

THE
LONDON
MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL
JOURNAL.

EDITED BY

JOHN NORTH, ESQ. F.L.S.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
AND OF THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON;

AND

JOHN WHATLEY, M.D. A.M.

MEMBER OF THE ARCADIA OF ROME;

MEMBER EXTRAORDINARY OF THE ROYAL MED. SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH;

MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON;

AND OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

(VOL. LXI.)

NEW SERIES, VOL. VI.

Et quoniam variant morbi, variabimus artes;
Mille mall species, mille salutis erunt.



LONDON:

JOHN SOUTER, 73, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD,

AND TO BE HAD OF ALL THE MEDICAL BOOKSELLERS.

1829.

*For the Bodleian Libr.
~~Advocate Library~~*

THE LONDON
Medical and Physical Journal.

NO. 361, VOL. LXI.]

MARCH, 1829.

[NO. 33, *New Series.*

For many fortunate discoveries in medicine, and for the detection of numerous errors, the world is indebted to the rapid circulation of Monthly Journals; and there never existed any work, to which the Faculty, in Europe and America, were under deeper obligations than to the *Medical and Physical Journal of London*, now forming a long, but an invaluable series.—RUSH.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, AND CASES,
OBTAINED FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER
AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

On Mesmerism, improperly denominated Animal Magnetism. By
RICHARD CHENEVIX, Esq. F.R. and E.S. M.R.I.A. &c.†

ANIMAL magnetism is true. In the whole domain of human acquirements, no art or science rests upon experiments more numerous, more positive, or more easily ascertained. As this assertion is in direct contradiction to the

* We gave a translation of these cases in our Number for October, 1828.—
EDITORS.

† We are informed that Mr. CHENEVIX intends paying us a visit in London and that he is prepared to convince the most sceptical that "mesmerism" is not the system of juggling imposition which by many it has been believed to be. For our own parts, we candidly confess we are yet to be converted. Our opinions upon this subject are fully stated in the November Number of 1826. We hope Mr. C. will give us an opportunity of witnessing the effects, of animal magnetism.—EDITORS.

No. 361.—No. 33, *New Series*.

2 G

vast majority of current prejudices, it is just to state the grounds upon which it is made.

In former times, whenever animal magnetism was mentioned, I joined the general tribe of scoffers; and so much was I convinced of its absurdity, that, being at Rotterdam in 1797, I laughed to scorn a proposal made to me by an English resident there, to witness some experiments in which he was then engaged. His assertion was, that a somnambulist of his should, in her sleep, without any signal from him, leave her chair, and seat herself on any other chair which he should mentally designate. The respectability and general understanding of this person left no mode of accounting for so extraordinary an illusion, but to suppose him labouring under monomania.

In 1803 and 1804, while travelling in Germany, I heard many very enlightened men of the universities talk of animal magnetism, nearly with the same certainty as of mineral magnetism; but their credulity I set down to the account of German mysticity, and thought it not incongruous that the nation which took its philosophy from Kant, and Tiehte, and Schelling, should believe that certain motions of the hands could, by the will of the mover, transmit an influence to the person acted upon, which should produce the wonders related of animal magnetism. I remained an unbeliever.

In 1816, some persons of my acquaintance proposed to take me to the house of a lady in Paris, whose daughter was an artificial somnambulist, and, in the terms of the art, lucid. I went to laugh: I came away convinced.

To suspect any thing like a trick in the parties concerned was impossible. They were of the highest respectability and distinction, and some of them I had known for many years. The magnetiser was, indeed, in the frivolous French metropolis, called a charlatan, which made me suppose that he was not so; and the event proved that I was right. He was, indeed, poor; he exercised his art for money; he gave public lectures at three francs a ticket. Many young physicians have as fair a claim to the title as he had. But, from the hour above alluded to till the period of his death, I remained acquainted with the Abbé Faria, and never knew a man to whom the epithet impostor was less applicable.

No sooner had the Abbé Faria begun to operate than the countenance of the young lady changed, and in two seconds she was fast asleep, having manifested symptoms which could not be counterfeited. The sitting lasted about two

hours, and produced results which, though I still remained a sceptic upon some of the most wonderful phenomena, entirely convinced me of the existence of a mesmeric influence, and of an extraordinary agency which one person can, by his will, exercise upon another. The Abbé Faria offered every means to dispel my remaining doubts, and gave me all necessary instructions to obtain total conviction from experiments of my own. I most zealously attended his labours, public and private, and derived complete satisfaction upon every point relating to mesmerism; even upon those which appear supernatural. Many of the experiments I repeated, not only upon persons whom I met at his house, but upon others totally unacquainted with him or with his studies, and was ultimately compelled to adopt the absolute and unqualified conclusion announced above: "Mesmerism is true." Other occupations, however, prevented me from continuing the subject, and I had only casual opportunities for exercising the art, until accident called back my whole attention to its truth and importance.

Witness of some of the wonders which have lately been the subject of discussion in the French Academy of Medicine,* and surprised at the pusillanimity of that body, which cannot deny, yet has not manliness enough to avow, the facts which one half of its members declare they have witnessed, I resolved, with all due humility, yet not shrinking from the task, to devote some time to the collection of facts, and to offer the results to a much more enlightened public than that to which the art is compelled to appeal in France.

My first opportunity for renewing my practice was in May 1828, when, happening to be on a visit to Ireland, I inquired for some patient among the peasantry, no matter what the disorder.

Jane Hurly, an epileptic woman, aged thirty-four, was produced; and as, but a short time before, she had been seen in a fit by a person of the family at whose house I was residing, there could be no doubt of the reality of the distemper. Besides, she had lately fallen into the fire in a paroxysm, and most dreadfully burnt her leg. She had been six years epileptic; had a strong tendency to paralysis of the left leg and thigh; was subject, almost daily, to spasmodic contractions in her hands and feet, accompanied by racking pain, and which sometimes lasted twelve hours

* *Expériences publiques sur le Magnetisme Animal faites à l'Hôtel-Dieu de Paris, par J. DUPOTEL.* Also the case of Paul, in the *Hermes*; by Dr. FOISSAC.

