

# THE ZOIST.

No. XXII.

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## I.

### TRIUMPH AND REWARD OF DR. ESDAILE.

WHEN Lord Dalhousie, the new Governor-General, arrived in India, it was the sanguine hope of all the enemies of mesmerism and Dr. Esdaile, that the new Pharaoh who had risen in Egypt and knew not Joseph, but was probably full of all the gross and ignorant prejudices which have prevailed in Great Britain against the most magnificent of natural truths, would at once thrust Dr. Esdaile aside and crush mesmerism in the Presidency. But Lord Dalhousie is a self-relying character, not taking matters upon hear-say, as the bulk of persons of both high and moderate station, both carefully educated and neglected, both medical and non-medical, have done in Great Britain: and thus the unworthy blows aimed by the unhappy medical visitors of the mesmeric hospital, and hereafter to be considered, told not.

His Lordship was greatly surprised one day at finding an official letter upon mesmerism submitted to him for orders. He no sooner perceived that mesmerism was not an imposture and delusion, but was considered one of the DAILY REALITIES OF LIFE among his new subjects, than he called for all the papers relating to it, and, though overwhelmed with business, *found time to examine the whole case carefully for himself*; and he made up his mind upon it from documentary evidence only, notwithstanding that Dr. Esdaile had offered to add the evidence of his senses, if he desired it. Lord Dalhousie thought this additional evidence *quite superfluous*; and, after studying the Reports, he was pleased to tell Dr. Esdaile that he was perfectly satisfied, and to compliment the Doctor on his "PUBLIC SERVICES, ZEAL, AND PERSEVERANCE."



Soon afterwards Dr. Esdaile had the honour of an invitation to dinner at Government House, and, in the course of the evening, Lord Dalhousie *congratulated him upon his being appointed Presidency Surgeon*,—a post which usually leads to fortune; and, in reply to his expression of thanks, said, “YOU HAVE NOTHING TO THANK ME FOR, DR. ESDAILE: YOU HAVE ONLY TO THANK YOURSELF: I HAVE ONLY DONE AN ACT OF JUSTICE.”

Here is true nobility,—the nobility of intellect and feeling.\* What would I not give to have witnessed this conversation between these two noble natures, standing side by side, replete with intelligence and exalted sentiment! Happy must it be for India to possess such a governor, and refreshing must it be to all true-hearted medical men to see honour bestowed by those in authority upon a practitioner solely for his merits!

Dr. Esdaile's merits are transcendent. I regard him as one of the most glorious men of our profession. He stands eminently above all the rest of his profession in India. He only of the whole number took the trouble to attend to mesmerism; and he pursued the course proper for a philosopher and a medical man, by ascertaining the truth of the statements through experiment. He felt, as a philosopher, that the subject was of the very highest interest, as relating to the cerebral faculties, powers, properties—to the mental attributes of man, at present ill understood and *not all known*, and as relating to all the other powers and properties of the nervous system; he felt, as a medical practitioner, that it was his *solemn duty* to learn whether there really existed an unacknowledged mighty remedy to remove or assuage disease, and a mode of preventing the agonies of surgical measures. Facts enough were in print before the eyes of the other medical men of India, but interested them not, either philosophically or philanthropically: nay, one of them, even one who joined the worldly-wise but short-sighted and unhappy visitors of his hospital, had been shewn astonishing and unquestionable mesmeric facts by me in England, and knew well that what he saw were all real, all natural, truths, and also knew that throughout the whole of my professional

\* Tota licet veteres exornent undique ceræ  
Atria, nobilitas sola est atque unica Virtus.

We respect a simply good man: but simple goodness, without intelligence, is merely respectable; indeed, it continually leads to error, and sometimes even to the very deeds which the wicked commit. Exalted virtue is the combination of intelligence and goodness with firmness; and this it is which strikes terror into the unprincipled, the mean, the selfish, and the hypocritical, who hate, but at the same time fear, the noble being.



career I had never advanced an untruth, never exaggerated, never made a statement till after the most patient enquiry, and thus had never led my brethren or my patients astray, had never written books or pamphlets to attract consumptive, nervous, dyspeptic, or other patients; but that all my contributions had been for the benefit of the profession, and that all I had advanced or defended, however frowned upon at first, had become firmly established and generally received.

All his actions, all his writings, prove Dr. Esdaile to be a man of sound and extensive information, of solid intellect and acute observation, of great activity, courage, and perseverance, of perfect truth and honour, of the warmest benevolence, and of the noblest independence both of thought and conduct.

Not only has the Supreme Authority done justice to Dr. Esdaile, but *the press, from Cape Comorin to Simla is now UNANIMOUS IN HIS FAVOUR.* Those editors who formerly attacked him and ridiculed mesmerism are now acting the parts of honest and courageous men, and atoning for their errors in the most praiseworthy manner. From hurling missiles at him, they have now turned to worrying all the doctors.

“We are happy to learn from the *Star* of this morning, that Government has appointed Dr. Esdaile one of the Surgeons of the Presidency. The appointment reflects credit on the Governor-General. The zeal, energy, skill, and perseverance manifested by Dr. Esdaile in the cause of mesmerism, as an instrument for relieving human suffering, demanded an acknowledgment from Government, and it has been made in the most suitable manner.”—*The Friend of India.*

“We have rarely announced an appointment with greater pleasure than we do now, when we mention that Dr. Esdaile is to remain in Calcutta as a Presidency Surgeon. We may leave the value of mesmerism entirely out of consideration; the zeal, energy, self-reliance, and perseverance which have characterized his investigation of that mystery, alone stamp him as a man deserving the highest consideration: the appointment is most honourable to the Government.”—*The Star.*

Lord Dalhousie did not think it necessary to continue the mesmeric hospital as a separate Government establishment beyond the year during which its purpose was to test the medical and surgical utility of mesmerism; nor did Dr. Esdaile consider that a desire on his own part for its continuance would be reasonable, since there exist so many Government hospitals in which the mesmeric treatment of disease can be so much better practised in combination with the usual means of cure. The Government has shewn its opinions and expectations sufficiently by its establishment, and by



rewarding Dr. Esdaile. It cannot force the physicians and surgeons to be humane and scientific enough to bestow the blessings of mesmerism upon their patients, and these gentlemen will, as in England, hold out as long as possible. But the day must arrive there, as it will here, when the public voice will put an end to this irrational, this cruel, conduct, and diseases will be cured which are now intractable, diseases will be cured in a short time which now are of long duration, and far greater alleviation of incurable disease will be obtained than at present; to say nothing of the *innocent* production of insensibility, and an augmentation of restorative power, in surgical cases.

“DR. ESDAILE.—We are happy to announce that Dr. Esdaile is a Presidency Surgeon, by appointment, (we believe) of the Governor-General. He will not therefore be posted to a regiment, and the citizens of Calcutta will have the gratification of being able at all times to consult the mesmeric magician.

“We are not prepared to say, whether Government will re-establish the mesmeric hospital; we rather think that having at first sanctioned the residence of Dr. Esdaile with the hospital charges, until mesmerism became established in the convictions of the community, and now by the appointment of the Dr. to a surgeoncy in Calcutta, Government will leave the native community to supply from their benevolence the current expenses of the hospital.

“The native community appears to be more extensively afflicted than Europeans with those diseases in the removal of which mesmerism has exerted its sovereign influence. At all events they have, more largely than Europeans, shared in the blessings bestowed by a gracious Providence through the instrumentality of mesmerism and the surgical skill of Dr. Esdaile. To them therefore we look for the necessary donations and subscriptions which would re-open the mesmeric hospital—the current expenses of which might perhaps be within 300 rupees per month. Now, therefore, is an opportunity for one of our Calcutta Millionaires to hand down his fame to posterity in the establishment of an hospital, which certainly is a work of far greater utility than that of erecting a bridge, building a ghaut, or digging a tank. We trust the Calcutta press will unite with us in directing attention to this, so beneficial an object.”—*Christian Advocate*.

“We are glad to hear that Dr. Esdaile has been appointed Presidency Surgeon, and still more so that the appointment has been given with the intimation that it is only considered as an act of justice. It is to be hoped that some arrangements will be made to enable him to pursue those investigations which have attracted so much attention, and the result of which has been such decided success in the treatment of severe and dangerous diseases. We know not whether any intention is entertained of re-opening the mesmeric



hospital, but the native gentlemen, who have already expressed their sentiments on the subject, have now the opportunity of proving that they are in earnest, by offering their assistance on behalf of their indigent and suffering countrymen.”—*The Englishman*.

“We are happy to hear that Dr. Esdaile has been appointed Presidency Surgeon. As this gentleman’s name stands at the very bottom of the list of full surgeons, such an appointment can only be looked upon as the reward of distinguished public services, and that Dr. Esdaile is entitled to some such high mark of approbation, no one will think of questioning. It is gratifying to find that Lord Dalhousie has acted in this case according to its own ascertained merits, that he has not been governed by any prejudices he may have brought with him from Europe. Perhaps the occasion was one which demanded some little exercise of moral courage, and we are glad to see that this has not been wanting. The more conspicuous a man’s position, the more difficult is it for him to act independently of prejudices so strongly rooted as those of the medical profession, against all novelties in general, and against the science of passes in particular. Too much praise can never be given to the Deputy Governor of Bengal, whose independent conduct alone opened to Dr. Esdaile the fair field on which he has obtained his victory,—a victory in which mankind at large is so deeply interested. But we all know that Deputy Governors of Bengal are only “very respectable gentlemen,” whose good deeds, however worthy of immortality, are to a certain extent hid under a bushel. Importance enough they have, of its kind, but it is confined to India, the eyes of the world are blind to all their dignity, and take no cognizance of their actions, good or bad. But whatever is done by a Governor-General is tolerably conspicuous, and when we find a man in Lord Dalhousie’s position, rewarding a professed mesmerist as a public benefactor, we cannot help looking forward with pleasure to the impression which so liberal a step must unavoidably make in Europe. This one simple fact will do more to overthrow public prejudice at home, than a thousand public exhibitions of the powers of the alleged agent, or the advocacy of a thousand such people as the Martineaus, the Bulwers, and the Dumas of the day.

“We think every one who wishes God-speed to the progress of mesmeric science will be satisfied with what has been done. If Lord Dalhousie could not fairly have done less, we do not know how he could fairly have been expected to do more. As to the permanent establishment of the mesmeric hospital as a separate Government institution, we have never recommended it ourselves. If the profession would do their duty, every hospital would be a mesmeric hospital when occasion required; that is, mesmeric practice would form a part of the daily routine, along with quinine practice, calomel practice, or any other practice. But if the doctors will not do this, and we don’t see how the Government can compel them to do it, let a mesmeric hospital be established by private subscription. Let the natives who put their names to a petition the other day, sign a subscription list to-morrow, let them raise a decent fund to begin with,



and guarantee a certain monthly sum for current expenses. The old hospital in Jaun Bazar is still available, we suppose, and the cost of a respectable corps of mesmerisers would be insignificant enough when distributed among the whole community. As to Dr. Esdaile's services, we are sure they could be had for nothing, and the Government that has just signified its high approbation of this gentleman's public merits, will certainly not object to his devoting a considerable portion of his time to investigations which have already had such important results, and which, continued under favourable conditions, are likely to assume every day a higher importance.

"We hope, then, that the natives will lose no time in doing their duty, or what we conceive to be their duty, in this matter. That some separate institution is highly necessary, we think we have a right to infer from the marked unwillingness, exhibited on more than one occasion by the gentlemen in charge of the various Presidency hospitals, to aid Dr. Esdaile, either by sending him patients, or by sanctioning mesmeric practice within the walls of the institutions under their control.

"We have more than once recommended the establishment of a mesmeric chair at the Medical College, but we never expressed any very sanguine expectation that our suggestion would be attended to. So decided a step as this was almost too much to expect at once, although we have no doubt that, a few years hence, mesmeric instruction will be found an indispensable part of the *curriculum* of professional education.

"We have then only to repeat that we see every reason to be satisfied at the course the Governor-General has taken in this matter."  
—*Hurkaru Newspaper*.

The petition alluded to was the following, which I extract from another Indian newspaper. It exhibits the striking phenomenon that these dark-coloured heathens can perceive self-evident facts to be facts, and are endowed with humanity enough to go to witness them, while white Europeans, trained in Universities, admitted as Fellows of scientific bodies, and appointed as teachers to the rising generation of medical men, neither can so perceive nor are so endowed: and it exhibits the no less striking phenomenon that these dark coloured heathens regard the mesmeric results as only natural circumstances, proceeding from the laws of nature, while large numbers of Christians, who fancy themselves in all respects their superiors, nay not a few religious pastors, even some graduates of Oxford and Cambridge and episcopally ordained, ascribe these things to the Devil,—yes, ascribe to the Devil what these dark heathens acknowledge to be the work of God,—and cruelly prevent thousands of the afflicted from being blessed with ease from suffering or even restoration to health.



“MESMERIC HOSPITAL.

“TO THE RIGHT HON. THE EARL OF DALHOUSIE,

*“Governor-General of India,*

*“&c., &c., &c.*

“MAY IT PLEASE YOUR LORDSHIP,—We, the undersigned inhabitants of the town and suburbs of Calcutta, being deeply impressed with a conviction that the mesmeric hospital has, in the probationary course allotted to it, sufficiently established its pretensions to mitigate and ameliorate manifold diseases to which humanity is incident, have beheld, with regret, that, its year of probation being past, no step appears to be taken for the continuance of the Institution.

“We have carefully perused the record of cases, together with the report of the official visitors, and several amongst us have attended to witness the operations at various times. We would take the present occasion, deferentially to enforce upon your Lordship’s attention that it is nowhere pretended to be denied but that mesmerism has been successfully applied to a variety of diseases, and we submit that it appears less significant whether greater or fewer numbers have been cured or treated in this, or that hospital, and by this or that process, provided it can be shewn that the effect anticipated has, in multiplied instances, been accomplished, namely the surety of painless operations of the most delicate character where the patient has fallen under the mesmeric influence. It would be bold to deny that such influence is non-existent, and the record shews that it has been triumphantly vindicated in the treatment of at least *nine* different species of ailments.

“But we contend that the whole point is gained if it be proved that during coma and its approximating conditions, tumors may be removed, and amputations made, without the endurance of suffering or the entailing of evil result, to the invalids. That this has been achieved, we feel satisfied every unprejudiced mind must acknowledge; and it is therefore our humble prayer that your Lordship will, on account of the benefit positively exhibited, during the period of trial, take into consideration the propriety and means for establishing a mesmeric hospital as one of the permanent institutions of the British capital in India.

“We presume to hope that it will not lessen the force of our prayer when your Lordship perceives that the continuation or re-establishment solicited will be thankfully received by us as an indication that your Lordship is disposed to bear in mind the expressed wishes of the native community on a point where, for the most part, (seeing how, in regard to society, the great majority of treatments must tend) they have a direct interest in a science, the value of which, if not as yet fully known, they have learnt to appreciate from the evidence of their own senses.

“We have the honour to sign ourselves with the utmost respect,

“Your Lordship’s, &c.



“ Rajah Radacant Bahador,  
 Rajah Kalikissen Bahadoor,  
 Rajah Jadubkissen Bahadoor,  
 Rajah Sutchurn Ghosal Bahadoor,  
 Rajah Pertub Chunder Sing Bahadoor,  
 Rajah Nursing Chunder Roy,  
 Coomar Sutchurn Ghosal,  
 Coomar Sutt Jeebun,  
 Baboo Ashootoss Deb,  
 Baboo Moteelall Seal,  
 Baboo Ramanoth Tagore,  
 Baboo Promothonauth Deb,  
 Rustomjee Cowasjee,  
 Baboo Debendernauth Tagore,  
 Baboo Ramgopal Ghose,  
 Baboo Hurrymohun Sein,  
 Baboo Prawnkissen Mullick,  
 Baboo Beernursing Mullick,  
 Baboo Gopallant Tagore,  
 Baboo Kashipersaud Ghose,  
 Baboo Greendernauth Ghose,  
 Baboo Chundermohun Chatterjee,  
 Roy Nubbo Chunder Thokey Bahadoor,  
 Baboo Chundermohum Chatterjee, Mun : Com : ,  
 Baboo Toolseedoss Mullick,  
 Baboo Heeralall Seal,  
 Roy Bycantnauth Chowdry,  
 Baboo Nagendernauth Tagore,  
 Baboo Ram Chunder Mitter,  
 Baboo Radapersaud Roy,  
 Baboo Ramapersaud Roy,

“ And about 300 signatures of the principal Native gentlemen of Calcuttta.”

In ordinary times, if Dr. Esdaile had desired it, he could easily have erected a mesmeric hospital by subscription; but Calcutta is at present panic-stricken by the loss of mercantile credit and character and the failure of the Union Bank.

The mesmerisers attached to the late hospital have been distributed by the Government among different stations in Bengal, and will no doubt be heard of sooner or later.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

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II. Account of a "*Record of Cases treated in the Mesmeric Hospital, from June to December, 1847; with Reports of the Official Visitors. Printed by Order of Government. Calcutta, 1848.*"

IN giving an account of Dr. Esdaile's hospital practice during the second six months of the year, I shall, as on the former occasion, present the whole number of surgical cases first, and then the whole number of the medical.

## SURGICAL CASES.

### "HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"*May 24th, 1847.* Muneeroodeen, a labourer, aged 30, residing in Calcutta, has been troubled with a common scrotal tumor for about 10 years; his right leg is affected with elephantiasis. It commenced with fever occurring once, twice, or three times a month.

"To be mesmerised daily for an hour and a half.

"*25th.* Did not sleep or feel inclined to do so.

"*26th.* Slept naturally.

"*27th.* *Insensible to pricking and pinching*; the tumor was exposed, testes maxime compressi sunt, and *hairs plucked out of his beard, without disturbing him.*

*28th.* He was subjected to the action of an electro-magnetic machine, with the power of the second degree, and his eyes were opened several times, *without making any impression on his system.*

*29th.* The conductors of an electro-magnetic machine with the highest power were put into his hands, and next on the sides of his body and arms, causing each time strong convulsive movements. He remained *as passive as a corpse*,\* and was then with great difficulty demesmerised: he only awoke partially, and begged not to be disturbed, but to be allowed to sleep.

\* These experiments were made in 1838, upon the elder Okey, who had what is called insensibility of touch or anæsthesia. She stood in her delirious sleep-waking, holding the cylinders of the electro-magnetic machine in her hands as quietly "as if they had been cucumbers," while strong men, Sir William Molesworth for example, could not hold them for half a minute, and cried out to us "for God's sake to cease turning the machine." When asked what she felt, she replied, "I heard it go giggle, giggle, giggle."—(See my *Numerous Cases of Surgical Operations without Pain in the Mesmeric State*, p. 30.)

Yet the poor innocent girl was an impostor, and the world, being told so by Sir Benjamin Brodie, who never saw her and refused to see her, and by Mr. Wakley, who is as ignorant of mesmerism and every branch of philosophy as of French, Latin, Greek, or Sanscrit, believes it to this hour. The younger had no such insensibility of touch; and yet Mr. Wakley cruelly and unwisely pronounced her to be only a feeble imitation of the elder.—JOHN ELLIOTSON.



"30th. The same repeated to-day.

"31st. He was operated on to-day; all the parts were saved; weight of the tumor 10lbs. The only sign of life observed was, a slight twitching of the countenance during the tying of the vessels. He was demesmerised after all was over, and *knew nothing that had happened.*"

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" May 29th, 1847. Gobind Chunder, a beggar, aged 32, residing at Ramkistopore, has been suffering from a scrotal tumor for 8 years. It was preceded by a periodic fever coming on twice a month, and lasting for about two days.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"31st. Slept naturally.

" June 1st. Sleeping soundly, *hair was torn out of his moustache and head*, he was *pricked all over*, and the tumor was next exposed and thrown up to the abdomen with a jerk several times, his testes maxime compressi sunt, and his eyes were opened with great difficulty, *without breaking his slumber.*

"2nd. He was to-day subjected to the action of the electro-magnetic machine for about *two minutes and a half*; his arms were strongly convulsed, and a shock was felt by those who touched his body.

"3rd. Again electrified to-day *without his waking.*

"4th. He was operated on to-day.

"He was *perfectly still and motionless throughout*, and it is useless to say *quite unconscious that anything had been done to him.* He awoke of his own accord a quarter of an hour after the operation."

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" June 1st, 1847. Kheturmohun Sen, a pedlar, aged 21, residing in Calcutta, has got a scrotal tumor for about 8 years. His legs are also affected with elephantiasis, particularly the left one. He has been subject as usual to periodic fever.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"2nd. Sleeping profoundly, the tumor was exposed and the testes maxime compressi sunt. He was then made to bear the action of an electro-magnetic machine with the power of the highest degree. It only brought on strong convulsive movements of the arms, and communicated shocks to persons touching his body.

"3rd. The same as yesterday.

"4th. He awoke from one of the conductors of the machine suddenly falling on his body.

"5th. He was *as indifferent as a corpse to the shocks to-day.*



"6th. The same to day.

"7th. He was operated on to-day; the dissection was *excessively severe and tedious* from the great thickness and hardness of the walls of the tumor, and its encroaching high upon the pubes. The colis was six inches below the surface, and was with difficulty extricated. I then cut down on both testes to ascertain their condition, but found them atrophied and useless, as is usually the case in elephantiasis. The man lay *perfectly passive and still* till towards the end of the operation when he began to moan and writhe his body considerably. After the fall of the mass, I begged that he might not be disturbed, and he immediately relapsed into the trance. He was soon after demesmerised, and on waking was *unaware that anything had happened to him in his sleep*. There was a large hydrocele on each side, and the tumor before it was emptied must have weighed upwards of 30lbs."

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"June 8th, 1847. Mudhoo, a Mallee, aged 32, a native of Kandapore, in Cuttack, has contracted a small scrotal tumor for 3 years.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"9th. Insensible to pricking and pinching; his arms were rigid; the tumor was exposed and the testes maxime compressi sunt. He was next subjected to the action of an electro-magnetic machine with the power of the second degree *without disturbing him*.

"10th. He was electrified with the highest power of the machine. Mesmerism was interrupted for five days, as he was attacked with a fit of asthma.

"15th. Sleeping profoundly; he bore steadily the galvanomagnetic shock of the second degree, but showed a slight sign of instinctive movement in his face under the third.

"16th. He was again electrified with the highest power of the machine.

"18th. I did not intend to operate to-day, and only tested the man severely. Dr. Palmer having come from Hooghly on purpose to witness an operation, begged me to gratify him, and I consented to do it sooner than I intended. The case is only a repetition of the last, exhibiting *perfect insensibility* till towards the end of the operation, followed by vague movements and moaning; the most perfect subsequent repose, and total oblivion on awaking. He awoke a quarter of an hour after all was over, and felt just as usual, with the exception of a slight heat between his legs: all the parts were saved, no pain till next day."



## " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *June 30th, 1847.* Kartick, a earter, aged 30, residing at Bhowbazar, in Calcutta, has got a common serotal tumor for 6 years. Both the legs are affected with elephantiasis, particularly the right one.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

" *July 1st, 1847.* He was prieked and electrified severely *without awaking or disturbing him*, and might be safely operated on to day. He was then left to sleep, and awoke about three hours after of his own accord.

" *2nd.* This is one of the most perfect eases that I have operated on in the trance. *He bore the knife like a corpse*, and only began to move a little at the tying of the arteries. After the vessels were all secured, the testes were carefully examined, and the dexter being found diseased and useless, was cut off; the sinister was involved in a hydrocele, out of which it was leisurely dissected and left. He was now covered with a sheet; in about half an hour after all was over, the sheet was raised to see if there was any bleeding. The sudden exposure to the air disturbed him; he suddenly raised himself, opened his eyes, seemed to see the wound, and stretched out his hand to it, but instantly fell back into the coma. This has been repeatedly seen and described. About an hour after the operation, as I was attempting to open his eyes, he awoke. He said he felt as usual, and not in the least weak; nor was there any pain in his body, and he wanted to know why so many people were gathered around him. A few minutes after he complained of a sensation of heat in the wound, and *suspected from it that he had been operated on like others when he was asleep.*"

## " SCIRRUS TESTIUM. EXTIRPATION.

" *July 10th, 1847.* Shamehunder Dutt, a shop-keeper, aged 40, residing at Zingrapolasee, in Zillah Hooghly, has been troubled with hypertrophied scrotum and seirrhous testes for 6 years. It commenced with a periodic fever coming on twice a month. The paroxysm was very violent, and produced active inflammation in the part, which suppurated and terminated in an ulcer. It was very irritable, disturbing his rest at night, and impairing his general health by keeping up a copious discharge.

*11th.* Although in excessive pain, he was entranced to-day in less than an hour; his arms were perfectly cataleptic, and he was insensible to both pricking and pinching; this was reported to me the same evening.



