

THE ZOIST.

No. XV.

OCTOBER, 1846.

I. *More painless Surgical Operations in the Mesmeric State.*
Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

ILLUSTRATIONS OF MODERN MESMERISM, from Personal Investigation. By JOHN FORBES, M.D., F.R.S., Physician to Her Majesty's Household.

"A smart, able production. *If there are still any doubters as to mesmerism being a fraud, we advise them to peruse this pamphlet. It certainly is a prickly rod for one of the classes of quacks.*"—*Lancet*.

I HAVE received another letter from Dr. Esdaile.

"Hooghly, 28th May, 1846.

"My dear Sir,

"I was very happy to receive your letter of the 1st April, and to be the means of giving you pleasure. If my labours should fortunately add weight to what you have done and said, and assist in hastening your public triumph and reward, I shall be satisfied. I returned from Ferozepore the day after reaching it, having victoriously marched 2,200 miles without seeing an enemy. By this mail I have the pleasure to send you a quantity of mesmeric matter, by which you will perceive that the natives of this country are acquainted with it as a curative agent, and I have little doubt that they are adepts in the villanous department; but this is not easily detected. *If I have not been as bitterly opposed and maligned as you by the doctors, I have had as little help and encouragement from them;* but, luckily for me, I could not be injured in the usual way, being a public servant and independent of private practice. A contemptible attempt was made to burn me, however, but, as my would-be executioners were themselves consumed, I have been let alone for a long while, and no one dares to attack me openly—it would only be to draw upon him a fire of tumors of 50, 60, 70, 80 lbs. weight, of

which I have an unlimited command. As it will make you laugh (*you will have nothing else to do soon*), I must relate to you the first and last mesmeric battle fought by the *ne plus ultras* in defence of their prescribing privileges and right of tormenting the human race *per totam terram*. But it would require a Molière to do the subject justice. Be it known to you, then, that we had a *Wakley minimus* here in the editor of the *Calcutta Medical Journal*. When I first took up the subject, I invited him to come and see for himself; but, as usual, he contented himself with sniggering and doing nothing. All he knew about the matter was what he had seen in the *Lancet*, and he was smitten with a sudden ambition to *nickle* me. At the end of three months, he asked leave to accept my invitation and bring two friends with him. I said, Come, on condition that you print all you see and do. I had ascertained by numerous experiments with all kinds of persons, that, after the system had been deeply tainted by the mesmeric action, any one could produce the usual phenomena by doing as he was ordered. *I looked upon my visitor as a mad bull, with whom it would be absurd to reason*, and resolved to bait him for the amusement of the public. I accordingly invited my friends to the bull bait, and I assure you the sport was capital; he gored and tossed the fortunately generally-insensible patients (*made so by himself*), and roared like a bull of Bashan at his own success. Since the days of the *Médecin malgré lui*, there has not been such a farce. I published a true and simple account of his mighty deeds and presumed conversion, and he revenged himself in the journal by *maligning my poor patients as a pack of hardened and determined impostors*, and kindly permitted me to be *perhaps only a fool*. I laughed at his beard, and made ballads on him in return; and, when he had exposed his ignorance, I began to speak seriously to the public in letters published monthly in the newspapers.

"*Nearly all who CAN be convinced are so*, and I will not rest till mesmerism is introduced into the public hospitals in Calcutta. On the 1st June I expect a party of influential gentlemen from Calcutta, and, if I have my usual good fortune, I hope to send them back satisfied. Dr. O'Shaughnessy, who is a college chum of mine, was here yesterday, and we tested the insensibility of three men by the electro-magnetic machine; they were quite indifferent to it, so I consider them to be *bagged*. Dr. Mouat is coming up next Monday, and will perhaps tell you what he sees. I am 26 miles from Calcutta, and have only a village hospital.

"I never mesmerise now, for others do the work just as effectually, and it was killing me. I wonder that you do not

keep a mesmeric corps too ; but I have a great advantage in the docility and patience of my agents and patients.

" Believe me,

" Very truly yours,

" JAS. ESDAILE.

" P.S. I have found a copy of a mesmeric ballad, and I assure you that the *facts* are as true as if they had been sworn to before a magistrate in prose, and you will recognize their truth, although people unacquainted with the subject will think it a burlesque."*

* " A VISIT TO HOOGLY.

And how the Editor did more than he intended.

" On Gunga's banks an Editor,
To make himself a name,
Resolv'd to kill a Mesmerist,
And gain immortal fame.

" To-morrow I'll give up my fees,
And eke to Hooghly he ;
To kill the dog that worries us ;
Resolv'd to do or die.

" Then starting boldly up, he cried
Unto his slaves, ' Quoi Hye !'
This instant go to Jann Bazaar,
And order me a fly.

" And also buy me plenty rope
Both new, and strong as steel,
With which to bind the Mesmerist,
All to my carriage wheel.

" I'll teach him to disturb our peace,
With this his last humbug ;
I'll put him to a cruel death,
And crush him like a bug !

" But first I'll write a letter fair ;
By dâk it shall be sent ;
To throw the rascal off his guard,
And hide my deep intent.

" Now, I am told, the Mesmerist,
When he received the chit—
' Oh ! ho !' quoth he, my cunning friend
The biter shall be bit.

" ' You're very knowing, Dr. Slop,
And take me for a cake ;
But ere we part, when next we meet,
You'll find out your mistake.

" ' You come to publish me a fool,
Or eke a naughty knave ;
But those who would a razor wield,
Should learn the art to shave.

" ' And I will shave thee like an egg,
And make of thee a show,
Till all the boys shall laugh at thee,
And eke thy friends also '

" Then to the Judge he bled him,
And giving him a nudge,
Told him of Slop's intended plan,
To prove it all a fudge.

" Unto the worthy Clergyman,
He also did resort ;
And begg'd of him to countenance,
A little pleasant sport.

" ' Most willingly,—most willingly,'
They both at once did cry :
' We'll look as grave as mustard pots,
And laugh not, though we die.

" ' A thousand thanks, my worthy friends,'
The Mesmerist replied ;
' I'll baste this bragging insolent,
Who dares to say we lied.

" ' Then when I gravely do propose
Unto the learned Slop.
That *he* should practise Mesmerism,
You'll second it quite pop.'

" ' I'll aid you,' said the Clergyman,
And look as grave as a Church.'
' And I,' said the Civilian,
' Will leave him in the lurch.'

" Next morning came, with foaming steeds,
The gallant Dr. Slop,
Exhaling death to Mesmerists,
And quaking for his shop.

" With trembling limbs, and humble looks,
The Mesmerist appear'd,
For now he stood in presence of
The only man he fear'd.

"30th May. *I have this moment taken off a woman's leg without her knowing it.*"

Six numbers of the *Calcutta Englishman and Military Chronicle* arrived by the same mail. I extract a dialogue from that of May 13, because it, with the ballad, shews the identity of the breeds of our opponents in different quarters of the globe. Mr. Wakley, Mr. Rintoul, and other editors, and Dr. Forbes, Dr. Marshall Hall, and other members of the Royal Medical Society, may at length suspect, when they read what has passed in the East Indies among their counterparts, that their own anti-mesmeric thoughts and actions, however proud they may be of them, are all mere inevitable physical results

"His nerves he strung with *aqua camp.*
And shaking, thus begun—
But with his eye'a-tail viewed his friends,
And call'd them to the fun.

"Oh! learned, and redoubted Slop!
Would you but condescend,
Your portly body unto me,
For some few minutes lend.

"Then might I hope, a little while,
To breathe these vital airs,
And not be sent by kick of foot,
Head foremost down the stairs.

"And doom'd to beg my daily bread,
With reputation crack'd,
And sentenc'd to a life of shame,
The public having quack'd.

"If you will but restrain your rage,
And give me leave to live;
My secret and my magic wand,
To you I freely give."

"Perish your secret, and yourself!
But as you're in my power,
With you I will amuse myself,
And wile away an hour."

"Then, mighty sir, will you but deign,
To let your piercing eyes,
Rest for five minutes on the girl,
Who on that charpoy lies."

"The learned Doctor turned his head,
And fix'd his eagle gaze;
The girl fell back, with quiv'ring lids,
To Doctor Slop's amaze.

"Stunn'd was the Doctor—mad was he!
And oh! an angry wight,
To see such tokens of the truth,
And of his own great might.

"You may suppose what epitheta
He on the huasey pour'd,
And when he could not wake her,
How awfully he roar'd!

"With looks demure, the Mesmerist,
Some acid next brought out;
Let which but touch the slightest wound,
The stoutest would cry out.

"And begg'd his learned brother would
Apply it to a sore,
Which a woman, mesmerised,
Upon her temple bore.

"With haughty look, but inward dread,
Slop ruefully conform'd:
The woman only slept the more,^a
And was not even warm'd.

"But when the hog-man he subdued,^b
How fearfully he swore!
If in my shop I were again,
I'd never quit it more!"

"And when the Mesmerist so meek,
Had bow'd him to the door,
He cast upon him such a look,
As I ne'er saw before!

"Now let us sing, long life to Slop!
The Mesmerist long live he!
And when they have another bout,
May I be there to see!"^c

^a See *Zoist*, Vol. IV., p. 41.

^b See *Zoist*, Vol. IV., p. 25.

^c The Wakley genus deserves no higher notice than to be made the subject of such ballads and of nursery rhymes.—J. ELLIOTSON.

of their cerebral particles composed and arranged and developed in a certain sad way and acted upon in a certain way by external circumstances, and that by reflecting persons they are regarded as puppets, unable to act otherwise in their present circumstances,—all as toys making pre-ordained noises and gesticulations when certain strings are pulled. Mr. Wakley and the rest, seeing each his very duplicate in the East, must, *must* feel humbled.

“ A MESMERIC DIALOGUE.

“ *Mr. Freeman, Mr. Easy, Dr. Drench, The Rev. Mr. Pure.*

“ *Easy.*—Just in time for tiffin, and the very man I wanted! Here is another astounding mesmeric report from Hooghly. Pray, read it, and tell me if these things can be true.

“ *Freeman.*—I have already read it with great satisfaction, and have long ceased to have any doubts about the matter.

“ *Easy.*—I know you are a learned Theban, skilled in all the knowledge of the Egyptians, and really I wish to know more about it. Pray, what books should one read on the subject?

“ *Freeman.*—I am glad to see your curiosity excited. One leaf out of the book of nature is worth a whole library, and an hour's observation will save endless and useless talking, and remove a thousand misconceptions. If people cannot make up their minds, without seeing for themselves, why don't they go to Hooghly, where mesmerism is in daily use in the public hospitals, and all are assured of a welcome? If I had any doubts about the matter, I would gladly travel a 1000 miles to resolve them.

“ *Easy.*—You know how incorrigibly indolent we are, and I confess that I wish to be convinced *without any trouble*; so do tell me, like a good fellow, all you know about it. Is it indeed, possible for human beings to be cut to pieces without their feeling it? I sincerely hope so.

“ *Freeman.*—I cannot give you any reason *why it should be so*, but we know *it is so*, and every one may satisfy himself by the evidence of his senses, or by his own exertions, if the most positive and unimpeachable evidence cannot affect his understanding.

“ *Easy.*—You know people are apt to mistake the self-sufficiency of ignorance or obstinacy for strength of mind.

“ *Freeman.*—Then we are indeed a strong-minded race, and Dr. Esdaile may as well expect his *facts* to penetrate cocoa-nuts as to affect us.

"*Easy*.—He is taking the only way to do it however, and I confess that his monthly battery has considerably deranged the contents of my cocoa-nut, and I feel much disposed to surrender. No one who has witnessed his proceedings has ventured to deny their reality.

"*Freeman*.—It seems that, during the last year, he has performed *ninety-one* painless operations, "a large proportion of them being of the most severe and dangerous description;" the details, and the names of those who were present have been given to the public, and the witnesses invited to point out "a shadow of exaggeration, even in his descriptions," of the wonderful things they saw, and no one has found anything to object to or cavil at.

"*Easy*.—And men's minds are shaken to the bottom by it. It is delightful to see the truth running such an unwonted career of unbroken triumph.

"*Freeman*.—The mists and fogs of ignorance and prejudice are clearing away rapidly, and we shall soon enjoy the unobstructed sunshine, in spite of the efforts of the Doctors to perpetuate the reign of darkness and old Night.

"*Easy*.—What do they say to it now?

"*Freeman*.—Here is their champion and self-elected representative, Drench; he will tell us the present state of the Medical pulse. When I last felt it, it was "*small and contracted*."

"(Enter Dr. Drench).

"*Easy*.—Killing weather is it not, Drench? But this is no objection to you, eh?

"*Drench*.—Find another subject for your wit, Mr. Easy; I kill no more than my neighbours.

"*Easy*.—No offence mean't, Doctor; take a glass of "*cerevisia frigida*," or perhaps you prefer the "*dimidium dimidioque*"—half-and-half.

"*Drench*.—Thank you, but fill up: I hate half measures in practice.

"*Easy*.—That reminds me of what we were talking of when you came in. What do you think of the new mesmeric practice at Hooghly? I wish that I could be entranced till the rain falls; Could you do it for me?

"(*Drench* spills his beverage from agitation, and breaks the glass by replacing it violently on the table).

"*Drench*.—By Pluto! I think the people have all gone mad, and I shall be driven mad myself, I think. Wherever I go, it is, What do you think of mesmerism, Dr. Drench? It is in vain that I answer—I have never thought about it, and don't intend to. At the next house, I am assailed with, Do

you believe in mesmerism, Dr. Drench? Do I believe my nose is green cheese? cry I, and flounce out of the room. But at another patient's, the cuckoo note is only changed to, What do you think of mesmerism *now*, Dr. Drench? I check this impertinence by gravely demanding, if I was ever known to change my opinion.

"*Easy*.—So the doctors are not convinced yet?

"*Drench*.—Most thoroughly convinced that it is a humbug. Really it is enough to provoke a saint—as if I could afford to learn anything new, even if true. But come, I will put the thing to the test, at once; I will give Esdaile five hundred rupees, if he mesmerises *me*.

"*Freeman*.—One man may take a horse to the water, but twenty can't make him drink. Ask Easy's bearer how often he throws your drenches out of the window?

"*Easy*.—Honour! Freeman, honour! don't believe him Doctor. I know, Freeman, you are bitten with this madness, and am sorry for it; all men of sense should really assist us in putting down this *monstrous quackery*.

"*Freeman*.—Dr. Esdaile may be a fool, knave, or liar, I have no knowledge of him; but if so, I rather think *there would have been no doubt about the matter by this time*, for no one ever gave his opponents such ample means of detection.

"*Easy*.—Numbers of my friends have *seen* what he relates, and all agree that he faithfully reports what they saw. Many a one waits to trip up his heels, but *he still runs his course rejoicing*.

"*Drench*.—He seems to be equally insensible to shame and reason.

"*Freeman*.—He ought to be ashamed of himself for saving *ninety-one* persons the torments of the damned in one year, and his patients are equally shameless and irrational, for by no persuasion or argument can you get them to allow that they felt any pain when tormented by fire and steel, or when their raw flesh was corroded by mineral acids. Verily, the man who does this can afford to be laughed at.

"*Drench*.—It is an *awful and melancholy delusion*.

"*Easy*.—Very, and I don't see how you are to get rid of it, except by a general order of the G. G. in council, ordering every medical officer to torment his patients "*secundum artem*," as hitherto, on pain of dismissal from the service."

c This is precisely the desire of the *Spectator*. The editor Mr. Rintoul, a father! in a notice of Dr. Esdaile's book, August 1, writes thus:—"No military surgeon should be permitted to subject soldiery to a practice repudiated by the bulk of the profession, whether mesmerism or anything else,

"*Drench*.—I thank you for the hint; it is a good idea, and I will propose it to the board—examples should be made.

"*Easy*.—I see that Dr. Esdaile has reported his cases to the Medical Board, and if they pay no attention to him I would advise him to make a formal application to Government, and request an examination into a matter that has been too long slurred over.

"*Drench*.—Why, Easy! You are not in earnest?

"*Easy*.—Indeed I am; I have been long convinced, but, having quizzed the thing at first, I was ashamed to recant. But this is no joke, and I repent my levity.

"*Freeman*.—Spoken like a man, and numbers will follow your example.

"*Drench*.—You will next believe in 'Clairvoyance,' I suppose, gentlemen.

"*Freeman*.—Perhaps, but I will never ask whether you do or not, if, when I need it, you will cut off my leg without troubling me about it. Men want *facts* and not *opinions*, and will believe the evidence of their senses in preference to your *authority even*, however absurd it may appear to you.

"*Drench*.—Absurd, indeed! Evidence of one's senses forsooth, as if this was any argument. I tell you that I would not believe my *own senses*.

"*Easy*.—That's what I call strength of mind.

"*Freeman*.—Come, give us your most exquisite reasons, oh! *Drench*, for repudiating your own senses.

"*Drench*.—Why, I have seen a conjuror cut off a cock's head, sprinkle the floor with its blood, and pluck off its feathers; yet in a minute after, the cock was crowing and

for the sufficient reason we have stated." Mr. Rintoul in former days would, therefore, not have allowed soldiers to be vaccinated, nor their arteries to be tied on the field of battle, but insisted upon Dr. Esdaile's allowing them to catch the small pox and blocking their arteries with boiling pitch. See my *Harroian Oration*, p. 64. Mr. Rintoul's opinions in regard to mesmerism are worth nothing, any more than those of Mr. Dilke, the editor of the *Athenæum* and *Daily News*, and so many other editors; but it is right to record the feeling and folly of those who try to lead others. To be consistent, he should insist upon the continuance of flogging in the army, because field-marsbals, generals, colonels, and captains have all been for it, and the profession must know best. Mr. Rintoul's reasons had been given in the *Spectator* of July 26.—"These mesmeric miracles the doctor worked at Hooghly, in Bengal: he has now departed for the banks of the Sutlej, and there he intends to work more. But will he be permitted by the higher military and medical authorities? If private hospital patients choose to submit themselves to experiments, they are free agents; but soldier patients are under martial law, must obey the surgeons' orders, and should not be submitted to the irregular experiments of any body who chooses to practise upon them at his will and pleasure." Can Mr. Rintoul have the common feelings of a man? Or is he in his senses? He also forgets that GOVERNMENT provides Dr. Esdaile with a *mesmeric corps*: see *Zoist*, Vol. IV., p. 193.—J. ELLIOTSON.

clapping its wings again—and did I believe my senses, think ye?

“*Easy*.—A palpable parallel, your honour.

“*Freeman*.—With some slight differences. You did not see the *preparation* for the decapitation of the cock; but if you will substitute *men* for *cocks*, Dr. Esdaile says he will prepare them under your own eyes. You need never let go hold of them even, and yet he will play his usual tricks with your featherless bipeds.

“*Drench*.—All very well talking.

“*Easy*.—Nay, the *talking* is all on your side; he is a man of *deeds*.

“*Drench*.—Well, supposing them true, Mr. Pure says it is all diablerie, and I agree with him—(Padre Pure, Sahib!) You are much needed here, Mr. Pure; my friends, insensible to medical authority, may perhaps listen to religion.

“*Pure*.—What is the topic of conversation, gentlemen? But I may first mention my own errand: our neighbourhood is much in want of a hospital, and knowing your benevolence and liberality, I am come to solicit your support of our project.

“*Freeman*.—With all my heart; but, seeing the extraordinary effects of mesmerism on the natives of this country, I hope that you contemplate introducing it into your new hospital.

“*Pure*.—I presume you are in earnest, Sir; but *the devil shall never with my consent enter any institution with which I am connected*.

“*Easy*.—Nay, Mr. Pure, we never thought of such a subscriber.

“*Pure*.—Perhaps not, Sir, but I equally object to his agents the mesmerists. It is said in the Bible, ‘Thou shalt not permit a witch to live,’ and what are they who pretend to do by some cabalistic signs, what the professors of the healing art confess to be beyond their power.

“*Drench*.—Hear! hear!

“*Freeman*.—If the past is to be the *rule* for the future, we must submit to be tortured unnecessarily, and hope, like the eels, to become accustomed to it. But we are told that, by a natural process, we can escape these natural ills often, and surely it is allowable to mitigate human suffering by every kind of knowledge that God permits us to acquire.

“*Drench*.—None but liberals practise it, Mr. Pure.

“*Freeman*.—If you mean *liberals* in opposition to *illiberals*, I believe you are partly correct.

“*Easy*.—I *rather* think, the doctor means *infidels*.

"*Drench.*—Yes I do, if you *will* have it.

"*Pure.*—So I have often heard, gentlemen; I should be sorry to do any body injustice.

"*Freeman.*—The injustice is with those who abused your confidence. Tried by this test, the best of men will often be convicted of being the worst of infidels; for this is a *general power of human nature*, though dormant under ordinary circumstances, yet capable of being developed by properly-directed efforts, and I have little doubt that the energy, patience, and benevolence of true Christians, would give them an advantage over others in wielding their natural powers for the relief of human suffering.

"*Pure.*—You speak as one having authority, Mr. Freeman.

"*Freeman.*—No, Mr. Pure, but as one having knowledge. I first *believed* on the testimony of others, and now I *know* from my own experience.

"*Pure.*—But do you really think that I could mesmerise?

"*Freeman.*—Try, Sir, and I doubt not that you will succeed as well as the Rev. Mr. Sandby, and other clergymen do, who go about continually doing good like their great Master. I would recommend you to read Mr. Sandby's *Mesmerism the Gift of God*.

"*Pure.*—Why, Dr. Drench, you never told me this.

"*Easy.*—I should think not.

"*Drench.*—Good morning, gentlemen, I have a great deal to do. (Exit Drench).

"*Pure.*—I perceive, Mr. Freeman, that I have taken too much for granted in this matter, and shall be glad to learn more about it from you.

"*Freeman.*—All I know is at your service, but Hooghly is only 25 miles off, and I would recommend you to judge for yourself.

"*Pure.*—I will do so on the first opportunity.

(Exit Pure).

"*Freeman.*—Mesmerism will defile the graves of many medical reputations. What! do they suppose that we are North American Indians, who tremble at the fiat of their *medicine man*? We all understand why the *practising* doctors are opposed to this new curative power. THE LUCKY ROUTINISTS *hate any thing that is new, and which requires them to give up a little time, TO THEM MONEY, to the acquiring of new knowledge; and those who desire to act up to their convictions, fear to give a lever to their rivals, by which to work their ruin.* They would fain be Elliotsons without his manly, courageous, and far-seeing spirit; but he is now reaping his reward, and his success will secure tardy followers.

"There are several hundreds of medical men in the public service in this country, who are above the frowns of the public, and can afford the small martyrdom they would be subjected to in the advocacy of truth, and to them I confidently look for a dispassionate and scientific investigation of this deeply interesting subject.

"*Easy*.—Independence of means usually gives independence of mind, but it also engenders indolence; and, unless people's pockets or persons are effected, it is very difficult to get them to think and act vigorously.

"*Freeman*.—Many are thinking, however, and some are at work, and the public is a fool if it does not encourage them.

"Let us drink to the progress of useful knowledge all over the world.

"*Easy*.—With all my heart, and I will seize the first holiday to go to Hooghly.

"*Freeman*.—And I will accompany you.

"MAGNES."

The papers of May the 18th contain details by Dr. Esdaile from my communications to *The Zoist* of various painless surgical operations. It begins thus:

"*Mesmeric Facts from different parts of the world, collected by James Esdaile, M.D.*

"One touch of nature makes the whole world kin."

"To the editor of *The Englishman*.

"Sir,—I am daily asked 'why don't we hear of these things being done in England?' The answer is, these things are doing in England and all over the world, but we won't be at the trouble to inquire about them.

"If we did, we should perceive, that 'God acts, not by partial, but by general laws,' and that what are called the anomalies of Hooghly are occurring all over the globe in accordance with a general law of nature, which some great and happy individual will perhaps soon explain to us.

"My opportunities of acting upon the European constitution have been very limited, but very satisfactory, as my next letter will show; and the last accounts from England bring overwhelming proofs that Europeans in all climates are capable of feeling the extreme degrees of the mesmeric influence as well as the natives of India. Any accidental differences of national constitution will probably be equalised by

the hand of disease; and, when Europeans *need to be mesmerised*, they will in all likelihood become capable of being so, as your readers will perceive by the following extracts from the latest mesmeric intelligence.

"If any unbelievers still exist in India, and their silence would indicate that they have passed to forgetfulness among the mummies and mammoths, the following *mesmeric facts* from the western hemisphere will surely extinguish the race and make it historical. The difficulty is in selection, and your limits will not admit of more than one specimen from a few countries. I have only chosen examples of painless surgical operations, on the principle of doing one thing at a time, and that thoroughly; but this is only a fraction of the practical utility of the subject, and we may hope to overtake the rest with time."

Here follow some of the operations performed in England, Scotland, Ireland, France, and America.

The details are thus concluded:—

"Such are the *facts* brought daily to the feet of Dr. Elliotson from all quarters of the globe, and I know no man more to be envied.

"I am,

"Your obedient Servant,

"JAMES ESDAILE, M.D.

"Hooghly, 1st. May, 1846."

In the paper for May 9th, are accounts of nine more painless operations:—

"When men deny a fact of nature, it is certain that sooner or later she will conquer."—*The Zoist*.

"To the editor of *The Englishman*.

"Sir,—It is now a year ago since I published my first mesmeric report, which concluded thus—'What a blessed prospect this opens to sufferers who are sensible to the mesmeric influence, and in time we may hope to discover who they are, by detecting the laws which regulate this power of nature. Although I should never again succeed in producing these phenomena, I will in future think, speak, and write of mesmerism as being as much a reality as the properties of opium or the principle of gravitation.'

"This was not the expression of a foolish *self-confidence*, but a simple reliance on the healthiness of my senses, and the

reality of the impressions conveyed by them to my brain, in common with all those who witnessed the same appearances.

"It was morally and physically impossible under the circumstances (see my *Mesmeric Facts*, published by Ostell and Co.,) that we could be deceived in the phenomena presented by the first person mesmerised in India, and I did not believe myself to be of sufficient consequence for nature to travel out of her course, merely to have the satisfaction of laughing at me for believing in the senses she had given me, and which had hitherto enabled me to distinguish pretty well the *real* from the *unreal*, and to discriminate a *hawk* from a *handsaw*, if there is such a thing as matter.^d Knowing and confessing my total ignorance of the subject, on which the previous knowledge of so many ages throw no light, and perceiving that it must be learned by *itself* as something quite new before attempting to connect it with our former knowledge, I determined to observe with senses unstuffed by prejudices whatever nature presented, and to comply unhesitatingly with what she required. By following her indications with docility, I have had the satisfaction to perform *ninety-one* painless operations in one year, (a great proportion of them being of the most severe and dangerous description), besides curing and relieving many diseases over which medicine, as hitherto practised, had little or no control; and all this *by merely doing as I was bid*. When will others go and do likewise?"

83rd Painless Operation. Laying open a Fistula.

"April 11th. Runjeet Sing, a porter, aged 35, has a deep fistula in the nape of the neck of four months' standing, that requires to be laid open for its cure: was entranced on the first trial in half an hour, and *the part freely laid open without his feeling it*."

84th. Removal of a Tumor.

"April 12th. Bogobun Doss operated on for the removal of a tumor of 30lbs. weight, on the 8th instant; was entranced to-day in the presence of Dr. Ewing, and two other gentlemen, to have the stitches removed, and the wound dressed for the first time—always a distressing process. When it was over, he was removed to a clean bed, and on being

^d "It is necessary to be cautious, for some of my brethren evidently believe that there is nothing real in this seeming world of ours; that 'naught is everything, and everything is naught.' A learned professor actually told me, that he would not believe I cut up people without their knowing it, *even if he saw it*! Perhaps, after all, I have been dissecting shadows all this time, which sufficiently accounts for the insensibility of the same. I wish that I had thought of this sooner.

awakened was astonished to find that his bed had been changed.

"As the greater power of endurance will, of course, include the less, your readers will have inferred this, and other practical applications of the power; but nothing should be taken for granted that can be proved by direct experiment."

85th. *Laying open a Fistula.*

"April 17th. Dookee Ram, aged 58, a shepherd, has had a fistulous sore on the back of his hand for six months. On going to the hospital to-day, somewhat later than usual, I found two gentlemen there, Mr. Baxter and Mr. Littlewood, and was told by the sub-assistant surgeon that this man had been entranced and operated on, about half an hour before. We went to see him, and *he awoke while we were looking at him, and expressed great surprise at the altered state of his hand.*"

86th. *Removal of an Excrescence.*

"April 20th. Sumboo, a boatman, aged 36, has got phimosis and a warty excrescence, which requires amputation of the part. He was easily entranced on the first trial, and *the part removed without his knowledge.*"

87th. *Removal of a Tumor.*

"April 24th. Rammohun Doss, a shop-keeper, aged 40, has elephantiasis scroti. I cut off the tumor, weighing 12 lbs., in the presence of Mr. Graves, the Head Master of Hooghly College, and Mr. Brennan, Lecturer on Natural Philosophy in the same institution, and the man *did not awake till after all the arteries were tied, and the parts covered with a clean sheet*; the organs were all saved. He said that he had awoke of his own accord, and was not in any way disturbed in his sleep. He was asked by me why he had come to the hospital? He said, 'to have his tumor removed.' When did he first see me? 'This moment on awaking.' I had found him entranced this morning, and then saw him for the first time. We asked him if he would like to have the operation done now? He said, that as he felt weak, he would like it to be done after he had got something to eat.

"He was now shewn the mass of flesh which *he recognized as his property, but could not tell how I had got hold of it.*"

88th. *Removal of a Tumor.*

"This case is more than usually interesting, and has some variety in its circumstances.

"April 24th. I left the last patient in the trance in which I found him, intending to operate on my return from Chin-surah. On the way, I met a young man leading an old blind one, and saw that the former had got one of the usual tumors. I stopped them, and found that they had just come up from Calcutta about some suit in court here. I asked the young man if he wished to get rid of his annoyance, and on his answering that he did, I turned back with them to show them the hospital. I first introduced him to Bogobun Doss, the bearer from Cuttack, operated on for the same disease on the 8th April, and who was walking about the hospital. The bearer told him his story, and showed his present condition, *which the new comer was simple enough to believe*. I then took him into the mesmerising room, and showed him the last patient, pulling off his cloth, that he might see the nature of his complaint, and satisfy himself that he was unconscious. He had no difficulty in believing this even, (such is the perversion of man's *natural* senses!) and I then said, that if he would lie down, and do as he was bid, I would cut both of them without giving them pain. He accordingly lay down, and in an hour, I returned with Mr. Graves and Mr. Brennan, and found both of the men ready for the knife. The last operation having fatigued me, I said that I would reserve this man till to-morrow, and afford Mr. Brennan an opportunity of making some experiments upon the effects of electricity, applied in the trance.

"Faraday's electro-magnetic machine was put in motion, and the handles put into his hands; his arms trembled in synchrony with the continuous shocks, *but his hands and face remained perfectly passive*, and on adding the centre magnet to increase the strength of the shocks, the only effect produced was to extend the tremor to the whole body; *his countenance never changed*, and the handles had to be packed with tow to keep them in his *half-open hands*. The conductors were taken out of his hands, and transferred to those of his mesmeriser, a large strong man, the hospital door-keeper, and in an instant *he made the most horrible grimaces, convulsively grasped the conductors, and begged that they might be taken out of his hands, as he could not throw them away.*"

* See Dr. Lardner's account of the Okeys in the *Monthly Chronicle*, July, 1838, p. 26: "Galvanic and electrical apparatus were prepared by Professor Wheatstone, and administered to the two patients, Elizabeth and Jane Okey, by Professor Wheatstone and Dr. Lardner, in the presence of Dr. Elliotson, Dr. Roget, and a great number of medical and scientific men. The shock of the galvanic apparatus was taken by some gentlemen present, among others by Sir William Molesworth, and in each case produced a very severe effect; when administered, however, to the two patients, no visible

"After this, I with great difficulty awoke the man, and he was unconscious of anything having been done to him.

"April 25th. In the presence of Mr. Fowle, assistant magistrate, Mr. Shum, Mr. Baxter, and Mr. Razet, I re-removed the tumor, saving all the organs, and *the man showed no more sensibility than a corpse.*

"It was twenty minutes before the wound was all stitched up, and, when the last stitches were putting in, it was found that there was too much skin left; upon which I sliced off *three inches more, to which he was quite indifferent.* By this time, the spectators had recovered their senses, and become convinced that he was a *real man*, and all agreed that it was a *waste of sympathy* to bestow it on a person who in *no way needed it.* The man had to be awoke at the end of an hour, as I wished the spectators to hear his first words,

effect whatever was produced: they held the ends of the wires steadily, and apparently without any sensation or consciousness of any particular effect. It was observed, however, that a contraction of the muscles of the hands was apparent, and the patients were not able to disengage their hands from the extremities of the wire. Leyden phials were subsequently charged by an electric machine, and the shock taken by each of the patients without any effect, except an expression of surprise, and a burst of laughter on seeing the spark pass between the jar and their hands."

See also my *Numerous Cases on Surgical Operations without pain*, p. 30: "One of the Okeys, during her mesmeric state of ecstatic delirium, though possessing full power in all her muscles, was insensible to mechanical injury, burning, and electricity. The cylinders of the electro-magnetic machine were held in her hand any length of time, while the wheel was turned as rapidly as possible, without any evidence of the slightest sensation, though no one else could hold them for more than some seconds. She received the charge of a large Leyden phial, and no effect was noticed. When asked what she felt, she answered in the former instance, 'I heard it go giggle, giggle, giggle;' and in the latter, 'I saw the light.' At the Adelaide Gallery I put the hands of a female in a state of sleep-waking, who had not been there before, upon the electrical eel near the head and tail, and she took no notice, though I felt a very slight movement of her arms, which nobody else could remark. Now the shock of the eel made very many jump. When I was not present, I know for certain that she received at once the charge of six Leyden jars, each sixteen inches high and eight wide, without evidencing sensation. But, because the condition of Elizabeth Okey, and of this young woman, was induced by mesmerism, it was feigned; as though there was more evidence of reality, or could be more evidence of reality, in other cases than in these."

Mr. Dilke, in his *Athenæum*, declared respecting all the experiments with the Okeys, that "every scientific man who regards his own character should keep aloof of them, and refrain from sanctioning, by direct participation in their proceedings, a transaction so likely to lead to mischievous consequences;" and that "mankind is more benefitted by doubt, whether reasonable or not reasonable, than most persons imagine." The *Daily News* lately had the following passage: "We have men in these days whose credulity is pretty strong. Some believe in *clairvoyance*; others in the healing powers of *Cousman* the prophet. The *Standard*, *Herald*, and *Post*, believe that the Corn-law will be re-enacted. But Lord STANLEY has shot a-head of them all, for he believes himself qualified to be prime minister."—J. ELLIOTSON.

and I need not say, that *he knew nothing about what had been done to him, and stared in mute astonishment at his improved appearance.*

His blind father was brought in, and was told by his son that he had felt no pain, and was now quite comfortable, and *the simple old man actually believed him!* as was evident by the beautiful play of his features, and the blessings he invoked on those who did it.

"April 29th. He was entranced to-day, and *the dressing removed without giving him any pain.*"

89th. Tapping.

"April 21st. Sheik Meeah Jan, a boatman, aged 40: His abdomen is much distended with water, and his breathing oppressed: to be tapped to relieve him.

"April 29th. The water was withdrawn when he was in the trance to-day, and he did not awake till half an hour afterwards. *He then said, that when he went to sleep his belly was full, but was now empty; but God only knew how it happened.*"

90th. Paring a Sore.

"April 29th. Sheik Dannoo, a cart-driver, aged 30: has been suffering for four months from a sore on his right heel, of which the skin is very thick, and partially detached from the surrounding parts. The whole diseased skin requires to be cut off the plantar fascia. He was entranced on the first trial, and *I pared the whole heel to the quick, to which he was as insensible as a cheese:* he awoke in half an hour after, and did not know anything had been done to his heel."

91st. Operation for Hydrocele.