Délibérations de l'Académie de Médecine sur le Magnetisme Animal. Rapport fait par M. HUSSON.

or more; had occasional absences of mind and loss of memory; never slept more than a couple of hours at once, and that but rarely; was constantly thirsty; her appetite was bad. She was eight months advanced in her sixth pregnancy, and it was after her first confinement that she had her first attack.

Tuesday, May 23d.—Mesmerised her for forty-five minutes: no sleep, but a little drowsiness.

24th.—Night better than usual; no spasms in hands or feet. Mesmerised her again forty-five minutes: no sleep. Gave her mesmerised water to drink.

25th.—Felt heavy and drowsy ever since yesterday. Mesmerised her again forty-five minutes: no sleep.

On the 26th, I did not mesmerise her.

27th.—The day before yesterday, she had a return of the spasmodic contractions of the hands and feet, but they lasted only two hours. This day, after mesmerising her for nine minutes, she fell into mesmeric sleep. She feels herself stronger and better than when the treatment was begun.

On the 28th, I did not see her.

29th.—She fell asleep in three minutes, but awoke as soon as spoken to. Yesterday she had a second return of the spasms, but only in one foot, and for a few minutes. The use of mesmerised water, begun on the 24th, had entirely assuaged the thirst, which used to be habitual and intense. Dr. McKay, whom I shall presently mention, was present at this sitting.

30th May, 1st and 3d of June.—Fell into complete mesmeric sleep after two minutes' mesmerising. Her health is improving rapidly.

5th June.—The person at whose house I was visiting being desirous of seeing some effects of mesmerism, I put the patient to sleep in his presence in six minutes, by my will alone, and without any visible manifestation of it.

7th.—In the presence of the same person, I mesmerised the patient through the door, and at the distance of fifteen feet; she not knowing that I was acting upon her, but supposing that I was absent; and in fourteen minutes she was in complete mesmeric sleep.

10th.—Being absent, I did not see this woman for two days. In the interval she had a severe spasm in her left leg and thigh for six hours, followed by cold and numbness in those limbs. This day I put her to sleep in half a minute, and mesmerised the part affected. In forty minutes I awakened her: the pain was gone, and the limbs had recovered their natural strength and heat. This was the last return of these symptoms. By this time she had completely recovered her sleep, not only at night, but was frequently obliged to lie down in the day, after quitting me. She now slept ten or twelve hours in the twenty-four, and one day sixteen hours. She continued rapidly to improve in health, and her appearance was so much changed that her neighbours, who

knew nothing of the treatment, were struck at the alteration. The operations were continued until June 20th, when her pregnancy made her unable to come out; and on June 28th she was delivered.

July 6th.—I went to her house, and found her up and well, with the exception of rheumatic pains in her left shoulder, for which I mesmerised her. She soon felt them descending to her elbow, and thence to her wrist, and in less than ten minutes was perfectly relieved.

17th.—She came to thank me for her entire recovery; and, to prove it to myself, I mesmerised her during thirty minutes, with the strongest will to put her to sleep; but, though formerly she fell into mesmeric sleep in half a minute, I could not now produce the slightest effect upon her.

I repeated the same experiment the next day, but with no effect. I did not then see her until September 17th, when I again attempted, but in vain, to produce mesmeric sleep.

It would be childish to attribute the cure of this woman to her pregnancy or her confinement. From the very first day she was mesmerised, the symptoms were alleviated, and decreased regularly as the treatment advanced. In less than a week, thirst, insomnia, shiverings, and pains, to which she had been subject for six years, ceased; the paralytic tendency diminished; and the spasmodic contractions were entirely removed after the twelfth day of mesmerising. Before her confinement, her health was completely restored, and she has not had a return of epilepsy for nine months, though the attacks were formerly very frequent. If this case does not offer a fair affiliation of cause and effect, there is no truth in deducing the cure of ague from the administration of bark.

Although none of the extraordinary phenomena of lucidity occurred; although this patient awoke the instant she was spoken to; her cure is interesting, as being completed so rapidly. Twenty-one sittings sufficed; and after them, and the cessation of all former symptoms, I could not produce any sensible effect upon her. Even at the period when she used to be most affected, the touch of my finger, so slight as to be almost imperceptible to myself, roused her from her state of mesmerism, and with a sensation which she described as like the prick of a pin. I have known some educated persons, who experienced a similar sensation, compare it to an electric spark.

Epilepsy is one of the diseases where the medical art is the most in default. It is also one where mesmerism effects the slowest cure. I have known a case in which this powerful agent was employed daily, for an hour each time,

during seventeen months, and in which, though the symptoms had begun to yield almost at the first sitting, the cure was not complete before that period. Its frequency among the lower classes is extreme; for in six months I saw thirty-seven cases, thirteen of which I treated myself, by no other means than mesmerism. In three of these cases I was completely successful; in eight more I procured immense relief; two only were failures. Four of the eight are still under treatment by me, and the remaining four are treated by a relation of each respective patient.

Judith Doonah, a laundress, was afflicted with violent pains in her head, which returned periodically every sixth day, and the precise nature of which was not entirely ascertained by physicians. In the opinion of some they were rheumatic; according to others, they partook of the nature of *tic douloureux*. They came at the end of a bad ophthalmia, and continued long after that disease had subsided. The right temple, cheek, eye, and shoulder, were the parts particularly affected.

June 23d.—I mesmerised her for the first time, and during a paroxysm. In a very few minutes she found relief. I repeated the operation thirteen times, but, being occupied with other patients, I could not sufficiently attend to her. I gave her, however, mesmerised water to bathe the part affected, and a piece of mesmerised glass to wear upon the temple. From June 29 till July 20, she had no return of the pains, but on the latter day she had a slight attack. Shortly after this I left the country where she was, and did not see her for two months. The pains had returned, though not quite so frequently. As I had not time to mesmerise her constantly, I recommenced the mesmerised water and glass; and in six weeks she was completely cured, without the use of any other remedy.