"12th. I saw him for the first time in the trance to-day, and as the case was urgent, the operation was at once performed. The testes were found to be diseased and useless, and were therefore removed. He was *as still and quiet under the knife as a corpse*, till towards the end of the operation when he moved slightly like a man in an uneasy dream, and moaned a little. The mesmerising was continued till all the bleeding vessels were secured. *He awoke of his own accord about three quarters of an hour after the operation*, and felt some smarting in the wounded part; when asked, he said he had not been in any way disturbed while sleeping, nor had he any dream, but he felt a little weaker than usual."

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" July 7th, 1847. Moteewoola, jemadar, aged 50, residing at Alelompore, in Zillah Burdwan, has got a moderate sized scrotal tumor for 8 years.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"8th. He has got chronic bronchitis, than which there can be no more disturbing cause, for it is impossible for a person to sleep under any influence who has to clear his wind-pipe frequently, but fortunately he is not obliged to cough often. Appeared insensible to pricking and pinching; the tumor was exposed, testes maxime compressi sunt, and his eyes were opened *without disturbing him in the least*. But he awoke on his left nipple being severely pinched.

"9th. He was severely electrified to-day without awaking him.

"10th, 11th, and 12th. The same repeated with little variety.

"13th. He was operated on to-day at the usual hour, 12 o'clock. The operation was *excessively severe* from the great hardness of the mass, and the depth at which the testes lay. All the parts were saved: weight of tumor 20lbs. He was *perfectly motionless and unresisting as regards my proceedings*, but I was informed that sundry movements of the feet and chest were seen towards the end of the operation. The mesmerising was continued a few minutes after the operation. He awoke of his own accord, about half an hour after all was over; on awaking, he complained of great smarting in the part, which he could not account for, and begged to be allowed to sit up on the bed, to ascertain the cause of the smarting; this he did, and was *surprized to find on putting his hand to the part, that the tumor was gone*. He was then told that it was cut off, and the part removed was shewn to him. He



blessed me, and hoped that God would give me a golden palanqueen and a golden carriage."

" AMPUTATION OF THE GREAT TOE.

" *July 12th, 1847.* Bideadhur, a labourer, aged 16, residing at Budruck, in Zillah Cuttack, has got his great toe of the left foot contused, being crushed accidentally by a large country boat; the accident happened two months ago. The wound now appears gangrenous and unhealthy. It is necessary to remove the second joint.

"To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

" *13th.* Deeply entranced, and fit to be operated on.

" *14th.* The joint was cut off to-day, and as there was no skin for covering the end of the bone, about half of the first phalanx was sawn off.

"The boy *lay like a log*, and did not awake till half an hour after the operation, and then said, that the pain was less than when he went to sleep. This is another example of the extinction of acute pain by mesmerism, for he was in great pain when first mesmerised; yet this was subdued, and he was ready to be operated on in one hour."

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *July 16th, 1847.* Shaik Ackber, a coolee, aged 30, residing in Doomoordoh, in Zillah Hooghly, has been troubled with a moderate sized scrotal tumor for 3 years. It commenced with periodic fever coming on three or four times a month; the last attack was very violent: it brought on an acute inflammation in the part, and ended ultimately in an ulcer, which being very irritable, prevented his rest at night.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

" *17th.* Fast asleep, he was *insensible both to pricking and pinching.*

" *18th.* Again severely tested satisfactorily.

" *19th.* The operation was performed to-day, and was *peculiarly severe* from the thickened tunica vaginalis requiring to be dissected off the testes and cords. All the parts were saved. The tumor weighed about 12lbs. He lay *perfectly motionless throughout*, as far as I was concerned, and awoke a quarter of an hour after all was finished, and *of course knew nothing about it.* I was told that his neck and face were convulsed towards the end of the operation."

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *July 16th, 1847.* Ramgopal, a husbandman, aged 50,



residing in Furreedpore, has been troubled with a small scrotal tumor for 2 years. It commenced with hydrocele on the left side, and was preceded by fever coming on once in two months.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"On the third day he was entranced, and *indifferent to the electro-magnetic machine.*

"19th. No effect was produced on him to-day.

"20th. Hearing that the man was alarmed in consequence of seeing a patient operated on yesterday, and wants to leave the Hospital,—I put him under the action of the battery for a few minutes, and then at once commenced the operation. He remained *perfectly passive under the knife*, making no movement whatever. His breathing alone, which became a little disturbed towards the end of the operation, particularly when the arteries were being secured, gave signs of life. He awoke of his own accord about a quarter of an hour after the operation was completed, and he had been covered with a sheet. He said, when asked, that he felt as usual. *He protested that he would on no account allow himself to be operated on, unless he was made insensible like the other people.*

"When told that the thing was done, *he said that he was the more glad of it, as he had intended to run away to-day.*"

#### "HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"July 21st, 1847. Ramdial Chaterjia, a writer, aged 40, a native of Sewree, in Zillah Beerbhoom, has got a small scrotal tumor for 5 years.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"22nd. He was pinched, pricked, and electrified without his minding it,

"23rd. All that was done to him yesterday was repeated to-day.

"24th. He was operated on to-day. The operation lasted about 4 minutes. It was a mere repetition of the above: *no dead body could be more perfectly passive*, his breathing, which was not disturbed, only distinguished him from a corpse. He awoke about an hour and a half after all was over, and he had been dressed and carried to a clean bed: on awaking, he put his hand to his loins and complained of pain; when asked what caused it, he said he could not possibly account for it; it was probably produced by his sleeping for a long time; when asked whether he felt any pain in the part, he said no.

"26th. There has been no pain in the wound."



## " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *July 24th, 1847.* Akoy Doss, a wood-cutter, aged 35, a native of Balessur, has been subject to a small scrotal tumor for two years.

" Before operating on Ramdial, I examined this man whom I had not seen before, this being his first day of mesmerising. He had been acted on for about an hour, and I said that I thought he might be operated on to-day, but that another was more advanced. Having disposed of Ramdial, the spectators were desirous to see a man operated on the first day, and believing that we can now afford to make a doubtful experiment, I consented to make the attempt. I had not proceeded far before he became disturbed and soon woke up completely, deriving little advantage from his sleep. I hope this will be the last time that I shall be seduced into a doubtful proceeding.

" *26th.* Unlike Ramdial, operated on the same day, he has been in great pain ever since."

## " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *August 1st, 1847.* Seetaram, a porter, aged 50, residing at Kelore, in Zillah Kuttuck, has got a small scrotal tumor for 22 years.

" To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

" *3rd.* Slept apparently naturally.

" *4th.* Not mesmerised to-day as he took a dose of opening medicine.

" *5th.* Deeply entranced, arms cataleptic, he was *indifferent to pricking, pinching, and to the shocks of an electro-magnetic machine.*

" *6th.* He was again electrified to-day *without being disturbed in the least.*

" *7th.* He was operated on to-day, and all the parts were saved; *he bore the operation as passively as a corpse*; I was told that when the arteries were being secured, a slight movement was observed in his left leg. *He awoke about an hour and a half after the operation,* and after he had been put into a fresh bed. He was *surprized to find that he had been removed from the place where he went to sleep,* and on preventing his attempting to sit up on the score of weakness, he said he was not in the least weak, but felt as usual. He was *not aware of having felt any pain while asleep,* but now complained of smarting in the part, and was then told that the tumor had been cut off."



## " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *July 17th, 1847.* Baboo Ramdhun Nundy, aged 45, the man of business of a Rajah, has been troubled with an immense scrotal tumor for 14 years. He is a remarkably strong muscular man, as his portrait best shows. The tumor is only a local annoyance to him, and has been often deeply cauterized by native doctors in the hope of discussing it.

" This man soon began to sleep regularly during the process, but no specific symptom having appeared up to the 12th August, I lost patience, and tried to finish him off with ether; but as has usually happened, when I have resorted to it, he could not be made to inhale it from the irritation it produced, although the ether was said to be the purest, and prepared by Mr. Robertson, of the Medical College, for the purpose.

" *13th.* He slept to-day longer than usual, and did not awake on being called.

" *14th.* He was deeply affected to-day, and indifferent to noises and electric shocks.

" *15th.* Again electrified without awaking him.

" *16th.* He *moans* continuously in his sleep, and I particularly questioned his friends on this point, who all say that it is his usual habit, and it may arise from the discomfort of being compelled to lie constantly on his back, he is a very light sleeper. The noise is not snoring but moaning. The operation was rehearsed to-day: the lower half of the bed was removed; the tumor raised in a sheet, and placed on a stool in front, and each leg, widely extended, was placed on a chair on either side, and he was pricked all over with a scalpel for a few minutes. He was then re-adjusted, and knew nothing about it when he awoke.

" *17th.* He was moaning in his sleep, as usual, but as I considered this a constitutional peculiarity, I resolved to operate, if he stood some preliminary pricking to day. This he did, and as his only safety was in expedition, I made the operation as much a case of decapitation as possible. Having freed the colic, I transfixed the neck of the tumor with a long two-edged knife, and struck it off right and left by two blows. He cried out as I was making the last cut, and the moaning deepened into groaning, but his eyes remained closed, and no articulate sound escaped him, *nor did he interfere in the smallest degree with my proceedings, and, as usual, no one held him.* The bleeding was frightful, and after securing the principal vessels, I thought it necessary to awake him to administer a cordial, as his pulse had disappeared. He



opened his eyes, but did not see, he said, and drank some wine at my desire. For the next hour, his pulse fluctuated greatly, but at last became pretty regular at 2 o'clock; he was still in a half conscious state, having become delirious from loss of blood. I now left him, ordering no one to speak to him till I returned, and Mr. Kemp, who is a thorough Bengalee scholar, kindly promised to return with me at 4 o'clock—when we came back, the equilibrium of his brain was not yet restored, and his friends informed us that the only intelligible words he had uttered were, '*don't cut me—don't cut me,—put me to sleep;*' and he continued in this state for the next half hour. During this time, he was removed to a clean bed, and whilst some small arteries were being tied, his senses completely returned, and he for the first time, became aware of his altered condition. His case is almost parallel with that of Shaik Manick, related in my report of December, 1846, but Shaik Manick, died many months ago, and he could not have got his cue from *him*. All was a blank from 11 till 4 o'clock, and he said, that he had not seen me since the morning, and had *no recollection of anything since he went to sleep*. He had no pain in the wound, but complained of his back. The mass weighed 70 lbs.

"18th. He is incredibly well to-day, and does not look exhausted even. He repeated that *he recollected nothing, except going to sleep yesterday as usual, and awaking at 4 o'clock, when he found us to be tying the arteries*.

"His mesmeriser, one of the graduates of the Medical College, hereupon asked him, 'when did you last see me yesterday?' He answered, 'just before going to sleep, and I have not seen you since till this moment.' This corresponds completely with his own history of his feelings; for his mesmeriser, although he was present when I returned at 4 o'clock yesterday, did not wait till he had been removed into a clean bed; the moment when, as he stated yesterday, he came to his senses, and consequently he only remembered seeing him in the morning. Those who did not observe the whole course of this case, will probably not be satisfied with the conclusion, but it is perfectly satisfactory to the person principally concerned, who had often declared, that on no account would he consent to undergo the operation in his natural state, and he now says—'That *Brahma* is above all, and I am next to him.' I do not pretend that this man did not suffer during the operation, but I believe from attentive observation of the case throughout, that he had no recollection of the operation, when he recovered from the state of delirium at 4 o'clock."



## " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *September 5th*, 1847. Dabee Ghose, a milkman, aged 25, residing at Bhowanypore, in Zillah 24-Pergunnahs, has got a small scrotal tumor for 2 years.

" To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

" *6th*. He was entranced on the second day's trial, arms particularly cataleptic; he was *unconscious both to pricking and pinching*.

" He appeared *indifferent to the severest shocks* of an electro-magnetic machine.

" Being put in the position for the necessary operation, he was again electrified, and pricked all over with a scalpel for a few minutes. He was then left to sleep.

" The operation was performed to-day, and the organs were all saved. He remained tranquil throughout, but showed towards the end a slight movement of his toes, and turned his head gently from the right to the left side like a man in an uneasy posture. Mesmerising was discontinued. After the arteries were secured, he seemed to awake just when the bed had been re-adjusted, as he then raised his head, looked at the wound and defended it from being hurt by lifting up his sheet, but again relapsed into his '*comatose*' state. A few minutes after he opened his eyes, and came completely to his senses, when *he said that nothing had annoyed him in his sleep*, and that he had awoke this moment of his own accord"

## " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *August 7th*, 1847. Puranchunder Some, a writer, aged 23, a native of Juggutdul, in Zillah 24-Pergunnahs, has contracted a small scrotal tumor for 2 years. It originated from a hydrocele on the left side, preceded by a periodic fever coming on twice a month at the change of the moon.

" To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

" *15th*. Slept to-day more than usual.

" *16th*. Found *perfectly insensible to pricking, pinching, and to the severest shocks of an electro-magnetic machine*. He awoke whilst the part to be shaved was being wetted with water.

" *17th*. I catalepted his arms, put him into the proper position for the operation, pinched his right nipple severely, and pricked him with a scalpel for a few minutes; as a further security, I placed live charcoal on his hand, which he did not mind, but became disturbed when it was placed on



his abdomen, though he remained still asleep. He awoke a few minutes after naturally.

"18th. He was operated on to-day, and all the organs were saved. A large hydrocele was found in each side, and the bags were dissected out entire from the enclosing mass. After all the principal vessels had been secured, the hydrocele sacs were slit open, and the thickened *tunica vaginalis* was slowly dissected off the cords and testes; so that we had in this case *three distinct severe operations*. To all this he was *perfectly indifferent*, and only made a slight grimace towards the end. He awoke about a quarter of an hour after the operation was finished, and he had been put into the position in which he went to sleep, and had been covered with a sheet. He said when asked, that his slumber broke naturally, and that he *had felt no pain while sleeping*. He then perceived a smarting in the part, the cause of which he could not tell. The mass was then shewn to him, and he hid his face under the bed-clothes in disgust, and when again asked if he had felt any pain, he replied, '*If I had felt pain, would not I have cried out?*'"

"A SECOND OPERATION—THE SAME MAN.

"September 12th, 1847. Setaram, who was operated upon on the 7th ultimo, went on very well for some time, but at the period of the usual fever, it came on very severely, and sloughing took place in the wound. As the testes merely irritated the wound, I resolved to remove them.

"He was entranced in a quarter of an hour, and I broke up the recent adhesions, cut through granulating surfaces, and rudely squeezed the raw testes, *without a sign of sensibility* appearing in any portion of his body. After the vessels were all tied, he *awoke as if from a tranquil sleep, and felt no pain in the part*. He had been suffering much for several days from pain in his elbow-joints, which local mesmerising much relieved.

"13th. I desired him to be put to sleep to-day, but he could not be subdued, which I considered a very bad sign.

"14th. He died to-day."

"HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"September 21st, 1847. Shaikh Gopal, a tailor, aged 45, residing at Mirzapore, in Calcutta, has got a moderate sized scrotal tumor for 30 years.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.



"22nd. Slept naturally but awoke on being called by his name.

"23rd. Perfectly insensible to pricking, pinching and to the severest shocks of an electro-magnetic machine: he could not be in a more satisfactory state for operating on, but this first examination consumed much time.

"24th. No effect was produced upon him to-day.

"25th. The operation was performed to-day, although he was not so deeply affected as on the 23rd; the organs were all saved. About the middle of the operation, he began to cry out, and continued to do so uninterruptedly, but unintelligibly, till I had finished. He moved his legs from their extended position, but never closed his knees or attempted to interfere with my proceedings. After the arteries were all tied, he became more quiet, but still continued to moan. As he was an old man, and had lost much blood, his pulse became very weak, and I thought it advisable to bring the voluntary powers of life into play, and proceeded to demesmerise him. After a short time, he began to complain intelligibly, and lamented bitterly (his eyes still firmly closed) his hard fate in living to witness the death of his son. He beat his head and breast, and weeping profusely, said he was destined by God to outlive all his children, and to be ruined, but not a word about himself, or his actual situation, escaped him. On rousing him still further, a change came over the spirit of his dream, he clasped his hands, and protested before '*Allah*' that he would never get drunk again, would never drink *taree* any more, which was the cause of all his misfortunes. I continued to blow upon and rub his eyes, which he resented, and desired to be let alone; on my not minding him, he tried to strike me, and abused me furiously. A few minutes after, on my blowing strongly into his eyes, rubbing them roughly, dashing cold water on them, and desiring him to open them, he did so with great difficulty. I then asked him who I was, he answered, 'How can I tell without my spectacles?' I again blew strongly into his eyes, and rubbed them repeatedly, he at last recognized me, and said I was the Doctor Sahib. He had no pain in any part of his body he said, and *when told that he had been operated on, he would not believe it till the mass was shewn to him*, which he recognized by a large white cicatrix upon it caused by the actual cautery. *He said it was the most extraordinary thing in the world, and that all he had heard of my hospital was quite true, and that men were really made insensible to their sufferings.* He confesses to having indulged occasionally in *taree*, but has had no distress in his family lately. There is



a most marked difference in the *style* of complaining between the apparently suffering mesmeric sleeper, and the patient writhing and crying under the knife in his natural state. The movements of the former are vague and objectless, restraint is not required, and the surgeon is hardly inconvenienced by them. The patients (if the trance is not completely broken) never open their eyes, and, what is still more peculiar and characteristic, their inarticulate complaining is often more prolonged than if they were in their natural state, and sometimes continues for hours when the mesmeric state passes into delirium from great loss of blood, as has been seen in the cases of Shaik Mannick and Ramdhun, and in this respect the cries and movements of mesmeric sleepers greatly resemble those of hysteria, where there is a total loss of voluntary power, and subsequent obliviousness of all that had happened. This has often been seen in ether operations, and a French surgeon has said that his patients cried out more than formerly since the introduction of ether into his hospital, although they were subsequently unconscious of their acts or sufferings. It has been thought that the nervous ganglia have the power of reflecting sensational impressions to the nerves of motion, without perceiving them, and this would explain most of the painless writhings of mesmeric sleepers. But even when the brain is involved in the disturbance, the life of volition, on which it appears the *consciousness* of pain depends, is not roused into activity, and the brain seems to be reduced to the temporary condition of a reflex ganglion; or if there is any sense of pain it is so imperfectly conveyed to the seat of consciousness, that no traces of it are left in the memory when the sleeper recovers his senses."

#### " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *September 28th.* Ramdoss, a shop-keeper, aged 25, residing at Shobhabazar, Calcutta, has got a scrotal tumor for 9 years. It is scarred all over with cicatrices caused by the actual cautery, and setons have been passed through it in the hope of discussing it, but all this has only caused cartilaginous adhesions between the testes and the walls of the tumor.

" *29th.* He was mesmerised at half-past 10 o'clock to-day, for the first time, and at 12 o'clock I found him so deeply entranced that I proceeded to operate upon him at once, I have never had a more severe operation to perform from the diseased state of the parts, and the firmness of the adhesions. The glans colis could hardly be recognized from several large warty excrescences that surrounded it, and all the neigh-



bouring parts were fistulous and indurated. It was therefore very difficult and tedious to free the colis, and the testis sinister was so embedded in a cartilaginous cicatrix that it could not be extricated, it was therefore given up, but the other not being so much implicated was saved. He lay *perfectly motionless the whole time*, and only made a slight grimace as I was finishing. He awoke half an hour after the arterics had been tied, and had *no suspicion that anything had happened to him till he saw the mass*. He was greatly alarmed and horrified at first, but soon expressed his gratitude, saying that I was a God, &c. Weight of tumor 10 lbs."

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI

" June 17th, 1847. Buddunchunder Kowr, aged 50, a letter receiver in the General Post Office, residing at Entallee, Calcutta, has been troubled with a scrotal tumor for 11 years. This is one of the most protracted and troublesome cases we have had to deal with. The patient was a tall vigorous looking man, and his nervous system did not seem at all weakened. He was treated daily for a month and a half without producing any specific mesmeric symptom, and as we could afford him no more time, I tried to bring him under the influence of ether, but he declared that he could not go on after two or three inhalations. As he would not submit to be operated on in his natural state, he was allowed to go home, but returned at intervals, during the last three months, to try it again. Unfortunately on each occasion, the treatment has been interrupted after a few days by attacks of bronchitis and periodic inflammation of the tumor, to which he is subject. At last on the 25th September, he passed into the mesmeric trance, and was long and severely tested in the presence of Dr. Mouat. As the examination was long, I put off the operation till to-morrow, but he disappointed us, as he could not be made to sleep at all. On the 3rd October, I again found him entranced, and as I had no confidence in his mesmeric constitution, I operated on him at once. The tumor was apparently 40 lbs. in weight, composed principally of fluid, and it was evidently one huge hydrocele. The testis on the other side was healthy and nearly in its natural position. He lay perfectly passive till I had dissected this out, but when I cut open the huge sac, he began to moan and cry unintelligibly, but did not struggle. I have repeatedly seen the sudden discharge of a large quantity of water from a hydrocele have the most distressing effect upon the system, and I believe that it was this shock that disturbed him, and not the knife. About 40 lbs. of fluid were in a moment let



free, and the sac removed as rapidly as possible. Repeated attacks of inflammation had so altered the colour of the fluid that it looked as if I had opened a hernial tumor instead of a hydrocele, and for a moment, I had this uncomfortable impression. The *possibility* of this ought never to be overlooked in these cases, or familiarity and success be permitted to engender carelessness. After the principal arteries were tied, I awoke him thoroughly to administer a cordial, as his pulse had become imperceptible. He came immediately into the full possession of his senses, and said that he had slept to-day very well. After taking some brandy and water, he complained of a slight smarting in the wound, and carried his hand to the part to ascertain the cause. He was now told that all was over, and he expressed his gratitude, declaring that I was next to God, that I had given him a second life, &c. In this case, as in many others, a most striking and characteristic feature was observed. The very moment that perfect consciousness returned, every trace of suffering in his countenance *instantaneously* disappeared, and he looked as fresh and unbroken as if he had just awoke from a natural sleep.

"25th. He has not had a disagreeable symptom, and has never looked ill even."

#### " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"September 27th, 1847. Ramkisto Doss, a washerman, aged 35, a native of Santipore, in Zillah Nuddea, has got a scrotal tumor for 3 years. It is about the size of a child's head, and scarred all over with caustics, which had been applied for discussing it. His great sufferings on account of frequent attacks of fever and subsequent local inflammations, to which he has been subject, have induced him to come to us to undergo the dangerous operation of excision.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"28th. Could not be made to sleep.

"October 8th, 1847. Since the last date, he was not mesmerised on account of an attack of periodic fever. He slept to-day.

"9th. Found to be in deep coma, arms partially cataleptic. He was perfectly indifferent to the ordinary tests of insensibility, and to the highest power of an eletro-magnetic machine.

"10th. The same to-day.

"11th. I intended to have operated on him to-day, and several gentlemen were present, but as he appeared to be



disturbed when testis comprimebatur, the operation was postponed.

"12th. He was operated on to-day, and all the parts were saved, he began to moan and move about the middle of the operation, bent his neck backwards, and drew up his chest like a man in opistholonos, but did not make any attempt to interfere with the operation, nor did he open his eyes. After the arteries had been secured, he cried out for water, and the mesmerising was then discontinued. He asked why he felt smarting in the part, and believed it to be caused by some one comprimente testem, and he begged him to desist. He was then told that it proceeded from his tumor having been cut off.

"25th. Is doing very well."

"HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"October 22nd, 1847. Susteedoss, a labourer, aged 35, a native of Angoona, in Zillah Burdwan, has got a small scrotal tumor for 6 years.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"23rd. He was entranced on the first trial, and might have been operated on to-day with safety, as he was found to stand the tests of insensibility, for about an hour, without shrinking in the least.

"24th. Nearly the same to-day.

"25th. He was operated on to-day, the organs were saved. During the operation he remained *motionless and quiet*, except towards the end, when he gently turned his face from one side to the other, and his countenance became convulsed, but he did not open his eyes or moan. He awoke immediately after the arteries had been secured, and the bed re-adjusted. There was a large party of native gentlemen present, and to their questions he replied, that he felt no pain anywhere; that nothing had disturbed him, &c.

"This is another example of the expression of pain in the countenance vanishing instantly like a shadow on the return of consciousness, and still further proves the instinctive and unconscious nature of these appearances of pain. This phenomenon has been lately amply illustrated in the ether operations, and has passed into an universally acknowledged physiological fact. But it was described by me long before ether had been heard of for surgical purposes. In proof of which, it may be permitted me to quote a passage from my report for December, 1846, which was the result of 18 months previous observation.



“ ‘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 a 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 consciousness of 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.’ ”

“ HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

“ *October 23rd, 1847.* Shaikh Durrab, a broker, aged 48, residing at Kasseepore, in 24-Pergunnahs, has got a moderate sized scrotal tumor for 8 years. It had been deeply cauterized in the hope of discussing it by suppuration. This did not produce the desired effect, but brought on contraction of his knees by obliging him to be confined in bed for a long time.

“ To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

“ *24th.* On the first day he appeared deeply entranced, and was tested satisfactorily as to the state of his insensibility.

“ *25th.* He was more strictly tried to-day, and found fit to stand the operation.