"April 17th. A prisoner came to hospital to-day with a hydrocele; it was very tender, and he could not bear it to be pressed. I desired him to be mesmerised for the first time in the presence of Mr. Baxter and Mr. Littlewood, and in half an hour performed the operation *without disturbing him,* and I showed that the tender part could now bear severe pressure *without his feeling it.* I left the room, that the gentlemen alone might be present when he awoke, and *he told them that he had a swelling when he lay down, but there was none now, and he knew not what had become of it.*

"I am, your obedient servant,

"JAS. ESDAILE, M.D.

"Hooghly, 1st May, 1846."

The Rev. James Esdaile has published, by means of Longman and Co., a book by Dr. Esdaile, entitled *Mesmerism in India*; and, having purchased it, I extract the following additional accounts of painless operations. Several others are recorded in the book, which I have presented to the mesmeric public in former numbers of *The Zoist*.

Removal of a very large tumor.—"Sept. 1st. Teg Ali Khan, a tall strong-looking man; has a hypertrophied scroti, caused by repeated operations for hydrocele by native doctors, who only withdraw the water as often as it accumulates, without attempting the radical cure. The tumor is perfectly round, and *as big as a man's head*. He was mesmerised in two hours, on the first trial, and, in the presence of Drs. Ross and Sissmore, I dissected out all the parts; which was very tedious, from the testes having contracted adhesions all round them; and it was about half an hour before the organs were covered up again by stitching flaps over them. *Not a quiver of the flesh was visible all this time, and, at the end, his body was as stiff as a log, from head to foot, and his separated legs could be with difficulty put together again.* He awoke in half an hour after the operation, and *felt no pain*.

"Sept. 4th. The stitches were taken out to-day; the wound has healed throughout, and he has had *no pain whatever* since the operation;—so much for the absence of the usual irritative shock to the system.

"We can renew the trance at pleasure, in order to render people insensible to repeated operations."

Application of a red-hot plaster iron, paring, and tearing through adhesions.—"Sept. 18th. Morally Dass, a peasant, aged 50, has an unhealthy cartilaginous sore, half an inch high above the skin, and extending for *six inches* along the outer ham-string of the left leg, which it has contracted to nearly a right angle with the thigh, for a year past.

"He was entranced to-day, for the first time, and I deeply cauterised the whole sore with a red-hot plaster iron, without awaking him.

"Sept. 19th. The excrescence is so hard, and thick, that it must be dissected off the ham-string: he was again entranced, and the *diseased part was pared down to a level with the surrounding skin, without his feeling it.*

"Sept. 20th. When he was in the trance to-day I straightened the leg completely, and bound it up in splints; *he awoke not, and when he did, had no pain; although it took all my strength and weight to break down the adhesions, which I felt*

and heard cracking under my hands. The Rev. Mr. Bradbury saw the first operation. The Rev. Mr. Fisher, and Mr. Graves, the second, and Mr. Blyth the third. In the treatment of chronic diseases suited for mesmerism, *coma* is not required: if it occurs, it is probably because nature needs it; but we ought to be satisfied with the improvement of the patient, though it is unaccompanied with any striking phenomena. The system is not less effectually recruited because it is done silently,—just as the best digestion is least felt. For refreshing the nervous system, and inducing natural sleep, mesmerising ‘*à longs courants*,’ as the French call it, will be found sufficient. These are steady continuous tractions, with the points of the spread fingers, from head to foot; the head may be occasionally breathed upon, and the hands allowed to rest for a few minutes on the pit of the stomach. An hour of this, on going to bed, will often soothe restlessness, bring back natural sleep, and invigorate the nervous system.”

Removal of a fungus as large as a cauliflower.—“Aug. 23d. Napaul Bagby, a husbandman, has a singular fungoid mass in the right inguen; it is the size of a small cauliflower, and like it in appearance, the surface being whitish from sloughing. It spreads from a peduncle in the abdominal ring, and bleeds much when handled. His father says that, at his birth, there was only one testis in the scrotum, and no trace of the other was seen till he was six months old, when a swelling appeared in the inguen. This gradually increased till his twelfth year, but was not painful or inconvenient. About this time, he was attacked with fever, attended with increased sensibility and increase of size in the tumor, and the paroxysms came on twice a month, up to June last, when he applied to a barber-surgeon who used means to ripen the swelling. In the course of a few days it was punctured, and blood only followed. The opening was plugged as well as possible with a candle covered with cloth smeared with some ointment, but in a few days this came out, and the following day, a fungus shot out of the wound, and daily increased to its present size. It is now a very foul mass, its surface mortified, and the crevices filled with maggots.

“Aug. 26th. He was mesmerised after two hours’ trial, and the mass removed without his feeling it.

“Aug. 31st. Discharged at his own request—wound looking well.”

Removal of excrescences.—“Sept. 1st. Raimgopal, a young Hindoo, has got a high syphilitic sore, about the size

of half a lemon, on each side of his nates. He was entranced on the first trial; and in the presence of Dr. Ross and Dr. Sissmore, *I turned him round like a log, and cut off both the excrescences level with the skin, then turned him back again, and left him sleeping. It is needless to say he did not feel it.*"

Removal of an enlargement as big as a child's head.—
"Oct. 8th. Nazir, a peasant, aged sixty, has suffered from enlarged and scirrhus testis for four years; the parts are as large as a child's head, and extirpation is necessary.—He was entranced after two hours to-day.

"Oct. 10th. He was mesmerised the second time, to-day, in the presence of Mr. Sutherland, Dr. Owen, the Reverend Mr. Bradbury, Major Riddell, Mr. Higgen, Mr. Muller, Mr. Graves, Messrs. Savigny, Mr. Calder, and Mr. Bartlett.

"I removed the parts without his showing any sign of sensibility till the last artery was being tied; he then woke up, but went immediately to sleep again for half an hour, and on waking, said that he was only conscious of a little pain when he awoke for a moment and found me to be tying something." He was cheerful and talkative, and showed no signs of suffering or exhaustion in his countenance or manner, and said the pain in the wound was very trifling."

Operation for cataract.—"Nov. 20th. Mohun Dass, a peasant; aged fifty-five: has got a cataract in one eye. He was entranced on the first trial, and *I broke down the lens* in the presence of Major Smith of H. M.'s 9th Regiment, *without awaking him.*

"Nov. 21st. There is much pain in the eye.—To be mesmerised, and leeches applied. He slept for two hours with the leeches on, and on awaking, the pain was nearly gone."

Removal of an enlargement as big as a child's head.—
"Nov. 26th. Mahes Banergie, a Brahmin, aged forty, has got an enlarged testis, the size of a child's head; it is red, glistening, and very painful, and there is a scrotal hernia above it. He was entranced on the first trial, and *I returned the gut into the abdomen, handling the inflamed part very rudely, without his showing the least sensibility.* I then, in

† Was this the language of an impostor? Did it not bear the impress of artless truth? And did not the language and manner of every patient whose painless operation has been recorded in *The Zoist*, and the language and manner of every patient whose operation is recorded in my pamphlet on *Surgical Operations without pain in the Mesmeric State*, bear the impress of artless truth?—J. ELLIOTSON.

the presence of Captain D. L. Richardson, dissected out the diseased organ. The operation was tedious, as I had to carefully separate the mass from the hernial sack. He moved, as in an uneasy dream, but did not awake till we were tying the arteries, which were very numerous; he then said, that he had felt nothing till that moment. The muscular movements, sometimes seen, looked more like the contractions induced by cutting a recently dead animal, than the common contortions from pain; and I believe may be avoided by patience, as every trance seems to deepen the insensibility. I need not point out to the surgeon the advantage he would derive from the mesmeric trance, in reducing strangulated hernia, and in spasmodic strictures of the urethra."^s

Paring off the edges of an ulcer.—"Nov. 30th. Mahes, a peasant, aged thirty-two, has got a deep ulcer of a year's standing, at the root of the colic, that penetrates under the pubes; the edges are callous, and prevent it healing. He was subdued in two hours on the first day, and, in the presence of Dr. Tritton and a party of officers of the 71st Regiment N. L., *I pared off the margins of the sore without his awaking.* He awoke a few minutes after, said he had been asleep and dreamt that some one had pulled him off the roof of a house, and declared that he felt *no pain whatever* at the moment of speaking. *I thereupon proposed that he should allow me to cut him a very little, as it would facilitate the healing of the sore, but he would not hear of it.* Dr. Tritton and the rest also joined their persuasions; but *he implored us for the love of God to let him alone—he would rather die than be cut,* that the proposal had already killed him, &c. He was desired to sit up, and his cloth removed; on seeing the altered state of things, he was greatly alarmed and puzzled, and, on being shown the pieces of flesh, said they had certainly belonged to him before he went to sleep, and *how I got hold of them he had no idea.* As I found myself in the company of candid and dispassionate observers, I showed them mesmerism in all its physical symptoms, whether directly or indirectly produced, and Dr. Tritton very kindly said at parting, that he was quite convinced of the

^s Dr. Marshall Hall and others, who are almost monomaniacal upon reflex movements, never think of them when perusing accounts of the movements or sounds sometimes noticed under mesmeric surgery.

The coma may often be deepened by keeping the hand on the patient's forehead or hands, the points of fingers upon the eyelids, breathing on the patient, especially at his eyes, nostrils and mouth, wetting him with mesmerised water, touching him with mesmerised gold, or by stiffening him with long contact passes, &c. &c.—J. ELLIOTSON.

reality of the symptoms from first to last, whether produced by *something*, or *nothing*, and that he now quite understood the 'mesmeric disease,' and said I was at liberty to say so, if I pleased."^b

Removal of an enlargement.—"Dec. 1st.—I had the pleasure of receiving a visit from the gentlemen engaged in the railway survey, consisting of Mr. Simms, Captain Western, Captain Boileau, Mr. Fraser, and Dr. Macauley. They found a man entranced, from whom I was about to remove a hypertrophied præputium. As he appeared to be ready, I commenced at once; but seeing that he shrunk from the knife, without awaking however, I desisted, and proposed to adjourn to the other hospital, saying that this man would probably be ready on our return. We accordingly went, and I requested Dr. Macauley to ascertain if a man brought before us had pain in his scrotum. He said there was no doubt; and the rest were satisfied that there was no mistake about it. I ordered him to be entranced before them, which was easily done, as he had been twice operated on for hydrocele in the trance. *I pulled him up, and set him on his feet sleeping*, before the gentlemen, and begged them to deal with him as they pleased. *He was catalepted by them in the most painful attitudes, to which he was as indifferent as a man of clay*; and Dr. Macauley now *squeezed the painful part with as much effect as if the man had been a mummy*. I stripped him naked; and, when he awoke and found himself standing in the presence of gentlemen in this condition, his look of wonder and shame, if not natural, was most beautiful acting, and he certainly escaped being found out.—As soon as he awoke, Dr. Macauley pressed the diseased part, and there could be no doubt about his feelings on the subject;—the pain was evidently *instantaneous and acute*. On returning to the charity hospital, I removed the enlarged cellular substance from the whole colic; the man now *did not shrink in the least from the knife, and slept a good while after the operation*. On questioning him, he said that he had been put to sleep to be operated on; but as he was now awake, *he would wish it to be put off till to-morrow*. We then showed him the liberties that had been taken with him, and he recognized his property; *but how it had changed owners he had no conception.*"

^b Consult my pamphlet for the confusion which was made in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society, by Messrs. Brodie, Coulson, Alcock, and others, of insensibility with fortitude. Mr. Aston Key might contrast himself with Dr. Tritton with the view of improvement. See p. 326.—J. ELLIOTSON.

Amputation.—"Dec. 21st. Samoo, a weaver, has got a bad sloughing sore of the præputium and glans, of a year's standing.—To be mesmerised.

"Dec. 22nd. He was mesmerised for two hours yesterday, and slept an hour afterwards, apparently naturally. To-day I saw him after half an hour's mesmerising, when the trance was fully established, his whole body being rigid. As I had not time then, I left him, and returned in an hour, and found his body still stiff. I cut open and took off the præputium; and finding the glans half eroded, I cut it off too. *The man showed no sign of life*; the body continued stiff, and the pulse natural. He awoke in half an hour afterwards, and did not discover that anything had been done to him till he went to make water."

"Dec. 29th. Mahes, operated on last month. The sore is callous, and it will greatly advance his cure to have it pared.—To be mesmerised in my absence. I went on to Chinsurah, and there met the Rev. Mr. Cahusac, and the Rev. Mr. Mullins, who requested to see any mesmeric cases in hand. They returned with me to the hospital, and we found Mahes entranced. *I pared the sore, and he did not awake till a quarter of an hour afterwards.* Mr. Mullins, who speaks Bengalee, asked him if he had been disturbed in his sleep. He said 'No;' and that the pain was not greater than before he went to sleep."

"We found another man entranced, whose elbow had been dislocated for twenty days. I tried to reduce it, using all my force, but did not succeed; he moved uneasily, but did not awake till ten minutes after I had desisted, and then said that nothing had disturbed him."

Removal of a nail, and operation for hydrocele.—"Dec. 26th. Goluck Seit, a prisoner, has got a hydrocele on each side. A young Hindoo subdued him to-day in ten minutes, on the first trial. When about to operate, I saw that he possessed a *consecrated nail*, on one of his little fingers; and knowing the value attached to this, I resolved to get possession of it, if possible, as a *moral* test of his being insensible, for he would as soon have cut a cow's throat and eaten a beef-steak as allowed me to cut off his nail, while in possession of his senses. It is a common practice with the Hindoos to vow their hair, beards, or nails to Shiva, the Destroyer, in the hope of averting his anger; and this man had consecrated his little finger-nail to Shiva Forakissore,—Forakissore, in

this district, being a famous shrine of the God. *I transferred the sacred excrescence to my pocket, without any remonstrance being made, and then performed the less formidable operation of withdrawing the water, and throwing in the injection, of which he knew nothing on awaking two hours after. His only distress was the loss of his nail, and he spent hours in hunting for it, supposing that it had been broken off by accident.*

"Dec. 29th. I entranced Goluck Seit to-day in five minutes; and in the presence of Mr. Cahusac and Mr. Mullins, operated on the other hydrocele, to which he was as indifferent as on the first occasion. But before putting him to sleep, *I showed the gentlemen how painful was the side operated on three days ago; and yet in five minutes after, he allowed me to squeeze his testis to any extent, without exhibiting a vestige of uneasiness.* I awoke him in half an hour, that Mr. Mullins might question him; and he said that he saw the water was gone, but how it had escaped he had no idea."

Paring a wound.—"Dec. 30th. Bungsee, operated on last month for a scrotal tumor. The wound, from his debilitated condition, is glazed and callous, and is wasting him with a useless discharge. It would greatly shorten his cure to pare the sore, and bring it together with deep sutures; but I could hardly bring myself to propose it to a person in his senses, as it would be as painful as the capital operation. Mesmerism, however, makes surgery pleasant to both parties; and, having easily entranced him, *I pared and shaped the sore VERY LEISURELY (it was six inches long, by two deep), inserted the deep sutures, and left him sleeping. He awoke after four hours.*

"Jan. 2nd. The sutures were taken out to-day, and the sore is adherent throughout."

In regard to the removal of scrotal tumors, Dr. Esdaile says:—

"During the six years previous to April, 1845, I had operated on eleven cases of scrotal tumor; and in the last eight months, since I began to operate in the mesmeric trance, I have removed seventeen tumors, making in all *twenty-eight*, varying from a few pounds to eighty pounds; and there has *not been a fatal case* among them."

i Dr. Copland must now be satisfied of the use of agony in operations. Mr. Key may perhaps remember not only his own fatal operation, but the very early death of Dr. Goodeve's patient at Calcutta from the mere shock of the removal of a scrotal tumor. See *Lancet*, No. 398, and No. 781.—J. ELLIOTSON.

"Of the seventeen operations in the mesmeric trance three only were imperfect, the persons awaking before the operation was finished; this imperfect sensibility was a great comfort to the patient, and gave great facilities to the operator."

"Since my first operation¹ I have had *every month* more operations of this kind than take place in the native hospital in Calcutta in a year, and more than I had for the six years previous. There must be some reason for this, and I only see two ways of accounting for it: my patients, on returning home, either say to their friends similarly afflicted, 'Wah! brother, what a soft man the doctor Sahib is! He cut me to pieces for twenty minutes, and I made him believe that I did not feel it. Isn't it a capital joke? Do go and play him the same trick; you have only to laugh in your elbow, and you will not feel the pain.'² Or they say to their brother sufferers,—'Look at me; I have got rid of my burthen, (of 20, 30, 40, 50, 60, or 80 lbs., as it may be,) am restored to the use of my body, and can again work for my bread: this, I assure you, the doctor Sahib did when I was asleep, and I knew nothing about it;—you will be equally lucky, I dare say; and I advise you to go and try; you need not be cut if you feel it.' Which of these hypotheses best explains the fact my readers will decide for themselves. It ought to be added, that most of these persons were not paupers, but people in comfortable circumstances, whom no inducement short of *painless* operations could tempt to enter a charity, or any other, hospital; and all who know the natives are aware of this."³

"I have said that only three out of the seventeen awoke before the operation was finished; I will not inflict the whole fourteen completely successful cases on the reader, but only present some of the last."

Removal of a tumor of about 30 lbs.—"Sept. 2nd. I was stopped on the road to-day, and requested to go into a temple to see a sick Fuqueer; on entering I found a healthy-looking man of 60, but he was nearly blind from cataracts, and had a scrotal tumor of about 30 lbs. weight, which he begged me to remove. I examined it, but gave no opinion, and said I would consider of it; I then went on to Chinsurah, to see Dr. Ross (in charge of the troops there), to whom I

¹ See *Zeist*, Vol. III., p. 503.—J. ELLIOTSON.

² This actually amounts to Mr. Key's wise supposition at p. 326.—J. ELLIOTSON.

³ Mr. Rintoul's snarling remarks (p. 299) forcibly recur to me on reading this.—J. ELLIOTSON.

said, that if he chose to return with me, I would try to show him a mesmeric operation. He consented, and in passing the Fuqueer's house we carried him with us to the hospital. The cook of the hospital, one of my best mesmerisers, was set upon him, and in half an hour made him insensible. The operation was speedily done. The man never moved, and *did not awake till after the last artery was tied.* Seeing him about to awake, he was covered up, and asked if he had been in any way disturbed; he said, 'No.' He was then desired to sit up, and show me the tumor, as I wished to examine it; he did so, and actually put his hands under it, to raise the mass as usual; *his look of amazement, on missing it, was something not to be easily forgotten.* Dr. Ross published an account of this and other operations in which he assisted me."

Removal of a tumor weighing 8 lbs.—"Oct. 22nd. Muffer Dass, a peasant, aged 40. He was made insensible on the third day of mesmerising; and in the presence of Mr. Reid, the collector, Mr. Wauchope, the magistrate, and Mr. Bennett, superintendent of Excise, I removed a tumor weighing 8 lbs., *without the man being disturbed:* although the operation was tedious, from the testes having contracted adhesions. I succeeded in saving all the organs; he awoke soon after it was all over, said he felt no pain, and was quite ready to be operated on *now.*"

Removal of a tumor weighing 80 lbs.—"Oct. 25th. Gooroochuan Shah, a shopkeeper, aged 40. He has got a 'monster tumor,' which prevents him from moving; its great weight, and his having used it for a writing-desk for many years, has pressed it into its present shape. His pulse is weak, and his feet cedematous, which will make it very hazardous to attempt its removal; but with such an appendage life is literally a burthen. He became insensible on the fourth day of mesmerising, and was drawn with the mattress to the end of the bed (my usual mode of proceeding:) two men then held up the tumor in a sheet, pulling it forward at the same time, and, in the presence of Mr. Bennett, I removed it by a circular incision, expedition being his only safety. The rush of venous blood was great, but fortunately soon arrested; and, after tying the last vessel, the mattress was again pulled back upon the bed with him upon it, and at this moment he awoke. The loss of blood had been so great that he immediately fell into a fainting state, and it took a good while to recover him. On recovering he said that he awoke while the mattress was

being pulled back, and that nothing had disturbed him. The tumor weighed *eighty* pounds, and is probably the largest ever removed from the human body. I think it extremely likely that *if the circulation had been hurried by pain and struggling, or if the shock to the system had been increased by bodily and mental anguish,* the man would have bled to death, or never have rallied from the effects of the operation. But the sudden loss of blood was all he had to contend against; and, though in so weak a condition, he has surmounted this, and gone on well.

"Dec. 1st. Has been allowed to go home at his own request: the wound is filling up slowly, for want of integument."

Removal of a tumor weighing 30 lbs.—"Oct. 27th. Ram-mohun Sunokur, a jeweller, aged 44, has got a large tumor. He became insensible on the fifth day, and I removed the tumor in the presence of Mr. Wauchope and Mr. Bennett. The bleeding was violent. About the middle of the operation he gave a cry, but did not awake till twenty minutes after it was over, and then said, *that he wanted something to eat, as he felt empty. He said that he had slept well, and was not disturbed in any way; THAT HE WAS NOW READY TO BE CUT, BUT BEGGED TO BE ALLOWED TO GET HIS DINNER FIRST.* The mass of flesh was now shown to him, which he recognized with amazement; thanked the gods, and said it would weigh 24 pounds, probably,—it weighed 30 pounds."

Removal of a tumor weighing 25 lbs.—"Nov. 2nd. Gobinchunder Lane, aged 32, a shopkeeper, and a very fine handsome man, is afflicted with the same disease.

"At three o'clock yesterday, when passing the hospital, I was told that another man had come with a tumor, since my morning visit, and had been entranced. I went to see him, and found him still in a fit state to be operated on, although he had been asleep for four hours,—to be mesmerized again to-morrow, at ten o'clock.

"Nov. 3rd. The operation was performed to-day, at twelve o'clock, in the presence of the Rev. Mr. Bradbury, and Mr. Bennett. As the bleeding was moderate, and the man perfectly passive, I tried to save all the parts, although the testes adhered to the sides of the tumor, which were very thick. It was twenty minutes before all was over: not a sign of life appeared, and the organs were all saved.

"Before commencing, I put his arm erect in the air as

ⁿ Dr. Goodeve believes that his own patient (see p. 316, i.) perished from mere shock.—J. ELLIOTSON.

an 'oudanometer : ' it never even trembled, was quite stiff at the end of the operation, and had to be taken down. He awoke just as the mattress was re-adjusted, and said, 'It is done!' Being asked how he knew, he said, by seeing me bloody, and the people all standing round, but that he had felt nothing, and had little pain now. The excrescence weighed twenty-five pounds."

Removal of a tumor weighing 30 lbs.—"Nov. 16th. Ameer Mullick, a coolly, aged 50, has a large tumor of twenty years' growth. He was mesmerised for the second time to-day, and, in the presence of Mr. S. Palmer and Dr. Scott, I dissected out and saved all the organs. The operation was tedious, on account of old adhesions; but he *did not awake till some time after it was finished, and then said, that nothing had disturbed him*—the mass weighed thirty pounds."

Removal of a tumor weighing 28 lbs.—"Nov. 18th. Bungsee, a peasant, aged 55, has a tumor which weighed 28 pounds, when cut off, and has existed for nine years. He was entranced on the second day, and I removed it in the presence of Mr. Russell, Judge of Hooghly, Major Smith, H.M.'s 9th Regiment, Dr. Scott, and Captain Smythe, of the Engineers. The man *never moved, or showed a sign of life till ten minutes after the operation, and he then said that he was quite ready to be operated upon.*

"In concluding this practical part of the subject, I beg to state, that I have seen *no bad consequences whatever ensue from persons being operated on in the mesmeric trance.* Cases have occurred in which no pain was felt, even subsequent to the operation, and the wounds healed by the first intention; and in the rest I have seen no indication of any injurious consequences to the constitution. On the contrary, it appears to me to have been saved, and that *less constitutional disturbance has followed than under ordinary circumstances.*"

Dr. Copland's attention I earnestly entreat to this fact, and advise him to give up his *bookish theorick*, his sedentary habits of book gluttony and preconceiving, and to go abroad into the free and invigorating fields of nature.

"In my early operations," says Dr. Esdaile, "I availed myself of the first fit of insensibility, not knowing whether I could command it back at pleasure; and when the coma is deep enough on the first occasion, it is probably best for the patient that it should be taken advantage of, as the fewer liberties we take with nature the better, the rule being never to do more

than enough. But if the trance is not profound the first time, the surgeon may safely calculate on its being so the next, and, when operating in public, it is prudent to take the precaution of a preliminary trance or two. I have already said, that flexibility of the limbs, till moved, and their remaining rigid in any position we leave them in, is characteristic of the trance: but there are exceptions, and these are equally diagnostic and to be depended upon. It sometimes happens that the limbs become rigid as they lie, and, on bending them, they are not passive and plastic, as in the first kind of catalepsy, but the muscles always tend towards a spasmodic extension of the limbs: at other times, there is a complete relaxation of the whole muscular system, and the arms and legs can be tossed about without resistance, like those of a person just dead. The eyes are usually closed, but the eye-lids are sometimes seen a little separated, or half open and tremulous; and the eye is even seen wide open, fixed, and the pupil dilated. On one occasion, having ordered a man to be entranced, I returned in two hours, and was told by my assistant that he was not affected: I went to see, and found him with half open eyes, quivering eye-lids, and trembling hands. I immediately said the man was ready, and, without testing his condition farther, performed on him a tedious, but painless, operation.

"I also wish to remark, that I have seen no indication of congestion of blood on the brain; the circulation, while my patients were in the trance, being natural, like that of a sleeping person. Those I operate upon appear to escape the stimulating stage of the mesmeric influence altogether, and to pass at once from life to temporary death; and this I am disposed to attribute to the concentrated uninterrupted manner in which the power is applied; as soon as it is felt, there is no time given to the system to rally round the first impression, and it succumbs, without a struggle, to the constraining influence. Some patients, when suddenly awake, say that their vision is hazy, and their heads light, but I take this to arise from the imperfectly recovered sensibility of the brain and organs of sense, which are not at once roused up to the full possession of their waking powers; just as is seen in persons suddenly aroused from profound natural sleep. That the mesmeric torpor of the nerves and brain does not arise from sanguine congestion, is often strikingly and beautifully illustrated by the first actions of persons suddenly awake from the trance. They open their eyes wide, and at the same moment their faculties are restored, but it is seen that the pupil is dilated, and insensible to light: this they also imme-

diately become aware of; they know that their eyes are open, and that they ought to see, but do not. The thought fills them with horror, and, with a fearful cry, they bury their faces in their hands, like persons struck blind by lightning; but this soon passes off, and the retina recovers its sensibility, by a little rubbing of the eyes."

The Manchester device of explaining the coma by mere cerebral congestion from fatigue, in the desire to utter something original and wonderful and to shew there is nothing so surprising in mesmerism, after the failure of the first attempt to shew that mesmerism is all nonsense, I laughed at from the first as too absurd; and now the originator would, I am sure, be thankful for the world to forget it. But though "we never mention" it, it "can never be forgot."

I assure the leading physicians and surgeons in London and provincial towns, and worldly wise-editors, of the following truth told by Dr. Esdaile:—

"For any person to see this, or even hear of it from a credible quarter, and still talk of imposture, is to convict himself of an incurable moral blindness, which it would be folly to attempt to dissipate by experiment and reasoning:— 'none are so blind as those who *won't* see.'"

In the Indian newspaper for May 28 is the following account by Dr. Esdaile, which ought to produce deep contrition for their *wickedness* among all the virulent opponents of mesmerism, especially the medical; I use the word *wickedness* most deliberately and solemnly.

"Before giving my next case, I beg leave to present the reader with a similar one, treated by me a short time before becoming acquainted with mesmerism.

"About a year ago, a peasant was brought from a distance to the hospital with *prolapsus ani*; the size of a pint bottle, that had existed for several days. Cold and astringent lotions were assiduously applied, and before the attempt at reduction was made, the man was suspended by the heels a long time, to facilitate the return of the blood. The most persevering attempts to reduce the part were made for two days, but to no purpose, for the walls of the abdomen had permanently contracted upon their diminished contents, and no force could distend them again so as to admit the extruded organ. Medicine and surgery being useless, his friends carried him away

to die a *lingering and miserable death*. Having looked at *that* picture, will the reader now be pleased to look at *this*:

"Reduction of prolapsus.— May 1st. A peasant was brought to my house this morning with a prodigious *prolapsus*; it was larger than the last mentioned, being *as big as a child's head, and hard and congested*; it was of *three days* standing, and the man had *not tasted food for five days*. My opinion of his case might have been understood by the exclamation of despair that escaped me on seeing it. I, however, sent him to the hospital with this order in his hand 'entrance this man if possible, and let me know when it is done.' The sub-assistant surgeon sent me notice at two o'clock P. M. that he was ready. I found him lying on his face, in which position he had been mesmerised, and in five minutes I reduced the tumour with *little difficulty, and no resistance*, although it required all the fingers of myself and assistant to compress its circumference. The man *never moved*, and on awaking a short time after, was only conscious that *his torment had vanished*, but had *no idea how*.

"He was dismissed four days after, *quite well*, and there had been no return of his complaint.

"It is a *great privilege* to be able to do this surely, and yet *surgeons and physicians in general know nothing about it, and will NOT CONDESCEND to learn it!*"

In the newspaper of April 15, Dr. Esdaile writes:—

"'Unlimited scepticism, is as much the child of imbecility as implicit credulity.'—*Dugald Stewart*.

"To the editor of *The Englishman*,

"SIR,—In the interval of the mails, you will perhaps find room for this rather long mesmeric letter, and your readers will, I hope, excuse its length as it will be chiefly taken up with the proceedings of others.

"I have lately had an opportunity of ascertaining the impression made upon the public mind by my monthly iteration of *facts*, and have every reason to be satisfied with the result, and the course I have pursued of rousing public attention to the importance of the subject through the daily press. If I had listened to the disinterested professional representations, that it was '*infra dig.*' to address the public on a medical subject except through professional channels, I should have run the risk of being pooh-poohed to death by *editors absolutely*

ignorant of the subject they presumed to decide upon, and the public would not have had the opportunity of judging for themselves of a matter of fact by a daily accumulating mass of evidence which must soon convince every one of sane mind, who will be at the trouble to examine it.

"But, unfortunately, many, who from their position and talents are naturally the leaders of public opinion, will not condescend to a careful and dispassionate examination of the alleged facts by the rules applicable to all kinds of evidence. I would beg such persons to pause for a moment in their career of dictation to nature, and reflect on their position, *if this is true*. What can be more distressing and humiliating to honest minds than to find at last, like Saul, that they have been blindly persecuting the truth to their own great loss, and the *injury of mankind*; and those who oppose mesmerism without due examination will soon find themselves in this position. I had lately the satisfaction to hear a gentleman say; "Well! if mesmerism is not true there is nothing left to believe in." If my statements are not essentially true, and minutely correct, then there is no such thing as a *fact in nature*, and life is a farce, which it would be ridiculous to take any trouble about. This will all inevitably appear in its full force in due course of time, but in the meantime, *what a senseless and unnecessary amount of torture will be inflicted on the human race, and how many will continue to suffer miserably for their ignorant and perverse rejection of the appointed means of cure!*

"If this was only a speculative subject, the prosecution of which terminated in the establishment of an abstract truth, I should be satisfied with having sought the truth for its own sake, and consider the knowledge of it as the proper reward of my labours; for I desire to disturb no man's cherished opinions, or even prejudices, as long as they are not injurious to the public. But an active *proselyting unbelief* in the curative powers of mesmerism is not among the inoffensive errors of judgment which only hurt the owners, but is a *public injury*, as it *wantonly prolongs pain and various diseases* which might otherwise be banished from the world. I have, therefore, not spared time, labour, and expense in attempting to put the public in possession of their natural rights as soon as possible, and have incurred ridicule and detraction with patience and indifference.

"I will continue my assaults till you can assure me that my object (*our's* I may say, as you have been the steady and consistent advocate of this great truth from the moment it attracted public attention) has been gained, and you need not

fear my persisting in useless preaching like the Archbishop of Granada.

"Suffering humanity cannot afford to wait for the slow conviction of indolence and unhealthy indifference. If mesmerism is true, every reasonable and benevolent being should assist in promoting its general reception by the community as an important truth, whose practical utility is hardly exceeded by the discovery of the circulation of the blood, or the introduction of vaccination, also a *natural* remedy.

"I have already given to the public the details of *seventy-six* painless surgical operations, and challenged the most scrupulous investigation; and, as far as I know, no particular as related by me has ever been contradicted or corrected by any one of the hundreds of witnesses present, who were invited to correct my misstatements or point out a shadow of exaggeration in my descriptions. Permit me to ask in the name of common sense and humanity what more is wanted? If the *quality* of the evidence is suspicious, I shall be happy to have the weak side pointed out, that it may be guarded in future. Is the *quantity* of evidence insufficient to come to a conclusion upon, and are 700, or 7000 painless operations needed? This must be a matter of time, and cannot be expected from one individual; but this paper will end with more facts of this nature. Before proceeding to them, I beg to intimate to all interested, that no fair and reasonable test of the truth of my statements can be proposed, which I shall not be happy to entertain. I have reported the results of my mesmeric practice to the Medical Board, and sent them a paper on '*scrotal tumors*,' containing fifteen cases of painless operations for their removal, and offered the Board every opportunity for personal examination if they felt any interest in the subject, and the same offer is open to all who have the courage to believe the evidence of their senses in preference to the theories of schools, and the dictation of individuals."

In my opinion, the admission of the truth of mesmerism is of infinitely greater direct practical importance than the admission of the truth of the circulation of the blood. For this has not yet led to any great practical advantage that I am aware of. Bleeding from veins, cupping, and leeching were employed by the ancients, and arteries were tied to stop hæmorrhage before the time of Harvey. Indeed, when the circulation was first believed, some were for discontinuing the useful practice of taking blood from the surface over an inflamed lung or bowel, because they imagined, in opposition to all experience, that it could do no good as no

communication between the surface and the organ within was discoverable, except as far as all blood-vessels communicate, however indirectly : and, as to the indication by it of tying arteries on the side nearest the heart, this had been already found necessary, and in fact experience shews that, if the artery is not tied on the other side also, the one ligature may be of little avail. The discovery of the circulation was the mere mechanical discovery of the mode in which every part obtains a supply of fresh blood—it having been always certain that every part had such a supply. All this I pointed out in a letter to the Council of University College. But they turned a deaf ear to me; refused me permission to prove the truth of mesmerism to the world in any of their unoccupied theatres, and called me behind my back an enthusiast.

I rejoice that Dr. Esdaile published his facts in the newspapers for the world at large, for I am certain that the only mode to convince the medical world is to convince the non-medical world, whose convictions will bring the medical world by force of interest and shame to attend to the subject. From the first I have shewn the facts to any respectable person who has desired it, from royalty and the peerage to the artisan and domestic. The number of medical men who have applied has been very small since the profound experimental philosopher and devotee of truth and fairness terrified them by his assertions and denunciations in his *Lancet* in 1838, as a man who makes an ugly face and noise and holds up his forefingers on his temples like horns frightens little children and makes them scamper off. Neither Sir Benjamin Brodie, Dr. Chambers, Dr. Holland, Dr. Prout, Dr. Forbes, Sir James Clark, nor any other scoffer at mesmerism, except Dr. Copland, has applied to me; and they remain in perfect ignorance of it, though they assure their patients daily of its utter absurdity. Dr. Copland did apply, but I refused him, on account of his violent conduct in the Medical Society, as not likely to be convinced; for my experience has long since proved to me that it is but wasting time to attempt to convince those who have already been philosophers enough to come to a positive conclusion. I, however, offered to shew everything to his son, of whom there might be some hope, as belonging to another generation. *Tanquam insanabilem rejeci patrem.*^P

The solemn importance of mesmerism I have from the first felt, like Dr. Esdaile. All his sentiments charm me. Had I not so felt, I should not have thought it worth while to

mention mesmerism before the assembled College of Physicians, nor terminated my address to them with this peroration, — *Quæ cum ita sint, ego vos magnoperè oro atque obtestor, ut tantam vim tot argumentis humanæ naturæ inesse comprobalem, si unquam apud vos veritatis amor, si professionis nostræ dignitas, si denique omnium hominum salus et felicitas valet, diligentissimè investigetis.*

The following passage occurs in the Indian paper of May 30th :—

“What I have now stated will, of course, be perverted and misrepresented, and I shall be held up as an audacious quack, advocating the *Universal Medicine*. All results short of those now related, will also be held as demonstrative of the absurdity of the whole, just as certain wise men of the East go about testing the existence of mesmerism by *total insensibility alone*, and do not know it even when they meet it.