Between May 23d, 1828, and January 20th, 1829, I tried the effects of mesmerism upon 164 persons, of whom 98 manifested undeniable effects; some in one minute, some not till the operation had been repeated several times. There was hardly an instance where disease existed, that relief was not procured; and many of the patients offered phenomena as extraordinary as any recounted in Germany or France. The space allotted to this communication does not allow a minute relation of them, and I must confine myself to turning the public mind to this most wonderful agent, which, like all that is new, has been assailed by ignorance, by prejudice, and by ridicule, yet which is as true as gravitation or affinity. While prosecuting these experiments, I had the good fortune to meet with many benevolent and zealous persons, not of the faculty, who have made trial of the art with entire success, having hardly ever failed to procure

relief for their fellow-creatures, at the same time that they produced phenomena which highly surprised and gratified them. I can at this moment count at least fifty persons who have become converts and practitioners in consequence of what they had heard or seen, directly or indirectly, by my means; and who have assuaged the pains, if not cured the diseases, of some hundreds of suffering individuals, without the aid of medicine. To this list must be added three enlightened practitioners, Drs. M'Kay, Cotter, and Peacock, all of them physicians to public establishments in the neighbourhood of the place where the experiments were made. The former kindly lent his assistance upon all occasions, to determine the nature of the disease, the progress of the cure, &c. and witnessed many wonderful phenomena, of which he is ready to testify the truth to all who may require it. The protracted scepticism of the second led to the following trial:

On Thursday, October 2d, I requested Dr. Cotter to be present at some mesmeric experiments. He saw two epileptic patients put to sleep in about half a minute each. One of them, while under the mesmeric influence, had a slight fit, which, by increasing the action, I arrested instantaneously. The other he saw me strike motionless, by my will alone, as she walked across the room, and set at liberty in an instant by the same agency. To these facts he, as well as two other gentlemen present, could not refuse their assent; but still a suspicion of connivance and trick might lurk in his mind. I requested him to bring me any five patients of his own, whom he was sure I never could have known or heard of, and to hang his conviction upon this test, that I would, in half an hour, produce effects upon one of these five, which should convince him of the existence of the mesmeric influence.

On Saturday, October 4th, he came with a female patient, whom he had been treating for dyspepsia, costiveness, and headach, during four years. Her usual aperient dose was thirty grains of jalap with ten of calomel. I never saw her till that day, and only in the presence of Dr. Cotter. She had no idea of what was to be done to her, and was at the moment suffering with severe headach. In three minutes' mesmerising she said her headach was better; in five minutes she said it was quite well. In eight minutes she was in one of the soundest mesmeric sleeps I have witnessed, and continued so for thirty-five minutes, when I awoke her.

While she was asleep, Dr. Cotter said to me, *in Latin*, that her bowels were at that moment particularly bound.

I directed my attention to procuring an evacuation, passing my hands before the abdomen, without, however, touching it, or approaching nearer to it than three or four inches. In less than an hour after she had left the house, she had three evacuations. and for some days her head was considerably relieved. This patient lived at too great a distance for us to continue the treatment; but the following note from Dr. Cotter, relating to another patient, was this moment brought to me :

" Within this week I have witnessed the effects of mesmerism in the case of Miss P., aged fourteen. She had long been subject to an irregular pain in the left side, over the kidney, accompanied, in its attacks, with a sinking, as described to me, or a tendency to faint. Having long tried medicine without any permanent good, I was desirous to leave off a habit so injurious to a growing subject. I had recourse to mesmerism, without describing to her what I was going to try. Four minutes produced a complete state of somnolency. I have performed it upon this subject but three times, and she has had no return whatever of the pain in her side; neither has there been occasion to exhibit aperients, for which, previously, there was a continual necessity."

That any person, whether a believer or not, can produce mesmeric phenomena, may be learned from the following fact: A lady of a very robust frame, and a very energetic will, had heard and read much upon mesmerism, but was not convinced. Three patients, whom I had never seen before, were waiting for me. I proposed that she should try whichever of them she pleased. The most unhealthy female was selected. In two minutes the patient's head dropped, but she started up immediately; in less than four minutes, however, she was fast asleep. Here neither the mesmeriser nor the mesmerisee had the slightest conviction upon the subject, yet the experiment succeeded as completely as with the most habituated professor.

Neither previous knowledge nor education is necessary for the development of this precious faculty, in those who heartily wish to exercise it.

December 2d, 1828, Catherine Nicolson, a woman of the very lowest class of Irish peasantry, brought me, on her back, her daughter, aged nine, dreadfully afflicted with scrofula. She had seven sores near her knee. I instructed this woman how to mesmerise her child.

12th.—She came to tell me that some of the ulcers were disposed to heal, and that a splinter of bone had come out of one of them.

January 2d, 1829.—The girl can stand alone, and walk with a crutch. Two more splinters of bone have come away, and the

ulcer which voided them is very much inflamed; the others being better.

19th.—Three more splinters of bone have come away, one of them three fourths of an inch long, and as thick as a crow's quill.

Another girl, Bridget Hedouin, is nearly cured of epilepsy, by her father, an ignorant peasant, whom I taught to mesmerise her; the attacks being reduced to one fourth in frequency, duration, and intensity, since December 3d, 1828, when the treatment was commenced.

Both the above treatments are now in progress.

I have at this moment eleven cases of different diseases, in which a friend or relation is the operator, and nine of which are proceeding with the most extraordinary success.

I could here enumerate near two hundred examples, but I am fully aware that, in the present condition of the science, these things must be seen to be credited. I shall not, then, attempt to argue or convince my readers, but to implore them to try the experiment themselves. Every one can mesmerise, though not all with equal effect, and practice increases the power: but it is not every one who is susceptible of a sensible influence from this agency; and somnambulism is generally estimated not to occur more frequently than in one case out of five, and not one in twenty-five patients becomes lucid.

I was myself an unbeliever until I was undeceived by my own experiments: but, had I sooner taken this plain and rational road to knowledge, instead of thinking all men mad who trusted to their eyes that told them truths, which to me seemed more marvellous than all the other wonders of creation, I should, many years since, have possessed the conviction which I now enjoy, and not bewail that, in 1797, my presumptuous ignorance had shut in my own face the door of a science more directly interesting to man than all that chemistry and astronomy can teach. Nine tenths who may read will laugh at this, as I did at my friend at Rotterdam. Let them do so; but, while they laugh, let them learn, and not, thirty years afterwards, have to lament that so short a remnant of life is left to them to enjoy this new and most valuable secret of nature.