“ *26th.* The operation was performed to-day. Before commencing the operation, I explained to the medical gentlemen present my reasons for not attempting to save the testes in this case, although the tumor was not of great magnitude,—after excision it weighed 28 lbs. I was convinced that the mass was solid throughout and of great density, and this had been increased by the cauterizings, to the cicatrices of which the testes always adhere, and the man was of a weak constitution. I said that in all probability the testes would be found to be not worth keeping, but even if healthy, I thought it would endanger this man's life to attempt to keep them. I therefore first got out the colis, and removed the mass at once by transfixing the neck and cutting right and left. He lay *perfectly calm and motionless like a corpse*, but awoke soon after the fall of the mass when the arteries were being tied. I had good reason to congratulate myself on my



diagnosis and the course adopted, for a few minutes after opening his eyes the man fainted, and it was half an hour before his pulse was re-established; another minute's delay would probably have proved fatal. On cutting up the tumor, it was found to be very dense in its structure; the testes were 6 inches below the surface embedded in a semi-cartilaginous substance, and completely disorganized.

"28th. He is doing very well, and I hope to be able to straighten his legs in the trance at a subsequent period."

"HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"November 7th, 1847. Gopeedoss, sirdar bearer, a native of Durmanugur, in Zillah Balessur, has got a small scrotal tumor for 5 years. It is covered all over with warts, about the size of peas, and is excessively hard. The præputium is hypertrophied, and forms a second pendulous tumor, the size of an ordinary cucumber. He was sent to us by his country friend, Bhugwandoss, who was operated on at Hooghly last year for a similar tumor. He has made a journey of ten days in the hope of being relieved of his burden in the same way as his friend has been.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"8th. I saw him for the first time at 12 o'clock to-day, and found him to be in the most profound trance after 1½ hour's mesmerising, and he was severely electrified, pricked, and pinched *without disturbing him in the least*. I then put a piece of live charcoal on his chest, and a slight tremor of the skin was perceptible, which instantly passed off; but *he made no attempt to remove the fire*: half a minute after, he suddenly opened his eyes, and supposing that he was awake, I struck the charcoal off his breast. My assistant began to ask him in Bengallee what had awoke him, but received no reply, and I immediately saw from the fixed unwinking eyes, that though they were open, their sense was shut. I said in English, 'let him alone, he is not awake,' and immediately after, his eye-lids quivered and closed spasmodically. I recommenced pricking him all over immediately *without exciting the slightest sign of sensibility*. About an hour after, he awoke naturally, and when asked said, that he felt no pain in his sleep, that the black patch on his breast was caused by dirt he supposed, and that he now saw me for the first time.

"9th. He was operated on to-day. The parts were all saved. The dissection was *tedious and very severe* on account of the firm adhesion of the organs to the cartilaginous walls of the tumor. He lay perfectly still and quiet, till I had nearly dissected out both the testes; when getting out the



last of which, he began to moan, draw up his chest and bend his head backwards convulsively, but did not interfere with my proceedings. When the general mass was being removed, he cried out once, 'Juggernath!' and immediately after wanted to be fanned; opened his eyes once, and then instantaneously relapsed into his comatose state. He awoke a quarter of an hour after, and *said that nothing had disturbed him in his sleep*, and that he had not called on 'Juggernath' to-day. He very soon perceived a smarting in the part, and asked whether it was removed or not."

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *October 23rd*, 1847. Horry, water carrier, aged 30, has had a small scrotal tumor for 5 years. He is come from Cuttack, in the expectation of getting it removed without pain, as has happened to many persons from that quarter. As the tumor was small, I dissuaded him from having it removed at present, but as he expressed an earnest desire to have it done on account of the constant attacks of inflammation in it, at the times of periodic fever, I consented to his wishes.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

" *30th*. He was found deeply entranced on the first day, and bore pricking and pinching very well, but the first touch of a bit of live charcoal made him shrink, he however became subsequently indifferent to it.

" *31st*. He was tested satisfactorily with an electro-magnetic machine.

" *Nov. 1st*. The same to-day.

" *2nd*. I operated on him to-day and saved all the parts. He remained *perfectly passive under the knife*, and *I cut him as leisurely as I would a dead body in the dissecting room*. He awoke in about half an hour after all the arteries had been secured; the usual questions were put to him, and it is superfluous to say that he *knew nothing about the matter*.

"He is doing very well, and has not felt an ache since."

" HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

" *October 28th*, 1847. Chundechurn, aged 42, a pleader of the Sudder Ameen's Court, in Sylhet, which is his place of nativity, has been troubled with a considerable scrotal tumor for 5 years. He read in one of the Bengallee newspapers that a Mesmeric Hospital had been established in Calcutta, with a view to afford relief to all classes of persons afflicted with scrotal tumors, and it is from this absurd mis-



apprehension that my hospital has been almost exclusively supplied with such cases: but I hope the Europeans will disabuse the native mind of this false impression, by making it generally known that there are very few surgical cases in which painless operations may not just as readily be obtained. 'When any one goes there, it was said, he is made insensible by some magical process, and the part is removed without his feeling any pain.' He showed me the memorandum he took of my name and the site of the hospital, and said that he came in a boat after a passage of 22 days.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"Oct. 30th. He was entranced on the first day's trial, and was perfectly indifferent to the usual tests of insensibility, and to the application of a bit of live charcoal.

"31st. The same to-day.

"Nov. 1st. The operation was performed in the usual way, and all the parts were saved. As soon as the principal arteries had been secured, the cords which were greatly lengthened were examined, and as they were still embedded in the thickened *tunica vaginalis* it was dissected off their whole length. The man thus stood two severe dissections. There was not a quiver observed in his body from the beginning to the end of the principal operation, but his countenance became slightly disturbed during the second cutting. When all was over, the mesmerising was discontinued, and he was covered with a clean sheet: a few minutes after he awoke, as he said, naturally, and did not feel pain anywhere, except a pricking in his limbs, and was in his usual vigour. He next perceived a slight heat in the part, and wanted to know the cause of it. It was then intimated to him that he had been relieved of his burden, and the mass was shewn to him. He said that he was more than compensated for his long and tedious voyage.

"13th. He was doing well, and the wound improving daily, but he was last night suddenly attacked with cholera, and died to-night."

#### "HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"Nov. 20th, 1847. Hurrochunder Chowdry, aged 36, a native of Ballerah, in Zillah Burdwan, has been troubled with a considerable scrotal tumor for 12 years. He has had it twice cauterized in the hope of discussing the tumor. This has converted it into the present solid cartilaginous state, and has broken down his health by keeping up a discharge from some of the uncured ulcers. He heard that Ramdhun Nundy, who had been troubled with a monstrous tumor (70 lbs.) had returned home quite recovered, and having been



encouraged by the account he gave of the manner in which he had been operated upon in my hospital, he was induced to come to Calcutta in the hope of being cured in the same way.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"21st. He was satisfactorily tested to-day as to the state of the insensibility, and was found quite fit to be operated upon.

"22nd. The operation was performed to-day, and no attempt was made to save the testes, as I was convinced that they were useless from the treatment the tumor had been subjected to. The morbid part, after it had been removed, was cut open, and the testes were found to be exactly in the state that I had anticipated. Weight of tumor about 15 lbs. *The man lay like a corpse till about 10 minutes after he had been covered with a clean sheet, and all signs of the operation removed.* He said, when asked, that he felt no uneasiness in any part of his body, and was in his usual vigour. I had retired out of sight before he awoke, and Mr. Halliday asked him what he had come to hospital for? He said, to have his disease removed. Well, had it been done? *Not yet, he answered, the Dr. Sahib had looked at it yesterday, but he had not yet come to-day.* He was then told that his tumor was cut off in the same way as his friend Ramdhun Nundy's, and the part was shewn to him. He recognized it by the scars, and said that what Ramdhun Nundy had told him was quite true. If the reader will refer to the case of Ramdhun Nundy, he will find that it was one of the cases in which striking signs of suffering appeared with complete subsequent oblivion of the whole transaction. As his case agreed so completely with many others, I saw no reason to disbelieve the man, and my simplicity was very generally pitied on that occasion, I believe. Ramdhun has turned out the most consistent of liars, at least, for he has sent two of his friends to me since he went home, and has been to present himself, and tell the same story to the Magistrate of Burdwan, he writes."

#### "HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"December 2nd, 1847. Kartick, a labourer, aged 35, a native of Bhuddessur, in Zillah Hooghly, has had one of the common scrotal tumors for 10 years. It commenced with hydrocele in the right side, which was tapped about seven years ago; since that time the scrotum had begun to thicken and form the present tumor. He has been subject to periodic fever twice a month, but now once in one or two months.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.



"2nd. I found him sleeping with his eyes half open, the arms lying at his sides were rigid, and could with difficulty be bent to a right angle, feeling as if it were a dislocation of the radius, which prevented its being further flexed. He was subjected to several tests of insensibility, and *to all he appeared indifferent* except to the application of a bit of live charcoal, under which he at first shrunk, but became subsequently as indifferent to it as to all others. He might be operated on to-day with safety.

"3rd. He was tested to-day with like results.

"4th. I operated on him to-day in the usual way, and saved all the parts. About the end of the operation he struggled a little, but did not moan or attempt to interfere with me, but lay with eyes half closed. He awoke just after the principal arteries had been secured. The usual questions were put to him, and they were answered satisfactorily.

"18th. He is doing well, and has not felt any pain in the wound since, which is contracting daily."

#### "HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"December 3rd, 1847. Luckhynarain Dey, a hawker, aged 37, residing at Nabootullah, in Calcutta, has got a scrotal tumor for 10 years, followed by elephantiasis of both legs. It has been as usual, attended with periodic fever and local inflammation, twice a month, at the change of the moon. This man had attended our hospital a few days in the month of August last, when he came thoroughly under the mesmeric influence, and was about to be operated on; he was suddenly attacked with severe conjunctivitis and periodic fever, obliging him to return home, he was re-admitted on the 3rd December.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"3rd. He bore pricking and pinching very well to-day, but a slight shiver took place on his being touched with a bit of live charcoal. He resisted all the usual demesmerising means, but awoke instantly on having cold water squirted into his eyes.

"4th. Found deeply entranced to-day, he was pricked and pinched with the same results as yesterday, and could not be roused with the loudest noises produced by throwing a metallic basin on the stone floor close to his bed, and ringing it for several minutes close to his ears. A few grains of sulphate of magnesia were next put into his mouth with great difficulty, as his jaws were firmly clenched, as it usually happens. The tongue remained quite passive, and the mouth gradually closed again. His nose was also put into a bottle of carb. of ammo-



nia, and he inhaled the fumes like common air. Repeated attempts were afterwards made to demesmerise him, his eyes were rubbed, opened and sharply blown into, he was laid hold of by his hands and lifted up from his bed, and made to sit upon it for a few minutes, but without the least effect. He was at last awakened by his eyes being constantly syringed with cold water, and the moment he came to his senses he retched violently, and said that his mouth was disgustingly bitter, why he could not tell.

"December 5th.—In the same state to-day. This man was quite ready the first day, but the operation has been delayed at the request of some persons who desired to be present.

"6th.—The operation was performed to-day by my assistant, Baboo Buddenchunder Chowdry. The colis having been freed, an incision was at once made in the course of the right cord, which exposed a large hydrocele, on puncturing which, a quantity of bloody pus came out; as this convinced us of the useless state of the testis, it was left untouched, and after the sinister was dissected out, it was removed with the morbid mass. The testis sinister was also found lying in a small hydrocele, which was laid open and the tunica vaginalis lining it being much thickened, it was dissected off the testis and cord. The patient was thus subjected to *two most severe dissections, both of which he bore as passively and indifferently as a dead body*. He was awakened in about a quarter of an hour after all was over, and said when asked, that he had slept soundly without being disturbed in any way, and was as strong as usual. On being questioned, he said, that he came here to be cured in the same way that several of his neighbours had been, and on being assured that he had been cured like his neighbours, he *could not be convinced until the part removed was presented to him*. On seeing it he was *overjoyed*, and said that he would like the elephantiasis of his legs to be removed in the same way.

"18th. He is doing well, and there has been no pain since.

#### " HYPERTROPHIA SCROTI.

"December 4th. Kasseenauth Ghose, a husbandman, aged 40, a native of Buddepattee, in Zillah Hooghly, has contracted a moderate sized scrotal tumor for 10 years.

"To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

"5th. Found insensible to pricking, pinching, and to the loudest noise caused by a metallic basin being rung close to his ears; some grains of sulphate of magnesia were placed on his tongue, to which it was quite insensible. He was soon afterwards demesmerised, and on awaking he complained of



a saline bitter taste in his mouth, which was not felt before he went to sleep, and he supposed it came from his sleeping too long.

“5th and 6th. In the same state.

“7th. He was operated on to-day. The dissection was very severe and prolonged, as there was strong adhesion of the walls of the tumor to the delicate organs below, which were all saved. He was as passive as his predecessor from first to last, and *could only be distinguished from a corpse by a slight twitching of his toes*. He awoke of his own accord about half an hour after all was over and he had been put under a clean sheet, and said that he had slept uninterruptedly up to this moment, and that he had come here to get rid of his burden by the advice of his friend, Ramlochun, who had wonderfully recovered from a similar disease. He was then told that he was cured in the same way, but *he could not be made to believe it till the mass was shewn to him*.

“18th. The wound is healthy and cicatrising, and he has complained of no pain since.”

#### A SORE COVERED WITH NITRIC ACID.

“December 21st. Ramdoss, a man who was successfully operated upon for a scrotal tumor on the first day of mesmerising, and who had been discharged cured, returned to the hospital a few days ago with a foul sore, the size of a crown piece, at the junction of the scrotum and colis, and I resolved to apply nitric acid to it, if he could be deeply entranced. This was the second time only that he had been mesmerised, and in half an hour he was subdued: the nitric acid was applied to the margin of the sore only, to test his toleration of it, and it might as well have been warm milk, for not a sign of feeling appeared in his whole body, and when he awoke, he said that the pain was less than before he went to sleep.”

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## MEDICAL CASES.

### CHRONIC INFLAMMATION OF THE ELBOW JOINT.

April 4th, 1847. This had existed 4 months in a man, 40 years old, caused by the friction of the water bag. The joint was much swollen and painful: *the least touch made the patient cry out*. The arm was bent at a *right angle*, and *could not be moved in the least*.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.



In 16 days moderate pressure was borne, and a little motion was possible.

On June the 26th, the arm was *as straight as the other, and used without the least inconvenience.*

#### PALSY.

1. *May 27th. Palsy of the right half of the body*, for 6 years, in a tailor, 40 years of age.

To be mesmerised locally and generally an hour daily.

*June 15th.* Could move his arm *like the other*, walked safely *without his staff*, and limped but slightly, and had nearly recovered the feeling of his fore-arm and leg: in a few days he was discharged at his own request.

2. *July 2nd. Extensive Palsy.* A writer, aged 38. Had a fit, April 29, and was insensible two days. Feels and walks as if intoxicated: cannot stir without a staff. Complete insensibility of the right cheek: incomplete of the rest of the body except the right side of the breast, right arm, and left cheek: with pricking sensations, preventing sleep at night: severe spasm of the hand: double vision.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

*Aug. 31st.* Pricking sensations nearly gone: sensation and vision *perfect*, walks *like other people*, and is strong enough to discharge his duties.

3. *Nov. 25th. Weakness of legs and perfect insensibility of his whole surface*, for 4 months, in a labourer, aged 50. Feels nothing when severely pricked all over with the point of a knife.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

*Dec. 13th.* Walks and feels *like any other man*: and thinking himself perfectly recovered was discharged at his own request.

4. *Dec. 18th. Palsy of left arm.* A boy, aged 10, woke yesterday with his left arm powerless. It hangs at his side *like a wet rag*: much pain at the elbow.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

*31st. Perfectly recovered.*

#### PAINS OF NERVES.

1. *July 4th.* A peasant woman, aged 50. Ill 3 months. The pain shoots from the neck to the waist, back and front, *preventing sleep*, and increased by the *least motion*, so that she keeps her trunk fixed like a piece of wood, walks slowly, and cannot bend her head forwards or backwards.



To be mesmerised for an hour daily.

*Aug. 22nd.* Can bend her head freely in all directions, has no pain, walks well, and, feeling quite well, is discharged.

2. *Sept. 17th.* A writer, aged 35. Ill 6 months. Pain often intolerable in the middle third of the spine, preventing his duties.

Local mesmerism for an hour daily.

*28th.* No pain: can bend his head freely and keep it stooping any length of time. Feels cured, and has resumed his business.

3. *June 25th.* A. Sperods, aged 32. Ill 22 years. *Fits of excruciating head-ache.* The pain seizes one temple only at a time, and never lasts less than 24 hours, and during it no food is taken except slops, and they are often rejected. Throbbing: intolerance of light, noise, and conversation: inability to sit up without maddening pain and drowsiness: various other symptoms. Endless remedies from endless practitioners, regular and irregular, in vain.

Mesmerised an hour daily, except Sundays. On the 3rd of July, having risen with a violent attack, begged the attendance of the mesmeriser at his own house. In an hour he was thrown into a sleep, for three quarters of an hour, from which he awoke so well that he went to his office and performed his daily duties, *a thing never before practicable*; afterwards ate his dinner, and had a most refreshing sleep. Not being able to visit the hospital regularly, a mesmeriser attended him at his own house at intervals for 12 days. At the end of 23 days from the first of this treatment his sister mesmerised him every morning for an hour during a month, in which time he had no attack, and at the end of which he writes that his "health is improved, and strength of body materially renovated."

4. *Aug. 30th.* A writer, aged 32, had severe neuralgic pain of the right arm and leg for two months: could not raise his arm perpendicularly, or bend it much backwards.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

*Oct. 1st.* Arm quite free from pain, and as moveable in all directions as the arm of any other person. The pain of the arm had ceased above a week ago. Felt so well that he returned to his business.

5. *Sept. 29th.* A man, aged 40: afflicted with 'sool' or fits of agony at the stomach for 2 years. The natives relieve it



by pressing the pit of the stomach against a stump of bamboo till the front almost touches the back. So agonizing is it that one of Dr. E.'s patients had cut his throat rather than bear it.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

*Oct. 10th.* The pain had gradually yielded: and as it had not now returned for several days, he considered himself cured and left the hospital.

*6. Sept. 30th.* A peasant woman, aged 50, has had sciatic pain of her right thigh and leg for 2 months: *limps considerably.*

*Oct. 12th.* *Walks well without limping:* pain nearly gone.

#### EPILEPSY.

*Sept. 19th.* A husbandman, aged 30: ill 6 years. A fit of about an hour five or six times a month, leaving heaviness and pain of head for two or three days.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

*Nov. 2nd.* No fit since Oct. 2: and the fit of this and the previous day had been very short and not followed by head-ache. Fancying himself cured, he would remain no longer.

#### TETANUS.

*June 10th.* Dr. E.'s gardener, aged 36, had acute rheumatism, and in a week violent tetanus. The spasms came on every two minutes, throwing his body into the form of a bow, so that his whole weight rested on his heels and the back of his head: the least movement or change of position renewed them: the muscles of the calves, abdomen, and neck, were very hard. There was no lock-jaw. The pulse was quick.

To be mesmerised six hours a day by four different persons.

*15th.* The bowels were freely acted upon by medicine: but the spasms only became more strong and frequent.

To be mesmerised at night for three hours by two different persons.

*17th.* Slept well for four hours at night at the time of mesmerising. The muscles of the calves and abdomen are become soft and pliant.

To be mesmerised daily for four hours by four different persons.

*18th.* Spasms much less frequent: only every three or four hours. Can rise from his bed with a staff; the muscles



of the neck and abdomen are softer; the appetite much improved: all constitutional irritation has ceased.

19th. Spasms have nearly ceased, and he has walked about the ward; but while walking was seized with a spasm, which threw him down and thus severely bruised and wounded him.

July 7th. The spasms have *quite left him*; he can walk without a staff. His muscles remained soft and pliant, and he gained strength daily.

Dr. E. mentions having seen a severe case, following a gunshot wound in the leg and the cutting out of the musket ball. The wound, however, had nearly healed. The useless orthodox treatment was followed, the wound was cut open afresh, mercury was given to salivation, with large doses of opium, without any relief. Red-hot irons were proposed for the sake of doing something more, but rejected as too cruel. *He never slept.* Dr. E. was allowed to mesmerise him. After some time he expressed great relief, and the next day slept several times and then had a good night. On the following morning he was free from spasms, and said that Dr. E. was the *first person who had given him any relief*: he had no spasms for 24 hours, got up, and declared himself cured. But the disease returned and killed him.

In another case from a wound Dr. E. was also unsuccessful.

#### RHEUMATISM.

1. May 27th. A Malee, aged 30. Ill incessantly for a year with severe pain in the left half of his back from the lower part of the neck to the waist, in paroxysms of 6 or 7 hours daily. Had been blistered, leeches several times, and scarified, without relief.

To be mesmerised generally and locally an hour daily.

June 10th. The paroxysms were more severe and long the first five days. Therefore he was to be mesmerised twice a day.

18th. He was entranced yesterday and to-day, and had *no attack afterwards*.

At the end of 8 days he thought himself well and was discharged.

This case might be termed neuralgia.

2. June 1st. A kidmutgar, aged 22: ill 8 days with *very severe acute rheumatism*.

To be mesmerised generally and locally for an hour and a half daily.



10th. Began to sleep while being mesmerised, and at night. The disease has gradually declined and now,

*Aug. 15th.* He can walk with a staff. A quantity of unhealthy matter formed near the left hip.

The disease might certainly have run the same course without mesmerism.

3. *June 15th.* A peasant woman, aged 40, had severe rheumatism for a year. One leg was much wasted. With a staff she could limp about a little, but could not raise herself from the sitting posture. The least movement of her shoulders made her scream.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

*Aug. 13th.* She *could walk like any other person*, said she was well, and desired to be discharged.

4. *Aug. 6th.* A boatman, aged 35, had rheumatism of the knees and weakness of the hands for 2 months: the joints were tender and swollen: he could walk with a staff only, and could not rise without help.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

At the end of 5 days, much less pain and swelling, and he began to walk without a staff.

*30th.* He *walked, ran, and jumped like other people.* Discharged and cured.

5. *Oct 28th.* A shopkeeper, aged 20, had lumbago right across for 3 months: preventing sleep and also preventing him from treading firmly on the ground.

To be mesmerised for an hour and a half daily.

*Nov. 7th.* Free from pain, walks well, and is able to carry on his business.

6. *Nov. 17th.* A klassee, aged 28, has had acute rheumatism for 2 months: all the large joints are swollen and almost motionless: cannot turn in bed without help, and sleeps badly.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

*20th.* Sleeps well at night.

*Dec. 10th.* Walks, runs, and jumps like any other man: no pain when any joint is strongly pressed, or is struck with the hand. Says he can resume his business; and is discharged.

7. *Aug. 31st.* A merchant, aged 30, has had paralytic rheumatism for a month: loss of feeling and weakness of his



lower limbs up to his waist: cannot walk without a staff, and his limbs shake greatly in the act. The shoulders and loins are tender.

9th. The feeling of the palsied parts is perfectly restored: the tenderness of the shoulder has ceased: walks without a staff: and says he can walk home without help. Sleeps at night just as before he was ill.

8. Nov. 26th. A labourer, aged 30, has suffered from acute rheumatism 10 days. Most of the larger joints are much swollen, very hot, and so tender that he cannot bear them touched; he has no sleep: the pulse is quick, and the tongue furred.

To be mesmerised an hour and a half daily.

On the first day a perspiration broke out, and he slept during mesmerisation.

Dec. 8th. Pain and swelling of the left shoulder and ankle much less: good nights, and deep sleep while being mesmerised: tongue cleaner.

10th. Walks much better.

31st. Walks perfectly well: and can run and jump: considers himself well, and is therefore discharged.

9. Aug. 10th. Dr. E. found one of the mesmerisers being mesmerised for a stiff neck: he was asleep, cataleptic, and insensible to pricking. The process had been carried on at the back of his neck only. On waking the pain was much less.

13th. Found him again entranced: on waking he was nearly well.

Dr. E. mentions having once mesmerised the knees of a rheumatic patient, and thus induced coma and general rigidity. Mesmerisation of any part of the system had afterwards the same effect.

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Dr. Esdaile relates a few interesting facts which presented themselves unexpectedly to him in his Asiatic patients, and are precisely the same as astonished us in England on their first occurrence—proving that they occurred according to the laws of nature, and that the human beings who manifested them were not impostors, as the uninformed foes of mesmerism clamorously declared.

We frequently find some portion of the mesmeric state remain locally after the patient has awakened\*—closure of the eyes, or jaw, for instance, or rigidity of some other part;

\* *Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 56, 7, 8.



sometimes, but more rarely, the insensibility of some part; sometimes the excitement of some cerebral organ or organs, &c., &c. We also often produce local effects in mesmeric patients when in their natural state.