“But the candid and enlightened reader knows that the cases I have now adduced are given to show the great range and extent to which this remedial agent *can sometimes go*. These are some of the most prominent natural features in an interesting new country lately discovered, whose exact geography has yet to be ascertained, and which opens out a new field of enterprise for the surgeon, the physician, the philosopher, and the philanthropist. It is a pity that the professional explorers are so few, but I hope to contribute occasionally a mite towards the increase of knowledge and human happiness.”

“I am well aware that all I have done and said will make no impression on the *obstructives, infallibles, and ne plus ultras*, who have pre-determined that mesmerism *shall* not be true, and consider it an insult that any one should advance in knowledge after *they* have become incapable of learning; but when men cease to grow wiser, it is high time for them to die, and make room for others.”

Dr. Esdaile contrasted two cases at p. 323. Let me entreat Mr. Aston Key, for the sake of his poor patients in Guy's Hospital, to mark the contrast; and also to mark the contrast between the fatal end of his operation for the immense tumor which the poor Chinese came to England to have removed, and the successful results of Dr. Esdaile's removal of tumors recorded now and in the last number at p. 194. The reason for this request is the deliciousness of the following notes from Mr. Chandler to myself.

"58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe,

"July 17th.

"My dear Sir,—I am doing as much mesmerism as I can possibly find time for; among the rest I mesmerise daily a little girl three years old, though not quite satisfactorily; I cannot always get her to sit still five minutes. The object is to remove her tonsils, and I think I shall succeed to a certain extent.

"Mr. Key has consented to operate, but I must send you a copy of his reply to me, it is such a curiosity.

"My dear Sir,—I shall be very glad if you can by any means quietize the little girl whilst the tonsils are being removed. Do not trouble yourself to convince me of the truthfulness of all you say about Mr. Bell's patients. If each patient were to testify to the truth of his statement, I should still remain incredulous. I know human kind too well to be deceived.

"Yours truly,

"C. A. KEY."

"Do not trouble yourself to tell me how much this amuses you. I think I shall still show him the patient Ford (as I proposed to him), just to make him say something as ridiculous as his letter.

"Believe me in haste,

"Yours very truly,

"THOMAS CHANDLER."

"58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe,

"July 25th, 1846.

"My dear Sir,—I went to that very amusing man, Mr. Key, on Wednesday last, with my little patient, to have her tonsils removed. Would you believe it! he would not wait for me to mesmerise the little girl, but proceeded at once to the operation—and a pretty bungle he made of it, cutting the tongue severely, and getting but a very little bit of tonsil; when, if he had allowed me to mesmerise, (or quietize, as he was pleased to call it,) he might, with reasonable dexterity, have seized the part, and nearly cut it off before the child had been conscious of what was going on.

"In his note to me he said he would not believe the patients operated on by Mr. Bell, if they testified to the fact of feeling no pain. He knew human kind too well to be deceived. Knowing individual! He, on Wednesday, in the presence of my patient Ford, went still further, and declared that he would not believe any person on his oath, who swore that he felt no pain during a surgical operation. He told me that the woman, for whom Cloquet removed the breast some years ago, declared on her death-bed that she had deceived. If this is untrue, do get some account of the affair for the next *Zoist*;* there are so many lies of this kind told by narrow-minded and unprincipled persons.

* This is all untrue, as Mr. Key ought to have known from my pamphlet,

"According to Mr. Key's way of arguing, a person has only to be influenced by mesmerism (for he does not deny that an effect is produced by it) to become a most atrocious liar. I told him so, and the way he got over it was, that they deceive themselves, fancying that they feel no pain. Sapiient man, what more would he wish, even supposing that to be the case? Verily, he shows such wisdom, that he would do well to go to Spain for a title, he could be so well fitted there. If Mr. Key were shewn a magnet for the first time in his life, and he were told that a piece of iron placed an inch from it would immediately jump towards it, he would of course say, 'I would not believe it if you were to swear to it. I know the laws which govern inanimate matter too well to be deceived.' And when the thing happened he would of course open his eyes very wide, give his face an extra twitch, and declare it to be all fancy.

"Let such men die in their pig-headed ignorance, the world will not miss them, nor will the advance of mesmerism be retarded by their ridiculous opposition.

"Believe me,

"Yours sincerely,

"THOMAS CHANDLER."

Such remarks as those of Dr. Esdaile at p. 324 and 325, I have unceasingly urged upon my medical brethren.

The last remark of Mr. Chandler was acted upon by Harvey, and ought to be acted upon by all mesmerists who value their precious time. Harvey, finding Riolaus impenetrable to facts, gave him up as hopeless, "leaving him to the wise course of nature, who by death removes men and all their absurd prejudices together."^u

Dr. Esdaile's reflection, that "when men cease to grow wiser, it is high time for them to die and make room for others," had often forced itself upon me while preparing my oration.

Two of the bitterest, most ignorant, and unscrupulous of our opponents, have just been removed with all their sins unatoned for by recantation. *Dr. James Johnson is no more.* He never witnessed one of my facts in mesmerism, but in his *Medical and Chirurgical Journal* for July, 1838, p. 285, called it a "*most abominable piece of humbug,*" and my demonstrations, "*mountebank exhibitions;*" adding that some members of our profession were "*from credulousness and weakness lending themselves to the propagation of this TOMFOOLERY:*" and,

p. 82. Such absurdity is melancholy in a teacher of young men who are to be entrusted with the lives of their fellow-creatures. The man whose leg was cut off at Wellow was reported to have confessed to imposture; the Okeys confessed to imposture, and I confessed to having been deceived. For the denial of the latter medical untruths see *Zeist*, Vol. I., p. 209.

^u *Harzeian Oration*, p. 16, 50.

in the following October, p. 635, he protested that "*animal magnetism is a fiction, a falsehood*;" the effects he termed "*blasphemous mummeries*,"—"one of the most barefaced and outrageous impostures that was ever foisted on the public, or that disgraced the members of a liberal and enlightened profession," p. 638: and, not having a high order of intellect or any dignity of character, though he had allowed himself to be nearly hunted to death by Mr. Wakley and had at length cried out for mercy and arranged articles of peace with the noisy but really laughable coroner, he for the first time in his life believed Mr. Wakley, whose details of experiments with the Okeys he held out as true, and wrote that "*a FINAL and FATAL blow had been given to animal magnetism*" by Mr. Wakley, who had "*blown the disjecta membra of mesmerism into the air, leaving scarcely a wreck behind, and had owed this to the profession.*" (p. 637). The army of giant facts in *The Zoist* are indeed a nice little wreck. He eagerly quoted the following remarks of Mr. Dilke in the *Athenæum* with reference to mesmerism: "There are many *paper-headed coxcombs* who will as tenderly be led by the nose as asses; aye, number for number, fully as many in the learned professions as out of them; and *we* (Mr. Dilke) are more inclined to be of opinion, that a *fool's head* is as much a *fool's head* when enveloped in a doctor's bonnet as when defended by a single thin nightcap." I never see Mr. Dilke without feeling grateful for his elegant politeness.

Dr. Johnson thought himself quite secure under the wing of his former foe, Mr. Wakley, and especially when he informed the world that "*not one of the seven medical journals published in Great Britain had supported animal magnetism. Four of them have repudiated it, and the others have preserved silence.*" (p. 638). I am amused to say that more have repudiated it,—*The Lancet, Medical Times, Medical Gazette, Dr. Johnson's Journal, Dr. Forbes's Journal, Dr. Stokes and Graves's Dublin Journal.* I wish that all medical journalists would openly repudiate it: for the sure victory of mesmerism would then be the more glorious.

Dr. Johnson was not particular. Though the father of a daughter, he did not hesitate to write what is too indecent for me to transcribe in his journal, and which *men* may read at p. 634, &c., Oct. 1838. His cruelty to the Okeys, whose cases were perfectly genuine and have been confirmed by hundreds of subsequent cases, and who are perfectly well and respectable, and of whom the younger has presented her husband with two children, was afterwards severely visited upon him in his own family.

He proposed to call mesmerism *nickleassery*.

His subsequent vulgarities and absurdities were noticed in *The Zoist* of July, 1844. His absurdity was such, that he entered into the class of those whose duty it is to pluck out their eyes; he declared that "*he would not believe the evidence of his own senses.*" He laughed at our folly and pitied our madness; we formed three classes,—arrant charlatans, weak dupes, and high-minded fanatics: he viewed mesmerism as a ludicrous, if not mischievous delusion, which, *without regard to persons, should be laughed at and put down.*" His vulgarity was beyond what might be imagined. The vignette of *The Zoist*, which represents a sage with a youth of either sex on either side being instructed in philosophy, he presumed must represent myself with "*two females of loose habits, whose petticoats were too scant.*" Females of loose habits! "The mesmero-mania," he said, "had nearly dwindled in the metropolis into anile fatuity; but lingers in some of the provinces, with the *gobe-mouches* and *chaw-bacons*, who, after gulping down a pound of fat pork, would, with greased gullets, swallow such a lot of mesmeric mum-mery as would choke an alligator or a boa-constrictor." Yet, forsooth, he was a religious man. He wrote such a letter to the Duke of Clarence on the death of the Duke of York, that his Royal Highness thanked him "for his religious remarks."

He, however, did far more mischief to his fellow-creatures by exhorting practitioners to bleed profusely in the fevers of warm climates, than by his poor hostility to mesmerism. Most surgeons who went from this country to warm latitudes long followed his advice, which was not founded on experience, and tens of thousands of lives have been thus destroyed. Better would it have been for all so treated to have been left to nature. Venesection is now but moderately employed in those fevers, and the mortality is much reduced. Yet, after doing all this positive mischief, and doing his best to prevent mankind from having the incalculable blessings of mesmerism, he appears to have died most contentedly. His biographer says that "he was not embittered by regrets of the past,"—"he looked back with satisfaction."

Another person who, in preventing the spread of mesmerism, did as much mischief among weak-minded men and women out of the profession as he did among the medical host, has also just departed,—that most bitter, uncharitable,

^s See his Life, in the *Medical and Chirurgical Review*, 1846, p. 47, and his account of the celebrated meeting at the Medical and Chirurgical Society, January, 1843, p. 282-3, and of my Pamphlet, July, 1843, p. 147.

bigotted, and ignorant writer,* who fancied herself a Christian, *Charlotte Elizabeth*. She represented the natural facts of mesmerism to be supernatural, as savages consider a watch must have a spirit—a supernatural being inside it. As the Pharisees ascribed the healing of the sick by Jesus to the devil,⁷ so did she: and, having done all the mischief she could in this respect, she died, like Dr. Johnson, contentedly. In the *Record* of July 20, I read, “On the 12th inst., at Ramsgate, LOOKING UNTO JESUS, Charlotte Elizabeth, the beloved wife of Lewis H. J. Tonna, Esq., of Whitehall Yard.”²

If she had looked unto Jesus as he lived, she would have

x “Ignorance, mistaken for knowledge, is a frightful perpetrator of injustice and cruelty. Were I a preacher, there is one sin—a daily, hourly sin—one productive, unheeded, of immense mischief,—against which I would lift my voice in season and out of season, but which I never once in my whole life heard preached against, though I find it treated of in one of the late Dr. Arnold’s sermons. It is the sin of presuming to hold opinions on matters upon which we have not qualified ourselves to have any opinion at all. Men and women, young and old, educated and uneducated, rich and poor, equally commit this from morning to night, committing it not only in word but in action: and yet they, in superficial routine, pray to God to keep them from presumptuous sins,—Keep thy servant also from presumptuous sins.”—*Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations without pain*, p. 90.

y *Zweist*, Vol. III., pp. 99, 532.

z Her bitterness to Roman catholics also was intense. A gentleman who was present informed me that a mild good woman, at an evening party at Clapham, mentioned that she had distributed a large number of tracts in the catholic cantons of Switzerland; on which the Christian Charlotte Elizabeth Tonna instantly said, “Ma’am, I hope you hate the papists.” The mild lady’s reply was beautiful—“Ma’am, I should be sorry to hate any of God’s creatures.”

Mrs. Tonna did but imitate the catholics whom she hated. For “the Abbé Wartz of Lyons, in a work on the *Superstitions of Philosophers*, wrote, at the beginning of this century, that, although all belief in the devil was apparently given up, he was really the chief personage, though disguised, in the lodges of freemasons, mansions, and palaces, and acted sometimes under the form of a wonderful man, a physical philosopher, a *mesmeriser*, &c.

“Another catholic author, in a book published not many years ago in France, wrote thus:—‘The effects of mesmerism are not explicable by any natural causes. No natural means are employed to produce them. Mesmerism is a stratagem invented by the devil to seduce souls, to increase the number of his adherents, and oppose the works of Jesus Christ and his ministers. No Christian can employ mesmerism for himself or others without mortal sin. Mesmerism undermines faith and morals. Government ought to proscribe it. In order to be initiated into its mysteries, Jesus Christ must be denied, and the cross trampled upon. All mesmerisers are disciples of Lucifer.’ (Foissey, pp. 251, 394.)

“How slavishly does the alleged protestant writer of a disgraceful English sermon, of which not a copy would have sold but for the wretched state of our education, adopt the thoughts and words of the Roman catholics, against whom he is so fierce. Thus vaccination was discovered to be anti-christ, and sermons were furiously preached against it when I was a boy, as they had been previously against the inoculation of small-pox. Thus we read that the miraculous cures of Christ, when he was thought ‘beside himself’ by ‘his friends,’ were attributed to the devil, as though this were so benevolent an individual.”—*Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations*, &c., pp. 89, 90.

found him urging the world not to think the easy observance of religious forms or adoption of mystical opinions about supernatural points to be of any value, nor to think the better of people who observe certain religious forms and hold certain opinions, because we observe and hold the same, and through the circumstances in which, like them, we have been placed; but to be humble and just in every trifling action and word, and to be delighted with everything which promises to lessen ever so little the sufferings of our fellow-creatures.

II. *Extraordinary benefit of Mesmerism in dangerous Fracture of the Leg and in Fils.* By Mr. Nixon, Surgeon.

Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

I AM delighted to record another medical conversion to mesmerism with happy results to the afflicted, and that, as in so many other instances, by the good sense and energy of a lady. How delightful must be Miss Aglionby's reflections, that she has been the indirect and original means of saving a life, and, what is better, of putting an end to "*intolerable agony*," which our hospital surgeons resolve that patients shall still suffer rather than they themselves condescend to listen to what they still pronounce on all occasions, always proudly and often fiercely, to be outrageous nonsense.

I received the enclosed from a cousin of the Member for Cockermouth.

J. ELLIOTSON.

"Wigton Hall, Cumberland,
"June 20th, 1846.

"Sir,—I trust you will excuse the liberty I take in forwarding to you the enclosed papers. They are written by Mr. Nixon, a medical man in the town of Wigton, Cumberland; and it will, I hope, in some degree interest you to learn that another of your profession has availed himself of the great powers of mesmerism. Mr. Nixon was at first a disbeliever; but, on my introducing to his notice two or three curious cases, he had the good sense and candour to examine and try for himself, and the result has been, that in several cases he has been enabled greatly to benefit his patients by mesmeric means. I must again beg you will pardon my having thus intruded on your time, and assure you that Mr. Nixon will feel himself highly flattered, should you con-

sider his statement of sufficient importance to interest you or to communicate to *The Zoist*, should you think proper to do so.

"I remain, Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"ELIZABETH F. AGLIONBY."

The existence of an inexplicable agent, which seems to set at defiance all our present physiological knowledge, has not been admitted on my part, until after much patient and close practical investigation; for I unhesitatingly admit that I belonged to the class of sceptics, who, because they could not have extraordinary phenomena satisfactorily explained, could not but suspect collusion and imposture. The following cases came under my own observation.

On the 1st of January, a poor aged woman sustained a very severe comminuted fracture at the upper third of the right leg, the limb having for nearly three years, previous to the accident, been in a weakened condition, from extensive varicose ulcers. The immediate consequence of the injury was violent inflammation, and swelling; these were speedily followed by all the symptoms of commencing mortification, so that it became a question whether or not immediate amputation should be had recourse to. During this time the woman was suffering the most *intolerable agony*, for the relief of which I *exhausted all the ordinary* resources of our art, without avail. I then resolved, as an experiment, to try to induce the mesmeric sleep, and, to my great amazement and satisfaction, in about fifteen minutes, the *wished-for relief was procured*. This sleep lasted fully half an hour, with the *extraordinary effect*, on awakening, of perfect *freedom from pain*. The same process was gone through, morning and evening, for a period of three weeks, with the happiest result. The limb, from the first trial of mesmerism, began gradually to improve, and at length became quite consolidated. The ulcerated surfaces also healed. *No other means than mesmeric sleep*, except the ordinary treatment of keeping the limb steady and cool, were employed.

While the above case was still under treatment, I was sent for, in great haste, on the 22nd of January, to S. B., aged 31, residing in the country, and who was reported to be in a dying state. I found the lady in a hysteric paroxysm, to which she had been for some time very liable, from long previous illness and a constitution naturally of feeble power of resistance to disease. I was given to understand, the paroxysms had occurred at intervals for three hours, which

accounted for her extremely exhausted and alarming condition. By the diligent use of ordinary means, she was at last recovered from this state, and expressed herself better; soon afterwards having some quiet sleep. Two hours after, I was preparing to leave, when I was told she was worse. On hastening to her, I found her in a violent fit of cataleptic ecstasy. The paroxysm lasted for two or three minutes, and recurred again at irregular intervals, seizing and rigidly maintaining her in whatever posture she might be in during her conscious moments. Having heard it stated that mesmerists considered hysteria and catalepsy the mere spontaneous development of the mesmeric state, I resolved to put it to the test. I accordingly began to attempt neutralizing the exalted condition of the nervous system by every demesmerising manœuvre I was master of. I failed, however, either in shortening the duration, or influencing in any degree, the intensity of the fits; but I acknowledge I did not make the reversed passes in direct relation to the course of the nerves; from not then knowing this to be necessary. These experiments were several times repeated during the total suspension of the intellectual faculties. I therefore waited for a return to consciousness, and then I endeavoured to induce somnolency, assuring her that if she would fix her attention on what we were engaged in, and look me steadily in the face, I would ensure her speedy relief: fortunately her confidence was thus secured. A few minutes sufficed to bring about perfect sleep. She awoke at intervals, but a repetition of the same means soon sent her asleep again. She was kept in this condition for five hours, and then allowed to rouse up. The fits had now become mild hysteric, and gradually wore off during the course of the day.

III. *Cure of severe and constant Pain, of long standing.*
Communicated by Mr. D. HANDS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

Dear Sir,—I send you the account of the cure of a poor Irish woman, effected by my friend Madame Marie, who resides in my house and, from having derived great benefit from mesmerism, has devoted herself to its practice. She has been singularly successful; and though this case is absolutely void of all marvel, yet is the cure most perfect, and the poor woman who for ten years was the subject of disease and incapable of work is now in perfect health, and I have no doubt after her confinement will be enabled to gain her

livelihood by the labour of her hands. I shall feel very grateful for your insertion of Madame Marie's statement.

I remain, &c.

DECIMUS HANDS, Surgeon.

22, Thayer Street, June 19th.

IN the month of March my attention was drawn by the benevolent Mr. Briggs to the case of a poor Irish woman, named Ann Sullivan, who, having met with a serious injury by a fall ten years previously, had ever since been a sufferer from *constant* and often acute pain in the side. The account she gave of her accident was as follows. At the age of 17 she was in a situation as servant of all-work, and had always a horror of touching anything dead. One day another young girl ran after her to hit her with a dead hare; in her haste and fright she missed her footing and fell down 16 steps into the yard below upon her side. She remained stunned for some time, and was confined to her bed six weeks, attended by a doctor who bled her frequently, and for more than six months she was too weak to be able to carry even a jug of water up stairs. Three years afterwards she married, and her first child was born the year following. Having never recovered her health or strength since the fall, she was a long time before she rallied after her confinement; for many weeks she could only crawl about the house holding by the chairs; since then she has had two more children, and when she came to me was already pregnant four months of her fourth child. Her side was acutely sensitive to the touch; the pressure of her own hand made her scream, and she could not wear stays or bear anything tied over the place. She was 28 years of age, very pale and emaciated; temperament, leuco-phlegmatic. Bowels always confined; hair, a light sandy brown; eyes, blue. From last Christmas she had cold shiverings at night. Her appetite was very bad, or rather the stomach rejected all kinds of nourishment, tea being all she lived on.

Mr. Briggs was anxious she should try if mesmerism could be of any benefit, and I willingly consented to undertake the case, though from the length of time that had elapsed I was not sanguine of success. The poor woman called on me March 30th, when I commenced by making long passes from the top of the head downwards to the waist; she said she felt a cold stream of air from my fingers, and complained shortly afterwards of head-ache, faintness and sickness, but did not seem drowsy. I continued the passes for about 20 minutes, and then sent her home. The next day, Tuesday, March 31st, I questioned her as to what she felt after she had left me the pre-

vious day ; she said she had been very sick and faint, and had retched violently all the afternoon. I was rather fearful that this might prove injurious in her then state, and therefore confined my operations to a slight pressure on the side, wishing to consult Mr. Hands, who was not at home at the time. She complained much of the pain my hand occasioned her ; I gave over in about ten minutes ; she said her side felt better than when she came. On Mr. Hands's return, I asked him if he thought I might continue, notwithstanding the retching ; he quite reassured me. I was therefore encouraged and determined I would exert all my power on the next day, as she thought the pressure had alleviated the pain. I was rather disappointed that she had not shewed any symptoms of sleep, as every one I had mesmerised previously had been sent into the sleep the first day,* consequently I was not prepared for the contrary effect, and was almost inclined to doubt her having felt any influence from me.

On the Wednesday morning I had a lady with me who was desirous to be present, to which I consented. The poor woman told me she had been better than she had felt for a long time, and almost free from pain till four o'clock, from which time she suffered intensely up to the moment she was speaking, and that she was then in such torture she would not be able to endure my hand to her side. I however determined to try. On placing my fingers with the utmost gentleness on the part, she screamed violently, and said the pain was as bad in the right side as it had been in the left ; that the instant I had touched the latter, she felt pain dart into the other side likewise. I then placed the fingers of each hand on the sides, and amidst her reiterated cries and entreaties gently drew them to the centre and then slowly towards myself, throwing off the influence each time. The lady who was present became alarmed, and joined her in asking me to desist ; but I still persevered till she acknowledged the acuteness of the suffering diminished. In about 20 minutes she declared that she no longer felt pain ; that she had not been so free from it for ten years.

Here I think it proper to state, that nothing appears so much to strengthen the influence and necessarily prove beneficial as the encouragement, when patients are ready to attribute their relief to mesmerism. The mesmeriser feels his own faith increased and redoubles his efforts with confidence. The reverse is still more certain ; none but those who have expe-

* This lady's experience must have been limited, or she would not have felt disappointment.—*Zeist*.

rienced it can understand the damp that is thrown on all his exertions when there is a disinclination to allow they have derived benefit, or they attribute it to chance, or indeed to *anything else* except to the power of your influence.

On the Thursday following I was very unwell and told the servant, when Mrs. Sullivan came, to ask her to return in the afternoon, when I hoped to be able to exert myself. However, she begged so hard to see me, if it were only for a few minutes, that I accordingly went to her in the hall. She told me she had been quite well till that morning, but then the agony of the side was so acute she could not breathe, and implored me to try to give her some relief. Though very unwell, I could not resist her entreaties, and placed my hand on her side while she stood in the passage. In a very short time she said she was quite comfortable, and left me, saying she would not return that day unless the pain became unbearable. When she came on the Friday, the alteration in her appearance was most striking; she generally seemed in too low spirits for any unnecessary exertion, and though she endeavoured to keep her husband tidy, she was a picture of an untidy slattern herself: but on that morning she was clean, looked as if her clothes were pinned on instead of hanging loose about her, and she had made herself a new cap, while her whole face was brightened up and smiling: she said, she had no return of pain, she was quite well; she laughed and talked incessantly; she was almost wild, I could not keep her quiet. Her happy gratitude was very cheering; her disposition is peculiarly interesting to me. In the midst of most severe trials, there never escaped a murmur from her lips; she felt the affliction, but felt too her mercies. Suffering for many years, unable to work, she was thankful she had a kind and affectionate husband,—a sober, industrious man, who was always willing to labour for her support. When he fell from the scaffold and was seriously hurt, and consequently thrown out of work, then she was thankful that God had raised her up a friend in Mr. Briggs, who relieved their wants, placed him in the Middlesex Hospital, and had now been the means of her recovery. There are few sights more refreshing to witness than the overflowings of gratitude in the midst of adversity; this is God's work and truly marvellous in our eyes.

The next day, Saturday, the lady who witnessed her sufferings on Wednesday, was again with me, when Mrs. Sullivan was announced. This lady, Mrs. Phillips, of Islington, who kindly allows me to name her, was much amazed at seeing her so happy and cheerful, and to hear her declaration of being perfectly cured; the only symptom that remained

was her night shiverings. On ascertaining this I turned all my attention to willing them to cease as I had read some mesmerisers had the power of doing.

On Monday morning I anxiously expected Mrs. Sullivan that I might learn the result, but in vain; she did not come. At two o'clock I became alarmed, and went to her house, and found her quite well; her only excuse was that she no longer required mesmerism, being completely recovered. I, however, thought it better not to relinquish so suddenly, but to continue a few days longer. She also stated that when she got home on the Saturday she felt so heavy, she lay down and slept profoundly from half-past twelve to near six o'clock. I appointed her to come to me as soon as she could, and I returned home. She came about three o'clock, and while mesmerising her, I willed her to sleep for two hours that afternoon as soon as she got home. I forgot to mention the night shiverings had ceased, she not having had any since the Saturday. On her leaving me on the Monday, I merely said you were quite right to lie down when you felt sleepy on Saturday; be sure always to yield to what you feel. When she was gone, I was so pleased by the success attending my willing, that I wrote in my memoranda book my having willed her to sleep for two hours.

On the Tuesday, the kind Mr. Briggs called, and I showed him what I had written, saying, now when Mrs. S. comes you will see what power I have. He was amused, and when the servant said she was down stairs, begged she might come up at once. I expected to see her as happy as she had been the last three days; but, alas, how altered and wretched she looked; and when I enquired what was the matter, I was indeed surprised to learn that she was as ill as she had ever been; she seemed as depressed as she had been exhilarated before. The pain of her side had not returned, nor the shivering or sickness; but her breathing was sonorous and painful, her chest oppressed, her pulse high and feverish. She complained that the night had been restless and agitated; indeed she appeared to me almost delirious. I questioned her as to what could have been the cause, but she assured me she had not committed any imprudence, nor taken any food, except her tea, bread and butter, and mesmerised water, which I had given her from the first; and that so far from having done anything to counteract my influence, she had been so resolved to have a good night, that, instead of yielding to the sleep that almost overpowered her,* she had

* The patient had been sleepy and gone to sleep after returning home

scrubbed her room, and chairs and table, notwithstanding my request of her lying down if she was sleepy. You cannot imagine my vexation at this candid confession. I was completely discouraged, and lost all my influence as well as interest in her. She had a relapse of all her former symptoms, and it was in vain that I toiled; I could produce no effect for many weeks. At length I announced to her that I thought it useless to continue, but her grief was so touching that I consented to try another week, and really endeavoured to rouse myself into feeling some interest again in the case, assured that I had nothing to fear like her former disobedience. In a few days she seemed to derive a little benefit again under my power. From the time I regained my influence her amendment was rapid. On the 11th of May she was perfectly restored to health; she could allow her side to be thumped hard. She now wears stays and washes blankets. Since her recovery she has had a severe fall into the coal cellar, from which she escaped with bruises and contusion of the same side, yet she never felt a return of the old pain.

I mentioned at the commencement, that her bowels had been always confined; but from the third time of being mesmerised, they acted daily, and have continued to do so ever since.

One of Mr. Hands's clairvoyantes advised wash-leather to be mesmerised and applied to the side, and likewise prescribed arnica. Mr. Hands gave her the arnica, the effect of which was surprising; and when she described what her feelings were, you would have thought she had read *Jahr's Manual of Homæopathy*, so exact was her description in harmony with it.* She took no other medicine all the time but one dose of arnica.

There were no phenomena to excite curiosity; but the fact of perfect restoration to health and strength is all we ought to desire.

It is rather singular that whereas all the other persons I have mesmerised describe my influence as very warm, she

on the Saturday, when there had been no willing; and therefore, though we know the power of the will (*Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 319), we have no right to ascribe the sleepiness of Monday to Madame Marie's will. Patients are often overpowered with sleep after mesmerisation is over.—*Zoist*.

* We have ascertained, by means of a friend, that the description amounted absolutely to nothing. *Jahr* mentions nearly two hundred symptoms, great and little and of various kinds, produced by arnica, just as he gives a host from each of a multitude of other medicines. Of these the woman mentioned two or three sensations to our friend, as having been felt by her in her side, which was the seat of her disease; but they were such as she had frequently experienced before, and such as all persons with her nervous affection of the side continually experience.—*Zoist*.

invariably has found it cold, though pleasant. When she suffered from head-ache, it was increased by my passes, unless made in the inverse direction from the chin upwards to the vertex of the head and thrown off, which relieved her. I have no doubt her cure would have been completely effected in the week, had she not resisted the influence. During the whole time no other means were employed, with the exception of the dose of arnica prescribed by the clairvoyante and given by Mr. Hands's direction, and the wash-leather, which she thought was of great service; indeed I have generally found it of great benefit, as likewise the use of mesmerised water as a beverage as well as external application.

MARIE.

IV. *Striking Utility of Mesmerism in Tic Douloureux.* By
MR. H. U. JANSON.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR.—At length I have the pleasure of sending you some particulars of a distressing case of neuralgia which I have so long attended in Exeter: my patient (Mrs. Canterbury, No. 48, Holloway Street) having kindly given permission for its insertion in our excellent periodical. As, however, the said work is now becoming so *over-stocked*, that *space* must be a matter of consideration, I am desirous of condensing my communication as much as possible. I might have sent it long ago, but was resolved not to do so until I could announce that my patient had completed *half a year* without pain; which, I am happy to say, is now the case. Moreover, I have recently returned from an absence of nearly six weeks, during which time she had no other operator; but, on visiting her, on my return, I was informed that there had been "*no return of the pain.*" I therefore hope it is quite eradicated. The history of the case is as follows:

Mrs. C. had been "a martyr to the tic" for full four years before I knew her, during which time she had the advice of several physicians and surgeons in Exeter; but without any permanent benefit; though, as she told me, "the medicines sometimes seemed to have the effect of *stunning* the pain for the time; but it always returned with redoubled violence, so that no advantage was derived." The patient expresses her belief that the disease has been *forming* for full *eighteen* years; it was therefore a thoroughly deep-rooted case.

Neuralgia, I may observe, appears to be one of the most

mystic or least explicable of all diseases. I do not require to be told that it is owing to a derangement of the nervous system, &c.; that of course, is admitted; but, the question is, what causes this derangement? One of my medical friends tells me that it may be caused by disorder of almost any of the internal organs. As far as my own observation has gone, I am satisfied that these deep-rooted cases are frequently caused by the accumulation of a mass of matter in the chest. That it is so in this case, I have not the slightest doubt, both from the self-evident symptoms of the case, and also from the assertions of the patient herself during the trance. The application of the mesmeric influence always produces a severe cough, which, by continuing the "passes" with energy, may be worked up so as to terminate in violent vomiting. In this way the amount of matter that has been removed is beyond calculation; for I have attended her now upwards of 300 times, and the process has been going on, more or less, from the commencement; though the expectoration began to diminish with the pain, and has now, for some time, nearly ceased altogether. I have never heard of a worse case than this. When I first became acquainted with Mrs. C. she was, I verily believe, on the point of being starved to death! as the difficulty of eating a morsel of food was almost insurmountable. She told me that even to see preparations made for dinner was just the same to her as to see a dentist preparing his instruments to draw her teeth; as the least attempt at manducation would bring on such a paroxysm of agony that I have repeatedly seen the couch on which she lay tremble beneath her. The skin of the face, around the mouth, became discoloured (as sometimes occurs in extreme cases) and peeled off as it does from a patient after a fever; and both eating and speaking were becoming every day more and more impracticable. She used to receive me in perfect silence, lying on the sofa, and merely pointing to a slate on which she had written any remark she might have wished to make. In this state she would prepare herself for the operation, looking the very picture of misery unutterable. A very few minutes sufficed to place her in the mesmeric sleep; and any one who entered, half an hour or so afterwards, might indeed have stood astonished! There was my unutterably miserable patient, sitting up, chatting, laughing, eating her dinner, (not gruel and slops, but such things as beef steaks and mutton chops), and looking as happy as possible.

She would occasionally exclaim "I cannot *think* how this is! I *know* I could not do this if you were not here," &c., for it is one of the peculiarities of this case, that the patient has

never, from the first, been in the slightest degree conscious of being in any other than her usual state; though she has not the slightest recollection afterwards of anything that has occurred during the trance. Many of my friends have come to see Mrs. C. *eat her dinner without knowing it*; and it really was quite a sight. I shall never forget the first time this experiment was tried. On being aroused, the patient looked much surprized, and said, "Have I been eating?" I replied, "What makes you think so?" She said, "I have *no recollection* whatever of it, but I feel as if I had been *dining most sumptuously*." "And well you may," said I, "for you have eaten a couple of mutton chops, a large piece of bread, and a considerable portion of pudding!" The astonishment depicted on my patient's face was most amusing. In this way she was gradually brought forward from strength to strength. As soon as the violent coughing and expectoration (which usually took place as soon as the eyes were mesmerically closed) was quite over, I commenced the administration of edibles. This was done until at length the disease became so far subdued, that my patient informed me she could eat comfortably when awake. I never heard of a more *steady* cure. The disease melted away, as Burns says, "*like snow-wreathes in thaw*." The dreadful paroxysms gradually died down to a few occasional *twitches*, which gradually diminished, in number and severity, until at length I received the pleasing intelligence that she had got over an entire day without the least pain. After that, the improvement was most rapid. She gained flesh and spirits, and has now, as I have stated, passed full half a year without a single twitch or dart. It was when she had got over the first quarter, that she one day presented me with a copy of original verses, which, as I can truly testify that they contain a simple statement of facts, will I think be appropriately inserted here.

FROM ONE WHO HAS BEEN CURED OF TIC DOULOUREUX.

TO H. U. JANSON, ESQ.

To you, most valued friend,
Whose sympathetic care
Relieved my cruel woes,
And saved me from despair,

Thanks, more than words can speak,
I feel to be your due.
And heart-felt gratitude,
Which I present to you.

When first you saw my face,
I lay in dreadful pain,
And scarce had power to ask
If you would come again.

But anguish had a voice
Which moved your tender heart,
To try magnetic power,
And soothing aid impart.

The efforts that you made,
A blessing did obtain,
And brought to me more ease
Than medicines could gain.

I now a comfort feel,
Which long was sought in vain,—
A power to eat or speak,
And feel no darting pain.

What sweet release I find,
Oh happy change for me!
Release from grief and gloom,
To active liberty.

May every bliss be yours,
That mortal can obtain,
And when immortal made,
In heaven for ever reign.

This case exhibits several of the “ordinary phenomena,” (as they will be called ten years hence,) rigidity, community of taste and sensation, &c. One thing, however, is remarkable, that on attempting to *draw* the hands by the “tractive passes,” that very common phenomenon is never produced; but, instead of it, they shrink away, and the patient complains of an uncomfortable sensation of cold, and, it requires some rubbing and breathing upon them before they are restored. I do not know whether this is a common phenomenon or not; I merely mention it because I have never met with it in any other case.