In Germany this science has long been practised; and in Berlin an hospital was established in 1815, in which no medicine but mesmerism, and the prescriptions of lucid somnambulists, was used. Hüfeland, once a scoffer, but converted; Hüfeland, in himself a host, was at the head of this hospital, and fifteen volumes of mesmeric cases have

been published. Even in Holland, last year, I found the truth of mesmerism hardly doubted; and I met with some patients at Aix-la-Chapelle who had reaped benefit from it. In France it has been believed, and reviled, and believed again, and has followed all the vicissitudes of fashion. In England it has never risen above the level of quacks, and there that level is low indeed. Its fate in these countries was exactly analogous to the characters of the respective nations. The Germans were attracted towards it by their love of mysticity, and hailed it on account of its marvellousness. This once, however, the spirit which has so often been prejudicial to the German mind, has led to truth, while other nations turned aside from the path of knowledge. In France, where words and jargon are more valuable than facts, it has been treated as a matter of opinion, not of experiment. Though all the phenomena have been produced over and over again, yet, as these phenomena are not phrases, the Academy of Medicine thinks it can argue down somnambulism, and talk lucidity out of existence. The repugnance of English minds to the supernatural in science has prevented them even from bestowing a thought upon the subject; but let a few authentic results be known, and, in this seat of powerful understanding, it will make more rapid strides in one year, and without the assistance of governments or academies, than it has done since 1784, when aided by mysticism or garrulity. Nothing can be more fair and candid than the language spoken by the partizans of mesmerism in all countries. Instead of calling themselves gifted beings in whose hands alone the power resides, they say to unbelievers, "Come, and see," and then "Go, and try."

Natural somnambulism has in all ages been so often seen, and so well authenticated, that to deny it would be absurd. Now what is artificial somnambulism, and what lucidity, but the same state as the former, produced and regulated by certain principles which all men can command. Wonderful, indeed, it may appear; but what makes any thing wonderful to us, if not our ignorance. Since the world began, men have been wondering at every thing, till habit tamed their minds upon it. In my remembrance, they have wondered at hydrogen and oxygen; at a dead frog jumping between two slips of metal; at gas-lights, and steam-boats; and now they wonder at all who wonder at those familiar themes. They would pity the wretch who would not instantly believe that a stone falls, and a balloon rises, by the

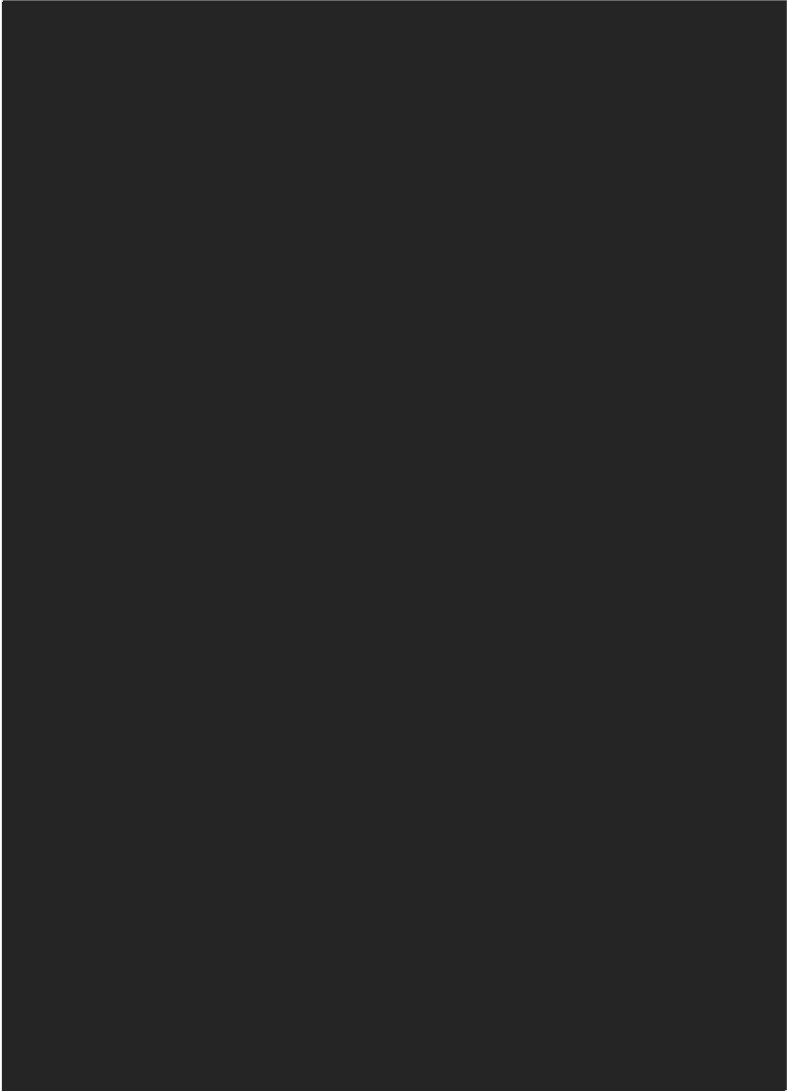
same impulse; or that the taste which his tongue perceives when placed between a piece of silver and a piece of zinc, has the same origin as the thunder which strikes his soul with awe. Every thing in creation is wonderful, or nothing is so, but the last known truth always appears the most miraculous to unreflecting minds.

Much is to be apprehended from enthusiasm in this subject. Mesmerism is beneficial in all diseases, but it does not cure all cases of all diseases. It acts with equal success upon epilepsy, fever, rheumatism, diseased liver, diseased lungs, gout, scrofula, &c. Where bark would kill, where bark would cure, this agent may be alike applied. It is the mightiest of therapeutic aids, but it is not omnipotent. It is the most beneficent, too; but, in the hands of persons disposed to make a bad use of the ascendancy which it sometimes gives over the patient's mind, it might become the most dangerous. Let honest men, then, get possession of it, that they may be able to cope with knaves.

