

THE ZOIST.

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I. *Cure of long-standing intense Pains and other Sufferings, and extreme Debility, with Mesmerism, after the failure of endless and distressing measures.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

TOWARDS the end of October, 1845, I received a visit from Mr. Morgan, of Bedford Row, the gentleman who some years before had so humanely and rationally yielded to the request of a poor woman in Three Cups Yard, behind Bedford Row, that he would apply to me for mesmerism to her child, who was afflicted with insanity, fatuity, dumbness, and prostration, and upon whom he had exhausted all his remedies in vain, and the wonderful mesmeric cure of whom is recorded in the fourth volume of *The Zoist*.* Mr. Morgan's present object was similar. But the rank of the patient for whom he now requested my assistance was very different. She was a young lady residing in Eaton Square, and her father and brother were in Parliament. Some of the most fashionable physicians had been called in. A royal physician in ordinary, and two other royal physicians, had exhausted all their means upon her as fruitlessly as Mr. Morgan had exhausted his upon the poor child in Three Cups Yard. I accordingly met him at her father's house, and found the young lady very pale, sickly, and emaciated, so feeble as not to be able to sit upright, and suffering agonies in many parts of her system.

After hearing the history of the disease, I examined her carefully, and finding no sign of structural disease, though some perfectly unfounded fears had been entertained respecting one of her lungs, I declared that no reason appeared why she should not get well, and that mesmerism would probably

* p. 467.

cure her. According to my custom, I refrained from being so presumptuous as to declare that it would be sure to cure her. Mesmerists should always remember that in a host of cases there may be something inappreciable by our means of investigation that will baffle all our power, and that the most promising cases may eventually foil us. Medical men, on the other hand, who despise mesmerism, should remember, when mesmerists are so foiled, that they themselves with their *legitimate* (that is the orthodox word) medicine are foiled every day, and every hour of the day if they have an extensive practice, perhaps after prescribing the most painful measures, and that this sad imperfection of medicine and surgery it is that makes patients fly to mesmerism and other abominations. For sick people are circumstanced still like the woman in the gospel nearly 2000 years ago, who "had *suffered many* things of *many* physicians, and had *spent* all that she had, and was nothing bettered, but *rather worse*."

It was therefore arranged that the young lady should be mesmerised, and Mr. Morgan goodnaturedly and liberally offered to operate if I would shew him the way. He, however, lived at a great distance and fancied he produced no effect; and the maid tried and she was thought to produce no more. Seeing that the thing would not be done at all unless I did it, I offered to take the case in hand myself, though I very rarely do unless there is likely to be something peculiarly interesting in the phenomena. I premised that I never had mesmerised professionally, and never would, however high in rank a patient might be, and that if I took the case in hand I must act entirely as a friend. I really pitied the poor sufferer, and had soon discovered that she had every lady-like feeling and habit, and was not only unaffected, but courageous and sincere, straightforward and noble-minded.

The following is the account which she at once cheerfully consented to draw up for me of her case.

"Five years ago, I caught a severe cold, and had a cough which lasted for more than three months and pulled me down so much that I could hardly make any exertion without feeling so exhausted, depressed and ill, that at night I was forced to throw myself on the bed and lie down for some time before I could be undressed. After trying a great many remedies without the least benefit, I was obliged to take to my bed and have a blister on my chest; and was relieved for a time; but my nerves became so dreadfully disturbed that I was hysterical, and the least noise affected me painfully. About this time I heard of the sudden death of a great friend in India

and received a shock greater than any one knew, and the recollection of her haunted me day and night. I was continually fainting and had violent hysterical paroxysms. My medical attendants,—a neighbouring practitioner and a physician, thought that "*rousing*" would do me good, and ordered me to be "*well talked to*" although I was taking stimulants which seemed to excite me more than was proper. The "*rousing*" seemed only to make me much worse, so great was my excitement. After a long time I appeared to rally and was ordered to go out if I could. But I was quite unequal to it, not having left my room for some time, and the merely going down stairs amongst my family was the cause of a relapse so severe that I kept my bed for many weeks. Dreadful head-aches came on with violent bleedings at the nose. Leeches were continually applied behind my ears, and on the temples. The relief from them was very great. Blisters, too, were applied to the nape of my neck; but, though they relieved my head, the agony from their irritation was so great that I could scarcely endure them. A large extent of surface over my spine was raw and discharged exceedingly for some time. Violent hysterical attacks were induced, which sometimes lasted three hours. For them I was literally drenched, sometimes for three hours together, with cold water, thrown at me to "*rouse*" me. I used to sink down thoroughly exhausted by all I went through. I had no rest at night, and my maid was constantly getting up to try to quiet my excited state, and would remain with me for two hours at a time, although really not knowing what to do for me, or how to pacify my truly wretched condition. Every thing was tried. I was drenched with medicine of all sorts; but none did any good. Tonics brought on such an inward fever that I was forced to leave them off; my lips became parched and peeled through the fever, which for three weeks was so intense that I lived on nothing but water ice. This state continued for more than six months, sometimes a little better and then again worse. My head-aches were at times so bad that I could bear no noise: any one walking across my room almost drove me wild, and really at times I knew not what I did, and the subsequent depression was so extreme that for days I have felt unable to speak. I got quite disgusted with the medical men who saw me, and I determined to give up all medicine for a time and trust to nature. This I did for many weeks, though obliged to have leeches continually, so violent were my head-aches, which nothing relieved but losing blood. Not getting on any better, I was again induced to see a physician, and did see another, who gave me some quieting medicine,

which, however, proved of little use. The bleedings at my nose were constant, and the more I lost by leeching the better I felt; but I was always "*roused*" soon afterwards by being "*well talked to,*" and the excitement which this produced was quite dreadful, so that I have rolled about my bed like a wild person.

"My illness at times seemed to change; the cough again troubling me, together with great weakness, and my head-aches not being so violent. I was under all sorts of medicine, at times better, and then worse. Violent head-aches came on, if I walked across my room; and at last I was carried from the bed to the sofa, and even this would bring on faintings and hysterical attacks, which would exhaust me for a long while. *I continued the leeches for a year, almost every other day,* and they still gave me relief, always making me lighter and easier. They, however, were the only remedy which did me good; but as this plan, of course, could not go on for ever, I now took advice of a third physician, and he forbade all leeching unless nothing else would answer; ordered me mustard baths up to the knees, and gave me steel in an effervescing state. For a time I rallied, but only for a time, and I again began to go back; my head getting worse, and my nose sometimes bursting out bleeding in the night, so that I was quite alarmed, though the relief was great to my heavy head. The tonic medicine I was taking I was obliged to discontinue as fever came on again, with sickness and retching, and at one time continued for a very long period. I was ordered salines, which I took for some time with great benefit. I determined again to do without a doctor, so heartily tired was I of all the remedies that had been tried. My sufferings were so terrible, that I have lain many a day without noticing any one, the tears rolling down my cheeks from agony; yet I got somewhat better again, and tried a shower bath, which proved of service, and I was enabled by degrees to get about my room, and then down stairs, and to take a drive; but yet could not bear much, and noise still distressed me greatly. Yet on the whole, I was decidedly better, and, as the autumn was coming, I was ordered to try change of air, and went to Bath to stay with some friends, and drank the waters. But after a little while, they seemed to disagree with me, as I felt continually sick after them and feverish, and had a noise in my head and ears. By the advice of a doctor there, I gave them up. He ordered me to be careful not to over exert myself, and prescribed salines. I unfortunately caught cold, and was again troubled with cough, which reduced me sadly, and I got into such a weak state, that I

felt illness was again creeping over me; and so bad did I become, that I took to my bed, and never stirred from it for a month, except to have my bed made, and some days not even that, and my wretched head became most troublesome. Leeches were again applied continually, always with a great relief; but I became so ill, that it was an exertion to turn in my bed, and my spine began to cause me such pain that, when I attempted to walk from my bed to the sofa, I was in misery, and at last could not, but used to slide across the bed to it. Unfortunately, the house could not be kept as quiet as I wished, and, and after much suffering, I was moved up to London. The journey was the cause of great misery to me; I for a week after never moved from my bed. The room was kept dark, as light brought on severe head-ache; if I were the least roused, the excitement was dreadful. Some days have passed when I have not even turned in my bed, and I felt so ill, as if I really were dying gradually. Ice was applied to my head, which had been shaved, and cold lotions also, with relief for a time; but still my sufferings I think increased, and nothing but the greatest quiet, and leeches almost every day, give me any relief at last. Often have I clenched my hands, and beaten myself about for hours, wild with pain, and then such sobbing fits would attack me, that the bed has shaken under me.

My exhaustion after these attacks was of course great. Still my room was obliged to be darkened all day, so painful was light to me; and if any one ever whispered in my room, it drove me wild; I never spoke or took the least notice, and felt gradually sinking; a kind of exhausted sleep came upon me, which lasted for some time; but I was generally disturbed out of it by some noise, and the frightful state of excitement I was then thrown into, must have been sad to witness. To raise myself in bed was impossible, or even to put my foot to the ground, as my spine gave me pain up to the head by the attempt. I was again obliged to see a physician, making the fourth, and he ordered me to be kept quiet, but *not too quiet*, as I should otherwise never be able to bear noise; not to have leeches every day, but now and then; he gave me some German waters, and afterwards iron, but I could not continue this for head-ache; and he ordered water to be thrown over my head continually in large quantities, and this relieved me. Again I got better, was able to be outside the bed for a little while, then to be set upon the sofa, and by degrees to sit up much longer. Yet I made no further progress, excitement coming on violently if I was talked to for long. As my cough again troubled me, my physician

thought there was some internal change going on, and examined my chest. He said the right side, or rather lung, was sore and delicate, and that I must be careful, and, as soon as I could, be moved away for change of air; and he recommended Norwood. So I went there and remained two months, my cough continuing, and incessant, and I expectorated much; nothing quieted the cough, and it wore me down greatly, as well as distressing my head. As the winter was approaching, I returned home, not worse, but yet not better. I was often obliged to keep in bed, my spine causing me great suffering, particularly from the coughing, which distressed my head as well. My physician ordered me an opium plaister down the spine to soothe me, but I could not bear it; the irritation it occasioned was so bad that I was obliged to have it torn off as quickly as possible, and my cough and head-ache still went on for more than fourteen months, and I expectorated a great deal. My physician said it was useless his coming, as he could do nothing for me, and directed us to send for him if I got worse. Thus I remained for a long time, some days better, some days worse. The whole spring and summer passed away, and I was unable to move, except from the bed to the sofa, and even that was a trouble to me. I sighed for the fresh air, and felt it would do me good if I could breathe it, but I was unable, as every exertion brought on great pain to my spine and head. The winter was advancing, and I was still so ill I again saw the physician who had last attended me; he advised me by all means to be moved, in as easy a manner as I could, to some quiet house about the Regent's Park, as the noise of our own house was too much for me. In fact, I could no longer bear it, my nerves were in such a sensitive state. My nights were dreadful; often my maid was up with me half the night, to soothe my wretched state, and the following day I was so ill, I could bear no one coming near me. In February I was moved to St. John's Wood, where I remained nine months. The quiet was most grateful to me, though at first I was obliged to have recourse to leeches almost every day, and was getting so bad that I really thought my mind must go. For hours together I was like a wild person, particularly if disturbed after the leeches; my head got so weak that I could not bear any noise. I felt that the relief from the leeches was still very great, yet they seemed to be gradually injuring me. I saw my physician again, who said I must not have them, though he knew not what to do for me: he thought I could rouse and exert myself more. But I had not the power: I really could not. I asked him if he thought a seton would benefit me; he said perhaps it might,

but he could not say, and advised me, if I wished it, to try it. To have the prospect of any relief was so delightful, that I determined to try the seton, and by his orders, had one put in the nape of my neck. This was kept open a year, and for a longer time than anything else did me much good; my head-aches were wonderfully relieved, and by degrees I left my bed, and was able to move about my room, and at last to get down stairs, a thing I had not done for many months, and as the summer advanced, I got out into the garden, but could not walk; and driving was still painful to my spine and head. Yet I was better, for I was able to see people at times, but was still obliged to be quiet, as excitement and great exhaustion were generally the result, if I was long talked to. I was wretchedly thin, and my cough was again becoming troublesome and weary to me. As the winter was approaching, my own medical man (who had attended all our family for years) induced me to try a winter at Hastings, for I felt the cold so much; and in October I was moved there in a bed carriage, by railroad. After having been there some time, I began to feel better, and when it was warm, I went out for half an hour in the Bath chair. But the exertion was very great, and I could not walk at all. I, however, remained away from home for six months, and was much better till within two months of my leaving, when I began to feel ill again, but my complaint seemed now to have assumed a different form. My head-aches were very bad, though my seton discharged very well. A sense of heavy weight oppressed me after eating, and a kind of torpid state came over me, so that I felt I could not move; and although I craved for food I have been obliged to abstain, so wretched was the state which eating caused me. I used to feel in a kind of dreamy existence directly after eating, with a wish to sleep, but if I did it was most disagreeable. My head felt heavy, and I was quite unable to move for a long time, and had a great deal of fever, and was obliged to remain in my bed, for I could not move about the room without violent pains in my back; the seton did not discharge as it used, and it gave me great pain. I sent up to my physician in town to know what to do; he said I ought by all means to return to town, as I would not have advice at Hastings; and as soon as I was able, I did, in a bed carriage. The next day my doctor saw me, he thought me extremely ill; I was miserably thin; he said my seton had literally worn itself out, and that it must be closed up, as it was only injuring me: it had been kept open a year. He gave me some medicine, as I was in such a feverish state, and had a continual gnawing pain under

my right shoulder; for the latter he dry-cupped me. He tried many things, and though I got better for a little while under these remedies, yet it was only for a little while I was better. Taking little in the way of food, I was greatly reduced; I could take nothing but light puddings, and sometimes not them, for I was more troubled by sickness after eating, and pain at the pit of my stomach; I was obliged to go many hours without food, although I longed for it, as I could not often keep in my stomach what I took, and I felt so much easier and lighter when I took nothing. But of course this would not continue. I tried various remedies as my stomach was so irritable, and I was obliged to take powerful aperients. I continued in a most wretched state, never leaving my bed room throughout the beautiful spring and part of the summer months; I was only able to lie on my sofa, and sighed for fresh air, I felt so weak and sinking. Nothing however seemed to do me any good, and I was heartily sick of all the doctors; I gave up all remedies and resolved to trust to nature again, and, as I at times felt easier, I resolved to try if a drive for a little while would benefit me. The air felt indeed truly delightful, but my head suffered much from the motion of the carriage, and I therefore went out but twice or thrice, and began to get so ill that I knew not what to do. My limbs became affected with violent darting and gnawing pains; I was in my bed for days, had no rest at night, and was completely worn out.

“Often has the pain caused me to sob for many an hour, and I tried morphine to give me sleep; but it was of no avail. I got so bad and irritable I could not bear myself, and felt as if I must gradually die, at times, from my dreadful pains and excitable state. I therefore determined to see our own family medical attendant, who had always been most kind to me, though, from living at a distance, he had not attended me throughout the illness. He advised me to see some other physician: and about this time I was urged much to think of mesmerism, which I laughed at and ridiculed; and I said, ‘I would not hear of it, as it was all nonsense: after four years of such illness, and after everything had been tried, to think of mesmerism doing good was absurd; and I did not like it or believe in it.’ I however heard all that was said, and a book was sent me with the case of a lady who had been ill for fifteen years, and had tried everything, and was told she must die, when she heard of mesmerism and tried it, and was cured. Yet, though all this surprised me very much, I would not listen to being mesmerised. I asked the opinion of our family medical attendant, and he said it was a thing

that must be left entirely to my own decision ; he had seen a remarkable case of a child, who had been cured by it ; and, though he did not himself understand it, he would, whenever I wished, call on Dr. Elliotson, and ask him to see me. After thinking over it a long time, I determined to see Dr. Elliotson, and ask whether he thought it might in some degree alleviate my sufferings, although I had no faith in it, and felt nothing now would do good. My doctor called on Dr. Elliotson, and told him of my case, and how I had suffered and was still suffering ; also that one physician had said my right lung was diseased. Dr. Elliotson said he must see me first to judge for himself ; he had known mesmerism work wonders where everything had failed, and as I so much wanted to be soothed and to obtain rest, he did not see why it should not be tried. Dr. Elliotson came, and after examining my chest very carefully with the stethoscope, told me there was no disease anywhere about the lungs ; that my cough was entirely from nervous irritation of the air passages ; and, after some farther examination, he began to mesmerise me. I shall never forget the effect it had on me the first day, it was so dreadful ; I was all the time in a wretched state of weakness, and could not sit up on the sofa without being bent double. As he made the passes, I became most restless and started up from the sofa, so that my own doctor, Dr. Elliotson, and my maid, were obliged to hold me to keep me quiet. This continued for some time, and at last, after great patience on Dr. Elliotson's part, he got me quiet, and I burst into a violent fit of sobbing and was relieved. Dr. Elliotson remained with me nearly two hours, and was most kind. After trying to cheer me up, he left me, and desired I might be kept very quiet, saying he would see me the next day.

“My state after he left me was most dreadful. I was again seized with most violent hysterics, jumped up off the sofa, and became quite unmanageable. My maid was forced to hold me to keep me quiet ; and after an attack of two hours, I sunk down perfectly exhausted, and went to bed. But no sleep came upon me ; and the next day, though I was up, I felt so strange and ill, that I wished I had never tried mesmerism, it so completely seemed to have routed (I may say) and disturbed my whole system. However, Dr. Elliotson persevered every day for nine months, half an hour at a time. His great kindness, patience and perseverance I shall never forget. He was always the same, and unlike all my other medical men, who had seemed to imagine I might get well if I tried ; just as if I would not if I could, and I have often cried

for hours to be what I once was. And really I used to wonder how he could go on from day to day, for there were no visible effect for more than three months. Certainly after the first two or three days I began to be much quieter while he was mesmerising me, and at last I lay quite quiet, and felt no wish to move, and the cough left me. He encouraged me, by telling me it might be many days, perhaps many weeks, before sleep came on, but he thought that when it did, my relief would be great. I still had no faith in mesmerism, and often, after he has left me, have I thought to myself what nonsense it was going on with it, and have longed to ask him to give me up. But my maid persuaded me to persevere, as she thought, though it was very slight, she could see an improvement working in me, and that I was calmer, and not so irritable, as when Dr. Elliotson first saw me.

“I was taking violent aperient medicine every night, as I was obliged. He told me I must begin to leave it off by degrees, it was injuring me greatly, and that mesmerism would not take effect as long as I did. So by degrees I left it off, and at the end of two months I began to take only a dessert spoonful of castor oil, and that only once in five days; and at last a teaspoonful was sufficient, and that once in ten days. I now, at the end of three months, began to feel a change; something different seemed really now to be taking place. I could sit up better on my sofa, and my appearance got better, not so ghastly and worn; and though the improvement was slight, still I felt something which I had never before experienced, and Dr. Elliotson himself began to think I was really mending. Every day I became quieter; my head was better, and my limbs also. He ordered my maid to mesmerise my limbs at night, to ease the pains; and I obtained relief. My rest at night improved; nightmare, that I used to be horribly subject to, entirely left me; and I felt I was getting on.

“When Dr. Elliotson first attended me, I was continually in bed; but gradually I was able to leave it oftener and longer: every day for a week or fortnight together, and so on, until I seldom kept it for a whole day. Of course at times I was not so well; but when I think of the improvement that took place, I am thunderstruck. My depression was not nearly so great, and I could sit in an easy chair for some time, and felt lighter. Formerly I would be for hours totally unable to speak, and so depressed that the tears used to roll down my cheeks from the state of exhaustion and suffering that was upon me; and no one knows how utterly wretched I have been. All this had left me; and when mesmerism had been

tried for four or five months, I began to feel a different creature. The spring too was fast approaching, and Dr. Elliotson allowed me to go out for a drive for half an hour. Though I was carried up and down stairs, the exertion was very great to me, but I persevered by his directions, only being allowed to go out at first once a week, then twice, and so on to every day. The air indeed was delicious, though my exhaustion was very great; but nevertheless I bore it wonderfully well, and by degrees walked down stairs—a thing I had not done for many months before he first saw me; and after a time I walked up slowly as well as down, and next was able to drive to Kensington Gardens in the morning, and walk for ten minutes, and gradually up to half an hour.

“Mesmerism now began to take great effect, and I began to believe in it most *truly*. A sensation of torpidity came over me, so that I felt I could not move off the sofa, even if any one had attempted to kick the door down in order to get into my room (as my maid always locked the door after Dr. Elliotson left, that no one might disturb me). I used sometimes to remain in this stupified state for two hours, feeling more like a person, I should think, who was *dead drunk*; when the effects went off, I used to get off the sofa, and I shall never forget my face on looking at it; I was so altered, just like a tipsy person. But by remaining quiet for some time, all this went off, and in the after part of the day I felt as if I were quite well—so well and exhilarated I could do anything, and often have done too much for my strength. Indeed, my sister happening one evening to see me from a window *pacing* up and down my room, could not believe it was I, and looked twice to convince herself; so surprised was she after seeing me lie like a dead person caring for nought so long, that she could not comprehend it. No one indeed can tell what a truly happy and blessed relief was now upon me. I never felt such an exhilarated feeling as from the effects of mesmerism. I lost all nervous excitement; my whole appearance was improved; I could read now a little and see more people without suffering, and began to feel as if I were getting like my own self. Sleep came gradually upon me, so that often after Dr. Elliotson had left me I have slept unknowingly for more than half an hour, and *the refreshment afterwards was like I know not what*, and did me more good than two hours' common sleep. I used to wake up wondering what had happened and where I was, and was not aware my maid had left the room; and yet formerly, not even a person slightly whispering or working with a needle could be allowed in my room, so great was my agony from

the noise. In fact mesmerism was working wonders, and I was obliged to ask Dr. Elliotson to diminish the time, which he did to twenty minutes, as the effect was so very great that I could not recover for hours from the stupified state. He gradually decreased it to fifteen minutes, and then to ten. Even this now was becoming too overpowering, and he tried five minutes, which was enough; till at last three minutes did; and as he was going to Switzerland in September, he advised me to leave it off, and not to be mesmerised unless I felt ill. He had shewn my maid how to do it, and therefore I could always be mesmerised if necessary. I began now to get about like any other being. I never took during the whole nine months any medicine beyond aperients, and those less and less; I took but little nourishment, and only cold water and light puddings, and often not them; so that really I may say mesmerism was my only remedy.

“I can never cease to look back with feelings of gratitude to Dr. Elliotson for his great thought, kindness and patience; and what I feel at my wonderful recovery it is impossible to express; indeed I sometimes fancy I am dreaming now, so strange is it to be well and about. I thought if mesmerism could even quiet my wretched state it would be a blessing, but certainly never expected to be as well as ever, and more active than ever I was; and when I reflect that everything had been tried, and think over all I have gone through, and the heartless speeches that were made concerning my getting well if I chose to exert myself, whereas I was never one to give way, and was always most active, I am so astonished that I cannot at all comprehend it. I am now quite well, able to take very long walks, and still drink nothing but water, and take not as much nourishment as many take who do not walk as I do; and when many people who had not seen me for four years meet me, they start back and tell me it must be a resurrection, and that I am a living wonder. Yet, notwithstanding all this, I fear many will not believe mesmerism has cured me, or that there is anything in it. I only wish they could feel the effects I have felt from it, when gradually it worked upon my system, at first so uncomfortably, and then so soothingly. I cannot bear to hear any one for a moment laugh at it, for to it alone, I must maintain, do I owe my recovery. As I said, Dr. Elliotson’s great attention and kindness will ever be remembered by me with feelings of the greatest gratitude; and much do I regret I did not try mesmerism long before, for I would all along have given worlds to have recovered, so unlike my former self was I when in this wretched state of suffering.”

The painful excitement which the patient in the preceding account describes as the result of my first mesmerising her was possibly only an hysterical emotion at the novelty of the measure and of myself, who had never seen her before. I have known occurrences of this kind in other instances of the first mesmerisation. I recollect that when Dr. Roots and myself allowed Mr. Chenevix, in 1828, to make trials of mesmerism on some of our patients in St. Thomas's Hospital, a female, under the care of Dr. Roots for violent hysterical fits, had a sharp one almost as soon as the manipulations were begun the first and only time, Dr. Roots not allowing her or others to be mesmerised again, and pronouncing mesmerism to be injurious, and since then, I understand, not entertaining a more favourable opinion of it. An epileptic young man from Welchpool had a violent epileptic fit when I first saw him and mesmerised him: but he was mesmerised regularly from that day and never had another,—becoming perfectly cured, and his case, with all its interesting mesmeric phenomena, is detailed in the first volume of *The Zoist*. Various catchings, pains, and other annoyances, even fits, when the patient is subject to them, may occur from mesmerism at first, and recur at every mesmerisation for some time; but I have always found these inconveniences gradually and completely disappear if mesmerism was persevered with.* Still I cannot assert that these are not results of mesmeric influence independent of emotion.

For mesmerism is a much more remarkable power than many suppose. The mesmerism of one person will affect a certain individual differently from the mesmerism of another; and this even in regard to local effects,—when employed but locally; and where imagination cannot be conceived to have any influence. A variety of persons will, for instance, induce a variety of sensations in a mesmerised knee or arm. Some are much more affected by one mesmeriser than by another. Some derive no benefit from one mesmeriser, and great benefit from another. Also changes occur. I have a patient whom I send to sleep with one pass, or indeed by merely holding my hand for a second before her face, and whom I benefit exceedingly. But such is her susceptibility, that if another, not to say makes a pass before her, but stands or sits near her in her mesmeric state, unless that person is already in the mesmeric state, she is rendered very ill and exhausted. The same occurs in her natural state if any one but myself for a moment attempts to mesmerise her. Formerly a single pass from myself, even when she was in her

* *Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 199.

natural state, made her very ill. I had long attended her, and long did not propose mesmerism to her. But the attempt by myself or a young lady who knew her well made her ill for many days : whereas her sister, who was not like us in good health, sent her to sleep for many hours twice a day with the greatest benefit. At length her sister did her no good ; and my mesmerism was, and now is, not only borne, but productive of the very highest benefit. A mesmeriser therefore need not feel hurt because his mesmerism disagrees with a particular individual. The very person who agrees with his patient may disagree with another. It is wrong to urge perseverance with himself when he does not suit a patient. By making the attempt but slightly, however, and by behaving in the very kindest manner, his mesmerism may at last be borne : and it may be unobjectionable to make the attempt slightly at distant intervals. It is probable, nay almost certain, that imagination, without the patient being at all aware of it, may contribute to the degree and character of the effects of different mesmerisers in some cases.*

The ultimate augmentation of the power of mesmerism, even to inconvenience, that occurred in the present case, I have noticed in others. It was remarkable in the young gentleman from Welchpool, permanently cured of epilepsy. Daily mesmerism at length produced head-ache, inability to collect his thoughts, flushing and heat of his face ; and it was performed but every other day for a week ; then every fourth day ; then but once a week ; and then omitted for good.† Mary Ann, spoken of in so many *Zoists*,‡ has been mesmerised daily for epilepsy above four years. The more she was mesmerised the better she was. Finding her improve very little, I not only allowed her to sleep three or four hours every morning at my house, one pass being sufficient for this, but her father always sent her into mesmeric sleep as soon as she was in bed, and this sleep was allowed to expend itself, as it always did in three or four hours, running into ordinary sleep, the proof of which was her always remembering in the mesmeric state the next day all her thoughts and everything else which had occurred during the first three or four hours of her sleep the previous night, and no more. This additional mesmerisation for some time did her good ; and if I deepened her coma by laying my hand upon her forehead, this did her good. But at length the additional quantity and the additional degree did her harm : rendered her faint and feeble for perhaps hours. If, in her

* *Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 49, 52.

