be contented and happy with water or milk! Then children are overdosed and incessantly dosed by their mothers, nurses, or the family doctor: and not a thought is bestowed upon the torment of the poor things by giving them horridly disgusting physic. A few grains of calomel with sugar, or a little jalap in tea or weak coffee would be tasteless: but they have rhubarb or senna-tea, and frequently take other filthy medicines, to no useful purpose, two or three times a day. And how often are they mercilessly and uselessly blistered!

I see instances of fits and various nervous and other affections from exhaustion by overwork or unhappiness inflicted by hard masters, parents, and nurses. Terror is no uncommon cause of nervous affections. Refined cruelty is far more common than is supposed. Nervous affections are often not recognized, but punished as obstinate faults. St. Vitus's dance, local twitchings, debility of an arm or leg, pains, and nervous tenderness, are often supposed to be a bad habit or shammed. Momentary fits of unconsciousness that are fragments of epilepsy procure scoldings, nothing being noticed or done by the patient during the seizure, nor what was said to him during it being afterwards remembered by him. So, little paroxysms of insanity causing anger or absurdity for a few minutes or longer, and the rarer occurrence of spontaneous attacks of sleep-waking for a few minutes or longer, are often not recognized, and, if there is no subsequent recollection, the child is thought a liar and probably punished accordingly.†

* What barbarities are practised daily in public receptacles of the poor and the convicted when they are ill and declared to be shamming!

† See my former remarks upon the treatment of children in Nos. XXXIV. XXXV.

The present youth was happy in having kind parents and a kind master, and my efforts to cure him had thus no drawback. Happy was he in being spared all filthy physis and disagreeable measures: and above all for being subjected to the innocent and perfectly agreeable treatment of mesmerism, and cured, instead of having a piece of his skull sawn out and one of his carotid arteries tied by Dr. Parker at New York and of remaining uncured after all.*

V. *Examples of the great benefit of Mesmerism as a domestic remedy.* By Mr. JOHN JAMES, New Ross. In a letter to Mr. Janson. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"During the fire which consumed the Eddystone Lighthouse, near Plymouth, in the winter of 1755, Henry Hall, who was 94 years of age, but remarkably active for his time of life, had, with two other men, the charge of the Eddystone Lighthouse. About two o'clock on the morning of the 2nd of December, the fire which consumed the lighthouse broke out in the lantern. Hall, who was at the time the only man upon the watch, attempted to extinguish the fire, and, in order to reach it, had to throw water four yards higher than his head. As he was looking upwards, to see the direction and success of some water he had thrown, a quantity of molten lead fell in a torrent from the roof upon his head and face, and over his clothes, and part of it made its way through his shirt-collar, and very much burnt his neck and shoulders. From that moment he had a violent internal sensation, and imagined that a quantity of the lead had passed down his throat into his body. As the rage of the flames increased, he, with his companions, had to retire downwards, from room to room; and at ten o'clock, after the fire had been burning eight hours, some boatmen, who had come to their assistance, found them almost in a state of stupefaction, in a cave on the east side of the rock, to which they had retreated to avoid the falling of the timber, red-hot bolts, etc., upon them. The boatmen being unable, on account of the surf, to land upon the rock, threw a coil of small rope upon it. The lighthouse men laid hold of the rope, and having fastened it, one by one, round their waists, jumped into the sea, and were towed into the boat. They were immediately taken by sea to Stonehouse, near Plymouth, a distance of about fourteen miles, where Hall was attended by Dr. Spry. 'He invariably told Dr. Spry (who constantly administered the proper remedies to such burns and hurts as could be perceived) that if he would do anything effectual towards his recovery he must relieve his stomach from the lead which he was sure was within him; and this he not only told Dr. Spry, but those about him, though in a very hoarse voice; and he also said the same thing to Mr. Jeasop (the surveyor), who went to see him several times during his illness. The reality of this assertion seemed, however, then incredible to Dr. Spry, who could scarcely suppose it possible that any human being could exist after receiving melted lead into the stomach, much less that he should afterwards be able to bear towing through the sea from the

* See motto, p. 240. The *Medical Times* mentions the facts without any remark of reprobation. Such practice, where there is nothing surgical in the case, cannot be too strongly reprobated. In medical books, other instances of the abomination of taking out a piece of the skull, and of tying the carotid artery, for the cure of ordinary epilepsy, are mentioned. The gross ignorance of the nature of the disease and of all sound physiology and pathology, and the wanton cruelty of such practices, would almost disgrace the professors of medicine among the Kaffirs or the Ojibbeway Indians.

rock, and also the fatigue and inconvenience from the length of time he was in getting on shore before any remedies could be applied. The man did not show any symptoms, however, of being either much worse or of amendment, till the 6th day after the accident, when he was thought to be better. He constantly took his medicines, and swallowed many things, both liquid and solid, till the 10th or 11th day, after which he suddenly grew worse; and on the 12th day, being seized with cold sweats and spasms, he soon afterwards expired.'

"The following is the account given by Dr. Spry of the condition of the stomach:—

"'Examining the body, and making an incision through the left abdomen, I found the diaphragmatic upper mouth of the stomach greatly inflamed and ulcerated, and the tunica in the lower part of the stomach burnt; and from the great cavity of it took out a great piece of lead,' weighing 7 oz. 5 drs. 8 grs.

"On the 19th of December, 1755, Dr. Spry transmitted an account of the case to the Royal Society; 'but that learned body thinking the circumstance very unlikely and extraordinary, and, doubting the truth of it, the reading of the paper was deferred until a further elucidation was received.'

"Dr. Spry, when his word was thus doubted, made various experiments on dogs and fowls, for the sake of re-establishing his character for veracity.

"He poured molten lead, by means of a funnel, down the throat of a small dog, which had eaten nothing for twenty-four hours, and kept the dog afterwards without food or drink. The next day the dog was very brisk, and, on being killed, six drachms and one scruple of lead were found in its stomach. The stomach, Dr. Spry says, was much corrugated, but its internal coat was not excoriated.

"In another experiment, he gave a large dog half a pint of milk, and very soon afterwards poured, in the same way, molten lead down its throat. Very soon after swallowing the lead, the dog, according to Dr. Spry, ate freely of milk, as if nothing ailed him; and continued to do so daily for three days, when it was killed, being at the time very lively. Six ounces and two drachms of lead were taken from the stomach. 'The pharynx and cardiac orifice of the stomach were a little inflamed and excoriated, but the œsophagus and stomach seemed in no manner affected.'

"Dr. Spry performed similar experiments on fowls with a like result.

"Having transmitted to the President of the Royal Society an account of these experiments, and having offered further to establish, by the oaths of himself and others, the truth of the facts stated in his paper, the paper was read to the Society, and afterwards published in the Society's 'Transactions.'

"A few years ago these experiments of Dr. Spry were confirmed by other experiments made in France by M. Bretonneau.

"In one of M. Bretonneau's experiments, three ounces of boiling water were poured into the stomach of a young dog. The dog immediately uttered frightful cries, and vomited violently several times. The next day it appeared languid and oppressed, drank with avidity, but refused food. The third day convalescence commenced, and made progress up to the seventh day, when the dog was killed. The evening before its death, it caressed its master, and rolled at his feet in play. When the body was opened, the mucous membrane, the subjacent cellular tissue, and, over a large space, the muscular coat of the stomach, were found in a state of gangrene.

"In another experiment, four dogs had, each of them, eight ounces of boiling water injected into the stomach in such a way as not to injure the œsophagus. Three days afterwards, they played together, and snatched from each other food that was thrown them; and one of them lined a bitch that was confined in the same place. They were then killed; and in their stomachs were marks of injury, like those observed in the former experiment."—*Medical Times*, May 21, 1853. A Lecture by GEORGE BUNN, M.D., F.R.S.

Bannow Grammar School, New Ross,
County Wexford, April 14, 1853.

My dear Sir,—I feel exceedingly obliged by your great

kindness in sending me another number of the "valuable *Zoist*," as Mr. David Holsgrove, whom I envy the possession of "fourteen of them," in p. 29 justly styles this periodical. This number of *The Zoist* is truly, as you say, "a noble one," and must greatly tend to open the eyes of the public to view *mesmerism and its opponents* in a proper light.

I have the pleasure to inform you that I am turning to very good account in a small way the little knowledge and experience I possess, as scarcely a day passes that I do not meet with opportunities of relieving sufferers of various small ailments. I have removed pains and aches from all parts of the body; but I have most frequently to deal with head-aches and rheumatism. My exertions are not confined to the inmates of the family and the pupils of the school, but are given to persons of all classes in the neighbourhood. I have besides given advice and instructions by letter from which some benefit has arisen.

I beg leave to mention in particular a few cases which struck me from the plain and undeniable evidence they presented of the *immediate* benefit of mesmerism.

A young gentleman (Percy Julius Deverill) came to me with a sore arm. There was a *red swelling* in the fleshy part of the fore-arm, from which the inflammation extended all over the limb. The pain was excessive, and the sensibility so great that he could not bear even an article of clothing to touch any part of his arm. He stated that the complaint began with an itching sensation on the preceding day. I considered it to be the beginning of an *erysipelas*. A few passes in contact in *one minute* took away all feeling of pain except on the spot of the inflamed swelling, and I could even press on that without causing much unpleasant feeling. Again, at night, I made passes for about another minute, and that was all: there was *no return of pain, and the inflammation speedily subsided*.

Another young gentleman (George Wilson) from *chilblains* in his toes suffered the *most excruciating pain* I ever witnessed: words could not describe the agony I saw him endure. I was informed that every night after he had been a few hours in bed his torments began, which kept him *awake and crying throughout the night*. I tried the effect of mesmerism by pointing my fingers to the place, moving them round in a circle, and sometimes drawing them away with slight contact. For some time the limb continued quivering with excessive agony: but in about *five minutes the pain was quite gone*. I continued about five minutes longer, and then, with tears in my eyes and feelings of the most heartfelt pleasure, I settled

the poor patient comfortably in bed, and in a few minutes he was in a sound sleep. For some nights afterwards when the pain came on I removed it in like manner; and subsequently made a few passes each night on his going to bed in order to *prevent* the pain. On all those occasions he slept well and felt no further inconvenience.

The statements are not of so important a nature, or given in a sufficiently condensed form, to suit the pages of *The Zoist*: but I will hope that the opportunity may be allowed me at a future period to present something worthy an appearance in that publication.

I am, dear Sir,
With grateful acknowledgments,
Yours very truly,

H. U. Janson, Esq.,
Pennsylvania Park, Exeter. JOHN JAMES.

P.S. The two cases I have stated were witnessed by about twenty persons.

NOTE BY DR. ELLIOTSON.

I prefixed the motto to this article for the purpose of exemplifying the incredulity of the profession and of philosophers upon well-attested facts, and the mischief which sometimes arises from such incredulity. The mischief here was the perpetration of experiments so barbarous as to disgrace a Christian country and the medical profession, and which no society, lecturer, or author, should refer to without an expression of horror and shame. Dr. Spry might have been contented with the assertion of the truth and waited for the sure result of time. But he made his horrid experiments from sensitiveness as to his reputation. The following was prefixed to his account of them, addressed to Lord Macclesfield, then President of the Royal Society:—

“My Lord,—Your Lordship may depend upon it, that, so far from my asserting anything in the least degree uncertain; as I always have, I shall always act with so much circumspection and integrity, especially in these tender points (where my character is at stake), as to be able easily to prove, what I may assert, as in the present case, so very extraordinary, *that scarce any of the faculty* (unless particularly acquainted with me) would give credit to, till I demonstrated it by the above experiments.”—*Phil. Trans.*, 1756, vol. xlix., P. ii.

The trifling good which has arisen from barbarous medical

experiments upon living animals, compared with the torments of the poor innocent dumb creatures, makes me condemn all such experiments as disgraceful to men who make it their boast that the purpose of their life is to lessen suffering.

VI. *An account of the admission of the truth and power of Mesmerism in a standard American medical work upon the Practice of Medicine: with remarks upon the author's superficial knowledge of the subject.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"*The Sophistry of Empiricism.* pp. 84. London: 1853. This book is a very good one, and, if duly perused and pondered over, it is calculated to open the eyes of many victims to the chicanery which it exposes and denounces. It is written in a calm, argumentative spirit, and is by no means tinged with dogmatism. It attacks quackery *en masse*, and groups together mesmerism, with its subdivisions of phreno-mesmerism and clairvoyance; homœopathy, hydro-pathy, Coffinism, herbalism, bone-setting, etc., as so many species belonging to a single genus—*empiricism*, the origin of which is to be traced to the love of the marvellous and the supernatural, inherent in the human mind, the success of which is in exact proportion to the credulity of the dupes and the unscrupulousness of their deceivers.

"It is lamentable, in the present age, which boasts to be one of peculiar enlightenment, to be compelled to expose fallacies so palpable as those contained in the published works of the empiric. Notwithstanding the general diffusion of the Baconian philosophy, and in spite of the universal taste for the exact sciences, it appears as if the principles of sound reasoning were only inapplicable when applied to that science which concerns man most nearly,—namely, that which regards his own health. But we are not in despair for the cause of legitimate medicine, which will still triumph when the absurdities of quackery are consigned to the shadows and the oblivion of the past.

"The author of *The Sophistry of Empiricism* need not have been ashamed to avow his name, for he has written a work which does him very great credit, and bears internal evidence of having been composed by a member of our profession, of which he has proved himself altogether worthy, by the soundness of his views, the liberality of his mind, and the cogency and closeness of his arguments."—Mr. SPENCER WELLS, Editor of the *Medical Times*, July 23, 1853; p. 97.*

THE grave mention of mesmerism in the most recent, and by far the best, work upon the practice of medicine; the mention of its functional effects as indisputable truths—of the insensibility under the most painful surgical operations, with the other phenomena, long published in vain to the world by mesmerists—and the mention of its remedial powers, is an

* Mr. Spencer Wells, now that his patron, Lord Ducie, is dead, and he has entered into the humble service of Mr. Churchill, the bookseller, is coming out "very strong," and seems resolved to outshine Mr. Wakley. It shall not be our fault if what is intended to please the doctors is not made known to the general public. The initials of SPENCER WELLS—S. W.—are also the initials of SECOND WAKLEY. While Dr. Semple was editor between the departure of Dr. Bushnan and the entrance of S. W. into Mr. Churchill's service, there was none of this absurdity and impropriety.—*Zoist*.

event which was always foreseen by mesmerists to be inevitable, though it has occurred later than mesmerists who held too high an opinion of human nature expected. The third edition has arrived in England of a book published in Philadelphia, and entitled, "*A Treatise on the Practice of Medicine*." By George B. Wood, M.D., Professor of the Theory and Practice of Medicine in the University of Pennsylvania; President of the College of Physicians of Philadelphia; one of the Physicians of the Pennsylvania Hospital; one of the Authors of the Dispensatory of the United States of America; &c., &c." It consists of two vols. large 8vo.: the first containing 847 and the second 853 pages.

Blumenbach spoke in his *Physiology*, nearly half a century ago, of "the singular and undeniable effects attributed to *animal magnetism* and other phenomena—attributed by F. Alex. von Humboldt in 1797, and Henniker in 1800, to a kind of sentient atmosphere surrounding the nerves,—as affording a probability to the idea of a peculiar nervous fluid."—§ 225. But, notwithstanding the various demonstrations of these facts by good and truthful men, and the cures effected and painless operations performed for a long succession of years, its contemptuous rejection by nearly all the medical and surgical practitioners in public hospitals and private practice, by all the lecturers of the rising generation, and all medical journalists, up to the present hour, are notorious facts, and will stigmatize with imperishable disgrace the medical profession of the middle of the nineteenth century, who have had such opportunities of full information and proof on the subject as were never before enjoyed. There have been incessant demonstrations of all the phenomena in London and the provinces and the colonies, at which the medical men present have usually conducted themselves like men devoid of common sense and information and untrained to the proprieties of social life. There has been the quarterly publication of this *great* and *imperishable* work—*The Zoist*, for ten years and a half. There have been many able courses of lectures as well as demonstrations. Numerous excellent mesmeric works have issued from the press. There have been hundreds of surgical operations performed, many fearful and gigantic, without pain, in the sight of all who desired to witness them, and with *infinitely more success* in regard to both painlessness and recovery—painlessness of the operation and sound sleep being moreover at command at every dressing and every moment after the operation—than can be boasted of by the gross minds which were impervious to the beautiful and exquisite living pheno-

mena of mesmerism but wildly enraptured with the palpable inanimate narcotic drugs called ether and chloroform, with sounds made like other sounds by cunning tricksters upon inanimate substances, and with movements of inanimate hats and tables, taking all pains to investigate these movements, which are indeed well worthy of investigation, but not condescending to waste their time upon mesmerism, which Mr. Faraday conceitedly says is not philosophy, yet the importance of which to the sufferings of mankind makes their neglect of it equally criminal as stupid.

After treating of ordinary, spontaneous, or idiopathic, somnambulism, Dr. Wood in his second volume, p. 677, proceeds to instruct the medical world in mesmerism,—to instruct the ripe and practising, and the unripe youth who are anxious to imbibe with the confiding innocence characteristic of the young all that their elders know and declare to them to be true.

*“Artificial Somnambulism.—Animal Magnetism.—Mesmerism.—*This affection bears a close analogy to the preceding, and, though it has been observed in a much greater variety of phases, is probably identical with it. The methods usually employed to bring individuals into this state are too well known to require description. I believe that it is of very little consequence what manipulations are used, provided the mind of the patient be impressed in that peculiar manner which appears requisite to the production of the results. A steady look of the operator, with an expression of earnest conviction upon his face, as if he had that full power over the nervous system of the one acted on which he claims to have, will very often be sufficient. The subject of the operation soon begins to be sensible of a not unpleasant heaviness; the eyelids usually close; and, in a period of time varying from less than a minute to twenty minutes or more, a state of apparent sleep results. But examination shows that the condition is very different from that of ordinary sleep. Thus, a cataleptic state of one or more of the limbs will sometimes be discovered on attempting to move them; and curious phenomena in relation to the power of muscular motion, or the loss of it, may be observed. Sensation is strangely modified. The patient is often quite insensible to painful impressions; so that a tooth may be extracted, or a surgical operation performed, without perceptible uneasiness. This has been too frequently tested to admit of reasonable doubt. But, while general sensibility is thus blunted, the special senses are often more acute than in health. The slightest sound, such as generally escapes notice altogether, is heard; touch is occasionally exquisitely sensitive; and there is reason to believe that vision is remarkably acute. As in spontaneous somnambulism, it appears that all objects do not make an equally strong impression; but it is impossible to determine what principle it is that regulates this diversity of the sensorial function. The patient loses all con-

sciousness of his real situation ; but evinces in various ways considerable, and sometimes extraordinary mental activity. Present events apparently excite trains of thought, which have no relation to the actual condition of the patient, but seem to be merely successive actions of the cerebral machinery, mental vibrations as it were, necessarily following the impressions from without. Thus, an individual acquainted with craniology, upon feeling the touch of a finger upon the part of the cranium corresponding with one of the supposed organs, will often set off into a most ludicrous series of actions illustrative of the operations of that organ. A slight sound, which no one else notices, suggests a course of thought in accordance with the cause of that sound, which strikes spectators sometimes as little short of miraculous. This property of somnambulism, connected with a wonderful sharpening of the memory, so that things long forgotten, and even circumstances that at the time of their occurrence seemed to make not the least impression, are recalled vividly, accounts satisfactorily for those phenomena, which, superficially viewed, have led to the most extravagant notions as to the mysterious powers imparted by this strange condition of the nervous system. The patient may often be induced to rise and walk about the apartment, and sometimes does so spontaneously, in order to act out the course of thought with which the mind may be occupied. The actions, corporeal and mental, appear to be under the guidance of principles entirely differing from those which characterize the individual in health ; as if another spirit, with different views and feelings, had taken up a temporary residence in the body. Thus, I have seen a little girl, on all occasions diffident and even bashful in health, become in this morbid state pert and forward, joking with her elders and superiors, as if quite on a footing with them ; and this change of character uniformly took place whenever the affection was produced. Along with the nervous phenomena above mentioned, there is a change in some of the organic functions, which if there were any doubt upon the reality of the state, would of itself be sufficient evidence. The pulse is generally accelerated, and there is an increased production of moisture, which is especially observable in the hands.

“ Very different opinions have existed as to the nature and causes of this affection. Many suppose it to be a peculiar condition of the nervous system, produced by the influence of another nervous system, in a manner analogous to the electrical changes which take place, when an excited electric is placed in the near vicinity of other bodies. Now this is not altogether impossible. But I hold it to be unphilosophical to adduce a new principle in the explanation of phenomena, which admit of explanation upon principles already established. I see nothing mysterious in this magnetic or mesmeric state, as it has been called ; at least nothing more so than in hysteria, catalepsy, epilepsy, &c., in all of which there is much that we cannot understand. It is merely one of the different phases of nervous disease, and is induced by the mental condition of the indi-

vidual affected; as an attack of hysteria is often induced by a fit of vexation.