But I am desirous not to trespass; and will therefore merely add a few concluding remarks. I am sorry my mesmeric labours (now of about three years’ duration) have not enabled me to furnish more cases for your valuable work: but, the fact is, it has been my misfortune to stumble upon cases of the worst description. I have amply verified the remark of Mr. Sandby, (*Mesmerism and its Opponents*, p. 195,) “the treatment of a chronic case generally demands a sacrifice of *time*, which even if men have the *inclination* they have not always the *leisure* to bestow.” I am sure that if I had any profession or trade to follow, I could not have gone through with this *single case*; for, had I stopped, even after the two hundredth attendance, I am confident the patient would have been no better. It was during the last hundred that the *great advance* was made. Another of my cases was confirmed epilepsy, of twelve years’ standing, and

which had been getting progressively worse and worse, until it had arrived at the frightful height of about thirty fits per month, with *periodical* attacks of twelve or fifteen fits in succession, going through a whole night and terminating in raving madness for several days afterwards. I mesmerised this patient above one hundred times, and reduced the attacks to periods of *six weeks*, with perfect health in the interval. Moreover, the attacks were nothing, *compared* with what they used to be. I was then obliged to deliver this case to another operator, under whose care it is now progressing very satisfactorily.

But I go forward with the beautiful case, p. 51, in the April number. The eye has now been cauterized *eleven* times without pain. This I may observe is one of the strongest cases of *cross-mesmerism* that I ever heard of. It took me many weeks to *get down* the influence of the first operator and establish my own; and, during my late absence, very serious results ensued in consequence of another operator having been tried; one of which was a most distressing head-ache for seven weeks, which took me full a fortnight to overcome. I think this is a point in our science which has not yet received sufficient attention. I doubt whether there is *any* mesmeric patient who is not, in some degree, injured by a change of operators; but I have known several cases in which it is most dreadfully injurious, and appears to overthrow the benefit which had been previously effected.

I have spent much time over a case of *permanent headache*; but I have found this the most *intractable* case that I have attempted (hydrocephalus, I fear); nevertheless I could *keep* the patient with little or no pain, as long as I attended regularly.

Lastly, I can truly say that I have never yet applied mesmerism continuously without producing *decided benefit*, if not a cure: though, in *every one of them* the "ordinary remedies" had proved a mere fiddle-de-dee;—an expressive phrase to signify *most superlatively useless*. In fact, it is, I think, the greatest thing in favour of mesmerism, that nearly all our marvellous cures have been effected *after* "the doctor" has done all he can. I will conclude with a

MEMORANDUM.

As a copy of *The Zoist* is preserved in the British Museum, I wish to *record*, for the astonishment of the men of 1946, that though the splendid case of Mrs. C. has been a "town's talk" for nearly two years, and has even been noticed in the Exeter newspapers, yet during all that time, not a single medical practitioner who formerly attended her, has ever

once thought it worth while to request me to shew or explain the case, or to ask me a single question about it !!!*

I remain, my dear Sir,
Faithfully yours,

HENRY UMFREVILLE JANSON.

Pennsylvania Park, Exeter,
August 18th, 1846.

V. Review of Baron Reichenbach's *Researches in Magnetism and certain allied subjects, including a new Imponderable.*

(Continued from page 284.)

THE effects produced by magnets and crystals ensued also from the *sun's rays*.

"He put into the hand of one of the patients the end of a copper-wire nearly 30 feet long, and, when her hand was accustomed to the sensation, the other end was put out of the window in the rays of the sun. Immediately the sensations caused by the force of crystals were perceived, not powerful, but quite distinct. The end of the wire was now connected with a plate of copper 9 inches square in the dark, and when the patient was accustomed to the feel of the wire, the plate was exposed to the sun. No sooner was this done than he was saluted with a cry of pleasure from the sick-bed. The moment the sun's rays fell on the plate a powerful manifestation of the well known force was felt, as a sensation of warmth in the hand, rising through the arm to the head. But this sensation was accompanied with one quite new and unexpected, namely, a peculiar, somewhat cooling, but astonishingly refreshing sensation, a pleasurable feeling, which the patient compared to the fresh air of a fine May morning. This sensation flowed from the end of the wire into the arm, and thence spread itself over the whole body, dispensing throughout her whole nature a feeling of strength and refreshment. All the bystanders were affected to sympathy, and the author allowed the unfortunate patient for a considerable time the new enjoyment derived from this unknown cordial or restorative. It was something which flowed through her whole nervous system with a beneficial effect. The author did not know what it was, and as it did not immediately bear on the question, it was left, like many other things, for subsequent study."

* We know of a dreadful case of *Tic Douloureux*, in which mesmerism was begun, but discontinued a twelvemonth ago at the instigation of a brother, a surgeon in one of the Midland Counties, and a writer in one of the London Medical Journals against mesmerism. She, at his suggestion, feared it would render her insane like the *Okeys* who have been well for many years and whose ecstatic delirium was a part of their disease, as it is in other instances. This poor patient is not allowed the blessings of mesmerism, and has been suffering dreadfully of late, and had four teeth extracted at a sitting, of course without any relief.—*Zoist*.

The effect followed, though less strongly, if the wire was hung with dry linen: but, if the linen was moist, the former sensations were united with such a disagreeable sensation as moist air was said to produce on this patient.

On a second patient,

"When the wire alone was used, she perceived coolness in the end of it in her hand, and this disappeared and reappeared as the other end was removed from the sunshine or restored to it. When several square feet of tinned iron were attached to the wire, and exposed to the sun, the sensation of coolness increased to that of icy coldness, which caused the hand to stiffen."

Another perceived the peculiar sensation, not only

"When the wire was attached to sheet-iron, sheet-copper, sheet-zinc, tinfoil, leadfoil, silver-ribbon, gold-leaf, brass-plate, and German-silver, and these bodies exposed to the sun's light; but also when linen, woollen cloth, cotton, silk, &c., attached to the wire, were placed in the direct rays of the sun. Indeed, every substance tried, including porcelain, glass, stone, wood, water, lamp-oil, alcohol, sulphur, when tried in the same way, produced the remarkable sensation of increasing coolness, which all the sensitive patients uniformly and unanimously testified to, being as much astonished at the apparent contradiction (which, however, was afterwards very clearly explained) as the author himself."

He then ascertained that this power of the sun's rays could, like that of the magnet, crystals, and the human hand, be communicated to bodies. He placed

"A glass of water for five minutes in the sun, and caused the nurse, whose hand was very weak in regard to the new force, to give it to Mdlle. Maix without her having any idea of the object in view. Without a question being asked, she declared it to be magnetized water as soon as it touched her lips. On the tongue, gums, throat, down the gullet, and in the stomach, at every point, it acted with its peculiar pepper-like pungency, well known to the sensitive, and exciting spasmodic attacks. Another glass of water, left in the sun's rays for twenty minutes, and handed to the patient by one of the weakest female hands, acted as strongly as if magnetized, as far as possible, by the large horse-shoe magnet of 9 bars, capable of supporting 80 lbs."

If the water was poured into another glass, it retained its power, like water magnetized or mesmerised; and in a high, though less high degree, at the end of an hour.

The callipers of German silver could be equally charged by the sun's rays, by the magnet, crystals, and the hand, as water.

The Baron then charged his own hand:—He

"Next gave one of his hands to the third lady, that she might

feel it accurately, and then went for ten minutes into the sunshine, taking care to expose himself to the rays on all sides. On returning to the room, he gave her again the same hand. She was much surprised at the sudden change in it, and at the great addition of force which she perceived, without knowing anything of its cause."

They placed a horse-shoe magnet,

"Which had become weak, in the sun's rays, instead of restoring its power by drawing another magnet along it. It was so strengthened and became so powerful in its action on the patient, that from that time, whenever a magnet had become weak, it was laid in the sun, to restore its power of acting on the patient."

So with rock crystal, and a crystal of gypsum.

Linen, woollen, cotton, silk, served as conductors, like wires; silk proving the quickest, cotton the slowest, conductor: a glass tube acted much more quickly than a bar of wood.

The substances so charged, exhibited polarity.

They also, like the magnets and crystals, exhibited light, in the form of bundles of flames: and, if a wire was connected with them, carried through a hole, into a perfectly dark room, and then held by the patient, a slender column of flame, rising from the wire, appeared to her, whenever the plate was moved into the sun's rays. The same took place, if the end of the wire outside was not connected with a metallic plate or other inanimate object, but was held in a person's hand. As soon as the person

"Went into the sun's rays, the flame at the end of the wire rose to 8 inches, and diffused a most agreeable solar coolness. As often as she removed out of the sun's rays, the flame sank to its original size, and again diffused warmth."

The effect was produced most powerfully by exposure of the wire, &c., to the centre of the solar spectrum, where the light is the most intense,—green, and still more yellow, being

"Especially the seat of the delightful sunny feeling of refreshing coolness."

The sensation of warmth was produced most when the wire was placed beyond the red ray, that is, in the seat of the calorific rays; though true warmth, Baron R. conceives, could not all have reached the patient. When the wire was placed in and beyond the violet ray—that which magnetizes steel—a peculiar disagreeable tractive sensation was felt, such as is part of the effect of a magnet.

The *moon's rays* produced the same phenomena as the solar, and in one patient much more powerfully, so that her

band involuntarily moved along the course of the wire when its opposite end was exposed to the full moon.

Further experiments shewed that *artificial heat* had the same effects as the solar and lunar calorific rays.

If the further end of the wire was warmed, but not to a degree capable of producing the sensation of warmth from temperature,

“Immediately there passed from the wire into the patient’s hand a very strong current of the known sensation of warmth caused by crystals, &c.”

Upon the introduction of a mass of ice into the hot water,

“Immediately the phenomena altered their form. The sensation of warmth and its accompanying symptoms decreased; a long traction through hand and arm was felt; the disagreeableness of the warm sensation gave place to the delightful coolness caused by the sun’s rays, and this refreshing sensation gradually spread over the breast, the back, and the whole person.”

When the heat was applied, though to the end of the wire outside the room, and insufficient to cause a sensation of warmth to others, the patient being in perfect darkness, red and green flame appeared to her from the portion of the wire in her dark situation.

Friction of the plate of copper to which the wire was attached, had the same effect as the treatment of the plate in the six ways mentioned: the friction of bodies occasioned very far greater appearances of light to the patients than to other persons.

The influence of the magnetic baquet, containing a hotch-potch of ingredients acting chemically on each other, a wire &c., connected with which is held by the patient, appears to Baron R. probable and explicable, for all the phenomena now mentioned occurred from solutions in which *chemical action* was made to go on, the farther end of the wire being placed in them. Water in a glass placed in a solution in which chemical action was going on, acquired all the properties of magnetized water,—of water magnetized by sunshine.

The sources of this power in our body, he thinks, are the chemical processes of digestion and respiration, and the chemical changes of the substances supplied from the food and air by these functions to every portion of the body, occasioning its universal production throughout the frame.

From mixtures in which chemical action was going on,—dissolutions of sugar, salt, &c., mixtures of quicklime and water,—the patients perceived light proceeding: and Baron R. thus explains the appearances which many persons have de-

clared they witnessed from graves. A blind poet at Colmar, named Pfeffel,

"Had employed a young clergyman, of the evangelical church, as amanuensis. Pfeffel, when he walked out, was supported and led by this young man, whose name was Billing. As they walked in the garden, at some distance from the town, Pfeffel observed, that, as often as they passed over a particular spot, the arm of Billing trembled, and he betrayed uneasiness. On being asked, the young man reluctantly confessed that, as often as he passed over that spot, certain feelings attacked him, which he could not control, and which he knew well, as he always experienced the same, in passing over any place where human corpses lay buried. He added, that, at night, when he came near such places, he saw supernatural appearances. Pfeffel, with the view of curing the youth of what he looked on as a fancy, went that night with him to the garden. As they approached the spot in the dark, Billing perceived a feeble light, and when still nearer, he saw a luminous ghost-like form floating over the spot. This he described as a female form, with one arm laid across the body, the other hanging down, floating in the upright posture, but tranquil, the feet only a hand-breadth or two above the soil. Pfeffel went alone, as the young man declined to follow him, up to the place where the figure was said to be, and struck about in all directions with his stick, besides running through the place of the figure; but the ghost was not more affected than a flame would have been: the luminous form, according to Billing, always returned to its original position after these experiments. Many things were tried during several months, and numerous companies of people were brought to the spot, but the matter remained the same, and the ghost seer adhered to his serious assertion, and to the opinion founded on it, that some individual lay buried there. At last, Pfeffel had the place dug up. At a considerable depth was found a firm layer of white lime, of the length and breadth of a grave, of considerable thickness, and when this had been broken into, there were found the bones of a human being. It was evident that some one had been buried in the place, and covered with a thick layer of lime (quicklime), as is generally done in times of pestilence, of earthquakes, and other similar events. The bones were removed, the pit filled up, the lime mixed and scattered abroad, and the surface again made smooth. When Billing was now brought back to the place, the phenomena did not return, and the nocturnal spirit had for ever disappeared.

"It is hardly necessary to point out to the reader what view the author takes of this story, which excited much attention in Germany, because it came from the most truthful man alive, and theologians and psychologists gave to it sundry terrific meanings. It obviously falls into the province of chemical action, and thus meets with a simple and clear explanation from natural and physical causes. A corpse is a field for abundant chemical changes, decompositions, fermentation, putrefaction, gasification and general play of affinities.

A stratum of quicklime, in a narrow pit, unites its powerful affinities to those of the organic matters, and gives rise to a long-continued working of the whole. Rain-water filters through and contributes to the action: the lime on the outside of the mass first falls to a fine powder, and afterwards, with more water, forms lumps which are very slowly penetrated by the air. Slaked lime prepared for building, but not used, on account of some cause connected with a war-like state of society some centuries since, has been found in subterraneous holes or pits, in the ruins of old castles; and the mass, except on the outside, was so unaltered that it has been used for modern buildings. It is evident, therefore, that in such circumstances there must be a very slow and long-continued chemical action, partly owing to the slow penetration of the mass of lime by the external carbonic acid, partly to the changes going on in the remains of animal matter, at all events as long as any is left. In the above case, this must have gone on in Pfeffel's garden; and as we know that chemical action is invariably associated with light, visible to the sensitive, this must have been the origin of the luminous appearance, which again must have continued until the mutual affinities of the organic remains, the lime, the air, and water, had finally come to a state of chemical rest or equilibrium. As soon, therefore, as a sensitive person, although otherwise quite healthy, came that way, and entered within the sphere of the force in action, he must feel by day, like Mdle. Maix, the sensations so often described, and see by night, like Mdle. Reichel, the luminous appearance. Ignorance, fear, and superstition, would now dress up the feebly shining vaporous light into a human form, and furnish it with human limbs and members; just as we can at pleasure fancy every cloud in the sky to represent a man or a demon.

"The wish to strike a fatal blow at the monster of superstition, which, at no distant period, poured out on European society from a similar source, such inexpressible misery, when, in trials for witchcraft, not hundreds, not thousands, but hundreds of thousands of innocent human beings perished miserably, either on the scaffold, at the stake, or by the effects of torture,—this desire induced the author to try the experiment of bringing, if possible, a highly sensitive patient, by night, to a church-yard. It appeared possible that such a person might see, over graves in which mouldering bodies lie, something similar to that which Billing had seen. Mdle. Reichel had the courage, rare in her sex, to gratify this wish of the author. On two very dark nights she allowed herself to be taken from the Castle of Reisenberg, where she was living with the author's family, to the neighbouring church-yard of Grünzing. The result justified his anticipation in the most beautiful manner. She very soon saw a light, and observed on one of the graves, along its length, a delicate, breathing flame: she also saw the same thing, only weaker, on a second grave. But she saw neither witches nor ghosts: she described the fiery appearance as a shining vapour, one to two spans high, extending as far as the grave, and floating near its surface. Some time afterwards she was taken to two large cemeteries near Vienna,

where several burials occur daily, and graves lie about by thousands. Here she saw numerous graves provided with similar lights. Wherever she looked, she saw luminous masses scattered about. But this appearance was most vivid over the newest graves, while in the oldest it could not be perceived. She described the appearance less as a clear flame, than as a dense vaporous mass of fire, intermediate between fog and flame. On many graves the flame was 4 feet high, so that when she stood on them, it surrounded her up to the neck. If she thrust her hand into it, it was like putting it into a dense fiery cloud. She betrayed no uneasiness, because she had all her life been accustomed to such emanations, and had seen the same, in the author's experiments, often produced by natural causes. Many ghost stories will now find their natural explanation. We can also see, that it was not altogether erroneous when old women declared that all had not the gift to see the departed wandering about their graves: for it must have always been the sensitive alone who were able to perceive the light given out by the chemical action going on in the corpse. The author has thus, he hopes, succeeded in tearing down one of the most impenetrable barriers erected by dark ignorance and superstitious folly against the progress of natural truth."

The warmth, the flame resulted when wire was connected with an electric machine or with a hollow brass ball brought near or in contact with the conductor, and as the plate was rotated. But if the ball was so placed as to receive a succession of sparks,

"The patient felt every spark as a shock, but saw no flame. The rapidity of the electrical action appeared to be too great; so that the flaming principle, less mobile perhaps by nature, was not set in motion. All these experiments were repeated with negative electricity, but no difference could be detected."

Even the electric atmosphere produced the peculiar sensation, and at considerable distances;

"A tin electrophorus plate, 1 foot in diameter, with a wooden handle, held for a minute in the atmosphere of the excited conductor, and then touched with a moist finger, caused a strong and continued sensation of a current of cool air, when brought near to the face of the patient. An isolated body acted in the same way; there is not, as yet, any means of isolating the magneto-crystalline force.

"An open voltaic arrangement of 50 freshly-cleaned zinc and copper pairs, with cloth between them moistened with salt and water, appeared to the patient, when she brought her hand near to it, warm at the positive, and cool at the negative pole. The warmth extended to $\frac{3}{4}$ th of the length, the coolness only to $\frac{1}{4}$ th: the latter was comparatively feeble, the former very marked, so as to be perceived by several healthy persons, and even by the author himself."

It is well known that there are

"Many persons on whom certain substances exert a peculiar, generally disagreeable, influence, which often borders on the ludicrous. Not to speak of the strange fancies of pregnant females, there are people who cannot touch fur, others who cannot endure the sight of feathers, of butter, &c.; and, if forced to do so, faint in consequence. Now, observation shews that such antipathies are found in individuals who, although outwardly healthy, are yet more or less sensitive, and that they increase in number and strength as these persons become more nervous, especially if subject to convulsive diseases. In the case of M^{lle}. Sturmann, this goes so far that she often cannot touch a key or door-handle without her fingers being paralyzed by spasms, although she appears otherwise well. In his researches with the sensitive patients, the author soon found that these antipathies were connected with certain sensations, common to many persons, and that when these sensations were compared, they might be reduced to a few; which few were found to follow certain rules. The sensations were, apparent heat or cold in substances of the same temperature; decided agreeableness or disagreeableness, the latter rising to the causing of spasms: pungent, knocking, or drawing sensations in the skin and limbs; and tonic spasms without pain."

In one of the patients, ,

"All amorphous bodies, although devoid of the peculiar action of crystals, gave rise to a nauseous sensation, which adhered pretty constantly to certain bodies, and appeared in different degrees of force.

"To investigate this point, the author took the trouble to try more than 600 bodies, in reference to this nauseous sensation. It appeared that the patient could easily give to every substance its proper place in the scale of force. This she could repeat without failure at a distance of several days.

"It soon appeared that these bodies arranged themselves according to their electro-chemical value, and indeed in such wise that the highly electric stood at the top, the indifferent at the bottom of the scale, without regard to their polar opposition."

In the cataleptic state the effects were stronger; just as I noticed in the Okeys, and have since noticed in many other patients, that what we term the mesmeric effects of metals, &c., are stronger in the mesmeric state. Contact of many of the substances was not necessary in the cataleptic state, though it was necessary in the ordinary state: a fact also shewing the greater susceptibility in the peculiar state.

The rest of the patients and many other persons confirmed these observations. Different substances placed in the hand would feel warm or cold, as it might be: but presently a peculiar cool aura when some substances were employed, a

hot sensation when others were employed, spread over the hand and from it: even the substances were placed at the distance of perhaps 100 paces, or in another substance, or connected by a very long wire.

After many experiments, sulphur was found to represent those substances which gave a sensation of cold after a time or at a distance, or through the intervention of another body; and gold those substances which gave a sensation of heat in the same manner.

When gold produces a sensation in the mesmeric state, I have usually found this to be of heat.

The same substance did not produce the same sensation in every one. This is analogous to what I have noticed in the mesmeric state. Some have never been affected by gold or other metals, some by one and not by another. Nor were the effects of contraction of the hand, pain, numbness, stupor, &c., to the same amount in all mesmeric cases when they did occur, from the same substance. Nickel produced violent effects upon Elizabeth Okey, but no more than silver upon Jane.

Even if some of these substances were brought into contact with another substance, this substance would imbibe the power, exactly as was observed by Baron R. in regard to the strong power of magnets, crystals, &c., (see above, pp. 111, 114;) just as we all know that substances may be mesmerised (pp. 111—114).

"When the callipers, after being placed in the patient's hand for some time, that she might become accustomed to the sensation caused by them, were laid down and a mass of sulphur placed on them for a few minutes, the patient, on again taking the callipers, felt very strongly the pricking due to the sulphur, and consequently something had been transferred to the metal."

I ascertained another fact in the Okeys and have confirmed it in subsequent cases,—that a substance not mesmerisable, that is, which will not affect a particular patient, though held in the operator's hand a length of time, and subsequently wiped to remove mesmerised moisture, may become mesmerisable if well rubbed against a mesmerisable substance and then mesmerised.

In my Farewell Letter to the Students, I stated that

"I applied lead to the Okeys, and, indeed, copper also; yet never obtained an effect. I then applied the lead or the copper, as it might be, against a piece of mesmerised nickel or gold, before applying it to her; and its application to her was then always productive of effects. I discovered that the surface of the lead or

copper had become nickelized or aurified by the contact; and thus the difficulty was solved. These experiments I have repeated again and again before numbers of gentlemen, taking the greatest care that the patient should not know when I applied lead or copper which had not been in contact with nickel or gold, and when I applied lead or copper which had been in contact with either of them; and the results have been uniform."

I trust that Baron R. will make experiments on the augmenting power of friction, both with substances rubbed on the patient, and when charging one substance from another before the second substance is applied to the patient.

He found that a body might be charged without contact.

"Thus the callipers were rendered cold by sulphur at $\frac{1}{2}$ of an inch; and blue vitriol wrapped in paper caused the long glass-tube to become cold at the distance of 9 inches. The hands of the author's daughters when held over a surface of sulphur, and then placed in those of Mdle. Reichel, produced coldness, accompanied by the sensation of pricking as of needles."

It could also be conducted without contact.

"A copper-plate being connected with the patient's hand by an iron-wire 90 feet long, different substances, when laid on the plate, caused either warmth or coolness in about half a minute. . . .

"Sulphur when *only brought near* the plate, caused coolness in the wire. . . .

"The author's daughter gave one hand to Mdle. Reichel, and held the other over a surface of sulphur, without contact. The patient, in half a minute, felt the hand become cold, and after a minute she felt the usual pricking of sulphur. This experiment was also made with gold leaf, when the sensation of warmth was experienced."

So I found it with mesmerism. I have looked intensely at one sovereign among several lying together: and then called the Okeys into the room, and desired them to take them up one by one. No effect occurred till the sovereign which had been stared at was taken up: and then the hand was violently contracted. No word was spoken—no look given. It was totally impossible for the children to have known anything about the matter. Sir George Cayley well recollects one occasion of these satisfactory experiments at University College Hospital, though beneath the notice of the council and professors.

Baron R. found that, when darkness was made as complete as possible, all metals and other elements were luminous to one of his patients; compounds less so; still that all solid and liquid bodies gave forth

"Luminous emanations, in the shape of flame, glowing appear-

ance, and luminous vapour, in the same way as magnets and crystals do."

Each body gives out its own tint and form of light, and her accounts never varied.

His castle of Reisenberg, with its front of 162 feet, looked out freely towards east and south, and in a clear night she felt from the heavens, when at a window, a similar influence to those from individual substances.

"On a neighbouring bill, in a clear, calm, moonless night, she felt that some parts of the sky sent forth a current of coolness, others one of warmth. This was tried soon after sunset, then about 9 p.m., twice at midnight, once at 4 a.m., and just before sunrise. In general it appeared, that soon after sunset the west, and before sunrise the east, were especially cool: at 9 p.m., north and north-west were the cooler, south and south-east the warmer: at 4 a.m., N. and N.E. were the cooler, S. and S.W. the warmer; and, finally, at midnight, N. was cool, S. warm, and W. and E. so nearly in equilibrium, that little difference was perceptible. They were probably quite equal at 2 or 3 a.m.

"These changes depend on the position of the sun, which we know causes coolness; for the greatest coolness was always found in the region nearest the sun, and the presence of clouds made no difference. When the patient was asked to point out exactly the middle of the north cool region and the south warm one, she always pointed in the magnetic meridian, never in the astronomical meridian. She declared that towards S. she felt a limited strip of the greatest warmth. Even at mid-day she found the line of the magnetic meridian the warmest towards the south, and the coolest towards the north, of all points of the compass."

These phenomena, partly solar, partly terrestrial, are mixed up with the influence of the stars also. As to these she

"Always found the milky-way cool; also the Pleiades, the Great Bear, and other constellations: indeed the starry firmament in general. On the other hand, certain single stars gave her a sensation of warmth: these were, Saturn with his ring, Jupiter with his satellites, Venus: in short, planets alone. It thus appeared that stars shining with reflected light were warm; those giving out their own light cool. This agrees beautifully with the former results in the case of the sun and moon.

"The patient stated that all the stars acted on her as if united like a magnet, not only before, but also behind, so as to affect the spine and the head. A copper-plate, 1 foot square, was connected with a brass wire, the other end of which was given to the patient in the dark stair. By itself, the wire gave a small flame: but when the starlight was allowed to fall on the plate, a slender flame soon rose from the wire to the height of more than one span. Zinc produced

the same effect, only weaker. The wire felt cool, especially when no planet could counteract the action of the fixed stars.

"These observations are not surprising after what we have learned: but they furnish a beautiful proof of the exactness of what was stated in regard to the sun and moon; also of the action of the whole material world, even the heavenly bodies, on us, with the same force which we find in terrestrial matter: lastly, they prove that *there actually does exist a mutual influence between us and the universe, an influence hitherto unsuspected; so that possibly the stars may not be altogether without some influence on our sublunary world, even in practical matters, or ON THE WORKING OF THE HUMAN BRAIN.*"

Baron R. was desirous of learning whether there was a dualism or opposition in this new force. The patients we found to distinguish two opposite points in the principal axes or poles of crystals. The negative or north was less powerful and cool: the positive or south, lukewarm, like the respective poles of the magnet. We also found that when a crystal was drawn along the hand in opposite directions, it gave opposite sensations. The effects were stronger in the left hand than in the right (see above, p. 114.) We have also seen that different substances produced a sensation of coolness or warmth independent of temperature (p. 349); of coolness in some persons, of warmth in others, but always similar in the same person.

One patient felt great uneasiness even up to her head, if her right hand touched the positive pole and her left the negative: the right hand corresponding to the negative pole, and the left to the positive, and a current passing from the positive pole of the magnet through the right arm, body, left arm and hand, to the negative pole of the magnet. So if he took the patient's right hand in his right, and her left in his left, the same uneasiness of conflict began (see p. 120). As far as he could judge, all the substances which produced a sensation of warmth were the electro-positive: those which produced the sensation of coolness (p. 354), the electro-negative.

"Among the warm bodies were found all the metals, with two exceptions, tellurium and arsenic, the most negative of the metals: most organic compounds and organic bases; compounds of carbon rich in hydrogen, and hardly any acids. Among the cold were found sulphur, iodine, and other similar bodies; compounds of chlorine, oxides of metals, cyanides, and almost all acids. As far as we can judge, the former, the warm, are the electro-positive; the latter, the cold, electro-negative. It is truly astonishing to see a person, totally ignorant of such matters, capable of arranging all substances accurately according to one of their most obscure proper-

ties, their electro-chemical character, and that without even seeing them, by a kind of feeling."

Even the flames of the bodies which produced a warm sensation felt warm, and the flames of those which produced a cold sensation, felt cold.

The emanations of all electrified bodies, especially if positively electrified, felt cold; possibly from the surrounding air becoming oppositely electrified and being the cause of this sensation.

"Chemical compounds are positive or negative, in reference to the new force, according to the prevailing ingredient, and in neutral compounds according to their place in the empirical scale. . . .

"All chemical activity implies a manifold alternation of positive and negative, depending on the position of the elements in the scale, so that we can always predict the result, if we know the relative position and quantity of one element."

Living *plants*, when one end of the copper wire was applied to them and the other to the hand of a patient, gave a warm sensation in proportion to their vital activity; but different portions gave opposite sensations. Thus

"The roots are warm or positive; the upper end of the leaves cold or negative. The point of the stem belongs to the negative division, since it is resolved into leaves and buds. We may therefore say, generally, that, in the descending stem, positive, in the ascending, negative, influence prevails. This, however, is only true with great limitation. But we can perceive that where nature is least active and vigorous in construction, the result is negative; and where she exhibits propulsion, it is positive. Thus those parts of the leaves where growth chiefly takes place are positive, and *vice versa*. It would appear as if nature, when engaged in formation, must be associated with the positive forms of all the imponderables, as light, heat, electricity, and the new influence; the prevalence of the negative forms being hostile to vitality."

Living *animals* though warm on contact, gave out a cool aura through the wire.

"The author's hands being raised and directed towards Mdle. Reichel, she felt, even from a distance, the left hand streaming forth warmth, the right coolness, like a distant magnet. Mdle. Atzmanna-dörfer felt the same still stronger. The author's whole right side was cool and negative, the left warm and positive. The head appeared to the patients very strongly charged, its right side negative, and its left side positive. The forehead was rather cool, the occiput rather warm. In the arms, there are 6 points of great power, increasing downwards, and always at the lower end of a bone and on the inner side; consequently, these points are at the lower end of the

arm, of the fore-arm, of the hand, and of the three finger-joints, all on the inner side.

"The mouth, with the tongue, is strongly negative, and cool, and appears to enjoy a large share of the influence. When the mouth is approached to any object, even without contact, the sensitive patients find that object as strongly charged as by contact with a magnet, a large crystal, the sun's rays, or the author's right hand.

"As it appears that the lips are a kind of focus of concentration for the new force, the author hazards the conjecture that the true theory of kissing with the lips may depend on this circumstance. He states that the flames depicted on the lover's lips by poets, do really and truly burn there for those who can perceive them."

From careful experiments with several subjects on this influence of the author himself, it appeared

"That while the author lay quietly in bed from 6 to 9 or 10, the force steadily increased, and after breakfast continued to do so till mid-day. The ascending sun, therefore, added to the force in his hand. The succeeding depression lasted exactly till dinner (3 P.M.), and was obviously caused by the growing hunger. For no sooner was that appeased, than, even with the first mouthful of food, the depression ceased, and a rise set in, which reached its maximum about the evening twilight. Both M. Schuh and Mlle. Maix also found the author's hands more powerful after he had taken food than before. . . .

"The food enters at once into a state of chemical activity; digestion, that is, decomposition, begins, and currents of the new force arise. It matters not what share we ascribe to vitality in these phenomena: they are still decompositions, from which spring manifestations of the new force, extending over the whole system, and charging the limbs with it."

In the absence of the sun at night, during sleep, one of the patients made observations upon Baron R.'s hand.

"From the morning there is, in the right hand, a general rise, with occasional depressions, as we have seen, till the evening, the maximum being attained at earliest by 6, at latest by 9 P.M., according to the individual and his habits. The force now falls decidedly, and does so steadily till 2 to 3 A.M., when it reaches an almost stationary minimum, lasting till dawn, which at the time of the experiments was at 5 or 6. As the light dissipates the darkness, the force instantly starts upwards, and new life flows into the animated world; vitality and the new force increase anew throughout the day, as long as the sun shines. . . .

"It is the sun, one of the chief sources of the new influence, which sends it to us along with light and heat, and saturates with this influence all on which it shines, till, towards evening, a maximum is attained. As soon as the sun sets, the tension of the new force in the human organs sinks, and with this change, in the man who lives a natural life, come feelings of weariness, drowsiness, and

sleep. As the day-spring of the influence ceases to flow, so fails also the spring of conscious and waking life. Light and heat, electricity and magnetism, are not the only powers by which the sun infuses life and vigour into all beings: it employs another influence with which, as with heat, it penetrates all matter, and the fluctuations of which we may now compare with and measure by the waking and sleeping conditions.

"It is not necessary to be exposed to the direct rays of the sun, as we have seen that the new influence is conducted through all bodies, and even diffused without contact."

The positive energy of the left hand

"Follows a course not exactly similar, but still very analogous to, that of the negative energy of the right hand. It reached the smaller (mid-day) maximum later, the greater (evening) maximum somewhat earlier. On the whole it appeared more powerful."

Even the two halves of the head differ. Two persons found the Baron's head

"Cold on the right, warm on the left hemisphere; both sensations very strong. The same result was obtained in every case tried, male or female."

And as the force in the two hands is different at different hours, still more so is it in the head, but the course of the variations is the same.

The two sides of the head differ in these variations. The force of the left increases far more slowly than that of the right in the morning, and, having attained its maximum, does not begin to fall till five hours later.

The brain participates much less in the effect of hunger.

Of the two sides,

"The right is sooner disposed for sleep, and sooner roused to action in the morning, and indeed exhibits generally more excitability, but not more strength, than the left."

The forehead and back of the head differ still more than the two sides. The forehead is generally cold, the back of the head very warm.

The force of the forehead rose before day-break, was little affected by hunger, and reached its maximum after sunset; while the back of the head, at 6 p.m., stood where it did at 6 a.m. But now, when the force of the forehead begins to fall, that of the back of the head begins to rise, and, when that of the forehead is the lowest, that of the back of the head is the highest: and the latter falls quickly after 3 a.m., while the former begins to rise as quickly about 4 a.m.

Sleeping is represented by the back of the head, waking

by the forehead; sleeping and waking do not differ as activity and rest, but as a shifting of the seat of activity.

If these observations are established, they will prove still farther, what the occurrence of day and night and all experience show, the error of sitting up at night, and the natural superiority of morning to night study. As the taking of food no less than daylight promotes the development of the force, and the chemical action of digestion lasts some hours, we see a reason for eating by day and not later than some hours before bed-time; for while night is increasing the force of the back of the head, the food increases at the same time the force of the forehead. Common observation says that an hour's sleep before midnight is worth two afterwards: and sleep

"Naturally comes on, at sun-set, at the time of the change in the direction of the new force, and continues till, with the sunshine, new force arises in the forehead. If we go late to bed, we must sleep till late in the morning; but in this case the natural current is against us, just as when we go to sleep with a full stomach. It is well known, that when we go late to bed and rise late, we are generally dull and out of spirits, compared with those who accommodate their habits to the arrangements of nature.

He who would ensure the continuance of health by attending to the distribution of the force so often mentioned, the influence of which is so penetrating and universal, must rise at latest with the first rays of the sun, take his chief meal at from 11 A.M. to 12, never later than 1 P.M., eat little or nothing afterwards, and retire to rest at the evening twilight. All animals do this, and, indeed, so does the half savage in his condition, which is, in many points, a natural one. So also do many poor people and many persons of small means, especially in the country. It is only civilized man, as he is found in our cities, who does better; he sups at 10 or 11 at night, goes to bed at 2 or 3 in the morning, and then sends for the physician on account of gout, scrofula, or spleen."

VI. *Cure of Palsy and Dropsy,*

By MR. DECIMUS HANDS, Surgeon.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—Your kind and ready insertion of my former cases in your valuable and increasingly interesting periodical, *The Zoist*, encourages me to transmit you the detailed account of that remarkable one I alluded to in my note to that justly celebrated and brilliant ornament to humanity, as also to the medical profession, Dr. Elliotson, whom I esteem it a privi-

lege to be permitted to name as my friend. The description there given of the appearance of the mesmeric fluid, and which was annexed to his excellent abstract of Baron Von Reichenbach's researches in the April number of *The Zoist*, was given in the precise words of the somnambulist, Martha Price, forming, however, but a very small item in the beautiful imagery, replete with wit and fancy, which flowed from her lips, yet withal accompanied by such *naïveté* as to strike all present with astonishment while they witnessed the singular and varied phenomena and astounding facts called forth each moment by the powerful magic of mesmerism, and listened in breathless anxiety to the metaphors and florid eloquence of this uneducated yet singularly talented servant girl, and whose language was as remarkable as the expressions were appropriate, descriptive, sententious, and sarcastic. At the time she was first mesmerised, her natural appearance was dull and heavy; yet in the sleep-waking state she was wildly original, and kept you in continued wonder and curious expectation. It would require a painter's pencil and a poet's art to render justice to the subject.