† *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 426.

‡ Vol. II., pp. 216, 247, 388. Vol. III., pp. 322, 374, 454. Vol. IV. p. 53.

mesmeric state, she mesmerises any one, or touches for a minute any one in the mesmeric state, so powerful is the effect, that she always has dropped senseless and exhausted. But now, if even another is mesmerised by passes in the same room where she is in the mesmeric state, she drops senseless and exhausted, and her limbs can no longer be stiffened. There is not a spark of affectation or fancy in her. The effects I know to be genuinely mesmeric. I now no longer attribute to fancy the restlessness and faintness which I have seen some persons exhibit when in a room where others were being mesmerised. In Mary Ann I now refrain from producing deep mesmeric coma, and from having her mesmerised more than once a day : and she is decidedly improving. The ultimate power of mesmerism in the young lady whose case forms the subject of this paper, and its gradually increasing production of unpleasant effects, are very remarkable. Could I have induced absolute coma, possibly she would have experienced none of that miserable confused state. But she never went to sleep while I was with her ; and I could not deepen her heaviness, for she was made uncomfortable by longer continuance of the downward passes before her face by which I always mesmerised her, or by placing the points of my fingers upon her closed eyes or my hands upon her forehead : and neither metals, nor a very large magnet, nor crystals, exerted any power over her. All this holds good with medicines. Some persons are little or not at all affected by a particular drug : some are exquisitely susceptible of its effects : some are affected agreeably, others disagreeably : and in some a complete change will occur. Persons insusceptible, or almost insusceptible, of the effects of a medicine, may become very susceptible of them : and those with whom a particular medicine always did good, or at least agreed, may ultimately find it not merely useless but positively injurious : and there is no more evidence of imagination in the case of mesmerism than of these medicines. Attention to these points, and the adjustment of the force, is no less indispensable in mesmerism than in the exhibition of medicines. The minutest amount of mesmerism may be requisite in a case which once required all the mesmerism that could be bestowed.

Imagination cannot be alleged as the cause of the cure. The patient had strong sense and strong resolution, and a thorough contempt for affectation, fancies, whims, and the desire of sympathy and notice. It was long before she could be induced to try mesmerism ; and, long after she began to try it, she continued to regard it as nonsense. She had no

opinion of it till, to her surprise, she found herself improving. Exactly in the same way, Rosina, whose charming case is recorded in the second volume of *The Zoist*, submitted to be mesmerised solely to please her father, and regarded it as nonsense till she actually found her fits were less frequent and her illness less after each fit.* Yet I have no doubt that imagination has great influence over mesmeric patients. I feel certain that there is *first* the genuine mesmeric influence transmitted from one person to another, often unconsciously in regard to one or both parties, and even transmissible by the intervention of inanimate substances, and it is perhaps a modification of galvanism, magnetism, and other powers of inanimate matter, which may be fundamentally one and fundamentally the same as that which produces vital phenomena and the mental phenomena of the brain or other mental organs, if others there be. But I am as certain that, *secondly*, imagination, suggestion, emotion, or whatever name we choose to employ, has a frequent share in producing the phenomena; and that, *thirdly*, the mere will of another person very often is able to produce them, though I have never been able to make it even probable in any trials I have made that my will has had any share in producing the phenomena which I have effected by mesmeric means. A very remarkable example of the true mesmeric influence was that of Mr. Henry S. Thompson and a lady, who, being both determined sceptics, resolved to play a trick upon a party. It was arranged that he should make passes and she go to sleep and exhibit phenomena; when to his utter astonishment his passes proved effective, and the lady fell into a true mesmeric coma.†

The present case affords an additional proof that the common idea of sleep or some other sensible effect being requisite

* "She had continued to come to me in obedience to her father, but, as she has since told me, still regarded the affair as a piece of folly, not believing that I ever sent her to sleep, and determined not to sleep. She found, however, that her fits were much less frequent, and that she suffered much less after they were over, and this made her begin to think there was something in it: and no wonder, for she had, independently of the mesmeric process and state, but *three in eighteen days*, each milder than the preceding, and the last without a struggle. The ignorant argument of mesmeric effects being all the result of imagination was absolutely ridiculous in her case. She both despised mesmerism, and defied it: and her intelligence and resolution are of no ordinary amount. But she could resist no longer, and is now as disgusted with those who talk their childish nonsense against the reality and utility of mesmerism, as she was originally with those who believed its truth. Even a little sister who used to run out of the room when her fit began, remarked the improvement in the violence and number of her fits, and said in a week, 'Mother, what a good thing it is you took Rosina to that new doctor.' The excitement of an attack by the mesmeric process gradually declined."—Vol. II., p. 199.

† See *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 72, 165, 334. Vol. II., p. 197.

to benefit from mesmerism is unfounded. No sleep nor any sensible effect resulted while yet the cure began and proceeded.*

It exhibits also the necessity for steady and long perseverance in the absence of all prospect of improvement. For three months I was not able to discern any improvement nor any effect. I confess I began to feel a little despair. But I knew how slow are many of nature's results; I knew no reason why I should not succeed; and I went calmly on as I have done in supporting mesmerism against the efforts of nearly all the profession. I have seen some mesmerisers give up a case in a few months, or weeks; or even not persevere if there was no sensible effect of some kind the first or second time of mesmerising. Patients and their friends may be excused such conduct on the score of ignorance: but those who take upon themselves to practise mesmerism should know better.

This case proves the error of a common fancy that mesmerism is the effect of a strong person upon a weaker: and that the weak are the most susceptible. I have often at once powerfully affected persons of fair strength and health: and very often have persevered a very considerable time day after day without causing any effect with persons of extreme debility, debility being usually attended with irritability which probably resisted the influence.† While this lady was very weak, I was not aware of any effect; and, as she regained her strength, the power of mesmerism became more and more manifest, and at length became painfully great. So in ordinary medicine, during a severe disease doses are borne and required which disagree as the disease declines, and cannot be borne at all when it ceases. In very low fever and in violent pains, a quantity of wine is taken without inconvenience and with benefit that excites injuriously as the health returns, and we have gradually to lessen the amount.

If this case affords important mesmeric instruction, it furnishes a grave lesson to those medical men who scoff at mesmerism. Here was a fellow-creature of the gentle sex suffering by no fault of her own the severest torments. Several of the most popular practitioners in the highest circles were called in: and no doubt did their best. But to what did their efforts amount? After large expense, and the actual exasperation of all the sufferings by many of their measures, she was in the end just as bad as ever; and I feel convinced that, had nothing been done, she would not have been worse in the long run, and in many respects would have

* *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 182; Vol. III., p. 206.

† *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 180; Vol. IV., p. 470.

been much better. They practised no better than the humblest general practitioner of the village or the obscure street: no better than any practitioner who lived a thousand years ago. But if they did no better, they did no worse than others would have done. They practised according to the present imperfect state of medical science. Yet I must differ from them in many of their measures. I regret the injunction to excite her and distract her with noise and other harsh measures, while her nerves were all agonizingly sensitive. This practice was the same as ordering a man with an inflamed eye to be exposed to the sun with his eyelids held open, or as pouring brandy into an inflamed stomach. The excessive leeching, the blistering, and strong physic, were all measures which I would not have employed. Neither should I for a moment have hinted to her or any one so unjust an opinion as that she could prevent her sufferings and would get well when she thought proper. Such views appear to me erroneous in these diseases of the nervous system. The exquisite sensitiveness of various nerves, and the mental agony in these cases, is just as real as the pain of pleurisy. The various morbid sensations of different nerves in these cases, as well as occasional strange inclinations and thoughts which we witness, are all real. The inferences of danger which patients in nervous diseases draw from their sufferings are unfounded: but their sufferings are as real as they represent. They may not be sensitive to noise and other things at one moment, and be very sensitive at another, perhaps the next, moment; but it is just the same with the states of the nerves that cause the shootings of tic douloureux or convulsions. A patient may be free from these one moment and agonized or distorted the next. Nervous patients are too often very cruelly treated. When not very bad they may help themselves by exertion; just as a madman near sanity may by some argument addressed to him shake off his diseased idea: but they can no more by effort cure themselves of their agonies while in full force than the inmates of Bedlam can be cured by reasoning.*

Some medical men behave unworthily to their patients when no better; stoutly declaring that they are better, and attempting to bully them into a confession that they are better, while the poor creatures feel and know they are no better: and I have witnessed this both when the object was to continue attendance upon a private patient, and in hospital practice from unwillingness to admit the imperfection of their

* My readers will remember the absurdities of Mrs. Chick, who considered that poor Mrs. Dombey had only to "*make an effort*," and actually perished for want of having made "*an effort*."

art,—and even when the patients had no nervous affection and were steadily approaching the grave.

What is the grave lesson to medical men in the innumerable cases which they know by woful experience they cannot cure, or in which, though they have hoped to effect a cure, they are baffled?

I have always urged upon the mesmeric world and upon patients that mesmerism should be regarded as a holy thing—a thing involving the most solemn responsibilities of striving with all simplicity and earnestness of purpose to benefit our fellow-creatures, and of regarding ourselves as placed in a sacred relation, demanding perfect integrity and perfect purity of feeling. The person who holds not these convictions, and acts not entirely upon them, is unfit to mesmerise, and should be detested and openly discountenanced by us all: equally with the medical person who forgets his solemn responsibilities in the confidential intercourse which his profession allows him. But I must urge upon the medical world and all those who may have influence over the treatment of invalids, that they likewise have a solemn responsibility in regard to mesmerism. Here is a *simple* and *innocent* method, alleged by very numerous persons of respectability to have effected very numerous cures of diseases which had proved too stubborn for all the established methods of medicine and surgery in the hands of the most eminent as well as of merely popular practitioners, and to have procured alleviation and comfort in incurable cases when the established methods had done not even this. Such endless cases are fully detailed with every personal reference which can be desired. No facts in medical records are more satisfactorily presented. The falsehoods of those who have previously attended the patients in vain, the shocking slanders of these men and others leagued with them, are too gross to deceive: and the previous notoriety of the cases, and the living testimony of the patients with the full-blown proofs of cure in their countenances and persons, render impotent every attempt to set aside the facts. Nearly all medical men profess to be Christians: many vent religious sentiments in season and out of season, in their lectures and their publications, are seen regularly at church, place religious books about the rooms into which their patients are shewn, and unsparingly pronounce those of their profession, whom from merely some bad feeling they dislike, to be irreligious, infidels, even atheists,* or something else, the re-

* Not only were the terms infidel and atheist bestowed upon Newton and Locke, but Christ himself is in the list of Atheists published in the *Dictionnaire des Athées*.

proach of which they know is calculated to do injury to the best man in the present ignorant and immoral state of society. And yet these virtuous men forget that religion is a farce, if it values people for their mere opinions upon mysterious, supernatural, incomprehensible matters, such opinions not being the result of proof, usually springing from the feelings and external influences, and requiring infinitely more knowledge and hard thought than fall to the lot of one person in ten thousand; if it does not penetrate the whole frame, influence our very smallest actions, and engender *perfect* goodwill and commiseration for those whom we think in error and that modesty which renders us aware of our scanty amount of knowledge and our disposition to proud injustice; and if it does not render us anxious to learn all that can be taught us which is calculated to enable us to be more useful to our fellow-creatures. I am compelled, therefore, to regard those professing medical Christians who, while gravely praying and singing in the sight of men at church, refuse to examine into the facts of mesmerism, refuse to go and witness them and experiment for themselves, and insanely declare they would not believe the facts if they witnessed them, to be such as Christ were he on earth again would inveigh against with all severity as he did against the hypocrites of old; and to be most immoral and unrighteous, indulging bad passions while calling themselves miserable sinners and bestowing all sorts of fine expressions upon the object of their worship and pretending reverence for his precepts of humility, justice and mercy.

Had the medical attendants of this young lady made themselves acquainted with mesmerism, and not through unfortunate prejudice remained behind this knowledge of the day, they would have recommended mesmerism in her case, and spared her years of suffering from both the disease and the means employed.

By mentioning the name of one medical man, her residence, and a circumstance or two of her family, I have put it in the power of all her friends to recognize the case and given all the proofs of authenticity which the world can desire. But though I have not given her full name, she nobly gave me permission to print it: and I cannot refrain, though without permission, to terminate this account with the note which accompanied the history, and which displays the truthfulness, kindness, modesty and courageous independence, that, when combined, render the female character so beautiful.

“Dear Dr. Elliotson,—I have sent you my case, which I

trust you will be able to make out ; and let me know if it is as you wish. I think I have done it as clearly as I can, and all of it is as true as it can be ; indeed I have not said half what my sufferings were, but I do think I have said enough. If my name would be of any advantage to you, pray by all means put it in, as I feel I cannot be sufficiently grateful to you for all your kindness, &c., and I think such a recovery as mine deserves being made public, though of course I do not wish to make myself conspicuous.

“ Yours sincerely,

“ E——— B———.

“ Eaton Square,

“ June 1st, 1847.”

II. *An instance of great benefit from Mesmerism in a case of Epilepsy, with the production of Clairvoyance and other remarkable phenomena.* By Mr. WILLIAM TOPHAM, Barrister-at-Law. Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

Temple, May 31st, 1847.

My Dear Elliotson,—As you have sometimes expressed an interest in a case of mesmerism, which engaged my attention a few years ago ; will you allow me to place at your disposal a detailed statement of the facts of that case ? My reason for not doing so at the time when the circumstances occurred was that I did not then deem it to be sufficiently important for publication ; because the unavoidable discontinuance of the mesmerism had left the cure incomplete. Yet, upon lately referring to my notes, taken at the time, I have been led to think that the case—incomplete though it be as a perfect cure—contains so much real matter of interest to those whom no personal motives deter from seeking and acknowledging the great truths of nature, that its circulation, through your means, may not be wholly unacceptable.

I cannot resist this opportunity of congratulating *you*, upon the steady progress which mesmerism, with all its inestimable blessings, is, “ now,” constantly making.

Believe me always, very sincerely yours,

W. TOPHAM.

Dr. Elliotson.

On the 4th of March, 1839, Thomas Horner, then in the 14th year of his age, the son of a poor husbandman, at Middleton, in Yorkshire, was seized with a violent fit of epilepsy. A second fit occurred, after the lapse of a month : at the expiration of the same period of time, he had again a

fit; and thus, for some months, he was seized with fits at like intervals. Their frequency then increased, a fortnight only intervening between each attack; gradually, his fits became still more frequent; and at the time when he attracted my attention, the 1st of August, 1843, they were taking place as often as three times a week, and had also assumed a more violent appearance.

The duration of each fit, from the first, was two hours; during the greater portion of this time, he had been under medical treatment; but without any, even temporary relief: he had been bled from the arm nine times within the preceding three years. Each bleeding, he said, produced a feeling of greater weakness; and, occasionally, the recurrence of a fit within a day or two.

From the time of his first attack, in 1839, and *during the entire period of four years and a half*, he had been in the following state, viz., great and incessant pain over both temples; after each fit, severe pain in his right side; that side sometimes becoming swollen, and then the pain extending down the thigh and leg, rendering them stiff and immovable; his eyes always dull and filmy, so that he could see no object with any distinctness; his sleep *invariably* checked and broken by the pains in his head, which seldom allowed him more than half an hour's repose, when he became roused, and obliged to walk about, in order to prevent, what otherwise always occurred, the additional pain in his right side and leg. He only (though invariably) suffered from this pain in his right side after each fit, or if he lay still when the pains in his head roused him from sleep.

On hearing of his great sufferings, and of the entire failure of the medical treatment which he had been subjected to, I resolved to try the effect of mesmerism. He was a simple illiterate fellow, who could neither read nor write; he had never heard of the subject of mesmerism in his life; and sat down without even a guess at what I was about to attempt. I succeeded in producing the mesmeric sleep in ten minutes. After sleeping half an hour, he became aroused by my speaking to him. When just awakened he felt a slight degree of the pain in his right leg, which always followed the fit; but it ceased immediately after a few passes over the leg. Upon recovering from his very evident surprize on his first experience of mesmerism, he uttered an exclamation of delight, to find that his sight, which, throughout the four years and a half preceding had been clouded and indistinct, so as almost to amount to blindness, had become perfectly clear; and that, as he said, everything seemed bright around him. That night

he enjoyed eight hours of uninterrupted sleep ; the pains in his head ceased ; and he came to me the next morning in high spirits, the visible change in his countenance exciting the remarks of those who had been in the habit of noticing his usual dull, haggard look.

The mesmerism was daily repeated, and he as regularly improved in general health and appearance. He continued free from the least pain of any description, slept soundly every night ; and although these violent fits had been taking place three times a week up to the day when he was first mesmerized, yet, from that day, he had no return of a fit ; nor, with one exception, when the sensation passed away in a few minutes, the least indication of the approach of a fit for upwards of two months.

On the 7th of October, at 8 o'clock in the evening, he had a fit, which continued for an hour ; but the pain which accompanied it was of a totally different description from that which prevailed in all the previous attacks. On this occasion he felt severe pain in the epigastrium, and then became insensible. On recovering his consciousness, he still felt the pain in the same place, and nowhere else. His *head* remained entirely free from pain ; nor did he feel the least uneasiness there. The pain in the epigastrium soon left him, and he enjoyed his usual sound sleep at night.

He had no further return of a fit until the 21st of October ; when, induced by his increased strength to engage himself in some laborious occupation throughout the whole day, and after resting many hours, he had again a fit. Yet he experienced no subsequent pain, and continued free from any indication of another fit for some weeks ; although the mesmerism was unavoidably discontinued after the 27th of October.

Horner remained in an improved state of health ; gradually becoming stouter and stronger, and with no recurrence of the pains. He was however still subject to the recurrence of a fit, once in the course of a month or five weeks. In the beginning of the following April, he caught a severe cold, and within twenty-four hours, died from the internal inflammation.

As Horner's state, when he was under the influence of mesmerism, exhibited some peculiar facts and very curious phenomena, I feel that a detailed account of these will prove as full of interest as the statement of those results which were merely curative.

At the fourth time of mesmerising he passed into a state of somnambulism, and then, ignorant as he had previously been of the very existence of mesmerism itself, he confidently

told me that I should deepen his sleep, and so increase its benefit, by touching his eyeballs for a short time, a suggestion which proved to be quite true.

He would sleep any length of time, unless I aroused him.

When mesmerised, the left side, throughout his body, was totally devoid of sensation; but the right side, from head to foot, was extremely sensitive. He could not bear to be touched, even by his mesmeriser, on the *right side* of his body; it gave him great pain. But if I touched the left cheek *at the same time* that I touched the right, the left hand simultaneously with the right, and so on, throughout the entire of each side, *he felt nothing whatever*,—not even the severest pinching. By making passes over the right leg it became stiffened and rigidly fixed; but I could never thus affect the left leg in the least degree. It will be remembered that the *right* side of his body was always affected, became painful, sometimes swollen, after his fits.

If I held his hands for the space of ten or twelve minutes after he was mesmerised, he could not bear me to leave him, saying that it made him cold and uncomfortable when I did so.

In his mesmeric state he would sit at table and eat and drink very enjoyably, and apparently with increased powers of digestion; for soon after his restoration to his natural state, he would partake of his dinner or supper with as good an appetite as if he had not been (of which he was ignorant) freely indulging it half an hour before.

The touch of *any* piece of metal gave him pain on *both* sides of his body.

On touching his right eye-ball with the utmost gentleness with the tip of my finger, he felt a smart pricking pain, and saw, at each touch, a flash of light; indeed he persisted in declaring each time that I held a candle close to his eye. His left eyeball was insensible to any touch.

There was perfect community of sensation and taste between him and his mesmeriser, *but only on his right side*. For instance, whilst his hands were held in mine, if a third person pinched my arm (no matter which), he felt pain in his right arm, and complained that he was pricked there. However noiselessly and secretly any substance was placed in my mouth, he instantly moved his lips, as in the act of tasting, saying that he did taste something, naming the substance (and he was very rarely wrong) that was in my mouth, and evincing his pleasure or displeasure, as the thing was sweet, bitter, or sour. But he always said that the taste was only on the right side of his mouth. So if I drank a glass of

water whilst holding his hands, he always fancied that the water was being poured down his own throat, and sometimes asked me to give him no more as it was too cold. I ought to add here, that all our experiments were conducted with the severest caution, and that he was frequently thickly blindfolded for the satisfaction of many persons who witnessed them.

He has been occasionally thrown into the mesmeric sleep by his holding a mesmerised sovereign in his hand for three or four minutes. I tested the truth of this circumstance in the following manner, which was frequently repeated. Some third person made a very minute and private mark upon a sovereign taken from his own purse. He then emptied the contents of his purse (often ten or twelve sovereigns) into a hat, giving me the one which he had privately marked. After mesmerising it, I threw it into the hat, and they were all shaken together. Then Horner at my desire proceeded to take out each sovereign singly. Upon taking up perhaps the fourth or the seventh, as the case might be, he started, and said that it pricked his fingers. This sovereign was then examined, and proved, in every instance, to be the one which had been previously marked and mesmerised.

The immediate effect of a mesmerised sovereign placed in his hand was extreme rigidity of the hand and arm, and a sensation of great numbness up to the shoulder; he then gradually lost all consciousness and fell into the mesmeric sleep, which, as in every instance, became very deep if he were not spoken to. A glass of mesmerised water would also produce the mesmeric sleep in the course of three or four minutes, whilst he was under the idea that he had been only drinking an ordinary glass of water.*

I have likewise thrown him into the mesmeric sleep whilst he was in active conversation with two or three strangers; I being a short distance behind him, and he himself not cognizant of my attempt.

After five or six weeks' mesmerism he began spontaneously to exhibit instances of clairvoyance. The first occasion was on the 11th of September. It was in the dusk of the evening; so that the room where he was mesmerised was nearly dark. My previous mode of mesmerising him had been by pointing at his eyes, but on this occasion I began by making passes over the top of his head, and continued them after he

* These effects of mesmerised gold and water were exactly those which I witnessed a thousand times in the Okeys, who are quite well and in respectable circumstances, though some persons to this hour cruelly declare they are deranged, and others stigmatize them as impostors.—J. ELLIOTSON.

was in the sleep. In the course of five or six minutes after the sleep was induced, he suddenly exclaimed that he could see into the room above us (the drawing-room). I said, "Your eyes are closed ; how can you see?" And he replied, "I don't see with my eyes ! I see from the top of my head ; all the top of my head seems open !" He then accurately described the position of different articles in the room above us, which I myself had never noticed before, and he having only entered the room once in his life, when he came for a couple of minutes to speak to me, a month previously. He also named two persons, out of a large party in the house, as being in the room ; told me accurately where each was sitting, and how occupied. I inquired of him if he saw any light, knowing that it was earlier than the usual time of the lights being taken up to that room ; he answered, that there was only a very small candle on the table, near the person (naming him) who was reading. I found everything as Horner had described ; a small taper having been used as a temporary light.

He exhibited many other instances of clairvoyance upon different occasions, of which I will give one or two more.

I have put on a shooting-jacket, in which were eight or ten pockets ; I have put various articles into each pocket, of a description very unlikely to be mixed together ; and then, with all the pockets closed and the jacket buttoned up to my throat, I would proceed to the dark room where Horner was, and, standing a couple of yards before him, he would tell me truly the several articles in the several pockets, describing the situation of each pocket, and naming each article within it. Occasionally a short time after he had rightly named some one article as being in a certain pocket, I have secretly removed it to another ; but he constantly perceived the change and described it, although my hand was always closed over the thing which I was removing, and the persons who were standing nearer to me than Horner sat could detect nothing that I did.

I once requested a friend, out of Horner's hearing, to go up-stairs into the room above us, and hold up the window-curtain, at a time when Horner was describing to me what a large party there were doing, and, apparently, much amused at their proceedings. Suddenly he exclaimed, "Why there's Mr. De Gex just come into the room !" I said, "Watch him, and tell me what he does." He then exclaimed, "Oh, what a curious thing for him to do ; he is standing with his hand hold of your father's shoulder ! Yes, there he stands, still ! What a curious thing ! Now, he has left him, and

is going out of the room again!" In a few moments Mr. De Gex re-entered the room where we were, when I repeated Horner's statement. He said that it was perfectly true, and that he had changed the manner of testing Horner's clairvoyance in order to satisfy himself.*

Horner could rarely exert the power of clairvoyance longer than ten or twenty minutes, when he complained of great pain in his head; indeed, after the second time, he felt severe pain in his head for three days, so that I desisted during a week from mesmerising him by passes over the top of his head; for he never became clairvoyant except when the sleep was produced by that mode.

Such were the effects of mesmerism in this case. *Immediate* and permanent relief from incessant pains of four and a half years' duration, rapid improvement in health, and almost an entire cessation from frequent and violent epileptic fits: profoundly interesting also in the varied phenomena which were constantly arising during its daily progress.

P.S. A few weeks after the regular mesmerism had been given up, and whilst I was in London, I proved Horner's susceptibility to my mesmeric power in the following manner: I mesmerised a kid-glove, and sent it through the post-office to one of the members of my father's family, desiring that Horner should put the glove on his hand. He was accordingly sent for in the evening of the day on which the glove was received (the day after it was mesmerised); and put the glove on, as desired.