Neither is it pathologically or physiologically that this agent must principally be considered. Its psychological importance is far above the part which it can play in the art of healing. When a human being can, by the operation of another human being, see without his eyes, taste without his tongue, hear without his ears, and obtain complete insight into things of which, in his waking state, he had no knowledge, the condition of his mind in that moment is worth investigating. Yet these things are true: they are familiar to mesmerisers, and I myself have witnessed them full twenty times. They are not, however, every-day occurrences; and the novice practitioner must not be disheartened if he does not meet with them immediately: he must be content to produce, by his first efforts, some of the simplest phenomena. Let him persevere, and he will see the wonders which other mesmerisers have seen, and add new knowledge to our present stores.

However wonderful mesmerism may appear, one thing relating to it is still more wonderful, viz. that its truth has even been questioned; since it is in the power of every one, without previous knowledge, study, or acquirements, to obtain conviction at least in a week, perhaps in a few seconds. The truth which Pythagoras told of the earth's motion, reviled in its day, was reproduced by Copernicus two thousand years afterwards, and was again reviled; but this truth required all the mind of a Newton for its demonstration. Mesmerism, which the simplest motion of the hands, directed by the will, can prove, perhaps, instantane-

ously, has been discredited ever since Mesmer first revived it; and, before his time, was often believed, and as often forgotten. To me (and before many years the opinion must be universal,) the most extraordinary event in the whole history of the human science, is that mesmerism ever could be doubted.



For the Bodleian Library

THE LONDON
Medical and Physical Journal.

N^o 364, VOL. LXI.]

JUNE, 1829.

[N^o 36, *New Series*.]

For many fortunate discoveries in medicine, and for the detection of numerous errors, the world is indebted to the rapid circulation of Monthly Journals; and there never existed any work, to which the Faculty, in Europe and America, were under deeper obligations than to the *Medical and Physical Journal of London*, now forming a long, but an invaluable series.—RUSH.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, AND CASES,
OBTAINED FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER
AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

MESMERISM.

Observations and Experiments on Mesmerism. By RICHARD CHENEVIX, Esq. F.R. and E.S. M.R.I.A.

It is by no means the desire of those who are convinced of the truth of mesmerism to urge belief upon their mere assertion, but to excite curiosity; to turn the public mind toward this powerful agent, so true, yet so much despised; and to engage some inquirers to lay aside their preconceptions for a moment, and have recourse to fair experiment. The difficulty of overcoming the first disbelief, the first repugnance to actual trial, is extreme; but, as the authority of some respectable medical men, whom their own senses and their own experience have induced to practise this art, may contribute to remove it, the following cases are submitted to the public:

"Ballynacarig (Ireland); February 5th, 1829.

"Dear sir,—In the month of September last, a few days after I had first witnessed the wonderful effects of mesmerism in your hands, I happened to pay a professional visit at Mears court, in this neighbourhood. While there, I learned that a man, named Hubert Gainer, was at the point of death.

"I should inform you that this man, for the last four or five years, had been continually under my care, in the dispensary, for very bad dyspepsia, particularly marked by the most obstinate state of the bowels, requiring generally a double quantity of the strongest purgatives every three or four days.

"On arriving at his house, I found him stretched out in bed, with the stomach inordinately distended, and his thirst excessive. His extremities were cold, his countenance ghastly, his pulse small and quick, his tongue white; his bowels confined for the last five days. He was writhing in torture from pain in his stomach. I learnt, on inquiry, that he had had no rest for the two preceding nights.

"Though at that time I was far from believing in the practical

* I ought to mention that I have not visited Naples, where the disease is said to assume a particularly severe form, and where some have asserted it first appeared. Throughout Italy it is termed "*la malattia Francese*," thereby pointing out the source whence it came into this country.

utility of mesmerism, yet finding that in the case of this patient something should be done immediately, I proceeded to try my hand at mesmerism, in imitation of what I had seen you do. After some time the man grew quiet; when, with the hope of exciting the stomach to action, I directed my intention particularly to the epigastric region. Continuing this for two or three minutes, the man turned round suddenly, and, to my surprise, vomited an immense quantity of liquid, (the most acrid bile.) He then threw himself back into a profound sleep, which continued for an hour and a half. At this period I gradually awoke him, when he was evidently better in every respect. Leaving directions that his wife should report his case to me in the dispensary next morning, I took my departure. By the account I received the following day, I found that he had slept soundly, and that his bowels had been freed three times in the night: in short, his wife reported next morning that he was perfectly well. In a few days I called to see him, and found him complaining of weakness only; but his bowels were again confined, and again I had recourse to mesmerism, with the same good effect.

"I resorted to mesmerism in this man's case but three times in all, and he is, as I have seen this day, in perfect health; neither have I had occasion to give him any aperient medicines since the first application of this surprising influence.

"As the above case appears, to me at least, highly interesting, I take the liberty of giving it to you somewhat in detail; and have the honour to be, dear sir,

"Your most obedient servant,

"R. COTTER, M.D."

"To Richard Chenevix, Esq. Sonna."

Michael Donally had been attended for some time by Dr. Cotter, who pronounced him to be far advanced in rapid consumption. He was taking small but repeated doses of tartar emetic and digitalis. On February 11th, I mesmerised him for the first time. He was in bed, and exceedingly weak; his voice was hardly audible. The only sensible effect produced during the operation was profuse perspiration.

Feb. 12th.—After I had left him yesterday, he slept for about an hour, and, on waking, found his cough and breathing easier. He had left off the tartar emetic and digitalis, as well as all other medicines. Mesmerised him thirty minutes, with the same effect as yesterday.

Feb. 13.—Found him going on very well. His voice was stronger, and he seemed more alive than I had yet seen him.

As I could not visit him every day, I instructed his wife how to proceed and desired her to mesmerise him night and

morning, during thirty minutes each time. I also informed Dr. Cotter that I had undertaken this desperate case, adding a hope that we still might save the patient. Dr. Cotter's reply was, "If the poor man is saved, I will substitute the pronoun *you* for *we*."

Daily accounts were brought to me of the progress of this man until February 27th, when I called upon him, and found him up and dressed. He received me at the door of his cottage, spoke with a strong, firm voice, looked healthy, and said he was nearly recovered. I told his wife to persevere in the mesmeric treatment.