Inadequate as I feel for such a task, I shall content myself with giving a plain statement of incontrovertible facts, which may all be proved by unexceptionable witnesses, and with transcribing *verbatim* her own relation of her illness previous to being under my care. The filling up and colouring in of the picture I must leave to the imagination. I would only further add, that I took notes from the commencement, and that it is from them the following summary is drawn up.

I remain, Sir, with sincere respect,
Your obliged and obedient servant,

DECIMUS HANDS, *Surgeon*.

22, Thayer Street, Manchester Square.

Martha Price is now 21 years of age. In the year 1844 she was in service, and had the care of a child two years and a half old. On the 14th of February she was in the Regent's Park with the child, having been sent with a message to a house near Cumberland Gate, when it began to rain very heavily; she caught up the child in her arms, and ran with it as fast as she could to her destination. When she got there she was wet and tired, and drank a glass of hot ale, and again set out immediately to return home, though the rain had not ceased. She made all the haste she could, but, when she arrived in Upper York Street, where she lived, she sank down on a chair overpowered with fatigue, and so frenzied by

pain that she actually threw down the child she had just before been so careful of. Her statement is, that her head and face were in such agony she was beside herself, and that the latter rose up in large blisters like bladders the moment she was seated. The pain extended down the shoulder, the arm, and left side, being the one she had carried the child on. The intensity of the pain soon abated, but it continued wearing and tiring for two days; it then changed its character, and became violent and darting, with occasional intermission, increased by any exertion or rapid movement. It began at the top of the head: the suffering was acute, but happily it lasted only for a few moments; it would then cease suddenly, and leave the part dead, that is, without any feeling. The pain recurred daily, but never in the same place, always descending lower and lower, till at the close of five weeks the left side of the head, face, and neck, to the shoulder, were quite *insensible* to the touch.

On Friday evening, March 15th, while she was at a religious meeting, on rising from her chair to kneel down, she felt an uneasy tingling in the left foot and leg, which obliged her to sit down again; she then felt them become dead, or what is usually termed asleep. In a few moments more the shoulder, arm, and side, were similarly affected, though *without* the previous tingling. Thus all the left side had become *paralyzed*, the upper part having been so already prior to the evening of the 15th. She was assisted home, when her kind mistress paid her every attention. She had a fire lit in her room, additional blankets put on, and finding her very cold her mistress gave her a glass of hot brandy and water. The next day she was taken to a surgeon's house, who bled her copiously, put a blister between her shoulders, and gave her an aperient draught, which did not produce the desired effect, though she continued to take it till the Wednesday, March 20th, when she entered St. George's Hospital under the care of Dr. Edward Seymour, who likewise prescribed an aperient with no better result; she was also cupped the same day, and during the time she remained in the hospital she was bled from the arm, cupped and blistered frequently, and leeches were several times applied. She derived more benefit from these and cupping than from the use of the lancet. At the end of six weeks a slight feeling returned in the joints, but the flesh remained dead. It must be remembered that this is the account Martha gives of her illness and feelings, by which I understand her to mean that the motor nerves regained very slight power, while the nerves of sensibility con-

tinued as before. Before her removal from the hospital I visited her there, and can bear my testimony in corroboration of her grateful one to the kindness, attention, and talent, which were evinced towards her by the faculty and attendants of that admirable institution. She left it on May 14th, having been an inmate for eight weeks. She then became an out-patient under Dr. Page, but the distance from her residence, John Street, New Road, rendered the journey too fatiguing and injurious to allow of her continuing her attendance; she therefore gave it up altogether.

Previously to her leaving the hospital, symptoms of *dropsy*^a had been observed, accompanied by great shortness of breath and such nervous irritability that she could not endure any one in the room or near the bed, but felt so exasperated as to threaten their destruction.

About this time she accidentally met with Teste's work on *Animal Magnetism*. Her curiosity was excited, yet being, as I believe, a truly pious person, her prejudices were strong in proportion; she was not merely sceptical, but fancied so great a power must proceed from satanic agency. It was under these circumstances I chanced to call where she was, and, having known her for a very long time, I was startled at the alteration in her appearance, and was induced to propose mesmerism to her, and to try all my powers of persuasion to overcome her objections and prevail on her to consent to my mesmerising her. As she happened to be a Wesleyan Methodist, and I happened to be her leader, she confided in my veracity and judgment; and, when I told her that mesmerism was a therapeutic agent, and that the devil had no more to do with it than with any other part of medicine or surgery, she believed me, and so submitted to its influence. I then arranged for commencing that evening. Before I enter on the details of the case, it is desirable I should describe her appearance prior to the attack, and likewise what she was at the time, with the symptoms of the disease, which I shall transcribe from notes dated the day I first mesmerised her.

At the commencement of the year she was an active, robust, strong, lively girl, smart and quick: three months had passed, and she was *pale, bloated,* languid*, and infirm; her left arm hung long, heavy, lifeless by her side; the foot and leg presented the same appearance; the right leg moved slowly forward, while the left was drawn up to it with a sudden jerk, and served as a prop to sustain the equilibrium, and even then she required the assistance of two persons to cross the room.

^a Entirely from the profuse bleedings in the hospital.—*Zeist*.

Notes on the case of Martha Price, May 24th, 1844.

Age 19. Short, thick-set, sanguineo-lymphatic; dark hair and eyes. Cerebrum—the animal part preponderating, while the intellectual is large. *Dropsy of the abdomen, chest, and whole body*; trembling in the limbs and throughout the muscles generally, morning perspirations, giddiness, taste and smell impaired, especially the former; palpitation of the heart, with a sense of its being tied down and not having room to act; catamenia scanty; motion productive of pain in the limbs, even in the fingers; constipation; sleepless nights; *palsy of the left arm and leg*.

May 24th. I commenced mesmerising Martha Price by making long passes downwards very slowly from the vertex of the head. I continued for about three quarters of an hour without producing any apparent result, all which time she laughed immoderately; then her eyes assumed the heavy appearance peculiar to the mesmeric state, and soon closed, so that she could not open them, when, as it was late, I demesmerised her, and she returned home and slept better than she had done since her illness. The next day she was again mesmerised with apparently no better success, but on her return home, while at dinner, she *fell* asleep, (in the strict meaning of the words,) for the knife and fork dropped from her hands, so suddenly did she lose consciousness. She was put to bed and slept from 1 to 6 o'clock, and again at night from 12 to 8.

26th. Mesmerised as usual: nothing occurred worthy of remark, yet there was a decided improvement, for she could now lie down, which she had not been able to do since her breathing had been so bad; the pain however was still acute, and the appetite entirely failed.

27th. This day for the first time Martha went into the mesmeric sleep, though only for a very short interval.

28th. She again slept, and complained of pain in the stomach; from this day her loss of consciousness gradually increased in duration, and her breath ameliorated in proportion to the length of the sleep; the stomach and chest, which were swollen, decreased in size.

Before she was mesmerised, the kidneys had become, if not altogether, yet nearly, inactive; after the third day of her coming to me they had resumed their functions, so that there was frequent and long continued micturition. This I conclude to have been the result of the absorbents having been stimulated into activity by the magnetic influence, thus

draining off the contents of the cavities and cellular membrane generally. In the course of twelve hours the patient passed six pints of water.

29th. Catamenia came on a fortnight before the right period; they had been regular hitherto.

30th. During the sleep I perceived a slight spasm in the right arm.

31st. This day the spasm became much more decided. In her sleep she now began to direct my operations. She desired me to make longitudinal passes, commencing at the vertex, and going very slowly down the left side of the head, face, neck, and shoulder, to the end of the fingers. As I proceeded I observed red streaks rising from under my fingers, resembling inflamed absorbents; I consequently continued these passes till the whole surface bore the appearance of a person who had been the subject of ardent scarlet fever.

The passes over the head were productive of excruciating pain in the face, eye, and limbs of the left side, and lastly in the head, heart and side. The agony was so intense as to contort all her features, causing her to grind her teeth and move her jaws convulsively.^b She described the pain as the sensation of the blood flowing to the head, and boiling and bubbling in the brain. The arm and hand, with the leg and foot of the same side, were stretched out and elongated, raised up or lowered, by my passes and will combined. The passes made from above downwards, in the course of the extensor muscles, excited the flexors into action; and, if made in the same direction along the flexors, then a similar effect was produced in the extensors.

This same day, May 31st, I placed gold in her hand, when the fingers closed immediately, though slowly, upon it, forming a fist; the wrist-joint flexed upwards, then the elbow in like manner towards the shoulder, the whole of the flexor muscles of the superior extremity being evidently influenced by the gold, and with violence sufficient to have crushed to atoms a glass smelling bottle she had in her hand, had I not hastily wrested it from her before the full development of the mesmeric influence on the muscles. I had ceased demesmerising her for some days, as she always awoke when I left the room. The following relation is taken down from her dictation:

"On the 31st of May, after Mr. Hands left me, I awoke as usual, and on rising from my chair I felt three distinct cracks in my side shooting down to my leg and foot, which made me scream out each time; it was like a knife running through me, and just the same pain I felt when first seized

^b See the same in Dr. Elliotson's *Cure of Palsy*, Vol. I., p. 343.—*Zeist*.

on the 14th of February. I then found I could move my leg and arm, and that feeling had returned to my side. I thought I would try and walk home as it was not a great distance, and accordingly I did walk from 18, Upper York Street to John Street, New Road, where I lived, holding by the iron railing of the areas. I passed my mother and sister as they were coming to fetch me; I turned away my head and they did not see me, for I wished to enjoy their amazement. The next day I determined to astonish Mr. Hands, and walked to his house, 22, Thayer Street."

Indeed it would be difficult to imagine the delighted surprise with which I received such an encouraging proof of the curative power of mesmerism. The exertion did not prove in the least prejudicial to Martha. The same phenomena were again elicited with increased strength. She conceived that a string which had contracted the limb, snapped in two, and now the leg was at liberty. She complained of weakness in the back of the neck and head; the bowels were confined; the kidneys again became partially inactive; the sleep continued good. Nothing worthy of being noted occurred for several days. Laughing always awoke her.

On one occasion, my friend, the Rev. Mr. Bridgeman, had been amusing her in relating some entertaining stories, and consequently continually awaking her, when the question crossed his mind, whether his *thinking* of anything droll would have the same effect; and he immediately put the idea into execution, to our great surprise, for she awoke as quickly and quite as much amused as if he had given utterance to the thought. However, I had only to hold up my hand, and though she might not see me, she would go to sleep again instantly.^c

June 14th. She was suffering from head-ache, brought on by exposure to cold. I merely touched her fingers, and she went into the sleep, and did not awake on my going to the other side of the room, as she had always done before; but this was the first time I was alone with her.

On the 17th she walked to a friend's house, where I put her to sleep as usual. When she awoke, I formed a chain of fourteen young ladies, making Martha the first link. I sat opposite her and used long passes, but without influencing her in the least. I then united myself with the chain, by taking the hand of the last lady; yet I still failed to influence Martha. I then isolated each of us, destroying the chain completely, and in one minute she was asleep. This is a convincing proof of what the Rev. Mr. Townsend asserts: see page 290 of his *Facts in Mesmerism*, a book that has done

^c See Mr. Chandler's Case, vol. I., p. 175.—*Zoid*.

more for removing prejudice, and gaining an impartial investigation of the mesmeric mysteries than any other publication I am acquainted with. No sincere inquirer should be without this admirable work.

June 26th. I asked her in her sleep when she would be well of the paralysis. She considered for some time, and replied in three weeks.

July 2nd. I sat down at the distance of three feet from Martha, and merely looked at her; she fell asleep in four minutes. For the first time she leant towards me; I moved round her chair, and she followed my movements, leaning over to me as much as she possibly could without falling. I then sat down and immediately stood up again, when she made two ineffectual attempts at imitation, but the third time succeeded; stood up erect and sat down directly; some one present laughed, and she awoke, and was surprised at what we told her she had done.

July 9th. She now asserted in her sleep she would be quite well in a week. The fulfilment of this prediction is proved by the fact that she went to a situation as housemaid to a lady residing in Oxford Street, on the 22nd of July, 1844.

Martha's Relapse.—On Monday, July 22nd, Martha went to her place, exactly eight weeks from the time she had first been mesmerised; and on the subsequent Friday, as she was shaking up a bed, she felt a sensation pass through her side, like a flash of lightning. It darted upwards to her eye, which closed. She recognized the pain, and hastily slid down the stairs, holding the baluster, and succeeded in reaching the bottom before her foot and leg were seized. This attack was much more aggravated than the former; the left eye remained shut, and the entire side was paralyzed. During her stay at home she had gone through severe mental trial, which doubtless had contributed to predispose her for this relapse. She first felt numbness in the leg and arm, then in the fingers and up the course of the radial nerve; next, the extremities of the left side were quite paralyzed; the pulse was slow and soft; she had night perspirations. Just prior to the attack, she experienced a sense of vacancy in the stomach, and had a severe fit of sneezing.

I was sent for, and mesmerised her immediately; but, though she went into the sleep, she derived no apparent benefit. The next day she directed me to draw off the vesical contents with an instrument while she was asleep (the vesica being paralyzed) which I did, but it soon accumulated again. She assured me the water came from the legs, being, as I had before concluded, absorbed and conveyed through the ordi-

nary channel to the vesica. She was removed home that evening, when I again mesmerised her.

Gold, which had acted so powerfully in her previous illness, now failed in producing any effect, though I tried it each time.

On the Sunday, while she was asleep, the closed eye rolled slowly open, presenting the frightful object of a sightless orb. After a short time it reclosed, but when she awoke it opened naturally like the other, and she found she had recovered the use of it.

Monday, July 29th. In her sleep she desired me to take 16 oz. of blood from her arm, and, while the blood flowed, to place a sovereign on her head and another in her left hand. The effect was instantaneous, and appeared marvellous from its previous failure. Now there was an exact repetition of all the former violent contortions of the 31st of May, but with increased power. There was the closing of the fingers, the flexing of the wrist and elbow joints; but now, after the latter had folded upwards towards the shoulder, it slowly lowered itself, and then kept stretching out with convulsive jerks, the flexor muscles slowly contracting and the extensors darting forwards until the power of both sets of muscles had regained ability to perform their functions and the arm was fully elongated.

Tuesday. In her sleep she said she must be kept very low, and drink barley water, and eat a small quantity of bread; that she must be bled again on the next Monday, after which she would have the use of her limbs. She assured me mesmerism would cure her, and told me to draw off the vesical contents before I made passes over the leg; she fancied that she saw letters on her heart, but confusedly; she should see them better another day.

Wednesday. In her sleep she felt something very hot pass through her heart, like steam, from my forehead; my fingers gave her pain: she saw fluid passing up and down on her heart. The letters now appeared clear, some upside down; she fancied the words *Salvation* and *Mercury*, but immediately corrected herself, and said, No, that the latter word was a guess; but I see 12 small pills of a bluish colour, I must take them and they will produce salivation, and operate on the bowels, which had been confined for several days.

Friday. Whilst reading the letters upon her heart, Martha's appearance was most singular; she seemed to be looking down and searching about, peering into the interior recesses of her heart; she compared herself to a hen with her brood under her wings. At times she appeared perplexed, then

would brighten up, and her countenance sparkle with pleasure. She described the letters as if written with a fiery pencil and all light, she likewise searched into the head and brain, the left side of which she saw covered with blood. While she was in the hospital every application was directed to the right side. She had begun her pills on Wednesday, one twice a day.

Saturday. The bowels acted as she had prognosticated. She slept three-quarters of an hour, and said her mouth would be affected when she had taken 4 more pills. She directed me to draw off the vesical contents, but not to put gold in her hand for it drew the blood from the head; I must therefore use it when I bleed her.

Monday. The bowels acted and micturition occurred twice.

Aug. 6. I took away more blood. The catamenia came on. She said that when they ceased she should be quite well. She now in her sleep always read on her heart and directed me what to do. Sensibility was recovered in four toes; the middle one remained insensible. *Salivation began*: the pills were finished.

August 7th. She was very red; while in the mesmeric sleep she assured me she should be quite well when she awoke, meaning that she would have regained sensation and feeling in all her limbs and no longer suffer from paralysis. She likewise said she should not be able to leave her bed yet, as she would be too weak, and there would still be the dropsy, which would not yield quite so soon, but with perseverance she should be cured of that in a little time. I placed my hand on the top of her head which had been hitherto so painful to the touch. She fancied there was a string covered with bloody knots that tied it. I produced pain and spasm of the arm and leg. I put a mesmerised sovereign on her shoulder and she fancied the string broke. The head had been drawn over the shoulder, and when I removed the sovereign it fell back to its place. As I passed my hand over the head, tears flowed copiously down the cheeks, especially from the eye that had been affected. The back of her head felt dead, and she could not bear the couch to touch one part of it, she said it felt as if a piece of the brain was loose and fell against her forehead when she leant forwards; she fancied matter was forming on the brain, like a scab which would soon appear outwardly on the skin in the shape of scales, and would have to be brushed off; the itching sensation was terrible and relieved by grinding the teeth and shaking the head which seemed to scratch it.

Martha said my being in the room was sufficient of itself to send her to sleep, and that there was a large collection of water in the abdomen in a sack, but more on the right side than on the left.

Monday. The catamenia came on: she said they would continue till Wednesday; she must not take medicine, for mesmerised water would produce the same effect. A few days later, Martha said the water in the peritonæum had been so agitated by the magnetic power that it was now nearly gone. She wished to have her head shaved, when we had the demonstration of the truth of her prediction: *there was* a large oval place about the size and shape of a section of an egg, having the appearance of dandriff and of a darkish colour. About this time Martha's mother was confined, and, as she required her daughter's services, we were obliged to discontinue mesmerism for rather more than a fortnight, after which period we again resumed it; but she said the interval had been pernicious, the peritonæum having again filled, and that it would require 24 hours of uninterrupted sleep for the water to be absorbed and carried off. We therefore settled that she should come the next day, Saturday, to her friend's house and that I should send her to sleep at 11 o'clock, which I did. But she had not been asleep long, before she became restless and appeared uncomfortable: she had not acquainted her mother with our intention and she said she saw her very angry. I offered to go to her mother and get some one to do the work instead of Martha. To this she consented, and on my return I told her her mother was quite satisfied. But I had hardly left the house before she peremptorily ordered her friend to awaken her, who very naturally refused and remonstrated with her, telling her that I should be most justly offended after the trouble I had taken, especially as her mother had offered no objection. But she said, if she had not to Mr. Hands, she was making a famous row now. Her friend still expostulated and declared it impossible, as she did not know how to awaken her. She then asked for two bunches of keys and her wedding ring; as there was but one bunch, she took off the largest key, placed it in one hand, the bunch in the other, and the ring on her forehead, and instantly awoke.

But now arose a fresh difficulty; she refused to go home. Nothing could be more striking than the contrast which presented itself between Martha in the mesmeric sleep and Martha awake. The same firmness of purpose and decision of character were evinced in each state; but, whereas in the one, she was all nervous anxiety and solicitude to appease and conciliate her mother, in the other she was as tenacious and obstinate not to concede in the least to what she deemed her mother's ill temper; in desiring her to return after consenting to her remaining, and it required much persevering entreaty, before she was prevailed on to go home. However,

she at length did so ; but, when her mother saw her, she was frightened at her appearance and sent her back immediately, fancying she was bewildered, and caused her to be watched till she arrived safe at her friend's house. She passed a very bad night ; and when I saw her on the Sunday, I was much surprised at all that had happened. I sent her to sleep immediately, and she said that all the alteration had been very pernicious, and that in consequence it would be necessary now that she should sleep three nights and three days without awaking : I must demesmerise her that evening, and then send her to sleep again, and leave her undisturbed till the following Wednesday. The day previously, during her sleep, she had passed a considerable quantity of fluid, and she continued to do so on the Sunday. In the evening, I awoke her as she had desired ; she took some refreshment, and I afterwards sent her into the sleep again. She told us she should talk and eat on Monday and Tuesday, but would be too ill on the Wednesday, and continue insensible all the day till her waking hour, six o'clock in the evening, when we should find the dropsy quite gone. During this sleep which presented much that was singularly interesting, she was seen by many persons ; among the number I would mention Dr. Elliottson, the Rev. G. Sandby, and Mr. Atkinson. As soon as Dr. E. entered the room, she named him, though she had never seen him ; and when asked how she knew him and not the others, she said he was one of the family, and explained that each person I had mesmerised was lit up by the mesmeric fluid and she read their names.

I now hasten to the Wednesday evening, half an hour before the appointed time for her awaking. Her breathing was curious ; she had lain all the day apparently unconscious and the breathing imperceptible, now it became deep, very deep, then again it nearly ceased ; at times there was a restless moaning, and the frame was energetically contorted, relapsing afterwards into apparent insensibility. The Rev. G. Sandby and Mr. Atkinson were present ; Dr. Elliottson was prevented by an engagement. We were all anxiously waiting with our watches in our hands, when the church clock opposite struck, and Martha was awake in an instant. I was fearful she might be agitated on seeing the two gentlemen who were strangers to her, but she was quite calm as I remained near her. The next day when I called I found her very weak, and on sending her to sleep she complained of cold and of suffering from the looseness of the integuments of the abdomen. The water having been all absorbed and carried off, she directed me to apply a bandage 8 yards long. Before I came,

she had prevailed on her friend to give her a quantity of very hot potatoes, which she ate very greedily. She said she suffered so very much from internal cold, and they warmed her. From this day her recovery may be considered as complete, for she had no return of any of the symptoms, either of dropsy or paralysis, but continued to gain strength daily. Her clairvoyance encreased likewise, and she soon was equally clever in discerning and in prescribing for diseases in others as she had done for herself. In corroboration of this I send extracts from two letters descriptive of Martha's appearance, and the impression she made on strangers when in the mesmeric state. I have only to state farther, that at the present time, though not a strong woman, yet she is perfectly able to undertake any light situation in a private family, and that it is now nearly two years since her recovery, which I date from that last sleep, September, 1844.

Accept once more, dear Sir, my thanks for all your kindness, of which I hope to avail myself again in the January number of *The Zoist*, and believe me,

Your obedient servant,

24th Aug. 1846.

D. HANDS.

Extract from a letter of G. Chapman, Esq., to a friend, describing Martha's mesmeric state :—

"Martha was mesmerised almost at once: she fell into a disturbed sleep, and almost immediately passed into the lucid state, when she prescribed for two patients; after which she continued rather talkative for some little time, when she suddenly became heavy, and went off into a state of somnolence. Mr. Hands appeared to regard her with alarm; he said that a change was coming over her, but he could not tell what it might be, and cautioned me in case she should say anything unpleasant to me, as she had done to others. She awoke in a state so peculiar, that I fear I shall not succeed in describing it. Her features had assumed an expression of beatitude; she appeared not to breathe, her countenance was pallid, her eyes were closed, and she got up and followed Mr. H. with her hands partially extended in so solemn a manner, as to make me feel that she was all but a creature of the other world.

"I watched her with alarm and awe, and felt it quite a relief when she returned to her seat. I cannot explain the change which came over her countenance and appearance, and can only imagine it like that which the Budhists of the Isle of Ceylon believe to take place in those who attain Nirwana, when they become all alike—all heavenly; so differ-

ent was the countenance of Martha in ecstasy from Martha in her ordinary state some hours before or afterwards."

The accompanying paper is a copy of a letter written by a lady of Queen Adelaide's Court, after witnessing Martha's somnambulist state :—

"As you wish for an account of what I saw at Mr. Hands's this morning, I will give you a narrative as accurate as I can of what passed whilst I was there, without any comments or theorizing of my own. When I went in, I found four persons (all patients) besides Mr. Hands himself. The most remarkable of these was the young woman, Martha, whom I was already aware had been restored from a very hopeless state of dropsy ; I believe also some paralytic affection. During the course of his treatment, she has developed in turn almost all of the most remarkable phases of mesmerism, and continues almost daily to exhibit some additional manifestation of its effects. That in which I am most interested at present, is her power of perceiving disease in others, distinguishing whether the derangement is organic or functional, and I believe prescribing the proper treatment, *certainly* so far as concerns the mode of mesmeric operation requisite.

"When I went in, one of the patients, a lady of apparently middle age, suffering from complaint of the heart, was under the mesmeric influence. Her eyes were closed, and she had not the power to open them ; but she retained full possession of her consciousness, though she had no control over the motions of her limbs. Whether she was able to speak or not, I am unable to say, and, being unwilling to make any disturbance, I did not enquire ; she did not however speak during the treatment. Mr. Hands was mesmerizing her, and Martha, also under the mesmeric influence, stood by watching, and by her looks and motions directing the process. It is rather difficult to describe her posture, which appeared to me to be a remarkably inconvenient one to be so long maintained, almost unchanged, as she contrived to do it. I can best describe my notion of it, by likening it to that of a person arrested in the act of bending forward in salutation : she held Mr. Hands's watch in her hand, but did not appear to do so for any purpose of marking time. The expression of her countenance was very striking ; it indicated earnest concentrated intelligence, combined with a kind of dreamy look, which probably arose from her eyes being so intently fixed on the patient and her apparent unconsciousness of all else that surrounded her. Though, as I have said, she never

altered the position of her legs and feet, there was an almost constant gentle motion of her body and head, arising from her alternately bending and erecting herself to her full height, indicating thereby, by an occasional movement of her hand, the direction in which she wished Mr. Hands to make the passes. The change of her countenance was almost incessant—always a look of intense attention, accompanied by an expression of anxiety and disquietude whenever these passes were made in the direction she disapproved; changing to one of great satisfaction, and often a smile of delight, when Mr. H., who used every endeavour to catch her meaning, succeeded in fulfilling her instructions. She is a girl not possessed of any personal attractions,—her pallid complexion rather takes from such general expressiveness as she might otherwise have; but at times the expression of her countenance was almost lovely, and though it did not equal it, it reminded me of a patient of Dr. Elliotson's, who used to fall into a state of ecstasy, during which no words can describe the loveliness of her countenance; a case, I suppose, similar to the extatics who excited so much interest three or four years ago in the Tyrol.

"To return, however, to Martha. After about twenty minutes, she indicated that it was time to cease mesmerising the patient. The effect produced on this latter was principally a constant movement of the right hand and arm, which was elevated, depressed and extended, according to the passes made by Mr. Hands. But I must observe here that, contrary to what I have generally seen, the arm, instead of following in the direction in which his hand moved, almost always took the opposite direction, as if repelled instead of attracted.

"There now remained two other persons to be operated on. Mr. Hands seemed to apply to Martha for instructions which should be attended to first; and, either because she was herself undecided or did not make her will sufficiently evident, there was some little demur; at length it was clear that she had fixed on the lady. The first thing she did was to make signs that the gloves the lady had on and a ring she wore should be pulled off: I forgot to say that she had before made Mr. H. take off his rings, which she always insists on being done previous to his mesmerising. She bestowed the same attention, evidenced in the way I have described, upon this lady, and therefore I need not repeat it; but the effect on the lady (the nature of whose complaint I am not aware of) was different from anything I have yet seen. Her arms were immediately set in slow involuntary motion, the hand being first drawn upwards, the forefinger and thumb

coming in close contact, and the movement of the arm accompanied by what I can only describe as a sort of twisting and distorting action. Baron Dupotet had a patient who used to exhibit motions of a similar kind, only much more distorted and energetic; but then she fell into a state of catalepsy, and did not preserve consciousness; whereas Mr. Hands's patient retained the most perfect consciousness all the time, conversing on the subject, and describing her utter inability to resist the movements, which were not attended by the least pain, but, on the contrary, by rather a pleasurable sensation. She too, instead of being attracted towards Mr. H., was strongly repelled, drawing herself up to the very back of the sofa on which she was seated, and seeming as if she contemplated removing still further if she could. Martha continued all this time directing by looks and gestures, and after perhaps half an hour, or it might be less, Martha gave the signal to cease.

The process with the third patient, a gentleman, was conducted in so similar a manner, that description would be little else than a repetition, but he was less apparently affected than the other two. When it was over, Martha, who still continued in the mesmeric state, indicated that Mr. Hands should mesmerise a bottle of water that stood on the table, and give it to the lady who was last mesmerised, but seemed to prohibit the other two patients from having any. I then took my leave, leaving Martha in the mesmeric state conversing with the two lady patients."

. It may be well to inform those who are not conversant with clairvoyance, that, though it is an unquestionable fact, it is, like every phenomenon of living systems, liable to fluctuation; sometimes perfect, sometimes imperfect, sometimes perverted, and even during the same fit of it. When it is genuine, it is occasionally mixed up with a degree of delirium. The party may have a true intuition, and yet fancy unreal things. Martha foresaw accurately, but the foreknowledge was manifested with a fancy of words upon her heart. Elizabeth Okey accurately foresaw the events of her case, but fancied they were told her by a beautiful negro: if in her higher extatic sleep-waking, in which she looked like an unearthly being, she was asked a question, she asked it in a whisper of this imaginary being, and then fancied that she received the answer from him, before she herself gave it. Such hallucinations are recorded of patients and seers of all countries and periods. At last Elizabeth Okey predicted without this fancy: and then was aware and told her mesmeriser that previously a degree of delirium had been mixed up with her state.

The effect of gold on the hand of Martha occurs in many patients, and was remarkable in the Okeys, in whom when Mr. Wakley saw it, he exclaimed that all mankind had been touching gold for thousands of years without any such effect, and therefore it must be a sham. He forgot that all mankind had not for thousands of years been first subjected carefully to the mesmeric process.—*Zoist*.

VII. *Cures of Nervous and Dyspeptic Affections.* By
Mr. Brown, Chemist and Druggist, Low Leyton, Essex.

Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

It is remarkable that a large number of chemists and druggists not only are satisfied of the truth of mesmerism, but openly advocate it, and some even practise it. This is an additional reason for my believing that the general hostility of medical men arises not from the fear of professional loss, but from pride and ignorance. I have always thought so, because the same ignorant unhesitating decision against mesmerism has been manifested by innumerable others in all classes of society. Druggists would suffer very far more than practitioners from the general use of mesmerism. For not only would medical men still have to give drugs more or less, but opinions as to the nature and prospects of cases; the general superintendence of most cases would still require a medical man; and, except in simple and chronic cases, a thousand things would require the services, and often the daily services, of persons skilled in medicine or surgery. Medical men are indispensable in most cases except the most simple, at one period or other; and they would employ mesmerism as only one of their numerous means, and not to the exclusion of other means. Frequently they might operate themselves, and, when a case began to require too much attention from them, they would more or less superintend its administration, as they do the administration of baths, mineral waters, friction, cupping, &c. &c.

They have shewn the same hostility to novelty which could not affect their professional gain. Some not only scornfully condemned without any examination, but grew very angry at the mention of, the employment of the ear in affections of the chest: yet none but medical men could ever so use their ears. The original recommendation of prussic acid, quinine, &c., made many as scornful and cross; yet these drugs were to be administered, just as much as other drugs, by medical men. Some no doubt have been hostile from fancy that their pockets would suffer: but many with abundant means, and more practice than they could get through, nay, some retired from practice, have manifested the same spirit.

The pride of conviction that what we know of the department of nature that we have studied, though we allow it to be capable of enlargement, is incapable of receiving additions of a totally new character, and that what we think we know is absolutely proved and not to be questioned, appears to me at the bottom of the hostility; united with the ignorance or forgetfulness that we at present have but a glimpse of the facts of nature, and can know nothing but by observation of her and inferences from what we know, but these inferences, if just, being implied necessarily in what we have observed.

The very men who make this haughty stir against mesmerism would have raised an outcry against the application of the finger to the wrist for the purpose of learning something of the state of the body at large or of any internal organ by so doing: they would have scornfully rejected the drugs in common use, had not their predecessors been in the habit of using them,—would have laughed at the fancy of opium taking away pain, or the rust of iron making weak people strong and pale people ruddy. All they admit, they admitted originally because in their circle all others asserted it and nobody denied it: all they do, they do because in their circle they originally saw others do it and nobody do otherwise. Experience afterwards proves to them that much of all this is true and useful; but they blindly *believe* much that is not proved, as the world does in all matters, of which much never will be proved, and much is to vigorous and free brains evidently nonsense: and they and the world *do* much that is useless by daily routine thus fallen into from example.

The four following cases, though not of a dangerous character, were distressing, and such as medical men are daily seeing and prescribing for to little purpose.

J. ELLIOTSON.

I. Cure of *Dyspepsia and Neuralgic Pain.*

Miss Orris, lady's-maid at Ford Barclay's Esq., Grove House, Walthamstow, Essex, applied to me in the month of January last. She then complained of having been suffering for the last *two years* with pain in the right side, extending over the region of the stomach, nausea, loss of appetite, and general debility, accompanied with great nervous excitement, together with the usual symptoms indicative of an hysterical disposition; pain in the head at times *most intense*, bowels inactive, liver torpid, kidneys acting freely with pale coloured urine, extremities cold, occasional rigors, catamenia every fortnight; she had been *under medical treatment up to the period of her applying to me.* A marked improvement was indicated

after mesmerising her daily for one week, and at the expiration of *ten weeks a perfect cure* was effected.^d

II. *Cure of Dyspepsia and Cerebral Disturbances.*

Mrs. Hope, wife of a gardener residing at Whipps Cross, Walthamstow, Essex, aged 45, afflicted for *two years*. Commenced mesmerising on the 17th April, 1845, in consequence of her complaining of an unpleasant burning sensation with great weight at the pit of the stomach, loss of appetite, restless nights, constant cough accompanied with considerable expectoration, pain in the right side, great irritability of temper, accompanied at times with *a desire to grasp every thing within her reach*. After mesmerising her for two weeks, her cough had entirely left, her appetite was much improved, and her whole appearance indicated considerable general amendment: at the expiration of *six weeks she was quite recovered*.

III. *Cure of Nervous Head-ache and other Nervous Sufferings.*

Miss How, Wood Street, Walthamstow, Essex, had suffered for *many years* with a nervous headache, pain in the left side, palpitation of the heart, shooting pain over her left eye, and at times she lost the use of her hands and wrist. Mesmerised her for the first time on the 20th September for one hour, which considerably relieved the pain in her head and the palpitation of the heart; continued mesmerising her every other day. At the end of a week the pain of the side had entirely left, her hands and wrists very much improved, and at the expiration of *a fortnight she was quite recovered*.

VI. *Cure of Hypochondriasis.*

Mr. Young, Wood Street, Walthamstow, Essex, age 77, an independent gentleman, had been for *two years* under medical treatment in consequence of an affection of the liver, but without obtaining any material relief; his spirits at times were very much depressed, with loss of appetite and sleep. He came under my care and was mesmerised on the 17th September 1845. I mesmerised him every day; at the end of a week, he found himself better, and after this treatment for *eight weeks he was perfectly cured without having taken a single dose of medicine*.

G. L. BROWN.

^d This case resembled that cured by Madame Marie (p. 335).—Zois.

VIII. *Benefits of Mesmerism in Neuralgia, Rheumatism, Palsy, and Convulsions.* By Dr. ESDAILE. Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

THE newspapers of May 28th and 29th, sent to me from India, contain the following facts.

J. ELLIOTSON.

"MEDICAL MESMERIC FACTS, REPORTED BY J. ESDAILE, M.D.

"The presumptuous scepticism which rejects facts without caring to examine them, is, in many respects, even more destructive than uncritical credulity."—*Humboldt*.

"To the editor of *The Englishman*.

"Sir,—Presuming that I have demonstrated, by nearly one hundred cases, not only the possibility of painless surgical operations, but that they may be reckoned on as daily matters of course, if the proper means are used to secure success, I now consider myself at liberty to enter on another and equally important branch of the subject, namely, the curative powers of mesmerism in various diseases within the province of medicine.