"The subjects of the disease are usually persons of nervous temperament, and generally in a position of inferiority, either physically, mentally, or by position to the operator; who, therefore, has a greater influence over their imaginations. The mysterious manipulations, the peculiarity of the occasion, the steadfast gaze of the operator, appearing as if he had no doubt of his own powers, excite in the susceptible brain of the subject a feeling of the strange, the mysterious, perhaps even of the awful, which appears to unhinge some connexion in the brain necessary to keep the nervous machinery in its due order, and causes it to work for a while in a wholly new direction. Young women and children are most easily affected; and at each successive trial the effect is, in general, more readily produced; so that at last, in certain very susceptible individuals, a look is sufficient to throw them into the magnetic state; and, indeed, the patient may fall into the state voluntarily, or spontaneously without any exercise of will. I have met with one instance in which a boy, who had been frequently acted on, was attacked with an affection in all essential respects similar, without apparent cause, and did not recover until, after two or three days of fruitless attempts by other means, a blister was at length applied over the whole scalp.

"Artificial somnambulism may sometimes be usefully employed as a remedial agent. Nervous head-aches, neuralgic pains, morbid vigilance, great restlessness, and various hysterical disorders may sometimes be removed, at least for a time, by bringing about this condition of system. The surgeon and dentist may also sometimes avail themselves of the insensibility to pain which it occasions, to perform their operations with less suffering to the patient. But, when it is understood that the person acted on is thrown into a condition, in which, while passions may be developed, control over the conduct, and the influence of habitual principle cease, the practice must strike the reflecting mind as extremely hazardous, and fraught with the possibility of so much unmitigated evil, that it can scarcely be justified as a remedy, and is altogether unjustifiable on any other score. Besides, the nervous system is rendered morbidly susceptible, and a tendency to diseases of this system consequently fostered, by the frequent repetition of the process.

"The morbid state, if left to itself, gradually subsides; but the restoration of the patient may be effected more speedily by artificial means. Among the most efficient apparently is a rapid motion of the hand near the patient, so as to bring a current of cool air in contact with the face. Probably a cup of cold water thrown upon the face would have a similar effect. In obstinate cases, it might sometimes be advisable to induce sound sleep by means of an opiate. This would imitate natural somnambulism, in which the individual, upon returning to his bed, falls asleep again, and awakes as usual in the morning. I have already mentioned one case in which a blister to the head appeared to me to be requisite."

It is curious to read Dr. Wood declaring that "the patient is often *quite insensible* to painful impressions; so that a tooth may be extracted, or a surgical operation performed, without perceptible uneasiness: *this has been too frequently tested to admit of reasonable doubt*:" yet in another place that it causes only *less pain* to be felt by the patient. Still it is gratifying to find him above the immorality, common in the profession, of denying established facts. But it is really lamentable that he should have presumed to take upon himself the mesmeric instruction of others, especially the young, who will exercise for themselves a far more important influence upon mankind than the already ripe practitioners.

"*The patient loses all consciousness of his real situation.*" This is sometimes the case, but sometimes not. I could shew Dr. Wood as many cases as he could desire in which the mesmeric sleep-waker is as perfectly acquainted with his real situation as in his ordinary state. The veriest beginner in the study of mesmerism would laugh at reading such ignorance in a university professor. I have detailed the mesmeric cures of my* own patients whom I always threw into the sleep-waking state; but all except two† were fully aware of their real situation, and conversed as reasonably in accordance with this knowledge as if they had been in their natural and ordinary condition. Nay, one among these who was insane and ignorant of her situation and all around her, became, when thrown by me into sleep-waking, perfectly sane and acquainted with her situation and all around her.‡

"*Thus, an individual acquainted with craniology, upon feeling the touch of a finger upon the part of the cranium corresponding with one of the supposed organs, will often set off into a most ludicrous series of actions illustrative of the operations of that organ.*" This is true: but not the whole truth. Not only a most ludicrous series of actions, but a most grave, and a most affecting, series of actions may be induced, sufficient to occasion deep reflection in the truly philosophical man; such manifestations of the holiest feelings of veneration, affection, benevolence, and integrity, as cause tears to trickle down the cheeks of the feeling and right-minded. Moreover, it is not necessary that the individual be "acquainted with craniology," or feel "the touch of a finger upon the part of their cranium

* Nos. III., pp. 300, 314; IV., pp. 407, 457; IX., p. 39; XI., p. 339; XIX., p. 234 and p. 240; XXIII., p. 212; XXXIV., p. 157; XL., p. 347.

† Nos. III., p. 340; VI., p. 194.

‡ No. IV., p. 435.

corresponding with one of the supposed organs." If Dr. Wood will consult Nos. V., pp. 71, 78; VI., p. 225, he will find that distinct cerebral organs may be excited by merely pointing the finger to them individually, at the distance of an inch or two, the patient's eyes being firmly closed in sleep-waking, or bandaged, and the operator standing behind his or her chair; and the operator and the patient may both be totally ignorant of *craniology*. As the third number of *The Zoist* is now to be procured with difficulty, I will not apologize for a long extract from an account by myself:—

"When therefore phrenological experiments are made in the mesmeric state, there should be no contact, nor anything which can communicate to the patient what is expected; or, if there is contact, we ought to be absolutely certain that the patient is ignorant of the nature and situation of the organs. Then, again, the power of the will of the mesmeriser probably may do much. I myself have never produced any mesmeric effect by my will. But so many persons have related experiments to me which appear satisfactory that I must admit its influence. I therefore allow that there has been extreme fallacy in the views of experimenters, and much injury to both phrenology and mesmerism: that unreal organs have been thought to be discovered, and false views taken of mesmeric influence. Still there can be no doubt of the fact of excitement and stupefaction of individual cerebral organs by mesmeric influence.

"It would be strange, were this not the case. For the brain is but an organ of the body, and its separate portions like so many separate portions of other organs. A great fault has been committed by physiologists and pathologists in not viewing the brain and its functions exactly like those of all other organs. Its composition and organization are peculiar; but still it is an animal compound and organization, has blood circulating most abundantly through it, and possesses bloodless vessels and fibres, and pulpy matter; and is of necessity subject to all the general laws of structure and function with all other organs, both in health and disease. If, therefore, other parts and portions of other parts can be excited and stupefied or relaxed by true mesmeric means—by an occult influence, it would indeed be singular if this were not the case also with the brain. If phrenology is true, and if mesmerism is true, then we might presume that individual cerebral organs would in many mesmeric patients be acted upon like the individual parts of an extremity or the individual organs of sense; but not in all, because we cannot affect every other organ or every portion of every other part, at pleasure, in every patient. To be certain that the effects on the cerebral organs result from mesmeric agency, I conceive,—

"1. That the subject should have no means of knowing what is intended; that not a word should be uttered or anything done which could by the slightest possibility suggest to him the expectation of the operator. There should not even be contact over any organ,

unless it is known with *absolute* certainty that he is totally unacquainted with phrenology. Thus will suggestion, association, imagination, be prevented from acting.

"2. The operator should will nothing: he should, if possible, not know to what cerebral organ he is pointing, that the will may be prevented from acting.

"If the subject is ignorant of the cerebral organs, or ignorant of the spots over which the influence is being exerted, and the operator does not will or know what organ he is influencing and the established faculty is excited always, or as often as any other mesmeric effect, or a vital effect of any kind from any cause is produced, I should consider the proof complete.

"Now these conditions I have seen fulfilled times innumerable.

"1. In some subjects, I or any one else can mesmerise distinct cerebral organs without any contact, but by merely pointing to the organ behind the subject's back, the subject being in perfect somnambulism with the eyes closed and bandaged. If it is said that the subject can feel the temperature of the finger, I reply that this is very unlikely through the hair; that the effect ought to come at once, as when there is contact, whereas it comes slowly, not perhaps for one, two, or more minutes; and that the temperature of the finger of the operator is the same as that of the subject's head. I have breathed with my warm breath and blown upon or held very cold substances close to the head of patients, far more sensible of temperature than in the natural state, so that they felt the cold or warmth, though they had no sense of touch, but without effect; and the moment there has been contact, the organ has gone into action. Again,—some of these very patients have not believed that anything was touching their head, while it was touched, and the effect came. Sometimes the effect lasts some time after you have ceased to point at or touch over an organ; and sometimes the effect of the manipulation comes on very slowly. If time is not taken, but the operator hurries on to manipulate another organ, the effect may continue while he is thus engaged, or may not come on till he is so engaged; and thus there will be confusion, and he may pronounce that the experiments have failed. This is common in mesmeric experiments on other parts, and was one cause of poor Mr. Wakley's blunders, when he presumptuously made experiments and drew conclusions in perfect ignorance of the science.

"These effects have as regularly ensued, when I ascertained to a certainty that the subjects were not aware what cerebral organs were manipulated; and in other subjects in whom contact is requisite I carefully ascertained the same ignorance to exist, before I first made any experiments upon them.

"2. My will has hitherto been powerless in all mesmeric experiments. I have never yet accomplished *anything* in mesmerism by it alone. However long and strongly I have willed, I have hitherto done nothing without the eye, manipulation, contact or approximation with respect to the subject, or some substance afterwards brought into contact with or approximation to him, or by the breath or saliva, which are substances originally in contact with

oneself. Nay, I have never satisfied myself that I have increased the power of other proceedings by the most intense will, or impaired the result from not willing at all. A daily proof that the will is not the great cause of mesmeric effect is, that their varieties come out in different subjects quite unexpectedly; and when persons manipulate who know so little of the matter as not to comprehend what they find themselves produce.

"I have willed the excitement of distinct cerebral organs, but always in vain. I have looked intently at the situation of distinct cerebral organs, and willed powerfully, but always in vain. In mesmerising distinct cerebral organs, I have willed nothing; but talked and thought of other things and looked carelessly in other directions; and the effect has come as soon and as perfectly as when I willed to the utmost at the same time.

"The inefficiency of the will was strikingly shewn in one of my cases. I had a patient, an epileptic young gentleman, in whom I could excite certain faculties by breathing on the respective organs. I had another, an epileptic young lady, in whom I could excite them by contact or pointing. Finding that result in him, I attempted to excite them by breathing on them in her; but always in vain, though I have often breathed till I was nearly spent. On the contrary, when they are excited, breathing instantly stupefies them as it does in all my other subjects excepting him.

"Again; in her I touched over or pointed to the organs, expecting to find the manifestation resemble that in other subjects; but soon found that I affected the side only of the brain at which I manipulated. I could scarcely believe my eyes; but I found that if I took her hands in one of mine, and manipulated one organ of Pride, the corresponding hand only was forcibly withdrawn from mine; and if I manipulated one organ of Friendship, the corresponding hand only squeezed mine violently and carried it up to her bosom. To my further astonishment I discovered that the two halves of her brain would act oppositely at the same moment:—that if I took both her hands in mine, and pointed to the organ of Pride on one side and of Friendship on the other, the one hand would be forcibly withdrawn from mine, and the other carry my hand to her bosom, at the very same moment. So far from willing all this, I was taken quite by surprise. Yet such is always the case in her.

"One day I was shewing these facts to a friend and pointed to one organ of Pride. We began to converse earnestly and I to look at him and almost forget my patient. To my surprise, the hand of the side opposite to that in which lay the organ to which I had begun pointing was violently withdrawn from mine. But I presently found that, from not attending to what I was about, I had unconsciously moved my finger over the middle line of the head, and that it was actually pointing to the organ of the other side.

"When Dr. Engledue was with me one day, and she in mesmeric sleep with her eyes closed in a high chair, I took her hands and sat looking at them only; he stood behind her chair, looked the other way, and pointed at random to what he guessed might be the situa-

tion of one organ of Pride. Presently, *both* her hands were violently withdrawn from mine. We looked at her head, and found that Dr. Engledue who, it turned out, had pointed with two fingers, had by a strange chance pointed exactly over the middle line, so that a point of a finger was over *each* organ of Pride.

"After a number of mesmeric experiments, a patient often becomes altogether insusceptible of more of that kind; sometimes insusceptible of all mesmeric impressions; so that he remains wide awake, and fatuitous and delirious for a longer or shorter time. Experiments with mesmerised metals after frequent repetition during an hour or two will often utterly fail. By waiting a little, sometimes they will act again; but if the experiments have been numerous, they may not act again during that day. Ignorance of this was another source of poor Mr. Wakley's ridiculous conclusions. Now this holds good respecting the cerebral organs. After many experiments, no more mesmeric impression may be possible. But a curious occurrence took place in my patient whose organs can be excited separately in either half of the head. I had accidentally made my experiments on one half of the head only, and, after complete success, I could produce no farther effect,—the organs I had acted upon ceased to be impressible. I then began with the organs of the other side, and all my experiments succeeded as beautifully as they had done on the exhausted side. This is a perfect argument against those who would explain the ultimate failure of mesmeric experiments by the fatigue of the patient's volition.

"Again, persons totally ignorant of phrenology, and even of the reason of their pointing or touching, produce the effects. After the experiment with Dr. Engledue just related, he and myself put a minute piece of paper over each organ of Pride, and I desired a man-servant, who was perfectly ignorant of phrenology, to come into the room, stand behind her chair, and point with one finger over either of the pieces of paper he chose. I took both her hands in mine, and Dr. Engledue and myself looked aside, carefully avoiding to see to which organ of Pride the man was pointing. At length one of her hands withdrew forcibly from mine; we looked at her head, and found the man pointing to the organ of the same side. The experiment was repeated with the same result. The man does not to this hour know why he was desired to point. The patient, too, was as ignorant of phrenology as the man, and, perfectly ignorant of what we were doing.

"Just as the point of the nose is often more susceptible than any other spot covered by skin, I have often found the point of the operator's nose act more rapidly than the points of his fingers in producing the ordinary mesmeric effects; and so have I found it in her with respect to the cerebral organs. This shews a peculiarity of influence, and yet what is done by contact of the operator's fingers over the cerebral organs can be done by contact with other things, though less vigorously. In all my cases I can excite the cerebral organs by the contact of a paper cutter or the corner of a book. Whether this could be done in subjects whose cerebral organs have

not been previously excited by contact of the fingers I am ignorant. It cannot be urged that any thing is conveyed from the operator's hand through the substances held by him, because, if he moves the patient's head so that the situation of the organ shall be brought against any hard body, the effect occurs as readily as if a hard substance is brought into contact with the head. But I have never been able to produce effects by *pointing* with any thing else than the living body. Mr. Atkinson observed the effect of such contact of inanimate subjects long before I did, and ascribes it to the sympathy of the brain with the pressed surface."

"Sometimes just as persons who have been mesmerised with effect can have such local effects induced as rigidity or palsy of the extremities, without being brought into the general mesmeric state, so distinct cerebral organs of those who have been mesmerised with effect can, it appears, be excited by local mesmerisation in the natural state."

"*The actions, corporeal and mental, appear to be under the guidance of principles entirely differing from those which characterize the individual in health; as if another spirit, with different views and feelings, had taken up a temporary residence in the body. Thus, I have seen a little girl, on all occasions diffident and even bashful in health, become in this morbid state pert and forward, joking with her elders and superiors, as if quite on a footing with them.*" This change often happens, and is recorded by me in my pamphlet on *Surgical Operations without Pain* and in many parts of *The Zoist*—the patient acting naturally and not conventionally, displaying his true character, and his true opinions respecting those whom he addresses and upon all subjects, without the concealment which renders our behaviour in society so much acting. Still, proper reserve is frequently observed in the sleep-waking state, and it is often impossible to extract any particular information: and the difference from the ordinary state may be too slight for a stranger to discover; possibly there may sometimes be no perceptible difference.

Dr. Wood wrote evidently from very limited experience and reading. The expression, "as if another spirit had taken up a temporary residence in the body," can, I trust, be meant as only figurative—as the ordinary shallow language of society. Every case, not to say of insanity, but of slight deviation from the ordinary condition of the feelings and voluntary muscular movements, totally unconnected with mesmerism or spontaneous somnambulism, might as reasonably be thought to look as if "*another spirit had taken up a temporary residence in the body.*" The whole is mere functional change in various portions of the nervous organs: and

this must be Dr. Wood's view, for further on he rationally says, "I see nothing mysterious in this magnetic or mesmeric state; nothing more so than in hysteria, catalepsy, epilepsy, &c., in all which there is much that we cannot understand. It is merely one of the different phases of nervous disease."

But when he adds to the words nervous disease, "*and is induced by the mental condition of the individual affected*," he is displaying great want of information: as he likewise does when continuing in the same strain, "The subjects of the disease are usually persons of nervous temperaments, and generally in a position of inferiority, *either physically, mentally, or by position to the operator; who, therefore, has a greater influence over their imaginations. The mysterious manipulations . . . excite in the susceptible brain of the subject a feeling of the strange, the mysterious, perhaps even of the awful, which appears to unhinge some connexion in the brain necessary to keep the nervous machinery in its due order, and causes it to work for a while in a wholly new direction.*" Here again we have the "vulgar error" of ignorantly fancying that all mesmeric effects are produced through imagination. This has been so abundantly refuted in *The Zoist* that to refute it again may be to weary and disgust our readers. Whoever writes thus shows himself ignorant of the most elementary facts of mesmerism. So recently as October, 1851, Mr. Sandby furnished *The Zoist* with an able article, entitled, *The Westminster Review, and its doctrine of Imagination examined*.

"*The Westminster Review*," he remarks, "professes to be the friend of progress, to advocate improvement, and to be the foe of prejudice in every branch of physics. How is it, then, that a journal with such soaring pretensions should forget its principles and desert its standard? How is it that the good of the people should be forsaken, and the advancement of knowledge laid aside or resisted? or rather, how is it that the editor can permit an ignorant and shallow writer* to foist his crude opinions upon the public, and to reiterate, as a settled point, the *crambe repetita* of obsolete and refuted fancies? The very character of the journal is at stake."

Persons are every day sent to sleep by mesmeric means, and into sleep-waking too, who are not aware of what is doing or that anything is doing; and some who never heard of mesmerism and do not know what the term means.

"Foissac," says Mr. Sandby, "mentions the case of a child, aged 28 months, who was placed in somnambulism. In the Fifth

* Are not the initials of this writer's name H. S. ? and is he not discernible in antimesmeric remarks in a newspaper as well as in a review ?—*Zoist*.

Volume of *The Zoist*, is an account of a blind gentleman being mesmerised, when there was no possibility of his being aware of it. Children are easily mesmerised: and some deaf and dumb persons have also been thrown into the sleep, though not cognizant of what was going on.

"Will these sage reasoners, also, reject the evidence presented by the brute creation? Miss Martineau's good but 'unimaginative cow,'—Mr. Bartlett's bull,—the Duke of Marlborough's dogs,—and the animals at the Zoological Gardens, whom Dr. Wilson (late of the Middlesex Hospital) mesmerised? Or are these facts beneath the study of our sublime and philosophical opponents?

"A curious case happened to a medical friend of mine—a most determined sceptic,—whom I had long, and in vain, endeavoured to convince. He proposed to mesmerise the servant-girl of a lodging-house, where an acquaintance resided. 'Let me try and put you to sleep,' he said. She stoutly refused. 'Sleep!' she cried, 'I don't want to go to sleep, I want to go to my work, I'm after my work!' However, they insisted, and commenced operations: she was in the deepest coma almost immediately, without time being given for 'fixing the attention;' while her imagination was all the other way, being directed to her work, for the neglect of which she was fearful of being scolded. My friend said that so deep was her sleep and so insensible her condition, that he could have performed upon her the most serious operation without her knowledge. It need not be added, that my friend ceased to be sceptical and to talk any more of 'imagination.'

"However, I do not propose to give an elaborate treatise on this subject, but simply to offer to the Westminster Reviewer a *prima facie* case in reply to his reasonings. It is for him to follow this statement out: at any rate, it would be but decent in him to assume that mesmerisers are far too numerous and too well informed a body, not to have well considered their position before they adopted such language in the maintenance of their views."

Hundreds must have seen the Okeys, at the period of their highest susceptibility, sent off, when chattering with the greatest glee, by a single pass made at a distance, and behind them, when their perception of it was physically impossible.*

Sleep is not sleep-waking, and yet the *latter* is produced by the same processes. But there may be more than this.

For the *various wonderful phenomena* of mesmerism may take place without the patient thinking of them or even ever having heard of them, and even when the operator is not thinking of them.* The imaginationists forget all this.

* In great susceptibility coma often unexpectedly occurs from the continued, unintended and unnoticed contact of the head or hand, &c., of the patient with any part of the operator, even should the patient be a child. The removal of pain by local mesmerism is the same fact on a small scale—an effect of the torpyfying influence of mesmerism.

"Dr. Esdaile," also says Mr. Sandby, "in his admirable work, p. 41, mentions his first mesmeric experiment in India,—where imagination was also out of the question. The points to notice were the purely accidental and unpremeditated nature of the experiment, the want of consent between the parties, the operator's want of belief in his own power, and the absolute ignorance of the patient. Dr. Esdaile has recently arrived from India, and is now in Scotland: here is a physiologist for Dr. Bennett to encounter, if he be willing. Has the Westminster Reviewer studied Dr. Esdaile's facts and his *Mesmerism in India*? and if he have not, is he competent to write on the subject?"