At first, he said that he felt a sort of warmth passing up his arm; and then, in the course of three or four minutes, he dropped asleep. Soon afterwards, the arm of the gloved hand became rigid, and he called out loudly that he felt extreme pain throughout the whole arm, asking those who were present to take the glove off immediately.

The glove was removed with some difficulty, for *his hand had become much swollen*; he then remained in a state of calm sleep for upwards of an hour, when he awoke spontaneously. The hand which had been covered with the mesmerised glove, continued to be painful and much swollen for some hours.

To avoid a recurrence of the pain in Horner's arm and hand, on receiving my second mesmerised glove, it was, at my request, placed upon his head; when he passed into the mesmeric sleep in a few minutes, without any pain or any uncomfortable sensation.

* Mr. De Gex also is a barrister, and is a fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge.
—J. ELLIOTSON.

I frequently repeated this mode of mesmerising him. Sometimes I sent a glove which had *not* been mesmerised—taking care not to acquaint *any one* with the fact; and, to shew how little Horner's imagination had to do with the success of the experiment—in every instance when the glove was *not* mesmerised,—his mind being fully impressed with the belief that it *was*—it produced no effect. Otherwise, it invariably caused the mesmeric sleep.

III. *An Instance of Clairvoyance independent of Mesmerism.*
Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

FROM my early demonstrations of mesmerism in University College Hospital to the present time, I have never ceased to remind the world that nothing is produced in the mesmeric state that does not occur spontaneously and independently of it. I have been favoured with the following account from a friend.

J. ELLIOTSON.

The anecdotes relative to the extraordinary prophetic power possessed by a Brahmin of Bombay are extracted from the "*Oriental Memoirs*" of James Forbes, Esq., of whom a slight account is prefixed; as a relation so extraordinary requires every proof that the *relater* is a person on whose veracity we may rely.

The *prospective* power of the Brahmin, is a remarkable contrast to the *retrospective* displayed by Zschokke.

H. S.

James Forbes, Esq., author of "*Oriental Memoirs*," Member of the Royal and Antiquarian Societies, and of the Arcadian at Rome, lineally descended from the Earls of Granard, was born in London in May, 1749. He was educated at Hadley by the Rev. David Garron. Before the age of sixteen he obtained an appointment to Bombay. After having filled several important situations in different parts of India, with equal talent, honour, and integrity, he returned to England in 1784. In 1787 he married the daughter of J. Gayland, Esq., by whom he had one daughter, married to the Count de Montalembert, peer of France. He was a man of ardent piety, unbounded charity, and universal philanthropy, and considerable literary attainments. His drawings of the natural productions of the countries he visited, together with

the manuscripts, fill a hundred and fifty folio volumes. He died in 1819, aged 70.

Extract from Forbes's "Oriental Memoirs."

* * * * "These persons (soothsayers) abound in all parts of India; but there are among the Brahmins a small number, who seem to differ from all the descriptions of people before mentioned; they appear also perfectly distinct from the fortune-telling Brahmins and pretended astrologers, who, like the gypsy tribe in Europe, are well known in India. Those I now speak of seem to be gifted with a talent possessed only by a very few of the quiet, retired, literary Brahmins. To one of these I shall now confine myself; he was a man well known to many of my contemporaries in India, and I have occasionally met with him at Bombay, Surat, and Cambay, where I believe he chiefly resided.

"I shall relate three anecdotes in confirmation of the penetrating spirit, preternatural gift, or whatever term may be allowed for the talent which this man possessed. I know that the predictions were made long before the events happened, and were literally accomplished.

"On my arrival in Bombay in 1766, Mr. Crommelin, the governor of that settlement, was under orders to relinquish his situation at the beginning of the following year, and then return to England. Mr. Spencer, the second in Council, was appointed his successor in the Bombay government, instead of Mr. Hodges, chief of Surat, who considered it as his right. Mr. Hodges had become acquainted with this Brahmin during his minority in the Company's service.

"This extraordinary character was then a young man, little known to the English, but of great celebrity among the Hindoos and every other description of natives in the western part of the peninsula. The Brahmin expressed an affectionate regard towards him, and, as far as the distinction of religion and caste allowed, the friendship became mutual and disinterested. The Brahmin was always justly considered as a very moral and pious character; and Mr. Hodges was equally well disposed; his Hindoo friend encouraged him to proceed in that virtuous path which would lead him to wealth and honour in this world, and finally conduct him to eternal happiness. To enforce these precepts, he assured him he would gradually rise from the station he then held at Cambay to other residences and inferior chiefships in the Company's service; that he would then succeed to the higher appointment of chief at Tellicherry and Surat, and would close his Indian

career by being Governor of Bombay. Mr. Hodges, not being enjoined secrecy, spoke of these Brahminical predictions among his associates and friends, from their very first communication, and their author was generally called Mr. Hodges's Brahmin. These predictions for some years made but little impression on his mind. Afterwards as he successively ascended the gradations in the Company's service, he placed more confidence in his Brahmin, especially when he approached near the pinnacle of ambition, and found himself chief of Surat, the next situation in wealth and honour to the government of Bombay.

"When, therefore, Mr. Spencer was appointed governor of that settlement, and Mr. Hodges dismissed from the chiefship of Surat and suspended the service, he sent for his Brahmin, who was then at Pulparra, a sacred village on the banks of the Tappee of which I have already spoken, on a religious visit. Mr. Hodges received him at the chief's garden-house, where he was sitting in the front veranda. He immediately communicated to him the events which had lately taken place to the disappointment of all his hopes and future expectations; and slightly reproached him for a pretended prescience and for having deceived him with false promises. The Brahmin, with an unaltered countenance, as is usual with his tribe on all such occasions, coolly replied, 'You see this veranda, and the apartment to which it leads; Mr. Spencer has reached the portico, but he will not enter the palace; he has set his foot upon the threshold, but he shall not enter into the house. Notwithstanding all appearances to the contrary, you will attain the honors I foretold and fill the high station to which he has been appointed. A dark cloud is before him.'

"This singular prophecy was publicly known at Surat and Bombay; and the truth or falsehood of the Brahmin was the subject of discussion in every company, when an express arrived overland from England to annul Mr. Spencer's appointment, and to invest Mr. Hodges with the government of Bombay. All which accordingly took place. Mr. Spencer embarked for England in the same ship in which I arrived in India in December; and Mr. Crommelin sailed in January, leaving Mr. Hodges in complete possession of the government. It is almost needless to remark the ascendancy of this Brahmin over the mind of Mr. Hodges during the remainder of his life; nor is it to be wondered at, that the new governor undertook no important step without consulting his Brahmin."

The second anecdote relates to the same Brahmin, and was as well known to the inhabitants of Bombay as the former. Mr. Forbes had been on terms of the closest friendship with

the parties to whom it relates, from the first day of his landing in India. After stating some circumstances connected with his voyage and the friend to whom he was then introduced and with whom he remained for forty years on the terms of of the closest intimacy, he says:—

“The lady sitting at the head of my friend’s table when I made my bashful entry, was a widow at the time he married her. Her first husband died when she was very young, leaving two children, a son and a daughter. The latter remained with her mother, the former was sent to England for education, and at the age of sixteen embarked for Bombay, with the appointment of a writer, some years prior to my arrival there. The ships of that season all reached the island in safety, except the one in which this young gentleman sailed, which at length was deemed a missing vessel, and her safety despaired of. A mother could not so easily give up hope: her usual evening walk was on a sandy beach, forming a bay on the western side of the island, in full view of the ocean. Maternal solicitude frequently cast a longing eye to that quarter where the ships from Europe generally appeared. The shore of that bay was also the place where most of the Hindoos erected the funeral pile and burnt their dead. This ceremony is attended by Brahmins, and Mr. Hodges’s Brahmin, then at Bombay, was occasionally among them. Observing the mother’s anxiety, he asked her the cause; the lady being a native of India, and well knowing his character, inquired in his own language why a man so extraordinarily gifted, should be ignorant of the cause of her tender solicitude. The Brahmin was affected, and said, “I do know the reason of your sorrow; your son lives: the ship will soon arrive in safety, but you will never more behold him.” She immediately mentioned this conversation to her friends. A signal was made not long after for a ship from Europe: on the pilot reaching her, his private signal indicated the missing ship: boats were sent off to bring the passengers on shore. The expected son was not forgotten; his mother’s friends went on board, and were informed that he had remained at the Brazils, where the ship having been long detained for repair, the Jesuits converted this promising youth to the Church of Rome. Instead, therefore, of conducting him to his expecting parent, they only delivered her letters, replete with affectionate expostulations and entreaties that she would follow his example, and enter the true church. A mother’s disappointment is easier to conceive than describe. Her son continued at Rio de Janeiro, and occasionally wrote to her, until the suppression of the Jesuits in the pontificate of Cle-

ment the 14th, on which occasion, with many other members of that society, he was sent from South America to the prisons of Portugal, and no more heard of.

"The unfortunate mother came to England some years afterwards with her husband and only daughter, who was married, and died soon after her arrival. This was a stroke her fond mother was little able to sustain; a bereavement which seemed to admit of no consolation. The downy wings of time, the balmy comforts of religion, aided by every effort of an affectionate husband, were of no avail in extricating her from a state of apathy and despair.

"Not long after this event, an intimate friend of the family having remitted a considerable sum of money from India by bills on Portugal, went to Lisbon to recover them. Walking near a prison in that city, he was supplicated for charity by a voice from a subterraneous grate, and being addressed in English made it the more impressive. Not content with affording transient relief, he entered into conversation with the prisoner, and found he was the long-lost son of his disconsolate mother. The intelligence was immediately conveyed to England, and tenderly communicated to his sorrowing parent, with the addition that her husband had already remitted money to Lisbon, and exerted such means for his deliverance that there could be no doubt of his speedy restoration to her maternal arms. This news shed a momentary gleam of joy on her countenance, but it was soon succeeded by renewed pangs of sorrow, and a continued exclamation of 'The Brahmin! the Brahmin!'

"The friend at Lisbon, when all was happily accomplished, lost no time in informing her son that his mother lived, was married to a gentleman of fortune and respectability, who was waiting to welcome him to their parental roof; and their interest and liberality had procured his liberty, which he was the happy instrument of effecting, and was then come to conduct him from a scene of misery to life, and light, and joy! Although the communication was made in the most considerate manner, he scarcely believed the reality of his emancipation from those dreary walls, where he had for years been excluded from the light of the sun and fresh air: for 'hope deferred maketh the heart sick.' The sudden transition from hopeless despair in the dungeon's gloom, to the sight of the sun, the fanning of the breeze, and the sympathy of friendships, were too much for his emaciated frame; he faintly uttered the effusions of a grateful heart, and expired!

"Thus was the Brahmin's prediction to his mother, uttered full thirty years before, completely fulfilled!

“The last anecdote I shall relate respecting this man is very short. Some months previous to my first leaving India, a gentleman and his wife arrived from England at Bombay. He, having been appointed to a lucrative situation at Surat, proceeded thither at an early opportunity, leaving his wife in a friend’s family until he should have procured a house, and made suitable provision for her reception at Surat. They were both young, and had an only child. In a few weeks she followed him to Surat. The evening before she embarked, sitting in a mixed company of gentlemen and ladies, anticipating her approaching happiness, the same Brahmin came into the verandah, with the gentleman of the house, who was high in station at Bombay. He introduced him to the company, and in a sort of jest asked him to tell the destiny of the happy fair one lately arrived from Europe. To the surprise of the whole company, and particularly so to the object of the inquiry, he gave her a penetrating and compassionate look; and after a pause, said to the gentleman in the Hindoo language, ‘Her cup of felicity is full, but evanescent! A bitter potion awaits her, for which she must prepare!’ Her husband had written that he should come in a barge to Surat bar, to accompany her on shore. He did not appear, but a friend of mine went on board to announce to her his dangerous illness: he was then in the last paroxysm of a fever, and expired in her arms! I came home a passenger in the same ship with the widow, and another lady who endeavoured to alleviate her sorrow by every tender assiduity. The name of a Brahmin was never mentioned at table, nor anything relating to Hindoo astrology. The anniversary of her husband’s death happened during the voyage, and was indeed a day of woe.”

IV. *Continuation of Capt. Peach’s Case*, by MESSRS. CHANDLER and HOLLAND. Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

To Dr. Elliotson.

My dear Sir,—I beg to forward you a continuation of Mr. Holland’s report of Captain Peach’s truly wonderful case: you can bear witness to some of the phenomena yourself. I have again visited him since the day you accompanied me, and amongst other things saw the young lady alluded to in the report come into the room entirely without the cognizance of the patient, and from the other side of the room produce a very marked effect in spite of Mr. Holland, Mr. Symes (who visited him with me) and myself continually

engaging him in conversation. This occurred after Mr. Holland had awakened him from a half hour's mesmeric nap, and so great was the effect that he requested Mr. H. to awake him a little more. We begged him not to distress himself, but to sleep again if he felt inclined, which he was very soon obliged to do.

This case has made many converts and confirmed many who were wavering. No one can possibly see and doubt, unless they choose to question the blindness of the patient, and the next step must be to question their own existence.

Yours sincerely,

THOMAS CHANDLER.

"Thomas Chandler, Esq.

"Laurie Terrace, New Cross,
"June 3rd, 1847.

"My dear Sir,—Since my letter, of the 6th of March last, there has not been any relaxation of the attempt to benefit Captain Peach by the continued application of mesmerism: and, although further results, up to this time, have been chiefly of a negative character, still they are not less important on that account (at least *to him*,) as the almost complete absence of his former intense sufferings is a consolatory set off against our want of *decided* success in restoring vision or relieving the partial paralysis of the lower limbs, more particularly as the improvement in his general health is, at once, perceptible.

"That so much could have been accomplished, in this particular case, is wonderful, when it is recollected that his afflictions were so deeply rooted, and that the late ungenial season confined him for so many months in the heated air of the same room; added to which, his mother's acute sufferings (from a cutaneous disease in the right leg) have been almost continuous for a long time, occasionally, by night, as well as day, rendering her delirious, and have so lacerated *his* feelings, as to have a direct tendency to counteract the good effects which he has, notwithstanding, experienced; often has he, himself, most appositely, referred to these distresses as constituting 'a *refinement* of affliction.'

"But slight (if any) improvement can be noted as regards the paralysis of the lower limbs, independent of the absence of the terrific darting pains before alluded to; many tantalizing fluctuations continue to occur, indicating that the deprivation of sight is not the result of *organic* change. In reference to this part of the case I find the following among my notes.

"The patient is often able to distinguish daylight, particularly when he first wakes in the morning; also artificial

light ; he describes the appearance to be a circle of luminous whiteness, the periphery of which, on one occasion, he indicated by using his outstretched arm as a radius; he feels sure that this appearance always proceeds from a real luminous object, as he recollects that a similar hazy luminosity constituted one stage in the progress towards blindness, many years since ; further, he has often remarked, that, shortly after the commencement of the mesmeric treatment, this perception of light commenced in the right eye, afterwards in the left, and, lately, in both ; the very *order* in which vision had ultimately departed. On the 23rd of April, I employed the fixed look, as usual, when he, suddenly thrust out his arm (the hand almost touching my face, but rather off, on my right side) exclaiming, 'what's that?' alluding, as it afterwards appeared, to a patch of white light, about the size of his hand. In this case, it should seem, that the *physical* effect, produced by the fixed look, acted as a blow in occasioning a sensation of light. No longer ago than Friday the 28th ulto., he informed me that he had seen, a day or two previous, the *rim of his hat*, while out on the heath, in his wheeled chair. All these appearances are, however, very inconstant, perfect darkness being the most prominent features in the series. He did not, however, experience anything analagous before mesmerism was resorted to, except when under the influence of the treatment adopted by Dr. Toulmin last year, and then *flashes* of light were mixed up with other effects. Altogether those alternations are very perplexing, and can only be met by perseverance.

" Apart from therapeutic results, I may mention that, since my last communication, some additional mere 'phenomena' have supervened, interesting in themselves, and under circumstances rather peculiar, as will be seen in the sequel.

" The gentry in the neighbourhood are strongly under the influence of the example of the good Samaritan, and both Captain Peach and his mother have long experienced the soothing effect of the kind attentions and good offices of many friends whose sympathy has been strongly excited by this afflicted pair. One of these, Miss ———, had up to the middle of last April been a very frequent visitant, and beguiled many a tedious hour of the Captain's monotonous existence by reading, or otherwise making her various acquired accomplishments available. On one occasion, about the time alluded to, she found Captain Peach suffering from an accession of spasm. Having several times witnessed the relief which I had been able to afford him under similar circumstances, she felt impelled to attempt to effect the same benefit, in which, as I was afterwards informed by Mrs. Peach, she

perfectly succeeded. It was a subject of remark that the influence exerted by this young lady was identical with mine, (in quality, but more energetic) which I did not fail to note, as such had not been the case, on more than one previous occasion, with other parties who had been willing to operate in my absence, with a view to the increased benefit which a more frequent repetition of the process than I could administer was supposed likely to produce.

"In order that the subject may be more intelligible, I will briefly state the Captain's own account of his sensations while under the mesmeric influence, given by the aid of that peculiar kind of consciousness which he then possesses. In reply to my enquiries, he has often described the effect to be 'an intense and delightful tranquillity,' without any cognizance of *body*, joined to the most perfect indisposition to motion of any kind, or even speech. Sometimes he has characterized his sensations, by saying "I feel as *nobody*, but very happy.

"I had long wished for an assistant in the good work, and found no difficulty in inducing Miss ——— to follow up her first attempt, as often as convenient to her, on the days of my non-attendance. Her influence up to the present time has become so decided that she has frequently mesmerised the patient from the opposite side of the room, he not being even conscious of her presence. This you have witnessed on two occasions; in the first instance you were accompanied by Dr. Elliotson, and, in the second by Mr. Symes, of Grosvenor-street. The latter instance was most marked, from the circumstance of several other parties being present, and the Captain's politeness prompting him to resist to the utmost the influence which was stealing over him. You, doubtless, noted the suspicious manner in which he suddenly advanced his hands in different directions, having on a former occasion detected the young lady's presence under similar circumstances by that manœuvre. On another occasion, he was taking a glass of wine, not being aware that Miss ——— was influencing him, when he attributed the growing confusion of his ideas to the *wine*.

"I now come to the additional phenomena before alluded to. These have only manifested themselves subsequent (and I believe, consequent) to my influence having been reinforced as above stated.

"On the 23rd of April last, the patient having been fully mesmerised for the preceding half hour, I attempted (as I had often done before) to excite various portions of the brain, more as a matter of habit, than with any decided expectation of success. All at once his countenance brightened up, and

he made a chuckling laugh. I was excessively surprized, and endeavoured to draw from him what was passing in his mind. His only reply was, 'I have had such a happiness, but it is gone.' As he shewed a tendency to awake, I made a few passes, and renewed my attempt, with the object of bringing back the 'happiness.' But a very opposite result took place, indeed, no response at all came for some time; and I had relapsed into my previous desultory proceeding, when again, and in a moment, the countenance saddened; and the patient gave way to a loud and violent paroxysm of grief, accompanied by sobs and a copious flow of tears, but still unable to assign a cause for the feeling of 'melancholy and wretchedness,' which came over him. This paroxysm lasted for a minute or so, and was ultimately dispersed by transverse passes and by breathing over the portions of the brain which I had manipulated. I do not recall the particular organs, as my proceedings were altogether of so desultory a character that no clue would be afforded to those which were connected with these manifestations. As before, he seemed about to awake, but was again checked by passes. When demesmerised, he felt at a loss as to what had been done to him to occasion so great a feeling of happiness, and its sudden change, in an instant, to that of wretchedness, without, however, making any allusion to phrenology, or seeming to be aware of any of my proceedings. He has studiously been kept in ignorance, in order that further experiments should be clear of all mental association. During the paroxysm his mother, whose attention had been attracted to my proceedings, became greatly alarmed; she has since stated that if it had continued much longer, she must have cried too.

"It is worthy of remark that this fit of crying came on at the time my mind was intently occupied with an *opposite* manifestation. What, then, becomes of the objection so often urged, that the so-called phrenological phenomena, under the influence of mesmerism, are merely the result of unconscious mental suggestions on the part of the operator. In this instance *sadness* was totally out of my thoughts.

"Up to the present time, I have frequently, and with more method, renewed these experiments, which have resulted, as follows.

"'Gaiety' being excited in each hemisphere, a beautiful smile ensues, accompanied by a chuckling laugh of a more or less decided character.

"'Colour' being similarly treated, the eyelids begin slowly to vibrate, and then, gradually to open wide, maintaining a

fixed and meaningless stare, while the excitement is continued, but closing immediately upon its removal; if asked what he sees, he replies '*black.*'

"Ideality being stimulated in the ordinary manner, the right fore-arm begins *slowly* to elevate itself (to an angle of about 30°) with a succession of slight convulsive motions; when fully raised, it remains so after the excitement is removed, and is found to be rigid.

"The above are the only phrenological manifestations which I have been able to obtain up to this date.

"There is yet a 'phenomenon' of a different kind to be mentioned. You will recollect that on the occasion of Dr. Elliotson's last visit (on the 16th ulto.) he suggested that 'community of taste' should be tried. It was so, and succeeded admirably. I have since repeated the experiment with equal success, particularly on the evening of the 25th ulto. in the presence of Dr. Toulmin, whose gravity was not proof against the results. I introduced a succession of articles into my mouth (at the same time holding the patient's hand,) the climax being a most villanous compound. The consequent sucking, biting, swallowing actions, accompanied by well marked wry faces on the part of the Captain, were most amusing; camomile, rhubarb, and ginger, seemed to be the most annoying, and liquorice the most grateful; in no case, could he describe what he was tasting, notwithstanding such strong indications of cognizance.

"In my former letters, I omitted to describe the principal tests applied to ascertain the degree of insensibility to mechanical injury; they are as follows. Besides pinching, pricking, &c., he bears, without the slightest motion or change of countenance, the introduction of a bit of string up the nostrils (almost to the level of the eyes), although it be agitated so as, ordinarily, to produce the greatest effect. The tip of his nose may also be pushed aside by the point of a fine needle, producing a flow of blood, but no appearance of sensation; the same when applied internally to the most sensitive part of the division between the nostrils. He does not readily answer, when addressed by any other than his mesmeriser; nor does he appear to be disturbed by loud noises, such as striking the shovel sharply with the poker close to his ear, bawling with equal proximity, &c., &c.

"On one occasion, I made his arm rigid without disturbing his ordinary consciousness by previous general mesmerisation. He being blind and using no effort to support his arm in a horizontal position, the effect was the same to him as if his

arm had been resting on his lap; indeed such would have been his idea, if he had not been cognizant of the *commencement* of the experiment.

“On one occasion lately I left him to awake spontaneously; he did so, but quite rigid all over. Jane, the servant, had some difficulty in relaxing him.

“You will recollect that Dr. Elliotson pointed out various modes of deepening the influence; more particularly by the operator applying the tip of his nose to that of the patient: you will also recollect that this was verified instantaneously upon our patient. I repeated the experiment on my next visit, and, independent of the legitimate result, was surprised to perceive that he appeared to be impatient under the process, and shewed a disposition to shake off some *effect*, without however seeming to have the power. When awake, he complained of having been annoyed by a *great weight* on his nose, and wondered what could have been done to him to occasion it. In reference to this subject, he also used the following very strong expression,—that it seemed as if “his nose had been driven into his head.” This sensation has not presented itself since, although the experiment has been repeated several times.

“I am happy to add that the Captain’s anxiety on his mother’s account is now greatly relieved, as, for some days past, she has derived great benefit from Dr. Toulman’s treatment. He goes out for a couple of hours almost every day, and feels the good effect of the change; the only drawback arises out of his great susceptibility to slight colds.

“I am, my dear Sir,

“Yours very truly,

“J. HOLLAND.”

P.S. June the 6th. I went with Dr. Elliotson, and his friends, Lord Adare, Mr. Henry S. Thompson, of Fairfield House, and Mr. Crompton, of Sion Hill, Yorkshire, to see Captain Peach; unfortunately Mr. Holland was not there; I was therefore obliged to mesmerise him, having never done so before. I succeeded however very satisfactorily, indeed quite as well as though Mr. H. had been there. I first looked at his eyes, and the usual effect was produced, viz., smarting and watering. I then in a few minutes got him into his usual deep mesmeric sleep, in which state he does not admit that he is asleep. After catalepsing his arms, I produced the three phrenological phenomena he usually shews. On touching Colour he opened his eyes, and when asked what he saw, said “Black.” Ideality produced the effect of raising his

right hand ; and Gaiety made him more than smile, and say he felt very happy and pleasant. I then tried community of taste ; first I put Spanish liquorice into my mouth—he said it was pleasant—rather sweet : gentian root—he said it was bitter : cardamom seeds—he said it was hot : sugar was sweet : vinegar was acid : cinnamon did not appear to affect him, but I afterwards put some salt into my mouth, and he said it was aromatic : water he described simply as wet ; he would not admit that it was grog. I forgot to pass a bit of string up his nose, which he bears without moving a muscle. I then awoke him, and he shewed as usual (with him) all the signs of a man just awake from a very sound sleep, but would not admit that he had been asleep.

The young lady came in whilst he was asleep, and I wished her to mesmerise him after he was awake without his knowing of her presence, as I saw her do beautifully on two occasions from the further side of the room ; but she was too nervous.

T. CHANDLER.

V. *Important Mesmeric treatment of a Mental Affection.*

By Mr. CHANDLER, Surgeon, Rotherhithe.

THE following case is of equal practical importance with that of Captain Peach, and shows that there is as much science in administering mesmerism as there is in giving calomel or any other medicine. I make this remark, because some professional men who have been convinced of the truths of mesmerism, have again discarded it from their list of therapeutics, as being unscientific, inexplicable, and uncertain in its operation and effects. Will these learned philosophers explain (except upon theory) how their dose of calomel, opium, hydrocyanic acid, or other strong medicine, acts upon the system ? Will they inform us what is the difference between a positive and negative current of electricity, and why a magnet lifts a piece of iron ? We are obliged to be contented with the theory of all these facts, and many thousands more ; why do we not then take mesmerism on the same terms, and turn it to as good an account as possible in relieving human sufferings.