"I have said little of this hitherto, having purposely restricted myself to proving the inestimable value of this agent in surgery, which it has revolutionized to such an extent, that those who continue to torment their fellow-creatures *unnecessarily* will run the risk of being prosecuted by the Society for the Suppression of Cruelty to Animals. The production of insensibility for surgical purposes is often only to be attained by great labour and patience, such as few are willing to give it appears, and this incontrovertible test of the reality of mesmerism is therefore not so frequently seen as it ought to be.

"For the consolation of those who have tried and failed, I would remind them of the effect of his first disappointment upon Sheridan. His first speech was a decided failure, nevertheless he exclaimed, 'By ——! it is in me though, and *shall* come out;' and if the mesmeriser will resolve to do the thing, *if possible*, he will generally succeed. How unreasonable it is to hope to arrest the usual course of nature by short, weak, impatient efforts! This is to combat the ocean with a broom.

"But the *medical* administration of mesmerism affords numerous proofs of its powers, equally convincing, and often as striking and conclusive, as the absence of suffering under the most cruel torments; and it has this advantage, that most

persons who have the *will*, will find that they have the *power*, by very moderate exertions, of soothing and curing their friends and neighbours, when suffering under many painful diseases, especially of the nervous system.

"But the nerves cannot be benefitted, without leading to an improved condition of the whole body. If the fountain of vitality is low and reduced in power, the nervous currents will flow feebly to the different organs, and life will languish like a plant for want of water. But let the reservoirs of nervous power be replenished, and then the vital streams will flow freely; a general vigour will be diffused through the system, and the organs, refreshed, will perform their functions with ease and regularity. The *primary* effect of mesmerism on the nervous system is its most striking feature, but its *secondary* influence is not less important to the physician, by enabling him to attack chronic vices of function by a general, though indirect, stimulus or sedative, according to the object he has in view.

"I will first present the reader with a series of extreme cases, in which results were obtained, not procurable by *any other known means*, and where mesmerism was *the only curative agent resorted to*, so there can be no mistake about the matter. The effects produced must have been caused by mesmerism, or were purely accidental. But the processes and the phenomena produced, are so clearly cause and effect, that to doubt the presence of some active agent in the matter would be as reasonable as to deny the existence of the wind, with the wrecks of a hurricane before our eyes, because we can't *see* it. But if you speak of *aërolites* to a real *strong-minded* sceptic, and tell him that they have been seen to fall to the earth—that they are to be seen in certain places—that swords have been made of them—and men killed by them, he will probably tell you that he won't believe it *till he is killed by one himself*.

"It is nearly a year ago since I said in my third report—
'1. I was certain (if life is not altogether a phantasmagoria) that in my first case, the muscles of the whole body had been as plastic and obedient to my will as clay in the hands of the potter; and I felt satisfied that if the same state of things could be again brought about, muscular spasms and muscular contractions would disappear before this great solvent.

"'2. Having witnessed in this case the total extinction of nervous sensibility, it led me to conclude that, in a like state of things, nervous pains would vanish before this supreme anodyne.

"'3. I had seen general fever and high local inflammation

arrested and subdued in this patient, by the mesmeric trance, and that the artificial inflammation it was my object to excite for the cure of hydrocele, did not develop itself while the mesmeric influence was in activity, and that the pulse and temperature were lowered—thence I inferred that inflammation was probably incompatible with this state of the system.’

“I have since acted upon these early indications, and shall now proceed to show the effects of mesmerism on the muscles, nerves, and blood-vessels, which all sympathise however.

“When lately ordered to join the army of the Sutlej, I anticipated finding an ample field for mesmeric practice among men of different countries and temperaments, and hoped to find that our sick and wounded countrymen would benefit by this healing power of nature, as much as the natives of Bengal; for I thought it probable that sickness and suffering would reduce the European constitution to the low nervous standard of the Bengalee, and thereby render it equally susceptible of the sanative influence. But very little opportunity was afforded me of testing the truth of this, as I returned by dāk the day after reaching Ferozepore, my services not being required.

“Accident threw the means of making a few experiments into my way, however, and the occasion was not neglected.

“At Loodiana, I was unexpectedly detained to take on some thirty wounded men to Ferozepore, a march of six days; all, with two or three exceptions, had lost a leg or arm, but were convalescent, and only suffered from painful sensations in the fingers and toes of the lost extremities.

“A few cases required medical treatment, but *we had no medicine*, and I was obliged to fall back upon nature, and it was *lucky for the poor fellows* that I had been in the habit of consulting her.

Removal of agonizing Pain, &c., &c.

“March 7th. D. Canvan, a private in H. M.’s 50th regiment: saw him for the first time to-day. He complains of great tenderness on pressure all over the chest, and especially under the short ribs on the right side; his chest feels contracted, and he cannot take a deep respiration. The knee-joint of the same side is contracted, and the ankle and toes are stiff and immovable; there is great tenderness in the calf of the leg, and he cannot put his foot to the ground.

“He says, that he found himself in this state on recovering from a delirious fever, three weeks ago, and in the list I received, his case is put down as ‘delirium tremens.’ Believ-

ing him to be suffering from a neuralgic affection of the muscles of respiration and of the leg, I began to mesmerise him, *without a word of explanation, or leading him to expect anything.* In a short time he breathed freer, and in a quarter of an hour could take a deep breath, and permitted me to poke his sides and chest without it annoying him. The process was extended to the leg, and without my touching it, the knee gradually relaxed—the ankle and toes became flexible, and *at the end of half an hour the leg was perfectly straight, and he moved it freely in all directions without pain.* I shall never forget the man's amazement as we went on. He kept crying, 'How strange! how wonderful! how *delightful!* Great God! it's a miracle!' Till at last his excitement and bewilderment became so ludicrous that I was obliged to desist from laughing.

"As he slept ill, I desired the hospital apprentice to try to put him to sleep the same night. He was mesmerised for twenty minutes lying on the coverlet; at the end of this time, I called upon him loudly by name, without disturbing him, and he was then lifted and put under the quilt, sleeping soundly.

"March 12th. His cramped position in the cart for so many hours daily, brings back the pains in his leg, but they can always be chased away by a few minutes local mesmerising, as I have shewn to several parties of gentlemen I met on the road, and the knee continues straight—the chest is also free.

"I do not pretend to say that this man was cured, for his constitution was ruined; but I should be glad to know what else could have done so much for him."

"March 11th.—G. Adamson, H. M.'s 53rd regt., having seen Canvan put to sleep yesterday, *begged Mr. Cox to do as much for him, as his shoulder ached severely, and prevented his sleeping; his arm had been taken off at the shoulder joint.* Mr. Cox complied, without speaking to me about it, and in a *very short time put him to sleep.* He told me this morning that he *tried all he could to keep awake to watch the effect on himself, but he very soon fell asleep, and had a good night.*

"Other aching stumps were soothed by local mesmerising, and I encouraged the men to learn the processes, that they might be able to instruct their comrades how to relieve them. Mesmerism is pre-eminently the *soldier's friend*,* and the regi-

* Mr. Rintoul should think of all this before he again cruelly inveighs in his *Spectator* against Dr. Esdaile's benefits to the poor soldiers. Mr. Rintoul pretends to detest flogging soldiers, but would not have their sufferings removed by mesmerism. Oh, pride! Oh, temper!—J. ELLIOTSON.

mental surgeon who confines himself to laughing at it, will soon be punished by the distrust of both officers and men. These are the chief incidents of my week's mesmeric campaign.

"April 11th. Mr. C. has come up from Calcutta: he has been troubled for three weeks with severe rheumatism in his left knee: it is contracted, swelled, shining, and hot, but not red, and *so tender to the touch, that he dreads* his children *approaching him*, lest they should touch his knee by accident. He cannot sleep, has no appetite, and looks worn-out and languid.

"I mesmerised his knee locally for a short time, and like Canvan's, it gradually became straight. *In twenty minutes, he allowed me to press and strike his knee with violence*, without complaining, and then *got up and walked without pain*, but stiffly, from thickening of the joint. He had a crutch lying at his side when I came in, and could not move without it.

"April 12th. Has slept very well, the first time for three weeks: the swelling, heat, and tenderness of the knee are less, and I again removed the latter by a few minutes local mesmerising.

"April 18th. The gentleman he lives with has mesmerised him generally for an hour daily, but without entrancing him: he sleeps and eats well, and feels his nerves restored. There is only some stiffness of the joint left, and he returned to Calcutta to-day."

"April 8th. Two days after my return from the army, I was requested to see Miss —, aged 16. I found her lying on a couch, complaining of excruciating headache on one side of her head, with a weight on the top of it, and throbbing of the right temple, so severe that she said that she would like to open the veins with her scissors. Her eyes were heavy, and suffused with tears; she looked pale and exhausted, had no appetite, and whatever she ate turned acid immediately: the least exercise fatigued her; coming up stairs distressed her breathing, and she *heard every pulse in her body*. Although naturally cheerful and active, she had been for a fortnight dispirited and listless. During the last ten days, her temples had been *leeches*; she was afterwards *bled standing*; *mustard poultices* were applied to her feet, and *strong medicine* given on account of this cerebral congestion. The order "*repeta-tur*" had been given, if things did not soon mend. These measures relieved her a little for a short time, but she has suffered much daily ever since, and to-day, says she is as bad as ever.

" Her mother said, that she feared it would now be necessary to apply the leeches to the head, and the blister to the neck, which had been ordered in the event of her not getting better soon. In reply, I said, that there was a possible source of error, which I should like to remove before resorting to such heroic remedies.

" The state of the young lady's constitution was such that I thought it possible her sufferings arose from debility of the nervous system, rather than from sanguineous congestion, and I said that I could probably decide this on the spot, if permitted to make an experiment. The parents having no objection, I mesmerised the young lady's head and spine, and *in a quarter of an hour, all the pain, weight, and throbbing had gone*; her usual animation of look and manner returned, and she felt *quite well*, she said. *In an hour after, she ate her dinner with appetite, the first time for three weeks, and digested it well.*

" April 18th. She has continued *perfectly well* ever since her first mesmerising: but as a general stimulus she has been mesmerised daily for a few minutes, and, all her natural functions having been restored: it was left off to-day.

" May 20th. She keeps quite well. In cases like this, where the diagnosis is very difficult, and accuracy of vital importance, mesmerism, like the conjuring wand of the adept, leads the physician directly and infallibly to the fountain-head of the evil, and, like the spear of Ithuriel, it in a moment reduces assumed appearances to their true characters and relations.

" With my former medical knowledge, I could only have proved the correctness of my suspicions by a long and troublesome course of treatment, and if successful, it would probably have been said, that the disease had changed its nature; but as it happened, the disease existed in its first intensity, and the metamorphosis took place on the spot."

Frightful Convulsions.—" June 6th, 1845. I was called at eight o'clock last night, to see the wife of Baboo Essanchunder Ghosaul, deputy-magistrate of Hooghly. I found her in dreadful convulsions; she was speechless, and suffering from a constriction in the throat, that threatened to suffocate her every minute, and she constantly beat or pointed at the part. At one moment her body became perfectly rigid, and in another it was bent back like a bow, till she rested on the back of her head and heels only. *I never saw such convulsions except in hydrophobia.* All that I knew of the resources of medicine was useless, for how could she take physic when she could

not take breath? I therefore had recourse to my new solvent power, and after nearly an hour's hard work, I left her asleep and catalepted.

"July 1st. There has been no return of the convulsions."

In Dr. Esdaile's *Mesmerism in India* are some medical cases not published anywhere else, and I therefore extract them.

"*Rheumatism and Nervousness.*—Sept. 25th. Mr. Calder (I mention his name at his own request), who has been twenty years in India, came to me to-day, complaining of general rheumatism, nervousness, and debility. *He walks with great difficulty*, with the help of a stick, and *cannot ascend a stair*. His nerves are shattered, his eye-sight is weak, and his hands tremble when writing; when he walks on smooth ground, he fancies that it slips from below him, and the effort made to save himself nearly throws him down: *of late he has not been able to drive his buggy*, from a feeling that it is impossible for him to prevent his horse from running into any carriage he meets. He has been in this state for *two years and a half*; during which he has gone *a tour of doctors, and swallowed a dispensary of physic, to no good purpose*. I said that I could not in conscience physic him more, but recommended him to try what nature would do for him, as, upon the whole, I thought his case adapted for mesmeric treatment, but that it would require time and patience to do him any good. He was very glad of any untried chance of relief, and I desired one of my people to mesmerise him for an hour in bed, every night.

"Never having been present when Mr. Calder was mesmerised, I am indebted to him for the following notes of his case.

"On the 25th of September last, your native assistants, as directed by you, made the first attempt to induce the mesmeric sleep, but without success: the trial lasted for an hour and a half.

"26th and 27th September, ditto.

"28th. After a persevering trial for the same length of time, I was thrown into a trance, from which I awoke after upwards of five hours,—I found great difficulty in raising my eyelids, or keeping my eyes open. I left the couch and retired to bed, and had my natural sleep afterwards, till six o'clock next morning. For a week afterwards, the efforts to mesmerise me were repeated for an hour daily, but without farther effect than causing a sleep of a few minutes. I however continued to enjoy my natural rest at night, found my

pains abating daily, and my nerves considerably braced up; so much so, that I could *walk up and down stairs without assistance*, and with every confidence *drive out in a buggy alone*, which I could not have attempted for *two years and a half* previously.

“Up to the 17th of Oct. I was thrown into a sleep, every third or fourth night, for about two hours; the effect of which you may judge of, from my being able to walk yesterday morning more than *four*, and this morning, more than *six* miles.

“(Signed) J. CALDER.

“Oct. 28th, 1845.”

“*Rheumatism*.—December 14th. Podo, a Hindoo woman, a beggar; aged 40. She has been a cripple for a *year and a half*, from rheumatism in her shoulders and knees: there is much tenderness about the joints, and her knees are so weak that she cannot sit with her hams bent, and is obliged to obey the calls of nature standing, and she cannot rise from the ground without pushing herself up with her hands: to be mesmerised an hour daily.

“December 16th. Slept half an hour after the process to-day.

“December 17th. Feels much better.

“December 18th. Slept an hour to-day; the pain about the joints is much less; she can rise from the ground without aid, and walks much more freely.

“December 19th. Says she has *no pain*, and is *quite well*: dismissed cured, at her own request.”

“*Complete Palsy of all the left half*.—August 9th. Geeois, a husbandman; aged 22. A man of large frame, and in good condition. There is *complete palsy of the whole of the left side*; the arm can only be separated from the side for a few inches. He has taken mercury six times, in four years, for rheumatism: the paralysis began four months ago, and he has been three months in his present state:—to be mesmerised for half an hour daily.

“August 18th. He sometimes goes to sleep during the process, and generally sleeps for two hours after it: he can raise the arm more, and there is a little resistance in the left side, on walking between two persons.

“August 20th. He began to walk a little with a stick to-day.

“August 25th. Improves daily; there is more command over the diseased side; the leg is stronger, and he raises the

arm higher : he walked to the end of the room to-day, with the help of a stick only.

"Sept 8th. Much better ; walks across the compound, with the aid of a stick ; arm also improving.

"Sept. 20th. *He has discarded his stick, and crosses the compound unaided.*

"Sept 25th. Daily improving ; he *can hold his arm nearly perpendicular* : there is every prospect of his recovering, and he was allowed to go home, with orders to his friends to mesmerise him daily, in the way they had witnessed."

Tic Douloureux.—"December 10th. Horo, a Hindoo woman ; aged 28. She has suffered for *three years* from *tic douloureux* in the right eyebrow and temple, especially in the cold weather : it is very intense now, and comes on at 6 a.m., remaining till 2 p.m.—to be mesmerised. I returned after an hour, and found her asleep : she awoke soon after, and said there was no pain whatever in the part now, and that 'it was cold as water.'

"January 8th. She has *had no return of pain.*"

IX. *Mesmerism not to be trifled with.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

WHEN persons enquire of me whether mesmerism is not a dangerous thing, I always reply that I am happy to say it is. They look astonished, and I continue,—Because, if it were not dangerous, it would not be a real power in nature. A non-entity, an unreal, though alleged, power of nature, can do no harm : but all real powers of nature will work readily for evil if misapplied. The lights in our houses, the fires which warm us, the heat without which we could not exist and all living beings would be a dead frozen mass, may burn up our bodies to a cinder, may destroy our property, nay, whole cities. Yet we take a candle to go to bed, and we light fires in our rooms. The knives at our tables could be plunged into our breast by the person who sits next us, or by the servant behind our chair : yet our tables are spread daily with knives. Mesmerism may be abused, like anything else : like medicine, used through design or ignorance, as a poison or in too violent a manner, and like the surgeon's wounding instruments plunged unskillfully into parts and perhaps making fatal havoc.

The following cases will prove the danger of playing with

mesmerism, and at the same time shew to those who regard it as nothing, that it is something.

1. I last year received the following letter:—

“Bridgwater,

“Friday night, 17th January, 1845.

“Dear Sir,—I have been frequently urged by my friend, Mr. King, who has politely given me a note of introduction, to put myself in communication with you on the subject of mesmerism; but, not being a member of the medical profession, and believing that certain phenomena which appeared to me new, so far as my reading has extended, might have been long known to yourself, I have hitherto refrained from trespassing on any portion of your time.

“A case of a very painful nature having fallen under my notice, I have no alternative but to write to you, which I now do with the concurrence, indeed at the request, of the patient’s relatives, and of their medical adviser, Mr. Haviland.

“On Wednesday night I was called in to demesmerise a youth of thirteen years of age, who had been thrown into the mesmeric trance by another young gentleman, about four years his senior. Upon my arrival I found the patient *apparently* awake, but in a frightful state of phrensy under the excitement of Destructiveness and Self-esteem. Believing him to be in the state of sleep-waking, I was desirous of making counter passes; but, armed with the poker, he defied any one to approach him.

“Subsequently, he being secured by his father and Mr. Haviland, I made the demesmerising passes, and got the mesmeriser to assist me therein. Under these he became more tranquil, and said that, if released, he would “remain still and submit to the foolery.” Immediately afterwards he reclined on the sofa, and fell asleep, and awoke in twenty minutes, quite calm and unconscious of anything that had transpired since he took his seat to be mesmerised.

“He slept well during the night, and appeared quite rational yesterday morning, but said he had a great desire to fight and destroy all within his reach; and he was obliged to be watched during the day to prevent his committing actual mischief. In the evening he had another paroxysm of fury, and I ventured to suggest the expediency of again throwing him into the trance, and of endeavouring whilst in that state to allay the destructive propensity and to excite Benevolence, Veneration, &c. But his father preferred waiting to see what

relief would be afforded by another night's natural sleep. This morning he arose more mischievously inclined than during the early part of yesterday, and began by tearing the clothes of the younger children and breaking a portion of the breakfast service. About 11 o'clock he again became quite unmanageable, and wanted to kill one of the servants to revenge an imaginary annoyance.

"He is this evening in a highly excitable state, but has had no febrile symptoms throughout. I may add that the lad is naturally of an amiable and harmless disposition.

"Having submitted the above portion of my letter to Mr. Haviland, I have only to beg the favour of your opinion by return of post as to what you conceive the proper course to adopt, medical or mesmeric treatment: if the latter, I shall feel particularly obliged by your advice as to the excitement of the antagonist organs; whether he should be allowed to remain in the sleep or be awakened out of it; and by any other suggestion that occurs to you. Enclosed I beg to hand you the customary fee.

"I am, dear Sir,

"Your obedient servant,

"John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

"SAMUEL SELFE."

Being very busy on the day this letter arrived, and receiving a large number of letters that morning, as soon as, opening it, I saw it referred to mesmerism, I laid it aside to be answered when I should be at leisure, thinking that it was only one of those numerous letters which I receive containing enquiries on various mesmeric points, and therefore not of a pressing nature. In the evening I read it, and wrote the following answer:—

"London,

"Saturday evening, Jan. 18th.

"Dear Sir,—I cannot express my regret that you will not receive an answer by return of post. My house was so filled with patients this morning, that I could not read my country letters, and took them with me in the carriage: receiving so many every day asking questions about mesmerism, and finding your's to be upon the subject, I laid it aside to read it at leisure in the evening, not suspecting the subject of its contents was urgent; and I did not get home till after post-time. To-morrow we have no post, so that I can only send this before breakfast on Monday, and I trust you will receive it in the afternoon.

"I have often seen a state of delirium of various kinds,

of fatuity, or of stupor, induced by mesmerism, if this was overdone, or if mesmerised metals or water had been too freely used, or if anything had surprized or vexed the patient in the mesmeric state. But the condition has always subsided sooner or later, and during it mesmerism has had no influence whatever; at least till it was subsiding of itself.

"Various mesmeric local effects, such as closure of the eyes, or of the jaws, rigidity of an extremity, palsy of a part, and other such elementary phenomena, occasionally continue when the general mesmeric state is over and the person is awake. But they all subside: and usually may be removed by friction, breathing, &c.

"In this case I should be curious to learn what had disturbed the patient, or whether mesmerism had been overdone, for such an excitement of certain portions of the brain to be produced. Either something of this kind must have happened, or the particular portions of the brain must be remarkably susceptible in the person.

"You suggested the proper course. The patient should be mesmerised again: and, when sleep is induced, this should be kept up and deepened, by continued passes, or by keeping the points of the forefingers on the eyes or the hand on the forehead. I have always found that, when patients are over excited on waking, the only plan is to produce a deep sleep; and they then wake well. I would certainly in the sleep keep the fingers on Benevolence and Attachment. If in this patient breathing upon individual cerebral organs takes off the effect, I would breathe on Combativeness and Destructiveness at the same time I touched over the kind organs. Transverse passes with contact over these violent organs might also demesmerise them. But certainly get the patient to sleep, and keep him in a deep sleep. The sleep may sometimes be deepened by touching the patient with mesmerised gold or mesmerised water.

"When I have seen harm from excess of mesmerism, it has been not through excess of sleep, but excess of the active sleep-waking state.

"Pray let me know all you can learn of the origin of the case; and all the future progress: and consult me, every post if you please, as a *friend*, and *not professionally*.

"I remain, your's faithfully,

"J. ELLIOTSON."

On Monday morning, I received a second letter, dated Sunday, January 19, and written the day before my letter could arrive, from the want of a Sunday post in London.

After stating the posting of the first letter, Mr. Selfe concludes thus:—

"I have only now to add, that there has been no alleviation of the symptoms since, and that his friends as well as myself are anxiously waiting your opinion.

"I am, Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL SELFE.

"John Elliotson, Esq., M.D."

The following was written after the arrival of my letter:—

"Bridgwater,

"Tuesday, Jan. 21, 1845.

"Dear Sir,—You will please to accept the grateful acknowledgments of the friends of the lad of whom I have written, also my own, for the kind interest you have taken in his case. I also beg to thank you in the handsomest manner for the permission you have given me to address you otherwise than professionally.

"On Sunday evening, after dispatching my second letter, it was thought unadvisable by all parties here interested in the boy's welfare to allow him to remain any longer without trying the effects of re-mesmerisation. I accordingly attempted it, and succeeded so far as to induce a state in which the eyelids closed without the power of the patient's reopening them; but he conversed with and knew all around him. Being unable to deepen the sleep, I breathed upon the too highly-excited organs, but not so slowly nor for so long a time as I am instructed to do by your letter which came to hand this morning.

"I also touched Benevolence and got him into kindly conversation. He did not remain in this state quite ten minutes, but opened his eyes by rubbing them, and I am happy to say has attempted no act of violence since.

"I mesmerised him again last evening, and this morning upon receipt of your letters, but without producing a deeper state of somnolency than that above described.

"This evening his mesmeric slumber was deepened a little by placing my hand on his forehead. At present he seems more excitable by pleasurable or painful emotions, but is, I am inclined to think, nearly well.

"In compliance with your wishes to know the cause of this cerebral disturbance, I beg to inform you that the mesmerisation took place at a juvenile evening party; that I am informed that some of his organs were excited by contact;

that the lad was much annoyed by his companions surrounding and tickling him; still more irritated by other means attempted to rouse him, and exasperated into perfect fury by having a quantity of cold water thrown over his face and person, in which highly-excited state he raged for nearly two hours, and during which I first saw him on the evening in question. The late hour at which I write this precludes my saying more than that I am,

"Dear Sir,

"Your much obliged and most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL SELFR.

"John Elliotson, Esq., M.D."

"London, Jan. 23.

"Dear Sir,—With all my patients but one, whose individual cerebral organs I can excite, slow breathing over an organ puts an end to its excitement, just as it does to rigidity of a limb, contraction of the eyelids or of the muscles of the lower jaw, or other local effects. Whether you succeed in getting the patient to sleep or not, pray breathe *slowly* and *perseveringly* over Destructiveness and Combativeness (and Self-esteem also if you think it is excited). If you breathe *slowly*, the breath comes out fully charged with mesmerism: and it may be necessary to breathe for a quarter of an hour or more. Should it happen that breathing thus does not demesmerise, transverse passes, with contact, over the respective organs, with the ends of the fingers, will probably succeed. The local demesmerisation I would employ two or three times daily.

"When I wrote '*surprized*,' I meant *suddenly startled*, and might have added, *irritated*."

"Pray write again every day, as a friend.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Your's faithfully,

"J. ELLIOTSON."

"Bridgwater,

"24th January, 1845.

"Dear Sir.—In acknowledging the receipt of your favour of yesterday's date, I have much pleasure in stating that, with the exception of a slight head-ache complained of to-day, our patient continues quite well.

"He has been regularly mesmerised and treated as nearly as possible in strict accordance with your kind instructions. This morning he was in the trance rather more than an hour, but both Mr. Haviland and myself concur in opinion that any

further mesmerisation is now quite unnecessary. Should however any relapse take place, which I see no reason to fear, I will immediately apprize you of it.

"The lateness of the hour at which I wrote on Tuesday, prevented my going quite so much into detail as I otherwise should have done, or I should then have said, that during the mesmeric sleep of Sunday evening I breathed only on Destructiveness and Combativeness; the lad being seated in a high-backed easy chair, I could not readily get at Self-esteem, and he awoke before I attempted any local demesmerisation of that organ. It is a singular fact, and a kind of negative proof of the truth of *phreno-mesmerism*, that on the following day he showed no disposition to acts of violence, but at intervals manifested the most supercilious contempt of and haughtiness towards even those whom he had been accustomed to love and venerate. His parents informed me that notwithstanding their painful state of anxiety on his behalf, his consequential arrogance was even to them ludicrous in the extreme. At his next mesmerisation I breathed on this organ, and these manifestations thenceforth ceased.

"I shall feel great pleasure in complying with your wishes as to drawing up a matter of fact statement of the case for *The Zoist*; but as science will be much more effectually served by your gleaning from my letters such portions as you may think of any importance and interspersing the account with comments by your own more able pen, I should prefer placing this letter and my former ones entirely at your disposal, and shall have great pleasure in answering any further questions on the subject.

"I have ascertained that no member of either branch of his family have been subject to any serious derangement of the nervous system.

"Respecting the development of his cerebral organization I will write shortly.—Meantime,

"I am, Dear Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL SELFE.

"John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

"London."

"Bridgewater,

"27th January, 1845.

"Dear Sir,—Yesterday morning I found the patient in good health, spirits, and temper; but, during my interview with his father, he retired to the nursery where he found the nursemaid improperly correcting one of the younger children.

This aroused his ire and he gave her a box in the ear, and an unpleasant scuffle ensued. During this scene, I feel confident that he was not under mesmeric excitement, as a few kind words pacified him, and he had a perfect recollection of the whole afterwards.

"His father informed me that there had been on the preceding evening a considerable ebullition of temper in what he believes to have been a state of mesmerism. These have been the only outbreaks of anger since I first mesmerised him on Sunday the 19th instant, and his general health has been good with the exception of slight head-ache arising probably from insufficient exercise in the open air.

"About eight o'clock last evening I again called and seated myself beside him, taking his hand in my own, whilst I conversed with the other parties present on subjects foreign to mesmerism.

"In a very few minutes I found he was in a profound sleep, from which, upon my addressing him, he aroused into sleep-waking, talked coherently and walked to the easy chair on the opposite side of the room and then went into a deeper slumber, from which he awoke in about a quarter of an hour.

"This sleep I should say was induced without any volition of mine. Having requested his friends not to speak to me in his presence of anything relating to his mesmeric existence. I did not learn till afterwards that he had, earlier in the evening, fallen into the mesmeric sleep, during the sermon at evening service, whilst sitting in the same pew with and next to the young gentleman who first mesmerised him. Had I been previously aware of this circumstance, I might have thought that some involuntary cerebral action of my own consequent upon that knowledge had conduced to the second result.

"The fact is that I was not thinking of the boy, and was scarcely conscious that I was retaining his hand in mine. The question now appears to be whether the sleep was spontaneous or whether it was induced by Master ——'s and my own proximity and contact.

"The parents of the youth, Mr. Haviland, and myself, will feel particularly obliged by your kind advice, as to what further course you think proper should be pursued. Is it advisable that he should be further mesmerised considering his high susceptibility of the influence? Change of air and scene have been thought of, but they have no country friends who are not either ignorant of, or disbelievers in, mesmerism, and therefore highly improper to take charge of him in his present condition. Mr. Haviland wishes me to suggest whether the

shower-bath might not be beneficial, provided its use be not forced on the boy.

"Mr. Haviland, at whose house I *now* write, wishes me further to ask whether again endeavouring to throw him into deep mesmeric sleep might not be beneficial. The state into which I have hitherto been able to bring him being that of highly active sleep-waking only, or at least very little slumber of a deeper character.

"Mr. Haviland also desires me to say, that he should have been most happy to have entered into correspondence with you on the subject had the boy's general health been at all impaired by the mesmeric influence; but, that happily not having been the case, and as he has not given his time to the subject of mesmerism, he prefers that I should continue to communicate with you on the matter. At the same time he will feel happy to give you any medical information that you may require.

"I am again requested to return you thanks on behalf of the lad's friends, and to express their regret that you should again be troubled on their account.

"I beg to remain, dear Sir,

"Your obedient servant.

"John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.

"SAMUEL SELFE."

"London, January 28th.

"Dear Sir,—This great susceptibility of mesmerism will be kept up by mesmerising him; still it would not be right for him to be away from your superintendence. Again the production of the deepest sleep possible in the case of mesmerism will be the best means of subduing the excitability of the cerebral organs which have been excited, if they are well breathed upon in the mesmeric state. I think I should advise your breathing over the organs of Self-esteem, and the two organs of Destructiveness well twice a day, in his waking state, without attempting to mesmerise him. If he becomes generally mesmerised by this breathing, it cannot be helped; I would breathe on. You understand that the only objection to the mesmeric general effect, in my view, is the inconvenient excess of mesmeric susceptibility which exists.

"What you say respecting the possibility of unconscious volition delights me.

"You are evidently one of those few who understand the true philosophy of the cerebral functions and of mesmerism.

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Yours very truly,

"J. ELLIOTSON.

"Pray write again.

"My best thanks and compliments to Mr. Haviland.

"I should approve of the shower-bath, if the boy will not be frightened by it."

"Bridgwater,

"4th February, 1845.

"Dear Sir,—All extraordinary cerebral action in the waking state had ceased prior to my last writing, as had also any other than pleasurable *spontaneous* excitement in the mesmeric sleep. The breathing on the organs I have nevertheless continued up to last Saturday morning, when the boy was taken out of town, and is under the judicious care of a lady who has seen, and read considerably of, mesmerism; and I am glad to learn by a friend who saw him this morning, that he has not fallen into the trance since leaving this place.

"On the preceding Wednesday, his evening's sleep-waking I deepened by breathing, placing my hand on his forehead, &c., and he remained in a profound slumber nearly eight hours: since that the mesmeric susceptibility has decreased, he having but a very short sleep on the following day, and nothing beyond an occasional drowsiness since. I should have written earlier, but have been unwilling to trespass on your valuable time by giving minute details of daily symptoms.

"It will, I am sure, be gratifying to you to learn that your kind advice in the case has probably saved the poor boy from the dreadful consequences attendant upon the '*horse-whip, straight-waistcoat, and solitary confinement to a spare room,*' which have been strongly recommended as means to '*bring him to his senses.*'"

"Trusting that I shall not have again to trouble you in this matter, though I shall take the liberty of again addressing you on others shortly,

"I remain, dear Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL SELPE.

"John Elliotson, Esq., M.D."

"Bridgwater, March 12th, 1845.

"My dear Sir,—In reply to your kind enquiries of yesterday's date, it affords me much gratification to say that the lad's general health continues good; that his cerebral functions are unimpaired; and that he has not fallen into the mesmeric slumber since Sunday the 9th of February.

¹ The plan proposed for sleep-wakers by a surgical teacher at Guy's Hospital. Vol. IV., p. 165, *Zeist*.

"About the 24th or 25th of January, I ventured to beg the favour that you would yourself have the kindness to prepare a statement of the case for *The Zoist* from my letters; this, from your after silence on that head, I presumed you purposed doing, and in consequence I took no written notes of the case. I have not even copies of my letters to yourself, so that, were I now to attempt to give a detailed account from memory, I should be very inaccurate, at least as to dates. If you particularly wish that the account should be given by me direct, and you will favour me with a sight of my own letters, I will prepare it by return of post, but shall feel particularly grateful if you will kindly use your own pen.

"Having been from home till a late hour this evening, I have but time to subscribe myself, my dear Sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL SELFE.

"John Elliotson, Esq., M.D.,

"London."

"Bridgwater,

"March 16th, 1845.

"My dear Sir,—I believe I have from time to time informed you of nearly all the particulars of this case in which I thought you will feel the slightest interest. I did, however, omit to mention, that one evening, whilst in the mesmeric state, the boy commenced singing *Jim Crow*. I then placed my finger and thumb on the two organs of Tune, and he sang on without any break or hesitation, though rather better than before. Upon taking off my fingers, he discontinued singing instantly, but resumed again in a few seconds from what I call spontaneous sleep-waking cerebral excitement. I then placed my finger on Veneration, and he immediately began the evening hymn. This is nothing uncommon, but it was very extraordinary to observe the manner in which he resumed the broken air of the two airs, recommencing at the very sound of the letter at which he was interrupted: thus,—'Jim Crow's sis'—'Forgive me, Lord, for'—'ster going to a ball.' Afterwards placing my finger again on Veneration, he resumed the devotional song; I interrupted him by saying, 'No, no; finish the other.' '*What other?*' 'Why the comic song which you were just singing.' '*I've been singing no comic song.*' 'Yes, you have—Jim Crow.' '*That I am certain I have not.*'

"From this and some more extraordinary exhibitions of the same nature in others of my patients, it would appear that

each cerebral organ is or has its own storehouse of memory. I feel assured, however, that I am only troubling you with the recital of mesmeric phenomena with which you have been long acquainted ; but as I have not read anything bearing on this point, I just mention it.

"If I could give you anything new, it would afford me very great pleasure. There are very few I know who take greater interest in these wonderful phenomena than they would in an exhibition of dancing puppies.

"Your most obedient servant,

"SAMUEL SELFE.

"John Elliotson, Esq., M.D."

The origin of the case was found to be this. A number of children, the eldest not above thirteen years of age, were assembled on the evening of January 17th, 1845, for merry-making. A conversation took place upon mesmerism and phrenology, and it ended in a proposal to mesmerise one of them. Accordingly the boy in question took a seat upon the sofa, while another made passes before him, and they both stared at each other, in the midst of a good deal of laughing and other noise in the room. He fell, it would appear, into sleep-waking, though his eyes were open, and was led from the noisy party to the landing-place. There the passes were continued, as the other boy did not know the effect had come. But that it had come, appears from the patient never having had the least recollection of anything which took place after he sat on the sofa and was stared at and manipulated. After the passes had been made on the landing-place for ten minutes, the operator closed his eyes, and so they remained for a few minutes, till the house-bell rang, when they opened and he said that he was not more sleepy than before mesmerism was begun. They then returned into the room ; he seated himself again upon the sofa, and, the operator's hand being laid upon his head, his eyes gradually closed and he went to sleep.