"Dr. Esdaile's experiments with the ignorant natives of India reminds me of a case which is probably new to most of your readers, and well worthy of perusal. I received it from my valued friend, Captain John James, of Littlebourne, Kent: and it was communicated to him in a letter from a friend, of which the following is an extract:—

"I feel sure you will be interested in one part of a letter I had yesterday from Charles in Van Diemen's Land. A few only of the Aborigines remain in the colony, and these are now located at a place called Oyster Cave, and put under the special care of Dr. M. Shortly before he wrote, Charles had accompanied Dr. M. in a ride to this station, which is twenty-three miles from Hobarton, and their conversation, as they rode, turned on mesmerism, on which the doctor was very sceptical. They passed the night at the station, and the next morning Charles, wishing if possible to convince his companion that there was something in it, selected one of the female natives, and proposed to Dr. M. himself to mesmerise her, shewing him how to proceed. The doctor agreed, and the woman passed readily into the state of trance. Pricking her hand had no effect upon her: but, Charles taking her hand and making the savages prick him, she immediately withdrew her hand and rubbed it as if in pain. A dog's paw was put into her hand, and the animal's ear pinched, when she immediately began rubbing her own ear, and seemed greatly distressed. Charles, holding her hand, put some honey in his mouth, when Dr. M. asked her what she tasted, and she said, "sugar." He then put a quantity of salt in his mouth, when she made all sorts of faces and seemed almost inclined to vomit. The natives looked on with awe, and Dr. M.'s scepticism was shaken."

"I should, indeed, think that the doctor's scepticism was shaken: and so will be the scepticism of every other doctor, who will venture to look at our facts. However, the point to notice here is this: in what way were the passes 'useful in communicating suggestive ideas' to an ignorant untaught savage?"

Dr. Gregory also furnished an able paper on the theory of imagination as explanatory of mesmerism in No. XXXVII., and I appended a note to it, remarking that, though very

* See, for instance, community of taste, &c., in Mrs. Newing, No. XIX., pp. 238, 243, &c.

able, it is calculated for the backward inhabitants of Edinburgh rather than for the English, who are very far in advance of them in mesmeric science. Dr. Gregory urges, 1. That persons of the most lively imagination are the least impressible to mesmerism. 2. That in the occurrence of many phenomena no appeal is made to the imagination: persons in common sleep being very susceptible,* sleeping children and brutes being strongly affected by simple gazing, and the report of the French Academy of Medicine† admitting in 1831 that physical mesmeric effects are produced without the knowledge of the patient and asserting that the theory of imagination is quite inadequate to explain mesmerism. 3. That persons who have been mesmerised, and have become very susceptible, are very commonly sent to sleep without their knowledge. 4. That blind persons may be sent to sleep without their knowledge. Dr. Esdaile gives an instance of a blind man whom he could at any time throw into the coma without any idea that he was acted on, and this, not only through a wall, but at the distance of 80 yards.‡ 5. Mesmeric sleep-waking, being identical with spontaneous somnambulism, in various persons exhibits various powers unknown to their natural state,—the power, for example, of distinguishing water mesmerised or subjected to the influence of a magnet, crystal, &c. 6. The perception of luminous emanations from magnets, crystals, the human face, hands, and breath, and even in some degree from all natural objects. 7. Sympathy of sensation with other persons. 8. The peculiar disagreeable effects of the proximity of certain individuals and inanimate objects *unseen*, which occasion antipathy, and which therefore must send forth some influence. 9. The peculiar effect of certain metals when it is impossible for the sleeping patients to know what they are, or are even led to suppose that they are other metals which do not affect them. 10. Clairvoyance as to objects which from their situation or concealment are invisible. 11. Clairvoyance as to very distant persons and objects. 12. Clairvoyance in the form of introvision.

Mr. Sandby, in a truly admirable article in No. XL. upon some portions of Sir Henry Holland's *Chapters on Mental Physiology*, makes this writer appear extremely silly in his vain and worldly attempts to explain all mesmeric phenomena by expectant attention.

Mesmerists need not be reminded of the power of imagi-

* See No. IX., p. 48.

† Mr. Colquhoun has published it in his *Isis Revelata*. See also No. I., p. 63.

‡ See No. XVII., p. 5.

nation. They are all much better acquainted with it than are their adversaries. "Throughout *The Zoist* I have stated my conviction of the power of imagination being marvellous, far greater than is generally conceived by medical men; and that, if a mesmeric effect has been once produced—an effect of unquestionable mesmeric agency,—we cannot be sure, when it recurs, even under mesmeric processes, that it is not the result of imagination if the patient is aware of mesmeric means being employed in order to induce it."*

"The nervous system is rendered morbidly susceptible, and a tendency to diseases of this system consequently fostered by the frequent repetition of the process." This is no more objectionable in mesmerism than the ill-managed use of any medicine or measure of regimen. During fifteen years of ample experience I have never done any harm with mesmerism; although in some cases I have seen that, without the proper amount of regulation which is requisite in all treatment of disease, the patient would have been inconvenienced.

"I have met with one instance in which a boy, who had been frequently worked on, was attacked without apparent cause with an affection in all essential respects similar, and did not recover until after two or three days of fruitless attempts by other means; a blister was at length applied over the whole scalp." If Dr. Wood had continued to wait and prevented all access of the mesmeriser to the lad and omitted the blister, the effects would to a certainty have ceased just as well, and the poor child been spared the barbarity of the blister to the whole scalp. The truth would have been *"cunctando restituit rem."* In another such instance, I advise Dr. Wood to refrain from practising in a case for which he is incompetent, and to send for a person thoroughly acquainted with mesmerism.

"In obstinate cases it might sometimes be advisable to induce sound sleep by means of an opiate. This would imitate natural somnambulism, in which the individual, upon returning to his bed, falls asleep again, and awakes as usual in the morning." In such cases also waiting is sure to be followed by success: and the state is sure to wear itself out. No opium or other drug is required, any more than "a blister to the whole scalp" in the other circumstances. Dr. Wood sees, however, the proper plan of action in the induction of sleep.

Mesmerists in such cases diligently use all the mesmeric means of deepening coma; and at last invariably succeed. When they have succeeded, the sleep is most refreshing, and followed by activity and buoyancy; not, like the sleep of opium, by thirst, feverishness, head-ache, costiveness, heaviness, or some of the disagreeable effects of which we are daily compelled to hear patients complain after a dose of this drug.

"Nervous head-aches, neuralgic pains, morbid vigilance, great restlessness, and various hysterical disorders may sometimes be removed, at least for a time, by bringing about this condition of system." But when it is understood, that the person acted on is thrown into a condition, in which, while passions may be developed, control over the conduct, and the influence of habitual principle cease, the practice must strike the reflecting mind as extremely hazardous, and fraught with the possibility of so much unmitigated evil, that it can scarcely be justified as a remedy." "Removed at least for a time!" The cures with mesmerism are as permanent as those by any of the measures employed in medicine. If Dr. Wood had studied all the volumes of *The Zoist*, as was his duty, before he published his last edition, and as is the duty—the solemn duty—of every writer upon the practice of medicine and surgery, and every teacher, eye, and practitioner, he would have escaped the vulgar error which suggested that remark.

In 1845 I incidently wrote:*

"Through this perseverance with mesmerism, not one of my own similar cases has suffered a relapse. Hannah Hunter (Vol. I., p. 300) and Maria Pearsey (p. 427) remained ever afterwards perfectly free from their complaints, and died at length of consumption. Master Salmon (p. 314), Mrs. Brett (p. 329), Elizabeth Kell (p. 334), Miss Cohen (p. 335), Miss Melhuish (p. 429), Mary Grimes (p. 453), Miss Spong (p. 457), Miss Critchley, now Mrs Hall (Vol. II., p. 42), Miss Barber (p. 194), Miss Abbott, now Mrs. Brooks (Vol. III., p. 39), have had no sort of relapse to this day. Except what are in this number, I have recorded no kind of cases mesmerised by myself besides four cases of St. Vitus's dance; Vol. I., p. 195, Vol. III., p. 281), and not one of these has suffered a relapse since I published them: nor recorded any case mesmerised under my direction, except two of St Vitus's dance and three of insanity, and in none of these have I heard of a relapse."

I can repeat these assertions in September, 1853, and make it in reference to every other case which I have subsequently recorded. He would also have learnt that diseases are cured

* No. XI., p. 354.

every hour with mesmerism without bringing about this condition of system. Rheumatism, neuralgia, ulcers, &c., &c., yield to local mesmerism. As to the patient being thrown into a condition in which passion may be developed, self-control and habitual principle be lost, and there being extreme hazard or the state being *fraught* with the possibility of *unmitigated* evil, why, bless the poor professor! when a doctor is called in, his doings may be extremely hazardous and fraught with the possibility of unmitigated evil. He may bleed, and physic, and mercurialize, and insist upon low diet, and give stuporifica when he ought to do none of these things, and may cause the patient to grow ten times worse and, at last, to die. He may give meat, strong soup, wine, brandy, or porter when these are all pernicious. He may give bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter: and moreover may torment the patient, perhaps a little innocent sensitive child, with useless blisters, moxas, issues, setons, fiery liniments, incessant nauseous draughts, and cruelly harass the poor creature who is unfortunately in his power through poverty, or, as is very common among all ranks, through ignorance of his incapacity,—an ignorance which renders innumerable patients infatuated with the grossest blockheads who were ever licensed to practise and do mischief "*impune per totam terram.*" Such objections are absolute twaddle. I have seen none of this *fabricated* mischief of mesmerism. I say fabricated; because I believe that doctors who make these objections generally know better, and are playing a worldly part, which they regard as sagacious, but which high-minded men despise.

Let Dr. Wood visit our Mesmeric Infirmary, and let him examine the case books from their beginning, and see if any of his ridiculous objections are justified. He will discover no ill effects, moral or medical. He will find all proceeding quietly, decently, and in order; ladies of the highest characters superintending the most respectable female mesmerisers of women and children; and everything just as satisfactory in the men's rooms. Visitors, both ladies and gentlemen, from all parts of the country and of the globe, are there daily, and all on leaving it express the highest gratification.

Mesmerism is too strong a fact, and too surpassing a measure of relief and cure, and of cure in a far greater variety of diseases than those in Dr. Wood's meagre list, not to overpower all the selfishness, all the twaddle, and all the malice of the combined forces of the various divisions of the medical profession in all countries.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

VII. *Captain Hudson's successful labours:—Cures of Inflammation, Stammering, Rheumatism, Head-ache, Deafness, Fits, Palsy.*

"MEDICAL REFORM.

"To the Editor of the Daily News.

"Sir,—Your excellent endeavours to further the cause of medical reform have met a hearty response in various parts of England, where your paper is perused with much interest. Chancery and the dock-yards have undergone a fumigation which will make them smell sweet for some time. But is there any one to put a long brush into the cobwebs of the College of Surgeons and College of Physicians?—the great encouragers now of illegitimate practice, and the great sources of all the evils that beset the profession, and through it the health of the public. Lord Aberdeen and Lord Palmerston have given the question much consideration, and now, if they wish to give the utmost satisfaction to all the better-thinking portion of the profession, they will introduce the measure of Sir Charles Hastings, and allow it a free discussion in the House of Commons and House of Lords. If it be given up for another year, the most dire cruelty will be practiced on hundreds of young medical men who have no earthly means of competing with the plague of 'table movers,' *mesmerists*, homeopaths, caloripathists, coffinites, &c., that like locusts are now eating up the practice that should for public benefit belong to the properly educated man—the education of the latter costing him in apprenticeship, hospitals, &c., fully £1,000; the education of the quacks simply a large amount of impudence and want of principle.

"Yours, &c.,

A PHYSICIAN.

"May 25, 1853."*

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ZOIST.

June 1st, 1853.

GENTLEMEN,—I am happy to have it in my power to send you an account of my past labours and abundant success in the cause of curative mesmerism.

In Lancashire and Yorkshire I have given 318 lectures; often to large audiences: in Rochdale from the first I have given 60 lectures; in Todmorden, 17; in Hebden Bridge, 4; in Halifax, 22.

In the latter town I operated upon several persons for cure. One was Mr. Denton, chemist and druggist, who had suffered severely from the *bite of a rabid cat*. His hand was very much swollen and in severe pain, so that he could not use it. After three sittings he could use it and write nearly as well as he ever did. Since that time he has enjoyed good health, and we have corresponded together.

I had another case in the same town; that of a boy whom I cured of *stammering*. I had him on the platform several times before the public.

In Bradford I gave 12 lectures in the Mechanics' Institute. In Liverpool I gave 46 lectures in the Concert Hall

* We have a right to expect better things of the *Daily News* than the admission of such a letter as this.—*Zoist*.

and Assembly Rooms. In Preston, Lancashire, I gave 26 lectures in the Corn Exchange Rooms.

In this town many persons received benefit. I put four persons who were deaf and dumb into the mesmeric state, three of whom heard me speak; one acted under the influence of music, and one spoke twice; many others also received much benefit.

In Ormskirk I gave 6 lectures; in Bury 28 lectures in the Athenæum, and generally had large attendances, and several persons were operated on for various diseases. At Blackburn I gave 44 lectures in the theatre, which was sometimes crowded to excess.

In this town a large number of persons were operated on for cure, there being 180 in all on the books. Among the number are the following:—James Council, who writes, “I have been afflicted in my *right arm for two years and a half, so that I have not been able to work for my family.* W. H. Hornby, Esq., late Mayor of Blackburn, gave me recommendations at two different times to go into the Manchester Infirmary, where I was for *eighteen weeks*, including both. I was discharged as incurable. Since that time I have been in the greatest distress, for want of means to provide for my family. I applied to Captain Hudson; he mesmerised my arm until I had the power of *raising it to my head under the first operation*,—a thing I had not done for two years and a half before. I continued to gain strength ever since, and *can now lift two 56-pounds weights, and work for my family.* I give this statement truthfully; and Captain Hudson may make what use of it he thinks proper for the good of mesmerism, and the great blessing to be derived from it.

“30, Knuzsden Brook, Shadworth, Blackburn.”

Miss E. Keneally, of Nova Scotia, Blackburn, had a *gathering* in her face for two years. After being mesmerised by me for *one month*, is now *cured*. She was several times on the platform at my lectures in the sleep.

Mr. Thomas Woodburn, of Cross Street, Blackburn, had been afflicted with *rheumatism for eighteen months*; after being operated on for *five weeks* is now *perfectly cured*. He appeared before the public, shewing what benefit he had received from mesmerism.

Mr. George Ellison, Chapel Street, Blackburn, had received a *severe bruise* in the head, and had suffered very much from it for *three years*. After being operated upon for *six weeks* is now *quite restored to health*.

Mr. William Thornbrough, of Chapel Green, Blackburn,

had been suffering from a violent *head-ache* for *nine years*. After being operated on for *two weeks* is now enjoying *perfect health*, and freedom from pain.

Miss Mary Ann Lofthouse, Old Square, Blackburn, had been suffering from *pain in the head* (arising from nervous debility) for *three years*; after being operated on for *three weeks* is now *cured*.

Mr. J. Alston had been *deaf* for *six years*. After being operated on for *six weeks* has now *completely recovered his hearing*.

Miss Ann Baron, of Brookhouse, Blackburn, subject to *fits* for *nine years*, *several in a day*; after being mesmerised for *six weeks*, she is now entirely free from them. Since that time she has been in public, and up to this date (June 5th), now nearly four months, she has *not had a fit* or the least symptoms of one, and is now enjoying *good health*.

During my visit to Blackburn I had sometimes eighteen females and twenty males mesmerised all at once on the public stage; many of them patients upon whom I was operating for the cure of disease. I had the attendance of clergymen, doctors, magistrates and manufacturers. On some occasions numbers had to return home for the want of room. No public opposition was manifested. The question has now become settled, as to its truth and general utility. During my stay I gave a benefit for the Mechanics' Institute, which was numerously attended.

At Bolton-le-Moor I gave a second course of eight lectures in the Temperance Hall, which were all well attended, and got several subjects out of the audience. One young person I found enjoying good health I had operated upon previously to this visit, about eighteen months before, for *fits*; although she used to have four or five fits per day, she *has not had one since*.

I had the pleasure of seeing the man who was cured of lock-jaw, by Mr. J. Hughes, mentioned in *The Zoist* of January 1853. He has had *no return* of it, and is now working for his family. In Rochdale I gave eight more lectures this year, where I had been so successful last. During my stay I operated on Miss Mary Shepherd, who had been afflicted for *four years* with *inflammation in the nose and face*. She had been under *five doctors* in the above town, and *all had failed* to cure her. She had quite lost all hopes of being cured until she tried mesmerism. I put her into the sleep several times, to the astonishment of herself and friends, and now she is *quite relieved* and free from pain. She used the mesmerised water very often, from which she received much benefit. She now enjoys health and comfort in her mind.

At Ashton-under-Lyne I have just finished a course of twenty-eight lectures to very numerous audiences. During my stay there I had above a hundred persons applying to me to try them for the cure of all kinds of complaints. Some of these I may mention. Mary Ann Johnson, from Duckenfield, with very *sore eyes*. She came on the platform from the audience under the influence; afterwards I operated on her in private, and gave her mesmerised water to drink. In a few days she came back to me quite cured.

Mr. Bullock had been afflicted by palsy, so that he *lost the use of his right arm and side*, and could not walk without a stick. After a few times mesmerising he *lifted his arm on his head, took his hat and put it on*, to the astonishment of all his friends, and *left off the use of his stick*. He is well known to the inhabitants of the town.

Sidney Herbert, a young man 16 years of age, who had had an *impediment in his speech for many years*, so that I could not well understand him, after being mesmerised a few times before a large audience, answered questions *fluently* to the great surprise of his friends, who confirmed the fact of his cure by their previous knowledge of his affliction.

In conclusion I may observe that clergymen of the town attended my lectures very often, and verified many of the cases I brought forward.

There is another person who has been cured. He lost the use of both his arms two years and a half ago by *rheumatic pains*. His medical attendant, — Cosgrave, M.D., Staleybridge, sent him to me. The following certificate has been given to me from a benefit society about the man.

“Staleybridge, July 23rd, 1853.

“Sir,—This is to certify that Isaac Yates is a member of our lodge, and has received 90 weeks' sick pay from our society; and we return you our thanks for the benefit he has received at your hands, hoping you will prosper in your undertaking.

“I remain yours on behalf of the society,

“JOHN HAMPDEN WILD, *Secretary.*”

Hoping I have not given too long an account, but feeling assured the cause in the hands of Providence will continue to be a great blessing to the community at large,

I subscribe myself,

H. HUDSON.

6, Nile Street, Liverpool.

VIII. *Popular Letters on the Odic Force, and on Magnetism.*

By BARON REICHENBACH. Translated by William Gregory, M.D., F.R.S.E., Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh.

(Continued from the last number.)

LETTER VI.

The Human Frame considered in reference to Od.

You have seen that when I place my right hand in the left hand of a sensitive, an agreeable coolness is produced; but that when I do the same with my left hand, an unpleasant sensation of warmth is excited. This may be inverted, and the grateful coolness produced by placing my left hand in the sensitive's right, while my right hand in the right hand of the sensitive, causes the disagreeable warmth. Here we have a law; namely, that the contact of like-named hands (left in left, right in right) is warm and unpleasant, while that of unlike hands (right in left or left in right) is cool and pleasing. Let me now beg you to recall the remark in my first letter, that there are people who dislike the taking of their hands by others, and tear away their own if held for some time. Now we usually hold out our right hands on both sides, and therefore have contact of like-named hands, which is warm and unpleasant, and becomes painful, and at last intolerable to the sensitive, who break the contact by tearing away their hands.

Take a step farther: place your right fingers on the left arm, shoulder, axilla, temple, loin, knee, foot, or points of the toes of a sensitive, and everywhere it will be felt gratefully cool. These are all contacts of unlike-named parts. The same results follow, if you use your left fingers on the right side of the sensitive; for these are also combinations of unlike-named parts. But if you make the same trials on the left side of the sensitive with your left fingers, or on the right side with your right fingers, in every case the sensation will be unpleasantly warm; and these are all combinations of like-named parts.

You may test my statements by another very common form of combination. Place yourself close to a sensitive, as close as soldiers stand in rank and file. Here your whole right side will touch the whole left side of the sensitive, and he will make no complaint: but if you turn round, so that your left side touches his left side, he will immediately complain of the unpleasant tepid sensation, and if you do not soon return to your first position, he will not be able to hold

out, and will leave his place. It is obvious that at first you formed a combination of unlike-named, and afterwards one of like-named parts.

Try another method. Place yourself close behind your sensitive with your front to his back, or before him with your back towards his front. In both cases your right side comes to be next his right, and your left next his left. This like-named combination on both sides the sensitive is unable to endure, and, if you do not change the position, he will do so by moving away. I must again ask you to refer to the passage in my first letter, in which I pointed out, that there are people who cannot bear that any one should stand close behind or before them, and who, for this reason, avoid all crowds, assemblages, markets, &c. You now see that these persons have good reasons for this.