*Dec. 8th.* A new patient, a man of 40, had been mesmerised for an hour. He was entranced and insensible to pricking. After being completely awakened, he still bore pricking from head to foot for ten minutes, and then his sensibility returned. He was now blindfolded carefully, and one of his arms mesmerised with every precaution that he might not know it. A pin was given to him, and he was desired to test the condition of his skin. He said it was as usual except the very arm that had been mesmerised. The other was next mesmerised, and he now said that both were insensible to pricking and heavier than usual: a good deal of rubbing and blowing were required to restore it to its natural state. Contact, or transverse passes, or breathing, we here usually find quickly dissipate these local effects.

Another circumstance which occurred in India is common enough here. In the mesmeric sleep, the patient appears, after a time, to awaken, but can make no voluntary effort. This man, when entranced, bore severe pricking all over, pinching of his nipple, and a piece of live charcoal in his hand. A fresh piece of charcoal was placed on his chest, and he struck it off convulsively with the other hand and instantly relapsed into repose. Epsom salts were put upon his tongue, but he gave no sign of tasting them. When thoroughly awakened, he of course began to spit, and complained of something salt and bitter. He declared that his sleep had been broken by something burning in his hand and then on his breast; but that nothing had annoyed him up to that time, and that he felt something was put into his mouth, though he tasted nothing. "When asked why he did not open his eyes to see what burned him, or get up to avoid it, he replied, that he tried to open his eyes and to move, but could not, his whole body felt dead and powerless, and that he was only able to move after his eyes were rubbed."

If any one will sit and imagine all possible degrees, numbers, combinations, successions, and localities of mesmeric phenomena, he will fancy none that do not occur.\* Sometimes nothing but this inability of exertion takes place;† sometimes it exists in the active sleep-waking in regard to rising and walking only;‡ sometimes it is absent in active sleep-waking;

\* *Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 448.

† Vol. I., p. 335; Vol. V., p. 372.

‡ Vol. II., pp. 63, 202; Vol. III., p. 60.



sometimes, and usually, nothing is remembered on waking; in some patients every thing;\* in some all after a certain period;† in others, some things only without reference to the period of sleep;‡ in one patient of mine, the occurrences of the sleep-waking were occasionally dreamt at night, and, the dream being remembered, the patient learnt them on waking in the morning:§ sometimes the emotions occasioned by the conversation and occurrences in the sleep-waking remain in the waking state, though the facts are forgotten;§ and frequently by making the patient promise in the sleep-waking to remember certain things, these are remembered.

A very common fact is the possibility of producing by local mesmerism rigidity or insensibility, or both, in individual parts in the ordinary waking state of mesmeric patients: and it is not a very uncommon one in persons who have never been mesmerised. In August last, a gentleman from England mentioned this phenomenon to Dr. Esdaile: and successful trials were unpremeditatedly made upon a patient before a large company. The legs and arms of a man were stiffened. The company would have him raised from the ground by the stiffened extended arms; and this caused dreadful suffering and convulsions; though the arms were motionless, not perceptibly lowered. To end this scene, Dr. E. relaxed the arms by sudden transverse passes; and, to soothe the pain, mesmerised him to sleep. He was awakened, and scales with a great weight were put into his hand, and the arm was extended and stiffened. As soon as the weight was felt, he screamed and implored to have the scales removed. He was told to open his hand, but could not. His arm was blown upon, and the hand instantly flew open and the scales dropped to the ground. These were transferred to the other hand, and he was desired to hold them voluntarily, and they were sustained by him without the least sign of discomfort for a time,—as long as could be expected in a man of his strength; but at length his arm slowly descended, and blowing, of course, had no effect upon it. When it was near the ground, Dr. E. blew on it, and the hand opened. *As there had been no mesmerising*, blowing of course could have had no share in the relaxation: and the hand relaxed, as the whole arm had slowly descended, from the exhaustion of the muscles, and this would have occurred without the blowing. This evident coincidence was ridiculed as a fine piece of imposture, though there was no mesmerism in the case. At the request of bystanders,

\* Vol. V., p. 14

† Vol. V., p. 375.

‡ Vol. III., p. 476.

§ Vol. III., p. 63.



an arm was stiffened and fire applied to the back of the hand : the man cried out piteously and the arm started an inch, which was as far as it was always found capable of moving when stiffened, but it could move no farther to liberate itself from the torturing fire.—The reason why the poor man felt pain when raised by the arms was that the insensibility was at the surface only, and did not extend to the joints ; and why he felt pain when fire was applied, and now when the ice was applied, was that the sensibility of temperature is distinct from that of mechanical injury ; and even the sensibilities of hot and of cold are distinct. The varieties of mesmeric effects are endless. I often find patients insusceptible of pain from cutting, pricking, and pinching, who yet feel that they are touched. Some have insensibility of mechanical injury in some parts of the surface and not in others ; and the localities of susceptibility and insusceptibility will shift at different sittings. Some have insensibility only skin deep, others to greater or less depths. When the elder Okey could feel no pinching or pricking, and took live coals in her hand without any sensation of heat, her head would shake from violent neuralgic pain within. Every day patients whose skin has no feeling, suffer intense pains of the bowels, &c. I have several patients whose arms can be stiffened when in their natural state : and no force of bending or pulling the joints that I can exert gives them the least pain, notwithstanding the Indian felt so much ; and yet these same patients feel the least contact and pressure on the skin. I have known a patient not feel pricking and pinching, and yet have so morbid a sense of weight, that a light substance placed on the hand prevented it being lifted.\* This patient, with others of mine whose surface is equally insensible of mechanical injury, feels heat and cold as acutely as any other person :† and so did the Indian feel heat. Miss Collins was insensible to mechanical injury and also to cold and heat, unless the heat was very great, as from a *hot* poker, and then she felt a *warmth* :‡ yet she felt contact and resistance. “E. Okey when insensible to cutting and burning could walk and hold things.”§ All

\* Vol. III., p. 60. To illustrate the modification of mesmeric effects, I may mention that in some of these patients whose rigid arms cannot be bent by force, but may be gradually in the rigid state drawn up and bent by tractive movements in the suitable direction without contact, the rigidity continues during the whole process : while in other patients, before the tractive movements bend the arm, this perfectly relaxes, and then begins to obey the tractive movements of the operator, II., 71, 207.

† Vol. II., p. 209-10 ; III., p. 59.

‡ Vol. III., p. 452.

§ Vol. II., p. 210.



these varieties occur in palsy.\* In some persons the parts made rigid retain their sensibility. In some these phenomena change from time to time.

Dr. Esdaile was tormented by crowds of persons ignorant of mesmerism, each eagerly and presumptuously making experiments upon the patient at the same time, as though any satisfactory results could thus be obtained. My fate was just the same when I was willing to oblige every body by shewing them my patients. While I was attempting traction by distant movements, half a dozen people would begin the same thing in different parts: not knowing that the tractive movements of the operator first make an impression on the perception of the patient in some occult mode, and after a lapse of time excite him to obey and will the action desired, though by compulsion to will it; and that the inclination to obey continues some time after the operator has ceased to draw, and may begin afresh after a pause of some minutes, or even the next time the patient is mesmerised. The absurdity of persons thus experimenting is evident. Many considered me very patient; but sometimes I could scarcely bear the folly and liberties of persons whom I was obliging. So Dr. Esdaile says,—

“This commenced a series of *cross purposes*, which went on increasing to the end of the proceedings. . . . At this stage the endurance and forbearance for which some have given me credit on many trying occasions, broke down completely exhausted, I am sorry to relate. For, whatever might be the anomalies and *apparent* contradictions, (only so to our ignorance) observed throughout this case, there was one great consistent, ever present fact before us from first to last,—*the impossibility of bending a rigid limb without causing intense pain, and bringing on convulsions even*; nevertheless, in spite of all experience, and my warnings of the probable evil consequences, it was attempted to bend his rigid spine and neck, and convulsions would have followed as they did yesterday, if I had not interfered, and protested that I would not be concerned in such proceedings. Half an hour before this Dr. Jackson had suddenly applied a bottle of carb. ammonia to his nose, and he *instantly* drew back his head,—I was now requested to try what could be done with the sense of smell. In a few minutes, he showed the most perfect indifference to the fumes of ammonia held close to his nose for some time, and when he appeared to feel the irritation, he said that he only felt a heat *in his neck*. Yesterday, it will be remembered, the heat was in the *chest*. His nose was found to be also insensible to pricking, and his tongue likewise. Seeing this, a

\* In a case of somnambulism quite unconnected with mesmerism, seen by myself, and related in my pamphlet on *Operations without Pain*, there was insensibility of mechanical injury, but not of cold, p. 49.



large bodkin was given to him, and he was desired to prick his body and face; and say where it hurt him. He lightly touched his arm and shoulder, saying it hurt him, and then carried the bodkin to his cheek into which he stuck and bored it repeatedly (sometimes lifting up thick folds of the skin twice transfixed) in so shocking a manner, that I was begged not to allow him to perforate his cheek; so recklessly did he stab about his face, that a spectator considerably diverted his blow when he saw him about to stab his eyes through the sticking plaster,—while he was boring his cheek like a piece of wood. I demesmerised the part in a moment, and he instantly drew out his pin with an expression of pain, and complained of the holes he had made in his cheek. I pointed my fingers at his ears, and in a short time, he said, that he heard very imperfectly on the right side, and that ear was found to be dead to all feeling. The left shoulder and side of the neck became rigid and insensible at the same time, and pinches of skin were actually torn out of the shoulder without his appearing in the least conscious of it. What followed was a chaos; every one making his independent experiments and drawing his own conclusions, and it was in vain that I begged leave to be permitted to finish my course of experiment undisturbed by foreign and distracting influences. One medical spectator insisted on dividing the man's body in two, and kindly made over one-half to me, while he worked his will on the other. When I expostulated against such a game of *pulley-hawley*, I was told that as the nervous system was double, I ought to be satisfied with my portion, and, that the one's experiment need not interfere with the other's, and he went on mesmerising his half of the body while I was trying to demesmerise the other. The man had been tormented for about two hours by this time, and his amazing patience and endurance were at last exhausted, and he earnestly begged to be released. Although the idea of collusion between me and the patient was politely disclaimed, it was still somewhat inconsistently thought, that there was a secret mode of communication between us, and that he was acting up to my supposed wishes in some incomprehensible manner. The real fact that I had been principally employed in executing the wishes of others, was totally lost sight of, and the absurdity overlooked that he had been acting up to the supposed will of *others*, and not *mine* nearly all the time. It was therefore proposed to me to leave the room, and let the man suppose that I had left him altogether, and that I should return unawares, and try to make his right shoulder insensible. This was done, and although I spent more than the usual time in the operation, the sensibility of the part was not affected, as on every other occasion it had been from first to last. This, of course, was looked upon as the crowning demonstration of the imposture, but to my understanding, it can be readily explained by one of two suppositions: the man's sensibility had become exhausted or confused by his long endurance, and the conflicting influences he had been subjected to; a common and well known result; or being left to the mercy of his enemies, (as he had good reason to think them) it had created such terror and anxiety



as to suspend the mesmeric influence for the moment. This we see in practice daily, and many of my most promising surgical operations have been lost by the invasion of a sudden panic which could not be subdued, even when the patients had been previously reduced to the extreme degree of the mesmeric trance. The man now became unmanageable, and cried bitterly for me to come to his aid, and set him free. I re-assured him by my voice, and proceeded to remove the plasters from his eyes, which caused him great pain. But I was stopped before one corner was opened, and was requested to make him insensible to the operation, if possible. I accordingly mesmerised his eyes carefully, and then drew off both the plasters rudely without his showing a vestige of sensibility. Here a new phenomenon presented itself, and was the source of interminable confusion and misapprehension. If I had been asked, 'What will probably happen if you succeed in rendering him insensible to the removal of the plasters?' I should have confidently replied, 'You will find his eyes spasmodically closed, and that he will not be able to open them till I assist him to do so.' This was precisely what happened, every part of his system was awake and in its natural state, except his eye-lids, and these he could not possibly open. Various persons tried to demesmerise his eyes without effect;—and it was said, 'Oh! he will only open them for you.' To test his *obedience to me*, I desired the blowing, &c., to be continued, and spoke over the operator's shoulder, ordering the man to open his eyes, but to no purpose. Then it was said, 'Oh! he *sees* it is not you, and therefore will not do it; do it yourself, and it will soon succeed.' 'That I shall do it better than you, I have little doubt,' I replied, 'for every one ought to know by this time, that the mesmeriser generally has superior power over the patient, but if a natural consequence is to be construed into a proof of deception, I will leave him to get his eyes open as he best may.' The man now became outrageous, and insisted on having his eyes opened. Being as weary of such a scene as he was, I set about demesmerising his eyes by blowing upon them, rubbing them, and ordering him to open them, and with the expected effect of course!—not at all, with no more effect than the others; the arrangement had somehow got deranged. I was urged to try it again, and to blow stronger; '*that*,' I said, 'will probably succeed.' I now blew sharply upon the eyelids, and they immediately opened, at the concerted signal of course!

The following is a striking case:—

"Sept. 23rd. Rujub, had never been locally mesmerised before. I extended his left arm, without saying a word, and mesmerised it from the shoulder downwards, and the result will surprize the reader as much as it did me, I dare say. A pin was given to him and he was desired to ascertain if that arm was the same as the other. He pricked it all over up to the shoulder without feeling it, he said, and being ordered to continue, he declared that all that side of the chest was insensible, but the moment he passed the *middle* of his chest, he arrested the pin, and said that it hurt him. He carried



the examination upwards and downwards, and to my great amazement divided his body with the greatest precision into two halves down the *median* line, declaring that the left side was insensible from head to foot, and the right just as usual. I now took the pin and pricked him from behind, and whenever I diverged a line from the centre of his body towards his right side, he immediately indicated pain, but the whole of the left side from head to foot had lost its sensibility to ordinary impressions; this was immediately restored by the usual demesmerising processes. Mr. O'Shaughnessy soon after came in, and I repeated the experiment on the right side with precisely the same effects, and I then thought of turning this man's peculiarities to some practical benefit to himself. I proposed to ascertain whether the tumor could be rendered insensible to pain by local mesmerising, and was gratified to find that it could be so; all but about two inches behind, close to the anus, and, but for this isolated sensible patch, I would have tried the effect of an operation under such circumstances, and will make further experiments with this view. I plunged a knife half an inch deep into the mass, without his feeling it.

"Sept. 24th. I blindfolded him to-day, and mesmerised his neck unawares; the bandage was then removed, and he was desired to investigate the condition of his body, and he said the sensibility of the skin was extinguished on *both* sides of his body. Here then is a Bengal cooly exhibiting on the instant, a demonstration of the double nature of the nervous system, and that one half of it may occasionally act independently of the other. If this is a genuine and spontaneous natural phenomenon, it is surely time for the human physiologist to give up experimenting upon frogs and donkeys, and betake himself to the study of the laws of life in human intelligent creatures like himself, who are capable of giving an exact account of their feelings, and whose systems under the mesmeric influence often spontaneously analyze all the component powers which, in the aggregate, make up the human being."

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

III. Account of "*A Review of my Reviewers.*" By JAMES ESDAILE, M.D. Calcutta, January 26, 1818."

WHEN Dr. Esdaile was

"Informed that it was the intention of Government to attach a body of official visitors to his hospital to watch over and report upon his proceedings, he respectfully begged to be spared such an infliction, as the public and the whole profession had been invited to visit his hospital at all times to witness his daily practice; and he urged that from their public and private engagements, no body of visitors, however willing, could give any but fragmentary evidence on the subject," and as he "had lately been tried and tortured to the utmost of human endurance by the Mesmeric Committee."



Failing in this request, he could only "stipulate for as much fair play as possible."

"He had never hesitated to be tried by a body of men, several of whom he knew to be bitterly prejudiced against him and his cause, because they would be compelled to report what they saw, and if they did so, he knew that the *facts* would speak for themselves, whatever might be their *opinions*. But it was very different when a number of persons were left at liberty to witness and report upon only such parts of a long course of experiment as they pleased."

"He therefore requested that the visitors, whoever they might be, should have no power to act, meet, or consult together as a body; and that each should be required to speak from his individual and independent observation: and this appeared so reasonable that it was at once kindly granted. But he remained so deeply convinced from past experience of the unequal contest he should have probably to wage at the end of the year against forgotten odds and ends, that he resolved to make a bold stroke for freedom and fair play," and obtained "permission from Government to publish monthly reports, as he had been in the habit of doing, in which all the persons who witnessed his proceedings were named, and invited to correct any inaccuracies in his narratives."

When the first report appeared, the visitors,

"Instead of being grateful to him for saving them so much time and money by making their mesmeric duties a sinecure, vehemently protested against the indulgence granted to him, as tending to disseminate erroneous opinions (by inviting people to see and judge for themselves!) and as being unphilosophical, unprofessional, and all that sort of thing."

Dr. Esdaile in a counter-protest said,

"That he saw no reason why the community should wait for the opinions of the visitors who would report the evidence in fragments only, and that he desired to place it unbroken before the public, and he begged the Deputy Governor to consider that, in withdrawing the permission given to him, His Honour would deprive him of the means of executing His Honour's own object, for the natives in general of Calcutta were ignorant of the very existence of his hospital, and that Europeans and natives were equally ignorant of the *medical part* of mesmerism, *which was by far the most important*. But the visitors gained their point of gagging him for a year, and succeeded in a great measure in cutting off his supplies by keeping the public as much as possible ignorant of his proceedings."

Dr. Esdaile addressed a respectful circular to the medical officers of all the Government hospitals and dispensaries of Calcutta, soliciting their assistance in supplying the mesmeric hospital with patients both to be rendered insensible of pain for all kinds of surgical operations and for remedial mesmeric



treatment, expressing the pleasure he should have if gentlemen would operate on the cases they might respectively send and would superintend the cure, and his readiness to visit any medical charity when requested, and examine cases previously to their being sent to his hospital.

At that time mesmerism had not led to the discovery of the narcotizing effects of ether or chloroform, and was the only known means of inducing insensibility to surgical torture: yet *Dr. Esdaile's liberal and courteous offer was not accepted in a single instance.*

I shall now give Dr. Esdaile's account of the conduct of each of his official visitors. He felt the task disagreeable; but he only could follow them "in their erratic course, and point out their numerous misapprehensions, unfounded opinions, and unwarranted conclusions."

"This was due to the medical historian, as well as the present generation, and will be interesting in a psychological as much as in a physiological point of view, by shewing the disturbing influence of the passions on the human intellect."

Moralists and cerebral philosophers of future times will incessantly dwell upon the medical opposition to mesmerism as illustrating the overpowering evil influence of low passions upon intellect and virtuous feelings—benevolence, conscientiousness, and self-respect—and of the low degree of civilization—of philosophic and moral cultivation—in the middle of the present century. The foes of mesmerism who figure so amusingly in the various pages of *The Zoist*, particularly in the quotations at the heads of articles, will acquire a ridiculous and pitiable immortality; for *The Zoist* will be considered a treasure of truth by the latest posterity.

#### MR. R. O'SHAUGNESSY.

In this gentleman's first half-yearly report, Dr. E.'s patients are said to be "comparatively healthy individuals," and therefore unusually amenable to mesmeric treatment. But Dr. E. replies that he

"Found health the greatest antagonist to mesmerism, and would have had much less trouble if he had practised in the wards of the Native Hospital or Medical College."

"Mr. O'S. also thinks mesmerism can never be available for general surgical purposes:"

Yet avers that he saw

"The great majority of comparatively healthy individuals entranced and operated on in the mesmeric hospital."



Dr. E. has, however,

"During the last two years and a half performed with the assistance of mesmerism nearly all the operations required in general practice, in four different hospitals, and demonstrated by facts and figures that mesmerism *is available* for general surgical practice in the hospitals of Bengal."

In his second report, Mr. O'S., apparently taking courage at the discovery of ether made since his first,

"Ventures to sneer at the alleged agent, and pooh poohs it for all practical purposes,"—

Yet in his first report he had confessed,

"I have witnessed so many cases operated upon by Dr. Esdaile since, without the patients showing the slightest physical or other indication of suffering, either before, during, or immediately after the operation, that I am perfectly satisfied that they did not feel pain, no more than the bed they lay upon, or the knife that cut them."

Bravely said by Mr. O'Shaugnessy.

Dr. STEWART.

This gentleman declared that the operations which he witnessed in the mesmeric hospital

"Were all more or less successful, the patients evincing no sign of pain during the operation, and denying all knowledge of it afterwards."

Unfortunately Dr. E. declares,

"Dr. Stewart has not witnessed a single operation in my hospital since it was opened upwards of a year ago."

As to the medical cases, Dr. S. conceives that Dr. E. greatly deceives himself as to the amount of benefit. But unfortunately Dr. E. says,

"I had only the pleasure of seeing Dr. S. for a few minutes, three or four times, during the half year included in his first Report: and if we are to be favoured with a second, I may here mention that he has not entered my hospital for the last eight months."

Dr. S. terminates with his opinion that,

"Until extensive experiments are made of the nature suggested by the late Mesmeric Committee upon masses of individuals, of all ages and both sexes; on persons in sound health, as well as on the sick and suffering; on persons of education and good sense, as well as on the ignorant and credulous; on persons who are already fast asleep, as well as on those who wide awake resign themselves to its manipulations; till experiments have been made on brute animals as



well as on man, it is evident that no theory of its action can be worth listening to, and no dependence placed by the profession at large upon mesmerism as a therapeutical agent," &c.

Poor Dr. Stewart appears to have just dropped from the moon. If, before he presumed to become an official visitor, he had read, *as was his duty*, the volumes of *The Zoist*, and a few other sterling works on mesmerism, he would have known that *all this* had been done. He would have known that mesmerism produces its effects on all classes, constitutions, and ages; on both sexes; in sound health and in disease; on the educated and wise as well as on the ignorant and credulous; on persons asleep and those who are the widest awake; and on brutes as well as on man, which fact Dr. Wilson's work would prove to him and he might have found had he condescended to mesmerise cats in right earnest, as many medical aspirants to fame do to cut them up alive. Still I doubt whether he would even then have shewn more sense, since he considers that without all this no theory of the action of mesmerism can be worth listening to, nor any dependence placed upon its medicinal powers! Though it is a great truth that we can cure endless cases of various diseases, even costiveness and ulcers, with mesmerism, we should be bound not to listen to any theory of its action, nor to rely upon it! What right has this wise practitioner to cure ague with quinine or to prescribe calomel? He is *perfectly ignorant* of the theory of their action and must find them frequently fail and produce undesirable effects, as is true of opium also and all other medicines; and, though they and other drugs should not produce just the same results upon all constitutions and on brute animals, and though they should not cure a single brute, still their power of curing human beings and their results on human beings would not be the less true, nor our *duty* the less to avail ourselves of it.

Dr. S. would certainly have been introduced by Shakspeare into one of his plays with Justice Shallow and Cousin Slender, or with Sir Andrew Aguecheek.

#### Dr. MOUAT.

According to Dr. Esdaile's account, this gentleman appears the most amusing of the whole.

Two years ago, he said (*The Zoist*, Vol. IV., p. 413), that he witnessed four of Dr. E.'s operations; and

"In each and all there was entire absence of every—even the slightest—indication of physical suffering. I not only satisfied myself of this, but carefully watched every movement of the patient,



to discover the faintest ray of feeling, but without success. Dr. E. has, as you are aware, now performed more than 100 mesmeric operations; and so great is his success, as well as the confidence which the natives, far and wide, have in his skill, humanity, and the painless nature of his operations," &c. "He is one of the *most able, well read, and proficient members* of the Bengal Medical Service," &c.

Ether bade fair in the eyes of the short-sighted to render mesmerism useless, and those who had seen that mesmerism must prevail, and for that reason only had favoured it, now took courage. Dr. Mouat marched with his colleagues and turned his back upon Dr. Esdaile and mesmerism. Moreover Dr. E. had previously practised at Hooghly, but now had an hospital within half a mile of the Medical College.

Finding a cataleptic mesmeric patient balance himself so as to preserve his equilibrium and not fall, Dr. M. at once called the poor fellow an impostor. Professor though he is, he is ignorant that the same thing occurs in spontaneous catalepsy without mesmerism, as well as in the mesmeric. In truth catalepsy, whether idiopathic and spontaneous, or mesmeric, is generally a state of sleep-waking, in which there is actually more or less consciousness, and conscious or unconscious volitions take place. He should read Dr. Gooch's sensible remarks on this subject.\*

"Some have believed catalepsy to be a fabulous disease. . . . Mr. Hunter detects some remains of consciousness and volition, and thence infers the perfect possession of these faculties; but *because we find that they are not completely extinguished, is it right to conclude that they must be completely unimpaired?* Catalepsy is defined to be a loss of consciousness and volition; but *medical definitions are only general descriptions, and seldom admit of rigid application.* It may be said that voluntary movements are impossible without consciousness, and that where these movements occur there cannot be a loss of consciousness: but the loss of this faculty may be total, or may be partial; though volition is impossible in the former it is not so in the latter, and who has ever said, for who could tell, that in catalepsy, consciousness was utterly extinguished? Sleep is said to be a suspension of sensation, volition, and the intellectual faculties; yet if the sleeper moves, or manifests signs of outward sensibility, do we consequently deny the sincerity of his sleep? when we are tired of sleeping on one side, do we not turn to the other without waking? Sleep-walking is a still more remarkable instance of the kind? nay further, not only are voluntary movements compatible with a considerable loss of consciousness, but these movements are capable of being influenced by external impressions. If a person is tickled during sleep he will often put his hand to the part without

\* *Transactions of the Royal College of Physicians, London, Vol. V. : also The Zoist, Vol. II., p. 68.*



waking; those who talk in their sleep often answer questions; the answer it is true may be absurd, but it relates to the question, and has been obviously influenced by it. Now as some slight remains of consciousness and voluntary motion does not lead us to conclude that a person is feigning sleep, so from these appearances alone we should not hastily conclude that a person is feigning catalepsy. Catalepsy like sleep may be more or less sound."