"His brothers and sisters began tickling him, as they said he was shamming and that it would be sure to make him laugh as he was very ticklish. But, instead of their making him laugh, he only slightly endeavoured to get away from them. He lay quietly on the sofa for about a quarter of an hour, during which time his mesmeriser conversed with him and excited Self-esteem, when he began to rub his eyes and declared he would do it as they pained him very much. His operator then endeavoured to awake him by blowing in his eyes and making a current of air before his face with his

handkerchief, when he opened his eyes and stood up apparently angry with his operator for touching him. They then threw cold water in his face to wake him. But this only exasperated him the more, and he armed himself with the poker, and endeavoured to strike with it, but did not, as his operator held him fast for a minute until there was a chance of escaping; and, when no longer held, he was quite frantic, marching up and down the room for about two hours, occasionally sitting or standing still."

The mischief here arose from measures being taken to waken him while Pride was in a high state of excitement: every attempt was a liberty taken with him and enraged him. He should have been let alone for the artificial excitement to subside; or the organs of Self-esteem demesmerised by breathing or transverse passes over them; or the opposing organs of Benevolence, Attachment, or Veneration excited; or both latter measures have been employed.

The proper administration of mesmerism restored the boy to good health, though nearly half the wise people of the place declared that he would die, and an equal number predicted that he must be an inmate in a lunatic asylum for life. It is wonderful that they do not declare he is at present in a lunatic asylum, as so many medical men to this day, in pure invention, assure their patients who ask their opinion of mesmerism that the Okeys are.

The family surgeon once gave a little aperient medicine and put a few leeches behind the ears; but honorably declared that the medicine did no good whatever, and that the leeches were more injurious than otherwise, since they caused great annoyance and angry excitement.

2. The following is a more recent case:—

"Plymouth.

"August 9th, 1846.

"My dear Sir,—I think you will be interested in the following particulars of a case which has excited considerable interest in this town, and which in its earlier stages brought no little odium upon mesmerism. If you should think it worthy of publication in *The Zoist*, it is quite at your service.

"I am, my dear Sir, with much respect,

"Yours very faithfully,

"EDMUND FAY.

"To Dr. Elliotson."

"A Christmas party had assembled in the winter of 1844, at the house of Mr. Wootton, residing in Woolster Street, Plymouth; and after tea the subject of mesmerism (which was at that time exciting great attention in the town) was introduced, and it was proposed that some young ladies of the party should, if possible, be placed under the influence. This was strongly objected to by the lady of the house, who had never seen any experiments tried, but who had a great dread of it from newspaper reports which she had read. However, during her temporary absence from the room, the master of a vessel from Scotland, who was present, induced two of her daughters to allow him to try to mesmerise them. He knew how to make the passes, but neither he nor any person present had had any practical experience in the matter. He succeeded however in inducing the mesmeric sleep, from which the elder sister was speedily awakened; but the younger, Miss Mary Wootton, aged about 18 years, having passed more deeply under the influence, exhibited some of the usual phenomena, such as community of taste, the phrenological developments, &c. The company were highly diverted for a while. But, when the mesmeriser wished to dispel the influence, he found himself baffled; and, not succeeding immediately in his object, he became alarmed and excited. This produced corresponding excitement in his subject; and, as his presence of mind became entirely destroyed, the poor girl's situation became more and more alarming, until convulsive action ensued and the mesmeriser was totally at a loss what measures to adopt. He very unwisely allowed other persons to interfere, and handle his patient; and she was at length carried to bed in a most critical condition. She became gradually more composed, and after several hours fell into a lethargic state, in which she remained until the next day; and when she woke, a kind of stupor appeared to have settled upon her, which she could not shake off, and which in a few days began seriously to affect her general health and spirits. From being a remarkably healthy, active, and cheerful girl, she became moody, listless and indisposed for any exertion: her appetite failed, and her sleep was much disturbed. Her system became more and more disordered, until, at the end of a few weeks, she became subject to fits of a very violent and distressing character. It should be remarked, that neither she nor any member of the family, either on her father's or mother's side, had been subject to fits of any description. She was now placed under the care of a physician, who prescribed various remedies for her, but without avail. The fits continued with occasional short intervals of repose for eighteen

months, and during the attacks it required several men to hold her. Her screams were alarming to the whole neighbourhood, and she would destroy everything that came within her reach. Some friends suggested to her parents that the case should be mentioned to an experienced mesmerist, and his advice taken as to the possibility of mesmerism being beneficially employed for her restoration. This was mentioned to the physician, *who at once put a negative upon it*, saying, that he thought mesmerism had done mischief enough already, and that *unless they wished to destroy her life at once*, they must *never allow her to be mesmerised again*. Acting on this advice, the poor girl was allowed to drag on a miserable existence for *eighteen* months, at the end of which period the fits had increased in frequency and violence, and her friends had begun to despair of her recovery ; when, as a last resource, they resolved to take the opinion of some one well acquainted with mesmerism, and in the month of May, 1846, they consulted Mr. E. Fry, residing in Plymouth, who immediately expressed his conviction that mesmerism might be employed most beneficially, and that no other remedy was likely to reach the peculiar exigencies of the case. She had had three very bad fits during the week preceding Mr. Fry's first visit ; and on Sunday, the 24th of May, he mesmerised her for the first time. She did not pass into the deep mesmeric sleep, but described certain sensations which showed that a beneficial effect had been produced. She slept well, and passed a quiet and comfortable week. She was not mesmerised again till the following Sunday evening, when the same effects were produced, and the same results followed. She was mesmerised every Sunday evening for *five* consecutive weeks, during which period she had no fit, and her general health began steadily to improve : sleep regular and sound, and appetite good. On the sixth Sunday, Mr. Fry saw his patient, but did not mesmerise her. She did not sleep well that night, and felt restless for a day or two, but had no fit. On the seventh Sunday she was mesmerised as usual, and continued steadily to improve. On the eighth Sunday, Mr. Fry did not call to see her ; she expected him as usual, and missed her accustomed *séance* very much ; had no sleep throughout the night, and was very uneasy the next morning. In the course of the Monday, some circumstance in the family occurred to excite her, and a fit was the result. She was not well throughout the week ; but, after being mesmerised again the following Sunday, she speedily regained her lost ground, and up to the present time has had no further symptom of a fit. Her health continues to improve. She has

regained her former cheerfulness and activity, and both herself and her friends consider her distressing malady now completely removed. They attribute her recovery entirely to the proper application of mesmerism, and only regret that the *prejudice of a MEDICAL PRACTITIONER should have prevented their deriving this benefit at a much earlier stage of the case.*

"This case should be a warning of the danger of ignorant and inexperienced persons trifling with such a powerful agent as mesmerism. It should never be treated as a matter of fun. It is no subject for the mere idle amusement of a party; but should be confined to those whose experience enables them properly to apply its powers, and to explain its phenomena."

Here again was the usual medical game:—Injury to mesmerism by any means. The medical practitioner knew nothing of mesmerism, and yet was conscientious enough to give an opinion; and he humanely preferred persevering in his useless, perhaps injurious measures, to allowing the poor young lady the benefits of mesmerism. A common trick, when mesmerism is proposed to medical men for any obstinate case in which their physic has been fruitless, is to say that it is a very dangerous thing, and, that though no ill effects may appear at first, they may come in after life:—a mere invention, and, were this the fact, they have had no opportunity yet of ascertaining it. When vaccination was first recommended, medical men asserted that the most dreadful diseases would follow its employment, if not at once, at a distant period. Within these few months a surgeon in Oxfordshire told the mother of a patient of mine who was permanently cured of fits some years ago by mesmerism, that the Okeys were then confined in a lunatic asylum through having been mesmerised. A physician lately reported that a highly respectable patient, who was greatly afflicted, but was at length successfully mesmerised by two gentlemen, was kept by them. They traced the report to him, and he denied it: I remember a medical student who reported for the *Lancet* at a London hospital, and is now a very money-getting pure surgeon, wrote a report offensive to the surgical staff, who taxed him with it; when asked by some friends some time afterwards how he got off, he laughed and replied, "Oh by telling a good lie to be sure: there was no other way."

The same villany was faintly attempted in reference to the sister Okeys and myself. But bad medical men know my spirit too well to venture far against me, and the world knows that I have always regarded mesmerism as a most holy and sacred thing, and declared that, if high morality is de-

manded in every medical practitioner, the very highest, even to the purity of brothers and sisters, is demanded in every mesmeriser, and have endeavoured to impress upon all persons that the mesmeriser's occupation is the exercise of benevolence and that he is in the holiest trust.

The late Dr. Johnson spoke of females who were mesmerised as "flatulent, hysterical, impudent *baggages*,"^a and of those who believed in the reality of the cures of the virtuous Okeys as persons who "will believe that any confident *strumpet* may get permission from heaven to exhibit for half-a-crown a head vision with her fingers or toes."^b A few years afterwards the two sisters might read in the newspapers what would have been ample satisfaction to the most revengeful feelings, though I trust they felt none, but sincerely grieved for his parental anguish.

3. A third case of mischief from persons ignorant of mesmerism playing with it has just come to my knowledge. I advised mesmerism in the case of a young lady. The medical attendant has a superior head, and was willing to mesmerise her. He did so most diligently, and induced sleep-waking, mesmeric attachment to the mesmeriser and dread of others, various other phenomena, and among them the common form of clairvoyance in which patients foresee the course of their disease and direct the treatment. She was greatly improved; when an hospital physician, who had in vain attended her, wished to see her in her mesmeric state. She was very properly consulted; but shrunk from the interview and said it would do her harm. However, the physician went to the house, and with an assistant-physician and an assistant-surgeon of his hospital, both strangers to her. The operator was urged by the father to entreat her to see the parties. She at length brought herself to consent to see the physician, but declared that if he took the two others with him, the effect would be serious,—that all the ground gained in the treatment of her disease would be lost, that her state would be frightful, and her operator would lose all power over her for a length of time. In spite of all this, in the pride and obstinacy of ignorance, the physician insisted upon going to her with his friends, and, not contented with this, took with him a magnet to make some of Reichenbach's experiments upon her, laughing no doubt at the idea of a magnet terrifying or producing any strong effects upon a person in so

^a *Med. Chir. Review*, Oct. 1838, p. 635.

^b p. 96.

unreal and fanciful a state as the mesmeric. So in he marched with his magnet and two friends. The effect was, as all mesmerists can well conceive, terrible. She became frantic, has been frantic, absolutely maniacal, every day since, and not only violent and dangerous, but agonized; and, though weeks have now passed, there is no improvement, and the kind, good, persevering mesmeriser has not yet gained any power over her. No doubt he will recover his influence: but the affair is most lamentable, and, though the physician is very sorry, he seems, in his ignorance of the whole subject, to have sagacious doubts as to the real nature of the case.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

X. *Benefit of Mesmerism during and after Labour.* By
MR. CHANDLER, DR. ESDAILE, and MR. PARKER.

Mrs. PAYNE (late Holdsworth, *Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 189.) æt. 39, pregnant with her seventh child, having for a long time been very susceptible of mesmerism, I determined, with her consent, to attempt delivery during the mesmeric coma, or rather in the state of sleep-waking. She has *always* had most protracted labours, and was lingering for many days with her last child.

Aug. 4th, 1846. I was called to attend her at half-past 1 a.m. I found the pains quick, and rather severe, but not of a bearing character. After remaining with her a few minutes, she was placed on the bed, and I mesmerised her, as usual, with two slow passes. The *spasmodic action went on as before*, but she *ceased complaining*; and, on asking her if she felt pain, she said (answering my whisper as usual) *no*; but complained of the heat (the weather being very hot) and thirst. After an hour and a half I awoke her, to allow her to change her position and take some drink;—when she immediately began to complain of pain.—I put her to sleep again, and, finding that labour was not advancing, left her for two hours; at the end of which time, as the pains had nearly ceased, I awoke her to relieve her from her cramped position, and left her awake, finding the labour was likely to be very lingering.

She continued much in the same state, with occasional slight pains, until the following Thursday, Aug. 6th, when I was summoned, at 10 a.m. Finding her in tolerably active labour, I placed her on the bed and mesmerised her; the action continued very strong, and labour advanced slowly until 1, when there was again an almost entire cessation; so that I deemed it advisable to awake her, fearing it would be yet

many hours. During the time the labour continued, the bearing down was very heavy, and the patient appeared to be suffering the usual labour pains; but she continued to declare, in answer to my inquiries, that *she felt no pain*. This was just what I expected. I had indeed expressed an opinion to several persons, who doubted whether labour would go on,—that she would appear to be bearing her labour very patiently. She constantly complained of heat and thirst, and said once or twice she felt ill, but could not tell what was the matter. At half-past 6, I was again sent for, and, on my arrival, found her in strong labour. I immediately placed her under the mesmeric influence. Labour appeared still to advance, but slowly; and at half-past 7, the distended vesica appearing to prevent the descent of the head, I drew off the fluid, and the labour terminated very favourably both to mother and child at five minutes before 8, *without the former being in the slightest degree conscious of the birth of the child*. I left her in the mesmeric sleep an hour and a half, and then awoke her to be got comfortably into bed, and had great difficulty in persuading her that she was delivered: indeed, several times during the night she awoke (from her natural sleep) with slight after-pains, and expressed to her nurse a wish that it might soon be over, quite forgetting, for the time, that the child was born, and imagining the pains were those of labour. I did not leave her mesmerised during the night, as the after-pains were not severe, and she expressed a wish to have the power of moving. Though in her former labours always a severe sufferer from after-pains, she remained tolerably free from them on this occasion until 28 hours after delivery, when they came on with great severity; so much so, that I was sent for at half-past 12 at night, and found her *complaining very loudly*. I immediately mesmerised her, and, *her complaints ceased*,^a though the appearance of pains continued, but became gradually weaker and less frequent. On awaking her, about an hour after, she still complained; and, as there was much tenderness of the abdomen, I thought it advisable to give her 25 drops of laudanum. I then mesmerised her again, and left her in the sleep seven hours; at the end of which time I awoke her quite easy and refreshed. During the sleep, she several times conversed with her attendant, apparently knowing she was mesmerised—(as she always has done in her sleep-waking state), and telling her to get some gruel ready against my waking her: she also sang

^a Would the Medical and Chirurgical Society have said that she was indifferent to pain, or had strong resolution not to show it, and was an impostor?—*Zeist*.

several times, and appeared much excited. This was of course to be attributed to the laudanum, which I might as well have omitted, as she had afterwards no recollection of suffering pain more than a few minutes, and this was evidently before I arrived and mesmerised her. The time from half-past 12 to half-past 7 was quite lost to her.

A medical friend who was present during a part of the time, and who saw the patient to all appearance suffering the usual pangs of labour, observed that the tooth-drawing during the mesmeric sleep was, to his mind, more conclusive than what he saw, because the patients did not show any signs of pain whilst having their teeth extracted, and the woman showed all the usual external signs of labour; and he consequently contended that we had only the woman's own word to prove that she felt no pain.ⁱ Permit me to point out to many who may reason in the same way, that the cases are not parallel.

The tooth is extracted by a second person, and does not require any muscular effort of the patient to get rid of it; whereas the expulsion of a child from the uterus is not accomplished without immense muscular action of the whole body, which action is however perfectly involuntary, and the woman has in her ordinary state, little or no control over it; indeed no more than she has over the muscles engaged in respiration; and, as respiration always goes on during mesmeric sleep, I reasoned that labour would do the same. I was right in my conjecture; if it had not been so the case must have been a failure.^h

My patient, though not able to write or read, was quite a philosopher, she complained of heat and thirst just as she ought to have done, (for mesmerised persons are always very sensitive to heat and cold), but felt nothing of the pain. If she had been an impostor, she would most certainly have borne the heat and thirst with the same fortitude as the pain. This very circumstance is sufficient proof to a candid mind of the genuineness of the case.

Had I known that the labour would have been so pro-

ⁱ As Dr. Esdaile cuttingly says (*Zoist*, vol. iii., p. 35), *she knew best.*—*Zoist*.

^h Mr. Chandler is an example not only of undaunted perseverance with mesmerism, and of honor, but of intelligence and soundness. His view is perfectly correct. Those who make an incessant din about what Boyle pointed out in 1663, Whytt a century ago, and Prochaska 62 years ago, called the reflexion of sensory impression into motor,—terms now varied into *reflex motor* function, never once think of this when it occurs in mesmerised persons, as Dr. Elliotson has already said (p. 313), but ascribe it all to sensation and volition. Yet old writers mention that, if the legs of kittens were made insensible by cutting off the head or dividing the spine, and a wounding instrument or hot iron was applied to the toes, the legs moved away.—See Dr. Elliotson's Pamphlet, p. 23.—*Zoist*.

tracted, I should have considered it an unfavourable case for the experiment I contemplated, it being out of the question that a patient should be kept mesmerised for several days in succession ;¹ as it happened, however, it operated advantageously, for the alternations of the ordinary and mesmeric states brought out the absence of pain in the latter in strong relief.

I descend to these explanations for the benefit of those who have had less opportunity of witnessing mesmeric phenomena. For myself I unhesitatingly declare my conviction, that the case from first to last was perfectly genuine, and I regret to add that an obstetric physician of eminence, who had expressed a desire to be present, was prevented by illness from attending.

Sept. 3rd. Both mother and child have gone on remarkably well up to the present time.

THOMAS CHANDLER.

58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe.

Among the extracts sent us by Dr. Elliotson from the India paper of May 29, is the recital of great benefit from mesmerism, not indeed in parturition but in the after-pains; and we omitted it in the list of medical cases at p. 380, as it must strike so much more forcibly in connection with Mr. Chandler's case, and one sent us by Dr. Elliotson from Mr. Parker of Exeter.—*Zeist*.

"May 15th, 1846. The lady," whose case is mentioned at p. 39, "was delivered at 10 o'clock to-day; I saw her at 11 o'clock, and she was suffering from sharp *after-pains*. I said, that as I could extinguish her other pains, I should probably be able to subdue this. She was very glad of the proposal, and I began to mesmerise her. For a quarter of an hour, the contortions of her countenance, and frequent change of position, showed the continuance and acuteness of her sufferings. In about twenty minutes, she became quite tranquil, and I pricked her nose repeatedly with a pin, without her feeling it, and left her sleeping. As I was passing that way in about three quarters of an hour, I looked in to see her, and was told that she still slept. I went to see her, and on touching her, she opened her eyes, and said that she had awoke of her own accord, and had had a comfortable sleep. I pointed at her eyes for a minute or two, and she again slept profoundly. In about an hour after, she awoke spontaneously, *perfectly free from pain*, and had no recollection of my second visit.

¹ We have known this done with great advantage in disease.—*Zeist*.

After much questioning, she said that she only remembered my having called in the morning and asked how she and the baby were.

"May 16th. She has had no return of pain, and feels much refreshed and stronger: her husband remarked, as I did, that she looked better than before her delivery. These are the *only* times that this lady has been mesmerised, and this power seems to be sufficient to guard her against most of the ills that flesh is heir to. Would that we are all equally subject to it! But we may hope to discover more effectual means of affecting mankind in the mass.

"JAMES ESDAILE."

The following is Mr. Parker's case:—

My dear Sir,—As you have expressed a wish to have an account of the case where the after-pains were relieved by mesmerism, I will now give it to you, but I had wished to have furnished you with more cases.

June 30th, 1846, Mrs. T. was delivered of her seventh child; her labours have been always very difficult from her being very short, and having great obliquity of the uterus forwards. She had very strong labour pains, with very short intermissions, during eight hours. The placenta was delivered by natural efforts half an hour after the child was born. There was so much tenderness of the uterus, that immediately after the delivery I gave her a quarter of a grain of morphine, to be repeated in an hour if necessary; and as the second dose did not relieve her, I was sent for, within two hours of the delivery, for the pains were insupportable; there was a natural quantity of fluid blood, but no coagula, and the uterus firmly contracted.

I then gave directions for long mesmeric passes to be made from the epigastrium to the knees, and in the course of the spine to the hips. The effect of it was very remarkable. *Within half an hour, the pains had quite ceased*, and on their threatened return, a repetition of the mesmeric passes *completely checked* them: and from that moment, there was no more uneasiness, and her convalescence was as rapid as under the most favorable labour.

Believe me,

My dear Sir,

Your's faithfully,

JOHN B. PARKER.

Dr. Elliotson.

Exeter, Aug. 29th, 1846.

XI. *A case of Spontaneous Clairvoyance.*

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—The accompanying curious narrative (quoted from *Chambers's Journal*, Vol. IV., N.S.) is one of those interesting cases which occur from time to time of the spontaneous development during the natural state of a power, analogous in character to one we see manifested during the mesmeric trance, and with regard to the existence, or, even possibility of which the greatest scepticism has been manifested, and certainly rivalling in marvellousness any of the analogous feats recorded of somnambulists.

It is, I think, deserving of a place in your journal, both from the extraordinary character of the facts detailed, and the circumstance that it comes before the public guaranteed by the name of an individual whose high moral character and unimpeachable veracity are matters of European notoriety.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

T. S. PRIDEAUX.

"We must not conclude our notice of this most interesting of autobiographies without affording an account of a remarkable faculty Zachokke possesses, and which he calls his 'inward sight.' 'I am,' he remarks, 'almost afraid to speak of this, not because I am afraid to be thought superstitious, but that I may thereby strengthen such feelings in others. And yet it may be an addition to our stock of soul-experiences, and therefore I will confess.'

"It has happened to me sometimes on my first meeting with strangers, as I listened silently to their discourse, that their former life, with many trifling circumstances therewith connected, or frequently some particular scene in that life, has passed quite involuntarily, and as it were dream-like, yet perfectly distinct, before me.

"During this time I usually feel so entirely absorbed in the contemplation of the stranger life, that at last I no longer see clearly the face of the unknown, wherein I undesignedly read, nor distinctly hear the voices of the speakers, which before served in some measure as a commentary to the text of their features. For a long time I held such visions as delusions of the fancy, and the more so as they showed me even the dress and motions of the actors, rooms, furniture, and other accessories. By the way of jest, I once, in a familiar circle at Kirchberg, related the secret history of a sempstress, who had just left the room and the house. I had never seen her before in my life; people were astonished, and laughed, but were not to be persuaded that I did not previously know the relations of which I spoke; for what I had uttered was the literal truth.

"I on my part was no less astonished that my dream-pictures were confirmed by the reality. I became more attentive to the subject, and, when propriety admitted it, I would relate to those whose life thus passed before me the subject of my visions, that I might thereby obtain confirmation or refutation of it. It was invariably ratified, not without consternation on their part."^m I myself had less confidence than any one in this mental juggling. So often as I revealed my visionary gifts to any new person, I regularly expected to hear the answer—"It was not so."

"I felt a secret shudder when my auditors replied that it was true, or when their astonishment betrayed my accuracy before they spoke. Instead of many, I will mention one example, which pre-eminently astounded me. One fair day, in the city of Waldshut, I entered an inn (the Vine) in company with two young student-foresters; we were tired with rambling through the woods. We supped with a numerous society at the table-d'hôte, where the guests were making very merry with the peculiarities and eccentricities of the Swiss, with Mesmer's Magnetism, Lavater's Physiognomy, &c., &c. One of my companions, whose national pride was wounded by their mockery, begged me to make some reply, particularly to a handsome young man who sat opposite us, and who had allowed himself extraordinary license.

"This man's former life was at that moment presented to my mind. I turned to him, and asked whether he would answer me candidly if I related to him some of the most secret passages of his life, I knowing as little of him personally as he did of me? That would be going a little further, I thought, than Lavater did with his Physiognomy. He promised, if I were correct in my information, to admit it frankly. I then related what my vision had shown me, and the whole company were made acquainted with the private history of the young merchant: his school years, his youthful errors, and lastly, with a fault committed in reference to the strong-box of his principal. I described to him the uninhabited room with whitened walls, where, to the right of the brown door, on a table, stood a black money-box, &c., &c. A dead silence prevailed during the whole narration, which I alone occasionally interrupted, by enquiring whether I spoke the truth. The startled young man confirmed every particular, and even, what I had scarcely expected, the last-mentioned.

"Touched by his candour, I shook hands with him over the table, and said no more. He asked my name, which I gave him, and we remained together talking till past midnight. He is probably still living!

"Any explanation of this phenomenon, by means of the known laws of the human mind, would, in the present confined state of

^m "What demon inspires you? Must I again believe in possession?" exclaimed the spiritual Johann von Riga, when, in the first hour of our acquaintance, I related his past life to him with the avowed object of learning whether or no I deceived myself. We speculated long on the enigma, but even his penetration could not solve it."

our knowledge, assuredly fail. We therefore simply give the extraordinary fact as we find it, in the words of the narrator, leaving the puzzle to be speculated on by our readers. Zschokke adds, that he had met with others who possessed a similar power.

"In gentle alteration of light and shade, years rolled over the head of the good philosopher. He wrote copiously, and his works have enjoyed a degree of popularity few authors can boast of. He was, moreover, intrusted with many civil offices by the Swiss government, only one of which he consented to be paid for, and that yielded scarcely £50 per annum.

"Heinrich Zschokke still lives amidst the beautiful lawns and groves of Blumenhalde, the living representative of a sound, benevolent, practical philosophy. No one can read his autobiography without being a wiser, perhaps a better man. The lessons of wisdom which he inculcates win their way to the mind, because they are not formally or dictatorially conveyed, but are put forth with a playful kindness, and a graceful ease, which are more impressive than the haughty solemnity of less sympathizing moralists."

Dr. Elliotson gave us notice some time ago of a paper which he is preparing on appearances of distant persons, knowledge of past events, of present events at a distance, and of future events, not explicable by our received notions, &c., &c., and begs us to say how obliged he will feel for authentic accounts of such phenomena.—*Zoist*.

XII. *Still more Mesmeric News from India, and Surgical Operations.* Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

"Where is this celebrated science? What has become of 'NICKEL!' Echo answers—'NIBEL!' In the whole history of human delusion there is hardly a parallel to the rapid rise, and still more rapid fall of animal magnetism in this country! It is as dead as Perikles or the ravings of Johnnie Southcot! Is it now a wandering, disembodied spirit—viewless as the air, and silent as the grave! . . . The brief career and tragic tale of animal magnetism may exercise a beneficial influence on our profession, which, alas! has proved itself—at least a portion of it—to be credulous as the ignorant African or the benighted Hindoo! Half a century hence, when the periodicals of this time are pored over by some book-worm of that day, the investigator will rub his eyes and wipe his spectacles, on turning to the pages of the *Lancet* and *Gazette* for 1838. He will scarcely believe that men, whose names, too, may go down the stream of time, with credit and honour, in other respects, should have been so infatuated as to give a moment's credence to such outrageous ravings as those of animal magnetism. . . . But he will learn with satisfaction, that an OVERWHELMING MAJORITY OF THE PROFESSION SET THEIR FACES AGAINST THE INFOTURN AND SCOUTED THE CREDULITY OF THEIR DELUDED BROTHEREN. The lesson has been placed on record, that such delusions cannot be participated in, or even countenanced with impunity. It is quite unnecessary to advert to the disastrous consequences which have followed in the train of this momentary mania! They will serve as a beacon to prevent the shipwreck of others."—Dr. JAMES JOHNSON, in his *Medico-Chirurgical Review*, April, 1839. p. 630.

I HAVE received more letters and newspapers from India.

"Calcutta, July 4, 1846.

"My dear Dr. Elliotson,—My conscience has long been

a Dr. Johnson probably alludes to my practice being reduced to one-third of its former amount by Mr. Wakley's announcement that mesmerism was a complete imposture and extinguished by him for ever. The coroner, however, has to sit upon it again and again: he records verdicts in vain; it perversely will not be murdered long together. After declaring again and again that he has done for it, and done with it, for ever, in his *Lancet*, up it comes again and again, and he again and again throws the self-same rubbish at it with which he fatally knocked it down in 1838: he has "thrice to slay the slain," and still it lives and mocks him more impudently than ever.

upbraiding me for not having written to report to you the great progress which mesmerism has recently been making in this distant neighbourhood ; but in truth I am so oppressed by public duties, as to have been compelled to abandon all private correspondence for the last two years. I recently, however, had an opportunity of visiting Hooghly, and witnessing some of Dr. Esdaile's operations, which I cannot refrain from mentioning to you, as they *completely convinced me of their perfect freedom from pain or suffering of any kind to the patients* who were the subjects of them. I wrote Dr. Esdaile a brief note, which he published in the newspapers here, and of which I send you a copy by the present mail. The surgical details of the cases he will himself publish. The tumor removed, together with the diseased testes, must have weighed at least 50 lbs.: the cancer of the colic was a dreadful looking mass of disease : and the paring of the ulcerated heel, about as painful an application of the knife as could be resorted to : yet, in each and all, there was *entire absence of every—even the slightest—indication* of physical suffering. I not only *satisfied myself* of this, but *carefully watched every movement of the patients, to discover the faintest ray of feeling, but without success.* Dr. Esdaile has, as you are aware, now performed more than one hundred mesmeric operations ; and so great is his success, as well as the confidence which the natives far and wide have in his skill, humanity, and the painless nature of his cures, that *scarcely a case of elephantiasis of the scrotum is now to be met with in a Calcutta hospital.* *People of all classes, and with every species of ailments are resorting to him, and in most instances with benefit to themselves.* He is one of the most able, well-read, and proficient members of the Bengal Medical Service, and I am quite sure, his successful pursuit of the subject, for which you have sacrificed so much, will be a great and true source of delight to you.

"With every sincere wish for your health and happiness, believe me,

"Ever your's most truly, ..

"FREDERICK J. MOUNT.

"J. Elliotson, Esq. M.D., &c. &c. &c."

Dr. Mount is one of the medical professors at Calcutta, and the following is his public letter, accompanied by one from a clergyman. A friend of mine saw a letter from the

o Mr. Ristoul's observations at pp. 299, 300, now appear to striking advantage. Patients going to Hooghly in preference to the great hospitals of Calcutta !

Bishop of Calcutta, describing a painless terrific operation which he witnessed. Dr. Mouat saw all my mesmeric phenomena and cures at University College Hospital: and had too much sense not to believe, and too much virtue to conceal his belief.

Englishman, June 10, 1846.

"My dear Dr. Esdaile,—I consider myself much indebted to you, for the kind manner in which you permitted me to witness your operations on Monday last, upon five patients, who had been subjected to the mesmeric influence, before being submitted to the knife. It would be needless for me to enter into any detail of cases, which I doubt not will be more accurately and minutely recorded by yourself; at the same time, I deem it to be only fair and just towards you, to state *my complete conviction*, that the operations in question were *unattended with any physical suffering* to the individuals who were the subjects of them.

"Two of the patients did not appear to be in a perfect state of mesmeric coma, and yet, even in these cases, beyond a tremulous movement of the upper eye-lids, and spasmodic action of the muscles of the face and neck, with a low moaning, all of which may and did exist without the occurrence of pain or sensibility, the men positively declared their entire freedom from suffering of any kind.

"I examined the state of the *pulse* in the individual from whom you removed the scrotal tumor, both during and immediately after the operation, and found it to be soft, full, and *free from any of the agitation, or other effects, usually attendant upon surgical operations.*

"*The complete freedom of the countenances of three of the men from distress, anxiety, and suffering*, both during the mesmeric state and immediately on waking, was *particularly striking*, and attracted the attention of most of those who were present.

"I shall not fail to relate the results of my visit to my friend and former Professor, Dr. Elliotson, who will, I am sure, derive the liveliest satisfaction from your successful and humane exertions in the alleviation of human suffering.

"I remain, my dear Dr. Esdaile,

"Yours very sincerely,

"FRED. J. MOUAT.

"Medical College, Calcutta,

"June 3rd, 1846."

"Being accidentally at Chinsurah, owing to the dangerous

illness of a near relative, and having obtained Dr. Esdaile's kind permission, I proceeded on Monday morning last to the Hooghly Emambarrah Hospital, where I had been informed several surgical operations would be performed on patients thrown artificially into magnetic or mesmeric sleep.

"On my arrival at the Hospital, I was shewn a native woman whose left leg had, two days before, been amputated, while she was in a mesmeric trance, and found her not only quite easy, but absolutely lively. The Bengalee language being familiar to me, I spent 10 minutes in conversation with this woman, during which she told me that when her leg was taken off, she did not feel the least sensation of pain; indeed, that even on her waking, she was not aware that the operation had been performed, and could only believe it when she had ocular demonstration of it. She moreover added, that since the operation, she had experienced no unpleasant feeling, except a slight heat or burning at the end of the stump. I was quite satisfied that she spoke the truth,^p when I perceived that the only concern she seemed to have, was to know how she would manage to move about, when permitted to leave her bed; and she felt not a little comforted, when I told her that no doubt she would be supplied with crutches, which would render locomotion practicable and easy.

"At 11½, the operations for the day commenced. These were five in number, and several evidently of the most dangerous description. I must say, that in my opinion, three of these at least could under ordinary circumstances not have taken place without violent struggles, shrieks, and other expressions of deep anguish being elicited from the patients; and yet all five, during the operations, remained perfectly calm and passive, and apparently in the soundest sleep—no movement of their body being perceptible, with the exception of the usual heaving of the chest when breathing. One only was occasionally slightly groaning, though, as will appear in the sequel, unconsciously to himself. A medical gentleman present, whom I requested to feel the *pulse* of the patients, declared it was *natural*, and indicating *no excitement whatever*, Their *features*, all the time, were *composed* as in natural

p How different the treatment experienced by this poor woman at the hands of the clergyman, Dr. Monat, and the other gentlemen, from that of the poor Nottinghamshire man at the hands of the assembled members of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London, who without hesitation or reserve denounced him as a well-trained impostor, and scorned to have the invaluable fact recorded in their minutes. The Society stained itself for ever, like University College: no time will ever erase the blot. Mr. Wakley's day of victorious insult to the innocent and afflicted on the one hand, and to the humble observer of nature on the other, is past.

sleep, without exhibiting any contractions of the muscles, or any other external sign of suffering.

"After the five operations had been successively ended, and the patients had recovered their consciousness, I went to the bedside of each of them with a number of the gentlemen present, and asked all separately whether they had felt any pain during the operation. *Every one for himself, and without having heard what the others had said*, replied, he had experienced no pain whatever, and, indeed, had no idea till after waking that anything extraordinary had been done to him. I further enquired of them whether they then felt any pain: two answered they felt none at all, and the others said they had merely a sensation of unusual heat about the parts operated upon. I then put the question to the individual who had occasionally groaned during the operation, as to why he had done so? He replied, that he was not at all aware of having groaned, and that all he knew was that he had just awoke from a sound sleep.

"My decided opinion, from the expressions of the patients, which were uttered in the most artless and unambiguous manner possible, was, that they had not experienced the slightest pain or pang while the operations were being performed, and, afterwards, that the burning sensation which two of them complained of, was evidently so trifling as barely to deserve the name of pain. *My own eyes*,^q moreover, convinced me that they had not in the least moved or shrunk during the painful operations, and that, subsequently, they were calm, collected, and even cheerful, to a degree I would have thought impossible in any persons placed in the same circumstances. The above are simple, unvarnished facts, from which the reader of this statement may draw his own conclusions.

"Not being a medical man, I feel incompetent to describe the operations that were undertaken, nor do I deem it necessary to give here an opinion on the subject of mesmerism in general. Suffice it to say, that after witnessing what I did, I do consider mesmerism as a valuable gift of God's Providence,^r which, when seasonably used, may prove the means

^q What a strange fancy of the reverend gentleman to believe his own eyes, when Dr. Johnson declared in the Medical Society that he would not have believed the facts of the Nottinghamshire amputation had he witnessed them, (see my Pamphlet, p. 19,) and so have many other medical persons.

^r Here again it is impossible not to think of Dr. Copland and of Mr. Rintoul, who differ so widely from this divine. I have just seen a letter from a worthy surgeon, who also differs as widely from him. After reading *The Zoist* he begins by saying, that "the cases in it are only such as are occasionally presented to the cognizance of an enlightened physician in extensive practice." But, 1. the medical profession deny most of such facts, even independent of mesmerism, as are related in *The Zoist*: and, 2.

of alleviating much human suffering and misery, and which, therefore, ought to be thankfully received and acknowledged. At the same time, I cannot but express my deep conviction, gathered from what I saw, that mesmerism, in order to be rendered really beneficial and safe from abuse, should on no account be practised by any but *medical men*: and even by them, *for medical purposes only*.

"A. F. LACROIX.

"Missionary of the London Missionary Society.

"Chinsurah, Thursday, June 4th, 1846."

The next public letter was written by Dr. Webb, another Professor in the Medical College of Calcutta.