I know men—young, vigorous and active—who dislike riding. This is almost unnatural in man : for to the vigour of youth, the curvettings and plungings of a spirited horse afford intense enjoyment. But in riding we have our right side on the right of the horse, our left on his left ; so that the case is the same as when one man stands before another, back to front. All those men, in whom I have observed this dislike of riding, were sensitive. As examples I may name Barons August and Heinrich von Oberlaender.

There are also women who cannot carry a child on their backs, not even in sport for a few minutes. This case is the same as the first ; and all these women I have found to be sensitive.

Many persons are utterly unable to sleep two in a bed ; in fact these "*mauvais coucheurs*" have become proverbial. The reason is plain from what has been explained.

Lastly, the universal custom among civilized nations of giving the right side to the person who is to be honoured, by placing ourselves on his left side or holding him by his left arm, is deeply grounded in the odic peculiarities of our frame. It has indeed been said, that this custom arose from the desire to leave the right hand of the honoured person free to use the sword, &c. This may have had some share in it, but the influence of sensitiveness has had infinitely more. When two persons stand side by side, they give off mutually their od each to the other. The person on the right hand receives from the other a charge of negative od ; the one on the left hand receives a charge of positive od. The former gains as much in negativity as the latter loses ; the latter gains as much in positivity as the former loses. But the negative state, that of greater odic negativity is, as you know,

the cool and grateful one; the positive state the tepid and unpleasant one. When we place a lady on our right, she gains as much in comfort as we do in discomfort. The key to this ancient custom is therefore not merely in tradition but is founded on a truth in our inmost nature.

Innumerable similar cases occur in life, in infinitely varied combinations; but all may be explained and appreciated according to the law above illustrated. We may also perceive, from these facts, how well founded are the claims to consideration put forth by the sensitive, whose sufferings in general meet with no compassion.

LETTER VII.

Mesmerism. Passes. The Physicians.

You will now ask what, from our point of view, is the so-called magnetizing of a person; and you may perhaps think this the turning point of these letters. This is by no means the case; but still the subject forms an important department of the odic phenomena. It has acquired a high degree of practical value, and has led to what is called MESMERISM,—that is, to a method introduced by Dr. Mesmer into the practice of medicine of using the odic force or dynamide as a curative agent in diseases. Mesmer, according to the state of knowledge of his day, took it for magnetism, and called it animal magnetism. The terms od and mesmerism will not clash; the former belongs to physical science, and designates a cosmic force or influence; the latter is applied to a special application of this force in therapeutics, and belongs to medicine.

Let me now refer to the fifth of these letters, in which I invited you to make, with the light of the theory we had reached in your hand, a rapid excursion with me through the confused domain of the so-called animal magnetism.

You know, that wherever you may touch a sensitive with your fingers, an appreciable sensation, accompanied in the dark by a visible one,—namely, by light,—is produced in him. But it is not necessary that contact should be established; for the mere approach of your fingers causes notable effects. The emanation which, in the dark, visibly extends far beyond the fingers, instantly reaches the object to which it is approached, and acts on it. At the distance of several inches you can still produce very decided results; but these are perceived by persons of middling sensitiveness also at the distance of a foot, or even of several feet. In the case of the

highly sensitive, the action extends much farther,—to the length of a room, for example; nay, I have had cases where the action was plainly felt at the astounding distance of twenty, thirty, and even more yards.

Hitherto we have considered contact without motion; but now I request you to perform a progressive motion from any one part of the sensitive person to any other, with the points of your fingers, with your open hand, with the pole of a crystal, or with that of a magnet. For example, you may place the fingers of your right hand on his left shoulder, and draw it gently and slowly downwards to the elbow joints, or to beyond the points of his fingers if you will. As formerly, when there was contact without motion, so now, when there is motion with the contact, you will produce a certain effect all the way down,—namely, the sensation of a cool streak, which may be regarded as a chain of innumerable cool points. This is called by physicians a *pass*. If you do the same with other parts, as the left side of the head, or of the trunk, or the left leg down to the foot, the same coolness will result. And if you perform the same motions with your left hand on the right side of the patient, the same result will still be obtained; for in all these cases unlike-named parts are combined. If, now, you make the motions or passes with both hands, each on its proper side, and from head to foot, the whole person of the patient will experience a most agreeable sensation of coolness and repose. And what you have just done is what the disciples of Mesmer and all magnetizing physicians call a zoo-magnetic or mesmeric pass. You can now magnetize or mesmerise.

It is evidently indifferent here, whether the passes be made with the hands or with the poles of crystals, or with those of magnets; whether they be made in contact with the skin, or above the clothes, or at the distance of half a span, a yard, or even more; in all cases the same *kind* of effect will be produced, only its amount will diminish as the distance is increased.

The influence, therefore, of the unlike-named odic emanations from another source on the system of the sensitive constitutes the essence of what is called magnetization or mesmerisation. When the passes are made in absolute darkness, the sensitives see the flaming luminous pencils from the fingers passing along their person; they see, moreover, on the places to which these flames directly point, a luminous spot appear on the surface of their body, which follows the course of the hand that makes the pass. From this luminous appearance, as well as from the cool sensation, it follows that

the operator exerts a stimulus on the organism of the patient, —which stimulus must be regarded as a most important one, that the od which flows out of the former with blue light, acts on those parts which possess the red odic light, and stimulates these (that is, the unlike-named parts) in a peculiar and very remarkable way. And since the human body is a powerful source of od, and consequently odic influence has a great share in its inmost peculiarities, it is easy to see how odic passes may strike deep into the physical and mental economy of man. The production of sleep or of restlessness, beneficial or injurious influence on diseased states of the system, effects produced by "imposition of hands, passes and the like," are not therefore "a miserable labyrinth of lies, imposture and superstition," as a certain authority has ventured to pronounce them;* but are physiological facts quite according to natural laws, and well grounded on experience and observation. It is only those who have never taken the trouble to test them, who can permit such immature judgments on the subject to escape them.

But if you ask me for the actual advantage derived by medicine up to the present time, from the method of odic passes, I am indeed convinced that this advantage may become inestimable, when the physical and physiological history of od shall have been fully developed; while I must confess that at present it appears to me both limited and insecure. If we read of or listen to the magnetizers, they are still, as Mesmer was 80 years ago, able to cure almost all diseases. Every physician, to whatever school he belong, imagines, when the patient recovers, that he and his art have cured him; why then should not the magnetizer be equally satisfied? We know, indeed, that out of twenty who are cured, nineteen recover spontaneously or in spite of the doctor. But this much at least I have found established, that, on every spot of the body where contact or passes are made with unlike-named parts, an intensification of vital activity is produced, and this not merely superficial but such as soon penetrates to the deepest seated organs. Wherever, therefore, local debility or numbness exists, there we can introduce life and increased activity. This is a great and comprehensive general result, which sagacious physicians will know how to appre-

* M. Johannes Mueller, in his *Manual of Physiology*. We erroneously ascribed this disgraceful conduct and deplorable ignorance to M. Dubois-Reymond at p. 125. The equally bad language used by the latter was not against mesmerism, but against the views of Reichenbach. M. Dubois-Reymond is an imitating and humble disciple of M. Mueller; and detests mesmerism and odism equally. See Reichenbach's Preface to his Second Edition of P. 1.—*Zoist*.

ciate. In particular, I regard the influence of od on spasmodic affections as decided; I have, times out of number, at will excited or repressed spasm. But when I have seen physicians operating, I have observed that, with few exceptions, they used motions so opposed to a rational principle of application of a force like od, that it was impossible to expect any benefit to the patient.* Without any knowledge of the force of its laws, and by mere groping in the dark, what could we hope to see achieved? We may trust, however, that when the nature of od and of its relations to the other forces of the living organism shall have been ascertained by accurate researches and brought into a scientific form, physicians will begin, instead of the chance work hitherto employed, to bring under fixed laws the action of od in the diseased body, and thus to procure for mankind some real benefit from these wonderful influences, from which the world has so long and so justly expected it.

LETTER VIII.

Chemical Action.

I have now explained to you what is understood by animal magnetism; it is not a truly magnetic but an odic action on the human body, which may be exercised by numerous other sources of od, quite as well, frequently better, than by the magnet, which acts only as a source of od and not as a magnet. We shall here drop the inappropriate term of animal magnetism, which arose at a time when men had the most obscure and confused ideas of these things, and is no longer compatible with the present state of our knowledge. But before I lead you deeper into the subject in this direction, I must make you better acquainted with the real importance and extensive diffusion of od as a natural force.

You are acquainted with it, as flowing perpetually and

* The ordinary method here employed, which has evidently been derived from experience, is not by any means so irrational as the author seems to suppose. The two hands of the operator are slowly moved down the unlike-named sides of the patient, so that the effect is the combined result of the odic influence of both hands. A few such passes often produce the mesmeric state. Again; the action of upward passes, in arousing the patient, is strictly according to the physical laws of odic excitation. It is perhaps not going too far to say, that in the case of susceptible or sensitive persons, no means of acting on the nervous system is nearly so powerful as the use of mesmeric passes.—W. G.

unchangeably, though from an entirely unknown origin, out of the poles of crystals; as flowing also from a source, however, which is gradually enfeebled and finally dried up, from the poles of steel magnets; and lastly, as flowing from a temporary but living source, namely, from organized living structures. I shall now introduce you to od, which suddenly blazes up, and is soon again extinguished; that is, to the od evolved in chemical changes, or from *chemical action*, which we must here distinguish from *chemical attraction* or affinity, the latter being the force that produces the former.

If you open a bottle of champagne in the dark before a sensitive, he will be astonished and delighted to see a stream or beam of fire following the flight of the cork from the mouth of the bottle to the ceiling. The whole bottle also will appear bathed in a bright white glow, as if of shining snow, and a luminous wavy cloud will play over it. As you see nothing of all these splendid fireworks, you know that this must be an odic phenomenon, and if you would enquire into it you must follow me in a few experiments.

Throw a spoonful of powdered sugar or of decrepitated salt (still in absolute darkness) into a glass of water. The sensitive, who previously saw little or nothing of either, will now see, especially when the mixture is stirred, that the water and the glass immediately become luminous. If he hold the glass in his left hand he will feel it become very cool. Hence mere *solution* evolves od, or is a source of od. Now place a wire of iron, copper or zinc, in a glass with diluted sulphuric acid. The wire will exhibit throughout a kind of glow, and a luminous appearance will issue from its upper end, like the flame of a candle, but incomparably feebler in luminous intensity. Above, this flame passes into a feebly luminous smoke or vapour, mixed with many small sparks which stream upwards. The wire will feel to the sensitive left hand much colder than it was before. The act of chemical *dissolution*, as distinguished from that of simple solution, is therefore also a source of od. Next make an effervescing draught. First, dissolve in the dark the bicarbonate of soda in half a glass of water, it will at once become luminous (to the sensitive). Dissolve the tartaric acid in another half glass of water; this will become also luminous, and even more so than the first. When both have ceased to shine, after a few minutes, mix the solutions together. Instantly the mixture will become brightly luminous; it will feel icy cold to the (sensitive) left hand, and a large, whitish, feebly shining cloud will rise above the glass. Here, chemical *decomposition* (along with *combination*, W. G.) evolves od abundantly and energetically.

Prepare a solution of acetate of lead, and add to it one of alum; the whole liquid will at once become visible in the dark. Bring the two wires of a voltaic apparatus into a vessel of water; as soon as the decomposition begins, the sensitive will see the water become gradually more and more luminous while the vessel feels cold to his left hand. All chemical changes, therefore evolve od; chemical action is an energetic source of od, suddenly excited but quickly again subsiding, as the play of chemical attractions comes to its natural termination in the repose of equilibrium.

When the stopper is removed from a phial of alcohol, or better, of ether, of caustic ammonia, or, best of all, one of pure eupione (a volatile carbohydrogen, formed in the destructive distillation of organic matters) of Sp. G. 0.65, in absolute darkness, and if the air be still, and care be taken to avoid disturbing it by the breath, the sensitive person sees a column of light rise from the mouth of the phial, and this, more rapidly in proportion to the tension of the vapour of the substance. At the same time the liquid in the glass becomes luminous. Not only, however, substances, which evaporate so rapidly as those above named, but others less volatile, and even mercury, with its very low tension, send up a luminous vapour through the opening of the phial. Solids such as camphor, and above all, iodine, give out a brightly luminous smoke or vapour, and become also themselves luminous. Hence evaporation, even spontaneous, and consequently also, distillation, go on with a continual evolution of od.

Every fermenting saccharine solution is thus luminous, and the bubbles of gas rise in it like glowing pearls of light. The juice of the grape, during its fermentation, is such a liquid, in a state of chemical activity, and is constantly luminous in the dark to sensitives. You can now explain how your champagne appeared to be resolved into fire and flame.

But putrefaction is also a process analogous to fermentation, and hence all putrescent matter is luminous. This indeed, we all know, in the shape of what is called phosphorescence; but we have not yet shewn how closely this is allied to odic light. When we, who are not sensitive, are unable to detect a trace of light in putrescent bodies, sensitives yet see them in the full odic glow.

Since we are occupied with putrefaction, we are not far from the dead. Follow me for a moment into the realms of the departed, on my promise to bring you back soon, and enriched by an instructive glance into their nocturnal activity.

You surely know that the departed souls wander for a time, in a fiery shape, over their graves, till they have thrown off, or expiated all of earth that still adheres to them, and have thus attained everlasting repose? You look doubtfully at me as I ask this; but I am in earnest; for these spirits or ghosts are seen, and abundance of witnesses will testify to the fact. But you have no doubt heard from your nurse that it is not every one who has the gift to see the ghosts or souls of the departed, and that only certain people have been selected for the privilege of beholding them. All this struck me forcibly, when I was trying good sensitives with putrescent animal matter. I wished to try whether I could not make acquaintance with the dead in their fiery shapes. Mdlle. Leopoldine Reichel consented to go with me on a very dark night to the churchyard of Grönzing, near Vienna, not far from my residence. She saw, in fact, on several graves, fiery appearances. Being subsequently taken to the enormous cemeteries of Vienna, she saw a number of graves covered with moving lights, which moved uniformly back and forwards, almost like dancers or lines of soldiers. Some were tall, and almost like men, others smaller, and creeping along the ground like dwarfish goblins. But all of them were over the newer graves, the old ones having no fiery sentinel. Mdlle. Reichel went timidly towards them; at her approach, the human forms melted away, and she saw that they were nothing more than luminous clouds, such as she had seen a thousand times in my darkened chamber. She went still nearer, and saw only a feebly luminous vapour; she even was bold enough to enter the vapours, which reached to her neck; and she could cause them to yield and flicker by the motion of her clothes. Thus the dances and military exercises over the graves were resolved into the effects of the wind or of currents of air, which played uniformly with all these lights. Another time, I sent four sensitives to the cemetery at Sievring. It was so dark, that several of them fell down in going thither. But they all saw the ghostly appearances more or less brightly, according to their degrees of sensitiveness. They saw these like luminous air over new graves; and one having drawn lines with a stick on one such grave, the lines remained visible in a stronger light. Now what is all this? It is nothing else than the putrescent miasms, given out by the graves, and which rise into the air over them, where the wind plays with them, and fear interprets their motions as the dances of ghosts. It is carbonate of ammonia, phosphuretted hydrogen, and other products of putrefaction known or unknown, which

in evaporating, evolve odic light. As soon as the putrefaction is complete, the lights cease to appear, that is, the guilt of the dead has been expiated.

But now, my dear friends, we have an apology to make to our old women, an injustice towards them to make good. The fiery spirits over graves exist in truth, and their presence cannot be denied; this we must concede, *volentes, volentes*. Nay we must, with shame and contrition, confess, that these ghosts, as the old ladies aforesaid always told us, cannot be seen by all, but only by certain chosen and privileged persons, that is, by the sensitive. It is not their fault, I mean that of the old women, that we have so long been unable to comprehend what has been steadily asserted for many centuries.

(This ought to serve as a good lesson to us, never to reject statements of facts merely because they have been somewhat disguised by ignorance. Men of science ought long since to have separated, in this case, the well attested fact of the luminous appearances over graves, from the ignorant theory which ascribed it to ghosts or spirits; instead of rejecting the fact because of its dress. Had they done this, we should, long ere this, have been well acquainted with the odic phenomena, and with the important fact of the existence of sensitiveness. This is by no means a solitary case; for it is certain that all firmly established popular beliefs, however apparently absurd at first sight, however disguised by passing through centuries of tradition, were originally founded on a true observation of some natural fact. Let us carefully avoid the error of the wholesale rejection of such popular beliefs, and endeavour, in every case, to discover the truth on which they rest, which, as in the above example, may be of the highest value.—W. G.)

LETTER IX.

Sound. Friction. Running Waters.

In my last letter we attacked superstition, after hunting it out in a lurking place where it had lain concealed for ages. We shall to-day inflict on it another similar blow. Let us further examine the extent in which od is diffused in nature. In October, 1851, I had the mechanic, Enter of Vienna, a person of middling sensitiveness, in my dark chamber, and wished to try, whether any relation could be traced between sound and od. I took a glass bell jar, held it by the knob, and struck it gently with a key. As it sounded, it became

visible and luminous. The harder the blow, the brighter was the light. A rod of metal or a horse shoe magnet, struck so as to ring, became more luminous than before. A metallic bell, of strong and penetrating tone, being struck for some time continuously, became so luminous, that a bright stream extended throughout the room, and was seen by all sensitives. When the bow was drawn across the strings of a violin, not only the strings, but the entire sounding board, became luminous. Sounding bodies were not only themselves in a glow of odic light, but they also diffused a brightness around them, and appeared as if surrounded by a halo or the glory of a saint. When I struck a glass with a knife as we sometimes do, in the absence of a bell, to summon a servant, the glass acquired a covering or external layer of light, which was brighter as the tone given out was more acute. The light exhibited a perceptible tremor, like the sound itself. The spot struck was invariably the brightest of all.

I now caused sensitives to place their hands, separately, within bells or bell jars, avoiding contact; and when I now struck the bell so as to produce the sound, the left hand felt a cool, the right a tepid influence. Here the odic sensations were produced, and this in the sense of the blue solar ray, of the upper crystalline pole, and of the northward pole of the magnet. I had, in short, the satisfaction of discovering, in sound, a new and very powerful source of od.*

Another time I investigated the subject of friction. In July, 1844, I gave to Mdle. Maria Maix a copper wire in her left hand, to the farther end of which I had attached a small board. When I rubbed a similar board on this one, warmth flowed through the wire into the sensitive's hand. When, in the dark, I rubbed the wire itself on a grindstone in the turning lathe, the whole wire acquired the odic glow, and clothed itself with a luminous halo; while from the end fur-

* It would be very desirable to ascertain the effect produced on sensitives, in the dark, by musical sounds, in the forms of both melody and harmony. It is very probable that both consecutive sounds, as in melody, and sounds combined in harmony may prove still more powerful sources of od, and that this may have some connection with the action of music on the system. Those who feel music deeply must often have observed, that passages of exquisite melody, and rich, full harmonies, produce sensations which though delightful, almost approach to those of faintness, and that the listener trembles and turns pale under the pleasing influence. This is not unlike some of the effects of the odic current; and it is well known, that persons in the mesmeric state, who are always sensitive, are peculiarly susceptible to musical impressions.—W. G.

thrust from the grindstone there rose a light like the flame of a candle. As another test, I took a barometer tube of glass, placed one end of it in a glass of water, and rubbed the other on the quickly revolving grindstone. The whole tube, as well as the glass of water, became luminous. All sensitives found the water, on tasting it, tepid, bitterish, and nauseous, and one whom I persuaded to drink off the whole glass, soon afterwards was attacked with violent and repeated vomiting. It was therefore beyond a doubt that od is abundantly and vigorously developed by friction.

The application of this observation led to a result which I feel sure will give you pleasure. I wished to ascertain whether the friction of liquids also evolved od. And I found, in fact, that closed glass vessels, containing alcohol, ether, oil of turpentine, creosote, &c., all became, with their contents, luminous, when shaken in the dark. Water also, when shaken in stoppered bottles, became luminous, and felt tepid to the left hand of sensitives, but when at rest, it became in a few seconds invisible, and from the reaction felt cool to the left hand. A strange idea now occurred to me: do not be alarmed, but it was neither more nor less than the despised *divining rod*; while the water seekers, the spring finders, rose to my remembrance along with it. If, thought I, water when shaken evolves od, may not perhaps running water do the same? To test this, I wrapped up part of a glass tube thickly with paper, gave the covered part of it into the left hand of sensitives, and poured water down the tube out of a glass vessel through a glass funnel, in a continuous stream. All the sensitives felt that warmth came through the paper as long as I poured, and that coolness returned as often as I ceased to pour the water. When I made the experiment in the dark, the water in the funnel first, and then along the whole tube became luminous. There was no doubt, then, that water, in merely flowing through a tube, developed od; and my hope was strengthened. I now took Mlle. Zinkel, who was of middling sensitiveness, out to the park which surrounds my country-house. I knew the direction of a pipe, conveying water, which is carried under the surface of a large forest meadow, but is quite invisible on the surface. I now caused my sensitive to walk slowly across the meadow, in such a direction that her path must cut the line of the water pipe. When she drew near it, I saw her stop in her progress, step backwards and forwards, and finally stand still. Here, she assured me, she felt, up to her knees, especially in the left foot, a disagreeable tepid sensation, which had not occurred in any other part of the meadow. She was standing,

in fact, precisely over the water pipe, which brings the water of a spring from a distance of nearly two English miles to my farm. I repeated this experiment with several other sensitives, all entirely ignorant of the existence and situation of the pipe, and always with the same result. Here, then, the divining rod rises from the deep degradation to which ignorance and unmerited ridicule had reduced it! Not perhaps, indeed, the rod itself; for that may have been but the dress in which the truth was disguised; but so much the more certainly the inmost nucleus of truth, which lay concealed within it, and which has been hitherto unable to obtain acceptance with mankind. It is nothing else than the action of the od set at liberty by the friction of the moving water, on the sensitive nervous system.