In the cases of catalepsy without mesmerism that I have witnessed, there was, on careful examination, decided consciousness and as decided volitions. At the end of the quotation from Dr. Gooch, I said in *The Zoist*,

"I will add that catalepsy and rigidity sometimes are blended or interchanged in cataleptic cases: and that the sagacious remarks of Dr. Gooch about a degree of volition sometimes remaining in catalepsy are perfectly true. There is sometimes a desire to resist external force in the sleepwaking of catalepsy (for it really is a state of sleep-waking with the addition of catalepsy), and the arm cannot readily be pushed about to new situations; and sometimes the resistance engendered prevents the change of situation we attempt, rigidity coming on and a voluntary effort being evidently made and even anger displayed. I have no doubt that sometimes a weight might be appended to a catalepted arm, and resistance and rigidity engendered sufficient to support the weight; and that, on this being unexpectedly withdrawn, the arm would suddenly rise from the superabundant force it had been exerting still continuing. But this would no more shew imposition—the unreality of the sleep-waking—than the cunning of a madman proves him to be sane."\*

Dr. M. brands another man as an impostor who gave signs of suffering during a surgical operation but declared he recollected nothing of it: as though there is not usually complete oblivion after waking from sleep-waking, whether idiopathic and spontaneous or induced by mesmerism or such narcotics as ether and chloroform. This patient was so consistent a liar that on returning home he sent many of his friends to Dr. E. to be operated upon without pain. How differently did Dr. M. behave respecting ether! He left immediately after the operation, when delirium had come on, probably from the great loss of blood, for many injurious causes produce this† in the mesmeric state: and from such imperfect knowledge he accuses the man of imposture. But witness his gentle indulgence to etherized patients who gave similar accounts of their feelings.

"A somewhat similar state has been observed in two or three of

\* On the curious subject of as it were unconscious perception and unconscious volition, see my remarks in *The Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 70; Vol. III., pp. 36, 362, &c.

† See my statements on this fact in *The Zoist*, Vol. III., pp. 473-4.



the operations performed in the Medical College, under the influence of ether; the patient has exhibited the most unequivocal signs of acute suffering during the operation, and subsequently professed to remember nothing about it. I must confess that the whole matter is to me both incomprehensible and inexplicable, and that *I am unable to form any determinate opinion regarding it without farther evidence and observation !*"

This conduct exhibits a sadly to be deplored state of the moral feelings in Dr. M., and a consequent deterioration of intellect and loss of prudence. He is, however, but a humble imitator of a host of his professional brethren, who up to the days of ether scouted the idea of a person feeling no pain during a surgical operation, and accused of barefaced lying a peasant in Nottinghamshire who lay like a corpse while his leg was amputating, moaned as in a troubled dream after it was off and while the arteries were tying, and said he thought he once heard a kind of crunching in his sleep, but declared that he felt no pain: and yet when people cry out, grimace, or draw up their limbs, confess on waking that they heard the grating of the instrument in their mouths, or a part of the conversation of bystanders, or even that they had perceived all that was going on, but maintain they had felt no pain, while operated upon under ether or chloroform, they are all implicitly believed. I am not aware that a doubt has been once expressed of the truth of one patient, who, whatever signs of pain he manifested, maintained that he had felt none; and they have all been justly believed. I entreat Dr. M. to read my papers in *The Zoist*, Vol. IV., pp. 578—583; Vol. V., pp. 44—50, and my pamphlet *On Surgical Operations without Pain in the Mesmeric State*. I have known a patient operated upon under chloroform give every sign of agonizing pain, but, being conscious all the time and able to converse, declare *at the very time of all this*, as well as afterwards, that she was suffering no pain, but was frightened and distracted with other ideas in her mind: and she too was at once believed by all the medical men. Mesmerism in the place of chloroform would have caused this lady to be at once pronounced a most unblushing impostor. On the other hand, I know an instance where agony was felt during an operation under chloroform and no expression of pain appeared. A servant of a friend of mine had a tooth extracted under chloroform and felt nothing. Her sister in a few days followed her example: but the first inhalation of chloroform produced complete powerlessness of her frame, the tooth was extracted, and she was afterwards very ill, feverish, feeble, distracted with head-ache, stupid, and half delirious for several



days: and she declared that the pain of the operation was terrible, but she had no power to move or utter a moan.

The poor man so cruelly stigmatized by Dr. M. may have suffered pain: but the high probability is that he was only in a terrifying dream, such as often occurs in the mesmeric coma if the patient is unhappy: for two days before the operation he had been weeping and fearing to go into the operating room, and had unluckily learnt that he was to be operated upon that day and been greatly agitated all the morning, and had the habit of always moaning in his ordinary sleep; and it was not till the last cut was made that the moaning changed to groaning; and "his eyes," says Dr. E.,

"Remained closed and no articulate sound escaped him, nor did he interfere in the least with my proceedings, and, as usual, no one held him."\*

Dr. M. mentions none of these facts of the impostor, who after his recovery declared,

"That Brahma is above all, and Dr. Esdaile next to him."

Dr. M. is ignorant of the very common fact that, when sleep-wakers wake up delirious through any disturbing cause,† and this delirium ceases, ending in the natural state, or in sleep-waking and then in the natural state, and the delirium recurs before the natural state is permanently established, there is usually complete oblivion of the occurrences of the intervals of the natural state, no less than of the delirious and mesmeric state, on the final return to the natural state.

"There is something so contradictory and so incomprehensible in all this," he says, "that I am unable to understand it. That the occurrence of the conditions of delirium may be effaced and produce no permanent impression, can be readily understood; but that those of what may be termed a 'lucid interval' are equally evanescent and shadowy, is opposed to common sense, and subversive of all our present knowledge of the subject."

Why no fact is more common. Hundreds of times have I seen, and hundreds of times shall I, if I live, again see, persons pass from sleep-waking into delirium and then into the natural state, and fall back again into delirium, and then return to the natural state, or be sent back into the sleep-waking or coma and then return to the natural state, and know nothing of the occurrences of any of these states,—know nothing of these "lucid intervals," however numerous they may have been! No phenomenon is more common, if the brain is much disturbed, than oblivion of the events

\* See this case at p. 129 above.

† *Zoist*, Vol. III., pp. 473-4-5.



which took place in the natural state for a longer or shorter period before the disturbance happened. I formerly said,—

“A striking but well-known fact is that of a sudden shock destroying the memory of things that occurred immediately before it. I recollect being sent for into Hertfordshire to a lady whose horses had run away with her, and after running some distance had thrown her out of the carriage and stunned her. When she recovered, she had no recollection of the horses running away, nor of the circumstances that occurred for a short time before they ran away. I have seen persons frightened into a fit, and on recovering have no knowledge of the circumstances which had frightened them. Miss Collins was terrified one day in her sleep-waking by an epileptic pitching forwards with his head on the floor, as was his habit when seized. She was frightened out of her mesmeric state into her ordinary state. I mesmerised her as soon as I heard the fall in another room, and sent her off: and, not having spoken to her, awoke her. She was ignorant of all the matter, though she had seen the boy on the ground in his fit. The next day I sent her into the sleep-waking as usual, and in this state she recollected it all; the memory of events of her waking state being stronger in the mesmeric than in the common state,—a fact in harmony with the heightening of various sensorial powers in mesmeric sleep-waking.”—*Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 476.

I know a gentleman who was in the greatest danger from bronchitis. He became delirious. A friend mesmerised him, and, though neither sleep nor sleep-waking was induced, the delirium was made to cease and he was brought into a perfectly lucid state for few or more hours after each mesmerisation, probably by being strengthened, so that in it he transacted business like other people and made his will. These alternations went on for at least a fortnight; but after his recovery he recollected not a single circumstance of these lucid intervals any more than of his delirious intervals.

Dr. M.'s ignorance of mesmerism after all he saw in England is laughable. The admission of light being found insufficient to demesmerise a man's eyes when it came to their time to be closed, he reports,

“I had heretofore been accustomed to regard light as a certain and speedy demesmeriser.”

Now there is no certain and speedy demesmeriser: or a mesmeric state need never last a moment after we wish it to cease. As to light, the strongest, though the eyelids be suddenly pulled and kept open to admit it, constantly fails, and is either not perceived or merely irritates the patient. I have seen sleep-waking patients keep their eyes open in a strong light for hours, without winking once, and even a fly settle upon the exposed eye with no effect.



"I have given instances," says Dr. E., "in which men lay like corpses with their eyes half or wide open under an Indian noon-day sun, during the whole time of a severe operation, and in one case the man did not shut his eyes for 20 hours!"

Dr. M.'s ignorance is still more glaring when he says that

"The persistence of the phenomena in each case depends upon the will of the mesmeriser, and may be prolonged for any length of time that may be deemed necessary for the performance of test experiments."

Why there is not a shadow of truth in this. I never influenced patients by my will, and sometimes cannot keep them asleep. Dr. E. remarks upon this strange untruth,—

"And this is a mesmeric authority! If this were true I ought never to have had an imperfect operation, but might have gone on making mince meat of my patients as long as their mesmerisers could keep awake."

What with light, the certain and speedy demesmeriser, and the dependence of the persistent phenomena in every case upon the will of the mesmeriser, we must, according to Dr. M., indeed possess complete power over our patients.

Water he calls "a powerful demesmerising agent." Water may be one of the most powerful mesmerising agents. In fact, it has no power in itself at all. If mesmerised, it acquires a mesmeric power, and may stiffen the parts to which it is applied, and, if strongly mesmerised, induce sleep, a very deep sleep, and still more, a frightful degree of debility. If cold and not mesmerised, its sudden application will sometimes wake a patient, but not more than the equal application of cold in any other way: not it, but its temperature, demesmerises, and the effect is uncertain.

The rigid poor man accused so unjustly of imposture because of his power of balancing himself in his sleep-waking and want of memory of his lucid intervals, is farther accused because he masticated, swallowed, and eructated, and a moment afterwards could not open his eyes, and his mouth would not open when gentle Dr. M. violently pulled his beard: because he turned round very cautiously and hesitating though his legs were free: and because, though he bore to be pinched and his hair to be plucked out, he seemed to feel when the diseased part was roughly handled.

"The phenomena," says Dr. M., "were of a contradictory and incompatible nature."

Contradictory and incompatible for spasmodic rigidity to exist in some members and not in others: contradictory



and incompatible for one part to be insensible and another to be more or less sensible; contradictory and incompatible for a man in sleep-waking to move his free legs slowly and have his arms rigid!\* This is a teacher of medical students!

It was Dr. M. who figured so conspicuously in the doings related at pp. 155-6-7, and wished to work at one half of the man while Dr. E. worked at the other, maintaining that, "As the two arms are independent of each other and derive their nerves from different sides of the spinal chord, the affections of the one ought not to influence the other."

The poor patient, (which fact is not stated by Dr. M.) having been tormented, wide awake, by a body of experimenters during two hours, his amazing patience and endurance being so exhausted that he begged to be released, no wonder Dr. M. could not, as he complains, draw the arm, at which he thought proper to work while Dr. E. was demesmerising the other. He ought to have known that at the end of a large number of experiments, the effects are most irregular. He ought to have known that effects of all kinds on one side often extend to the other,—that if great care is not taken, and perhaps with the utmost care, while we demesmerise a limb on one side, the opposite may be demesmerised too. This I see every day: and even legs will often relax while we try to demesmerise an arm only: nay, even the rigidity of the whole frame may relax, for there is often great sympathy of various parts. But in ignorance of all these common truths, Dr. M. says he has "No doubt whatever that the whole of the effects above mentioned were feigned."

When light and water, the certain and speedy demesmerisers, and various other means had failed to wake a man, and the honest fellow declared that none but Dr. E. could wake him, and Dr. E. did not feel sure that he could, but with "one or two rapid transverse passes, with about as many quick blowings upon the closed lids opened them,"

Dr. M. regarded the poor man as a convicted impostor! This ignorance and presumption are almost too much for one's patience. Such occurrences are as common as sleep-waking itself. Sometimes none but one person can wake a patient, at least in reasonable time; sometimes after every attempt has been in vain, a fresh attempt unexpectedly succeeds, or possibly the patient wakes without any attempt being made—the

\* The slowness with which voluntary movements usually, if not always, take place in rigid patients as in this man, is very striking and beautiful: and we cannot but wonder that motion takes place at all. See the account of a remarkable rigid case of my own in *The Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 42.—See Vol. I., p. 339.



sleep having expended itself. We witness all this daily, when there are no bystanders. Strange to say, Dr. M. admits that the mesmeric influence is subject to "extraordinary and unaccountable fluctuations;"\* and what Dr. M. regarded as his "crowning triumph over the unlucky wretch was not achieved till after he had been tormented for two hours, which he bore," according to Dr. M.'s own account,

'with a degree of calmness and absence of agitation that might have excited the admiration and envy of a stoic or of a North American warrior.'

Well may Dr. E. remark—

"The only surprise to me is, and will be to all who know anything about the matter, that a single experiment succeeded after my influence was interfered with and disturbed; and of all the persons present, I should have expected Dr. M. to have been most aware of this from his early experience gained under Dr. Elliotson."

"Half a dozen persons were to be seen mesmerising and demesmerising, pricking, pinching, and teasing the unhappy victim all at once, and after driving him frantic, and destroying my influence over him, the crowning experiment was proposed.

After all, Dr. E. declares that Dr. M. gives an untrue account. One or two rapid passes with quick blowings upon the closed lids *did not* succeed,—there was for a time no effect whatever: and he had to try again, and blow still more strongly, before he succeeded in opening the eyes. Dr. M. must have seen similar occurrences repeatedly in my patients.

Dr. M. wrote me word on December 7, 1847, that "Perfect insensibility to pain has only been seen in a few cases." But in fact, during the year 1847, in 49 consecutive operations in the hospital,

- 17 took place with the patient like a corpse,
- 14 with no difference from the appearance of a corpse except slight contractions of the brow, fingers, or toes,
- 13 with considerable indications of suffering, but subsequent denial of it, and
- 5 failures, or partial failures, the patients becoming sentient before the operation was completed.
- 0 disagreeable symptoms before or after the operations.

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In the Report he considers that mesmerism is not entitled to our confidence, as a

"*rapid, speedy, and certain agent for procuring perfectly painless operations.*"

\* See my remarks, *Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 366.



Who ever claimed for it such perfection?

As to the medical cases, Dr. E. says that Dr. M. might have observed a case or two with tolerable regularity, but often confessed to him that such broken and desultory observations as he could make were very unsatisfactory to himself: and yet to me he writes: "The medical cases (that is all the medical cases) I am compelled to regard as failures." O man of penetration and candour!

"He cannot conscientiously recommend it to the notice of the profession at large to the exclusion of other means."

Who of us ever thought of such folly?

He goes on to mention that persons have taken some inert substance and been told it was another of an active nature, and then have experienced the very effect of the latter, just as if this had been taken: and therefore he would have us to believe that much of the apparently curative results, in many if not most of Dr. E.'s medical cases which have derived any appreciable benefit, has arisen from imagination or some such influence.\*

But I am sure my readers must be disgusted with such twaddle. Dr. M. will live to see mesmerism universally received as one of the mightiest and most valuable truths, against which no selfish feelings, no absence of humanity, no pride, no dulness of intelligence has prevailed; and to regret the course which he has unwisely thought it advantageous to pursue.

#### Dr. JACKSON.

"Shortly after becoming practically acquainted with the subject," says Dr. E., "out of regard to him, I made an offer to him (which I would have made to no other), to bring down my assistants to Calcutta, who would entrance his patients in his own hospital, to be operated upon by himself, and so remove his doubts. This unfortunately he paid no attention to," but "treated my first attempts to interest him in mesmerism with perfect indifference."

Dr. Jackson

"Tells us that he sees nothing decisive or satisfactory in the treatment of medical diseases by mesmerism."

To which Dr. E. replies,

"How could he, when he never examined my patients or would give me his own to treat?"

\* I said in *The Zoist*, Vol. III., p. 48, "To ascribe all mesmeric effects to imagination would be as absurd as to ascribe all deaths to imagination: or, because sometimes when a bread pill is given to a patient, and he is told it is opium or calomel, and sleep or cathartic effect results from his imagination, to deny the respective powers of opium or calomel, and ascribe their daily effects to imagination."



Having previously seen patients relaxed and passive from mesmerism, the view of one rendered rigid, as sometimes happens,\* causes him to declare that he cannot conceive how two opposite states can result from the same treatment. The answer is, that the systems of the patients differed in their susceptibilities. Does he not know that the same dose of opium will keep one person wide awake and send another into a deep sleep? that the same quantity of hydriodate of potass will give some persons appetite, strength, and bulk, and cause loss of appetite, extreme debility, and emaciation in others? and so with all medicines?

Dr. E. complains that Dr. J., and *Dr. Mouat*† also, strangely but instructively, misconstrue a call of the Board for a return of operations for the removal of scrotal tumors.—Dr. J. says that Dr. E. in his operations sacrifices healthy organs to save time, contrarily to all former practice, as though Dr. E. did this unnecessarily; and on being questioned as to this obvious meaning, innocently declared, good man, that Dr. E. evidently did this to save life, and therefore not unnecessarily.—In giving a return of the operations in 1847, at the *Native Hospital*, though the return was ordered to be special, he coolly gives the hypertrophy of the scrotum and the hypertrophy of the colis as one item; notwithstanding the operation for the latter is usually one of little danger. The capital operations during 1847 amounted to 46, among which were 10 deaths: they amounted under Dr. E. to 87; 50 during the year in the hospital, and 37 during the preceding year and a half, with *only nine deaths altogether*.

#### Dr. THOMPSON.

"A story of the woman," says Dr. E., "who told him that she had informed me that she was quite well for fear of offending me, reminds me of the unsuspected delicacy and forbearance of a medical member of the Mesmeric Committee. This gentleman, after having signed to the fact of having witnessed painless operations, was laughing heartily at the joke in company. A person of tender conscience

\* See *Zoist*, Vol. II., p. 42, for two cases in which general and intense rigidity comes on with the coma, and lasts with it, even though this last for many hours, as always happens. I have two cases at this moment in which general and intense rigidity attends the coma and is always in proportion to it. It is discreditable for Dr. Jackson to have presumed to make such remarks upon mesmeric phenomena without first studying the subject and carefully reading *The Zoist*. What would he think of a coolee favouring the world with his sagacious objections to the circulation of the blood?

† Dr. Mouat's conduct has so distressed me, having formerly hoped for better things of him, that I have not mentioned it all. Respecting some of it, Dr. E. asks, "Is this natural or artificial confusion of mind?" I trust it is natural; but I have my fears. He is not aware of the present position of mesmerism.



present, ventured to ask, 'But how could you sign to what you did not believe?' 'Bah!' replied the member with the India rubber conscience, 'we pitied poor Esdaile, but we could have crushed him, Sir, we could have crushed him?' '\*

The world will enquire who are these reporters, never having heard their names before. Their names will now for the first time be known, and will be handed down to posterity in the same way, and only in that way, as those of the noisy nobodies who signalized themselves by every sort of folly and bad feeling in opposing the truths of the circulation, of auscultation, Peruvian bark, &c., &c. Oh that medical men would view mesmerism as men religiously interested in all the truths of the universe and in the duty of humanity! They would then anxiously investigate its astounding phenomena and fervently hope that it *does* possess the powers which we allege of curing and mitigating disease† and preventing pain.

They may be assured, in the poetic language of divinity, that MESMERISM IS GOD'S TRUTH AND THE GATES OF HELL WILL NOT PREVAIL AGAINST IT.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

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IV. *Notes on the "Organ of Sympathy," discovered by Mr. J. S. Prideaux.* By Mr. W. JAFFRAY, Aberdeen.

THE most enthusiastic believer in phrenology will not maintain that it has already arrived at perfection, nor will he affirm that all the mental faculties have been referred to their proper organs in the brain; far less will he assert that the whole brain has been fully and accurately mapped out. He will readily admit that his science and its philosophy are still in infancy; and, although both give ample promise of a blooming youth and vigorous manhood,—equal to the task of removing from their path those obstacles which truth in its progress ever encounters,—he is quite conscious that they have not yet attained that stage of existence which entitles him to set

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\* The editor of an old London periodical ridiculed mesmerism heartily at a dinner party a few years ago: on being asked by a physician, when the ladies had retired, how he came to act thus when he believed in mesmerism, "Oh," replied the weekly scribe, "you don't suppose I was going to confess this before the women, and let them laugh at me when they got up stairs."—See *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 76.

† Dr. Mouat should be the last man to neglect an assiduous study and trial of mesmerism in place of his routine habits: for he confesses that there are many cases for which medicine and surgery can do nothing: and allows that our ordinary means are "unsatisfactory and imperfect."



them up as fully matured. There are, indeed, some states of mind, and peculiarities of character, which puzzle the phrenological enquirer; and the man who by patient investigation, careful research, and cautious generalization, enlarges the boundary and resources of the science, bringing within its scope mental conditions which have escaped the notice of previous observers, is graciously ministering to its health and growth,—he is improving the tone and energy of its constitution,—and deserves the gratitude and respect of all his fellow-labourers in the same field. On the other hand, the importance of preserving its simplicity and clearness is very obvious, for if we encumber the science with nice, minute and artificial distinctions, by dividing and sub-dividing the various organs, to suit the different manifestations of the feelings which they produce in various degrees of development and activity, we destroy the proper individuality of these organs, mystify the tyro, and impede the advancement of the science.

The theory of an organ of Sympathy, lying between Benevolence and Comparison, which Mr. Prideaux has stated with so much elegance and skill, appears to me to be open to one or two objections. The chief of these consists in this: that the known and admitted functions of Benevolence include the whole of the manifestations which he attributes to the new organ. If this be so, then it follows that such a distinction as he has made becomes useless: and in order that there may be no misunderstanding as to what are considered the functions of Benevolence, the following quotations are selected as being much in point.

“In so far as we have been enabled to analyze the function of the organ, it appears to resolve into the principle of sympathy, spoken of by the metaphysicians. In treating of the causes which enable the actor to excel in his art, we observed, that although by mere imitation a performer may have the power of exhibiting the skeleton or bare anatomy of a passion, yet in order to represent it to the very life, to feel, in short, what he expresses, he must also himself possess in ample endowment the sentiment which he is to portray. Thus, no actor can perform Coriolanus who has not large Self-Esteem; nor Richard, with small Destructiveness; nor Hotspur with weak Combateness. We conceive that, in like manner, Sympathy, which is admirably defined by the Apostle to be ‘to rejoice with them that do rejoice, and to weep with them that weep,’ is dependent for its proper exercise upon the size of the other faculties. Indeed it is plain, that in order to feel with another, we must vividly conceive



what he feels ; and this we cannot do without possessing, in large endowment, the faculties which produce his sensations. If our Destructiveness and Benevolence be large, we will feel deep indignation along with the man who is proclaiming the injuries of the widow and the orphan ; if our Destructiveness be small, we shall not sympathize in the indignation of the speaker, but we shall feel with him the miseries of the victims ; if our Destructiveness be large, on the contrary, and our Benevolence small, we conceive that he will not make us feel at all. That the power of Benevolence depends upon the size of the faculties in the states of which we are to sympathize, is indeed plain, from the fact, that the more vividly the feelings of the object are presented to us, the more intensely do we feel ; as for example, the enemies of slavery, in order to move public compassion, present pictures of a negro kneeling in chains, or tied up and suffering under the driver's whip. *The benevolent man actually and literally shivers with the naked, weeps with the mourner, and feels that knife entering, or fire burning him, which is dismembering or eating into the vitals of another.* It is thus that he more acutely feels present and immediate misery, than that which is distant, and that minute details of an actual case of calamity, evoke more tears from the eye, and pieces from the purse, than a thousand homilies on charity. 'We are inclined to the opinion, that Benevolence is one great source of national enthusiasm, or that principle which produces sometimes in a whole nation one common sentiment of joy or sorrow.' 'It would be sufficient evidence to us of a small national endowment of Benevolence, were a people never known as a community to have rejoicing and lamentation together.' 'We have said that Benevolence is sympathy. Want of Benevolence is therefore not cruelty, but simply the destitution of sympathy, or what is generally termed callousness or an insensibility to the pain or misery of others.'"—*Sidney Smith's Principles of Phrenology.*

It is curious to observe how many of the manifestations which Mr. Prideaux sets down to Sympathy have already been remarked by Mr. S. Smith with reference to Benevolence. The lines I have placed in italics correspond almost entirely with Mr. P.'s definition of Sympathy. He calls it "*a faculty which translates the expression of emotion in sentient beings in such clear and deep characters, that the organization of the recipient involuntarily vibrates in response, and participates in the feelings, whether of pleasure or pain, of the object observed.*" In analyzing Benevolence a little farther we see more clearly how Sympathy is involved in a definition



which would include its *whole* functions. For example: a miserable or suffering object is presented to a man possessing a large and active Benevolence. The misery or suffering is instinctively conceived,—pain, in proportion to the vividness of the previous conception, is the first result,—and then, the act of benevolence. Again: the same object is presented to another individual having a very large and morbidly active organ. The misery or suffering is now more vividly conceived; and the pain which follows is so intense as to master the senses of the individual, and he sickens or faints. It is impossible to imagine Benevolence relieving, or being affected by misery or suffering, without having first sympathized with it, as that would be supposing an effect without a cause. The sympathy is precisely the realization of the misery or suffering of the object, in the person of the benevolent man, and must necessarily precede the pain which such conditions always bring to a powerful faculty. Without such a realization *blind* Benevolence could never discover the objects whose sufferings it seeks to alleviate. We conclude, therefore, that no act of benevolence is performed until the faculty realizes the pain or suffering to be relieved. It is the same with the manifestations of the faculty when it is called into action by the presence of happiness in others. Here Benevolence sympathizes with or realizes that happiness; in the first place, before the individual can receive pleasure from the contemplation of it. The *outward* expression of Sympathy will of course depend upon the development of Self-Esteem and other faculties.