Miss M. D., æt. 17, has always enjoyed excellent health, and is of a particularly cheerful disposition. About four or five months ago she had a slight fit of hysteria, so slight that it was not taken any notice of ; but on its being repeated, about once in a month or five weeks, the nature of the disease

became evident, and since Christmas, the attacks have gradually become more frequent and severe, first occurring once in a fortnight, then once a week, and at last every second day, and usually in the evening.

On the evening of the 29th of January, 1847, I first saw her in a very severe attack, requiring considerable force to restrain her; there was no hesitation in pronouncing it the same disease two of her brothers had suffered from, when about the same age, both of whom were cured by mesmerism; indeed one of them was my first case.* Mesmerism was of course suggested by the family, it having been found so efficient on former occasions, and I commenced accordingly on the 31st of January, taking care to mesmerise before the time of the attack. The effect was truly magical; she was asleep in less than two minutes, her head dropping on her chest: the attack came on in five minutes, again shewing the similitude between this and the brothers' cases, for their attacks were always brought on at will by mesmerism. Instead of requiring three people to hold her, as it did on the 29th, I kept her in her chair by placing a finger against her shoulder. The attack lasted nearly an hour, but she awoke quite comfortable, and ate a good supper afterwards, instead of being exhausted, as she had been after her former attacks. The fit was modified just in the same manner as in the young men's cases; yet it cannot be said that she imitated, for she never saw either of her brothers, nor did the second one ever see the first, in the disease; yet the similitude between the three cases was most striking.

February 1st. I thought, as the attack had appeared to have put on a tertian character, that we should go over the day without one. In this I was deceived, for in the evening there was every appearance of an attack approaching. I therefore mesmerised her, and it quickly came on, which, I believe, from experience with her brothers, it would not have done had there not been a fit near coming.

I mesmerised her every day to the 12th, (varying the hour,) when, as there appeared to be no fit during the sleep, I determined to omit it on the 13th; but early in the evening of that day, an attack came on, evidently a relapse of her disease, and with increased violence. On my arrival, I found her furious, biting at those around her, laughing, crying, screaming, and struggling in a most horrible manner; in fact, just as violent as either of her brothers had at any time been, and almost as strong.

Finding passes out of the question, on account of her

* See *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 162; and Vol. II., p. 374.

great violence, I immediately placed my fingers on her eyes, and in five seconds she became perfectly quiet, so as not to require any further restraint, though before I arrived it was as much as three of her brothers could do to keep her on the bed. The influence I exerted over her was not a matter of accident, for the same thing happened several times afterwards, and was invariably attended by the same results; a brother could command her for a short time, but his influence appeared to cease; but the moment I put my fingers on her eyes, without speaking, she would become quiet. I have frequently been a considerable time in the room exerting an influence over her without her knowing it, and when at length I have spoken to her, she has always expressed the greatest surprize at my presence.

The attacks continued with great violence and frequency (sometimes three or four times in the day), until the 23rd, when finding we were not gaining ground, I determined to try a new method, namely, keeping her permanently under the influence of mesmerism for some hours. I therefore mesmerised her at 4 o'clock, and left her till the following morning at 11, when I found that she had passed a comfortable night, without any appearance of a fit. I awoke her for about half an hour, and then sent her off again until the evening, when I again gave her half an hour's holiday. On sending her to sleep after this, (which is now done by a single pass, or a nod, or even a wink,) she had a slight fit of laughing; showing evidently that the disease was only waiting its opportunity, and was not yet removed.

The following day (Thursday) was passed in the same manner, and on Friday morning, the 26th, I thought it time to try how she would behave, if allowed to remain unmesmerised for a few hours. I accordingly awoke her at 11 o'clock, and promised to return and remesmerise her at 4; unfortunately at three she had a slight attack, but having been so long under the influence, one of her brothers, who happened to be present, immediately mesmerised her without difficulty, and the fit only lasted ten minutes, and was not violent.

The phenomena, during the time she remains asleep, are most curious. She does not remain permanently in the deep coma as many do, but continues to awake at intervals of one or two minutes, into a sort of semicoma; being perfectly sensible of the state she is in, and holding a broken conversation with those in the room in a most collected manner; falling asleep with a word half uttered, and resuming her sentence, where she left off, on awaking the next time, or

sometimes, when she has only uttered a word or two, beginning the sentence again, and speaking very rapidly, knowing she has but little time. She takes her meals in the same broken way, often falling asleep with a piece in her mouth, and frequently taking a sip of drink, and falling asleep before swallowing it. She takes several naps whilst cleaning her teeth, and the same whilst washing her face, often remaining in a most ludicrous position. It is also curious that she has each night taken her natural rest, apparently independent of the mesmerism, but resuming precisely the same state on awaking in the morning. During the short intervals of profound sleep she is insensible to pain over the whole body, and I can, when she is in the semicoma, or even when the influence of mesmerism is taken off, mesmerise any particular part, and it becomes very nearly insensible. I turned this to account in extracting a large molar tooth for her; she objected to have it done whilst asleep, but permitted me to mesmerise the part, when she was not under the influence. It succeeded admirably; she declared she should not have known it was being drawn if she had not been waiting for the crunch. One of her brothers would not believe that she was insensible to pain, but said if I would allow him to tickle her foot and she remained motionless, he should be convinced, as he knew she could not possibly bear it. I instantly permitted it, and she did not move a muscle, but whilst he was tickling her a second time, I made transverse passes and awoke her, when she instantly jumped up, and rushed after her brother in a state of the greatest excitement, which took me some minutes to subdue.

27th. As she had an attack yesterday (though a slight one,) during the time she was awake, I wished to keep her asleep to-day; but at her earnest solicitation, I agreed to give her two hours, and accordingly awoke her from 11 till 1, without any unpleasant result. I gave her another short holiday in the evening, and a delightful time it appears to her, for, being so thoroughly conscious of the state she is in, and not being able to amuse herself, though naturally of a very lively and active disposition, the time passes heavily; she is, nevertheless, quite sensible of the benefit she is deriving from the plan, and has the good sense to submit without murmuring.

28th. Awoke her at 1, and left her, promising to call and put her to sleep at half-past 3; but being engaged with a labour, it was a quarter past 4 before I arrived. I found her quite well, but being desirous of commanding her in case of my unavoidable absence at any future time, I mesmerised

a glass of water and gave it her to drink. She fell asleep, though not quite so quickly as by the passes; but the sleep was, if anything, more profound than usual. She has not had even a threatening of a fit.

March 1st. Wishing to try still further the effect of mesmerised water, I awoke her at half-past 12, and left a glass mesmerised, which I desired her to drink at 4. As she had pain arising from gastric irritation (evidently quite independent of her fits), which made her irritable and uneasy, the water was given her at twenty minutes before 4, and in three minutes she was in her usual mesmeric sleep. I called at half-past 4, and found her as much influenced as though I had mesmerised her. As she was suffering from deranged liver and stomach, I gave her two grains of calomel this evening.

2nd. This morning I found her complaining of severe pain in the bowels with great tenderness; she had vomited a considerable quantity of bile, but the calomel had not acted. The pain was so severe that it had in a great degree dissipated the mesmeric coma. Thinking this pain (as it came in paroxysms) might be connected with the hysterical disease, though evidently not depending entirely upon it, I applied local mesmerism by pressing with the points of my fingers on the bowels. At first she could scarce bear me to touch her, but by degrees the tenderness subsided, and then the pain left, so that in less than ten minutes she was perfectly easy, and declared that she felt quite well, and was able to get up, though only a quarter of an hour before she said she thought she should be obliged to remain in bed all day; she was so comfortable with regard to her hysteria that I left her awake for the remainder of the day, leaving a glass of water mesmerised in case of accident. The calomel acted freely, and she was quite well till the evening, when I thought it advisable to send her to sleep for the night.

3rd. Found her suffering from slight globus hystericus, which a little local mesmerism soon relieved; left her awake and called in the evening at seven, mesmerised a glass of water to be taken at ten; she has not had the slightest hint of a fit. She sleeps immediately on swallowing one mouthful of the water quite as quickly as by a pass. One of the family awakes her in the morning. Last night shortly after taking the water she complained of tooth-ache, but on rubbing it with a little of the water it immediately left. This occurred on several occasions, and the following will illustrate still more the wonderful effect of local mesmerism upon her. One morning she was suffering from a boil on her knee, which was so painful that she could not bend the joint. I com-

menced mesmerising the part, which at first was so tender that I could scarce be permitted to touch it, but after a few passes all the pain and tenderness left, and she could bend it as well as the other. This could not be fancy, for I distinctly felt the thickening which is usual around boils.

5th, 6th, and 7th. She remains quite well. I leave her the water and let her remain mesmerised all night as a precaution.

8th. This evening she had a short but rather severe fit, brought on by fright; one of the family succeeded in partially mesmerising her, and then a few drops of *the water* were poured in her mouth, and she was immediately quieted.

10th. There has been for the last two days rather a hurried manner, I have therefore thought it better to mesmerise her for a few minutes at my visit in the morning; she goes off with one pass or a nod, and the benefit is very apparent by her altered look when she awakes.

16th. She remains free from her regular attacks, but is liable to a slight fit from any excitement.

18th. The attacks rather on the increase these last two days. Finding that when she is becoming ill she will not drink the mesmerised water, I have adopted the plan of mesmerising a piece of steel, which is put into her hand on the least appearance of an attack. It has succeeded to a certain degree; when she is well it takes effect instantly, but if the fit has commenced she will not permit the steel to be put near her, and when forced upon her the effect is not by any means so great.

19th. As the disease does not so readily give way to mesmerism as in her brothers' cases, the family have become uneasy and wish to try medicine and further advice. I accordingly met Dr. F. Ramsbotham to-day, and by bringing him suddenly to her without previous notice he had an opportunity of seeing her during an attack. He confirmed my opinion that the case was pure hysteria without the slightest organic disease—that she would ultimately recover perfectly, and that medicine would not be likely to benefit her. He ordered her, however, some alterative pills at night, and ferri sulph. with pil. galban. co. twice a day. He moreover recommended (having witnessed the quieting effect of mesmerism upon her) that it should be continued when necessary, observing that anything which had the effect of breaking the chain of the attack would be likely to be beneficial.

20th. I extracted the tooth before alluded to (a large molar in the lower jaw); the excitement did not produce an attack. I before stated, that though she was awake all she

felt was the great pulling; she did not feel the lancing of the gum, nor any pain afterwards: local mesmerism only was used.

24th. She is having her fits more frequently and suddenly, sometimes starting from the room and keeping the family in a constant state of alarm. She can always be instantly controlled by mesmerism by any of the family, but after a short time they lose their power over her, and she becomes more or less unmanageable; when I go in, however, let her be ever so violent, I can immediately quiet her by placing my fingers on her eyes, and without letting her know I am present. I have had several opportunities of proving this; her brother having been touching her eyes in the same manner before my arrival, the moment I speak, (taking care it shall be when she is in the semicoma,) she expresses the most natural surprise at my presence. Though she may have several slight attacks during the day, in the evening comes the regular one, and there is always the same routine to go through. About eight o'clock she begins to get poorly, we then get her up stairs and give her a light supper; she then has a fit of talking, and after some difficulty she is got into bed; then comes a freak, and till this is permitted she will not go to sleep for the night: at present she must have a jump, after which she turns on her right side, goes into the deep coma, and remains perfectly quiet till the morning. This turning on the right side has been a sure sign in her brothers' cases as well as in her's that the fit was over.

April 5th. Though she has had two or three fits every day since last report, and her evening one last night lasted three hours and was very violent and troublesome, yet to-day she remains quite well and goes to bed even without the slightest appearance of a fit; it appears as though the disease having reached its climax stops suddenly.

I should have mentioned that Dr. Ramsbotham saw her again some days ago, and ordered her decoct. aloes with mist. ferri co. and velerian, but without any apparent effect; yet as the disease left her after taking it about two days, I thought it as well to give it to her again when she had a relapse, but it totally failed. She remained quite well till the 15th, the evening of which day she was by her particular desire to spend with her brother and sister at my house. During the day, however, there were such evident signs of a return of the disease that she could not have been permitted to have gone to any other friend's house. In the course of the evening she was several times so flighty that I thought it advisable to give her a short mesmeric nap; in spite of all,

however, just before supper-time her regular attack commenced, precisely in the same manner as it left eleven days before; it lasted above two hours, and caused great trouble in getting her home, as she would not go into a cab, so that her brother and myself had to carry her part of the way. On arriving at home the fright and excitement caused an hysterical fit in several members of the family, amongst others the brother who was last mesmerised for the same disease some three years ago had an attack so like his former ones that I had great fear they would be repeated. I immediately commenced mesmerising him, and curious to relate, although he had not been mesmerised since that time, he came at once under the influence, and was very soon relieved. After the attack was removed he complained of very violent pain in the back, which was immediately relieved by local tactile passes—another proof of his being under mesmeric influence. He had no further attack.

16th. Miss D. had her attack in the evening as usual, but she has chosen a new freak, she must lift somebody or something before she settles to sleep. I insisted that she should only lift the pillow, telling her she should fall asleep the instant she attempted to lift anything else, were it only a pin. Out of mere opposition she attempted to lift her sister and then the bolster, but became fixed the moment she had clasped them in her arms; she then felt she was conquered, tossed the pillow up two or three times, and went off to sleep for the night. It appears that the fit must have some vent to exhaust its exuberant strength upon before she can settle for the night, for she says, "I must do something before I go to sleep;" and when she is well she tells us she is quite conscious at the time how very ridiculous she is, but cannot possibly restrain herself.

17th. As she still continues to start from the room, taking an opportunity yesterday of running across the field to the great alarm of all the family, I determined to put a stop to it. Accordingly I passed my hand over all the doors and windows on the ground floor, telling her she would fall asleep the moment she tried to pass them. This succeeded so beautifully, that when she was going out quietly for a walk with her brother, she fell asleep the moment her first foot touched the door-sill, the second foot being left on the mat. She was then lifted over and awoke. The same thing happened on her return to the house.

This is no doubt partly the effect of imagination, but it is not entirely so; for on several occasions she has been going out or coming in totally forgetting the circumstance, yet the

moment she touched the door the effect answered as usual, and she fell asleep, rousing as usual after a short time into the semicoma, and asking to be awoke, saying she forgot. It appears that so deep an impression is made upon the nervous system—perhaps the sympathetic—that it is impossible for the patient to break through it. It may be as well to mention here that this effect remained for some time after she was well; the family wishing it not to be removed until she was quite safe. When she had been well some eight or ten days, I met her in the garden, and finding that she still had a nap in coming through the door, I waved my hand towards the house, and told her she could walk in and out for the present without going to sleep. I need scarcely add that the spell was broken.

18th, 19th. Much the same. The lifting propensity still continues; she wishes to lift every body who comes into the house, and sometimes she takes up a chair or a stool, and usually falls with it in her hand. To obviate this, I have ordered that she shall not lift any body or anything; the moment she takes hold of them with the idea of forcibly lifting them she is to fall asleep. So perfectly did this succeed, that when she had been well for nearly a fortnight, she inadvertently lifted her sister's baby to the window in a playful manner to shew some one who was outside, and instantly became fixed, though she had till that moment forgotten the circumstance.

20th. There is less disposition to run and lift, finding perhaps that she cannot accomplish either. A very disagreeable feature occurred during the fit this evening—a violent screaming. I stopped it by touching her throat with the points of my fingers each time it occurred, but could not entirely prevent it as she was too much excited to be talked to. The following morning I told her, the moment she attempted to scream she should fall asleep. In the evening, during her attack, she attempted it, but of course failed. Though she is very angry at finding herself thwarted in everything, yet when she is well she is quite convinced of the propriety of it, and even begged me to stop the screaming, as it distressed her very much and made her chest sore.

22nd. As she was very heavy and dull this morning, and complaining of great lassitude and weight over the eyes, I mesmerised her and awoke her several times for a few minutes, which completely relieved her. I have noticed in a former communication that I often find this plan very beneficial. She is now having five minutes' sleep every hour. There was a very slight fit in the evening.

23rd, 24th, 25th. No attack on either day. The short naps have been continued, but she is getting tired of them, and begins to shew rather too much quickness in her manner.

26th. Very flighty all the day: in the evening the attack returned in full force. The mesmerism completely subdues all the violence, but it does not stop the talking during the intervals of semicoma. The freak this evening was, that she must slap the panelling of the room with her hand before going to sleep. I compromised by permitting her to throw one shoe at it, telling her to fall asleep the moment she attempted even to throw the second: she threw one, and picking it up tried again, but fell asleep with the shoe raised to her shoulder in the act of throwing. So complete is the power over her imagination, that I believe I could even prevent her speaking if it were necessary. Yet I cannot entirely prevent the attack, as I invariably could in the young men's cases: the case has been throughout more troublesome and complicated.

27th and 28th. A troublesome and prolonged attack each night; continues to throw her shoe, and, although I was not present, she could not throw the second one.

29th. The disease appears to have been coming to a climax these last three days, and, as on a former occasion, left her suddenly: she had no attack this evening, but a very slight one in the afternoon from excitement. She talked last evening so much about going mad, that her friends were alarmed, and, without consulting me, sent for an obscure surgeon at the West End, who promulgated some very crooked crotchets. He hung his cap on the colon, and took up his brooms (aloe-tics and castor oil) to sweep it out. He allowed himself six weeks to accomplish this Augean task. I watched the effect for three weeks, and it certainly appeared to me that three or even thirty more would make no alteration in the matter discharged from the bowels, namely, copious, healthy, feculent motions; just the same as would be produced from any healthy person by the same medicines. He pretended to say that an œdematous state of the forehead, shewing pitting on pressure, was a certain sign of a loaded colon, and of course made this wonderful phenomenon appear on the patient. This was too much for my gravity, I could not help laughing; and, on comparing the foreheads of several other members of the family, I clearly shewed that they were all alike. If any of the readers of *The Zoist* have ever observed anything of the kind, I should feel particularly obliged by a communication on the subject. I have asked above a dozen medical men of high standing in the profession, and not one has ever

even heard of this extraordinary symptom, or of the obscure individual who promulgated it. For the present, therefore, I have no hesitation in writing it down rubbish. There is an old saying, that "it is better to be born lucky than rich;" this person appears at any rate in this instance to have been the former, for being called in just as the disease was ceasing, he makes a pretence of doing a great deal and gets the credit of curing it.

To the present date (June 5th) Miss D. remains well. I have given the case thus in detail, for two reasons; first, that the readers of *The Zoist* may form their own opinions as to the amount of credit due to mesmerism in curing it: and secondly, because it certainly contains many points of practical importance in using the remedy, whether it is allowed to have had any effect in ultimately curing the disease or not.

I have one or two other cases worthy of notice, but my present communication has reached such a length that I think I had better reserve them for the next number. In conclusion I will just observe, that I have for a long time placed mesmerism on my remedial list, and always recommend it when I consider it will be beneficial to my patient; indeed I should consider myself equally culpable in omitting to recommend mesmerism in a case of hysteria, tic douloureux, or other nervous disease, as in neglecting to give quinine in ague or opium in delirium tremens: and I have very little doubt that the day will come when the propriety of so doing will be universally recognized.

VI. *Cures of Neuralgia of various parts, After Pains, Abscess, Ophthalmia, acute Rheumatism, Deafness, and an instance of Prevision, being a few Cases selected from Mr. Parker's Mesmeric Experience during the last eighteen months.* By Mr. JOHN B. PARKER, Surgeon, Exeter.

I. *Neuralgia of the Face.*

Miss ———— had suffered from tic douloureux for *six years*, during which time she had tried all the well-known remedies without any marked benefit; besides having many of her teeth extracted. On my first visit I found her in the greatest agony; the act of speaking aggravated her sufferings so much, that she could with very great difficulty articulate two words in succession, and this occasioned great

distortion of countenance. *Six days mesmeric treatment quite relieved her from pain.* During the past 14 months she has experienced two slight returns of the pain: on each occasion the complaint was removed by one mesmeric sitting. She is now quite well.

II. Neuralgia.

Mr. Davidge, Milk street, Exeter, had suffered very severely from tic douloureux for several years. The various remedies recommended for such cases having entirely failed, *mesmerism succeeded in relieving him the first application, and in five days he was able to attend to his business as usual.*

III. Neuralgia of the Hip.

Miss —— having for five months suffered much pain about the hip, so that she could with difficulty and in much pain walk across the room, consulted her ordinary medical attendant who pronounced it a hip complaint. The parents having heard of many of my mesmeric cures, sent for me; when I recommended the mother to mesmerise the daughter. *In five days she was quite well and able to walk three miles, and she has remained well to this, now 12 months since.*

IV. Abscess of the Lachrymal Sac.

The sister of this young lady had been suffering from an abscess in the lachrymal sac for 18 months, accompanied with very distressing pains over the orbit and cheek. She had consulted several eminent surgeons in London who had advised a pin to be worn in the lachrymal duct. Leeches had been previously applied, and suppuration of the leech bites had invariably followed. Mesmeric treatment was had recourse to, and in *three weeks all the distressing symptoms subsided.*

V. Prevision of Cure.

A lady had a large tumour of the left ovary of nine years duration which has been completely removed by the application of leeches to the os uteri. This treatment had been had recourse to by myself with very decided benefit before she had ever been mesmerised; but in her mesmeric sleep-waking her introvision was so correct as to tell me how many applications of leeches would be necessary to remove the whole of the

tumour; and her prevision has been most truly verified. The tumour of the side was so large as to cause the trunk to be swerved on one side to such an extent as to produce a very visible distortion of the spine.

VI. *Removal of After Pains.*

April 13, 1847, Mrs. C. was delivered of her fifth child, after a natural and short labour, at eight in the morning. The after pains were very violent and I ordered her several doses of morphine and mesmerism. The morphine was taken during the day and through the night. On my visit in the morning, I found her in great distress,—the *pains constant and very violent*. The mesmerism had been omitted. She was then mesmerised in my presence, and *in twenty minutes the pains ceased*. I requested the operation to be repeated if the pains returned. On my visit the following morning I found my patient quite delighted with the wonderful effects of mesmerism; there had been no necessity to repeat the operation.

VII. *Neuralgia of the Heart.*

Mrs. ———, æt. 42, subject to violent palpitation of the heart with considerable pain of the organ, occasionally attended with faintness and much pain on the inside of the left arm, much aggravated by going up stairs. *The pain was quite subdued by the first application of mesmerism, and in three days she was able to resume the active duties of life.*

VIII. *Ophthalmia.*

My own little boy, æt. 6, had a very severe attack of catarrhal ophthalmia, for which I ordered leeches, blisters, aperients, soothing and astringent applications, without the least relief. In fact the pain was becoming more and more severe. He was then mesmerised twice daily, and *from the first trial, the pain was much subdued, and in the course of a few days all the symptoms were removed and the eyes resumed their natural lustre*. Under ordinary circumstances this would have become strumous ophthalmia,—the most troublesome complaint at all our ophthalmic institutions. From what I have witnessed in this case, I am quite satisfied that mesmerism is the true remedy for all scrofulous affections, as it is certainly a transfusion of the nervous energy: and as diseases may be transferred from one individual to another

without an act of the will, there is much more reason to believe that health may be transferred with the additional assistance of the will, as is exhibited in my daily experience.*

IX. Deafness.

Ann ——— æt. 23, had been *very deaf for three years*, I could scarcely make her understand a single word. She was mesmerised daily for a month, when her *hearing was quite restored and she now hears conversation in the lowest tone*.

X. Acute Rheumatism.

Mr. C. for three succeeding years has had a severe attack of rheumatic fever: each attack commencing with more violence than its predecessor. April 16, 1847, he sent for me. He was then suffering very acute pains in the whole system. I had bled him during the former attacks as well as in this. In the preceding attack his wife had some prejudice against mesmerism, and consequently he had very little benefit from it. But on this occasion his wife mesmerised him when he had any acute pain, and *immediate relief has invariably followed every mesmeric operation*. In the former attacks he had been unable to move till a month or five weeks; in this attack he was convalescent at the end of a fortnight. The result of this case is the perfect confidence of the whole family in the remedial agency of mesmerism.†

Not a day passes without my being consulted for pains in the face, ear-ache, or rheumatic pains; and in the great majority of these cases, a single mesmeric operation is quite sufficient to remove all the pain. Such a multitude of these cases has now passed under my own observation, that mesmerism is resorted to in Exeter by the industrious classes as a most extraordinary remedial agent.

* See cures of ophthalmia and of scrofula in Vol. II., p. 239; Vol. III., pp. 519, 24, 326; Vol. IV., pp. 458-9, 461-3.—*Zoist*.

† See similar cases in Vol. II., pp. 86, 257, 384; Vol. III., p. 326.—*Zoist*.

VII. *Cases of painless Tooth Extraction, and of extreme Debility, &c.* By Dr. STORER, Park Street, Bristol.

I. *Case of Hysteria and Spasm with Tooth Extraction without Pain.*

A YOUNG woman, living as servant with a respectable family in this city, was mesmerised for a severe hysterical affection with spasms at the pit of her stomach. She was also suffering from violent tooth-ache, proceeding from a decayed tooth. Three sittings relieved the hysteria; and, finding the pain in the face still continue, I advised her to have her tooth extracted in the mesmeric state. She consented, and attended the following day at my rooms, where I was about to give a private demonstration to a large and respectable party.

After I had shewn various phenomena on different cases, hereafter referred to, the young woman was introduced. I mesmerised her deeply in less than five minutes. The dentist was Mr. Williams of Park Street, up to this period a stranger to me, and, though only suddenly called upon to attend, he very kindly consented. After having opened the mouth and made the jaw rigid, I placed Mr. Williams *en rapport*. He proceeded to freely lance the gum, and then skilfully extracted an upper molar tooth, which required great force. The patient was then made to rinse her mouth with water, as the gum bled freely; and afterwards the dentist closed the gum by firm pressure. Perceiving no indications of pain throughout, and in reply to an inquiry, he addressed himself to those present, by saying that closing the gums was frequently a painful part of the operation, and, though he had applied ether with success in several cases, yet he had not met with one, which to his mind had been so entirely satisfactory, as regards *insensibility* to pain. The young woman was then demesmerised, and appeared quite incredulous of the fact of the extraction, until she felt the cavity and was shewn her tooth. A faint moan had been heard, but she denied all knowledge of pain or the operation.

II. *Nervous Disease with great Debility.*

On the same occasion, I introduced two cases which had both been cured by mesmerism. The first was that of a youth, named James Waring, about 14 years of age, living in Thomas Street, in this city. He had suffered some time since from a severe nervous affection, considered as epilepsy by his friends, which produced wasting, with great debility.