Monsieur Sourcier,* in France, the celebrated spring seeker, or rather spring finder, who is sent for to all parts of the country, and has brought the discovery of springs of water to an admirable degree of practical perfection, is doubtless nothing else than a highly sensitive person. As often as he passes over subterraneous running water, he perceives its odic influence on his excitable frame; he can, according to the greater or less stimulus, conclude as to the less or greater depth of the water from the surface, and has acquired, by practice, so much dexterity and certainty in this, as to have secured the admiration and gratitude of half the French people. His mystery, which has always been an enigma to himself, and which he was quite unable to explain, is now cleared up, and we shall probably soon have, both in Germany and in England, hundreds of spring finders, male and female, since all highly sensitive persons will be found, after a little practice, highly adapted to this occupation. From henceforth, the divining rod is no longer a mystery, and is the common property of mankind.

LETTER X.

Heat. Electricity. The Material Universe.

It is unnecessary for me to point out to you the part which those powerful agencies, heat and electricity, must play in reference to od. But here the matter becomes rapidly so complicated, that I see no room for it within the narrow

* Surely this must be a name indicating the profession of this individual, and not his real name. I have read of another name, whose owner is perhaps called M. le Sourcier.—W. G.

bounds of these letters, and must therefore confine myself to a few facts, very briefly stated. If you bring a pan of glowing charcoal towards a highly sensitive person; or if you set fire to spirits of wine before him; or if you place him in front of a wood fire, at the distance of some paces; or if in front of him you throw some globules of potassium into water, and then ask him what the sensations are which all these combustions excite in him, you will no doubt expect him to answer, Heat, or warmth. But both you and he will be astonished, you to hear and he to feel, that coolness, not warmth, is the predominating sensation. Now give him a rod of light wood, about a yard long; let him hold one end in his left hand, and set fire to the other; he will find that as it burns it becomes cold in his hand at the other end. Next give him a bar of iron, a glass rod or a porcelain tube, and let him, holding one end of these in his left hand, heat the other over the chimney of an Argand lamp; he will shake his head, and tell you that they all become cold to his hand. The explanation of this apparent anomaly in the laws of heat is simply this: that the heating of substances, as well as the act of combustion, developes od. Conduct one end of a metallic wire, of the thickness of a straw, into the dark chamber through a hole in the door, excluding carefully all external light. Now heat the outside end of the wire over a charcoal fire; as soon as this is begun, the sensitive in the dark will tell you of the appearance of a small bright flame from the end of the wire beside him.

Without dwelling longer on this matter, although it be one of great importance, I must hasten on to electricity, and dismiss that also in a few brief sentences. The predominating sensation perceived by all sensitives, where brought close to bodies highly charged with positive or + electricity, is coolness. But an electrophorus, when rubbed with fur, gives a tepid sensation, while the fur emits coolness. If you strike a cake of resin strongly with a fox's brush in the dark before the sensitive, and cause him to look at it from the side, he will tell you that he sees a flame-like undulating light rise from it, generally to the height of about eighteen inches. The brush looks like a roller of white light. After a few minutes the flame of the resinous cake disappears; but while it plays it gives off a luminous smoke, which rises to the ceiling, and there causes a large illuminated space, like that described in the case of crystals and magnets. I possess a very large electrical machine, which, with its support and the conductor, rests on the floor; the whole forming a bulky apparatus. When it is in repose, persons of middling sensi-

tiveness see hardly anything of it in the dark ; but if the plate be set in motion, although so slowly that ordinary electric light is nowhere visible, the whole apparatus notwithstanding becomes visible in white odic light. Some sensitives compared it, strangely enough, with a cartload of quick lime, which it appears presents to them an entirely similar appearance. A charged Leyden phial appeared throughout luminous. A long iron wire, passing through the dark chamber, with both ends outside, through which I passed, from without, the shock from a Leyden phial, became, after each shock, white and luminous on its entire length for the space of four or five minutes. At the moment of the discharge, a brighter flash, as rapid as lightning, was seen by the sensitives to pass along the wire, and they were able to give the direction in which it passed, which was from the interior metallic coating to the exterior one. Of the voltaic battery I shall only here say, that the wire, when the circuit was closed, not only becomes itself visible, exhibiting the odic glow, but is also surrounded with a *coil or screw of light, which rapidly moves round the axis of the wire*. It might be supposed that this fact by itself (as well as that of the narrow stripe of red light near the violet end of the odic spectrum, formerly noticed,) would be sufficient to excite the liveliest interest of electricians and men of science generally. It is well known that, according to Ampère, the wire conducting the voltaic current owes its magnetic properties to a current of something revolving in the form of a coil or screw in continual motion round the axis of the wire. Now this conclusion, which Ampère and others have attained by an infinite expenditure of acuteness and sagacity in observation and reasoning, any sensitive child can, so to speak, lay hold of and describe as an object of sense, with all the accompanying circumstances. And surely at last there will be found some sensitive electrician, as I have already found at least a dozen sensitive physicians, who will see this beautiful phenomena with their own eyes. But how long it may be before the interest of these philosophers becomes roused, is more, I must frankly admit, than I can say.

Heat and electricity are therefore powerful sources of od ; but I must renounce the idea of here explaining the numerous and varied phenomena to which they give rise.* Instead of

* The reader will find details on these subjects in my work already quoted, *The Imponderables in relation to the Vital Force*, of which two translations have appeared in England.

attempting this, I shall introduce you to the last and most important of the sources of odic influence.

M. Anschütz, a captain in the Austrian army, a good sensitive of the middling degree, was confined to bed by illness in Baden. At this time his sensitiveness had become very much increased in consequence of his indisposition. While lying sleepless on his bed, it struck him that whenever the nights were very dark he saw the lock, the hinges, and other metallic parts of the door opposite to him, while yet nothing else was visible in the room. He recognized that these objects gave out a light; that they were self-illuminated. Others, but these of the highly sensitive class, saw all metallic ornaments on furniture, all locks, all gilt objects in their rooms, nay, every nail in the wall, shining, and giving out either small flames or luminous smoke. I now arranged a pattern card of several metals, which were found by all the highly sensitive to be feebly luminous, some more, others less so, but all were visible. A glass cabinet filled with silver plate appeared, in the dark, and the more decidedly the longer the sensitives remained in the darkness, full of a delicate fire. When I tried other substances, such as charcoal, selenium, iodine, sulphur, all these were also found to be luminous. As in the case of phosphorescence, the aspect of these bodies was like that of red hot matter, so that they appeared translucent, and the sensitives could see into them. Besides this glow, the highly sensitive saw round these bodies the same flame-like emanations, terminating in luminous smoke, which has already been described in connexion with other concentrated emissions of od. Here, as there, the flame could be set in motion, and made to flicker by the breath or by currents of air, and in many cases illuminated the fingers which held the substances. In the colour of the light these substances were by no means alike, and this supplied a sure means of controlling the accuracy of the statements made by the sensitives.* Thus everything made of copper appeared red hot, and clothed in a green flame; tin, lead, palladium

* The reader will at once see that this form of experiment confirms what was said in a former note. If a large number of sensitives be separately examined as to the colour of the light from many different bodies, and if, while quite ignorant of what the others have said, each give the same answers, the conclusion is irresistible, that these colours are external and objective, not internal and subjective, or fanciful only. Were the latter the case, such perfect agreement as is actually found would be both morally and physically impossible.
—W. G.

and cobalt were blue; bismuth, zinc, osmium, titanium, potassium, were red; silver, gold, platinum, antimony, and cadmium, white; nickel and chromium, greenish with a tinge of yellow; iron almost variegated, with rainbow colours; arsenic, charcoal, iodine and selenium were red; sulphur was blue, and this substance was even frequently seen by sensitives of the middling degree to be blue. Compound bodies also were luminous, and some remarkably so; for example, theobromine was white, parabanic acid of a bright and beautiful blue; quicklime, red. I placed several hundred chemical preparations in a closely arranged portable collection, kept it in the dark (to avoid all chance of phosphorescence), and only opened it in the darkness of the dark chamber. Those of middling sensitiveness saw only some substances, but those of high sensitiveness saw all without exception shining more or less brightly. Even the stone walls of the dark chamber, after the sensitives had been very long in the dark, appeared in a delicate white light, and this at last reached such a point, that my sensitives saw everything in the room as in a kind of twilight, and even took me, who could see absolutely nothing, by the arm, and led me with perfect certainty about the room among my apparatus.

Thus all things are luminous; literally all. We live in a world full of luminous matter. As we have in the sun a very intense emanation of light, so, on the earth, does a very feeble luminous emanation proceed from everything that surrounds us. The bodies which shine most feebly are those of light and porous texture, such as cotton goods, woollen cloth, wood, or loam; all stones shine distinctly; among amorphous bodies, the metals and the simple bodies generally give out the brightest light. This source of light, namely, from all material bodies, is of lower and feebler intensity than all those previously mentioned, but it is, on the other hand, to compensate for this, infinite in extent.

And this light is odic? It is; because it has all the character of odic light, and produces the peculiar sensations of all forms of od. Place any metal, or sulphur, iodine, charcoal, or graphite, on a small board, say of limewood, and cause very sensitive persons to hold over it the hollow of the left hand; you will hear that they are affected by it with agreeable coolness, or unpleasant warmth, and most powerfully by those which give out the brightest light, most feebly or not at all by those whose light is feeble. Or give to them alternately, to hold in the left hand, with or without gloves, bodies of all kinds, alone, or in bottles, solid, liquid, or gaseous; they will feel each differently, cooler or more tepid, more unplea-

sant, or more grateful, and often with peculiar effects, belonging to certain bodies. Try in this way sulphur, bromine, bichromate of potash, oxygen gas, arsenic, mercury, or copper. All will produce some effect, and the sensitives will be able to distinguish, and even to classify all according to the odic sensations they produce.

Not only, therefore, does od, in a concentrated form, flow from special sources, but it is also a universal property of natural bodies; an unequally, but universally diffused dynamide, or imponderable, just as heat, electricity, chemical attraction, gravitation, and the like, are. It penetrates and fills the frame of our universe in its smallest as well as in its greatest parts.

LETTER XI.

Examples from the Material World.

Do you still remember how I told you that frequently the fairest maiden shuns her looking-glass? You will have obtained, from my last letter, the explanation of this strange fact. Quicksilver is one of those metals which causes in sensitive persons the most intense sensation of unpleasant warmth. If a sensitive approach the surface of a large mirror, he feels over the whole body the painful action of the mercury as it were poured over him. It is as if a nauseous tepid breathing played upon him; he feels as if repelled and driven back: and if he resolves to defy this influence, he is attacked by pain at stomach, nausea, head-ache, even vomiting, and is compelled to remove from before the glass. This becomes so intensified by repeated experience, that highly sensitive persons cannot approach the mirror without shuddering, and cause it to be covered up if they cannot remove it.

We may also glance back to the dislike of spoons made of packfong, argantau, German silver, Chinese silver, and similar alloys. Copper, which is the chief ingredient of all of these, is a peculiarly intense odic body, having a very strong tepid and offensive influence. It may be silvered as thickly as we please; all is in vain; the odic action of the copper passes through, so as to become intolerable even to those of middling sensitiveness, and in the highly sensitive often to cause pain at stomach and spasms of the tongue and mouth. I have often been told by sensitive ladies, that they can wear no gold ornaments, which are painful and distressing to them; that they cannot use a metallic thimble, but must have one of ivory; that they can use no steel corset

plate, no steel comb, nay, not even steel hair pins in their head dress ; and all this entirely on account of the tepid and nauseous odic action of these bodies.

To sensitive female servants, occupied in domestic matters, brass mortars, copper stewpans, above all, metallic smoothing irons, are objects of aversion and horror. The respected manufacturer, M. J. Fichtner, of Azgersdorf, near Vienna, a good middling sensitive, has banished from his kitchen all brass utensils ; for he cannot endure food or drink prepared in vessels of brass or copper. In the case of the highly sensitive, we may conceal metals under paper, linen, or any other light covering ; but they can always, without contact, from the mere sensation in the hollow of the left hand held over them, point out the spots where the bits of metal lie. Now does not this involuntarily recall to you the ninth of these letters, in which I spoke of running water and of M. Sourcier ? Suppose there lay in the ground, not very far under the surface, in a cellar, for example, metals or money, buried in considerable quantity, there can be no doubt whatever that a highly sensitive person would detect this by the sensations produced, sooner and more easily than those of middling sensitiveness did the running water in my park. Take now the case of a vein of lead glance, copper pyrites, or red ore of antimony, lying not far from the surface, and such veins often occur but a few feet below the turf ; a highly sensitive person, walking over the ground with some attention, would, as you cannot for a moment doubt after what has been said, perceive the sensation, and point out accurately the spot where the ore lies. Even other matters, such as the outcrop of coal beds, must act on such persons differently from the sandstone or the slate clay, in which they are stratified. The sensitive, if he have previously noticed and become familiar with the sensations caused by masses of coal, will at once discover when he passes over such a stratum. Ordinary people will perceive nothing whatever, but the highly sensitive will say with full confidence, " here or there lies under the soil this or that mineral," and on digging, the apparent miracle will be found true. This has hitherto appeared the more astounding, because the ore-finder himself has been utterly unable to account for his success even to himself, and far less to others. The mystery is now no longer such ; it is simply the purely physical influence of the odic dynamide on the human (sensitive) nervous system. It acts like an obscure sense, of which we can give no explanation, and a number of instinctive phenomena in the lower animals will ultimately be explained in the same way

as I now explain the secret of the metal and ore-seekers. And now you have the last mysteries of the divining rod, not indeed of the rod as such, taken literally, with its bendings, turnings, and pointings, (for all that was probably only the *hocus pocus* added for the sake of the curious many, to whom the wonder-worker was obliged to give something tangible),* but the true nucleus of the matter, hitherto deeply buried, but now brought to light.

You see from this what highly important practical value sensitiveness must acquire, and what a part it has yet to perform. The sensitives, at whose extreme point we find the cataleptic, somnambulists, and lunatics, will soon be sought for, well paid, and reckoned benefactors to their neighbours, their district, their country. This discovery promises first of all to give a powerful impulse to mining enterprise; not only in the discovery of new veins, &c., but in the internal working of existing mines; it will enable us to ascertain when the vein or bed fails, or shifts, or is exhausted. Whither shall we turn, to open new excavations? Where shall we find again the lost vein, in the vertical or in the horizontal rock? In all such matters, the most rational system too often leaves the miner in the dark; and it is certain that very often a sensitive, in some degree practised in discriminating odic sensations, will at once assist the miner, and put him on the right track.

The sensitive feeling, or sense for the odic influences, is capable of remarkable development and improvement by cultivation. When I try new sensitives, their statements are occasionally strikingly variable. But after two or three sittings, all becomes clear and precise. Longer practice, however, gives more distinctness and readiness, and I have some middling sensitives, who, after six or seven years familiarity with odic sensations, have acquired a certainty in discrimination often superior to that possessed by the highly sensitive, when new to the subject. Such persons will hereafter be found most useful in reference to the adulteration of goods. Even now a sensitive can easily distinguish pure gold or silver from that which is alloyed with copper. But the sense can be developed for mixtures of all kinds, so much so, that the

* I am far from certain, that the rod itself is so utterly devoid of importance as is here stated. When we consider that all matter is odic and affected by od, including plants and wood, there may be something more. The author has of late turned his attention to the motion of tables, and has obtained very interesting results, which I hope to be able hereafter to communicate.—W. G.

drugs in an apothecary's shop can be so examined as to teach us whether they retain or have lost the active principles. And I shall perhaps hereafter shew you what astonishing results may be obtained by applying the sensations of healthy sensitives to the examination of diseased states.

(These Letters will be concluded in the next Number.)

IX.

SUUM CUIQUE.

The Protest and Petition of James Esdaile, M.D., Surgeon H.E.I.C.S., to the Members of the American Congress,

RESPECTFULLY sheweth,—That the writer, a British subject, and a surgeon in the East India Company's Service, has read with great astonishment the following statement in a Report of the Select Committee appointed by the United States Government, to decide who discovered the anæsthetic virtues of ether, so that Congress might bestow upon him a reward of 100,000 dollars. The Report says :—

"At various periods, and in various ages, hope has been excited in the human breast that this great agent (the means of producing insensibility to pain) had been found; but all proved delusive, and hope as often died away, until the discovery now under consideration burst upon the world from our own country and in our own day. Then, and not till then, was the time-cherished hope realized, that the knife would lose its sting, and that blood might follow its edge without pain."

In defence of truth and justice, I must take the liberty to inform Congress, that this statement is not only incorrect, but is perfectly untrue, and that your Committee have been grievously misled by culpably ignorant or corrupt witnesses,—corrupt to the extent of suppressing important evidence opposed to what is stated in the Report. In support of this assertion, I have respectfully to represent to Congress, that in April, 1845, having succeeded on the first trial in performing a painless operation upon a person in the *mesmeric trance*, I prosecuted the subject still farther, and with such success, that in eight months I had performed seventy-three painless operations, many of them of the gravest description; an account of which was published by Messrs. Longmans and Co., London, in 1846. This work is called *Mesmerism in India*, and was immediately reprinted in America. In July, 1846, I reported to the Government of India, that I

had performed upwards of one hundred painless operations, and offered "to satisfy any number of persons, in whom the Government had confidence, of the truth of my statements." The Government hereupon appointed a Committee to report upon mesmeric operations to be performed by me in their presence. Six severe operations were performed by me in the presence of the Committee during a fortnight that they sat, and the Committee arrived at the following general result on the question of pain during the mesmeric surgical operations witnessed by them :—

"That in three severe cases, there is no proof whatever that any pain was suffered ; and that, in the three other cases, the manifestations of pain during the operation are opposed by the positive statement of the patient that no pain was experienced."

The Government in remarking upon the Report of the Committee to the Chairman, said :—

"So far has the possibility of rendering the most serious surgical operations painless to the subject of them been, in His Honor's opinion, established by the late experiments, performed under the eye of a Committee appointed for the purpose, as to render it incumbent on the Government to afford to the meritorious and zealous officer, by whom the subject was first brought to its notice, such assistance as may facilitate his investigations, and enable him to prosecute his interesting experiments, under the most favourable and promising circumstances. With this view, His Honor has determined, with the sanction of the Supreme Government, to place Dr. Esdaile, for one year, in charge of a small experimental hospital, in some favourable situation in Calcutta ; in order that he may, as recommended by the Committee, extend his investigations to the applicability of this alleged agency to all descriptions of cases, medical as well as surgical ; and all classes of patients, European as well as native."

During the year of experiment, forty capital mesmeric operations were performed in the Mesmeric Hospital, and at the end of the year, my success was acknowledged in a minute of the Governor-General in Council, and I was rewarded by being made a Presidency Surgeon of Calcutta that the natives might continue to enjoy the benefits of mesmerism. *So that painless surgery by means of mesmerism had been reduced by me to a regular every-day system in Bengal, long before ether had been heard of.* Of which fact, Congress may still farther satisfy themselves, by referring to Dr. Hufnagle, Consul for the United States, at Calcutta, who in October, 1846, assisted at the removal of a scrotal tumor weighing 103 lbs. ; of which the patient was quite unconscious, and ultimately perfectly recovered.

The simple and notorious fact is, that painless surgery by means of mesmerism, years before ether was heard of, was as common in my hospitals as it has since become in Europe under the influence of chloroform, and nearly three hundred capital mesmeric operations had been performed by me before leaving India, two years ago.

This being the actual state of the case regarding the history of painless surgery, the American Congress will perceive that I am fully justified in asserting that their Committee have been misled by ignorant or corrupt witnesses; and that, however deserving of reward the discoverer of ether may be, he was only copying by a drug what had been already done by myself and others, by a much safer and pleasanter natural power mercifully implanted in the human constitution. Congress will, I doubt not, be indignant at the daring and unprincipled suppression of evidence that I have exposed to them, and will be at a loss to imagine the motives for such an offence. As politicians, the members of Congress must be aware of the perverting, distorting, unfair representations of party spirit, by which history itself has become "*a lie*," according to a celebrated English statesman. Unfortunately this vice is not confined to politics, but exists in all professions, and in an intensely disgraceful degree, I lament to say, in that of medicine.