Another objection to Mr. Prideaux's theory, lies in the fewness of the facts which he adduces in support of it. These are very happily stated, and, as far as they go, exceedingly interesting; but they are by no means conclusive. The following notes upon them are submitted, with deference, for his consideration.

*The Students.* Admitting that Mr. Prideaux's head and theirs corresponded at Benevolence and Destructiveness, and that his and their temperaments were identical, (an element of which he takes no notice), these circumstances alone do not warrant the inference which he has drawn from them; for it appears to me that Firmness has much to do in supporting the mind amid studies presenting features from which Benevolence instinctively recoils. If this is correct phrenological doctrine, then it behoves us to know the developments of that organ also, in himself and his young friends, before judgment. Besides I should have liked to enquire of these students what was the precise nature of their feelings upon



the occasion. For instance, whether the sight of the blood alone (a peculiarity, somewhat inexplicable, which I have observed in some cases) was the cause of the sickness or faintness, or whether that arose from witnessing the expression of pain in the face of the person operated upon, and his great sufferings? Admitting farther, the superior activity of Sympathy, in the students, it is obvious, according to Mr. Prideaux's own definition, that it would naturally find room for exercise in field sports. He says that his friends "manifested *no less* fondness for the rod and the gun than himself;" and surely there is an "expression of emotion" in the last eloquent look of a murdered woodcock, and in the final pantings of a lively trout, with which the sympathetic organs in his friends would "involuntarily vibrate in response;" but he is silent upon that subject, and we are left to infer that the sufferings of these creatures produced nothing of a healthy remorse in their minds.

*The elderly Gentleman.* The size and power of this individual's Benevolence is not given, and of course nothing can, in the mean time, be remarked as to the value of the evidence derived from his case.

*The Sentimentalists.* The class of characters who are stated by Mr. Prideaux, "to exhibit an actual callousness to the sufferings of others provided they could escape witnessing them," is by no means rare. I have known a goodly number who could sympathize amazingly with the hero in a pictured tale of woe, and even shed *real* tears over that hero's *imaginary* misfortunes, who would never contemplate ministering to his happiness were he placed before them in bodily shape; but it requires no new faculty to account for this apparent anomaly. Those persons possess a sufficiently active Benevolence to *realize* the misery of the object; but it is no match for their selfishness, which suggests considerations powerful enough to restrain the hand from doing a benevolent action; and in order to banish, in the most effectual manner, the feeling of uneasiness, which arises from such a realization, while at the same time they save their money, they avoid the presence of the object. Many a man will be found, with his selfish feelings in a quiescent state, weeping over a thrillingly melancholy story, who, when these feelings are in active operation, would not spend a shilling on charity. A considerable development of Love of Approbation will, probably, be found in those persons who deal in *expressions* of sympathy, where none is really felt.

*The Criminals.* In comparing the casts of criminals in his possession, Mr. Prideaux discovered that they were defi-



cient in the organ of Sympathy. "In no other single point did they so universally correspond." But there are, however, other points in which criminal heads almost invariably agree, which he has overlooked; speaking at least from an examination of 30 or 40 in the phrenological museum here, viz., that in the coronal region lying below Veneration, (which, as a rule, is largely developed, and more so than any other organ among the sentiments—a fact for divines,) the head goes shelving off towards the lateral and anterior regions, *shewing a marked deficiency in all the organs lying between Veneration and these regions.* Benevolence, of course, is included in the portion alluded to; and even in those cases where it may be said to be moderately developed, when contrasted with the enormous amount of antagonistic propensity, its counteracting effect is barely noticeable. Where Benevolence is very deficient we expect that the cries and sufferings of his victim would only the more infuriate the murderer, and keenly stimulate his desire to kill. In cases where remorse has followed murder, we find a good development of Benevolence, as in the case of Burke, with whom his associate Hare contrasts admirably in that particular. In applying Mr. Prideaux's definition we look to find Sympathy poorly developed in Napoleon, the greatest criminal on record: but not so, for in him the organ is large. Where in his career was "its great restraining power manifested?" When was he "so conscious of, and alive to, the sufferings of his victim," as to shrink from the shedding of his blood?

*Lord Eldon and Basil Montagu.* Under no circumstances could we imagine Eldon pleading for the abolition of punishment. Montagu is said to have possessed a powerful Benevolence; and when we consider that it was much engaged in a cause that called forth its noblest manifestations, we can easily understand how the faculty was thrown into such a morbid state of activity, as to produce intense agony at the bare idea of an execution, without placing that agony to the credit of a new organ.

*The Poets.* The "sympathetic Shelley," possessed very high moral powers; his Ideality and the whole region of the imagination were largely developed. He had, besides, a temperament so susceptible as to be acted upon by every passing shadow. His conceptions of the purity and elevation of humanity were fine and instinctive. Had they not been so, mingling with depraved men would have given him no pain, however large his organ of Sympathy. Indeed the more powerful and more active that organ, the more readily would he have sympathized with the "sensual and unintel-



lectual crowd," mentioned by Captain Medwin; for if the beings composing it were happy in the pursuit of pleasure, (of however gross a description) he must have derived enjoyment from "translating" their happiness. In the portraits of Shelley, Tennyson, Lamb, Campbell, and Dickens, to be seen in this town, Individuality and Comparison are brought out large; and I respectfully submit to Mr. Prideaux, whether to these rather than to the new organ may be attributed, "the tendency to invest nature with the feelings of humanity." For instance, *Beatrice* in the *Cenci* speaks of

" ————— A mighty rock  
Which has from unimaginable years,  
Sustained itself with *terror* and with *toil*,  
Over a gulph, and with the *agony*  
With which it clings seems slowly coming down."

Quotation by Mr. Prideaux.

Shelley may have seen or read of a man clinging terror-stricken to the edge of a precipice. His Cautiousness and Benevolence are acted upon—either by the sight or the vivid picture. Well. He afterwards perceives a rock—"a mighty rock"—hanging on the face of a ravine. Individuality separates it from every thing else in the landscape. Only a few feet of base serves to keep it in its present position—it is apparently quivering with the passing breeze—one touch will send it into the abyss below. In this state, it is, for a moment, (until Causality step in to dispel the illusion,) presented, *personified*, to Cautiousness and Benevolence, who are once more brought into activity. Comparison comes into play, and contrasts the emotions in Shelley's mind now, with those which he had on beholding or reading of the man similarly situated. It pronounces them to be identical in kind, though not so intense in degree. Between the man and the rock there is no physical resemblance: but there is a resemblance between the emotions which each calls up: and Individuality, accordingly, selects the same terms to express, or individualize the position of both. And so with all objects in nature, animate or inanimate, which by giving rise to emotions, similar to those produced by human objects, are invested, figuratively, by Comparison, aided by Individuality, with the "attributes of humanity." If this theory is unsound, then it falls to Mr. Prideaux to shew how Sympathy goes to work to arrive at the same end. Byron has the tendency in question well defined in all his poetry. His address to the sea, in the concluding stanzas of *Childe Harold*, is a fine example of it. Individuality and comparison are both large in the portraits and busts which I have seen of him; while Sympathy seems by no means highly developed. The for-



mer organs I suspect will be found large in all poets who excel in the style of writing commented on by Mr. Prideaux.

*The French and English.* Self-Esteem is much larger in the English than in the French head. Benevolence in the former is not so much alive, therefore, to the emotions of others, as it is in the latter, unless these manifest actual pain or misery; and when it does sympathize with "a thousand *little* griefs and temporary troubles," the outward expression of the feeling is subdued by Self-Esteem. The large and predominating Love of Approbation in the French head, combined with Ideality, gives the key to those elaborate courtesies, and minute, trifling, and cheap amiabilities for which Frenchmen are so celebrated.

*Females.* "Sympathy," says Mr Prideaux, "is larger in English females than in males, and doubtless in females generally." Admitting this to be the fact, how does it happen that females are so much superior to males as attendants upon the sick, if the sight of pain and suffering be so racking to Sympathy? Women appear to enter upon the task entirely *con amore*; and every body recognizes the truth of Scott's lines, where, speaking of woman, he says:—

"When pain and sickness wring the brow,  
A ministering angel thou!"

Lately, in this town, we had an exhibition of Signor Sarti's Florentine models,—one shewing the anatomy of the human body—the other, the diseases to which it is subject. It was no uncommon thing for visitors to faint or sicken, after looking for some time at the figures; but the person shewing them, stated that for one female who fainted or sickened, twenty males were thrown into one or other of these states. The large Love of Approbation and Secretiveness possessed by females, are sufficient to account for their "tact and amiability," and "that facility in divining the feelings and intentions of those with whom they come in contact."

In closing these hurried remarks, I may mention that the leading phrenologist in this quarter is inclined, from a large series of observations which he has made, to place one new organ, if not two, in the region pointed out in the preceding note upon criminals. The nature or function of this organ, or organs, he has not yet been able to discover. American phrenologists have been more successful. They have found out two organs in the same region. A phrenologist of some note, among them, calls one of these "Intuition," which he thus describes: "The organ of Intuition,



between Comparison and Benevolence, gives intuitiveness of judgment, instantaneous conclusions, and joined with Comparison and the perceptive intellect, off-hand available talent, or what is generally called common sense." What a delightful organ! Tell us its development in any given individual, and we have an "open sesame," to the whole mysteries of his mind. With great justice it might have been christened "the faculty of inspiration!" Verily our American brethren are keeping up the intensely progressive character of their countrymen.

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V. *Cures of Fits of impending Strangulation; Nervous Exhaustion and Sleeplessness; painful Affection of the Head and Spine.* By Mr. HENRY WHITFIELD, Surgeon, Ashford, Kent. Communicated in a letter to Dr. Elliotson.

SIR—Having been engaged for more than four years on the subject of mesmerism, and having also practised the art upwards of half that time, I feel myself called upon to attach myself to the small minority of those among the profession who believe therein, and to give to you and the public what I have seen of its Phenomena, and also of its efficacy in the cure of disease.

And I feel this moreover as a duty incumbent upon me, as it was from a perusal of the valuable pages of *The Zoist* that I first became acquainted with the extraordinary powers of Mesmerism in relieving pain and disease, and was thus induced to practise it; and happily with success in many instances, where all other means had failed.

I. *Cure of Fits of impending Strangulation.*

On the third of November, 1845, I was called in to see a young lady of about 21 years of age, of moderate stature, well formed, of sanguine temperament, and who had enjoyed good health till the age of 16. She was suffering from spasm in the region of the heart; the pain recurred at times for several days, when it was succeeded by a pustular eruption over the stomach (probably induced by a blister prescribed), attended by much pain and irritation, which continued, more or less, for six weeks; she was then seized with sickness and violent retchings, which continued till the end of January, when the above were exchanged for sufferings of the severest nature and most distressing to behold.

At about six o'clock every evening she was attacked with



violent spasms of the chest, accompanied by a complete closure of the glottis, producing feelings of immediate suffocation; relief from which could only be obtained, after an interval of 15, 20, or even 30 seconds, by thrusting the forefingers deeply into the throat; these sensations of suffocation would recur every three or four minutes, and the whole attack continue for four, five, or six hours; and so the case went on day after day and week after week, with but little variation. QUININE, IRON, TURPENTINE, ETHER, CREOSOTE, ASAFÆTIDA, were given without effect. Also STRAMONIUM, OPIUM, PRUSSIC ACID, and OTHER SEDATIVES. BLISTERS, TURPENTINE, TARTAR EMETIC, and other COUNTER-IRRITANTS were applied externally; *but all in vain*. The only thing that tended to shorten the attack was an emetic of salt and water; the remedy was, however, nearly as bad as the disease, being always succeeded by equal prostration of strength. During all this time she took scarcely any food; there was a constant pain in the side; great weight on the chest, and a sensation of a lump in the throat; and *for five months she had not slept so much as one hour in the 24*.

Thus did her sufferings continue and the symptoms of exhaustion daily increase till the end of February, when her state was truly alarming, as the attacks would now come on during the day as well as the night, and the taking of a mouthful of gruel or other food, or a change of position in bed was immediately followed by the closure of the wind-pipe. In this manner her state day by day grew worse.

From what source were we to look for relief? As neither food nor sleep could be taken, how was her strength to be supported? The functions of the brain were rapidly declining, she knew but little at times of what was passing around her, and felt convinced that she could exist but a few more days; and on the 2nd of March *she was thought, on one occasion, to be dead*. *The case was most desperate, and every remedy had been tried but one, viz.,—MESMERISM.*

This I had proposed to the physician who visited her with me in consultation; but as he had not seen it administered, and knew but little of its advantages, the proposal was not acceded to. When, however, our prescriptions failed in giving relief, and after some unsuccessful endeavours to procure a fit person as a mesmeriser, I offered to mesmerise her myself, though at the time unconscious that I possessed the power. The patient, as well as her relations had strong prejudices against the remedy, but yielded to my advice, it being a last resource in a hopeless case.

On the morning of March 3rd, mesmerism was *first* tried



and produced sleep in *two* minutes. In this state she was kept for a quarter of an hour, and was then awoke by transverse passes, when she expressed herself as feeling relieved: the weight on the chest was also much diminished. She was again mesmerised at 5 p.m., for the same time and with effect. The attack recurred, but with only *one sixth* of its severity. She was mesmerised again at 10 p.m., and I found on the following morning that she had had *three hours of most refreshing sleep*, and felt very comfortable.

March 4th. She was mesmerised three times, had *no recurrence* of the spasms, and enjoyed *five* hours of sleep at night; the weight on the chest and the lump in the throat were also gone.

March 5th. She was mesmerised only twice, had *no spasms* or weight on the chest, took her food with a relish, and slept *seven* hours.

March 6th. Increasing strength and appetite; slept *eight* hours.

March 7th. Improving in health; slept a few hours *in the day*, as well as eight hours at night.

March 8th. *Stood on her feet* this morning; appetite and digestion good; felt sleepy during the day, and has *lost all pain*.

The same treatment was continued throughout the month, during which period the patient appeared in every way convalescent, sleeping generally *fourteen* hours per day. She made no complaint; increased in strength, and took *no kind of medicine from the commencement of mesmerism, although previously* APERIENTS *had been* CONSTANTLY *necessary*.

May 16th. She went for a drive in a pony carriage for the first time, and seemed in every way improving,—increasing in flesh and strength.

June 1st. She continued to go on. It was, however, evident that she depended wholly on the remedy, for if the mesmerising were delayed only three or four hours, she lost all strength, rejected her food, became chilly over the whole frame, and her countenance lost its healthy appearance, assuming a livid hue; and I have no doubt that a still longer delay would have induced a recurrence of the spasms.

I was, therefore, anxious to know for how long a time the mesmerism must be continued; to ascertain this, I made a more accurate enquiry into the past, and learned the following facts: that she had slept but very indifferently during the last six years, not exceeding three or four hours per night; this restless state was first induced by night-watching, and attendance for three years upon an invalid sister, and con-



tinued afterwards through pain in the side, general indisposition, and various other circumstances; and, for five months previous to her being mesmerised, she had not procured so much as an hour of sleep per night. It was, therefore, evident to me that she was greatly in debt to her constitution. For I had long since seen the truth of that observation of George Combe, in his *Moral Philosophy*, that "Nature may be said to allow us to run an account current with her, in which many small transgressions seem at the time to be followed by no penalty, when in fact they are all charged to the debit side of the account; and, after a lapse of years, are summed up and closed by a fearful balance against the transgressor." I therefore requested her to put down the smallest amount of her arrears as a guide to our proceedings, and to enable me to determine the probable period of her restoration to perfect health: this was done agreeably to my instructions; and it was found that she was, on the most moderate calculation, *in debt on the score of sleep 7000 hours*. I now directed her, as the shortest way to balance her account, to get as much sleep as possible; and happily by mesmerism she was enabled to gain 16 hours out of the 24;\* and in this system she persevered, with but few exceptions, for eighteen months, till September, 1847, leaving about 2000 hours unpaid. During this period I had reduced the frequency of the remedy from twice a day to five, four, and three times a week. Friends and relations were repeatedly desirous that the mesmerism should be discontinued, and that the patient should return to her more active habits; and several attempts were made but unsuccessfully; and about this time, having for a week or two reduced her sleep to 12 hours a day, she was attacked with sickness, pain in the side, and a return of the spasms. It was clear, therefore, that nature would not be defrauded of her dues, and that the best way was to discharge the account as quickly as possible. I was, therefore, obliged to mesmerise daily for a week, and she returned to her 16 hours of sleep with a rapid improvement in her health; and she continued to sleep thus till the end of December, when I observed that she appeared almost regardless of the remedy, being then able to sleep well without its use. She had also increased much in strength, and her general health was good; and upon enquiry I found that her debt did not amount to more than 900 hours, which she appeared able to discharge without the aid of mesmerism, having become an excellent sleeper. The remedy was, therefore, from

\* Thus, allowing seven hours as her daily portion, there remained nine hours per day for paying off the arrears due to her constitution.



January 20th, 1848, altogether discontinued. At this time she considered herself *quite well, and in better health than she had been for many years*. I however strongly advised her, for the security of her health and for increase of strength, to take no less than 90 hours of sleep per week for the period of a year, and to enter but little into gaieties for the same time; being satisfied that her welfare depended on such discipline.

## II. *Nervous Exhaustion and Sleeplessness.*

Mrs. H., aged 32, of a nervous temperament, possessing naturally good health and an excellent disposition, became ill through over-exertion and night-watching, being the mother of six children. She laboured under complete exhaustion of the nervous system; her physical condition was much enfeebled, and her mind excitable, irritable, and at times much confused; and she had lost the power of sleep for many weeks. *All the usual remedies were tried* for the purpose of procuring rest by night; but, *these failing*, mesmerism was proposed and acceded to. It was tried on the evening of the 6th of May, 1846, for 15 minutes, and with excellent effect; she went into a deep sleep almost immediately, and was awake by the transverse passes. This was succeeded by seven hours of refreshing sleep at night, and a great improvement in all her feelings next day. The remedy was continued daily for about a week with similar effect and *rapid improvement in health, so great as to astonish her nurse*, who could not comprehend how so great a change in the condition of mind and body could be caused by so simple a proceeding. She was then mesmerised only three times a week for a fortnight, when she felt quite well. Soon afterwards, however, her nerves received a severe shock, and circumstances followed that kept her mind in a continual state of anxiety. I was, therefore, obliged to resume the remedy, and continued its use four or five times a week for a month, when she left the neighbourhood.

## III. *Painful Affection of the Head and Spine.*

M. T., aged 36; temperament nervo-sanguineous; occupation, domestic servant. Liable to severe head-aches for which she had often been bled. In July, 1846, she was much worse; the pain seemed to proceed from the two lower cervical vertebræ, which were very sensitive of pressure, and it extended to the head in which there was a sensation of great weight, particularly in the hinder region. The pain



was attended with giddiness, some confusion of mind, and loss of memory. (Some years since she was confined to her room for many months in consequence of a spinal disorder.) For the purpose of obtaining relief she was advised to go into the country and remain quiet for three months, at the end of which she resumed her occupations much improved in health; but in six weeks all the symptoms again returned. I now tried mesmerism. It was administered for 10 minutes after she had retired to rest; she was left in the sleep and did not awake for six hours, when she found herself greatly relieved. I continued to mesmerise her nearly every night for three weeks, when she *regained the power of sleep*, and seemed in other respects *quite well*. Six months afterwards, in consequence of over-exertion, she fell ill again, and lost the ability to sleep. She was mesmerised for three nights, after which she slept well and recovered.

#### IV. *Nervous Exhaustion and Sleeplessness.*

Miss T., aged 25; temperament, nervo-lymphatic; constitution, naturally good; consulted me in September. She was then complaining of constant pain in the side, loss of appetite, indigestion, great prostration of strength, and a total inability to follow her usual occupations. These symptoms had been gradually coming on for a long time, and were probably the consequence of her inability to procure any quiet sleep for two years, and the whole was originally caused by long-continued active duties, unaccompanied by any relaxation. *All the usual means having been tried in vain* for several weeks, I had recourse to mesmerism. It was administered for fifteen minutes on about five nights in the week with immediate advantage, but, in consequence of her being so much exhausted, and her arrears of sleep being so great, it was necessary that the remedy should be in some measure continued for nearly three months, when she could *sleep unaided twelve hours per night*. She thus rapidly increased her strength, and in a few weeks was able to resume her daily routine of duties; having *better health than she had enjoyed for years*.

I have now to make a few remarks on the curative power of mesmerism, suggested by the above and other cases that have been under my care.

It has so happened that all those who have derived benefit through my mesmeric aid have owed their sufferings to one of two causes, or both in combination, viz.: over-exertion and deficient sleep: and such I believe to be the case with a



large majority of nervous patients, and particularly those who *inherit* a defective nervous system. Unfortunately too, opiates and the other usual remedies very often fail in these cases in producing sleep, and hence afford no relief to the sufferers. Now as sleep to an exhausted condition of the nerves and brain is the great and only restorative, it follows that the extent of benefit derived from mesmerism will much depend on the quantity of sleep that succeeds the operation, and this inference is confirmed by my experience.

Many there were who after 15 or 20 minutes of mesmeric sleep would wake up feeling well, strong, and equal to any exertion; but the result ultimately showed that, unless this state was succeeded by several hours of *natural* sleep, the beneficial effects of mesmerism were nearly or quite as evanescent as those of ether and other stimulants.

I have also found that the period necessary for cure will depend on the extent of arrears of sleep due to the constitution, as well as on the success of the operation in producing sleep. All persons seem aware that the small debt incurred by keeping watch two or three nights, can only be liquidated by an extra quantity of sleep on following nights; yet *few* seem conscious that months or years of arrears can only be balanced in the same manner. The fact however is that Nature will sooner or later exact her due, let our liabilities be ever so great, and though she kindly permits us to run a long account, she will ultimately be paid in full: and I believe it is the accumulation of repeated errors which is often the secret cause of many diseases, and which renders them so difficult and tardy to cure.

I would also observe that nervous diseases generally, whether treated with mesmerism or otherwise, will be found much more manageable and easy of cure, when additional sleep and repose is prescribed, instead of the endless variety, and as endless quantity, of excitants and stimulants. I lay some stress on these matters, as the opinion very generally prevails, that nervous persons (those in whom the nervous system is exhausted or hereditarily defective) require the daily use of stimulating beverages, exciting pleasures with much company; in short, that they require "rousing;" and very many infer that benefit arises from such treatment, from observing the strength imparted at the moment; whereas, in truth, these remedies are inducing an extra "wear and tear" of the whole system of nerves, and thus undermining both mind and body, until at last the victim of such treatment becomes a subject of either pity or condemnation.\*

\* Very many who are under the censure of the world for intemperance, owe the habit to the liberal use of stimulants, originally prescribed as medicines.



I have many facts to mention respecting phreno-mesmerism, community of taste, mesmeric shocks, and other phenomena; but this communication is, I fear, already much too long. I will therefore defer these for another occasion.

And am, dear Sir,

Yours faithfully,

HENRY WHITFIELD.

VI. *Cure of severe Hysteria without sensible effects.* By  
Mr. T. CHANDLER, Surgeon.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE ZOIST.

SIR,—I have heard Dr. Elliotson remark that one, or two, of his best cures of disease by mesmerism took place without sleep, or any visible effect being produced upon the patients,\* but as this was at variance with my own previous experience, I should have doubted it, had it not come from such unquestionable authority. The following case shows how cautious we ought to be in rejecting evidence on this mysterious subject, however much at variance with our own preconceived opinions.