"To the Editor of the Bengal Hurkaru.

"June 4th, 1846.

"SIR,—There is now no *Medical Journal* at this presidency, I will therefore trouble you to publish this narrative. It must interest all men—for all are liable to suffer. But although I give you my name, unless you think it requires such confirmation, I would rather you omitted it.

"I heard from an ex-student of the Medical College that Dr. Esdaile was about to perform some operations in surgery during the mesmeric trance. I set off, thinking that *no medical man is justified in neglecting any opportunities that may advance his knowledge in medical science, and of the best method of relieving human suffering*. I found on arrival at the famed Imambarra Hospital, *the compound was full of carriages*—and that I was not the only disciple of Esculapius who thought it worth while to go fifty miles in search of truth. One of the Presidency Surgeons, Dr. Chalmers; the Secretary to the

enlightened physicians cannot strictly be said to see such facts, because the facts related are related as the effects of certain processes which they never condescend to perform, or if they see performed deny to produce any such effects. He concludes, "How far is it compatible with the gift of healing described in Scripture. In my judgment it trenches upon Atheism and robs God of his glory; and therefore it is a science I am not anxious to dive into." This jumble of thoughts is too hard for me. But it is remarkable how many persons who pass most admirably in society prove to have only a jumble of thoughts if you push them closely.

• How different from Sir B. Brodie, Dr. Chambers, and so many other doctors and surgeons of all grades of importance in Great Britain and Ireland, who have declared over and over again that they would not go and see mesmerism; and hitherto have kept their word. But they will not always be able to keep it. They will be pushed in by the pressure from without like my worthy country friend soon to be mentioned (p. 428).

• This name of the ground surrounding a building in Bengal is, I understand, a corruption of the Italian word, *campagna*.

• One cause of the grumbling and misery of my late colleagues at University College was the number of carriages collected.

Council of Education, Dr. Monat; another professor of the Medical College, Dr. Allan Webb; the civil surgeon of Howrah, Dr. Green; besides Dr. Mc Rae, and I dare say many others,—had braved the terrors of a burning sun to arrive at Hooghly by 11 o'clock. But there were others besides Medical spectators, Reverend Clergymen, the Venerable the Arch-deacon and the Reverend Mr. Lacroix; besides Judges, Magistrates, and other Civilians, as Mr. Russel, Mr. Samuels, Mr. Young. Military men also as Major Green; besides merchants and men of science. Mr. Simms appeared to be an observant spectator of this extraordinary scene.

"On passing into the operating room, (an open place on one side of a square open court)—the patients to be operated upon were seen sleeping profoundly; at the head of each bed—leaning over the patients, were the native mesmerisers in full operation—drawing their fingers over the nose to the top of the head, breathing on the sleepers, &c.

"At a signal from the doctor, the first man was brought out on his bed for the removal of a large Elephantoid tumour, the very size of which appeared to astonish some of the spectators. Dr. Esdaile very coolly set about removing it—his mode of operating was peculiar—and he worked with a leisurely manner that convinced me he had the most certain conviction that he was giving *no pain*, and, therefore, in no hurry. The man never awoke—but with the exception of one or two uneasy starts—and slight groans, such as one sees in an uneasy dream, at which times the native mesmeriser (who quietly continued his operations all along)—seemed to redouble his breathings and passes, with the effect of reducing the troubled respiration, when the *regular pulse and regular respiration continued to the end of the operation*, in which were removed besides the mass of disease, organs, which are naturally endowed with exquisite sensibility. Now this man was laid on one side, removed with his bed *to the side of the same room*. The Doctor all "*dabbled with blood*," a gory spectacle for those who could see, stepped into the other back apartment (but merely separated from the operating room by a range of pillars), and ordered out another man. Now this is so contrary to our usual managements and concealments, as to be very striking. The same nonchalance was evident in Dr. Esdaile's manner of handling a horrible case of cancer, *and even striking in his knife just to ascertain how far the disease extended*. This mass which here also was removed included the same parts, and was equally endowed with exquisite sensibility. The man *never awoke—never so far as I recollect even started—and slept quietly afterwards*, as quietly as before the opera-

tion. *He and his bed were moved to the other corner of the same room.* The Doctor never, it was clear, thought of shocking a third man, for he and his mesmeriser came out, unappalled by the doctor's shirt-sleeves now of a pretty uniform crimson. A large deep ragged ulcer upon the heel, was pared down as coolly as a farrier pares the horse's hoof. He never stirred, *slept like a child*, and when the doctor left *his hoof* when pared, there it lay, bleeding, it is true, but a very respectable looking finish given to it. Had the man been sensible, this would have been torture so excruciating that I have heard the hospital ring with the shrieks of patients for whom it is necessary.

"Another sleeper was brought out and turned over to the sub-assistant surgeon. The operation was not a painful one; but the man slept on, and I observed the mesmeriser, an older man than the others, without being ordered, or even noticed that I knew of by any but myself, blow sharply in the man's face and make one or two reversed passes; the man awoke looking with the half angry look of a disturbed sleeper, wide awake; but knowing nothing of what had been done to him until he looked. It was the impression on my mind that the mesmeriser was heartily tired and glad to get away; hence he took the first opportunity to be off.

"By and bye the other sleepers awoke; *each and all declared publicly*, when they were questioned in Bengallee by the Rev. Mr. Lacroix, that *they knew nothing nor felt anything whatever of the operation.* I have seen many who have suffered these serious mutilations which they suffered with the *cold sweat of agony bubbling up for hours afterwards; and a pulse so depressed that it was hazardous to move them; whereas these were quite chatty and lively.* Dr. Esdaile explained the reasons, (very weighty) that induced him not to delay the amputation of a woman's leg whom I saw. *She never suffered a pang.* I cannot but state my firm conviction after having seen the woman, that *she must have died if operated upon in the usual manner.*

"This person, and the large Elephantoid tumor case, were *not only saved pain, but a vast amount of vital depression, which might in either case have proved fatal.*

"Now I have simply stated these facts, as a testimony to the important benefits Dr. Esdaile is conferring upon the poor and wretched natives. He does not mesmerise these, he teaches others; he orders others, and they do it so effectually that the doctor never once looked at any of his patients whilst operating. He seems perfectly assured that *they are spell-bound—nobody holds them down.* They might kick as

much as they like—but they do not stir. He is not afraid of the others being awoke by their shrieks. He never puts them in different rooms; they who are to be operated upon, and they who have been operated upon, are all in the same room. People talk as loud as they like—nay even laugh—and that awe which the hardest usually experience, which the sight of human suffering naturally inspires, is here QUITE BANISHED.

"In fine, that which makes the boldest and best of us recoil from surgical interference so long as we possibly can; and alas, sometimes longer than we ought to do; that makes almost all native patients resist, until life and limb is lost together. The natural dread of pain is entirely removed; there is no resistance of the muscles; no rebellious starting, at the most critical period. It is, I believe, quite as easy with mesmerism to operate upon the living as upon the dead.

"I cannot conceive, it is hardly possible to tell, how much good may be effected by those whose high moral conscientiousness confines the operation of their wonderful power to an use which we cannot look upon but as legitimate. And the satisfaction of having contributed to so great an amount of alleviation to human pain and misery, will, I cannot doubt, afford higher gratification to Dr. Esdaile, than the honor even of introducing into India, this wonderful improvement in operative surgery.

"June 2nd, 1846.

"A. W."

The assemblage of crowds both of and not of the profession at the Hooghly hospital reminds me of what was the case in 1838 at University College Hospital. But how different was the result! The most wonderful and exquisite physiological phenomena were demonstrated: and a surgical operation,—the introduction of a seton into the neck of the elder Okey, was performed without her evincing the slightest knowledge of what was done, till, after being awakened, on turning her head she suddenly felt something unusual, and put her hand to it, saying somebody must have pinched her in her sleep. My colleagues totally disregarded the wonderful facts and treated the painless operation with sovereign contempt: in India, the profession go and witness mesmerism, and then nobly publish their testimony. I make the following extract from my Letter to the Students on my resignation.

"At length, in 1837, my attention became directed to a subject which, though utterly neglected in this country, was receiving great attention on the continent. Certain wonderful phenomena, and cer-

* I recollect Mr. Rintoul witnessed them.

tain modes of producing these phenomena and of curing diseases ill-understood and difficult to cure, were vouched for by men of the highest information and the soundest judgment; and I felt it my duty to investigate the matter. I soon found that there was a fund of truth in what I had heard and read,—that an agent or agency existed which had been overlooked; and my enquiries were soon attended with such results that a large number of medical men, most distinguished Noblemen, nay Royalty itself, Members of the House of Commons, some of the first men of science in the country, Professors of Oxford, Cambridge, King's College, and Edinburgh, the Presidents of the Royal and Linnæan Societies, and Teachers of the various Hospitals, flocked to witness my facts. Some of these gentlemen made handsome donations to the Hospital in consequence, and others expressed their intention to do the same, but have declined in consequence of my resignation. This soon excited envy, and this excited a commotion; and Mr. Richard Quain advised me to desist. He urged that, whether the wonderful facts were true or not, and whether great benefit in the treatment of diseases would result or not, we ought to consider the interests of the School;—not of science and humanity, observe—but of the School: that, if the public did not regard the matter as true and the benefits as real, we ought not to persevere and risk the loss of public favour to the School; that I was rich, and could afford to lose my practice for what I believed the truth, but that others were not:—in short, his argument was '*rem—rem*;' and '*virtus post nummos*.' I replied that the Institution was established for the dissemination and discovery of truth; that all other considerations were secondary to this; that, if the public were ignorant, we should enlighten them; that we should lead the public, and not the public us; and that the sole question was, whether the matter were a truth or not. I laughed at the idea of injury to the pecuniary interests of the School.

"The commotion increased. My demonstrations were debated upon at meetings of the Faculty, and discussions went on between members of the Council, and Professors, an exquisite Secretary, and other more humble holders of office. At one meeting of the medical faculty, Dr. Davis boasted that he had seen none of my experiments and should have considered himself disgraced if he had; that animal magnetism had been proved above forty years ago to be a perfect humbug and imposture; and that it was now in as bad repute with the public as Christianity had been at its first promulgation. Dr. A. T. Thompson boasted that he had seen none of the facts, and, though invited by my clinical clerk to observe them while visiting his own patients in the same ward, that he had declined the invitation. Dr. Davis declared that he never could procure a vacant bed because I detained my patients so long in order to mesmerise them: and Dr. Thompson that patients would not apply for admission, lest they should be mesmerised, and that others left the Hospital, to avoid mesmeric treatment. But, when I enquired of the officer whom I understood to have furnished these absurdities, he assured me that he was blameless and made the general scape-goat of the place; and he entreated me to

accept his denial without an enquiry which would embroil him with the Professors. Not conceiving that anything but reputation could accrue to the Hospital from the demonstration of physiological and pathological facts to crowds of the first men in the country, among whom were characters totally opposed in politics to the place and who otherwise never would have entered it, I persevered. The President of the College—Lord Brougham and five other members of the Council did not refuse to attend the demonstrations; nor did the Professors of the Faculty of Arts; nor Dr. Grant, Dr. Lindley, nor Mr. Graham. But, with the exception of these three last gentlemen, whose conduct throughout has commanded my respect, I never saw any of the medical faculty: if any ever were present, it could have been only to reconnoitre unobserved by me. The Irish, the Welsh, and four of the six Scotch medical Professors, held meeting after meeting of the faculty or of the Hospital committee, which my disgust prevented me from attending. At these meetings I know that the most bitter feelings against me were manifested, and matters discussed which were perfectly irrelevant, but the introduction of which showed the hostility of certain parties. I have always acted in the most honourable and correct manner; and dare any examination of my conduct. I had, however, given great offence by urging, with the senate of the London University, the hardship and inutility of compelling attendance upon particular courses of lectures, and especially upon lectures on morbid anatomy because the morbid anatomy of a disease is as much a part of the disease, and as much to be explained at length in lectures on the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery, as the symptoms and history; and, indeed, cannot be taught with advantage separately from the symptoms. Distinct lectures on morbid anatomy must be superfluous, if professors of the practice of medicine, surgery, and midwifery perform their duty: and the London University has at last yielded to the opinion I defended. I found that I also had given great offence by declaring in public that the College was founded, not for the Professors, but for the diffusion of knowledge, and that the fees of the Professors were but a secondary consideration and established solely to induce them to diffuse knowledge.

“Among the puerilities talked by the Professors, both at these meetings and out of them, it was predicted that the number of medical students would be seriously reduced the ensuing winter, that not one would come from Bristol, and that I should have scarcely any class at all.

“At length Dr. Lindley and Mr. Cooper waited upon me in the name of the Medical Committee of the Hospital. They brought the following acknowledgment of my right to practise mesmerism in the Hospital:—

“Resolved—‘That the (Medical) Committee fully recognize Dr. Elliotson’s undoubted right to employ animal magnetism as a remedial agent in the wards of the Hospital, when he considers it necessary to do so. But that the Committee are anxious to know whether Dr. Elliotson has been correctly understood as not intending to continue in the Hospital the exhibition of the experiments on that subject.’

"Dr. Lindley and Mr. Cooper confessed to me that they could not imagine that my demonstrations would hurt the hospital; and Dr. Lindley, in his own noble and honest manner, declared that he thought the facts which he had witnessed were very curious and deserved investigation. The feeling, however, for what reason they could not tell, was so strong, that they conceived my best course was to give up the demonstrations. Mr. Cooper suggested, as indeed Dr. Davis had done, that I should show the patients in my own house, or some house in the neighbourhood. Dr. Davis recommended a public-house. But I declined to exhibit hospital patients to a number of persons anywhere but in the hospital. For the sake of peace, therefore, I consented never to show the phenomena again in the theatre of the Hospital, unless my colleagues approved of the list of those to whom I wished to demonstrate them: and both gentlemen agreed that this ought to content the party. It, however, did not content them. They still refused to come and examine into the phenomena; and, when I sent to the medical committee a list of many of the highest names in and out of the profession, who had applied for permission to witness my facts, they absolutely refused to read it. The following are the words of the official answer of the secretary:—

"July 5, 1838.

"Your letter, addressed to the Medical Committee yesterday, was forthwith laid before the meeting specially summoned for its consideration. The Committee determined not to read the list of names appended thereto."

"I had proposed that a committee should be formed to investigate my observations. It was to consist of gentlemen from different schools, and I requested Drs. Grant, Lindley, and Sharpey, and Mr. Graham to be upon it. Mr. Graham declined on the score of his great engagements, but Drs. Grant and Lindley consented. From Dr. Sharpey I received the following letter:—

"68, Torrington Square,

"Monday Morning, 14th May.

"My dear Sir,—I was all yesterday in the country, and arrived in town at a very late hour, otherwise I would have sooner replied to your note.

"From what I have read and seen of the so-called mesmeric phenomena, I am convinced that some of these phenomena really are what they *seem to be*, and possess a very high degree of physiological interest; moreover, I know that there are other effects supposed to be produced by mesmeric operation, of a much more extraordinary character, the reality of which, though I frankly own I do not believe in it, is admitted by physicians of intelligence and experience, and which, on that account, are entitled to a fair examination. These being my sentiments, which I have never hesitated to express, you cannot suppose me indifferent to the subject, or disposed to treat with neglect or disregard your experiments in the Hospital, but I have refrained from participating in or witnessing these experiments, for two reasons. First, from what I have heard of these exhibitions, (I use the word respectfully) I am inclined to think that, however different may be your intention, they are calculated rather to minister to the popular love of the marvellous than to afford an advantageous opportunity of testing the reality of the effects produced as to the alleged efficacy of mesmerism as a remedial agent; and secondly, in the present state of opinion among the public and the profession, respecting animal magnetism, the frequent repetition of such exhibitions in the Hospital has appeared to me not altogether judicious.

"Of course, I am far from finding fault with you for entertaining different opinions, but as these exhibitions still continue, and my own sentiments regarding them remain unaltered, I trust you will pardon me for declining your invitation, however flattering it may be, as I wish to avoid connecting myself, even indirectly, with proceedings which seem to me objectionable.

"I am, my dear Sir,
 "Very truly yours,
 W. SHARPEY.

"Dr. Elliotson, &c. &c.

"The public exhibitions, however, as they were termed, were discontinued; but Dr. Sharpey still never thought proper to witness the facts, which it surely was his duty, as a teacher of physiology, to go and witness, that he might treat the subject properly in his lectures. Entreated on all sides to exhibit the phenomena, I requested of the Council permission to demonstrate them in one of the theatres of the College, when this was not in use. But I was refused. One of the Council, whose goodness and liberality render him an ornament to the Jewish nation and to England, moved the reconsideration of the refusal or made a motion for permission; but in vain. I hear that he entreated the Council to witness the phenomena and judge for themselves as he had done; but in vain. Yes, the majority of the Council, perfectly ignorant of the subject, refused to go to learn anything of it before they passed judgment upon it; and among these were legislators, barristers, and one physician. Yet this same Council gave permission for the exhibition of a calculating boy to the public, at so much a head, and tickets were purchased by any one, as for a concert."

"On December 27th, I received a resolution of council, from the Hospital Committee,—

"That they be instructed to take steps, forthwith, for the discharge of Elizabeth Okey from the Hospital."

"I immediately showed the paper to the apothecary, who said that he had known of the resolution several days before, as well as of another, which I had not yet received from the house committee, viz., that the practice of mesmerism should be immediately discontinued. I proceeded to the house of the Treasurer of the College and Hospital, and he informed me that the second resolution had also been passed. I, therefore, at once wrote the following letter to the secretary of the Council.

x "Ticket of Admission
 to the
 Exhibition
 of the
 Calculating Powers
 of the
 Sicilian Boy,
 Mangiamela!
 in the

Theatre of the University College,
 On Monday, August 13th, 1838.

Admission 10s."

“Sir,—I have just received information, that the Council, *without any interview or communication with me*, has ordered my patient, Elizabeth Okey, to be instantly discharged, and forbidden me to cure my patients with mesmerism. I only am the proper person to judge when my patients are in a fit state to be discharged, and what treatment is proper for their cases.

“As a gentleman in the first place, and as a physician in the next, I feel myself compelled at once to resign my office of Professor of the principles and practice of medicine, and of clinical medicine in the College, and of Physician to the Hospital; and hereby resign them all, and will *never enter either building again*.

“When I was made Professor, I received a class of 90,—the class is now 197,—even 13 more than at Christmas last year; and, as there were 24 entries after Christmas then, the whole number of the present session would, no doubt, have been above 220.

“I have not received my fees this session. It is my wish that they be all refunded to the young gentlemen, who are perfectly welcome to the lectures which I have already delivered.

“I have the honour, &c.

“JOHN ELLIOTSON.

“Conduit Street, 27th December, 1838.”

“You will agree with me, gentlemen, that, to hold office one moment on such terms, and under men capable of acting in a manner at once insulting and irrational, would have been impossible. If I was unfit to determine when my patients were in a state to be discharged, and how they were to be treated, I ought to have been dismissed. But, while I held office, I was to be considered fit to judge of these points. Had my colleagues in the hospital possessed a becoming spirit, and felt what was due to themselves and the profession, they would have resisted this infringement of their general rights, whatever their opinion of mesmerism, even if they had attended to it sufficiently to justify an opinion. Indeed they were bound to act thus, since they had resolved months before in committee, that they acknowledged ‘*my undoubted right*’ to practice mesmerism in the Hospital. But this I could hardly expect, since they were so forgetful of academic propriety, that, in their lectures Dr. Thompson designated my patient Okey ‘an impostor,’ and Mr. Liston, the bosom friend of the editor of the *Lancet*, called mesmerism ‘the most impudent of modern humbugs,’ and indeed pronounced me to the students, in a public room of the Hospital, to be ‘a tom-fool.’ The insult was the greater, as I was senior physician, was thought to have greatly raised the reputation and numbers of the school, and had been the main cause of the establishment of the Hospital, although I gave great offence at the time to some of the Professors for honestly pointing out that the Medical School was inefficient without an Hospital. The conduct of the Council was irrational, since the majority refused to witness the experiments upon a subject of which they were utterly ignorant, and to have an interview with me for the purpose of enquiring into the business. They suspended a practice which was perfectly innocent, simple, and devoid of expense, and had worked and was working many most remarkable cures, even in cases which had resisted all other treatment and had been sent out of other Hospitals as incurable,—all which they well knew. The College was thriving this winter as

much as last; my class was larger than ever it had been at this period of the season; and the Hospital was crowded with patients and pupils. The Council, completely unknown in science or literature, as they all are, with two or three exceptions, proved themselves totally unfit to conduct a place of education, and more especially one which boasted to be founded on the most liberal principles and to be free from the prejudices of old Universities. They put a blot upon the Institution which will never be erased."

But I must present another Indian letter, written not by a medical man, but by a gentleman sent out by the Court of Directors to make a railway survey.

Another Painless Amputation. By Dr. Esdaile.

"To the Editor of the Englishman.

"June 3rd, 1846.

"Sir,—Being on a visit at this place, it was my intention to have been present at the hospital at Hooghly on Monday next, to witness some surgical operations by Dr. Esdaile, upon persons in a mesmeric trance, which were to be, and I expect will be, (with the exception of the following cases) performed in the presence of several gentlemen from Calcutta. This morning I met Dr. Esdaile, when our conversation turned upon the proposed proceedings of Monday next. He expressed much regret that he should be unable to show us two interesting cases, which he had endeavoured to reserve for the occasion; the one, a man from whom he was to have removed a tumour of about one hundred weight, the other was the amputation of a woman's leg. His disappointment arose from the following causes:—These two persons, with some others, had been several days in a state of readiness for operating upon, being under complete mesmeric influence. The man either got tired of waiting day after day, or lost his resolution and quitted the hospital; and the woman was sinking: she had been attacked with fever, and had become less susceptible of mesmeric influence. She was this morning, however, to all appearance, in a perfect trance, and he felt that he should be doing her a great injustice to delay the operation any longer, as he considered that her life would be endangered thereby. He had therefore resolved upon amputating the limb at once. I expressed a desire to be present, and accompanied Dr. Esdaile to the hospital; and the following are the facts of the case as I observed them:—

"The woman was lying upon a charpoy, and one of the assistants was leaning over her head mesmerising her; the charpoy was then removed, and placed opposite to a window

which was opened to admit light ; I then looked attentively at the patient who, to all appearance, was in a most tranquil sleep.

"Dr. Esdaile prepared for the operation, and I placed myself so as both to see what the doctor did, and to observe the countenance and movements (if any should take place) of the patient. The leg was taken off a little below the knee, and I was surprised at the small quantity of blood that flowed from the wound, being not more than two, or at the most three, table spoonsfull. The thigh and knee from whence the leg had been taken, were, as well as every other part of her body, *perfectly motionless, and the only evidence that existed that the doctor was not operating upon a corpse, was the heaving of her chest in respiration ; she was not held, or tied down in any way, and during the whole operation not the least movement or change in her limbs, body, or countenance, took place ; she continued in the same apparently easy repose as at first, and I have no reason but to believe, that she was at perfect ease.*

"After the operation, Dr. Esdaile left her to awake naturally, which she did in about a quarter of an hour. As soon as she was awake, I observed the stump of her leg begin to shake or quiver, as if convulsively, which I had observed, as above stated, was not the case previously.

"The conversation that followed between the patient, the doctor, and his assistants, was in Bengalee, and unintelligible to myself ; but was translated to me as it proceeded. It was to the following effect :—*That the burning pain was gone from her ankle, (the seat of the disease for which the leg was amputated) and that she now felt a sort of prickly pain ; that she had had a good and undisturbed sleep without dreams or pain ; that she was ready to have her leg amputated, whether the doctor could get her sufficiently to sleep for the purpose or not, as she was so desirous of recovering.* Upon receiving ocular demonstration that the operation had been performed, her countenance expressed surprise and pleasure, and, as if doubtful of the fact, I observed her hand pass over the stump, apparently

y What will Dr. Marshall Hall, Sir Benjamin Brodie, and the reflex-movement party say to this woman, and all the other patients who suffered amputations at Hooghly, for not moving the sound limb while the other was cutting off? See my Pamphlet, pp. 19, 50. Mr. Wakley assumes a scientific air to the members of the House of Commons who question him about the man in Nottinghamshire, and tells them that the fellow was proved to be an impostor by a *scientific point* ! Because he did not move the other leg while the diseased leg was cut, Mr. Wakley, imitating Dr. M. Hall, says he had shammed well—had not been sufficiently well trained. Alas for the characters of all the poor "untutored Indians."

to test the reality of what she saw ; she then said, that *she knew not how it had been done.*

"Shortly afterwards, I quitted the hospital, leaving her apparently composed, and waving a punka over her face.

"Such are the simple facts of this case.

"I am, Sir, your obedient servant,

"F. W. SIMMS, C. E."

Dr. Esdaile, like myself, has found the advantage of shewing his facts to the non-professional world. It is they who will compel the medical world to attend to the subject. The week before last, in August, 1846, a country practitioner called upon me to thank me, he said, for having given a diagnosis in his case five years ago which proved correct, and for having done him great good. I supposed that he had some other object also ; and he added that he was very anxious to know something of mesmerism, for his patients now were always talking of it and asking him questions, and he found it very unpleasant to know nothing about the matter. "But," I replied, "you asked me no questions about it I dare say when you were with me five years ago." "No," he answered. Then said I, "You believed at that time all that Mr. Wakley told you. Mr. Wakley boldly declared that he had proved it to be a complete humbug, related experiments of the truth of which you could know nothing, and you did not think it worth while to listen to me who never deceived the profession, never led them into error, never made a medical statement which time did not prove to be perfectly accurate." "Yes, sir," he confessed, "I must say it was so. I did believe him and on his authority that mesmerism was all imposition. But now I hear of it daily from all my patients, and really you must allow it is unpleasant, very unpleasant, to be unable to answer any question about it." I begged him to call the next day : and I then showed him a few facts which satisfied him that Mr. Wakley had led the profession all astray. Like an honest man he believed his eyes and owned it, and assured me that he would order all the numbers of *The Zoist* and attend to the subject with all the diligence in his power.

A complete revolution must now take place. Those who, like this very worthy practitioner, could not believe that Mr. Wakley could be so cruel as to make fools of them, but wrote in earnest, and those who have long known mesmerism to be true, but dishonestly assured their patients it was not,—must now turn round without loss of time. I should not be surprized if Dr. Forbes were to have an article

favourable to Dr. Esdaile's incontrovertible proofs of its truth in his next number, notwithstanding he, seven years ago,* and a few months ago,† denounced it as an imposition and delusion; and notwithstanding his patron, Sir James Clark, to whom, with a small number of his friends, I did the favour of shewing the phenomena of the Okeys eight years ago and who must know all the astounding facts in *The Zoist*, had the silly hardihood since the last number appeared, to ask a nobleman who mentioned the great benefit he had received from mesmerism, whether he really did believe in such nonsense.

I have just received from Mr. Chandler the following account of another painless tooth extraction effected through his energy. Painless operations have now been performed in the University College Hospital, the Middlesex, and the London. The introduction of a seton, and two tooth extractions.

Case of Painless Tooth extraction at the London Hospital.

"58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe,

"August 27th, 1846.

"My dear Sir,—Through the kindness of Mr. Luke, I was enabled yesterday to show a case of painless mesmeric tooth-drawing at the London Hospital before about eighty persons; since witnessing the two exhibitions at Mr. Bell's, reported in the last *Zoist*, he has been very anxious to show a case at the Hospital, for the benefit of the students and a few sceptical friends.

"Finding accidentally that my patient Payne had a wise tooth very tender and troublesome, which he wished to be relieved of, I embraced the opportunity, though I have a very great objection to anything approaching to a public exhibition where mesmerism is concerned, as I feel persuaded it is not the way to convince sceptics—so few are enabled to examine the cases for themselves with sufficient closeness—so that the greater part are sure to leave even more sceptically than they came. Such I feel convinced was the case yesterday—many expressed themselves perfectly satisfied of the genuineness of the case—some doubted, not being able to examine personally

* He thus spoke of me,—that "above all we lamented to see the great delusion supported by one of the ablest physicians of this country, filling the most important chair in the largest medical school of the kingdom."—*British and Foreign Medical Review* for April, 1839. p. 304..

† "It is well known that the two most striking and attractive delusions of recent times are homeopathy and mesmerism."—Paper by him in the *Athenæum*, Feb. 28, 1846.

—and there were I believe a few KAYIRAS, who say in their haste, ‘all men are liars.’ Why do such men take the trouble to witness our beautiful phenomena, when they are previously determined to consider it all collusion? they had much better imitate their prototype, and say, when asked to witness mesmeric experiments, ‘My mind is differently constituted. I would not believe them if they would swear they felt no pain. I know human kind too well to be deceived.’

“On putting my patient to sleep, he was of course subjected to the usual sceptical tests, such as pushing a pin through the skin of the back of the hand seaton-wise,^b tickling his nose and ears with a straw, &c.; none of which disturbed him, until the drum was touched, which really made him shrink; indeed, it was done so roughly that the ear *was made to bleed*,^c and he came to me in the evening complaining of deep-seated pain in the ear. A few passes over the part removed it. I cannot account for his feeling this, unless by the very great delicacy of the membrane, and the fact that his hearing is always particularly acute when mesmerised, as he hears—in common with most of my patients—the lowest whisper, though not sensible to loud noises.^d

“The tooth was very dexterously extracted by one of the senior students; and, as on the former occasions, his mouth remained open and the head back until I moved him. Nothing could have been more satisfactory to a candid mind, though so few of those present were able to see, that I have no doubt many left quite as sceptical as they came: persons must mesmerise and examine the matter for themselves to become thoroughly convinced.

“If you think this account worth publishing, please to send it on to the editor of *The Zoist*.

“Believe me, yours very faithfully,

“THOS. CHANDLER.”

I am happy to furnish another amputation in the mesmeric state, and to say that the operator was, like Mr. Chandler, formerly a pupil of mine at University College. Thus some of the

^b By Dr. Pereira, who has been heard to call mesmerism d—d humbug.—*Zoist*.

^c By Dr. Little. There is some fear that the drum is injured.—*Zoist*.

^d The anaesthesia or loss of feeling is not always universal, or, if so, not of equal intensity throughout the system. I have had three patients in whom it did not occur above the collar-bones, but was complete below them: I have had some insensible patients with patches of sensibility, and when a person has been insensible to pinching and cutting of the surface, I have known her start and even be awakened by dreadful darts of pain along the nerves.—J. ELLIOTSON.

seed fell upon good ground, though much upon stony ground : and much that would have come up was choked by the thorns of my colleagues at the University College, the medical journalists, and those established practitioners whose sole motive is wordliness.

Case of Amputation at Bridgewater. By Mr. King.

"About the month of April last I was requested to see John Pepperal, aged 19 years, who had been suffering for some time before from inflammation and swelling of the ankle joint, but had continued his work up to the present date. On an examination of the part I found that an abscess had formed near the external malleolus, and I opened it. Then other abscesses formed around the joint, and, finding his constitution giving way, I proposed to remove the limb in May last, which he would not consent to, and from that time up to the 18th of August it was my painful duty to visit the poor fellow, and occasionally during that time to open abscesses first in one place, then in another, then to lay open sinuses, &c., &c., for even slight relief; and *so exquisitely painful was any motion*, that he has often begged of me not to move him when I visited him, as it was *hours* before he got any ease again; *even touching the bedstead, or walking across his bedroom, gave him great pain.* This is only mentioned as a proof of the extraordinary power mesmerism must have had over him, as will be seen in the sequel.

"On the morning of the 18th of August he made up his mind to have the leg removed, being then reduced almost to a skeleton. The pulse was 130; night sweats and diarrhoea were present. After some consideration as to whether he would bear it, I resolved to try the effects of mesmerism, and called the same day on Mr. J. S. to assist me by putting him into the insensible state preparatory to the operation, who kindly consented, and visited him three times a day for the two days before the operation. It was only on the evening of the 20th that insensibility was produced, and Mr. J. S. wished a delay of a few days to take place even then. But this I could not consent to, as I felt that my patient's state required promptitude, and resolved on operating the following day at 4 o'clock. This was kept to ourselves, and it was determined beforehand that Mr. J. S. should proceed to the house half an hour before and inform us when he had got him into a state of insensibility. When we received the information I took the necessary apparatus up stairs, and prepared the table for his reception. All being in readiness, we removed him to the operating table,

applied the tourniquet and arrested the circulation, and I made the first circular incision through the skin *without the slightest expression of pain either by distortion of the features or by cries and moaning*. But during the second and third incision through the superficial and deep muscles, he roared most violently. This may be accounted for by parties entering the room at that time and disturbing the influence of the mesmerism. But a few passes quieted him again; and sawing the bone, taking up the arteries and tying them, sponging the stump and allowing it to be exposed for some time afterwards, dressing the stump, and removing him to the bed, *was all done without any apparent suffering*. We (that is, myself and friends, the surgeons) left the room, and desired to be called when he awoke, which took place in about ten minutes. I then went up to him and said, 'Well, John, how are ye?' 'Oh,' said he, 'then you be come to do it, be ye?' 'What!' was my reply. He raised himself a little, and, looking towards the stump, removed the sheet that was covering it, and exclaimed, 'Why you have done it; so you've got'n off then! Thank God.' On the following evening I asked him what he recollected of the operation, and his reply was that he felt the cutting; but he described it as 'a dull, jagging pain, not at all like the sharp pain of lancing my ankle;' recollected the feeling of cold water against the stump, and of some one asking for a probe, and says that he has often suffered much greater pain before the operation than during the operation itself.

"ABRAHAM KING."

A gentleman present, Mr. Haviland, a surgeon of Bridgewater, mentioned by me in my last paper, honourably expressed to Mr. S. Selfe his conviction that mesmerism had been eminently successful in the case, and had saved the patient a vast amount of suffering.

Here was a striking proof of the reality and advantage of mesmerism. This poor man could not be pronounced insensible to pain, nor courageous, nor a cunning impostor. The pain which he felt, and roared out from, proves all this. He would not have felt any pain had mesmerism been begun much earlier (probably indeed he would have been cured and required no operation); had the points of the fingers been kept on the eyes, or even the hand on the forehead, or slow breathing upon his face been kept up, during the operation, to deepen the sleep and maintain it. The entrance of persons into the room during the operation was a thing which ought not to have happened. Great honour is due to Mr. King for

surpassing in nobleness all our London hospital surgeons. If he and the mesmeriser had been previously familiarized with mesmerism, all would have been managed to perfection. All will be managed to perfection by the profession before long. That mesmerism was not in full play years ago, managed to perfection years ago, and innumerable poor creatures spared dreadful agony, disease, and death, is the effect of the efforts of Mr. Wakley and his *suite*—Dr. Forbes, Dr. Johnson, and the hospital teachers, but above all of Mr. Wakley, to prove mesmerism a delusion and imposition. Were I in his place, or in any of their places, the torments of reflection would make me say unto the “mountains to fall upon me and the hills to cover me.”

I began with a quotation from Dr. Johnson, I will finish with one from Dr. Forbes.

“To devote an article to the consideration of *animal magnetism*, now that the *English practitioners* are, *one and all*, ashamed of its name, would be a work of supererogation, if the *delusion*, unabashed, were not yet parading itself over some parts of the continent.”*

* *British and Foreign Medical Review*. April, 1839.

NOTICE.

Dr. Elliotson's Case of Spontaneous Sleep-waking in our next.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

The Brain and its Physiology ; a Critical Disquisition on the methods of determining the relations subsisting between the Structure and Functions of the Encephalon. By Daniel Noble, Member of the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

Clinical Illustrations of the Diseases of India: as exhibited in the Medical History of a body of European Soldiers, for a series of years from their arrival in that country. By William Geddes, M.D., Member of the Royal Medical Society of Edinburgh, and of the Medical and Physical Society of Calcutta, and late Surgeon of the Madras European Regiment.

Commentary on the Hindu System of Medicine. By T. A. Wise, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Surgeons, and of the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society; Corresponding Member of the Zoological Society of London, and of the Philomatic Society of Paris. Calcutta.

Edinburgh Phrenological Journal.

ERRATA.

Page 317, note 4, for "326" read 328.

„ 346, in the note, for "she" read *the young lady*.

x

▲ * ▲

•