Mesmerism from its birth has been excommunicated by the doctors without knowledge or examination, and all the medical journals having rashly and ignorantly pronounced against it, afterwards conspired together in defence of their wrong doing, and trusted to extinguish the obnoxious doctrine by keeping the medical profession and the public in total ignorance of the matter. They have hitherto succeeded so well in this, that it is possible the medical witnesses examined by your Committee may only have been labouring under the most gross ignorance in giving their evidence; but the American Congress will not lower itself so much in the eyes of the civilized world as to adopt the verdict of an ignorant and incompetent jury. If, on the other hand, it shall appear that important evidence has been deliberately suppressed by the witnesses, then the world will expect that Congress in its wisdom and justice will repudiate the Report of its Committee, and severely punish those who would have misled it.

It is with no intention of competing for the *dollars* in question that I have taken the liberty to address you, (although the man who proved that painless surgery could be practised on a whole people, might look for some reward,) as

these seem irrevocably destined to "one of three citizens of the United States," who had the sense to seek for some drug by which to imitate what I had already done by mesmerism. But in the new judicial inquiry recommended by the Committee, to determine which of my three imitators is to be the lucky winner of the dollars, I respectfully petition Congress to be permitted to adduce proof in support of what I have now advanced, by which an honourable opportunity will be afforded for correcting the errors in the Committee's Report, and Congress will be saved the shame of sanctioning by its high authority another of the lies of history.

I have the honour to be,

Your most obedient servant,

JAMES ESDAILE, M.D.

Fairmount, Perth, Scotland,
8th August, 1853.

. In connexion with this flagrant dishonesty, we remind our readers of Article 11 in our last Number.—*Zoist*.

X. *Cure of a case of severe pain, chiefly in the arms, with general debility, after the failure of legitimate treatment: cure of Spinal Irritation and Palsy of the Legs after the failure of legitimate treatment: cure of Palsy of the Face: and an instance of unquestionable Clairvoyance.* By Mr. S. D. SAUNDERS, of Clifton.

"You assure me solemnly that you do not tell the Medium anything: I declare unequivocally that you do. *It is the same in cases of clairvoyance: you tell all, and fancy you are told.* You do not tell it in so many words, but unconsciously you are made to communicate the very thing you believe is communicated to you."—*Leader newspaper*, March 12, 1853.

"When Bulwer and Dumas introduce clairvoyance as a part of their machinery and make the events depend thereon, doing so as if clairvoyance were an undoubted element in our human life, then the rebellious understanding rejects as impertinent what it recognizes as false."—*Ibid.*, Dec. 11, 1852.

"The calm verdict of reason is against the acceptance of the mesmeric marvels, and no amount of congruity or historic coherence will make reason accept them."—*Ibid.*, Oct. 2, 1852.

"In *The Zoist* for this month, in spite of Dr. Ashburner's known connexion with the work," &c.—*Ibid.*, April, 1853.

Penrose Cottage, Clifton, Aug. 3, 1853.

Cure of severe Rheumatism of the Arms.

ABOUT the beginning of last spring twelvemonth, I was called to attend a young lady suffering severely from rheumatism, particularly in the arms. She was also labouring under ge-

neral debility, though, in all appearances, she was in perfect health, having an exceedingly ruddy complexion. *She had been for some time under our first physician, but obtained no relief,* and therefore determined to try mesmerism. At the first sitting I sent her into the sleep in about four minutes, and she remained unconscious for about three quarters of an hour. During this time I acted upon her spine and her arms. When she awoke she felt rather better. I continued to mesmerise her daily for about a month, and she then felt herself well, and has remained so up to this time.

In a note which I have this day received from her, asking me if it would hurt her to mesmerise a friend who was ill, she says, alluding to her own case, "I suffered particularly from pains in my arms. After the first sitting I was never unconscious, but in a state more like torpor than regular sleep: for though I felt I could not speak, I knew what was going on around me, and could hear very plainly what was said by persons in the room. I think, too, I ought to say that, though exempt from the acute rheumatic pains which I previously suffered, it is this winter and this year especially that I seem most fully to reap all the benefit I had derived from your mesmerism. For I have been perfectly free from pain and never felt better in my life than I do now, and I am very grateful.

"After I had been mesmerised four times I met my medical adviser when I was out walking, and, upon mentioning to him that I was being mesmerised for the rheumatic pains in my arms from which *he had not cured me*, and which I already felt were diminishing through the use of mesmerism, he made answer, '*You surely don't believe SUCH STUFF will cure you; it is HARMLESS ENOUGH:*' and, laughing, shook hands with me."

Spinal Irritation and Palsy of the Legs.

A medical gentleman brought me one of his patients—a lady suffering from partial paralysis of the lower extremities, for the purpose of being mesmerised. She came in a wheel-chair, and was unable to walk across my room without putting her hands upon the table and chairs. She had also pain at the top of the head, and considerable tenderness in the lower part of the spine. She also suffered from a sensation of sinking in the pit of the stomach. I tried to induce sleep; but rather increased, than otherwise, the irritability of her head. At her second visit I acted entirely upon the spine, and also at the third visit, without producing any beneficial result. Indeed the pain in the lower part of the spine

was augmented, and her walking remained just as bad as ever, though the pain in her head was somewhat relieved. From this time I made the passes from the upper part of the spine, over the hips and down to the feet, with occasional passes over the stomach. Improvement began to manifest itself; and in about three weeks the patient was able to walk comfortably without any assistance. Her digestive organs were much stronger, and the pain on the top of her head had quite left her.

Feeling so well, she relinquished mesmerism. But, about nine months afterwards, upon making use of a shower-bath, she suddenly lost the use of her limbs; and, upon being sent for, I found her as bad with regard to her walking as she was when I first attended her. I mesmerised her as before *for a week*, and again restored her; so that she was able to use her limbs with *freedom and comfort*.

But, about six or seven months afterwards, having suffered from influenza, she again found her limbs fail her, and I was called in a third time. After being mesmerised five or six times she was able to walk as well as she did before being taken ill, although her *medical attendant had told her that mesmerism would not benefit her, and that it would be a very long time before she could possibly hope to be able to walk*. During the time that I attended her, I gave mesmerised water, and (as has been the case with other patients) she found that, though no visible change in the taste of the water was perceptible immediately after my mesmerising it, it would become quite flat and disagreeable to the palate in about six hours afterwards.

I understand that no medicine was taken except some homœopathic during the third time that I mesmerised her. She is extremely sorry at not having been mesmerised earlier, as she would have been saved a great deal of suffering. She says that she is stronger and in better health than she had been for years.

During the sittings this patient generally occupied herself by reading either the newspaper or a book.

The lady does not wish her name to be mentioned; but I enclose a letter of verification from her.

Palsy of the Face.

A young female, of the name of Pippin, in the employment of Miss Sanders, of Alva House, Clifton Down, was early in the month of July last seized with palsy of the left portio dura nerve. Her mouth was considerably drawn to the right side: she could only half shut her left eye: she

could not frown with her left brow, nor blow out her right cheek : her speech was very much affected : and she felt giddy and ill.

In this state she was sent to a surgeon of considerable practice and ability, who gave her some medicine and applied a blister to the nape of her neck. I was also called in to mesmerise her, and succeeded in sending her into the sleep in about five or six minutes. I made passes over her left cheek ; and upon waking she found a slight degree of improvement in her articulation. But, as the blister was to be kept open for several days, it was deemed best to stop the mesmerism and see whether the disease would give way under the medicine and the blister only. I therefore did not see her again for a week, but, at the end of that time, I called and found her face and articulation just as bad as they were at the time mesmerism was discontinued : *not the least improvement had taken place.*

I therefore recommenced mesmerising her, and, at the end of about a month, during which time I mesmerised her some ten or twelve times, her face became straight, the other symptoms gave way, and she felt perfectly well again. I did not often induce the sleep, but devoted my attention to the face. After each sitting the paralyzed side would feel warmer and slightly sore.

Clairvoyance.

The Rev. Mr. Boutflower called upon me one day for the purpose of witnessing a few mesmeric experiments. I put a boy into the mesmeric sleep and shewed the usual phenomena of rigidity, catalepsy, attraction and repulsion, &c., both in the sleeping and ordinary waking state. I then mesmerised Mrs. Saunders, and, after many successful experiments in phreno-mesmerism, Mr. Boutflower asked her to describe to him the house in which he lived, many miles distant. We were both perfect strangers to him and knew nothing whatever respecting the locality of his residence. She described the house and grounds accurately, and said that no one was in the house but the servants. Upon this Mr. Boutflower said she must be wrong, for he had left parties in the house who were not likely to have gone out at that particular time. But she persisted that she was right, and said, "Oh ! I see a great dog at the door, like the one I used to see at Prior Park in Bath" (an Alpine mastiff). Mr. Boutflower said she must be wrong again, as neither he nor any person in the house had a dog of any kind. After a few more questions I awoke her, and Mr. Boutflower returned home. In

two or three days he again called, and stated that all Mrs. Saunders had said was perfectly correct: that the parties in the house had gone out at the time mentioned by her, and a large dog, belonging to a person living some little distance from him, had found its way to the door of his house and was lying down upon the steps.

About a week afterwards, Mr. Boutflower witnessed at my house a striking instance of the power of suggestion. A young person had come to me suffering from intense head-ache, caused in the following way. A gentleman in whose house she lived was one day mesmerising her, and she was just passing into the sleeping state, when a sudden ring at the door-bell made her start up with a most violent head-ache, and awoke her thoroughly. He was able neither to remove the head-ache, nor to send her to sleep again, as he attempted, in hopes of waking her up free from it. At last he sent her to me. I spent nearly an hour in trying to induce sleep, but without effect. I therefore told her to look steadily at me, saying that her head-ache was going away gradually, and that in a minute it would be gone. At the end of that time she declared the pain had quite left her. She returned to her home, and sent me word a week afterwards that there had been no return of the pain.

S. D. SAUNDERS.

NOTE BY THE ZOIST.

We should be glad to learn how Alexis Didier was *told* the information which he gave in the wonderful instances of clairvoyance detailed by Mr. Townshend in No. XXXVI.: or how his brother Adolphe was *told* the information which he gave in the instances detailed by Mr. Townshend in No. XLI.: how Mrs. Saunders was *told* the information which she gave in the instances detailed in the present Number: and how the writers in the *Leader* know "Dr. Ashburner's known connexion with *The Zoist*," which connexion is not and never has been. Will Mr. G. H. L. or Mr. H. S. explain these knotty matters to our readers?

XI. *A Report of the successful treatment by Mesmerism of the following cases:—3 of After-pains: 2 of supposed Cancer of the Womb: the confirmation of the permanent cure of a most afflicted sufferer: 1 cure of irregularity of the female system: 1 of severe Tooth-ache: 1 of intense Head-ache: 2 of severe acute Rheumatism: 1 of threatened Consumption: 1 of Edema of the Lungs and general Edema: the extraction of one tooth with only partial consciousness of pain.* By JOHN BATTISHELL PARKER, Surgeon, Exeter.

"In June, 1798, Dr. Jenner, being satisfied with the result of his experiments, resolved to lay them before the public. And as he was a Fellow of the Royal Society, and accustomed to divulge his observations in science through that channel, he transmitted his manuscript to a correspondent who was in the confidence of Sir Joseph Banks, the President; and requested that it should be laid before him, not doubting that it would soon be printed in the *Philosophical Transactions*. Jenner had already contributed several articles to that celebrated collection; in one of these he had fully disclosed the natural history of the cuckoo, which marked him out for a man of originality: and as none of his former papers on subjects of mere philosophical curiosity had been rejected, he naturally expected, that an essay promulgating a discovery of vast utility, would be favourably received. But the perusal of his experiments produced no conviction; and he received in reply a friendly admonition that, as he had gained some reputation by his former papers to the Royal Society, it was advisable not to present this, lest it should injure his established credit. This advice, though given with the best design, was neglected with the happiest consequences; for, although disappointed in his favourite mode of ushering his discovery into the world, he was confident that his work required no patronage; and therefore, after the addition of a few experiments made in this interval, he sent to the press his *Inquiry into the Causes and Effects of the Variolæ Vaccinæ, a disease discovered in some of the western counties of England, particularly Gloucestershire, and known by the name of the Cow Pox.*"—*The History and Practice of Vaccination.* By James Moore, Director of the National Vaccine Establishment, Surgeon of the Second Regiment of Life Guards, and Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in London. p. 19.

Aug. 13, 1853.

In furnishing the following report for the Editors of *The Zoist*, I will endeavour to convince its readers of the importance of mesmerism in relieving those cruel maladies which render the female's existence a burthen to herself and her family. The active sympathies of the female system furnish many troublesome cases to the medical practitioner: and among them the neuralgic are the most difficult to treat, as neuralgia of the womb may not be distinct, but accompanied by congestion, hypertrophy being thereby produced, which is often the forerunner of cancer. Mesmerism alone will often be found sufficient to relieve it when distinct; and, combined with the local application of leeches, has been found by me of great service in relieving the latter, as well as ovarian tumors. I have been led to this conclusion from

my own experience, and clairvoyant patients have prescribed the local application of leeches for themselves with the most unerring beneficial results. Anatomists must readily see how some ovarian tumors may be relieved by the application of leeches to the os uteri, as the ovaries receive their blood-vessels from the uterine. Some author has lately announced that hysteria is the result of moral depravity. If such were really the case, we should find it prevail among the most abandoned, instead of its being a cruel infliction on the most virtuous. Antimesmerists have failed in finding a remedy for hysteria, catalepsy, hysteric convulsions, puerperal convulsions and puerperal mania: and we feel a pride, and no little pleasure, in having discovered a balm for some, if not for all, such sufferings. Every experienced practitioner must have perceived the strong affinity which the above maladies bear to each other, and I trust the following observations and cases will induce others to try mesmerism for such otherwise intractable maladies.

After-pains.

1. Mrs. L. was confined with her tenth child, and every thing had proceeded happily and regularly. I was about to leave the room, when she exclaimed, "what agony I am in!" I returned to her bedside, and made a few passes. She expressed her astonishment at finding that the second pass had stopped the pains, and, what may appear extraordinary to those ignorant of the wonderful powers of mesmerism, it prevented their return.

2. Mrs. P. was delivered of her fourth child, and all was progressing naturally and most favourably, when suddenly she complained of violent pain. A few passes were sufficient to remove it, and to prevent its recurrence.

3. Mrs. C., whose cure of uterine disorder is published in No. XXXVII. of *The Zoist*, was confined with her eighth child. She was in a very delicate state from frequent child-bearing, and was very apprehensive of a fatal result on this occasion. Her delivery was quite natural, but she had a keen recollection of her former sufferings, and, as soon as she was delivered, I made some energetic passes over the bowels. At my subsequent visit, she expressed how agreeably surprised she was to find that she had not suffered *even* from *one* after-pain. This I deem a very important addition to our previous store of *facts* of the wondrous powers of mesmerism.

I. Uterine disorder resembling Cancer, and pronounced to be that frightful disease by several surgeons ; but effectually relieved by Mesmerism and the local application of leeches.

Mrs. — had had four children, and, since the birth of the youngest, had suffered from such symptoms as to induce several surgeons to pronounce her malady cancerous, when it had baffled all the means they could devise. As she had witnessed the soothing influence of mesmerism, she applied to me. I found her suffering from congestion or hypertrophy of the womb : and I advised the local application of leeches. These were repeated several times. But the peculiar nervous sufferings which attend most of those cases were only to be relieved by mesmerism, and the combined treatment had the most beneficial effect in restoring her to her usual active habits. She was never afflicted with hysteria until frightful sufferings had made great havoc in her previously good constitution.

II. Uterine disorder, which for five years had been pronounced cancerous by four medical men, removed by the same means.

M.— had arrived at the critical period of life, and had suffered from uterine disorder for several years. The symptoms are too well known to medical men, and are too frequently unmitigated torture to the patient, as was the case with this highly sensitive and intelligent woman. Before she consulted me, she had been under the care of *four medical men, each of whom had pronounced her disease to be of a cancerous nature, and incurable.* Her sole object in applying to me was to have her cruel sufferings *palliated* by mesmerism. On making the necessary examination, I found she was suffering from hypertrophy or congestion of the womb, of long duration : and the neuralgic sufferings were the consequence of her mind being so constantly distressed with the idea of having cancer of the womb. She consented to have leeches applied locally. This was attended with the most complete disorgement of the congested womb, and mesmerism was the happy handmaid in dispersing all the excruciating nervous sufferings from which she suffered and in restoring her to health.

Confirmation of the permanent cure of a most afflicted sufferer.

I am most happy to be enabled to record the permanence of the mesmeric cure of one of the most afflicted sufferers I have met with during the whole period of my professional career—Miss —, whose case has been only partially published in the Thirteenth Number of *The Zoist*. She had to

contend with blindness of one eye from opacity of the cornea, and the other was threatened with the same disease. Her lungs were said to be ulcerated, with frequent hæmorrhage, and all the frightful symptoms of advanced consumption. There was frequent pyrosis or water-brash, and she vomited on several occasions from three to five pints of watery fluid. An ovarian tumor existed, which had produced a permanent distortion of the spine, and from its pressure on the bladder had prevented this organ being emptied without the use of the catheter.

One eye is now very useful, having been cauterized by me upwards of twenty times with lunar caustic during mesmeric sleep without the least consciousness of pain. The lungs are free from tubercles, and all the symptoms of phthisis have disappeared. The ovarian tumor has been successfully removed by the application of leeches to the os uteri, as prescribed by her during mesmeric sleep. The pyrosis was effectually relieved by her own clairvoyant prescriptions. Her introvision was beautifully correct with respect to her lungs, the ovarian tumor, and the state of her eyes. Her prevision of the recurrence of the ovarian tumor was most accurately verified, and so were her numerous predictions of vomiting on many occasions from three to five pints of water at a time. The lungs again became permeable to the air, as could be verified by auscultation; and she is now enjoying better health than she had for many years previous to her testing the curative powers of mesmerism.

Irregularity of the female system relieved by five mesmeric sittings.

Miss — had taken cold five months previously during her periods. She suffered considerably for that time: and, as she was not benefitted by the ordinary means recommended for such cases, she applied to me. I gave her some medicine, and advocated a trial of mesmerism. After five sittings she became regular, and all uncomfortable symptoms disappeared.

Cure of severe Tooth-ache.

E—— had suffered for many days and nights from severe tooth-ache: and, as the pain proceeded from several which were much decayed, she knew not which to have extracted, and she had not the courage to lose all. She had tried all the ordinary remedies for tooth-ache without relief. Therefore she consulted me about being mesmerised previously to the extraction of the offending tooth or teeth. My mesmeriser succeeded in producing sleep at the first sitting, but

not sufficiently deep for the extraction of the teeth without consciousness of pain. She left my house promising to return the following day for that purpose: but, instead of returning, she sent a message to say that her tooth-ache had departed; and, on enquiry, I found she had experienced no return of the pain.

Severe Head-ache, not relieved by a blister and other ordinary medical treatment, cured by Mesmerism, after a seton in the neck had been recommended as the only remedial measure to be depended upon.

John Bowden, whose recovery through mesmerism from chronic pneumonia, resembling phthisis, after every other means had failed, will be recorded in the next number of *The Zoist*, caught cold in the past winter; and, in addition to other sufferings, had a most intense head-ache, for which the surgeon of his sick-club had prescribed various remedies for many weeks. A blister was included: but nothing relieved him, and so this surgeon proposed a seton in the neck. However, he thought he might as well have recourse to mesmerism, in consequence of the benefit he had derived from it on a former occasion: and he was fully rewarded in the course of a few days by being entirely cured, and enabled to resume his work.

Severe acute Rheumatism.

John Cockrell, gunner's mate of H.M.S. *Excellent*, returned from the Cape in the early part of this year. On his arrival he made no change in his dress, and consequently was seized with a severe attack of acute rheumatism. On the 28th March I found him quite unable to move in his bed. His mother was most anxious that he should be mesmerised, as she had seen the benefit derived from it in a similar case. He was accordingly mesmerised twice daily, and at the end of ten days was quite free from rheumatism. He then told me that he had suffered from tape-worm for thirteen years, and I gave him some medicines. He voided upwards of a dozen yards of tape-worm, and was soon quite convalescent and able to return to the duties of his ship.

Acute Rheumatism, cured by five mesmerisations.

C. Emmett, aged 19 years, had an attack of acute rheumatism at the age of 13, which confined her to her bed for a month. Two or three years ago another attack laid her up for six weeks. On August 7th, 1853, she was obliged to leave her place, and it took her nearly an hour to walk to her

mother's house, distant about the eighth of a mile; and it was necessary to carry her up stairs. On the 8th her sister came to ask me if mesmerism would be of service to her. I called, and found her unable to move her hands or feet, all of which were much swollen and excessively painful. The poor girl was mesmerised once on the 8th, 9th, and 10th, and on the 11th she was quite free from pain and able to take a walk: she was mesmerised on the 12th and 13th, and was then fit to return to service.

Threatening Consumption.

J. B. had been suffering from many of the symptoms of phthisis for eighteen months: and, as he had lost three sisters in that complaint, his mind was most gloomily directed to a similar fate. He had much pain in his chest, with a short and frequent cough, and expectoration at times streaked with blood. Within the above time he had been under the care of *four medical men, all of whom had held out very little prospect of his recovery.* As a last resource, having received little or no benefit from the various remedies prescribed for him, cod-liver oil among the rest, he applied to me, thinking that I should recommend mesmerism in addition to other means. The happiest results followed. Mesmerism has restored his usual strength, and brought about perfect freedom from all the symptoms which had been to him a source of so much anxiety.