Mesmerism was recommended, and in about six weeks he was convalescent. His strength is fully restored, he is now a stout youth, and quite well. I occasionally mesmerise him, as his friends allow him to come forward. He is a good subject, shewing various mesmeric phenomena. He is phrenomesmeric, and in his waking state, rigidity and traction, to some extent, may both be induced.

III. *Cure of Blindness from Lightning, by Mesmerism.*

The following is a most interesting case. The little girl is Jane Chard, aged 11 years, residing at Church Lane, in this city.

Some months since she was struck by lightning, during a thunder storm, and deprived of sight. Her father is a poor but very intelligent man. On discovering the fact, he was about taking his child to the hospital, when a thought occurred to him, that, as the accident was occasioned by electricity, magnetism or mesmerism, being similar, would afford the greatest or only chance of success.

Mesmerism was applied in this case, and though the little girl was entirely blind for *three days*, after that time the sight began gradually to return, and by the end of a fortnight she was quite well.

I mesmerise her occasionally: she proves an excellent patient for all the higher phenomena; she is so susceptible that she can be operated upon by will. She is naturally a very delicate child, but always feels better after being mesmerised.

IV. *Mesmerism in cases of Drowning—Man a Galvanic Apparatus.*

The weather now inviting many bathers, the following case may prove of interest; and perhaps of great importance in accidents on the water.

Last summer, a poor woman threw herself into the Avon, near to the ferry, at Tiverton, adjoining Bath.

I was accidentally passing at the time, and, hailing the ferry-boat, proceeded with three others to the spot. We got the poor woman out of the water in about five minutes from the immersion, and had her conveyed to a public house some little distance off. I directed her clothes to be removed, and that she should be placed between warm blankets, and well rubbed. She was quite insensible, and deadly cold. I forced small quantities of warm brandy and water into the mouth, but it was not swallowed for some time. The usual mode of

friction by the hand or flannel up and down was first resorted to; and, though it was well applied in this case by two women, by one on the back and by the other to the lower extremities, no reaction appeared to set in.

After satisfying myself that a portion of the brandy and water had been swallowed, and directing my pointed fingers with contact to the pit of the stomach, the seat of a nervous plexus, I succeeded in getting a faint murmur from her, with chattering teeth; "Cold, cold," was the expression.

I now took the place of one of the women, and began by making longitudinal passes with contact down the spine. After a short time, I again asked the poor woman how she felt. She faintly replied by saying she felt a *glow* in the back. I now directed the women to take my place, and continue the friction as they saw me do it. They did not seem to comprehend me, or perhaps thought the old-fashioned mode best. I now operated on the lower extremities by passes with contact, and presently the poor woman said unasked, that the *glow* had left the back, and she felt it in her legs.

This hint sufficed to make me direct my energies over the whole body, particularly over the course of the spine; and I very soon afterwards had the extreme satisfaction of hearing the poor woman say, and before those present, that the glow seemed to follow the direction of my hands. Reaction set in, the poor woman recovered, and the following evening was conveyed home to her friends. Two reporters called on me for the particulars, and, though I especially drew their attention to the more interesting facts, except the accident no notice was taken of the treatment. I merely now give the facts as they occurred, and I cannot but think, that where an electrical or galvanic apparatus is not at hand, the above simple process is well worthy of further attention: of course I mean with all the usual auxiliaries.

VIII. *Cure of Shortsightedness and Tic Douloureux, and painless Extractions of Teeth.* By Mr. SARGANT, Surgeon, Reigate, Surrey. Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

LAST year, Mr. Sargant, a medical gentleman at Reigate in Surrey, called upon me to enquire whether I thought mesmerism would be of use in a very extraordinary case of some standing in which he had lately been consulted. I replied in the affirmative, and shewed him a case or two and the method of making the passes, since he knew nothing of the subject and

had viewed it as Mr. Wakley represented it in the *Lancet*, till of late when the constant abundant accession of indisputable facts compelled him to believe that he had been deceived. In five minutes he was put into the way of mesmerising and demesmerising. He returned home, began mesmerising his patient, produced wonderful benefit and striking phenomena, and the extraordinary case will in due time, I trust, be placed among the cures recorded in *The Zoist*. Like an honest and courageous man, he resolved that his patients in general should benefit by mesmerism whenever it was possible, and openly both avows his convictions and practises the art. The following are a few of his cases illustrative of the benefit of mesmerism.

To me Mr. Sargant's conduct is peculiarly gratifying, from the course taken by an old practitioner in his neighbourhood, who ought not to have acted as he has done in reference to the great subject of mesmerism.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

“Reigate, June 4th, 1847.

“My dear Sir,—I herewith send you a few cases, which, should you think them sufficiently calculated to further illustrate that great boon—mesmerism—to suffering humanity, and to open the eyes of those who are so blind that the sun in its meridian is darkness to them, I shall with yourself and others feel repaid if we can only ‘convert one sinner from the error of his way.’

“Believe me, my dear Sir, with every feeling of gratitude for your kindness,

“Ever yours faithfully,

“Dr. Elliotson.

“JOSEPH SARGANT.”

I. *Shortsightedness.*

Rebecca S., æt. 25, a servant for some years in a respectable family, was compelled to leave her situation from shortness of sight, in August, 1846, the time I was attending the family; and I advised mesmerism, to which she very gladly consented, though at the same time I was doubtful whether any benefit would be derived. But to my great astonishment, after mesmerising her eight times, her vision has returned as strong as it was when a child; and she has now been in service for the last three months.

II. *Tic Douloureux.*

Sarah B., æt. 22, had suffered from tic douloureux for six months, and had tried all the usual remedies without any

benefit. In August, 1846, she came to my house, a perfect stranger, to witness mesmerism, and likewise to consult me as to my opinion of its effects upon her case. My answer was, that we had cases on record which had been, if not cured, very greatly relieved. After witnessing some phenomena, she sat down, and in three minutes was sound asleep. I then locally mesmerised the side of the face, and allowed her to remain for half an hour, and then awoke her. She left my house and walked home, went to bed, and slept from ten o'clock until eight the next morning, without the slightest knowledge of pain, which she had not done for the last six months. Being delighted, she dressed, and, not giving herself time for breakfast, *ran* up to my house to be mesmerised, fearing I might have left home. I again mesmerised her for an hour as before, and in the course of the day she had a few twinges, but slight compared to her former attacks. I continued to mesmerise her for a fortnight, when she was obliged to leave the neighbourhood, and said should she feel the slightest return she would come down to me. I have heard from her since, and she continues quite free. These cases occurred on the 17th August, 1846.

Painless Extractions of Teeth.

I. August 27th. Miss B., æt. 16, at a ladies' seminary, was suffering with severe tooth-ache. I mesmerised her and extracted one of the molares in a very decayed state, without her having the slightest knowledge of the operation; evincing not the minutest feeling of pain, not so much as the distortion or movement of a single muscle.

II. Sept. 19th. At the same place I extracted a decayed molar tooth from Miss C., æt. 11, in the mesmeric state, without the child being at all conscious, she having a great dread of the operation. I had promised, if she would allow me to mesmerise her then, I would instantly awake her, when she should have her tea, and then be mesmerised and the tooth be extracted. But finding, on first mesmerising her, she was so soundly asleep, I embraced the first opportunity and extracted the tooth. On awaking her to enable her to cleanse the mouth, she said, "Oh dear, why you have taken out my tooth, and I never felt you."

III. S. P., æt. 19, came to my house to have her tooth extracted, and said, "You send people to sleep before you take their teeth out; don't you, Sir?" "Yes," I replied, "and I will send you to sleep if you like." She sat down,

and in six minutes she was sound asleep. I then desired her to open her mouth, which she did; lanced the gum and extracted the tooth without her moving a muscle, and awoke her to cleanse the mouth. She was quite surprised. Her mother was in the room, and asked her, "Did not you feel Mr. Sargant pull your tooth out?" She replied, "No, mother, I never felt it at all."

IX. *Cure of Affection of the Heart* by Mr. ADOLPHE KISTE.
Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

I HAVE received the following letters and documents from Mr. Majendie.

"Hedingham Castle, June 7th, 1847.

"Dear Sir,—I send you the case of Eliza Barrett, in which the benefit derived from mesmerism seems to me proved by most direct evidence. It is most improbable that the able physicians and surgeons of three London hospitals, should have been mistaken in supposing disease of the heart to exist, if it were not so; and that Mr. Hands, who examined Eliza Barrett *before* mesmerism was applied,* should also have been in error. It is most improbable that you, with all your experience in the use of the stethoscope, should, on examination after mesmeric treatment, have failed to detect disease of the heart, if it still remained.

"The so-called reasoning of *post hoc non propter hoc*, is hardly admissible, as it is most improbable, that when, after failure of all other medical appliances, mesmerism was employed and benefit ensued, the cure should be a mere matter of chance. If the whole is to be resolved into the effect of imagination, the sooner doses of imagination are prescribed according to an orthodox formula, the better for suffering humanity.

"Very sincerely yours,

"Dr. Elliotson."

"ASHHURST MAJENDIE.

"In the beginning of February, Mr. Adolphe Kiste expressed to me the wish to meet with some sick person whom he might endeavour to benefit by mesmerism. I mentioned this to Mr. Decimus Hands, and met at his house Eliza

* Before any non-medical mesmerist takes a case in hand, he should have it examined by a medical man, and the opinion pronounced upon it should be written down. Lamentable experience makes this necessary. When a fee cannot be given, no medical man who is a mesmerist will refuse this good office.—*Zoist*.

Barrett, a girl of twenty-two, who had just left St. George's Hospital, suffering from disease of the heart, considered incurable.

"I took her to the *studio* of Mr. Kiste, in Great Marlborough Street, who speedily put her into the mesmeric state, and sleep-waking soon declared itself.

"She slept that day about five hours, and continued to do so daily for three weeks. Mr. Kiste then desired she should pass twenty-four hours in mesmeric sleep. I accompanied him to the sister's house one morning, when he put her to sleep; and he went again the next day at the same hour, when he awakened her.

"The benefit which was apparent from the first day of trial, was, from the time of the long sleep, more decided. Dr. Elliotson kindly offered to examine the state of the heart.

"Eliza Barrett walked in the mesmeric state from Marlborough Street up Blenheim Steps, got into a cab, and proceeded to Conduit Street, where she remained an hour. Dr. Elliotson examined her minutely, and found no trace of disease of the heart. She was taken back without being awakened. She had been in a most deplorable state, unable to maintain herself by needle-work, unequal to service from the pain in the side brought on by exertion, and without resource.

"After about six weeks, she appeared to be in good health, and was endeavouring to get a place as housemaid. But an attachment, which had been broken off, as I believe, on account of the desperate state of her health, was renewed.* She married in the month of May, and Mr. Kiste finds on enquiry that she is perfectly well.

"ASHHURST MAJENDIE."

"To Adolphe Kiste, Esq.,

"37, Maddox Street.

"June 26th, 1847.

"Kind Sir,—I return you my sincere thanks for the cure which, under God, I have received at your hands by mesmerism. I can truly say, that for more than one and twenty years of my life I never knew what it was to enjoy health, and when the physicians at three hospitals, and St. James's Dispensary, and many other medical gentlemen had, after using all the means and medicines they prescribed, failed to do anything more than relieve the pain for a time, I

* The patient at Bideford, cured by Mr. Davey, after being dumb seven years, was, before her illness, engaged to a young man; but the marriage was broken off. Her cure removed all difficulty; the advances were renewed, and through mesmerism she became a happy wife.—See *Zoist*, Vol. IV., p. 451.

came to you in February, 1847, in a very weak state, utterly incapable of earning my own living, then labouring under disease of the heart, and pains in the limbs. The first time I was mesmerised I received benefit from it. When I had been mesmerised six or seven times, five hours a day, I could lie down on my left or right side, not having been able to lie upon either for some time previous, without considerable pain. The violent beating of the heart, and shortness of breath then left me; I had, I believe, been mesmerised two and twenty times, when I was quite cured. You mesmerised me five times after that, which made the cure more permanent. I have now enjoyed perfect health for above three months, being well six weeks previous to my getting married, which was on the 9th of May. I have had *much mental anxiety and exertion of body, without the least return* of pain or palpitation. After suffering so much for so many years, I am well able to appreciate the cure which I have received through mesmerism. With many thanks for your kindness towards me, believe me to remain,

“Your very humble Servant,

“ELIZA HARRIS.

“No. 4, Duke Street, Bloomsbury.”

“To Adolphe Kiste, Esq.

“Sir,—From the age of one year to fifteen years I was afflicted with fits, abscesses and tumours. It was at this age I first suffered with palpitation of the heart and rheumatism in my limbs, which caused them to swell at times very much. In February, 1845, being then 20 years of age, I became so bad, and having no home, I went to Middlesex Hospital to try to get in, but could not. I then went to St. Pancras Infirmary. It was here I had the rheumatic fever and began spitting of blood. When I had been here seven weeks, suffering so much from the heart, and a complaint in the throat which they gave me a gargle for, and getting no better, I asked Mr. Cooper to give me an order to go out, which he did. I then went on the following day to St. Thomas's Hospital. Dr. Barker ordered sixteen leeches over my heart the day I went in, and salivated me. I was there six weeks, when Dr. Barker told me he could do no more for me. I had no prospect before me but to go into the workhouse when I left there, being incapable of earning my living: I asked Dr. Barker to be so kind as to give me a note, stating that I had been under his care and what was the matter with me. This was on Saturday, the 3rd May, 1845. On the following Monday he sent me one from his house by the post to the hospital,

stating that I had a disease of the heart and what kind of a one. I then came out of St. Thomas's Hospital, and I obtained a letter for Middlesex Hospital, of Mr. Bell, chemist, Oxford Street. Tuesday being Dr. Crawford's taking-in day, I went there and was taken in, had a warm bath and was put to bed. The first medicine I had there stopped the spitting of blood, and when I had been there a week Dr. Crawford ordered me to have cold shower-baths of a morning, every other day at first, and then every day. I had blisters applied to my side and to the back of my neck. I had turpentine fomentations applied to the stomach and side, and the medicine I was taking brought me out in boils all over me. They healed up again; I got so well that I was enabled to come out of the hospital, and having no clothes scarcely, and my father being ill in the infirmary, I had no one to assist me, so I took the letter which Dr. Barker gave me with me to the workhouse. This was in June, 1845, on a Thursday; on Friday I was called to the board-room of the workhouse, Mr. Cooper was there, and Mr. Lee the master of the workhouse; I gave them Dr. Barker's letter, and told them what I had come there for, and that a friend had got me a situation; and they gave me some clothes, and I came out and went to place. I kept pretty well for two months, and then I had the attendance of Mr. Parts, of Camden Town. It was from this time I began taking calomel for to ease the pain, and I have taken it all along till I got so bad in November last. Before I left my place, a lady my mistress was acquainted with gave me a letter for the St. George's and St. James's Dispensary. I went there, and saw Dr. Dew. He ordered me to be cupped on the left shoulder and a blister over the heart; he gave me some medicine and ordered me rest. It was not convenient for me to lay up at my situation, and he said he could not get me well without I did, and that I had better go into the hospital where I could have rest. I obtained a letter for Middlesex Hospital, and went there and saw Dr. Crawford again, Dec. 4, 1846. But he told me he could not possibly take me in till the next week, but he put me under Dr. Latham's care. I saw him that day, and he gave me some medicine; and on coming home with it I lost my senses, and fell down in Cavendish Square. When I came to, a young woman kindly offered to lead me as far as Mr. Sommerfield's, in Marylebone Lane, who sent his servant home with me. I was to go to the hospital on the following Friday, and as I got much worse my mother was obliged to lead me there. While I was waiting to see Dr. Latham I was very bad, and Mr. Corf came and spoke to me, and asked me if I should like to stay then

and go to bed. I said I should like to stay, so he ordered one of the nurses to take me up into Queen's Ward. At night I had a warm bath, and I had a blister put on my forehead; and when I had been there a week, Dr. Crawford ordered me shower-baths again. I had been here rather better than a fortnight, when Dr. Crawford said he should not keep me there any longer, as he thought I should be better out and have the air. I was no better when I left, for I no sooner got down stairs and went in the board-room to return thanks, than I became very ill again. Dr. Crawford, when he discharged me, the Tuesday before Christmas, made me out-patient under Dr. Latham's care. I was seized with a trembling fit whilst waiting to see him. When I reached home I had a worse attack, and I was a week getting worse, when I went on the following Tuesday down to St. George's Hospital to see if I could get a letter for to go in. I was unsuccessful, and I was forced to give a little girl something to lead me from Hyde Park corner to Bond Street. She then left me, and when I had got half-way up Bond Street I fell down in a fit. When I came to, a young man kindly offered from amidst the crowd that was round me to see me home, which he did. On the next day I went again to St. George's Hospital. I obtained a letter at No. 7, Belgrave Square, and I went and saw Dr. Jones, who immediately made me an in-patient. I had two of these trembling attacks, and I was taken upstairs to Holland's Ward and put to bed. Dr. Jones, when he saw me again, sounded me a good deal, and I think he then called my complaint an affection of the heart and chest. Afterwards I was sounded by several other gentlemen and Mr. Fuller. They changed my medicine a good many times and fomented the stomach. Dr. Jones ordered me vapour-baths for the pains in the limbs, and would not suffer me to get up at all. Mr. Fuller sounded me again for about three quarters of an hour. This was when he found out what the complaint was. Afterwards Dr. Jones sounded me again; it was then he said Mr. Fuller was right in saying it was a chronic disease of the heart. The doctors all complained of a confused murmur or grating sound in the heart, which they heard when they sounded me. I used to feel sometimes as though the heart would beat out of the side, and then all at once it would stop and seem to take my breath with it. To lay upon my left or right side I could not, and if I laid upon my back the palpitation was so great that it shook me in my bed. I remained in St. George's Hospital four weeks; when Mr. Hamilton, the house-surgeon, discharged me. When Dr. Jones heard of it, he said he was very glad of it, as he

was afraid that he should have me get worse again if I stopped there, but he would make me an out-patient if I liked. But I told him it was no use of his doing that, as I could not walk so far. It was previous to this that he said he could not take out my heart and put me in a new one. They gave me steel medicine to take, and the last medicine I took from there was ether and hartshorn. Dr. Jones ordered a belladonna plaster over the heart and a strengthening plaster round the loins. I sent for my sister to fetch me home. When I had been home three days, I saw Mr. Hands in the prayer-meeting, along with Mr. Miller. On the following Friday, Mr. Hands sent to my sister's for me to come down to his house. I went there, and he then spoke to me about mesmerism, and said he thought he knew of a gentleman that would undertake to cure me if I would make up my mind to be done, and mother would give her consent to my being mesmerised, which she did on the Saturday previous to my coming to you on the Monday. I bless God that ever I was mesmerised, for I have been only one and twenty times in that state, and am now quite cured: for which I return you my sincere thanks.

"I remain, Sir, your very humble servant,
 "March 28th. "ELIZA BARRETT."

There can be no question that the view taken of the disease by the various physicians was correct; and their treatment of it sound and excellent. It was evidently a case of acute rheumatic pericondritis, or inflammation of the heart's covering, that became chronic, and probably induced after a time a degree of hypertrophy or overgrowth of the heart; and there was the addition of hysteria. She was treated by all with the greatest kindness as well as skill. But in the end her disease proved to have been ameliorated only for a time. Ordinary medical means could have effected no more in any hands; and these circumstances render the value of mesmerism the more striking.*

I have seen her this week, and she is perfectly free from all disease of the heart and from hysteria, though the troubles and bodily exertion she has gone through lately have been great. She tells me that mesmerism appears to have changed her constitution altogether, for, from having all her life been ill in some way or other, she is now perfectly hearty.

June 28th.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

* The utility of mesmerism in affections of the heart is exhibited in Vol. I., p. 465.

X. *Case of Neuralgia of the Stomach with excessive Debility, &c., &c.* By Mr. SYMES, Surgeon, 77, Grosvenor Street.

Miss ———, having been in rather delicate health for a twelve-month previously, was suddenly seized on the 28th of January, 1843, with violent cramp-like pains of the stomach (gastrodynia), accompanied by distressing vomiting, faintness, great flatulent distension of the abdomen with borborygmus, &c., coldness of the surface and particularly of the lower extremities, extreme pallor of the countenance, &c. Hot brandy and water was administered, and hot fomentations applied to the stomach, but it was above an hour before she experienced any relief, she remained very weak and languid for some days and then had a recurrence of the pains, &c., more severe even than at first; after which the attacks returned more and more frequently and with increased intensity, lasting three or four or even five hours at a time, and producing sometimes absolute fainting from excessive pain and exhaustion. She could not take the smallest particle of solid food, not a single crumb of sopped bread, without inducing one of these distressing paroxysms, which would likewise come on from any little mental agitation, and frequently, too, without any apparent cause. Her menstruation had always been regular and with scarcely any pain, but now her periods were attended with intense pain of the loins and anterior region of the uterus; and this again would invariably bring on a recurrence of the stomach affection. After attending to the alvine secretions, I ordered hydrocyanic acid three times a day, beginning with a small dose and gradually increasing it to as large a dose as my patient could bear, combining it in turn with lime water, sesquicarbonate of soda, and with stramonium, and afterwards also with creosote and trisnitrate of bismuth, &c. Full doses of cajeput oil were administered during the paroxysms, &c., &c., but with only temporary relief. In short I tried every medicine I could think of as applicable to the case, and at length nothing seemed to give the slightest alleviation of pain except strong stimulants combined with large and repeated doses of opium (muriate of morphine was the form employed) but this was followed by such distressing head-ache, sickness, and thirst, that nothing short of the intense agony she suffered would have justified its exhibition.

Nine weeks had now elapsed since the commencement of these attacks. I have said that my patient was unable to take a *particle* of solid food, she obtained scarcely any sleep at night, and became weaker and weaker, until one day

she nearly fainted in trying to walk between two assistants from her bed to a sofa in the same room; and, at length, she could scarcely bear to be lifted from one to the other to have her bed made without faintness or pain. I saw with alarm that no permanent benefit was derived from any of the powerful remedies I had prescribed, and I felt that my patient must shortly die unless some better means could be devised. I had long felt desirous of attempting mesmerism in this case, but knowing that the lady's friends were strongly prejudiced against it, I had not suggested its adoption, especially as at that time I had never seen a similar case so treated; but, in despair of affording relief by any other means, I now ventured to propose it to the mother as a last resource; her reply was, "Well, Mr. Symes, you know our confidence in you, and whatever you say is necessary shall be done." I had on that occasion only a very few minutes to spare, but, determined to lose no time, I at once commenced mesmerising my patient and was pleased at seeing an evident effect produced at the end of ten minutes, although she did not go into the mesmeric sleep: this was on the 5th of April. On making my visit on the following day, I was highly gratified at learning that she *had passed a better night than for two months previously.*

6th. Mesmerised her 25 minutes; she became drowsy and could with difficulty keep her eyes open but did not sleep, yet she felt *so much better afterwards that I determined upon discontinuing all medicine.* She passed, in her own words, "*a most excellent night.*"

7th. Mesmerised twenty-five minutes. The eyes closed spontaneously, but without loss of consciousness; she felt, however, so much better and stronger afterwards that *she rose from the sofa of her own accord and walked across the room without assistance.* I now gave her the yolk of an egg, raw, which she bolted and retained on her stomach without any ill effect; slept well all night.

8th. The eyes closed in spite of herself a few minutes after I commenced the passes, and she was unable to open them until I ceased; still she did not lose consciousness, but was enabled to take her yolk of egg and walk about the room for ten minutes afterwards. She passed another good night, and the next morning attempted to walk about the room *before* being mesmerised, but was soon obliged to sit down from faintness. *After* being mesmerised half an hour, with no other effect than on the previous day, *she could walk about with impunity for a quarter of an hour.*

10th. My patient *had had no recurrence of her attacks*

since the first day she was mesmerised; but this being her monthly period, I had looked forward to it with anxiety. She complained of lassitude and severe pain in the back, but had entirely lost *this pain* after half an hour's mesmerising; ate *two* yolks of eggs, and walked about a quarter of an hour without fatigue.

11th. The eyes closed as usual, and she experienced the usual benefit.

12th. Was discomposed by letters of a distressing kind, and felt ill in consequence. Mesmerised half an hour, but with little effect, being much disturbed during the time; the eyes did not close, she was unable to walk afterwards, and passed a restless night.

13th. After half an hour's mesmerism *I ventured to allow her a little chicken, which caused no inconvenience*; she slept naturally for an hour afterwards and awoke refreshed.

14th. The eyes closed as usual; she made *a hearty meal*, and felt so well that I gave her permission to take an egg for her breakfast the next morning.

15th. A violent attack of pain, vomiting, &c., &c., was brought on by eating the egg *before being mesmerised*, and left the usual faintness and prostration of strength; but *after* being mesmerised three quarters of an hour, felt so much better that she *walked about and ate a hearty dinner without inconvenience*.

16th and 17th. Felt as usual weak and listless in the mornings, but strong and well after the mesmerism.

18th. Went into the mesmeric sleep for the first time to-day, after which she made a hearty dinner, and *read aloud great part of the evening* without fatigue: a fortnight before she could not even endure a little conversation.

Still mesmerised half an hour daily, the eyes always closing in spite of any efforts to keep them open, but without her *losing* consciousness; felt so well on the 20th that she was induced to dine *before* being mesmerised; about twenty minutes after it, however, the old symptoms of pain, vomiting, flatulence, &c., returned, but ceased entirely after the mesmerism, and she was able to read aloud and walk about all the evening,—formerly after such an attack she was always obliged to go to bed.

Went on well till the 29th, when some cause of excitement occurred in the evening, which kept her awake great part of the night; and a renewal of the annoyance on the following morning induced *a painful attack, which was relieved as usual by mesmerism*.

May 6th. Monthly period. Had considerable pain in the back, &c., which was entirely removed by mesmerism, and the sleep was induced for twenty-seven minutes.

Had an attack on the 13th from the sudden communication of a family affliction; and on the 18th the same symptoms were just commencing when I paid my daily visit. Mesmerised her three quarters of an hour, *prevented the attack from coming on*, and left her quite comfortable. With these exceptions she went on favourably, the eyes *always* closing during mesmerism, but the sleep only coming on occasionally till the 23rd, when she went out for a drive for the first time since the commencement of her illness; it was a cold easterly wind, and an hour after her return she was seized with head-ache, sore throat, cough, and loss of voice. After half an hour's mesmerising the *head-ache was entirely relieved* and the *throat better*; the voice did not return for several hours, and the cough continued troublesome for a day or two.