Sarah Ann M ———, æt. 20, a robust healthy-looking girl, was attacked in May, 1847, with severe hysteria. Several times a day violent paroxysms occurred, during which two persons were required to prevent her injuring herself. She suffered at other times with pain in the back and globus hystericus; but the most distressing symptom was a very intense splitting head-ache. I saw at once that mesmerism was the remedy most likely to cure her, but felt that custom demanded the cruelty of a course of useless drugs, before I could dare propose the most likely, nay, I may almost say, the certain means of cure. I accordingly dosed her in the most orthodox manner with all the filthy remedies recommended by the authorities, but without the slightest benefit; and as a last resort begged leave to be allowed to mesmerise her. The friends, being quite tired out, were ready to submit to anything, and I accordingly commenced at once. Medicines were discontinued, and I mesmerised her half an hour daily for about a week or ten days, without producing sleep or any other visible effect. The disease, however, disappeared, and though certainly *post hoc*, I was not bold enough to assert that it was *propter hoc*. I have lately, however, been able to prove very satisfactorily that it was the latter.

In March of the present year, the mother of the patient

\* *Zoist*, Vol. I., p. 182; Vol. III., pp. 46, 206; Vol. V., p. 118.—*Zoist*.



called on me for advice for a younger child : and in the course of conversation named that her daughter had been suffering from a return of her fits for a month or six weeks ; that she had visited the hospital, and taken medicine for some time, but without the slightest benefit. I immediately remarked that she recovered quickly after mesmerism was commenced last year, and begged to be permitted to try it again. She was accordingly sent to me the next evening, apparently in a much worse condition than last year ; her fits were very frequent and violent, and her head-ache most excruciating. I mesmerised her half an hour, by slow passes before the face, without any visible effect. When she presented herself the following evening, she said her head had been decidedly better during the whole of the day. I manipulated again for half an hour, but again without visible effect. The remedy was however working secretly. For on the fourth evening she told me she had not had a fit for two days, and her head-ache was very nearly well. On the sixth day she absented herself, but came on the seventh with her head as bad as ever, and having had a fit in the morning. I asked her why she had omitted coming, and she said she thought she was quite well. I told her to allow me to be the best judge, and not to discontinue until I discharged her. She was quite well again the next day, and by mesmerising her daily for about three weeks she continued so, and remains in perfect health at the present time.

A curious anomaly happened in this case. As the symptoms of the disease left her, mesmerism began to produce more visible effect. There was first great drowsiness, so much so that she could scarcely arouse herself to walk home ; and on two occasions, she fell into a deep sleep, apparently mesmeric, and very probably, should I ever have to mesmerise her again, some phenomena may be brought out.

I have now not the least hesitation in asserting that mesmerism cured the disease on both occasions, and the patient herself, and her friends are quite of the same opinion.

I am happy to find that mesmerism is spreading in all directions. Indeed I seldom now meet with a decided sceptic : the matter is beginning to be received as a settled thing. Even the *Lancet* has ceased to spit its occasional bit of puerile spite, evidently waiting its time to come round. Our bitterest enemy may ere long become our warmest supporter.

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

THOMAS CHANDLER.

58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe,  
June 8th, 1848.



VII. *Two cases of the severest Tic Douloureux, cured by Mesmerism, at Kingsbridge, in Devon, by Mr. JAMES HARLEY.* Communicated by Mr. Edmund Fry, of Plymouth, to Dr. Elliotson.

THE two following cases are remarkable instances of the power and value of mesmerism in arresting the progress and ultimately eradicating from the system, a malady among the most formidable and distressing to which humanity is subject. Too much praise cannot be given to Mr. Harley for the assiduous care which he has devoted to these important cases; he has his highest reward in witnessing two of his fellow-creatures restored from conditions of protracted misery and torment, to lives of ease, usefulness, and enjoyment.

The case of Eleanor Trant appeared to present a complication of maladies, which had defied all the efforts of many skilful medical practitioners. She had been a bed-ridden cripple for several years, utterly unable to put her feet to the ground. The only nutriment which her stomach could retain was a little fruit and milk, and the paroxysms of tic were of the most fearful and agonizing character.

The muscles of one eye had become gradually contracted until sight had been obscured, and in this deplorable and apparently hopeless condition—pronounced indeed hopeless by her medical attendants—she had lain for years: when she was happily brought under the healing influence of mesmerism, and gradually, but surely, she has been restored to such a measure of health, as to render existence no longer a burden but a blessing.

Susan Coles's case affords equal proof of the value of mesmerism. Although she was not so entirely crippled, nor so long a sufferer as Eleanor Trant, yet her sufferings were of the most acute description, and the spasms of tic so violent and frequent as to render her an object of the most distressing solicitude and care. Her gratitude, and that of her family, to her mesmeriser is unbounded. It is only wonderful that, with such cases, open to the investigation of every candid practitioner, the prejudices of the profession, and the culpable silence of the medical journals should condemn so many of their suffering fellow creatures to the torments of protracted disease, without affording them even the chance of alleviation or cure by mesmerism. They acknowledge, as in the case of Eleanor Trant, that they have exhausted the resources of the pharmacopœia, and yet, with the accumulated evidence poured in from all quarters as to the efficacy of mesmerism in the relief of suffering and cure of disease, they



refuse even to try this remedy, on the plea that it is against the etiquette and dignity of the profession to cure their patients otherwise than by college rule and pharmaceutical prescription.

EDMUND FRY.

*I. Eleanor Trant's Case.*

“To Dr. Elliotson.

“West Alvington, May 14th, 1848.

“Sir,—In the year 1836, I had an attack of influenza, which left a very bad effect upon me, so that I continued in a state far from being well; shortly after this I had an attack of inflammation on the chest, for which I was blistered, leeches, and took medicine in addition; I was seized with cramp spasms in the stomach also, from this I was somewhat restored. In November, 1838, I took a chill, so that I was obliged to go to bed earlier than usual; my breathing was much affected; I was again seized with cramp spasms in the stomach; my feet and hands were bathed in hot water, which afforded me a little ease. The next morning the spasms returned again whilst taking breakfast. At this time I was drawn most violently; was carried to bed by two persons, as I had no power to stand; the feet put into hot water, and mustard poultices applied to the chest. In the evening was taken much worse, when a physician was sent for, who said it was cramp spasms caught by a chill; the feet were then put into hot water and mustard, a draught was then given to me, which caused the wind to break in the stomach so loudly that I was heard from the attic down in the parlour. Medicine was ordered to be taken every two hours, and I to be kept very still. By this time I had inflammation on the lungs and chest, for which I was again blistered, leeches, and took a quantity of medicine; in about a month I was somewhat restored, still being very weak: my native air and strengthening medicine was recommended: five weeks were spent at home, from which I seemed to derive great benefit, so that I was able to return to my situation; however in less than a week I was seized again in like manner, when blistering and leeching were again resorted to. I now had violent pain in the head, side, and stomach: my feet swelled much: I was attended for five weeks, at the expiration of which I was much better. I again tried to follow my employment, but in less than a fortnight I became much worse, when the physician was again sent for; if I attempted to walk across the room, I seemed like a person dying. Eight leeches were ordered for the side, likewise a large blister, which relieved



me; mercury powders were taken, when I was slightly salivated; the following week a large blister was applied to the chest; my tongue by this time was almost black; change of air, &c., was again recommended. I went to try its effect once more on the 17th of April, 1839; being so weak I was drawn to the coach in a chair. The side was very weak and rubbed with ointment, which brought out something similar to the small pox; leeches were again applied to the head; spasms returned; I was so weak that I could not stand; if I attempted to put the legs down, the spasms would seize me instantly; appetite bad; whatever I took in was immediately thrown up again. A medical gentleman sounded me, who said he never saw but one case similar to mine; did not know what to say or do by me. I could not rest on the elbow without fainting. I now commenced a course of Morrison's pills; at the expiration of seven weeks I got rather better and could stand again; I then discontinued the pills, when I began to swell so that all my friends thought me in a dropsy. Every remedy was tried, which proved unsuccessful. Change of air was tried again, which benefitted me a little, still suffering much pain. For twelve months I continued in this state, when I was seized with a violent shaking; after ten week's illness I got rather better.

"March, 1842, I was again seized in like manner, when another medical gentleman was called, who said it was the ague. The following month I took to my bed, having lost the use of both legs, attended with inflammation on the lungs and chest. An abscess was now forming inside, extending down the left side and bowels: there was no discharge of water. Have had as many as five injections at one time. My subsistence was fruit and milk, which was thrown up immediately after being taken in.

"October, 1843, I had an attack of typhus fever, when my life was despaired of. Shortly after this a violent pain seized my head and cheek-bone. I now lost the sight of my right eye, which seemed to be drawing out of my head: lock jaw followed: was out of my mind for hours together. My medical attendant said I had the tic douloureux; it seemed as if my teeth were heaving out, attended with great heat in the head; the pains were as agonizing as if nails were being driven into my head. The tic sounded like the beating of a watch, which was distinctly heard across the room; in a few months it extended to the shoulder, right arm, and the left side of the head, so that for several hours I was blind in both eyes. My mother could not leave me a single minute; another individual was obliged to carry every thing to her: was watched constantly night and day. The moment I obtained



relief from the tic, the spasms returned, when I would lie like a person dead for three quarters of an hour. From Sunday to Tuesday, I had not ten minutes ease; the pains would commence in the middle of the day and continue until midnight. No one liked to be in the room with me. Every means devised was tried by medical men and others. Thirty drops of Jeremy's opium to be taken every night, opium pills, likewise the liquor of arsenic: I could not sleep by night: ointment was rubbed in the head and face; hot and cold baths, salt water and fresh; mustard poultices four of a night on the head, shoulder, arm, and neck. I then tried Ellisi's embrocade, which afforded me a little ease, but this soon lost its effect also. *Seventeen teeth were extracted*; the upper jaw-bone quite decayed by the tic, so that the teeth crumbled away. I could bear nothing now but cold vinegar bathing, still suffering from the abscess. I was so ill that the medical gentleman ordered them not to leave me a minute, as he expected me every minute to breathe for the last time, and the wheels of life stand still. He now left, declaring he could do nothing more for me. For the next twenty-two months I could neither keep medicine nor any thing else in me; my arms were quite powerless, so that I was fed like a child; when I swallowed any liquid, such as tea and milk, they gave it me from one cup, at the same time holding another to catch it. I invariably threw up more than I took in, which was white and as thick as dough.

"May, 1844, I was now advised to try Godbald's balsam, which I did. My case was a complication of diseases; what did me good for one thing injured me in another. From this I derived benefit; the tic was less powerful, so that I could partake of a little nourishing food: the balsam was discontinued, when I got worse; had an abscess in the inside, which broke; the spasms returned when I resorted to the balsam again, which relieved the abscess. In the fall of the year the tic returned again, which extended to the left side, attended with spasms at the heart, when I suffered much from its palpitation. Brandy cloths were applied to the side, and vinegar cloths to the head. 1845, another abscess formed. I now discontinued the balsam, when all the former complaints returned with greater violence than ever; swellings in the mouth, which would burst; several blood-vessels broke in my head above the mouth. I commenced taking the balsam again, which healed the side, so that I was able to take a little fruit, milk diet, bread and tea, which was my only living up to the 29th of January, 1848. I had taken in the whole



about twenty-five pounds worth of the balsam. I had been advised to try mesmerism *three years previous, but could not make up my mind*. A lady happening to call to see me related a striking cure by mesmerism, which somewhat removed the prejudices from my mind. In the commencement of the present year I was suffering most intensely from the tic, which had taken full possession of the entire system; the agonies I endured were beyond description; I had not stood on my feet for the last six years, they being quite useless; could not put them down for the space of five minutes without experiencing a return of the spasms: was bed-ridden nearly the whole of that time. I sent at once for Mr. James Harley, who I heard had been successful in curing a case of tic by mesmerism. He consented to mesmerise me. On the 30th of January, the present year, I was mesmerised twice, the result of which was *I slept well that night, much better than I had for years before*. The tic came on later the next day, when my sufferings were very great, which lasted for hours, until Mr. Harley came to mesmerise me; but shortly after he commenced I lost all consciousness of pain, and awoke free from pain, quite easy, and very comfortable indeed. Day after day the pains became less powerful, and commenced at later hours. Finding myself getting better, I continued to persevere in this way of curing disease. My restless nights were less and less; my spirits got better daily; instead of sleepless nights I slept well; the candle was no longer needed during the hours of night; my friends could take their rest unbroken without being disturbed. I discontinued the balsam immediately, submitting entirely to the power of mesmerism: have been regularly mesmerised for the last fourteen weeks, except twice, up to the 8th of May. I have no return of the tic; sleep well; strength of body and mind returning; the stomach is much stronger; sight perfectly restored, which followed three weeks from the commencement; my diet altogether of a different kind; my legs are quite strong; can sit out seven and eight hours a day, but the side is rather weak; have walked with the assistance of two; in short, I am altogether a different person, *a wonder to myself and the whole neighbourhood*, so greatly have I been benefitted by mesmerism. I doubt not, ere long, I shall be able to walk out and visit the friends who have so kindly invited me to dine with them.

“I give my humble testimony to the world for the sake of suffering humanity, that others may be induced to avail themselves of the same remedy which by the blessing of God



has proved so successful in my almost unparalleled case. I beg to subscribe myself yours most respectfully,

“ELEANOR TRANT.

“West Alvington, near Kingsbridge, Devon.

“The signatures of her parents,

“Nathaniel March, } West Alvington,  
“Mary March, } Devon.”

There is also a letter to Dr. Elliotson from Mr. Harley, giving an account of his treatment. The details are unnecessary to our readers, and would be tedious. The patient appears to have gone to sleep at the first mesmerisation, and to have spoken in her sleep-waking on the fifth day; and to have had some of her cerebral organs capable of excitement and her limbs of rigidity by mesmerism.

## II. *Miss Susan Coles's Case.*

“To Dr. Elliotson.

“About the latter part of October, 1847, Mrs. Coles made application to me to mesmerise her daughter, who was suffering exceedingly from the tic douloureux. She has been mesmerised about one hundred times in the whole. The tic left her at the expiration of the first three weeks. Mesmerised on the 21st of October for the first time: slept much better during the night: whilst under the influence she was in great pain, which was quite apparent from the lifting of the hands and starting repeatedly. Mesmerised twice a day for the first fortnight, with but one exception. At every sitting she suffered much, having no knowledge whatever when she awoke that she had suffered any thing. She is mesmerised in a minute, being very susceptible: it is only for me to look at her, when she goes to sleep without any difficulty. She gives great signs of traction, but not the least sign of rigidity. I have mesmerised her in the presence of several. She tells who enters the room when she is asleep; tells when any one removes from where they are sitting. When Firmness is excited, she rises and follows me; if I walk backward, she follows me, not having the power to turn round; wherever I turn she follows me in that position. When Tune is excited, she sings, Praise God, &c. I have made the passes before and behind her, when she could neither go forward nor backward. When awake, with her back towards me at the other end of the room, it is only for me to hold my hand towards her, when she will fall towards me instantly. I



have made the passes before her whilst she was sitting, when she could not rise; behind her when standing up, so that she could not sit down; have walked round her, when she could not move, being like a person nailed to the floor; at times she cannot be lifted from the spot where she is standing. She has derived great benefit from mesmerism, is quite cured of the tic, and now follows her employment with pleasure. I need say no more, her own testimony being quite sufficient.

“Believe me, dear Sir,

“Yours most respectfully,

“JAMES HARLEY.

“Kingsbridge, Devon.”

*The testimony of Susan Coles, Kingsbridge.*

“About the latter end of October, 1846, I was seized with a violent pain in my face; I thought it was a cold; I treated it accordingly, such as putting my feet in warm water, and going to bed; but the warmer I kept myself the worse I became; do what I would I obtained no relief. Several months passed away, still enduring a great amount of suffering; the violent pains I had on my cheek-bone were as great as if my bones were being pulled out; the pains increased in my head, extending down the neck and half way over the shoulder and back; my teeth seemed like hot irons; my tongue swelled to that degree that my friends feared lest I should be choked. I made application to professional gentlemen for advice, who ordered me to apply mustard poultices, which I did, but it only increased my pain. The agonies I endured nearly took me off my legs, so that I was obliged to give over work. July 20th, 1847, I was taken still worse; I had not five minutes ease to the 28th. My mother was almost off her legs in watching by me; so distressingly did I suffer that night after night I was out of my mind. I could badly see any thing with my right eye. I bought four bottles of mixture, at 1s. 1½d. per bottle, to take and rub into the parts; mustard poultices and blisters were applied constantly: I took six boxes of belladonna pills, and all to no purpose whatever. Night and day bathing the parts with cold water, with this I sometimes experienced a little ease; after a while the cold water had no effect either. I had often made up my mind to try nothing more, but continue to suffer: nothing else was expected but that I should end my days in an asylum.

“I continued in this suffering state month after month. One day in the month of August, as well as I remember, a friend called to see my father. I was then suffering from the tic. He said do have her mesmerised, it will do her good.



After he left, we talked about it, but I could not make up my mind to it, on account of a timid nervous feeling which had possession of me, which made me afraid of it. About October this gentleman called again, and was surprised *we had neglected it so long*. I at once made up my mind. My mother sent for Mr. James Harley, and laid the case before him, who consented to mesmerise me. Oct. 21st I was mesmerised about 1 o'clock, and again in the evening. To the surprise of myself and all around me *I slept well all night, it being the first good night's rest for twelve months*; awoke in the morning free from pain; during the next day I experienced a few starts and jumps in my face. I was mesmerised constantly twice a day (with but one exception, when I was only mesmerised once) for a fortnight, and once a day afterwards. *In that short time I was a wonder to myself and all around me*. At the end of three weeks I was quite free from the tic, &c. I still continued it until I had been mesmerised in the whole about one hundred times. I am happy to be able to bear my humble testimony to the efficacy of mesmerism, in telling the public that I am perfectly cured of that monster pain the tic, by the extraordinary power of mesmerism, now being able to follow my employment with pleasure. This is a correct statement of the once sufferer, but now cured by mesmerism.

“SUSAN COLES.

“Baptist Lane, Kingsbridge, Devon.

“The signatures of her parents,

“William Coles,

“Susan Coles.”

VIII. *Case of Epilepsy cured with Mesmerism.* By Mr. EDMUND FRY.

HARRIET —, aged 30, in the service of Major Northcote, of Yealmpton, had been for 12 years subject to epileptic fits, occurring at intervals varying from a week to a month. She was much respected and valued by her master and mistress, who were unwilling to part with her; but the fits appearing to increase in frequency and violence, it was thought that she would be unable to continue the duties of her situation and she would shortly have been discharged. But, in December last, Mrs. Northcote was advised to have mesmerism tried for her as a last resource; and accordingly she was sent into Plymouth, and her case was undertaken by me, and I suc-



ceeded after two or three sittings in inducing the mesmeric sleep. The patient, however, never lost consciousness nor sensibility to pain; and the only phenomenon that could be elicited was the influence of traction. She was mesmerised 12 times in about 15 days, and then returned to her situation, feeling decidedly stronger and better and having shown no tendency to any return of the fits. She has remained perfectly well ever since. On one occasion, about six weeks ago, having been imprudent as to diet at supper, she felt some threatening symptoms in the night, but they passed off without a fit; and she came to Plymouth a few days since to thank her mesmeriser, assuring him that she attributed her recovery solely to mesmerism; and by her improved personal appearance showing plainly what an entire change had been effected in her general health.

*In this case the aid of the best medical skill had been repeatedly invoked in vain.* The disease had decidedly gained ground up to the period of mesmerism being tried; and from the period of the first application of this despised but most potent remedy, the patient has been entirely relieved from her cruel and distressing malady.

EDMUND FRY.

Plymouth, April 6th, 1848.

IX. *Mesmeric Cure of Ulcers of long standing.* By a Clergyman of the Church of England. Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

"In desperate and incurable circumstances they knew that recourse was had to mesmerisers, to St. John Longs, and other personages of the same kidney."—*Speech of Mr. Henry Drummond in the House of Commons. Morning Chronicle, April 11, 1848.*

"We are apt to have recourse to nostrum, to mesmerism, to St. John Long, and other quacks."—*Speech of Mr. Henry Drummond in the House of Commons. Times, April 11, 1848.*

I AM always particularly happy in furnishing mesmeric cures of diseases which do not affect the nervous system, on account of the prevailing error that mesmerism is only fitted for nervous diseases, and of the absurd doctrine anxiously inculcated by certain medical men, that it works by merely influencing the imagination. The case is one of inveterate ulcers in different parts of the head. The following publication of the case will be serviceable in controverting these fancies: and it gives me great satisfaction to state that the cure was wrought by a friend of mine,—one of those ministers of religion whose life is a sermon on humility, benevolence, and courageous conscientiousness.



I shall give first the poor woman's honest tale in her own homely language and then the notes of her benefactor.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

*The woman's own account.*

"My health declined more than ten years ago. I have been afflicted with violent pains in my head with burning heat, pains in my temples, and weight over my eyes; worse always at night. It will be a month or six weeks gathering, being very sore and bad to bear; then the places will break and discharge more like hot water when it first breaks, than when it has kept running a long time. It has run more than two years at once. Since then I have had three broken places in my head, and two in my forehead. I have been under several doctors at the hospital, and several out. They have said it is not the evil, but have never said what it was. I have been very poorly in my health,—scarcely able to do for myself and family. Both pills and draughts have been given me. I have been ordered to use bread poultices, linseed poultices, ointments, and lotions, at different times. I have been to the dispensary, to the Canterbury hospital, and have had advice from Mr. ———, in Canterbury. I think it was in February you, Sir, took me in hand; and I can say for a truth you have done me more good than all the doctors I have been under; for which I feel thankful to God for that he put it into your heart to do me so much good, and I can say from my very heart I have great cause to be thankful.

"MARY FORD.

"I had omitted to say I have had three pieces of bone taken out of my head, and now I am happy to say, in regard to health, *I am as well as ever I was in my life.* When Mr. ——— first saw me, I was very ill with my head, having two very bad sores on the left side of my head, that I had not lain on that side for seven or eight weeks, and very ill in my health, very often troubled with a rising in my throat, and a trembling in myself.

"May 19th, 1848."

*Notes of the operator.*

"Feb. 29th, 1848. Commenced to mesmerise Mrs. G. Ford, who, for ten years, has had ulcers on her head. One of them has penetrated almost through the skull. She has been several times a patient at the hospital, but has found only temporary relief. She is pale, weak, and seemingly sinking. She went into sleep-waking in a few seconds.



" March 1st. Mrs. G. Ford informed me that she has passed a good night, free from pain, and that the pain in her head, which was relieved yesterday, has not returned. She said that she had not been able, for a long time, to sleep on the left side of her head, where there is a bad ulcer; but that last night she did so with comfort.

" March 2nd. Mrs. Ford had pain in her head when she came this morning, which was soon relieved. She told me that she has been long accustomed to moan in the night, from the pain and uneasiness in her head, but that this morning her husband said to her, '*Why, you did not grunt in the night.*' 'No,' she replied, '*I had no need to grunt.*' She passed an easy night.

" March 3rd. Mrs. F. has had another good night, and says she feels better. *The ulcers are beginning to get drier.* I examined them this morning. The large ulcer appears to penetrate nearly to the brain, for there is a hole almost through the skull.

" March 4th. During sleep-waking this morning, Mrs. F. had, what she has been long accustomed to, a painful spasm in the throat. Not being able to describe her sensations she became alarmed and nervous, and after she awoke was a little hysterical. It soon, however, passed off.

" March 6th. In order to avoid a recurrence of this spasm in the throat, I kept Mrs. F. a shorter time in sleep-waking, which was very quiet and refreshing to her.

March 7. Very quiet to-day and no return of unpleasant symptoms. She slept well, has quite lost the pain in her head, and can sleep equally well on either side of it. She considers herself very much better.

" March 17th. With one or two exceptions I have mesmerised Mrs. G. Ford every day, and she has uniformly slept quietly. She gains strength, sleeps well, is quite free from pain, *and all the wounds in her head have dried up.*

" March 18th. Mrs. G. Ford had the last sitting this morning. She says she feels *quite well, has not been so well for years, and does not wish to feel better.* She has a healthy colour. When dismissed from the hospital, she has always been dismissed as '*relieved,*' but never as '*cured.*' now, at present, she announces herself to be '*quite well.*'"

" To Dr. Elliotson.

" My dear Sir,—I saw Mrs. G. Ford yesterday, *and she continues as well as she was when I left off mesmerising.* You



are perfectly welcome to make any use you please of this case.

“Ever, my dear Sir,

“Very faithfully yours,

“T. B.

“Kingstone,

“May 16th, 1848.”

\*.\* I am anxious that this case should be compared with similar cures of ulcers in *The Zoist*, Vol. III., pp. 316, 519, see also (in my pamphlet on *Surgical Operations without Pain*,) Mr. Case’s mesmeric cure of a diseased finger which he was about to amputate, but, in mesmerising the patient to produce insensibility for the operation, the finger healed and no amputation was required.