Edema of the Lungs with general Edema.

J. B., an apprentice to a baker and confectioner, consulted me on the 14th December, 1852. His countenance was of a purple livid hue. The cheeks, abdomen, and lower extremities were oedematous. There was considerable difficulty of breathing that was much increased by exertion, a very troublesome cough, and a frequent feeling of suffocation. He had been under the care of *several medical men* before he applied to me, but had derived no relief from their treatment. Almost in despair he sought the curative powers of mesmerism, and by them, on the 19th February, he declared himself quite cured of all his sufferings.

Extraction of an upper molar tooth with partial consciousness of pain, on August 1st, 1853.

A very robust and intelligent young woman came to me from a neighbouring town to have a tooth extracted during mesmeric sleep: but, as she had never before been mesmerised, I doubted whether this would be practicable, for she

had only a few hours to spare, and during them had to transact some other business before returning home by the train. However, I succeeded in producing mesmeric sleep in less than ten minutes. I then applied the forceps, and endeavoured to dislocate the tooth. She screamed violently, and laid hold of my hands. I soon loosened them and extracted the tooth. She was in the act of rinsing her mouth with warm water when she awoke, and said she had felt a slight pain, but had not the least recollection of having screamed or grasped my hands.

XII. *The great advantage of combining Mesmerism with ordinary well-established medical measures illustrated in a successful case of Delirium Tremens.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"As a phrenologist, Dr. Moore has opposed Dr. Elliotson's mesmeric doctrines, and glories in having been the *prime mover in the onslaught upon mesmerism* in the Medical and Chirurgical Society as well as publicly in other places, by which he exposed himself to the ire of that irritable individual. He feels the more indignant from believing that, by the attempt to embody mesmerism with phrenology, this latter study has been thrown back at least fifty years in public estimation. However this may be, we are sure that Dr. Moore," &c.—*Medical Circular*, August 3, 1853. *Memoir of Dr. Joseph Moore.*

EVERY person has heard of the disease called delirium tremens. Its name fully characterizes it. There is delirium and general tremor. In an immense majority of cases it occurs without inflammation or the necessity of employing any of the remedies of inflammation: and is characterized by intense excitability of the brain and spinal cord, and more or less debility. The patient's thoughts ramble incoherently; he has delusions of various kinds, fancying that he hears, sees, tastes, smells, and feels unreal things; fancying past, present, and future occurrences, which have not taken place, do not and will not take place; and wishes to do improper and absurd acts, being more or less violent, but easily overcome. He ceases to sleep: or scarcely sleeps. There is great sensitiveness of all kinds and irritability. There is a general tremulousness and unsteadiness noticeable especially on moving the tongue or any limb: and frequently there is general muscular agitation. The pulse is quickened, and the danger is, according to my own observations, almost always proportionate to its rapidity. There was formerly great difference of opinion as to the proper treatment. Some always depended upon bleeding, purging, mercurializing, and starving; others, always upon opium and good nourishment.

The former party must have been awfully destructive to human life; and, when their patients recovered, the credit must in almost every instance have all belonged to nature, who triumphed over both the disease and the doctor. The other treatment, which I have all my life adopted, except when the disease exhibited strength rather than debility, and then my anti-inflammatory measures were mild, has been extremely simple, though vigorous, and, I may add, most successful. Though I see a great deal of this disease, I have not lost six cases in my life, and each fatal case I condemned at my first visit on account of the rapidity of the pulse. Some give wine, malt and spirituous liquors, to support the strength, from an idea that the patient being habituated to them requires them. But I invariably stand out, and give none, trusting entirely to the strongest beef tea* which can be made, taken as abundantly as the patient can be prevailed upon to swallow it—many pints a day. This is sufficient; but milk, eggs, and, if he can take it, mutton and other solid animal food, may be useful. Tea and coffee as tending to keep off sleep are improper. The only medicine I ever give is opium. But it must be given in very large quantities. Practitioners give it largely and freely; for in ordinary doses it is inoperative, so greatly is its influence withstood. I begin with two grains every four hours. If it has no effect soon, I give three grains every four hours: four grains every four hours: five grains every four hours, every three hours, every two hours. More than this I have never given: and this quantity I have never known to be injurious. Indeed I do not believe it an easy matter to do harm with opium in this disease. Twice I have seen intense narcotic effects from quantities that frightened me, given by gentlemen, one in Berners Street, the other at Chelsea, but both patients were all the better and recovered completely. I fancy that opium is preferable to morphine from not losing its power so quickly by repetition: and I fancy that solid opium is more uniform than the liquid preparation. I have given five grains every two hours, for three days and nights before the good effects came: and then they came gently and terminated in health. But the effects require careful and constant watching: a dose ought not to be repeated after sleep has begun

* The best mode of making beef tea is that taught us by Liebig. A pound of lean beef, free of fat, should be well minced and put into a pint of cold water and allowed to soak for four hours. The whole should then be placed upon the fire, heated slowly, and after the water begins to boil briskly it should be allowed to remain on the fire for two or three minutes only. The process is now completed, and we have very strong beef tea. It may be strained through a cloth.

to shew itself or the pupil of the eye has grown small. In these circumstances we should desist for a time till we are satisfied that these effects will not increase.

A young gentleman, thirty-five years of age, of very fine person, sound constitution, and good strength, fell into delirium tremens after being poorly with lumbago and feelings of general illness for several days. On a Saturday he became restless, excited, and a little strange, and at night sleepless. He grew worse daily, and I was requested to see him on the Wednesday morning. He had not slept at all for several nights: his manner was very hurried: his hands and tongue trembled: he was not incoherent or under any delusion, but talked a great deal. His pulse, neither weak nor strong, was a hundred, and his tongue foul: the skin was not hot, but perspired copiously. I ordered him to eat as much as he liked of meat and bread and to drink strong beef tea as freely. He begged for stout and such things, saying that he knew a patient who could not be made to sleep by opium, but went to sleep after taking a pint of stout. I assured him that such things were not requisite if opium was properly prescribed and good food was taken freely, and that I was satisfied that they retarded the cure; and I reminded him that up to and at the time of his attack he was taking fermented drinks as abundantly as usual, so that the disease was not produced by any want of his habitual stimulants. He had for some time undergone great anxiety and much bodily fatigue, and taken no food from morning till night. I allowed him to eat whatever he chose: and, besides bread and vegetables, he had mutton chops: he drank freely of beef tea and cold water, for which the clammy state of his mouth and throat made him long. I ordered three grains of opium to be taken every four hours.—*Evening*. He was talking a great deal, exceedingly restless, and had been a great deal out of bed, even down in the drawing room. His three grains were now to be taken every three hours.

Thursday. There had been no sleep; nothing but talking, delirium, restlessness. He had continued to take solid food and beef tea. I ordered four grains of opium every three hours and the same diet.—*Evening*. He had been very violent, and gone down raving to the ground floor: but I found him in bed, talking of robbers, serpents, streams of water along the bed, under many delusions, agitated and rather violent. His wife was lying by his side close to him with her hand upon his forehead. On being asked why she did this, she replied that she was trying to mesmerise him; and thought the attempt had rather quieted him. She asked

my opinion of the propriety of mesmerising him : and I said that I should be delighted to have him mesmerised, but had followed my rule of not mentioning mesmerism on any occasion till it is mentioned to me, as the medical world and so many of the general world are ignorantly and absurdly prejudiced against it. I added that I would myself mesmerise him late at night.—*Evening*. Accordingly at 10 o'clock I visited him again and mesmerised him for an hour with slow passes before his face and gazing at him in silence, producing instantly and all the time a state of quiet and drowsiness, with momentary snatches of sleep. But no sooner was the process over than his symptoms were as before. His pulse had been 108 all day. I ordered the four grains of opium to be given every two hours.

Friday. No sleep : no better : a keeper was engaged. I prescribed five grains of opium to be taken every two hours.—*Evening*. I mesmerised him for an hour before I went home to dinner at seven o'clock : and again for an hour before I went to bed. On each occasion he instantly became quiet and very sleepy, with momentary snatches of sleep the whole time : but, when the process was over, the symptoms, as before, returned with their former intensity. He had been very bad all the day : and his violence, restlessness, delirium, and debility were extreme. He got down stairs, but fell about. I prevailed upon him to go up again and into bed. His countenance was pale, hollow, haggard. His condition rather alarmed me. His pulse was 120 or 130 whenever he was excited : but, during his moments of composure, it gradually fell back to 108. He had taken many pints of the strong beef tea, but had eaten nothing.

Saturday. No sleep : but perhaps his delirium and excitement were a shade less intense, and his countenance was improved. I discerned an improvement, although those around him did not notice it. The effect of the mesmerism had been so decided as to convince his friends as well as the keeper, not one of whom had previously any belief in its powers. They were all struck with it and declared themselves firm believers in its influence. They proved this by taking every opportunity to make passes before his face. The keeper, though a strong healthy man, and most sincere and earnest, had less effect than the little, rather slight, but active and most earnest wife.—*Evening*. He had taken immense quantities of strong beef tea, and his five grains of opium every two hours most regularly up to this time, except the last dose : and, a piece of his last pill having been bitten off and lost, I gave him two instead of one. He had not

asleep, except just at the moments when his wife made passes. I had not had time to mesmerise him in the day : but now set to work. Though very talkative, and restless, even turbulent, before I began, he became still and sleepy as soon as I had made two passes; and during the hour that I mesmerised him he had longer snatches of sleep, was very drowsy, and at length really fell asleep, as did a friend, the keeper, and another male attendant, who were in the room. After mesmerising him an hour, I left him and the rest all asleep: him mesmerised, and then exhausted and no longer disturbed by him.

Sunday. I found him *perfectly well*. The sleep in which I had left him had lasted *twelve* hours, except that he occasionally opened his eyes and took the strong beef tea. He had taken no pills. His pulse was below a hundred.

From this time he took no opium: but, though his bowels had acted daily during the administration of the opium, and the liver had secreted healthily, they now became confined, and at the end of a few days he took an aperient. Some large and painful boils broke out upon him, such as those to which thousands of both sexes, of all ages and in all conditions of health, have for the last year or two been subject.

When I began the opium, he entreated me not to give him any, as it always disagreed with his head. But it did not cause the least inconvenience of any kind to him at the time, nor has it been followed by any.

Sept. 1. He still remains well, eating excellently, and has not tasted wine, malt or spirituous liquors.*

A fortnight after this gentleman had recovered, it struck me, while calling upon him one day, that he very likely was as susceptible as before. I made a few slow passes before his face and then steadily pointed my fingers at his eyes. He instantly shewed signs of being affected, and, by holding

* I never have mesmerised, and trust that I never shall mesmerise, professionally. But I myself worked at this case from my great respect for the patient, who has been struggling in the medical profession, unaided, and by some unkindly treated, for several years, doing his duty kindly and devotedly, often quite disinterestedly, and conducting himself in all respects in the most exemplary manner. He formed a favourable estimate of me before he began practice for himself, and, being neither worldly nor unprincipled, has always acted towards me in accordance with that estimate, notwithstanding my professional unpopularity through my advocacy of mesmerism, availing himself of my opinion where a second opinion was desired, and not treating me as if I had lost all my knowledge, skill, and integrity—thus acting so differently from a host of my former professional friends both in town and country, whose absurd conduct I deeply lament. I was therefore bound by gratitude to him as well as by respect.

my fingers quietly, I sent him off. I awoke him readily by transverse passes and blowing in his face.

Some persons imagine that after cure there is no longer susceptibility. But I have recorded in *The Zoist* numerous facts which shew this fancy to be erroneous.

Those who read the beautiful case of Master Salmon in No. III., may remember that, after he had recovered, though in his illness he was so susceptible, no effort of mine or of a powerfully mesmerising friend, produced the least effect. But he had taken a nervous dislike to mesmerism, and, for no reason that he could give, had an absolute horror of it. To this I ascribed his insusceptibility. Fourteen years have now elapsed: and I have rarely seen him. But the other night he happened to call upon me with his brother, whose remarkable case is recorded in No. XXXIV., and who calls occasionally to be sent off, as this always does him as much good as a country-walk. I found that the elder brother, being now a hearty young man of seven and twenty, had no longer his nervous dislike of mesmerism: and I begged to try him. He instantly shewed susceptibility, and I soon sent him to sleep. No attempt had been made for fourteen years to mesmerise him.

I was lately consulted respecting a little child with partial and general epilepsy, sometimes only one arm being convulsed in the attack and there being no coma: and it was proved after death to arise from scrofulous tubercles at the posterior part of the brain. Her mother mesmerised her daily, and sometimes a professional mesmeriser: and she always went into the deep sleep in a few minutes. While she was asleep one day after being mesmerised, a mesmeriser called and begged leave to wake her (for what reason nobody knows), and said she could soon be sent off again. She was readily awakened by transverse passes; but not flurried in the least by being awakened. She could not be sent to sleep again, and never could be affected again: her susceptibility had vanished. She died of the organic disease in her brain.

The readers of *The Zoist* were informed, in a note at p. 140 to a motto extracted from the memoir of a little Wakleyan hero, named Clark, written most certainly by himself, in a cheap little weak and weekly periodical called the *Medical Circular*, that the absurdly glorifying memoirs of the individuals of the whole swarm of medical men, as unknown for the most part as the swarming individuals who

get their livings in all other ways throughout the land, are each written in part by each distinguished individual himself: and that the editor is a medical practitioner resident in Farringdon Street, who, employed by the proprietor, said to be an auriat of Saville Row that keeps his name constantly before the public by means of newspapers and in other ways and like all no doubt that do this finds the plan answer well, merely shapes the materials sent by each individual, touches them up, and adds a remark here and there, exactly as in the present motto the first sentence is evidently by Dr. Joseph Moore, and the second may be partly by the thankful editor.

Although Dr. Moore declares that he was the glorious "prime mover of the onslaught upon mesmerism in the Medical and Chirurgical Society," I never knew any person bestow this glory upon him, because the first person who rose on that occasion, so memorable in the annals of English medicine, was Mr. Coulson, who valiantly began the onslaught by declaring, "that the paper ought never to have been read, for *the only point of interest* was the non-expression of pain, and that was a common thing, and he had no doubt the man *had been trained to it!*"*

"Dr. Moore, a physician-accoucheur, living in Saville Row, immediately followed, and made no objections, but protested, in a loud voice and rapid manner, that really such a statement ought to have been accompanied by affidavits, and asked if affidavits before the Lord Mayor or some other magistrate had been made. Dr. Moore has the distinction of being the first person who, in a scientific society of gentlemen, required that the detail of philosophical experiments should be supported by affidavit. He had, however, equally forgotten himself last summer at the Phrenological Association, having been for some time in an incessant state of distressing morbid antimesmeric irritation, without knowing more of the subject than its unpopular name, and conducting himself precisely in the way in which he complains, as a phrenologist, that the medical profession conduct themselves towards phrenology. When several gentlemen had related most curious experiments in which, during the mesmeric state, individual cerebral organs were at pleasure excited or stupified mesmerically, he exclaimed that it was a very pretty thing indeed for gentlemen to come down and tell us that they had seen this and that. I replied that no experimenters could do more at a public discussion, or in writing, than detail their facts faithfully, and put others in the way of repeating their experiments: and he was at once put to silence for the night.

"Thus Dr. Moore made no objections, but called loudly for affi-

* See my *Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations*, &c.

davits and then sat down again. No other notice was taken of this speech than to laugh at it."

At the following meeting, when the question of recording the account of this most interesting and most important case of absolutely painless amputation of a leg was debated,

"Dr. Moore protested that the authors had violated the laws of the society; and, at the same time that he was so indignant at its publication having been taken out of the hands of the society, declared, most consistently, that it was unworthy of a place in their minutes. 'How would the character,' he exclaimed, 'of that medical society be affected, on whose records it should appear that it had received and discussed a subject like mesmerism, when no proof existed as to its truth?'"

This is all I know of Dr. Moore's contributing to the attempts to prevent mankind from possessing the blessings of mesmerism in their diseases and agonizing surgical operations, except his vain and silly chattering against it in private.* If he has exposed himself to my ire, as he writes in his autobiography, he has evidently been blessed with a lucky escape, for I have displayed none to him; have never written a word about him except the simply historical passages of his doings in the Medical and Chirurgical Society just quoted, nor indeed spoken of him. I had nearly forgotten there was such a person. For he has written nothing except a notice that one of his patients had measles twice: he has done nothing for his profession: I never hear of him in practice or meet with a patient who has consulted him. I was not sure that he was still in practice.

The exquisite mesmeric phenomena of the excitement of individual cerebral organs discovered by Gall, when no suggestion or knowledge of what is attempting is possible on the part of the sleep-waker and the operator exerts no will, (see above, p. 258, &c.,) though foolishly despised by him, have given a greater impulse to phrenology than this science had received for twenty years, have attracted the attention of thousands to it and converted sceptics without number.

Dr. Moore must be forgiven, for he knows not what he says. To shew that I forgive him, and to prevent all appearance of unkindness in continuing to neglect him and take no notice of him, as well as to prevent posterity from knowing

* Within these few days a gentleman informed me that he was at a party where Dr. Moore and Dr. Spurgin were eagerly ridiculing mesmerism, and that Dr. Moore was not contented without adding that I knew mesmerism to be all humbug though I advocated it. The gentleman took him to task as he deserved.

nothing of him and the deeds in which he glories, I will write him an epitaph, which he may order to be chiselled upon a marble tablet and placed in Westminster Abbey or St. Paul's, whichever he may prefer.

MEMENTO MORI,

HIC JACET

JOSEPHUS ΜΩΡΟΣ.*

He is now no more :
 But his fame will last for evermore.
 Such was his admiration of swearing,
 That he wished medical men,
 Before publishing important scientific truths,
 To swear to them
 Before the Lord Mayor or some other magistrate.
 When medical men communicated their experience,
 He considered it "a very pretty thing" in them
 To declare what they had witnessed,
 As if they spoke the truth and thus enabled
 Others to verify their observations and experiments.
 He considered the detail of a painless surgical operation
 To be
 A disgrace to a Medical Society,
 And
 The discussion of mesmerism
 To be
 Ruinous to its character.
 He published no works : nor had he much practice.
 Yet was he a glorious man,
Gloriosus erat :
 For he boasted that he glories in calling mesmerism imposture,
 And its abettors impostors.
 He wrote his own life in the *Medical Circular*,
 But lost it by the excitement of his feelings against mesmerism
 And
 His self-glorification,
 Which induced the disease called "*constitutional irritation*."
 Notable things of him are recorded in the humble *Medical Circular*
 And
 In the far-famed *Zeist*.†

* Erasmus wrote a "*Maestas Εγκώμιον*;" and Holbein illustrated it copiously. It is elegantly bound in the College of Physicians : but as Dr. Moore is unhappily not a Fellow of the College he cannot consult it.

† We have it on his own authority, that he was "a man of agreeable manners and considerable vivacity, good health, and bodily activity," "kindness and courtesy;" that he was always well off, and having never felt the excitement of the "*res augusta domi*," never became so "popularly known as many others;" was unmarked "by bustle and pretension," (now he always appeared a very bustling little gentleman :) was told by Abernethy that he was "very much too clever for a doctor," and ought to become a surgeon : and so, (choosing something midway,) that he felt "a bias for midwifery;" "enjoyed the confidence of a considerable number of general practitioners," and received many "presents of plate and other valuable articles;" once had a legacy of

XIII. *Cure of a case of excessive Flow of Saliva.* By Mr.
FRADELLE.

Sacred

TO THE MEMORY OF

JOHN BIRCH, Esq.,

Many years an eminent Surgeon of this Metropolis,
Who died on the 3rd of February, 1815, aged 69 years,
And whose earthly remains lie deposited under the Pulpit.

In his professional character as humane as he was skilful,
He permitted not the sight of daily wounds and sores,
Afflictions and wretchedness of every kind,
To blunt the edge of his natural feelings
For the sufferings of his fellow-creatures;
But condemning a too hasty reliance on vaunted theories,
Sparing of the knife, abhorring unnecessary torture,
A foe to wanton, cruel, or dangerous experiment,
Averse from rash operations and the destruction of parts
Redeemable by patient and judicious care,
He earned for himself a high and distinguished reputation
On the solid and only secure basis of ENLIGHTENED EXPERIENCE,
Stimulated through life by a wise and Christian-like ambition
To cure, not maim—preserve, not destroy.

Mankind is indebted to him
For a more intimate acquaintance with the powers
OF MEDICAL ELECTRICITY,
By his own ingenious and improved application of which,
He performed many remarkable and almost unhopèd-for cures.
But the practice of COW POXING,
Which first became general in his day,
Undaunted by the overwhelming influence of power and prejudice
And the voice of nations,
He uniformly and until death perseveringly opposed:
Conscientiously believing it to be a public infatuation
Fraught* with perils of the most mischievous consequences to mankind.
Man's mere opinions must ever be liable to error,
But by the motives that sway his heart
Should he alone be judged.