The mesmerism was continued till the 27th, on which day it was omitted; she passed a restless night in consequence, and awoke next morning with one of her attacks, which continued till she was mesmerised; she had also a little pain on the 31st, from not being mesmerised until several hours after her dinner.

June 4th. The *periodic pain in her back, &c., removed by mesmerism*. Continued for the next nine days always feeling weak and low of a morning, but strong and in good spirits after the mesmerism, which was omitted on the 13th, and at bed-time she began to feel unwell. Took some beef tea, but rejected it almost immediately, and was restless and uneasy all night. A rather severe attack came on after her breakfast the next morning, leaving her weak and ill till the afternoon, when the mesmerism restored her, and she enjoyed a hearty meal.

30th. Went out to spend the day, and probably from over fatigue *had a slight attack* in the evening, which was *soon subdued by mesmerism*. This was continued daily until the 9th of June, when she was persuaded to go for change of air to stay at the country-house of a friend, and *not having been mesmerised had an attack in the evening*, which lasted two hours.

10th. Lay down to sleep for an hour in the middle of the day, and was most careful of her diet, in the hope of avoiding an attack; but it *again came on* in the evening even more severely than on the previous day.

11th. Weak and ill, lay on the sofa great part of the day,

and went to bed very early, but a *most severe attack* ensued. Her friends there, who had hitherto laughed at mesmerism, now confessed that she, at least, could not do without it, and agreed to drive her up to town to see me on the following morning.

12th. She arrived at my house with her mother, so weak that she could with difficulty step out of the carriage into my dining room. I immediately *mesmerised her for an hour*, after which she expressed herself as *feeling quite well*; had a *ravenous appetite*, returned to the country and ate everything before her. The young lady of the house, who had often seen her friend mesmerised by me, and acknowledged the invariable improvement in her appearance after it, yet retained an unaccountable antipathy against the remedy, and could never be persuaded that an hour's natural sleep in the course of the day would not have an equally beneficial effect; but seeing that no precautions would keep away the attack, save "the one thing needful," her natural goodness of heart and sympathy for her friend's sufferings overcame her prejudices at this time, and she consented herself to apply the remedy. Accordingly from the 13th to the 20th this lady *mesmerised my patient for half an hour daily*, and there was *no return of the pain* till the 21st, when a slight attack was induced by a fright, which the lady soon relieved by the usual means; yet

" — true 'tis strange,
And passing strange 'tis true,"

her antipathy against this, to her friend, invaluable blessing, is at this day greater than ever; nay, I am told that she has so far imbibed the prejudices of a religious friend as to ascribe the mesmeric influence to satanic agency. Other friends of my patient do not scruple to declare this same conviction: one lady in particular, a near family connexion, who has likewise witnessed the remarkable sanative effects of mesmerism in this case, and the failure of all other means, for she was staying in the house at the time, is most bitter against it and all who practise it; yet she too, under the influence of her better feelings, has more than once, on witnessing Miss ——'s agonizing pain, offered to mesmerise her. Others again rudely laugh at her for adopting such absurdity. Miss —— herself knew nothing about the science until applied to her own case, and her mother had a feeling against it; but both have, from the commencement, been deeply sensible of, and grateful for, the benefit conferred, and can afford to laugh at the folly of those who have tried to set them against it.

22nd. My patient returned to town, and I recommenced mesmerising her daily till the 5th of August, when she went into the country, feeling quite well, and continued so until the 13th, on which day she awoke with great pain in her back from the usual periodical cause. A severe attack came on after her breakfast and lasted two hours. She could not move off the sofa all day, and took nothing but a little chicken broth, yet another paroxysm came on in the evening, leaving her very weak and ill for days after; but she had not another attack till the 31st, when the carriage was nearly upset, and she had to alight and walk a considerable distance: this induced a slight paroxysm, and on the 5th of the following September an alarm of fire produced another, when the young lady who had formerly mesmerised her being fortunately present, kindly exerted her satanic (?) influence, sent her to sleep in spite of the pain within five minutes, and in twenty minutes she awoke feeling quite well. One must presume therefore that Satan is tired of walking up and down like a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour, and prefers assuming the form of a ministering angel assuaging the ills of mortality. Probably these ladies are not aware that the same absurd outcry has been raised against every new remedy, —vaccination, bark, &c., &c., but how they can reconcile it to their consciences, under any circumstances, to employ such a remedy, if they really do in their hearts ascribe it to such a source, I must leave it to themselves to explain; “I only know that” I “would not have done so.”

Most of the dates in the foregoing narrative are taken from a journal kept by my patient for a sister who is abroad, but from some cause not sent to her, and put into my hands to “make what use I pleased of.” Miss —— escaped any attack for some months after this, and in her letter to her sister, dated April, 1844, says she is *quite well*. She was indeed restored to comparative health, and I am as fully convinced as she is herself that her life was in imminent danger when I commenced the process, and has been saved by it. The tendency, however, to a recurrence of the attacks has continued; and although sometimes she has been free from them for many months together, at others she has had them severely, requiring to be mesmerised very frequently afterwards; thus in November and again in December, 1844, and several following months, she had some severe attacks.

It is worthy of note that Miss ——’s mother, an elderly gentlewoman, had been subject to attacks of gastrodynia for three or four years previously to Miss ——’s illness, during the whole of which time *they had slept together*, and as I after-

wards learnt they had been in the habit of sleeping with *a hand locked in each other's hand*; and during the whole of her daughter's illness, up to this time, Mrs. R. had not suffered a single attack. I did not for a long time connect these circumstances with Miss ——'s illness farther than as giving the hereditary predisposition, and when I did so, I had some difficulty in inducing the ladies to occupy separate sleeping rooms, but I did at length insist upon it, and since then Mrs. —— has had occasional returns of gastrodynia, although not so severe or so frequent as formerly. I have now little doubt that the younger lady's illness was originally induced by sleeping in this way with her mother, and that the obstinate predisposition to a recurrence of the attacks, and the debility and lassitude so constantly experienced of a morning, are ascribable to the same cause. In truth, the beneficial action of my half hour's active mesmerism in the day was constantly being counteracted by the injurious tendency of the mother's eight or ten hours' passive mesmerism, so to speak, at night.

After a time, Miss —— went habitually into the sleep-waking state when mesmerised, and although on this occasion I have dwelt principally upon the curative powers of the agency, different highly interesting phenomena have been induced. I had often great difficulty in awaking her, sometimes for hours together; her eyes, too, would remain closed for some time after coming out of the mesmeric state, in spite of her own and my efforts to open them. On one occasion, I tried in vain to get her eyes to open for above an hour after the waking, but not being able to accomplish it, I was obliged to leave her, telling her that without doubt they would presently open; but if not, that she might be pretty sure they would open when she awoke in the morning after a night's rest. To my surprise, however, I found them still closed on paying my visit the next day, though they opened readily after I had again mesmerised her. But at length she was enabled, in the sleep-waking state, to instruct me how to avoid this difficulty in future. She would also tell me how long it was necessary for her to sleep, and if I awakened her before the time, she would be sure to have an attack. If I could make her promise to awake spontaneously at the end of a given time, as in twenty-three, or twenty-five, or thirty minutes for example, she would do so precisely at that time. Then she acquired the power of foreseeing to an hour in how many days or weeks the next attack would ensue *if not mesmerised*; and if I delayed ever so little after the time specified, I was sure to find her ill. But as I have always

taken care to mesmerise her if possible before an expected attack, she has rarely had any, and when they have come on, I could always clearly trace them to some imprudence on her part, or to mental agitation, or other exciting cause; and they are always readily subdued by mesmerism. At one time, however, when she required to be mesmerised daily, as was always the case after an attack, I was undergoing excessive fatigue and anxiety, and I found myself hardly able to affect her; so my friend, Dr. Elliotson, kindly undertook to mesmerise her for me for a week or two. He could produce the effect without difficulty, and when I recommenced, under more favourable circumstances, I was equally successful.

In November, 1845, too, she unfortunately had an attack when I was out of town, and not liking to trouble Dr. Elliotson, she sent for a neighbouring practitioner, who dosed her with powerful medicines for some twenty hours, without the slightest relief; and when I arrived, I found her completely exhausted with pain and fatigue. Although I could usually induce the sleep in a few passes,—I have effected it by merely gazing at her for a second or two, at the distance of her drawing room,—it was now above an hour before I could succeed, and in her sleep she told me it would be necessary for her to be mesmerised daily for two months, unless she could be kept in the mesmeric state six or eight hours a day for a fortnight: but as she would neither allow any one, except the mesmeriser, and those who had mesmerised her, to approach her, nor suffer her mesmeriser to leave her in the mesmeric state for more than a few minutes at a time, I could effect this only by begging her to come on a visit to my house for a fortnight, during which time I regularly mesmerised her night and morning for an hour or two, and my wife for some hours in the middle of the day; and thus we got over the effects of this violent and protracted attack.

I can excite in her some six or eight of the phrenological organs, as well as the phenomena of traction, and alternate rigidity and relaxation of the limbs, &c.; and by making her promise, during the sleep-waking, to do anything in her natural state, she will certainly do it, although having no recollection of anything that has occurred in the mesmeric state.

I must not omit to mention, that my patient is now happily married, and that I saw her a few days since in excellent health and spirits.

The case is highly interesting and instructive in many points of view. It has served thoroughly to convince me of what I had before but a vague notion of, viz., the great

impropriety of allowing young persons to sleep with the aged, especially when the latter are afflicted with any disease, even though not of a kind usually considered contagious. Had I immediately on the commencement of the malady insisted upon my patient sleeping alone, and could I have devoted several hours a day to mesmerising her, or had she been blest with friends ready to do so, and thus to co-operate with me in my anxious and strenuous efforts to effect a cure, instead of thwarting me and annoying her, by decrying and persuading her to discontinue the only remedy she found of use, I feel assured her recovery would have been as rapid as it was protracted. It shows, too, how long it is sometimes necessary to persevere with this remedy, just as with any other therapeutic agent, in order to effect one's object; and it may serve as a lesson to all of us never to presume to give an opinion upon subjects we are unacquainted with.

This lady has herself effected several striking cures by means of mesmerism. For example: on visiting the cottage of a poor woman in the country, she one day saw a child which had been suffering for weeks from ophthalmia. She succeeded in mesmerising the child. On the following day the eye was much better; she repeated the operation, and in two days all traces of the inflammation had disappeared.

On calling at a friend's house in town, she found the infant screaming in the nurse's arms, and was told that nothing would pacify it; it had been crying all night, and the mother, quite worn out, had just gone to lie down. Without saying anything, she took the child in her lap, mesmerised it for twenty minutes, and restored it asleep to the nurse. The mother had no idea how the change had been effected, but wrote to her the next day, to say how much better the child had been ever since her visit; it had slept so much, and had scarcely disturbed her all the night afterwards.

Only a few weeks ago, spending the evening at my house, I saw her remove tooth-ache in a few minutes, from a gentleman who had just before been pacing the room in agony with it.

Before concluding I may perhaps be permitted to mention, although it has nothing to do with the above case, how highly I was gratified a few days since at witnessing, by the kindness of Mr. Chandler, the extremely interesting phenomena induced in his blind patient, Captain Peach. The gentleman who usually mesmerises Captain P. readily sent him into the sleep-waking state by a few passes, and then exhibited the phenomena of traction, community of taste, &c. While the Captain was still asleep, a lady, who is also in the

habit of mesmerising him, entered the room; she is said to have greater mesmeric power over the Captain than any one else, and it was agreed that after he was awakened she should send him to sleep again without his knowing she was present. She did speak however after he was awakened, but we went on talking to the Captain, and at a given signal she, sitting at a distance of at least six feet, commenced making passes and pointing towards him. His eyes presently began to quiver and fill with tears, as they always do when mesmerised, and his head dropped several times upon his chest, he each time rousing himself with a start, moving uneasily about upon his seat, and apologizing to us for "not being able to keep awake." The lady at length advanced towards him, and in a few moments sent him quite off, and then readily produced the different phenomena before alluded to. It is indeed a most satisfactory case, and, the usual effects occurring as they do in a gentleman who has been blind so many years and when he could not know what was being done, it shews that at least these phenomena may be induced quite independently of "the imagination."

XI. *Cure of Tic Douloureux in two sittings.* By Mr. HAYMAN, Lace Manufacturer, Sidmouth.*

ABOUT the middle of April, 1845, Ann Llewellyn came on business to my shop, and having heard I mesmerised expressed a wish to be present at one of the sittings, though much prejudiced against it from believing it to be satanic. I consented, and took her into the parlour where there was a youth in the mesmeric sleep. I began by exciting the phrenological organs, and having touched Veneration and Language, he slowly rose from his chair, clasped his hands, fell upon his knees, and poured forth a most beautiful and affecting prayer; upon which Anne declared herself satisfied, as the devil would never teach a man to pray. She then determined to come to me the next day and try what could be done for her. She was then about 30 years of age and had been suffering from tic douloureux ever since a severe cold in 1840. It was accompanied by tightness, weakness, and oppression of the chest, and frequent spasms. The nose was much affected, the tip scarlet, burning hot, in acute pain. She had consulted several of the medical profession in Exeter and Exmouth,

* A subscriber to the Mesmeric Infirmary and acquainted with Mr. D. Hands.—*Zoist*.

who coincided in declaring her to be in a highly nervous state and that medicine could not avail, though nature might.

Anne came according to her promise, and her sister and brother in law came with her. I proposed to commence by mesmerising the man, and therefore began by making the passes over him at the same time that I forcibly willed that she should feel the effect instead of him. After some minutes, I turned to her and said, I feared I could not give her much time, but found she was already partially collapsed. I took her thumbs and in about four minutes she fell back quite unconscious, but seemed to labour under great oppression and difficulty of breathing; a few downward passes quickly relieved her. As I made them down the limbs and off from the feet, her countenance brightened, testifying the comfort and pleasure she felt. I then spoke to her and so did her sister and brother, but she did not answer. I then excited language and called her by name, "Anne." "Yes." "Are you comfortable?" "Yes; but in great pain." "In what part?" She placed her hands on her chest without speaking. "Do you think I can do you good?" "Yes, I know you can." "Tell me then what I am to do, how to proceed." She put both hands on her forehead, drew them gently down, pressing on the chest with her thumbs; then down to the hips, pressing there; continuing to the feet: then, throwing off the influence, she repeated this process, and I closely observed her directions. As my finger accidentally touched the tip of her nose, her features sparkled with pleasure. I again excited Language, and the remainder of the sitting was filled up by proving my power over her. I made her sing, and excited Terror and Ideality, when I was obliged to quiet her: I then demesmerised her. She walked twelve miles the following day, and two months afterwards called on me to shew me how well she was. I then tried to mesmerise her by pointing, and she exclaimed I was throwing fire at her, and then at the beautiful colours. She saw each of my fingers as I pointed forming a different colour, with sparks of fire; she then said she saw the interior of her mesmeriser, and described the different arteries, the circulation of the blood, the appearance of the brain, &c., &c., calling *the lungs* the lights. One of my hands felt cold, the other hot. All of a sudden she became very sad, and cried and sobbed out, "Oh my husband, my husband." On being questioned, she said she saw him, that he had been bled in consequence of an accident, being crushed between a waggon and a wall; that the hurt was in the shoulder, and he had been in bed four days and was wishing for her, but did not like to send for her; he had no bones broken.

I cautioned the sister not to say anything of this to her when awake, but to go home as soon as they could. On their arrival the whole account was found perfectly correct.

I have seen her repeatedly since, and she remains in good health and has not had any return of her complaint since April, 1845.

June, 1847.

XII. *Dr. Esdaile's First Monthly Report of the Calcutta Mesmeric Hospital, and his Experiments with Ether used with the same view as Mesmerism in Surgical Operations. Painless Operation at Madras, by Dr. Johnstone, upon a European lady, in the mesmeric state. Appointment of a Mesmeric Committee at Madras by the Government. Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.*

THE following is the printed report which I have received:—

“The Government having been pleased to sanction the publication of monthly reports from my hospital, as the best means of diffusing correct knowledge among the people on a subject of practical importance to them, I shall in future furnish a monthly summary of the cases treated in the hospital, that the public may know what is doing, and that my statements may be corroborated or contradicted on the spot, while the facts are fresh in the memory of those who witnessed them. It is impossible for me to give the names of the persons who witnessed what I relate, very few of them being known to me, but I hope that they will freely, and without scruple, correct any statement of mine that does not in all essentials correspond with their own observations.

“I regret that there is no novelty in the nature of the cases treated last month, and for this reason: in consequence of the success I have met with, in removing the tumors so common in this country, while the patients were in the mesmeric trance, persons afflicted with this disease resort to me from great distances, and a notion has gone abroad among the people, that my ‘*charm*’ is only applicable to such cases: add to this, that the natives are totally ignorant of the efficacy of mesmerism in medical diseases, and it will explain the sameness of my proceedings since coming to Calcutta. The field will gradually open, however, and in proportion as the public become familiar with the subject, and its extensive application to medical as well as the generality of surgical diseases, I shall be able to communicate more varied and interesting matter.

“In recording last month’s proceedings, I shall put the reader in possession of the facts, and then make some comments on them.

“November 9th. Doahmony, a peasant woman, aged 50, has come from Benares to get an immense scirrhus tumor of the right breast removed. It commenced two years ago, and is moveable, hard, and elastic; there is no enlargement of the axillary glands, and she does not look in very bad health.

“On the 7th day of mesmerising, she was entranced, her arms were partially cataleptic, and she was insensible to pricking. Next day, she was again put to sleep, and two-thirds of the tumor removed without her moving or appearing to feel it. She then awoke up, and appeared to recover her senses before the operation was finished. No manual restraint was used during the excision of the mass, but she became very violent immediately after, and required to be forcibly held down while the arteries were being tied.

“The breast weighed 7 pounds.

“December 29th. Discharged at her own request, her friends having come for her from Benares. The sore is nearly healed.

“Ramlochun Doss, a weaver, residing at Serampore, aged 60. He has got one of the usual tumors of 30 years’ growth. Having been entranced for five days previously, he was operated on the 1st December.

“I intended to save all the parts, if found to be worth keeping, but the organ on the left side was diseased, and was therefore sacrificed; the other being healthy, was kept.

“There was not the slightest shrinking from the knife, or the smallest movement in the trunk and lower extremities. An indistinct moaning was heard when the cord was cut across, but the man lay perfectly passive and motionless during and after the tying of the arteries. His pulse being nearly insensible from the great loss of blood, I thought it expedient to awake him to administer a cordial.

“He was with considerable difficulty aroused, and was very unwilling to be disturbed, but at last opened his eyes, and instantly asked, ‘Why so many people were standing around him?’

“He said that he felt very well in every respect; that there was a slight heat in the seat of his complaint; this caused him to carry his hand to the part, and he then became aware that the tumor was gone.

"It weighed 40 lbs.

"December 31st. He has had no difficulty in recovering, and the wound is nearly healed.

"December 6th. Katick Doss, a washerman: has been afflicted with a tumor for 16 years. He was entranced on the fifth day of mesmerising, and was operated on two days after. Having injured my hand, I was unable to operate, and Mr. R. O'Shaughnessy obligingly took my place. The dissection was tedious and severe, but he lay motionless, till about the middle of the operation; he then began to awake, and was completely aroused before it was over. He complained for a good while after, that *he could not see*—this fact will be met with again soon. The organs were all saved. Weight of tumor, 30 lbs.

"December 31st. This man has been in a very dangerous state, sloughing, diarrhœa, and fever having ensued, but I think that he is now likely to recover.

"I hope that the reader will give the following strange eventful history his best attention, as in it nature herself will be seen partially raising the veil, and admitting us to a glimpse of the mysteries of the inner life of man.

"November 21st. Sheik Manick, a husbandman, has come from Burwan to have an enormous tumor removed. He is subject to fever twice a month, but his constitution appears to be wonderfully little impaired. We succeeded in entrancing him on the third day, and for four days after, but fever, followed by diarrhœa then attacked him, and the process was discontinued. On the 4th December, he was again mesmerised, but it was found that we had to commence *de novo*, his system having thrown off the mesmeric influence in the interval. I determined on account of the periodic derangements of his system, to operate on the first occasion that offered.

"December 12th. His arms, which were crossed upon his breast, were rigidly fixed in that attitude, and could not be extended; pricking him all over did not disturb him. I therefore proceeded to operate.

"I ought to have noted, that after testing him, I awoke him daily, to ascertain if he had been conscious of any annoyance in his sleep.

"The tumor was so immense, that no attempt could be made to save the deep-seated organs; I therefore performed the operation in the manner described by Dr. Stewart, in a similar case on which I operated in the Native hospital.

“About the middle of the operation, he cried out, and showed other signs of suffering; but his exclamations were unintelligible, *or had no reference to his present position*. Soon after all was over, he vomited a full meal, and his pulse became imperceptible. He answered questions in a wild distracted manner, and all we could make out was, that *he could not see*, although his eyes were wide open. When I tried to give him a cordial, his teeth were found to be firmly clenched, and considerable rigidity still remained in the arms. He continued to complain in a distracted unintelligible manner for an hour, that I remained with him.

“The tumor weighed 100 lbs.

“He was operated on at 12 o'clock p.m., and I returned to see him at 4 o'clock. He was sleeping soundly, and I awoke him; he said that he was in full possession of all his senses, that he saw very well, and he spoke loudly and earnestly as usual. He had slept soundly since 10 o'clock (his mesmerising time), he said, and was awoke this moment by me. I asked him when he last saw me? and he replied, *“yesterday when you awoke me as usual.”* He had no recollection of having been disturbed, and said that he certainly had not vomited to-day. Being farther pressed to remember if nothing had annoyed him when asleep, he said, ‘Ah! Yes, now I recollect being awoke for a moment by the ants biting me, but went to sleep again till you awoke me this moment.’

“He now missed the weight of his burden, and sat up to look for it; on seeing the altered state of things, he expressed the greatest surprize, and said, ‘Why did you not tell me you were going to do it to-day?’

“I desired him to go over the events of the day up to the present moment, and he did this with the greatest minuteness till 10 o'clock, his mesmerising time, but after that he only recollected being annoyed by the ants for a moment, and slept well till awoke by me just now. He repeated, that he had not seen me since yesterday. I found him entranced when I came to the hospital to-day, and therefore was not among his waking recollections—his existence from 10 till 4 o'clock was a complete blank. He seems to me to have awoke up from the most intense degree of the mesmeric trance into somnambulism, (of which the patient has no recollection in his waking state) in which there was a disturbance of the instinctive powers of life caused by the sudden and profuse loss of blood, but the life of volition continued torpid and enchained till the moment that I awoke him.

“December 13th. The wound was stitched to-day, and

there was no want of meaning in his exclamations: they were most emphatic and appropriate, and he abused everybody in the most expressive Bengalee terms.

"December 28th. He has had no difficulty in recovering, and has been walking about for several days.

"December 4th. Sheik Nemoo, a Khitmutgar; aged 30: he has got a small tumor. He was entranced on the 8th day, and the operation was performed two days after.

"The operation was very difficult and severe, from the almost cartilaginous hardness of the skin, and its adhering closely to the subjacent organs.

"Towards the end of the operation, he exhibited the usual signs of pain, and asked for water and a punkah, but on coming thoroughly to his senses, in about ten minutes after, he asked when and by whom it was done? The organs all saved.

"December 31st. Is doing well.

"From the foregoing, it will be seen that two, if not three, patients awoke into consciousness before the end of the operation. The extraordinary case of Sheik Manick I consider to have been as satisfactory as if he had acted the part of a corpse throughout. For when the convulsive movements often seen leave no memory of them in the brain, and no trace of suffering in any part of the system is visible when the person comes to his senses, such cases are surely for all practical purposes *painless operations*. If a man has had no apprehension of an operation, and knows not that it has been performed when he awakes, what is this to be called if not a painless operation?

"As a practical man, I am quite satisfied if my patients assure me that they felt no pain, especially when every look, word, and action correspond with their statements. To the careful observer, those vague convulsive movements are as specific and characteristic of an extraordinary state of the system, as a corpse-like endurance of the most cruel torture. When the trance is only disturbed, but not broken, the motions often seen are as objectless as those of a galvanized corpse, or the fluttering of the fowl after its head has been cut off: the spinal nerves seem only to be irritated, without involving the brain, or voluntary part of the nervous system, *and as long as there is no volition, there is no sensation, as will be shortly seen*. There is no attempt to withdraw the part from under the knife, the patients never try to remove

it with their hands, and it is quite evident that they have no idea of the *source* of their discomfort. If the *will* had prompted the movements, some memory of them would remain, *but there is usually none*. I think it very probable that this muscular irritability might be generally extinguished altogether by prolonged treatment, but it is not worth the trouble, for the system suffers as little as when there is not a quiver of the flesh. This I have been long aware of, and acted up to, but I now come to an equally practical fact, in working out which I have usefully spent a considerable part of last month.

“It is no small triumph of science, and no trifling boon to humanity, to render men insensible even to *half* the horrors of terrible operations, but having been long accustomed to save my patients *all* knowledge of the injuries inflicted upon them, I was dissatisfied with the half-successes that occurred last month, and suspected that there was some disturbing influence at work which had been overlooked, or that I was ignorant of, as many imperfect operations happened in one month as in the last year and a half, and I resolved not to move a foot farther till the disturbing cause was detected.

“In the hot weather, the patients are all but naked, and in this state are entranced, and operated on. But last month, they were mesmerised under two blankets and a sheet, with their faces only exposed. Having been tested in the mesmerising room, they were carried on their beds into the operating room, through which a current of the cold north wind blew, and that every movement of the body might be seen, they were exposed stark naked to the spectators. I remarked on several occasions, that a deep inspiration, and other involuntary movements immediately followed this exposure of the body to the cold air, although the persons had a moment before been quite indifferent to the loudest noises, pricking and pinching. The demesmerising influence of cold, when artificially applied, was familiar to me, as will be seen in my *Mesmerism in India*, and it will appear surprizing that I should not have been more on my guard against it as a *natural agent*. I can only plead in extenuation, the stupifying influence of a successful routine; but failures, when improved, are often more instructive than complete success.

“I suspected that *cold* was the secret enemy at work, and lost no time in determining the point by actual experiments. Two men being in preparation for operation were subjected to the following course of experiment.