March 16th.—He came to see me, and looked quite well. I mesmerised him for a few minutes: he slept, and even showed some interesting phenomena. I urged his wife to continue the treatment some time longer; for mesmerism, when persevered in after the cure is effected, is never dangerous.—This case can be attested by at least twenty witnesses of the first respectability.

The two following cases were communicated to me by Mr. LEVINGE, of the Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin, with permission to publish them:

February 9th, 1829.—Mary Spotten, æt. sixteen, had for several months been complaining of a severe and continual pain in her back, with a fixed and numb sensation shooting from the bottom of the abdomen down the inside of the thighs. She was much emaciated; her countenance was pale and yellow; her appetite quite lost. When I first prescribed for her, about six months ago, she was essentially relieved; and in a short time the regular discharge appeared, but in small quantities.

"After this time I did not see her for two months, when I learnt from her mother that she was as ill as ever. A considerable period then elapsed, during which nothing was attempted for her. I had, in the mean time, heard much of the salutary effects produced by mesmerism under the care of Mr. Chenevix, and, through the kindness of this gentleman, had seen two or three of his patients who had been cured by him, and many others who had been considerably relieved. Instructed by him respecting the mode of applying the mesmeric influence in these charitable performances, my opinion, which had hitherto been strongly prejudiced against the doctrine, became so changed, that, on returning home, I sent for this girl, and commenced to try mesmerism upon her. The operation was repeated daily at the same hour, and continued for thirty minutes each time. The first days she did not sleep, but said she felt as if her heart had ceased to beat. After a few repetitions of the operation, however, sleep came on regularly, and usually continued while that lasted. Now and then, on awaking, she complained of vague pains in her head, belly, and legs; but

they immediately ceased when I directed my attention to those parts. During this time she took not one particle of medicine, but every day she drank a quart of mesmerised water. At the end of one month she was discharged cured; but the treatment appears not to have been continued long enough, for, during a suspension of it, necessarily caused by my absence, her illness has returned.

“Biddy Connell, æt. eleven, had for some time been afflicted with cough, loss of appetite, and slight bronchitis, and had passed several small worms. About three months since, she applied to me for relief. Every day, for three weeks, I performed the operation of mesmerism upon her during thirty minutes. After the first four days she passed many worms, and felt much better;* her cough began also to diminish gradually. At the end of a fortnight, the quantity of worms which she had voided was very great, and the relief which she experienced was as remarkable. She also drank magnetised water. After the treatment had been continued for three weeks, I was obliged to go to Dublin; but the girl was recovered; neither has she had any return of her illness since that time.

“This patient did not sleep more than two minutes at a time; and, as soon as she opened her eyes, she seemed as completely awake as if she had not slept at all.”

The following is extracted from an intended publication, now preparing for the press, and in which the results of experiments and observations made upon 442 patients will be detailed. Ten months were devoted to these laborious but interesting investigations, and six, eight, sometimes ten hours a day, were allotted to their prosecution uninterruptedly.

A common opinion among persons who admit the truth of mesmerism, but who are little acquainted with its practice or effects, is that it is most efficacious upon nervous temperaments. Having tried this agency pretty extensively upon other disorders, and having been led to an opposite conclusion, I was anxious to put it to the proof in a disease which may be considered as the very epitome of nervousness, insanity. With great eagerness I embraced an opportunity offered to me by the kindness of Mr. HIGGINS, whose name, so well known among the benefactors to that wretched class of beings whom malady has deprived of reason, deserves to be remembered as long as humanity exists among men. Informed of the power of mesmerism, and satisfied as to its general truth, Mr. H. proposed to me to try it in his neighbourhood, where I then happened to be,

* I have myself cured seven cases of worms.

in the lunatic asylum of Wakefield, in Yorkshire; an establishment where madness ceases almost to be a misfortune, which, in any other country of Europe, would be extolled as one of the greatest of national monuments, but which in England rears its immense but modest bulk in a sequestered vale, and is hardly heard of beyond the district where it spreads its blessings. Thither Mr. Higgins had the goodness to accompany me, and there, under the auspices of Dr. ELLIS, physician to the establishment, the experiments were made. The subjects selected for trial were two males and eight females. One of the males was furious and manacled. The first ten minutes produced no sensible effect upon him; but afterwards his head twice sunk down upon his chest, with an evident tendency to somnolency, which, however, was soon disturbed by his suddenly starting up almost as frantic as before. Two women, afflicted with melancholy, were tried, but with no sensible effect: neither was the success more apparent upon any of the remaining subjects, two only excepted.

A woman, whose reason was much less subverted than that of the other patients, said that every time I drew my hand before her, she "felt life going down through her body along with them," to use her own words; a feeling analogous to that which many delicate persons have described.

A girl, aged eighteen, epileptic as well as insane, showed symptoms of somnolency in one minute after the operation began; and during half an hour, which it lasted, was three times in mesmeric sleep. But she always started suddenly out of that state, into which she again fell in one minute. One general effect, however, struck all the attendants who accompanied these patients in the room where the experiments were made. A state of calmness was produced as soon as the passes began, and continued during the whole operation. Even the furious man became more sedate while under the action of mesmerism; and a girl, who never could be prevailed upon to remain quiet, required less coercion from her attendant than in ordinary circumstances. The trial upon each patient never exceeded thirty minutes; and these experiments can by no means be considered as conclusive respecting the therapeutic effects of mesmerism upon insanity. Neither were they intended to be so. The object was to compare the immediate physiological influence of this agent upon persons in a healthy and in a deranged state of mind: and even in this point of view they are of very limited value. As far, however, as

one trial, of half an hour each, upon ten insane persons, can authorize an inference, it must be concluded that the influence is considerably less upon them than upon persons of sound mind; and still less again than upon persons inflicted with other infirmities. Two medical gentlemen attached to the establishment, together with Dr. and Mrs. Ellis, were present at these trials; and, if the reality of mesmerism had hung upon the results, the science would be in a sad plight. The effects were so weak as hardly to be perceptible to persons wholly unacquainted with mesmeric phenomena, whose inexperience well might question their existence, and whose preconceptions would allow them to discern nothing but failure in all that occurred. Neither was conviction expected to follow these trials, or any other consequence but a comparison between persons sane and insane. But truth, though often clouded, will burst forth; and a little triumph was reserved for that which is the great guide of man, in a world where the utmost light he can attain is just enough to make darkness visible.