To perpetuate the remembrance of qualities so excellent,
Penelope Birch,

£5 5s., twice of £50, twice of £500, and once of £5000: that he took his degree at Glasgow "with some little distinction:" and, before that time, "was bleeding and physicking all the old women and children of the district" in the capacity of apprentice to a "parish doctor."

In this his autobiography he also informed his friends and the public in general that he was to be found at No. 10, Saville Row.

I know nothing more calculated to lower the profession in the eyes of the public than these autobiographies. These biographies prove themselves, by the minute and private details and the glorifications, to be written by the worthies themselves. But, besides the internal evidence, it is a notorious fact that the editor applies to each person for his life, and does not apply in vain.

* The very word used by Professor Wood in reference to mesmerism, p. 256.
—*Zoist*.

His affectionate and only surviving sister,
 Hath raised this monument,
 Not out of a worldly and vain-glorious
 Pride of affinity,
 But, in order to hand down an example worthy of imitation
 To succeeding ages.*

Miss M. A., aged 30, had been under medical treatment ever since 1840. In the first instance, for a pain and swelling of the left knee, and pain of the left hip, and afterwards for violent spasms in the stomach, head-ache, giddiness, fulness of the head, aching of the left side, and other ailments of the stomach and nervous system. Every night she had cough and other chest symptoms. In 1846, she derived so much benefit from taking, by medical direction, about once a week, one pill containing calomel, that, hoping to do still better, she inadvertently took one every day for several weeks, till her mouth became frightfully sore and the sides of her throat extremely swelled. Unconscious of the cause of the mischief she had done, she swallowed the saliva, which was daily increasing in quantity, instead of discharging it.

When the attention of the medical men was directed to it, they could afford her but little relief. Change of air and the shower-bath were of benefit, but the flow would return at times with such violence that the saliva discharged in a day would nearly fill a wash-hand basin. It continued during sleep. One medical man succeeded in checking it for a short time, but the respite was succeeded by fever, spasms, &c., which compelled her to keep her bed for weeks.

From first to last, six medical men in Ireland and five in England were consulted, and she had been under the regular care of several. They subjected her to "*blisters, issues, ointments, leeches, caustics, scarification of the gums, pills, draughts, mixtures, and drops.*" Sir Benjamin Brodie gave it as his decided opinion that the discharge of saliva ought not to be stopped, for fear of engendering some more serious disease. Every cessation of the morbid flow was succeeded by one or other of the complaints from which she had previously suf-

* Epitaph to be seen on a marble tablet in the church of St. Margaret Pattens, Rood Lane, Fenchurch Street, upon a surgeon of St. Thomas's Hospital named Birch, who was as furious against cow pox as Dr. Moore is against mesmerism. He wrote against it, had caricatures against it, lectured in the Hospital against it, stormed from morning to night against it: and left orders for an epitaph in the hope of damaging it after his death. But the cow pox is adopted in all the quarters of the globe, the memory of its first promulgator is honoured by the whole human race, and the medical profession points to his name as one of its chief glories, while poor Mr. Birch is gone,—one day to be followed by poor Dr. Joseph Moore, who is destined to leave mesmerism adopted by all mankind.—*Zeist.*

ferred, and these in their turn yielded when the flow re-appeared.

This state of alternation of complaints continued for *six years*. The patient was constantly taking medicine, and her constitution became considerably impaired.

She came up to London and consulted Dr. Elliotson. He assured her that medicine would be useless; and advised a trial of mesmerism. Mesmerism was resorted to. He found one spot of a cartilage, near the breast-bone, very tender, but could detect no tumor in the breast as had been alleged.

I commenced mesmerising her, July, 1852, and, at the end of twenty-five minutes, procured light and tranquil sleep, which any noise would disturb. Beyond this degree the sleep never went. It would continue for half an hour after I left the house. I mesmerised her three quarters of an hour daily, and directed my attention to, and made slow passes over, the throat, or rather the seat of the salivary glands, in order to reduce their action.

The discharge of saliva gradually subsided. The effects of a cold or over-fatigue, would, at times, retard the improvement. It was not till mesmerism had been persevered with for four months, that the discharge was effectually arrested.

Two month's further trial was made to establish the cure. Mesmerised water was of benefit. It is now seven months since mesmerism has been discontinued; yet none of the complaints to which she had formerly been subject has returned.

Acids are found to excite the glands, and are therefore avoided. A cold does the same, but the effect soon goes off spontaneously.

H. J. FRADELLE.

5, Brecknock Crescent, Camden New Town,
August 19th, 1853.

XIV. *Can Professor Faraday never be wrong? or, is Table-Turning all a delusion?* By the Reverend GEORGE SANDBY.

"Aliquando bonus dormitat."

HORACE.

"There is a superstition in avoiding superstition."

BACON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Flixton, August 25th, 1853.

SIR,—It is, doubtless, a monstrous act of presumption to call in question the infallibility of Professor Faraday. He is an authority from whom no appeal is permitted. When our Professor has once spoken, a cause is settled in public estimation: *Roma locuta est; causa finita est*; and when in addition to his decision, he appends certain fearful sentiments about the "condition of the public mind," and the "deficiencies of our system of education," and his "startled" feelings at the revelation of so much ignorant adherence to the "cause of error," that man is voluntarily exposing himself to ridicule and censure, who does not at once bend in silent obedience to the dicta. In spite, however, of the terrors of a Faradæan anathema, I am rash enough to think that the question is not yet closed, and that perhaps the great authority of Albemarle Street may be wrong for once in his life.

I am in some degree emboldened to utter this absurd opinion, by a re-perusal of the opening paragraph in his famous letter to *The Times* newspaper, dated June 28th. "I have recently," he says, "been engaged in the investigation of table-turning. I should *be sorry* that you should suppose I thought this necessary *on my own account*, for *my conclusion respecting its nature was soon arrived at*, and is not changed." A man who is "sorry" that investigation on his own account should be thought necessary, and whose conclusion respecting the nature of an alleged fact is *soon arrived at*, does not commence his experiments in a very impartial state of mind. If the Professor had not adopted a very different course in his grand inquiries on the subject of electricity, he would not have attained the European celebrity which so justly attaches to his name. He would not now have been regarded as the *facile princeps* of lecturers. But, as Bacon says that there is a superstition in avoiding superstition, so there may be an unscientific zeal in combatting unscientific opponents; and in his eagerness to demolish people whom he may despise, a philosopher may sometimes forget his philosophy, and invent a machine which, while it

admirably adapts itself to *one class of facts*, deals with but *half a question*, though it professes to embrace the whole. And this I believe to be the position of Professor Faraday with his apparatus on this subject. The "*expectant will*" has been as strongly developed in his case as in that of those unfortunate table-turners for whose system of education he entertains such scorn. He professes, indeed, "only to be led by the facts and truth of nature," and he "*expected*" that his instrument would soon settle the controversy: but the "*mental check*," of which he speaks, has prevented him from going into every bearing of the question, for his instrument has simply proved that which we all of us admitted before his letter appeared.

I repeat it, that our best and most judicious experimenters had previously admitted that muscular action and fatigue with expectant attention did often produce the effects referred to. We had given both caution and advice on the subject. We had carefully distinguished between the different motive powers. In my letter, which appeared in the last number of *The Zoist*, I had myself especially drawn the attention of our friends to this very point, and had expressed an opinion that many of their alleged cases of success might possibly be the results of muscular agency: nevertheless, I contended that after a reasonable deduction of deceptive instances, there still remained a collection of facts, which the "*muscular*" hypothesis did not touch. And Professor Faraday's instrument goes no farther: it is merely *negative* in its action: it narrows the limit of our cases; but it does no more. At the same time, after the publication of the Professor's letter, I was not disposed to adhere pertinaciously to my own opinion, but was anxious, as opportunity might offer, to test the question over again. My own recent experiments, however, have always failed; and I appear to possess no power myself: however, I have lately been an eye-witness of a fact, in which I perceive no opening for mistake.

I was in the company of several friends, when the conversation turned upon table-moving. Two or three sceptics expressed their disbelief of some anecdotes which were related: when a clergyman present, the Rev. —, observed that he had himself been as decided a sceptic as any one, but that he had found that he possessed the power to a considerable degree. It was agreed that he should be tested under the surveillance of his sceptical neighbours. He took a slim and very light hat (it is important to bear these points in mind), and placing the fingers of his two hands perpendicularly upon the flat and outer part of the brim, commenced

the experiment. The hat moved distinctly and rapidly in about a minute. This, of course, was at once attributed to muscular power; with whatever good faith the party might have acted, the cause was still the same. It was, therefore, proposed by one of our sceptics that something heavy should be placed inside the hat, something that might act with a *vis inertiae*, and offer resistance to the muscles. This was agreed to; and a piece of marble, weighing about two pounds, was deposited inside: in less than a minute, however, the hat moved most unequivocally. This fortunately was not deemed sufficient: something still heavier was required. An Indian pestle and mortar, with which the Hindoos pound their rice, and weighing upwards of seven pounds (I have had it weighed since), was selected by our sceptic and placed inside the hat. We all considered that it was useless to make an experiment under such circumstances; but again, and to our surprise, in the course of a minute the hat walked off in a marked manner. Unfortunately the experiments always produce such distressing sensations upon my friend, the operator, that he was glad to withdraw his hands soon after the hat was in movement; but still there was ample opportunity afforded for distinctly watching the effect. The hat stood upon a table more than a foot from the operator; his fingers were not laid horizontally upon the brim, or partly bent over it so as to obtain a purchase; but he held them vertically downwards, touching the hat slightly with the tips, it might be almost said with the finger-nails. I stood next to him, and can guarantee the accuracy of my description: seven or eight other persons stood round the table watching the experiments, and were satisfied of the fact. The hat was of such slight fabric, and so flexible, that if any pressure had been employed by the fingers consciously or unconsciously, it could not have moved in consequence of the weight within, but its sides would have yielded or crumpled into wrinkles; and yet the hat moved on uprightly and with as firm a shape as usual. I lifted it up afterwards, and found the sides bending in from the great weight inside.

Now if Professor Faraday will condescend to take a light hat, and place a heavy weight within it and try to move it in the above manner by the mere tips of the fingers held perfectly straight, he will see the nature of the experiment. I cannot expect that he will have any misgiving as to the conclusive character of his own test: but perhaps he may admit, that those who believe in something besides muscular pressure, are not quite the *cretins*, which he in his pontifical proclamation has described them all to be. And I further hope

that any person, who finds that he possesses the power of readily moving a hat, will try the above experiment, carefully observing the conditions, and report his results to the public.

I will mention, now, a few supplementary points.

The Rev. —, who was a witness of the above experiment, and who is as cool and clear-headed a man as any I know, mentioned some striking facts, which had occurred with his own children, who, like many other young persons, seem to possess great power. They had formed a chain and set a table in motion: having, as we may then call it, *charged* the table, they broke the chain and the table stopped: in a minute or two they re-formed the chain and held their hands over the table, an inch or two apart, and in a short time the table moved half a yard. This occurred in broad daylight, and my friend, who was watching the proceedings very closely, is confident that there was no contact with the table, either from the hands or from any part of the body. I know no one, upon whose evidence as that of a careful and philosophic observer, I could more safely rely.

At another time, his children set easily into rapid motion a table, which, from its size and weight, they could on other occasions with difficulty move.

The same thing happened with a young friend of mine. He easily, by himself, set into quick motion a large and heavy round table, and there was this peculiarity in the experiment; the table was covered with a cloth which he never creased or wrinkled by the contact. This was specially noticed by all present, who none of them could afterwards set the table in motion, on account of its size, without doubling up the cloth into a crease. I consider this a good test against the muscular-pressure hypothesis. Let any one try to push a heavy table, and observe what happens to the cloth.

Your readers may remember the anecdote which I mentioned in my last letter, relating to M. Becquerel, the academician, and a young French girl. I observe a similar fact mentioned in a letter which has been published on the subject.* "After the table has been rendered impressible, I have placed my hands upon it, but it would not rotate. The child has then placed her hands upon the outside of mine, no part of her hands or of her person touching the table, and in a short time it commenced its ordinary rotatory motion."—p. 6.

* See *Letters on Table-Moving, &c.*, by A. B. Bailliére, 219, Regent Street.

I submit the above statements, with great humility, to those inquirers into physiology, who can patiently investigate a perplexing question, and who, unlike certain philosophers of whom we have heard, "do not *soon arrive at conclusions* respecting the nature" of a subject. I do not say, that a large proportion of table-moving cases may not be cases of involuntary muscular action; but I submit that there is still *primâ facie* evidence remaining to shew that the subject is not yet settled. Let us hope that our friends will go on accumulating facts, patiently examining what they see, and carefully recording those facts at the time. We must not be frightened at the bad names that are given us, or at the contempt in which we are held at the head-quarters of science. For deplorable as doubtless has been our "system of education," and vitiated as our "mental condition" has become, let us take to ourselves this comfort, that it might have been worse. For, in addition to our other numerous defects, we might have been wrapped up in a self-sufficient satisfaction at our own superiority,—we might have been scornful and uncharitable, intolerant of the facts and opinions of others, and overweeningly contented with our own.

I am, Sir,

Yours, &c.,

GEORGE SANDBY.

XV. *Table-moving in distant lands.*

"Nullum est jam dictum, quod non dictum sit prius."

TERENTIUS, *Eunuchus*, Prologus.

"Whosoever a solid body, as wood, stone, metals, &c., is pressed, there is an inward tumult in the parts thereof, seeking to deliver themselves from the compression: and this is the cause of all violent motion, wherein it is strange in the highest degree, that this motion hath never been observed, nor inquired: it being of all motions the most common, and the chief root of all mechanical operations. This motion *worketh in round* at first by way of proof and search which way to deliver itself: and then *worketh in progress*, where it findeth the deliverance easiest."—LORD BACON, *Natural History*, cent. i., 9.

TO THE EDITORS OF THE ZOIST.

GENTLEMEN,—As a curious illustration of the odic force alluded to in the introductory notice by Dr. Gregory in Article 1 of the last number of *The Zoist*, as a *transferable influence capable of acting at a distance*, I send you two extracts from works lately published, which you may consider worth recording in the pages of your widely-circulated journal. The Druses of Mount Lebanon, and the Lamas of

Siberia, in modern times seem to be acquainted with the same secret powers of nature which were known to Moses and the ancient magicians of Egypt.

NON-WIST.

Edinburgh, August 15, 1853.

Extract from "Table-turning and Table-talking."

"It is quite evident that the mania (table-moving) has also extended to Russia—to divide there the interest which is felt on the Turkish question, for in a St. Petersburg periodical, called the 'Bee of the North,' a correspondent has called attention to an analogous phenomenon which seems to have been practised for many years past in the wilds of Siberia. This account is sufficiently interesting to quote verbatim:—"Immediately I read the account in your papers of the "moving tables," it brought to my mind a circumstance which has a striking analogy to this newly discovered phenomenon. Being an eye-witness to the fact, I consider it my duty to communicate it to you. Like the high priests of ancient Egypt, who practised a multitude of clever tricks in order to maintain their influence over the superstitious, the Siberian Lamas, priests of the religion of Budha, are in possession of some of the more extraordinary secrets of nature, which they never communicate to any one. These secrets give them the reputation among their fellow-countrymen, of being inspired, and of acting under the influence of divine revelation. Amongst the means employed by them, there is one more curious than the others. A little moving table is their magical wand, which serves them as an indicator to discover stolen articles, when they are questioned as to their place of concealment. This is how the enchantment is brought about. When a person brings his complaint before the Lama, and begs of him to discover the article which has been stolen from him, it rarely happens that the Lama consents immediately to grant his demand, but he puts him off for several days under the pretence of preparing for his act of divination. When day and hour indicated arrive, the Lama seats himself on the ground before a little square table, on which he places his hand, and then begins in a low voice to read from a Thibetian work. Half an hour afterwards, the priest rises, takes his hand from the table and raises his arm, preserving at the same time, in regard to his body, the position the arm occupied when placing it on the table, which also rises and follows the direction of his hand. The Lama then stands upright, raises his hand above his head, and the

table is brought on a level with his eyes. The enchanter now makes a movement in advance, the table executes the same movement; he runs, the table goes before him with such rapidity that the Lama can scarcely follow it. After having pursued different directions, it oscillates in the air and then falls. Of all the directions the table took, there is one more marked than the others; it is on that side that the stolen articles are to be sought for. If one lent an ear to the recitals of the people of the country, they would be found at the exact place where the little table fell. The day on which I witnessed this experiment, after having travelled in the air over a space of eighty feet, the table fell in a place where the stolen articles were not discovered. I should own, however, with all humility, that the same day a Russian peasant, living in the direction pointed out, committed suicide. This suicide raised suspicions; they repaired to his house, and there they found all the stolen property. Three different times this experiment took place in my presence, and the Lama declared that the articles could not be found. But on the fourth occasion I was witness to the fact I have just related. It took place in the outskirts of the town Elaue, in the province of Zabaikal. Not daring to trust blindly to my own eyes, I explained this apparent phenomenon to myself as being some trick employed by the impostor, the Lama. I accused him of raising the table by means of an invisible thread before the eyes of the spectators. But after a more minute examination, I found no trace whatever of fraud. Besides, the moving table was of pine, and weighed a pound and a half. At the present day I am persuaded that this phenomenon was produced on the same principle as that by which tables, hats, keys, &c., are now moved."

Extract from a work by Colonel Churchill, called "Mount Lebanon." Saunders & Otley, Conduit Street. London. 1853.

"His son, Sheik Mechir, is one of the best informed of the Druse Sheiks, and has acquired a store of history and literature, which makes his conversation in every way superior. He has, for some years, devoted his time, singular as it may appear, to the cultivation of magic, and the stories he relates of his interviews with immaterial beings are novel and startling. At times he will place a jug between the hands of two persons sitting opposite to each other, when after the recital of certain passages taken indiscriminately from the Koran and the Psalms of David, it will move spontaneously round,

to the astonishment of the holders. A stick at his bidding, will proceed unaided from one end of a room to the other. A New Testament, suspended to a key by a piece of string, will in the same way turn violently round of itself. On two earthenware jars being placed in opposite corners of a room, one being empty, the other filled with water, the empty jar will, on the recital of certain passages, move across the room; the jar full of water will rise of itself on the approach of its companion, and empty its contents into it, the latter returning to its place in the same manner that it came. An egg boiling in the saucepan will be seen to spring suddenly out of the water, and be carried to a considerable distance. A double-locked door will unlock itself. There cannot be a doubt that an unseen influence of some kind is called into operation, but of what nature those may conjecture who liked to speculate upon such matters.

"But it is in the more serious cases of disease or lunacy that his supernaturally-derived powers are called into play. Previous to undertaking a cure he shuts himself up in a darkened room, and devotes his time to prayer and fasting. Fifteen and sometimes thirty days are passed in this state of abstinence and self-denial. At last one of the genii, described by him to be much of the same appearance as human beings, will suddenly appear before him and demand his bidding. He then states his position, and requires assistance in the case he is about to undertake. The genii replies at once that his request is granted, and encourages him to proceed.

"The wife of Sheik Achmel Talhuh had been for more than two years afflicted with a swelling which had been long mistaken for pregnancy. Sheik Mechie, after the usual preparatory discipline, passed his hand over her person, and in five minutes she arose perfectly cured.

"Sheik Yoosof Talhoob was brought before him, a confirmed lunatic; in two days he returned to his home perfectly restored to health and reason.

"That the Sheik stoutly maintains his intercourse with spiritual agents to be real and effective, is unquestionable; and indeed the belief in magic, and in the interposition of an order of unseen creatures in worldly affairs, at the bidding of those who choose to devote themselves earnestly to such intercourse, is universal throughout the entire population, of every religion and sect. There are Christian priests who affirm that the Psalms of David contain an extensive series of necromantic passages, which, if thoroughly understood and properly treated, would place the whole world of spirits

entirely at man's disposal, and invest them, through their medium, with miraculous powers."

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Reflection of Divine Truth. Nos. V. and VI. Robertson, Edinburgh.
The Christian Examiner and Bible Advocate. No. VI. Tweedie, Strand.
The Exposition of Life and Immortality. Nos. I. and II. Ker, Edinburgh.
The British Journal of Homœopathy. No. XLV.
An Essay upon the Philosophy of Evidence, with a discussion concerning the belief in Clairvoyance. By Watkin Williams, of the Inner Temple. Chapman, Strand.

Hypnotic Therapeutics, illustrated by Cases. With an Appendix on Table-moving and Spirit-rapping. By James Braid, M.R.C.S. Edin., M.U.S., &c., &c. Reprinted from the *Monthly Journal of Medical Science* for July, 1853.

Christianity said by Bishop Butler to be a republication of the law of nature.—A. B. is informed that when Dr. Eliotson made this remark, he evidently referred to the moral precepts only of Christianity, though inadvertently he did not so express himself. But in making this remark in all other parts of *The Zoiæ* and in his *Physiology*, he has distinctly so expressed himself: and, in speaking of a future state, has always placed the foundation of the belief of it on its assertion by Christianity, of which it is an important doctrine.

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