J. E.

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X. *Successful treatment of Lumbar Abscess and disease of the Spine with Mesmerism*, by Mr. JAMES DAVIS HORNE.  
Communicated by Dr. Elliotson.

“Till about the year 1649 ’twas held a strange presumption for a Man to attempt an Innovation in Learnings: and not to be good Manners to be more knowing than his Neighbours and Forefathers: even to attempt an Improvement in Husbandry (though it succeeded with profit) was look’d upon with an ill Eie. *Quo non Livor adit?* Their Neighbours did scorn to follow it, though not to doe it was to their owne Detriment. ’Twas held a Sinne to make a Scrutinie into the Waies of Nature.”—Preface to Aubrey’s MS. in the Royal Society, referred to in my *Harveian Oration*, p. 50.—J. E.

HERE is another cure of a disease, not at all of the nervous system, and without the possibility of ascription to imagination.

I was consulted the year before last respecting a little boy, deformed in his back, bent forward with his hands on his knees, and an evident large collection of matter in his loins, pale, with a hectic flush—emaciated and feeble. I gave no hope, for I had never seen a recovery from such a state of things. When afterwards I was questioned respecting the utility of mesmerism in the case, I replied that I certainly would recommend a good persevering trial of it, because I was continually seeing it effect cures which absolutely astonished me, and which nothing else could; and because I felt certain that no medicines—nothing in the routine of physic or surgery—could save his life: mesmerism I knew would support his strength, and might enable nature to get the better of the disease. I subjoin the father’s simple history of the cure.

“In the summer of 1845, my son, Michael Ford Horne, then 9 years of age, had a fall; and soon after complained of a pain in his back. In the month of December, a bone ap-



peared to be growing out, and we observed a swelling in his back ; and in the beginning of January, 1846, I took him to Mr. Norman, of Bath, who pronounced the disease to be a lumbar abscess, and said he scarcely ever knew a person to recover from one. Mr. Norman told me it would continue to increase in size until it broke, and then it would run him out ; that *he might however live for two years, but it would ultimately cause his death.* Mr. Norman saw him after this three or four times, and *still expressed the same opinion.* I was ordered by Mr. Norman to let him lie in bed ; and Mr. Norman prescribed some strengthening powders and a box of ointment. My son remained until the month of May, still getting worse. At this time he could not walk more than twenty yards at a time, and then only by placing his hands upon his knees. I soon after heard from Mr. Vallence, of Bristol, that Dr. Harrop, at Brighton, was very skilful, had effected many cures of spinal diseases, and amongst others in one of his own family. I took my child to Brighton and shewed him to Dr. Harrop, who said it was a blood tumor, and he *would not survive long.* I then with a heavy heart returned to London on my way home ; but my brother, who resides there, wished me to have further advice : so we took him to Dr. Elliotson, who likewise told me it was a *hopeless case* of diseased spine and lumbar abscess. I must not forget to speak of the kindness of both the last-mentioned gentlemen, who refused to accept of any fee. The next day I returned home with my child, without the smallest hope of recovery. The day after I had a letter from my brother, stating that a friend of his had advised mesmerism to be tried. I knew nothing about mesmerism, but anxious to avail myself of any thing that promised relief to my dear child, I again returned to London. This friend called immediately at my brother's and made the passes for about half an hour daily, without producing sleep. He was anxious that sleep should be produced before I left London that I might have confidence to proceed myself on my return to the country : and with this view recommended me to Mr. Hands, of Thayer Street, Manchester Square, who mesmerised him daily for some weeks : but, after about a week or two, no attempt was made to produce sleep, the passes being made over the abscess. While under Mr. Hands's care, the abscess broke and discharged upwards of a quart of matter. The mesmerism was still continued, and the child remained about the same in regard to his health. During his stay in London he was seen several times by Earl Ducie, who took a kind interest in him, Mr. Hyatt, M.P., Captain James, and



Major Buckley. Dr. Elliotson advised me to persevere with mesmerism, because, though he feared it would fail, still there was no other remedy. Some time after this, Mr. Hands's health compelled him to go into the country, and I therefore took the child home and continued the passes myself. The third day of my attempt the mesmeric sleep was produced, and I continued to produce the sleep daily until the following spring. It appeared that when in London sleep was prevented by his fear lest if he went to sleep an operation would be performed upon him. Some time after his return home another abscess formed in the back, broke and discharged a great quantity of matter, and the child was very much reduced, not being able to move. He was in such a dreadful state that I began to despair of saving him: but I was induced to persevere with the mesmerism, and truly thankful I am that I did so. The second abscess broke in November, 1846, and in February, 1847, a decided improvement was perceived. From that time the child continued to mend rapidly: by still continuing my exertions he gained strength, and has continued to do so to the present time. The abscesses are, I may say, healed; for there is scarcely a stain upon his linen, and the child is running about from morning to night in perfect health, and quite straight. *As he has not taken any medicine whatever during all this time*, I attribute his cure entirely, under the blessing of God, to mesmerism.

“JAMES DAVIS HORNE.

“Corsham, Wilts.”

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XI. *Cure of Epilepsy and severe Nervous Affection.*

By Dr. STORER.

IN August, 1846, I was consulted by the friends of a young lady, 19 years of age, who had suffered during the last three years from violent hysterical attacks with convulsions which had been viewed and treated as epilepsy by the usual family attendant. As the patient resides a few miles in the country, she had twice been brought to Bristol to be under the care of different medical men, but the treatment adopted proved of no avail. Her friends were at last told that she might possibly outgrow her complaints, but that medicine seemed in her case to be useless. Whilst in Bristol her friends were attracted to some mesmeric lectures, and were so struck with what they heard and saw that they determined to give mesmerism a trial. They had been previously recommended to do so, but had allowed themselves to postpone the trial in



*deference to the prejudices of the medical men, who were strongly opposed to the attempt.* At the time I first saw her she had as many as five or six attacks during the day. She would be suddenly seized with giddiness and violent spasms of the neck and throat, accompanied by general hysteria, so strong that it required at times three or four parties to manage her. These attacks lasted from ten to fifteen minutes, leaving her in so prostrate a condition that she was usually confined to the bed or sofa all day. Throughout her illness she was most irregular in her natural periods, and this with spinal irritation, was regarded by the medical men as the latent cause of her sufferings. All ordinary means failed to have any effect.

Mesmerism in this case was tried regularly for a week. On the first three trials there appeared to be such an increase of the attacks that her friends did not like the idea of it being continued. I told them that there was not the slightest ground of fear, but that, on the contrary, such effects were often seen in violent nervous affections, especially in epilepsy. Good however began to shew itself after the fourth visit: a deep sleep was then induced, which lasted six hours, and from which she awoke comparatively refreshed. Sleep however did not invariably follow; sometimes only a drowsiness was induced; but the effects were shewn in the improved health and the general subsidence of the irritability. My attendance was continued for a month, and I saw her after the first week every second day. She was also mesmerised intermediately by a member of her family. *By the end of a fortnight* she was quite able to leave the sofa and take gentle exercise in the air. *At the end of the month* her appearance altogether was so improved that her friends could scarcely credit the result. She had but one severe fit after the month, and that was from fright: and, from that period to the present, she has enjoyed comparatively excellent health. Mesmerism under my directions was continued for six weeks longer, and its powers, truths, and usefulness fully admitted by the family, and in this particular case always had recourse to when any occasion seemed to indicate its use.

A most important fact in this and many other cases is the benefit to be derived from mesmerism at particular periods; occasional mesmerising setting all to rights. It is now fully eighteen months since the convalescence of this lady, and I have seen members of her family during the last fortnight, who report that her health was never better. During my attendance *no medicines whatever was prescribed, and none taken* except an occasional dose of sal volatile at first, when



the attacks took her friends too much by surprise. This I requested might gradually be discontinued.

I have had several cases of the above character, some even more severe, as reported in the pages of your journal: and I am happy to say from rather an extended experience, that there is no remedy so well adapted to almost all affections of the nervous system, and certainly none whose effects are more generally permanent. Every medical man must know that nervous diseases make up a large share of ordinary practice, and their treatment in many cases becomes tedious in the extreme. Why not then in such cases, often hopeless by ordinary means, give their patients at least the chance of a recovery? I am glad to find a more liberal spirit is beginning to shew itself; but, in the majority of cases in which I have been consulted, the patients or their friends have admitted that they have come to me in opposition to the views of their particular medical men.

XII. *Great Benefit of Mesmerism in severe Inflammatory Excitement of the Brain.* Communicated from the patient to Dr. Storer, and by him to Dr. Elliotson.

9, Coronation Buildings, Coronation Road,  
Bristol, February 20th, 1848.

My dear Sir,—I again beg leave to return you my sincere thanks for the unbounded kindness which I received at your hands during my late illness; and did I not experience a great degree of pleasure in thus expressing my gratitude, as well as in dwelling on the curative and soothing powers of that beautiful, though much persecuted science, mesmerism, I should fail in attempting to describe the particulars of my case.

Early in June, 1847, I caught a severe cold, from which I suffered much, and with all my endeavours was unable to rid myself of it. On the 7th of July, being so very unwell, I consulted an eminent surgeon in the city, who pronounced me to be in a high state of fever, ordered me to bed immediately, half a dozen leeches to the temples,—the seat of nearly all my pain being centered in that part of my brain, and gave me an aperient, and a powder every four hours that threw me into a violent perspiration. The same treatment was continued for the space of three or four days, but still I got much worse; the pains were daily on the increase and becoming excruciating.

5th day, medicine changed, hair ordered to be cut quite close, cold water cloths laid on the head, and leeches to be



daily applied to the part affected, and a blister on the nape of the neck.

8th or 9th day. Fresh medicines were given which threw me into a salivation. My mouth became much ulcerated. I detested the sight of all food. The window was nearly darkened, and a footstep in my bed-room almost drove me to distraction.

Whilst I lay in this state of torment, several restless days and sleepless nights passed away. Still

“There was no alleviation of pain,  
No remedy to cool the *burning brain*.”

About the 18th day, I was bled freely in addition to daily leeching. Grew much worse and weaker; consequently was less able to endure the violent attacks of fever which were daily on the increase. Opiates, I believe, were now administered, with a view of procuring sleep, but without effect. I was occasionally delirious, and often imagined that a host of insects were creeping over or through the brain.

19th day. Found not the least relief or the slightest mitigation of pain. The brain became more confused and distracted than ever.

On the morning of the 21st day, I cannot describe the dreadful suffering I experienced; the very recollection of it almost overpowers me. My agonies were now insupportable. My surgeon appeared rather concerned on my behalf; desired my sister to get my head shaved, and apply hot poultices to the calves of my legs immediately. My sister anxiously wished his candid opinion concerning the case. He very kindly complied with her request, and said, “We” (alluding to a medical friend whom he had introduced previously,) “We have done all we can for him, and must now leave him in the hands of the Lord.” He had, I believe, done all he could for me; he had been very kind and attentive. The failure was not, as far as I can judge, from want of skill, but from the stubborn nature of the disease. How few can judge what my feelings were on hearing the departing footsteps of my surgeon! His last words, which I happened to over-hear, re-echoed through my chamber, “I have done all I can for him.” There I lay scarcely able to articulate a sound; teeth loose, mouth ulcerated, and tongue much discoloured, suffering from leeching, blistering, and bleeding. I had not, I believe, slept more than six or seven hours for three whole weeks; during which sleep was always disturbed from the effects of the most frightful dreams, such as being in the act of falling over high precipices, being shipwrecked, &c. And now the



last spark of hope had fled, right welcome would have been the long sleep of death, which would have freed my tabernacle of clay from all pain and sorrow here below.

A very kind gentleman to whom I shall ever feel deeply indebted for his kindness in introducing you to me, had that morning honoured me with a long visit. On taking leave of me, he mentioned something of mesmerism, and said, "Would you like to make a trial of it as a last resource?" I whispered my assent, although I had a firm conviction that nothing short of a miracle could save me. The good gentleman left about 12 or 1 o'clock, p.m. *After this I took no medicine of any kind.* About 9 o'clock the same evening, my sister informed me that he was returned, and that Dr. Storer had very kindly called with him. "Ah, too late, too late!" whispered a silent monitor from within. In another minute you, Sir, were at my bed-side, and having previously, below stairs, enquired very kindly the nature of my case from my sister, commenced mesmerising me.

As far as I can judge, in about 15 or 20 minutes a sort of stupor or sleepy sensation came over me, when my eyes involuntarily gave way to the mesmeric sleep. After a short time, I felt a sort of chill or soothing sensation passing through my frame, from head to foot, which was, I suppose, the effect of the passes. I very soon glided from this state of semi-consciousness into a natural sleep, in which I remained until 12 o'clock, when I awoke, I believe through my sister's entering the room, anxious to see whether I was alive or dead. I then, it appears, wished for a draught of water, then slept again for about four hours, in all from six to seven hours, which was *more than I had slept during the whole three previous weeks.*

On the following morning, my surgeon sent a bottle of liquid blister (or fire)\* to be well rubbed, with a brush, all over my head and temples, after which my head seemed quite converted into an engine boiler with the steam up to, not only fever heat, but boiling heat, the remedy being worse, if possible, than the disease. At night the name of Dr. Storer was again announced, but I felt quite sure that sleep was out of the question. However, on awaking the next morning, I found from the length of time I had slept, that the effect of your second kind visit was nothing inferior to that of the first, but that even the painful effect of the blistering was much soothed. And what a marked difference in the nature of the dreams already! Since mesmerism had

\* No doubt a solution of Spanish flies in acetic acid.—*Zoist.*



been adopted there was no more dreaming of shipwrecks, falling into chasms, over cascades, &c. Such as these gave way for something of a milder nature, such as being lost in woods, wandering from thence into green fields, churchyards; when at last, though not least, the sweet tones of the organ, accompanied by a full choir, would burst forth on my afflicted soul. Oh! what a luxury.\*

If you omitted seeing me a night, the sleep was not so sound and was less refreshing; and, after eight or ten most welcome visits from you, my appetite got much better; I was able to take large quantities of food, but was still very weak, for there had been no slight loss to the system from perspiration, salivation, blistering, bleeding, and daily leeching. After enjoying the salubrious Swansea air for a fortnight later, I was soon able to follow my daily occupation,—within six weeks after your first visit.

I remain, Sir,  
Your grateful and humble servant,  
LUKE COLEMAN.

XIII. *A fresh instance of unconscious Parturition in the Mesmeric Sleep.* By Mr. T. CHANDLER, Surgeon.

MRS. PAYNE, who was before confined in the mesmeric sleep, (see *Zoist*, Vol. IV., p. 405,) being again in the family way, was taken ill on the 9th instant. She sent for me about twelve o'clock at noon, having had lingering pains for some hours. I found matters advancing slowly. I sent her to sleep for two hours; but, finding on awaking her, that she was cramped from remaining so long in the same position, I left her awake for about an hour. The pains continued about the same

\* When affected many years ago with erysipelas of the head, and unable to open my eyes, I incessantly saw hundreds of ugly faces as long as the disease was unabated, and by no effort could I conjure up the vision of a pretty face. But as the disease declined the faces became less ugly, and at last I was able to call up the loveliest faces in any numbers.

It may be useful to make known that I formerly lost so large a number of cases of erysipelas of the head, whatever treatment I adopted, that I was miserable whenever I had a case. I felt assured that if I left the disease to nature I could not do better. But now for eleven years, though I have attended many and very bad cases too, I have not lost a single case except one which I did not see till a few hours before death, when rattling had begun in the throat and all treatment was necessarily unavailing. This success has been obtained by washing the inflamed parts fully, and during the first day perhaps more than once with a solution of nitrate of silver, in the proportion of two drachms to the ounce,—a practice I learnt from Mr. Higginbottom, of Nottingham. Usually the pulse comes down in a few hours, and no other treatment is required, except suitable diet.—J. ELLIOTSON.



during the sleeping and waking states : only with this difference, that they were felt and complained of during the waking state, whereas during the mesmeric sleep there was no suffering, or, if there was any, there remained no consciousness of it when she awoke.

I sent her into the sleep for the last time about 4 o'clock, and the efforts of parturition continued to increase until half-past 5 o'clock, when my patient was brought to bed of a fine girl, though perfectly unconscious of the fact, and, as on the last occasion, scarcely able for some time after to believe that she had been brought to bed.

About an hour after all was over, she had rather a severe hæmorrhage, which kept her in a weak state for some days. She is now doing very well. The same unpleasant accident has occurred to a greater or less extent in all her former confinements.

It will be seen by referring to her last confinement that she was seized on that occasion with most distressing after-pains twenty-eight hours after the birth. This time, though the pains did not occur in the usual way, she was attacked with most excruciating intermittent pains in the left shoulder, extending down to the elbow. I mesmerised her occasionally for a short time ; but, though I entirely relieved the pain for the time, she was afraid of being left in the sleep, as she felt so low from the loss of blood that she feared she might die in it ; and, although I had no fear of such a result, I thought it best to let her have her own way.

The child—a fine girl—died on the fourth day of cyanosis.\* When born it was quite black, and appeared asphyxiated for some minutes, until I took about three ounces of blood from the umbilical cord. This restored animation, but it never lost all the colour ; the extremities remaining almost as black as at birth. On the fourth morning it was seized with dyspnœa, and died in about two hours.

Though this case is not quite so satisfactory as my former ones, still, as far as the unconscious delivery was concerned, it was perfect. The loss of the child could have nothing to do with the mesmerism, having arisen, as must be obvious to many general and all professional readers, from original defect in the heart : and the hæmorrhage in the mother was not only accidental, but even a usual occurrence with her ; this is her eighth child, and she had suffered from the same cause in most of her former confinements.

\* The "blue disease," arising from malformation of the heart, allowing the black and red blood to mingle. The greater the mixture allowed by the malformation, the sooner do the poor things die.—*Zoist*.



A notice of the case appeared in the *Times* among the births.\* But the officials objected to my name this time, (it having been appended to the notice of Mrs. Moss's case in the same paper,) considering it a puff. Nothing could be more at variance with my intentions than puffing. I abominate any approach to it. I published the case in the *Times* for the benefit of our much abused, though now advancing, science, and only wished to add my name by way of authentication.

THOMAS CHANDLER.

58, Paradise Street, Rotherhithe,  
June 22nd, 1848.

XIV. *A Letter of the late Surgeon Liston, exhibiting his outrageous joy at the hope of Mesmerism becoming less useful.* By Dr. ELLIOTSON.

DR. ESDAILE remarks that between the period of Mr. O'Shaughnessy's praise of mesmerism and that of his sneering at it, *ether had come to his aid*: and asks if Dr. Mouat had not judged it more expedient to withdraw his confidence from mesmerism and side with his colleagues *after ether had come to their rescue*.† There can be no doubt that the discovery of the power of inhaled ether, to suspend sensibility to mechanical injuries, filled with malignant joy all those who saw the steady spread of the conviction of the truth and inestimable benefits of mesmerism and turned aside

For envy ; yet with jealous leer malign  
Ey'd them askance, and to themselves thus plain'd :  
'Sight hateful, sight tormenting !'

The *Medical Gazette*, published by Messrs. Longman and Co., and anxious to be considered a pattern of candour and good breeding, thus merrily headed its article announcing the discovery of ether,

"ANIMAL MAGNETISM SUPERSEDED."‡

The *Lancet* rejoiced that one of the limbs of mesmerism was cut away by ether. "The destruction of one limb of the

\* "BIRTHS.—On the 9th inst., at Rotherhithe, (in the unconsciousness of mesmeric sleep,) the wife of Mr. James Payne, of a daughter."—*Times*, June 16th, 1848.

† See above, pp. 161, 163.

‡ April 12, 1845. See *The Zoist*, Vol. IV., p. 579. The reputed editor is Dr. Alfred Taylor, of Guy's Hospital. In the number for April 12, 1845, he said that *The Zoist* "only finds circulation among the class of IMPOSTORS who record their own doings in it."



mesmeric quackery will be one not inconsiderable merit of this most valuable discovery.\*

But the most lively joy was experienced by poor Mr. Liston, who wrote the following letter to a friend. The friend, Mr. Miller, a surgeon in Edinburgh, proved a cruel friend, for he allowed it to transpire into a periodical,—*The North British Review*, No. XIII. May, 1847.

MR. LISTON'S LETTER TO MR. MILLER.

"Hurrah!

"Rejoice! mesmerism, and its professors, have met with a heavy blow and great discouragement. An American dentist has used ether (inhalation of it) to destroy sensation in his operations, and the plan has succeeded in the hands of Warren, Hayward, and others in Boston. Yesterday, I amputated a thigh, and removed, by avulsion, both sides of the great toe-nail, without the patient being aware of what I was doing, so far as regards pain. *The amputation-man heard, he says, what we said, and was conscious, but felt neither the pain of the incisions, nor that of tying the vessels.* In short, he had no sensation of pain in the operating theatre. I mean to use it to-day in a case of stone. In six months no operation will be performed without this famous preparation. It must be carefully set about. The ether must be washed and purified of its sulphurous acid and alcohol. Shall I desire Squire (a most capital and ingenious chemist) to send you a tool for the purpose? It is only the bottom of Nooth's apparatus, with a funnel above, with bits of sponge, and at the other hole a flexible tube. *Rejoice!*

"Thine always,

"R. L."

It is an instructive fact that, within my knowledge, all the most enthusiastic supporters of the powers of ether and chloroform to prevent surgical pain had been most violent scoffers at the possibility of effecting this humane object by any means, or the most indifferent to this object, and the most violent scoffers at the truth of mesmerism and the possibility of *hearing and being conscious and yet not feeling surgical pain.* I should smile at their enthusiasm were it not lamentable to find so large a body of men the victims of discreditable feeling, and thus laid open to the strongest suspicion of still acting in the case of ether and chloroform from passion rather than from reason and virtue.

JOHN ELLIOTSON.

\* January, 1847; p. 16.



**BOOKS RECEIVED.**

Report of Cases treated in the Mesmeric Hospital from June to December, 1847. With the Reports of the official Visitors. Printed by order of Government. Calcutta, 1848.

A Review of my Reviewers. By James Esdaile, M.D. Calcutta, 1848.

The Ethnological Journal. A Magazine of Ethnography, Phrenology, and Archæology, considered as Elements of the science of Races, with the application of the science to Education, Legislation, and Social Progress. Edited by Luke Burke, Esq. No. I. June, 1848.

Howitt's Journal. From April to July.

Mesmerism and its Opponents. By George Sandby, M.A., Vicar of Flixton, Suffolk. Second Edition, considerably enlarged. With an Introductory Chapter. Part II. London, 1848.

This work is now concluded. The second part is still more excellent than the first, and justifies our former earnest recommendation, to all who take an interest in mesmerism, to purchase so cheap, so instructive and delightful a production.

The second part contains *ample* directions for mesmerising; gives the reasons why mesmerism is not to be trifled with, and at the same time points out that no danger *of any sort* can be incurred, if the process is properly conducted, and by suitable persons; and that in no instance of the want of proper knowledge and caution has there, after all, been any serious mischief.

Mr. Sandby discusses the subject of clairvoyance at great length and in a most satisfactory manner. He allows the facts of clairvoyance, but he points out the great errors into which mesmerists may fall, and into which a large number do fall, by implicitly believing all that clairvoyants say. He shows how easily the imagination may be excited and *led*, and thus statements, which are merely fancies, be credited as revelations. Clairvoyance is a subject in which not only much absurdity is committed, but much imposition is practised, every day; and we cannot too seriously commend this part of the work to the study of our readers.

A large number of cases which exhibited all the most astounding phenomena of mesmerism, though mesmerism had no concern in them, are amassed from various authors. The knowledge of these cases will smooth the way to the admission of the higher phenomena of mesmeric cases. English medical men seem ignorant of such diseases, and regard the accounts of them as belonging to the same class with Munchausen's travels. English medical men in general seem ignorant of even the common phenomena of somnambulism; at least Sir Benjamin Brodie in the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society referred to a well known and not very uncommon instance of this kind, recorded in the *Philosophical Transactions*, as to a ridiculous case of imposition, and the Society laughed like a set of men who knew no more of these forms of disease than he did. While, therefore, Mr. Sandby's collection of various kinds of cases must render his book highly entertaining even to persons uninterested in mesmerism, it is calculated to supply British medical men with solid information of which too many appear to stand greatly in need.

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**NOTICES TO CORRESPONDENTS.**

We regret being compelled to postpone several valuable contributions till our next number.

Dr. Francis Hawkins will be left to the tender mercies of Dr. Elliotson. It is rather too late in the day to sneer at, or even to doubt, or be ignorant of, the truths of mesmerism. Dr. Shapter has been treated by Mr. Sandby, pp. 206-7.



ERRATA IN COLONEL BAGNOLD'S PAPER.

pp. 250, 251, for *Vergraggey*, read *Veyraggy*.

251, for *guern*, read *quern*.

252, for *Facheer*, read *Fakeer*, for *Hachcem*, read *Hucheem*; for *Oordas verle*, read *Oordoo verb*.

pp. 252, 253, for *Mahumedan*, read *Muluomedan*.