“Mothoor, a bearer from Cuttack, has got one of the usual tumors. He was sent to me by his brother, Bogobun

Doss, from whom I removed a 50-pound tumor in the trance, a year ago, at Hooghly : he also sent Morali Doss, on whom I operated in the Native Hospital, in presence of the mesmeric committee.

"Dec. 27th. Mothoor being entranced to-day, was subjected to the action of the electro-magnetic machine with the central magnet in it, his hands and body trembled in synchrony with the shocks, but his countenance remained perfectly placid ; in about ten minutes, his head turned convulsively to one side, but his features were not disturbed, and he slept on.

"When handling his arms, I saw a boil on one of them, and made a crucial incision into it, without his shrinking in the least. He was then carried under the blankets, and his bed placed in the north door of the hospital ; the blankets and sheet were suddenly pulled off, and he was exposed naked to the cold air ; in about two minutes he shivered all over, his breathing became disturbed, and he clutched right and left for the bed-clothes, but still sleeping ; they were supplied to him, and he huddled himself up under them with the greatest satisfaction, still sleeping however. The bed was then carried back to the mesmerising room, and he was artificially awoke. He had slept profoundly without a dream, he said, and awoke this moment from feeling cold. When shewn the wound in his arm, he was greatly surprized, and shewed the usual signs of pain, saying, that he had struck the boil against something in his sleep, he supposed, and it had burst.

"Dec. 28th. The magnetic machine awoke him to-day on the second application.

"Dec. 29th. He was more deeply affected to-day, and lay unmoved for several minutes in the open air ; he then shuddered all over, his breathing became irregular, and he immediately awoke into the full possession of his senses : the cold had awoke him, he said.

"Dec. 30th. I covered the wound in his arm with nitric acid to-day ; the flesh became instantly white, but he did not shrink in the least : a pin was also thrust through the flesh between his fingers, and left there, of course without his minding it. He was then exposed in the northern doorway, and awoke in less than a minute after being exposed to the air. The cold awoke him, he said.

"The pin sticking between his fingers greatly perplexed him, and he drew it out, expressing as much pain as most people would do on having it stuck into them. The whitened sore on his arm was now shewn to him, and he immediately

exhibited signs of the greatest pain, as people always do when any raw surface comes in contact with the mineral acids : the pain was so severe that I ordered his arm to be fomented with warm water.

“ A stove was ordered for the operation room.

“ Dec. 31st. The room being agreeably heated to-day, I proceeded to operate on him in the presence of numerous spectators, exposing only the diseased surface. The operation was very severe and tedious from the hardness of the diseased mass and its adhering closely to the delicate organs below, which were all saved. No sound escaped the man, there was not the slightest shrinking under the knife, and the only movements observed, I was told, were some slight contractions of the toes and forehead.

“ He awoke in about ten minutes after all the arteries were tied, as if from a natural sleep, stretched himself well, complained that he felt his thighs and arms stiff, and seeing his *bhai*, Bogobun Doss, he asked him to shampoo them for him. He had slept very well, he said, nothing had disturbed him, and he felt no pain in the part. The wound was at last shewn to him, and he expressed the greatest horror and alarm, exclaiming that it pained him excessively. After a while, I asked him if Bogobun Doss had told him the truth. ‘ Oh ! yes,’ he answered, ‘ it was done exactly as he described.’

“ Dr. Dickens from Cuttack, visited the hospital a few days after, and was recognized by Mothoor.

“ After telling him all about it, he confidentially asked, ‘ But how did the Dr. Saheb do it ?’

“ Chand Khan, aged 35, has got the same complaint. We commenced mesmerising him on the 8th December, and on the 25th he was insensible to pricking, &c.

“ December 27th. He was carried on his bed, under the blankets, to the north door. I called upon him loudly by name, and plucked a pinch of hair out of his moustache without disturbing him. I then drew off the bed-clothes ; in less than a minute he shivered, sighed deeply, like a person after a shower bath, and eagerly sought for the bedding, straining his eyelids to open them, but in vain. He soon after awoke from the cold, he said.

“ December 28th. Again exposed to the cold air, after inflicting different tests of sensibility. After shivering, and seeking for covering, as yesterday, but finding none, he rolled himself up like a hedge-hog, and tried to make the most of it, but soon awoke, and from the cold, he said.

“ December 30th. Acted precisely the same as yesterday.

"December 31st. I stuck a pin into his nose, and left it there a moment, before drawing off the bedding. He awoke exactly as he had done on former days, and from the same cause, cold.

"When getting up he rubbed his nose against the bed, and the pin fell out to his great surprise.

"After he got up, I gently pricked his nose with the pin which he resented as much as any one in the company would have done.

"Next day, he was operated on without knowing anything about it, and although the operation was not the formidable one expected, it was very curious, and will be related next month.

"From the foregoing facts, I consider myself entitled to say, that it has been demonstrated, that patients in the mesmeric trance may be insensible to,

"The loudest noises.

"Painful pricking and pinching.

"The cutting of inflamed parts.

"The application of nitric acid to raw surfaces.

"The racking of the electro-magnetic machine.

"The most painful surgical operation, and yet be aroused into full consciousness by the exposure of their naked bodies, for a few minutes, to the cold air.*

"All the persons admitted last month for operation have been disposed of, except one.

"JAMES ESDAILE, M.D.

"Calcutta, 1st January, 1847."

In the *Delhi Gazette Overland Summary*, for March 22, are the following paragraphs:—

"His Highness the Nawab Nazcem of *Moorshedabad*, accompanied by Mr. Torrens, Mr. Cooper, and the native gentlemen in his suite, visited the Mesmeric Hospital on the 10th. Dr. Esdaile offered to operate on a patient who had been brought to the proper state, and the Nawab declined to be present, but munificently presented the doctor with 500 reals, to be applied to the purposes of the hospital.

"The *Englishman* of Feb. 23, is glad to hear that steps have been taken by several of his wealthy fellow-townsmen to give greater publicity to Dr. Esdaile's proceedings and successful cures among their countrymen than it would seem they have hitherto attained."

* "This will be provided against in the London Mesmeric Hospital, no doubt. —J. E."

The following paragraph will amuse those who have watched the conduct of the adversaries of mesmerism in Europe.

“The *Hurkaru* states that Government, on the representation of the medical visitors to the Mesmeric Hospital, has withdrawn the permission which it had previously given for the publication of the reports of this institution. The public will remember that Dr. Esdaile has from the very first been anxious that the utmost publicity should be given to the whole of his proceedings, and he has always courted the free expression of opinion regarding the nature of his operations, confident that the result of discussion would be the triumph of the cause he has espoused. One monthly report as our readers know was published, and it is impossible not to see the advantages which arose from its publication. Dr. Esdaile challenged any proof of the inaccuracy of his statements, and this challenge brought forth two antagonists in the columns of a contemporary. One of these writers boldly asserted that Dr. Esdaile had given an incorrect account of the month's proceedings; that he had spoken of operations as painless, which were in reality not so. *Dr. Esdaile came forward, and vindicated himself most satisfactorily from this charge, and in the end Medicus retired in discomfiture.*”

It delights me to inform the European public that Dr. Esdaile has shewn no unworthy feeling respecting the inhalation of sulphuric ether, but has had recourse to it and begun most dispassionately to investigate its properties. Without any communication with the mesmerists of Great Britain, he has displayed the same pleasure at the discovery of its powers, and not for an instant thought of attempting to depreciate them. The conduct of the mesmeric world in this particular has, I fear, disappointed their adversaries. Truth and universal benefit were the sole objects of us here and in India. Dr. Esdaile printed the following letter in the *Englishman* of March 3rd.

“THE INSENSIBILITY PROCURED BY MEANS OF ETHER.

“*To the Editor of the Englishman.*

“Sir,—The moment that the rumours of the possibility of procuring insensibility to pain by the inhalation of the vapour of ether assumed a positive shape, I made experiments with it in my hospital.

“On the 23rd Feb., I caused two men to inhale the fumes of nitric ether, (not having sulphuric ether at hand) but only

with the effect of making them disagreeably drunk for several hours without any remarkable modification of sensibility. On the 28th February, having procured sulphuric ether, I put two ounces of it into a pint of water, and desired two of the hospital coolies, then in perfect health, to inhale the fumes from the common inhaler used in hospitals, in the way that they smoke a hookah. It was very disagreeable, and I had some difficulty in getting the first man to persevere for five minutes. He then became very drunk, and begged to be allowed to go and lie down, which he was permitted to do. Up to this point he was sensible to pricking, and named the place injured.

“ Another man was made to smoke the hookah for seven minutes, with considerable intermissions, and when he ceased to be able to smoke, I held the bottle of ether under his nose. At the end of seven minutes, he begged to be taken to bed, and had to be supported to it. Immediately after lying down, he became insensible to all questions, and to pricking all over his body. This I was quite prepared for, knowing that we can be made sooner insensible by the lungs than by the stomach often, by means of carbonic acid gas, opium, bhang, stramonium, &c. But judge my surprize when I found him to be as completely *cataleptic* as any person I ever saw in the mesmeric trance! Not only so, but he exhibited the same spasmodic closure of the eyelids, and trembling of the eye lashes, and his insensibility from head to foot was perfect. On forcing open his eyes, the white of his eye could only be seen, and in no respect could I have distinguished his condition from that of a person in the most intense degree of the mesmeric coma.

“ The pulse when he desired to lie down was small and frequent, but when the coma was established, it became full and regular, like a healthy or mesmeric sleeper's, and his breathing was quite tranquil without snoring. He was reduced to this state at ten minutes after 1 o'clock p.m. I pricked him most pertinaciously all over, at intervals, for ten minutes more, and tried to awake him by rubbing his eyes, blowing in them, squirting water into them, and sprinkling his face and chest with cold water, but all to no purpose.

“ *His teeth were firmly clenched, and he could not be made to swallow a drop of fluid.* The catalepsy continued intense all the time. At twenty-five minutes past 1 o'clock, I desisted, and desiring him not to be disturbed, I drove to the medical college, a mile off, in the hope of finding Dr. Mouat, as I wished to have a competent witness of the man's condition. I found Dr. Mouat at home, and he obligingly accompanied

me to the hospital. We reached it at twenty minutes to 2 o'clock, and found the catalepsy to be going off, and the man beginning to move. The spasm of the eyelids continued, and the eye was still turned upwards.

"When urged by questions, he answered precisely like a person in the mesmeric somnambulism, but when pricked all over, he said that he felt nothing. We now attempted to rouse him farther, by causing him to inhale the fumes of carbonate and liquor of ammonia, which seemed to disturb him a little, but he said that he smelt nothing, and it did not materially dissipate the torpor of the senses. Shortly, after, he began to call upon me by name, begging me to open his eyes, which I tried to comply with, but could not succeed in effecting, and still the insensibility of the skin continued. At ten minutes to 2 o'clock, he was carried out of doors, and seated on the steps leading to the hospital. A bheestie was placed several steps above him, and was ordered to empty his mussuk slowly on his head and spine. He was asked if he felt anything? He replied, 'nothing.' In about six minutes, he opened his eyes for the first time, but it was evident that their sense was shut, and he said *I was a Baboo*. The cold affusion was continued, and at 2 o'clock he suddenly jumped up; an instantaneous expression of intelligence spread over his countenance, and he showed that he was restored to full consciousness, by getting into a passion with the bheestie for wetting him. This was the first moment of consciousness since he had gone to sleep, and as is often seen in mesmeric sleepers, he had no recollection of the means used to put him to sleep. In a word, the state of coma and somnambulism was perfectly identical with the parallel mesmeric conditions.*

"How long this man's state of unconsciousness would have continued, if not so violently dissipated, I cannot pretend to say, but I am certain that he might have been flayed alive for fifty minutes without feeling it, for he was quite insensible to external impressions in his half-roused state of somnambulism, or sleep-waking rather, and in this also he resembled a mesmeric sleeper.

"The other man did not attract so much of my attention at first, as he continued sensible to pricking for some time after lying down, and he only seemed very drunk. But when

* "4th March. I have done the same thing again to-day, and contrasted the catalepsy and somnambulism caused by ether, with the same states induced by mesmerism, and they could not be distinguished. The former was only more intense, and would yield to nothing but long continued affusion of cold water. But I suppose the etherial effects were *real*, and the mesmeric ones *delusion* or *humbug*.—J. E."

I returned with Dr. Mouat he was fast asleep, and it took much cuffing and pulling to get him to answer. There was no catalepsy in his arms, but on Dr. Mouat lifting his legs, he found them to be in a singularly rigid state—another mesmeric symptom.

“We continued to rouse him with ammonia, &c., and got him to speak plainly, and then he complained of not being able to open his eyes; the eyelids seemed glued together, and while begging to have his eyes opened, he was insensible to my pricking him assiduously. It was now upwards of an hour since he had smoked the ether, and we could not yet dissipate its effects. He also therefore was subjected to the cold affusion for several minutes, of whose action he was quite unconscious, although he kept rubbing his eyes all the time to open them, and occasionally answered questions correctly. He at last suddenly awoke into the full possession of his senses, and recollected nothing that had happened since he went to sleep.

“Here then is a most exact imitation of the physical phenomena witnessed in the mesmeric trance, and the sleep-waking state caused by ether beautifully illustrates the distinction between *sensation* and *consciousness* so often seen in the mesmeric state, and which I have insisted upon so frequently, with little effect I fear. These men were capable of talking and acting, and made the reasonable request to have their eyes opened, although they were unconscious of a deluge of water that was falling on their naked bodies from a height.

“The opponents of mesmerism will probably have little difficulty in believing all this, because it was done ‘*secundum artem*,’ with an orthodoxly nauseous drug.

“I am satisfied that the man least affected might have been operated on to any extent almost, not without *appearing* to feel it, but without being conscious of it afterwards, just as is seen every day in mesmeric operations.

“Here then is a prodigious engine for good or evil, according as it is used or abused, for if the advantages are most striking, the evils are not less so in the above examples.

“‘*E cælo descendit Ether!*’ is no doubt gratefully ejaculated by the medical opponents of mesmerism, to whose aid it has come at their greatest need; but if their love and gratitude are not tempered with discretion, they may find their new ally a dangerous enemy.

“The speedy induction of insensibility of long duration is most satisfactory and complete, and I apprehend no danger from prolonged ethereal coma, for the pulse was natural during

its greatest intensity, and the breathing not disturbed, nor did the men suffer afterwards from what they had undergone.

“I believe that any amount of mere pain might have been inflicted without the knowledge of the patient, but I should be extremely reluctant to perform a capital operation entailing a great loss of blood on a person in this state, till I had obtained more command over my too active ally.

“In many of my late operations in the mesmeric trance, for example, the pulse became insensible from the sudden and profuse hemorrhage, and it became necessary to revive the sinking system by restoratives. The patients were therefore awoke for this purpose, and this can be generally very easily done. But in the coma from ether it has been seen there was no power of swallowing left in one of the men, and that stimuli applied to the skin and nose had no decided effect on the torpor; in fact there was no means of getting at the vital powers. Now, if this man's life had depended on our being soon able to restore him to consciousness and sensibility to ordinary stimuli, I think it very probable, and Dr. Mouat agreed with me, that he would have died before this could have been done.

“But let us hope that we shall soon be able to regulate as easily as we can set in action, this potent influence. In the man most intensely affected, one-tenth of the power exerted would probably have sufficed for all practical purposes, and more control might therefore have been preserved over the vital functions. By cautious and graduated doses, and with a knowledge of the best antidotes, I think it extremely probable that this power will soon become a safe means of procuring insensibility for the most formidable surgical operations even.

“All mesmerists, who are lovers of truth, and not mere traders, will rejoice at having been the means of bringing to light one truth more, especially as it will free them from the drudgery required to induce mesmeric insensibility to pain, which, although the most striking, is the least important branch of the subject.

“It is only of late years that the application of mesmerism to surgery has been prominently brought forward, principally with the view of affording an ocular demonstration of the existence and power of this great vital agent.

“But the great field for a display of its usefulness is in the treatment of medical diseases, where it often comes to our aid when all other resources have failed, and it would take a library to contain the volumes of well-attested cures

performed through its agency on the Continent, before it was ever heard of for surgical purposes.

“Not the least curious part of this history is to observe how the passions and prejudices of men have been made not only to establish known truths, but to discover new ones.

“I am, your obedient Servant,

“JAMES ESDAILE.

“Calcutta, 1st March, 1847.”

I have received a pamphlet published at Madras in February, entitled, *Notes of a Case of painless Surgical Operation performed while the patient was under the influence of Mesmeric Agency*, by J. W. T. Johnstone, M.D. Edin. Licentiate of the Royal College of Surgeons; late President of the Royal Medical Society; Member of the Medico-Chirurgical Society, Edinburgh, &c., &c. Madras: 1847.” I make the following extracts:—

“I am at liberty,” says Dr. Johnstone, “to mention that my patient in this case is the lady of a clergyman of the church of England. Both she and her husband have perused the following notes in MS., and are ‘most thankful to be able to bear testimony to their entire correctness.’

“Mrs.———, European, of a well regulated mind—a well formed figure—and a system remarkably free from any kind of nervousness. Has been six years and a half in India. General health good. Before leaving England she observed a tumor about the size of a field bean over the posterior aspect of the right shoulder. It continued to enlarge gradually but slowly, and at the end of five years had attained the size of a small egg. For the last two years, it has increased much more rapidly, and now constitutes a tumor of an adipose nature, lobulated, mobile and kidney shaped. It measures about six inches in length, four inches in breadth, and two and a half inches in thickness at its thickest part, and stretches from the spinous process of the seventh cervical vertebra, downwards and outwards towards the acromion and outer third of the spine of the scapula, along the upper border of the trapezius muscle. A sensation of weight, and slight numbness of the right arm are the chief inconveniences complained of.

“I recommended extirpation on first seeing it, twelve months ago, but the patient would not consent. Leeches, discutient ointments, &c., were had recourse to with no good effect. Seeing it thus increase, she at last made up her mind to have it removed. I recommended her to try the effect of

mesmerism prior to the operation, to which she at first objected, as neither she nor her friends believed in its efficacy. She at length consented, and agreed that I should try it on the morning previous to the operation."

Mesmerism was begun on the 2nd of January, and continued daily till the 9th. The events of this day are thus described.

"8th Mesmeric Sitting, January 9th.

"I commenced at a quarter past 7 a.m., and continued for three hours. She felt no drowsiness, sickness nor languor after yesterday's proceedings, and again expressed herself as feeling better than she did previous to the commencement of the mesmeric sittings. Position, manipulations, &c., the same as yesterday. Pulse 80—skin cool—respiration natural—ears filled with cotton. She soon fell into a deep sleep. Muscular twitches were well marked. At 10 o'clock a.m., the mesmeric trance seemed perfect, the cataleptic condition was well developed, and sensibility to pinching, pricking, loud noises, strong light and ammonia, entirely absent. Soon after 10 a.m., Superintending Surgeon, D. S. Young, who had been requested to be present at the operation, arrived. Professor Key had also been invited and promised to be present, but was unavoidably detained at his class room. The state of the patient's perfect insensibility, and the cataleptic condition were shown to S. S. Young's entire satisfaction. At a quarter past 10, I turned her full upon her face, and made other necessary arrangements, to proceed with the operation. Pulse 80—skin cool—respiration slow and tranquil.

"*Operation.*—I made two elliptical incisions over the tumor, commencing about half an inch superior and external to the spinous process of the seventh cervical vertebra, and meeting about half an inch below the centre of the outer half of the spine of the scapula. The length of each incision was about 7 inches 3 lines, consequently the extent of skin divided by the knife equalled $14\frac{1}{2}$ inches. I carefully dissected out the tumor, which was slightly adherent, from below upwards. This occupied about three minutes and a half. Three arteries of no great size required ligatures. The bleeding was profuse at first, and seemed not to differ in this respect from an ordinary operation. The edges of the wound were brought together by four stitches, the intermediate distances being supported by straps of adhesive plaister. S. S. Young kindly assisted me in the operation, and Dr. Smith assiduously kept up the mesmeric passes along the patient's back all the time.

The patient's husband, my apothecary, and a nurse were present.

"The time of the operation, from the commencement of the first incision to the application of the last roll of bandage, amounted to eighteen minutes, during all of which time not the slightest trace of suffering or sensibility on the part of the patient could be detected. The pulse continued unchanged at 80, as S. S. Young satisfied himself, and the respiration perfectly tranquil; no moan or sigh escaped her lips—no alteration in the expression of her features was observed—no instinctive motion or wincing was detected; once only she moved her head instinctively to free her mouth and nostrils from a little pool of blood which had collected about them, and was interfering with her breathing. She was easily demesmerised, before which care was taken to conceal as much as possible all traces of the operation. When she awoke the following dialogue ensued.

"Q. Well, have you been asleep to-day?

"A. Yes, I think I have.

"Q. Do you think you slept more soundly to-day than yesterday?

"A. I cannot say.

"Q. Did you feel me turn you or do anything to you to-day.

"A. No, but I feel something smarting, and my face and eyes feel stiff.

"She now put her left hand up to her shoulder, as she had often done before, and perceived that the tumor had been removed, of which she confessed perfect unconsciousness. The stiffness of the eyelids and face was caused by dried blood. Pulse 80—respiration natural.

"The tumor weighed 3 lbs. 1 dr. two hours after removal. The wound was dressed with cold dressings, and almost entirely healed up by the first intention. She suffered no pain in the wound, continued perfectly free from fever, and was confined to her room only one day. The pulse continued at 80 for two or three days after the operation, when it rose to 90, apparently its natural standard. She speedily recovered, and now feels better than she did previous to the commencement of the mesmeric sittings."

Thus Mr. Young, the Superintending Surgeon of the Presidency, requested to be present (observe the word *requested*), and *assisted* in the operation: and another medical man, "Dr. Smith assiduously kept up the passes along the patient's back all the time."

This was not all. The Superintending Surgeon forwarded Dr. Johnstone's account of the operation to the Medical Board, hoping "that the present most triumphant illustration of the practice may be brought to the notice of Government."

"In making this request," continues Mr. Young, "I am impelled by a sense of justice to call the Board's especial attention to the merits of Dr. Johnstone, a private practitioner at this Presidency, by whose well-directed and unwearied skill and perseverance, the great work has been achieved for the first time in the case of an *European patient in British India*, or indeed in the eastern world. Nor can I close this letter without reminding the Board that Assistant Surgeon G. Smith, who so admirably seconded Dr. Johnstone's efforts throughout, is the same promising young medical officer who, when the cholera broke out in H. M.'s 57th Foot at Arcot, elicited my warmest commendations by his humane exertions, as well as a highly favourable report on his professional acquirements.

"I have the honour, &c.

"(Signed) D. S. YOUNG,
"Superintending Surgeon.

"SUPT. SURGEON'S OFFICE, }
Madras, 19th January, 1847." }

Did the Medical Board of Madras spurn the account in imitation of the Medical and Chirurgical Society of London? No. They ordered the following reply:—

"Sir,—I am directed by the Medical Board to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 44, with its inclosure, a Report of a Case of 'Painless Surgical Operation,' under mesmeric influence, performed by Dr. Johnstone of Madras.

"2. The Board request you will be so good as to communicate their thanks to Dr. Johnstone for his very interesting communication, which they consider highly creditable to that gentleman's professional talents and zeal in the pursuit of science, and it has afforded them much pleasure to bring his report to the notice of the Madras Government.

"I have the honour, &c., &c.

"(Signed) GEO. PEARSE, M.D.,
"Secretary Medical Board."

The matter was next laid before the Government in Council by the Medical Board, and this was the acknowledgment:—

"The Most Noble the Governor in Council has perused with much interest the communication above recorded, and will be glad to receive the further reports on the same subject promised by the Medical Board.

"2. His Lordship in Council fully concurs with the Medical Board in considering the exertions of Dr. Johnstone in the case now

brought to notice, highly creditable to that gentleman's professional talents and assiduity in the cause of science.

“(True Extract.)

“(Signed) C. A. BROWNE, Lieut.-Colonel,

“*Secretary to Government.*”

After reading all this, I confess myself distressed on reflecting upon the sad conduct of my professional brethren in England. I will not, however, dwell upon it, but make one more extract from the pamphlet.

“I am glad to learn,” says Dr. Johnstone, “that other medical men at this Presidency have incurred the same risk, and I observe that the subject has been taken up at the Medical School, since the occurrence of this case, where the students have been mesmerising one another under the superintendence of the surgeon at the head of that institution. It is said to have been first tried on two native pupils, and then on a few of the apprentices, and ‘on the whole with complete success.’ I further observe on the same authority (an anonymous writer in the *Athenæum* newspaper) that some of the sick inmates of the Male Asylum have been mesmerised under directions of the surgeon of that institution, where, it is mentioned, ‘the patients who had been previously afflicted with internal diseases awoke perfectly recovered.’ Be this as it may, the simple fact that mesmerism has been tried in the above institutions, leads us to hope much interest is about to be manifested in its behalf at Madras, and that the least success will stimulate to further inquiry in all institutions where such opportunities for its investigation present themselves.

“It is not my intention to offer any remarks whatever on the nature, pretensions, &c., of the general subject of mesmerism. I will merely mention that at one time I was as great a sceptic in its belief as any one could be, regarding it as a subject so novel in its nature, and so irreconcilable in its general conclusions to all past experience, that nothing short of the most complete inductive evidence, entirely incapable of being explained away, ought to be admitted in support of it.

“In the course of time, I saw men of high and established reputation,—accustomed to investigate such matters;—men of acknowledged wisdom and probity, whose authority on other subjects would not be doubted for a moment, not failing to come forward and add their unswerving testimony in support of some of the facts of mesmerism. I was thus led to the conclusion that, however encompassed with error and abused by impostors and charlatans, it no doubt deserved to be regarded more as the abuse of some great truth than an absolute fiction, and that instead of treating it with the ridicule and contempt with which it was received at the hands of many of my professional brethren, it better became every candid observer to endeavour to find out what part of it was true, and what was false. With these sentiments I carefully attended to all well-attested reports

upon the subject, and incidentally instituted a few experiments of my own, limited more from want of opportunity in prosecuting them in such a place as a public hospital, than from any disbelief in many of the conclusions arrived at by others, and, partly by the evidence of my own senses, was compelled to acknowledge that Dr. Elliotson was not altogether wrong when he declared, years ago, 'that he should despise himself if he did not declare his conviction of the truth of mesmerism.' "

By the order of Government a Mesmeric Committee has been formed at the Presidency of Madras, as one was in Bengal; and I learn that Bombay is also wide awake, and we may soon expect to hear of a mesmeric hospital there. Mr. Clark visited Dr. Esdaile's hospital before going to Bombay, and was deeply and favourably impressed with the importance of the subject.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

XIII. *Three more painless Surgical Operations performed at Cherbourg in France.* Communicated by Dr. ELLIOTSON.

I HAVE to-day, June 18th, received the *Journal de Cherbourg* of the 13th inst., and the *Phare de la Manche* of the 15th inst., each giving an account of three more painless surgical operations at Cherbourg. I will translate the whole of it from the former.