In the evening's conversation, Dr. Ellis mentioned an extraordinary complaint to which he was subject in his stomach. I requested to mesmerise him for fifteen minutes. At the expiration of two minutes his countenance became flushed, his eyes a little bloodshot, and he smiled; he soon afterwards closed his eyes. When the fifteen minutes were elapsed, seeing that he was not asleep, I asked him how he found himself? "I never felt so comfortable in my life. I feel as if I should like to remain in this state always, and never more to move hand or foot." "Pray let me ask you," said I, "why you smiled at the end of two minutes?" "I smiled to find all my incredulity oozing out of me." "You do, then, from your own feelings, acknowledge an effect in mesmerism?" "I do; I must." Dyspeptic cases are among those in which I have found the curative influence of mesmerism the most prompt and efficacious.

It must not be concluded from the above that mesmerism is ineffectual upon insanity. In the "*Exposé des Cures opérées en France par le Magnétisme Animal*," two vols. a work indispensable to all who study this science, eight cures are instanced as effected by a continued treatment. Among sixty-seven epileptic patients whom I myself have treated, two were afflicted with mental derangement, and many with temporary alienation, for several hours after each epileptic paroxysm. In no one instance did the latter symptom fail of being alleviated. In the two insane sub-

jects, the intensity of both diseases was diminished; but, though one patient was magnetised fifty-four times, and the other seventy-six, neither was entirely cured. As I left the country where they resided, the continuation of the treatment was confided, with proper instructions, to their relations.

From the very extraordinary power which mesmerism possesses in other diseases, it is much to be hoped that it may be tried in insanity also; and that no prejudice, no sneers of wilful ignorance or of inconvincible presumption will longer oppose the application of a means, which, in every other country in Europe, has been practised with miraculous success; which reckons thousands of converts in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, and France; and which has been admitted by Hufeland, Jussieu, Cuvier, Ampere, and Laplace.

The preceding extract was submitted to Dr. Ellis for his sanction, and the following answer was returned:

"Wakefield Asylum; April 9, 1829.

"Dear sir,—I have carefully read your extract, and find it perfectly true and candid. For myself, I have no hesitation in declaring that I felt very sensibly affected by the operation; for, where truth and science are to be promoted, no fear of being laughed at shall ever deter me from avowing my sentiments. I have no doubt, too, that I should have fallen asleep if we had been alone; but, surrounded as we were by so many spectators, the very consciousness of feeling the sensation coming upon me, as you truly observe, made me smile, and aroused me. I am too ignorant upon the subject of mesmerism to say any thing upon it that is worth your attention; but, on reflecting upon it, it has struck me that there must be a great difference in the susceptibility of persons being affected by it, according to their states of health, temperaments, &c. All circumstances relating to it should be carefully noted down; and, as soon as you have put the matter into a tangible shape, I shall certainly give it my most serious and candid attention."

Since the experiments were made at Wakefield, I have repeated similar trials in some ordinary hospitals, in the presence of several spectators; and the results obtained have induced me to modify my opinion respecting the limited success which attended them in that institution. The state which mesmerism tends to produce is a state of quietude and calmness. Numerous witnesses disturb and annoy both the patient and the operator. The latter, too, becomes uneasy at seeing his patient agitated, and his anxiety takes away from him the power of concentrating his

mind; a condition far more necessary to produce effects than any mental state of the person acted upon. It is then possible that the spectators, whose presence was an annoyance to Dr. Ellis, may have disturbed the insane patients; and that insanity may be as susceptible of mesmeric influence as any other disorder. We are at present, with regard to mesmeric knowledge, nearly in the same state as was the first man who saw a straw attracted by a piece of amber, with respect to electricity.

Three medical practitioners, two M.D.'s and one surgeon, were thus convinced of the truth of mesmerism by experiments made either by them or on them: and experiment is the test to which the proselytes of this doctrine demand that it should be put. Their first cry is for experiment; their second for experiment; their third for experiment.

The ignorance of the medical world in this country upon mesmerism is as great as the precipitancy with which the question is prejudged. Every work upon it current either in Germany or France, has been slighted and despised. The accounts published at Berlin of the cures performed in the Mesmeric Hospital there, since 1815, have not been listened to. The extraordinary case of Mademoiselle Samson, witnessed successively by thirty-two physicians of the Faculty of Paris, at the Hôtel Dieu, is unknown here, though it has been the subject of so much discussion there. The still more wonderful cure of Paul at the Charité, though attested by near two hundred credible witnesses, has met only with contempt from the very few medical men in England who have ever heard of it. The deliberations of the French Academy of Medicine, in which nearly one half of its members confess that they have seen and believe mesmeric phenomena most marvellous and important, have never been laid before the British public as they should have been. The common opinion is that mesmerism still is what it was forty-five years ago, and that it was then laid to rest for ever by the report of Bailly, Darat, Lavoisier, Franklin, &c. This article shall be concluded with an extract from that report, and with the more recent opinions of two men, whose authority even sceptics must respect. The words of the report are as follows:

“The patients (submitted to mesmeric experiments,) present a very varied picture of results. Some are calm, quiet, and perceive no effect; others cough, spit, feel slight pains, partial or general heat, and perspire; others are tormented and agitated by convulsions: those convulsions are extraordinary for their force and duration. As soon as one convulsion begins, others declare

themselves, and your commissioners have seen some which lasted more than three hours. Nothing can be more astonishing than the sight of these convulsions. He who has not beheld them can form no idea of them; and, even in beholding them, one is equally surprised at the profound repose in which some of the patients are plunged, and at the agitation which animates others. It is impossible not to recognize in these effects, *which are constant*, a great power which agitates the patients, which ever masters them, and of which *the person who magnetizes seems to be the depositary*. This convulsive state is improperly denominated *crisis** in the theory of animal magnetism."