"MESMERISM.

"*Perfect Insensibility produced by Mesmeric Sleep.*

"*Fresh Surgical Operations.*

"Three very interesting operations were performed at Cherbourg on Friday the 4th of June, with complete success, by Dr. Loysel, assisted by Dr. Fleury, *Aide-Major* of the 62nd regiment of the line, who obligingly favoured Dr. Fleury with his talents and experience. Three persons, one man and two women, thrown into mesmeric sleep in a few minutes by M. L. Durand and Dr. Loysel, in the presence of a large number of spectators, gave a fresh proof, of the most convincing kind, that it is possible perfectly to destroy sensibility in the organs and perfectly to prevent pain by means of mesmerism. This singular phenomenon produced upon the company an effect which it would be difficult to describe. The remarkable calm, and the astonishment of the patients, who, on awaking as suddenly as they had been sent

to sleep, were all surprized at finding a painful operation over, and who had felt nothing, perceived nothing, and been passive and motionless, while the operator forcibly plunged a bistoury into the flesh, dissected away enormous portions of it, and tied the arteries,—was certainly a most extraordinary fact, well calculated to arrest the attention of physiologists more and more.

“Of the three operations, which all presented the same character, the last was the most important from the depth and extent of the incisions, and consisted in the extirpation of a bulky mass of glands and ganglions situated at the side and back of the neck. The patient was Miss Caroline Lemire, 26 years of age, a native of Vrétot, in the district of Valognes.

“These fresh surgical operations are the tenth, eleventh, and twelfth, performed at Cherbourg, by means of mesmerism, since October, 1845.

“The greater part of mesmeric phenomena are not produced with uniformity. The advantage of the phenomenon of insensibility, which so many have seen and established perfectly at their ease, is that when it has once been developed, as is often the case at the first trial, no external influence can destroy or even diminish it, and that it may be protracted as much as the longest surgical operation can require. It is most interesting to witness the instantaneous change from the most exquisite insensibility to the deepest and completest torpor. But this sudden invasion of insensibility is not an object of mere curiosity. To give surgeons, about to perform long and painful operations, more certain means of success, by presenting them with an inert body, a corpse, if one may so say, instead of a living subject always acutely affected by the sight of the preparations and the terrors of the operation; to renovate by means of a tranquil sleep, prolonged at pleasure, the vital powers exhausted by such a shock; and to prevent all kinds of nervous accidents which sometimes follow a great and dreaded operation, is, in our opinion, the realization of a true progress.”

How different from the happy lot of Mdlle. Lemire was that of a friend of mine, Lieut.-Col. Davidson, author of a *Diary of Travels and Adventures in Upper India*, a man of the highest courage and resolution, who lately underwent a similar operation with all its agonies in Jersey. I am sure he will not be displeased at my publishing part of a letter written by him to me.

“ St. Helier’s, Jersey,
“ 15th May, 1847.

“ My dear Sir,—I am now fully qualified to appreciate the inestimable blessing of mesmerism in all surgical operations, but in a negative sense.

“ You may remember the enlarged parotid on my right cheek. For its removal I had faithfully followed the prescription of a physician, whom I am bound to honour and admire, and taken iodine until it exerted itself on my liver in the most potent manner. I subsequently at the strong solicitation of an old army surgeon, tried that medicine topically, for weeks or months together, and equally without success.

“ For more than $2\frac{1}{2}$ months I was subjected to mesmeric action, and under its influence the tumor was reduced about one quarter, but latterly it remained stationary, if not increasing. My wife, unknown to me, consulted an eminent surgeon, who strongly recommended its early extirpation in apprehension of its becoming scirrhus; and I at last consented to an operation, which was performed on the 11th by Mr. Preshawe, a Scottish surgeon lately practising here.

“ The operation lasted one hour and ten minutes, having been thus unexpectedly protracted by the immense number of arteries requiring to be tied, and smaller ones requiring torsion, and during the acute pain, not to call it agony, that I suffered during its dissection from the surrounding mass, of which it formed part, I assure you that my utmost resolution was exerted to avoid moaning; but it was quite insufficient to restrain me, and I was repeatedly obliged to drink cold water. If there be a man on earth who in his normal state, in robust health, can bear a dissection of more than an hour amongst his facial nerves, without a similar exhibition, I should like to see him !

“ Mr. Preshawe was assisted by his partner, Mons. Julius Clement, a very clever French surgeon, who undertook the arterial depth., and hence I lost but little blood under his hands. Mr. Preshawe slept in my room during the night, but did not arrive before I found the blood *streaming* down my bosom in such a torrent as to throw me into a cold sweat, with great dizziness, and muscæ volantes as plentiful as mosquitoes in Calcutta.

“ I knew that you would not disapprove, but on the contrary have recommended, etherisation, and I was previously subjected, on two separate occasions, to the most powerful inhalation of ether, and I must say that it had no more effect on me, quoad diminution of insensibility, than if I had swallowed a tasse of cognac. At the conclusion of an ounce and a half, I felt my scull *pressed* by my brain, and was *under* pain for more than four hours afterwards.

“ I do not pretend to say that I bore the pain as I wished, but as the scalpel passed through the little nerves, I was satisfied that it would have been better for all parties if I had been mesmerised.

“ Dr. Duncan (late of the Bengal Medical Establishment), Dr. Hallett, and Dr. Collier, were present, and unanimously agreed that

Mr. Preshawe exhibited great coolness, skill, and judgment, and that there was no unnecessary delay on the occasion, and I am fully satisfied on this and all other points."

The following gentlemen were witnesses of the three painless operations in France :—

- Messieurs Noel-Agnès, Sub-Prefect of the district, and formerly Mayor of Cherbourg.
 Lemaistre, Receiver of the Taxes, and formerly Sub-Prefect of Cherbourg.
 D'Alphonse, Colonel of the 62nd regiment of the line.
 Obet, M.D., Paris, Corresponding Member of the Royal Academy of Medicine.
 Henry Merchant, Commandant of the National Guard, and Member of the Municipal Council.
 Labbey, M.D., Paris.
 Le Seigneurial, Judge of Instruction in the Civil Tribunal, Member of the Council of the District.
 Des Rives, Military Superintendent of Cherbourg.
 Viscount de Tocqueville.
 Chevrel, Barrister, Member of the Council of the District and of the Municipal Council.
 Heriard, Major of the 62nd regiment of the line.
 De Rancourt, Chief of Battalion of the 62nd.
 Du Montela, Chief of Battalion of the 62nd.
 The Abbé Fafin, Almoner of the Civil Hospital.
 The Abbé de Gournay, Almoner of the College.
 De Viaris, Captain of Artillery.
 Rossignol, Barrister, Member of the Council of the District and of the Municipal Council.
 Fleury, M.D., Aide-Major of the 62nd.
 Gébin de Verusmor, Chief Editor of the *Phare de la Manche*.
 Mangin, Naval Engineer.
 Hérouville, M.D., Paris.
 Numa Marie, private gentleman, Member of the Municipal Council.
 Bresson, Engineer of Water-works.
 Coutance, Chief Military Commissary.
 Chevrél, Receiver of Registration.
 Drouet, Barrister.
 Leroy, Director of the Post.
 Boissière, private gentleman, Member of the Municipal Council.
 P. Marie, Vice-Principal of the College.
 Jules Duprey, Professor of Rhetoric.
 Cénoff, Professor of Special Mathematics at the Naval Academy.
 Henry Duchevreuil, Captain of Cavalry.
 Edward Duchevreuil, private gentleman.
 Le Goupil, Clerk of the first class of Marine.
 Corrard, Naval Engineer.
 Boissière, Chancellor of the Civil Tribunal.
 Hélain, private gentleman.
 De la Tribonnière, Receiver and Secretary of the Farms of Tobacco.
 Gregory Cook, Esq.
 De Roussel, Naval Engineer.
 Delente, Director of the Military Wards.
 Hippolyte de Riencourt, private gentleman.
 Turpain, Receiver of Direct Taxes.
 Dumont-Moulin, Barrister.

Charles Chevrel, Barrister's Clerk.
Raynal, Professor of Mathematics.
Lecocq, Merchant.
Rodriguez, Spanish Colonel.
Henry Jouan, Naval Lieutenant.
A. Durand, Writer of the Naval Board of Control.
Adolphe Lambert, private gentleman.
Charles Loysel, Notary.
Martin, Professor.
Lalœ, Merchant.
Hippolyte Loysel, Barrister, Doctor of Laws.
Gustavus Lemagnen, Merchant.
Le Rendu, formerly a Notary.
Le Houguais, Director of the Upper Primary School.
Fenardent, Bookseller.
Digard, private gentleman.
Le Carpentier, Chief Steward of the Count of Du Moncel.
L'éveillé, Writer of the Marine.
Caillet, Contractor of the Public Works.
De Riencourt, jun.
Charles Le Magnen.
Le Roy.
Poittevin.

"P.S. To-day, the 10th of June, the wounds of the three operations are entirely healed, and the patients are perfectly well."

How delightful it will be when the public hospitals of England exhibit clergymen, barristers, military and naval officers, and other unprejudiced persons, collected to witness surgical operations without pain in the mesmeric state—a state which may be renewed with ease when the wounds have to be dressed or pain happens to come on, and after which operations every patient yet has done well.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

XIV. *Refutation of the Calumnies promulgated against Mrs. Bird, whose case is recorded in No. XIV.*

AFTER the important case of Mrs. Bird had transpired, a medical person at Exeter, whose restless activity to prevent his fellow-creatures from availing themselves of the inestimable blessings of mesmerism, instead of hoping that it is a reality in the midst of our countless diseases and the wretched poverty of our means of curing them, is inconceivable to every one with a particle of benevolence or conscientiousness in his composition, set to work in one of the Exeter papers to prove that the history was a tissue of falsehoods, and his effusions were so regularly sent to Mr. Wakley that among the *Lancet's* notices to correspondents is the following.

"*Western Times*.—We are much obliged to the correspondent

who has so regularly forwarded this spirited and impartial newspaper during the mesmeric exposures that have occurred at Exeter."

When the case was published in *The Zoist*, his excitement became extreme: he could not contain himself, and despatched a letter to another spirit, more reckless than himself and inhabiting dry places: and out of the rocky and fallen city of Jerusalem came back to him a letter from Dr. Macgowan, who had formerly attended Mrs. Bird. This letter was of course all truth, and sufficient to destroy the reputation of the lady in whom Dr. Macgowan, when attending her, discovered no guile; and sufficient to destroy the reputation of her mesmeriser and of mesmerism itself, with which Dr. Macgowan is of course so well acquainted as to be qualified to speak decidedly upon it. Another newspaper was sent off to Mr. Wakley, and the medical man succeeded to his heart's content. For Mr. Wakley at once went greater lengths than he had dared, and praised him to the skies.

"The 'Arsenic Prophetess,' the 'Witch of Whipton,' to whom we formerly devoted an article, has made a final re-appearance. By a letter which appears in the Exeter papers, it appears that the *indefatigable Dr. Elliot*, not content with exposing every *falsehood and deception* connected with the immediate scene of *knavery and credulity upon which the Exeter mesmerists played their parts*, has brought evidence all the way from Jerusalem, which gives a final and disgraceful discomfiture to the actors in this business. It will be remembered that the Arsenic Prophetess, Mrs. BIRD, made a mesmeric prophecy of the existence of poison in her stomach, and foretold that on a certain day the arsenic would be rejected by vomiting. It will be remembered, also, that vomiting took place according to promise, and that Professor Gregory, of Edinburgh, Mr. Parker, M.R.C.S., Mr. Luxmoore, county magistrate, and Mr. Janson, president of the Exeter Philosophical Institution, produced a *pretended chain of evidence*, which professed to show clearly that arsenite of lime had been in her stomach, had been vomited, and had been detected by chemical analysis in the rejected contents of the stomach. The hypothesis upon which all these wonders were accounted for was, that her former medical attendant, Mr. Macgowan, had given her liquor arsenicalis and lime water, and that an insoluble arsenite of lime had been formed, which remained many years in the woman's stomach. The following extracts, submitted to Dr. Macgowan, who now resides at Jerusalem, by Dr. W. H. Elliot, offer a truly mesmeric specimen of *lying* for a present purpose, and of *spotted slander* directed against an absent physician.

* * * * *

"The answer of Dr. Macgowan is a direct contradiction of every one of the statements of Messrs. Luxmoore, Parker, and Janson, and is so conclusive, that since its publication they have been unable to answer a word.

“The profession of medicine is fortunate in having men like Dr. Elliot and Mr. Forsbroke springing up from time to time to defend it against the *knavery of quacks*, and the *dishonesty* of the *unworthy* among its own members. Dr. Elliot has, in obtaining a written denial from Dr. Macgowan, of Jerusalem, turned his last stone, and completed the evidence against the Exeter mesmerists. He has *nobly done his duty*, and the result ought to be a stimulus to other medical men to investigate any mesmeric wonders that may be paraded before the public to the detriment of the profession. Let them, as Dr. Elliot did, bring the touchstone of *truth* and *logical examination* to bear upon the *imposture*, and *exposure* will follow, *as in the present case*. As it is, *one more heroine of The Zoist* is satisfactorily proved **NO BETTER THAN SHE SHOULD BE**. We shall see the next addition of the late Harveian Orator to his collection. It must be an extraordinary moral phenomenon, who shall prove herself worthy to be added to the list of female adherents, which began with an Okey, and which, for the present, ends with a Bird.”
—*Lancet*, June 5th, 1847.

Our readers will presently perceive that Dr. Macgowan allows, what before was pretended not to be believed, that Mrs. Bird was a dreadful sufferer; that her fits were so violent as to draw her body into an arch; and her agony from *tic douloureux* extreme. Of the disease of the uterus he says nothing, though he well knew it; nor a word about the almost constant vomiting. His remark that she had all the requisites for a *performer* in mesmerism *at will*, is as cruel as it is ignorant, and what he would not have dared to say while he was attending her and, like his correspondent, struggling hard for a little practice in Exeter. It is certain that he could do her no good, and that mesmerism has put an end to all her sufferings; and every body is struck with her healthy appearance after her pale and sickly looks for so many years.

We were satisfied with the truth of the statements, because, Mr. Luxmoore only was present when the arsenical substance was ejected and did not let it go out of his keeping till he despatched it to Dr. Gregory; Dr. Gregory found it contain arsenic; and after its ejection the stomach has retained the food,—what it had scarcely done for fifteen years. The matter ejected had no external resemblance to arsenic, as it would if common arsenic had been taken, or prepared, were this possible in the circumstances, with a view to deceive; the inflammatory vomiting, the kind of eruption, &c., &c., were exactly the symptoms induced by arsenic. But we have just received the following communication from Mr. Luxmoore.

“TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

“After having been permitted to occupy so much space in your January number, I should not venture again to tres-

pass on you, were it not to correct certain mis-statements contained in the following letter written by Dr. Macgowan, one of Mrs. Bird's former medical attendants, and published in the Exeter papers.

“Jerusalem, 2nd April, 1847.

“My dear sir,—I have much pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 25th January, which, with the accompanying extracts of your correspondence in the *Exeter papers*, has given me the first and only intelligence I have received of the controversy in which you have taken so distinguished a part, on the subject of ‘mesmerism and arsenic,’ as exhibited in the person of my old patient, Mrs. Bird. That the remedies prescribed by me for that lady, whether arsenic or lime, should again have made their appearance, after an interval of thirteen years, not only unabsorbed and undissolved, but wonderfully increased in quantity, is a mesmeric phenomenon which would only have afforded me a little amusement: but that my esteemed friends, Mr. Janson and Mr. Parker, should, either directly or by inference, have affirmed the same to be a fact, is to me a matter both of astonishment and regret. I can only account for such a delusion on their part by supposing that they have fallen into the same mesmeric trances as their patient.

“I have a distinct recollection of poor Mrs. Bird, and of my general treatment of her case. Her case was one of epilepsy of the spine, complicated with disorder of the digestive and other functions. She suffered also severely from *tic douloureux*, which is not an unfrequent symptom in such cases. The epileptic fits were remarkably violent; the body of the patient being at times, during the convulsions, thrown backwards and drawn into an arch in which the head and heels almost came in contact. These fits always passed off into delirium, during which the patient gave utterance to language, generally incoherent, but, at times vivid, eloquent, and descriptive. During these melancholy exhibitions of morbid excitement, the patient remained apparently in a deep sleep, but with sufficient consciousness to understand and answer questions which were addressed to her. A more promising subject for mesmerism could not be found; for she already possessed all the necessary requisites of a performer in that system. It is worthy of remark, and I believe that the secret of mesmerism consists mainly in this, that in persons who, from organic disease or nervous temperament, are predisposed to convulsions, spasm, fits, somnambulism, and sleep with delirium, there exists a capability of throwing themselves into these states at will, or of simulating the same as if they were real. It is possible also, that the act of volition by which they effect this, may be so intimately associated with the look, word, and action, of some particular individual, as to deceive both him and themselves that the states in question are superinduced by the agency of some mysterious power with which the operator, or mesmeriser, is invested. I can readily believe that instances have occurred in which both parties have unknowingly been mutually deceiving and deceived; but I fear that in

the great majority of mesmeric histories there is wilful imposition either on one or both sides.

“I now proceed to answer your queries, which I do the more readily as I cannot but approve of your object in proposing them, viz.:—‘the elucidation of the truth in this singular controversy; and not a personal attack on the other parties concerned in it.’

“1. I never conveyed to Mrs. Bird, in my own pocket or by messenger, any preparations containing arsenic. Mrs. Bird never received *any medicines from me except through my prescriptions*; which were, I believe, all dispensed by my respected friend, Mr. Knott.

“2. I never ordered the patient liq. calcis (lime water) and milk at the same time with liq. arsenicalis.

“3. I never, at any period of my attendance on Mrs. Bird, observed such effects as those described by M. M. Janson, Luxmoore and Parker, as having been caused by arsenic.

“4. The patient was not kept salivated by me for twelve consecutive months. Salivation formed *no part* of my treatment of the case.

“You are quite at liberty to make any use you may think proper of the above testimony, though I think it will scarcely be required, as the controversy seems to be already satisfactorily disposed of by you. Should this not be the case, I should be glad to hear from you of the result.

“Believe me to be, my dear Sir,

“Very faithfully yours,

“To Dr. W. H. Elliot.

EDWARD MACGOWAN.”

“It will be observed that Dr. Macgowan admits Mrs. Bird’s sufferings from violent epilepsy, tic douloureux, delirium, &c., &c.

“With respect to answer No. 1 in Dr. Macgowan’s letter, I have never stated that he conveyed in his pocket medicines containing arsenic to Mrs. Bird; but as to his having never conveyed *any* medicines to Mrs. Bird except through his prescriptions, Mrs. Bird’s statement and the Doctor’s are at variance, and I have no means at present of *proving* who is correct. The whole of Dr. M.’s prescriptions were not dispensed by Mr. Knott, as I shall presently shew.

“In reply to answer No. 2, Dr. Macgowan ordered lime water and milk for Mrs. Bird as a common drink long before he prescribed arsenic; but, having had no direction to the contrary, she continued it while taking the arsenic and for some time after.

“No. 3. Dr. Macgowan says he never observed such effects as those described by Messrs. Janson, Luxmoore, and Parker. The fact is, that Dr. M., finding that the arsenic appeared at first to be of benefit to Mrs. B., directed her to continue

taking it until he saw her again, and this not happening for nearly six weeks, Mr. Parker was sent for and found her in the state described in the January number.

"No. 4. It has not been stated that Mrs. Bird was kept under salivation by Dr. Macgowan for twelve months, but that she was salivated for twelve months; had the former been asserted, it would not, I believe, have been very far from the truth. Now comes the MOST EXTRAORDINARY *portion of Dr. Macgowan's letter*—'Salivation formed no part of my treatment of the case;' and this is said after Dr. M.'s statement, 'I have a distinct recollection of poor Mrs. Bird, and of my general treatment of her case.'

"The answer to salivation forming no part of the treatment, is contained in the following copy of Dr. MACGOWAN'S PRESCRIPTIONS, taken from Mr. Knott's books by Mr. Parker, and verified in Mr. Knott's presence.

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| 1832. June 20. | 1 gr. of calomel every other night—3 doses. |
| „ 26. | 1 gr. of calomel every four hours—24 doses. |
| July 28. | 10 gr. of blue pill to be taken in $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. doses—4 doses. |
| Aug. 17. | 5 gr. of mercurial powder every six hours—6 doses. |
| Sept. 17. | 2 gr. of calomel every night—6 doses. |
| Oct. 12. | 4 gr. blue pill every hour—15 doses. |
| 1833. Feb. 21. | $2\frac{1}{2}$ gr. of blue pill every two hours—6 doses. |
| „ 26. | 2 gr. of mercurial powder night and morning—6 doses. |
| March 4. | 3 gr. of calomel every night—3 doses. |
| March 14. | 2 gr. of mercurial powder every night—2 doses. |
| April 2. | 1 drachm of mercurial ointment in friction every night—8 doses. |
| April 12. | The last perscription of Dr. Macgowan's in Mr. Knotts' books is half an ounce of solution of arsenic. |

"How often each prescription was dispensed I am not aware.

"Mr. Knott has copies of *many* more prescriptions of Dr. Macgowan's dispensed to Mrs. Bird, but they do not contain mercury. In addition to this, Mr. Ham, a highly respectable chemist, dispensed twenty-nine prescriptions of Dr. Macgowan's for Mrs. Bird, between March 1832 and February 1833, but it was not then his practice to take copies of all the prescriptions he dispensed. Mr. Palk, also a chemist, has dispensed prescriptions of Dr. Macgowan's for Mrs. Bird, containing mercury, but he has not copies. Mrs. Bird has procured medicines of Mr. Visick from Dr. Macgowan's pre-

scriptions, but they did not contain mercury. Mrs. ——,* who lived in the next house to Mrs. Bird during a great portion of the time Dr. Macgowan was in attendance on her, has a distinct recollection of Mrs. B. frequently complaining of a sore mouth and her teeth being very loose. She also remembers being shewn on one occasion by Mrs. Bird a small bottle of drops which Dr. M. had but a few minutes before *brought* for her, Dr. Macgowan having given her the first dose from his own hands, as Mrs. Bird stated *at the time*. How far Dr. Macgowan's statement that salivation formed *no part of* his treatment of Mrs. B.'s case is in accordance with the fact, I leave your readers to judge; and also whether Dr. M.'s memory may not have been equally treacherous in regard to his having carried medicines in his pocket to Mrs. Bird. Both Mr. Parker and I carefully avoided mentioning Dr. Macgowan's name in *The Zoist*, first because we believed he treated Mrs. B. to the best of his judgment, and secondly because he was absent.

"Although twelve months have now elapsed, I am delighted to say Mrs. Bird has had no return of fits nor vomiting of food, and her sufferings from tic have been NEXT TO NOTHING. The tumor in her side (uterus) has not risen, nor are there any indications of its again causing her inconvenience. Many circumstances during the late unhealthy season have occurred to retard her re-establishment, but still she is and has been for many months in far better health than for the last seventeen years.

"J. C. LUXMOORE.

"Alphington, Exeter,
"June 21, 1847."

NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Mr. Wakley's desire that Mr. Braid should utter an untruth.—The facts are these. Mr. Wakley, in his *Lancet* of the 21st of last November, states that Mr. Braid, a medical practitioner of Manchester, has said that, when lately in London, he called on a physician who offered to shew him the power of magnets in producing catalepsy; and their application was followed by the expected result. Mr. Braid, in the hearing of the patient, then remarked he had in his pocket an instrument quite as powerful; only that if he closed the patient's hand upon it, the hand would open and the instrument drop. He touched the patient with it and the expected result followed. He spoke of other properties which it had; and on trial all results ensued as he foretold. The instrument was only Mr. Braid's portmanteau key and ring. Mr. Wakley asks, "Why did not the writer at once name Dr. Elliotson?" We have Dr. Elliotson's authority for saying that, if the writer had, he would have been guilty of falsehood; and that he

* The person alluded to objects to her name appearing in print, but will answer any questions on the subject.

never saw Mr. Braid during that person's visit to London. Mr. Wakley adds that the prototype of the key was a bit of lead substituted by himself for nickel in an experiment upon Elizabeth Okey. Now when Mr. Wakley applied lead instead of nickel, and lead only, lead not preceded by nickel, to Elizabeth Okey in 1838, the effects of nickel upon her did not take place, as he would wish to have it believed. The poor girl fell asleep, as she always did at that period of her great susceptibility if two or three persons stood close to her in silence; and there was Mr. Wakley close to her in front, and one of his sons and his reporter at each side. If she fancied the lead was nickel, her fancy was inoperative, for the effects of nickel did not ensue. Mr. Braid does not accuse the physician's patient of imposture, but correctly ascribes the effects to imagination, in accordance with what Dr. Elliotson said of the immense force of imagination in mesmeric patients some years ago: see *Zoist*, Vol. I., pp. 313, 346, 422, 440; Vol. II., pp. 47, 462. As soon as Mr. Braid saw Mr. Wakley's attempt to make people believe he meant Dr. Elliotson, it was his duty to set the matter right.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Mesmerism in India, and its practical application in Surgery and Medicine. By James Esdaile, M.D., Civil Assistant Surgeon, H.E.I.C.S. Bengal. London, 1846.—The surgical facts of this work have been extracted into different numbers of *The Zoist*. The book itself should be carefully read by every medical man in Europe, Asia, Africa and America. The time will come when, like *The Zoist*, it will be regarded as one of the brightest jewels of medical libraries.

Phrenological Journal. April, 1847.—Every person should read the excellent article on mesmerism, written, we presume, by Dr. Gregory, the Professor of Chemistry in the University of Edinburgh.

The article upon education, by Mr. George Combe, in the previous number, should also be universally read. It is very far in advance of all the treatises and views of the generality of the friends of education, though Mr. Combe still either panders to certain prejudices or he himself has not shaken them off.