This is the report which the present opposers of mesmerism invoke, as having given an eternal quietus to the science, and in which they say that the phenomena are denied. Yet even this report, far as it is from not admitting mesmeric facts, and from countenancing the interpretation which is often given of it, as great a man as any who signed it, JUSSIEU, thought unworthy of the subject, and made a contradictory report. Jussieu,—aut deus, aut Jussieu,—well accustomed to interrogate nature, instituted separate experiments, which fully proved the reality of mesmerism, and authorized the conclusion that imagination plays as great a part in mesmeric phenomena as in any other physiological phenomena, and *no greater*. The fact is, that ninety-nine experiments in a hundred refute the hypothesis of imagination.

Let M. CUVIER now be heard. In the 117th page of the second volume of his *Comparative Anatomy* he says, "It must be confessed that in all experiments, the object of which is to determine the action which the nervous system of one person may have upon the nervous system of another, it is difficult to distinguish the effects of the imagination of the person acted upon, from the physical effects produced by the person who acts. Yet the effects produced upon persons who, before the operation was begun, were in a state of insensibility; those which have taken place upon other persons, after the operation itself had reduced them to that state; and also the effects produced upon animals, no longer permit it to be doubted that the proximity of two animated bodies, in a certain position, and with the help of certain motions, do produce a *real effect*,

* The modes and the results of mesmerism have been almost as much modified since 1784 as those of electricity since the days of Pliny, and convulsions now are unusual phenomena. Of 442 patients whom I have mesmerised in ten months, and sixty-seven of whom were epileptic or hysterical, but eight had convulsions. These belonged to the latter sixty-seven, and the paroxysms were very speedily relieved.

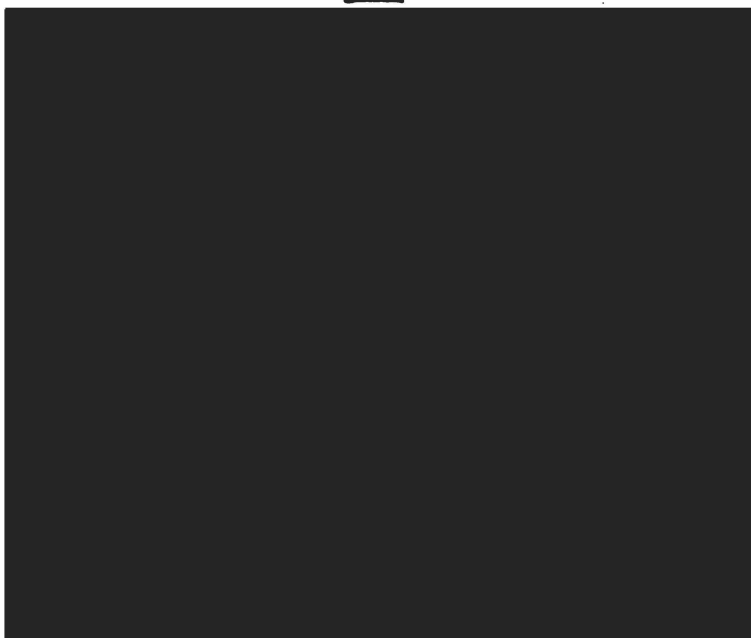
wholly independent of the imagination of either. It is also evident that these effects are entirely owing to a communication which takes place between the nervous system of the two parties."

The last evidence which shall now be heard is LAPLACE. The words (translated) of this great man, in his "*Traité analytique du Calcul des Probabilités*," page 158, are, "The extraordinary phenomena which result from the extreme sensibility of the nervous system in some persons, have given birth to a variety of opinions on the existence of a new agent, denominated animal magnetism. It is natural to suppose that the influence of these causes is very weak, and that it can easily be disturbed by accidental circumstances; but it would be unfair to conclude that it never exists, merely because in many cases it does not manifest itself. We are so far from being acquainted with all the agencies of nature, and with their different modes of action, that it would be unphilosophical to deny the existence of phenomena solely because, in the present state of our knowledge, they are inexplicable to us." I have myself had more than one conversation with M. Laplace upon this subject, about the years 1816 and 1817, and his expression constantly was, that the testimony in favor of the truth of mesmerism, coming with such uniformity from enlightened men of many nations, who had no interest to deceive, and possessed no possible means of collusion, was such that, applying to it his own principles and formulas respecting human evidence, he could not withhold his assent to what was so strongly supported.

Now, though the superiority of British intellect has no more strenuous advocate than myself, I must say that it would not disgrace the greatest man whom England ever has produced to attempt an experiment or two upon a doctrine which Hufeland, Jussieu, Cuvier, Ampere, and Laplace believed. Nay, would it not disgrace him more to condemn, without knowing any thing about it, what they knew and credited? Is supercilious ignorance the weapon with which Bacon would have repelled a new branch of knowledge, however extraordinary it might have appeared to him? and would not Newton have repeated the experiments of Euler and of Dollond, before he would have dared to deny them? Surely, what great men believe ordinary men may try. Then, if they err, they will have noble companions, with whom it may be an honour to go astray: if they are right, they will stand with mighty minds and truth upon their side.

If mesmerism be wilful deception and juggling, this is the country whose duty it is to expose the imposture. If it be venial error and delusion, England, the chief supreme of intellectual judicature, should rectify it. If it be true, she should not be the last to acknowledge it. But, mesmerisers come forward under the broad ægis of experiment. By experiment let the truth be told. Let any twelve men in England devote twelve half hours each to experiment, *secundum artem*, and then relate the issue.

The books which give the best account of the present state of mesmerism are, "Histoire critique du Magnetisme Animal," by M. DELEUZE; "Instructions pratiques sur le Magnetisme Animal," by the same; "Traité du Somnambulism," by BERTRAND; "Exposées des Cures operées en France par le Magnetisme Animal depuis Mesmer jusqu'à nos jours," 2 vols.; "Annales du Magnetism;" "Bibliothèque Magnetique;" "L'Hermes," and "Le Propagateur," two periodical journals, exclusively destined to mesmerism. The fifteen volumes of cases published in Berlin, and in German, are the richest collection of mesmeric transactions existing. The works of HUFELAND, KIESER, WOLFART, &c. are also of the highest value.



THE
LONDON
MEDICAL AND PHYSICAL
JOURNAL.

EDITED BY

JOHN NORTH, ESQ. F.L.S.

MEMBER OF THE ROYAL COLLEGE OF SURGEONS,
AND OF THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON;

AND

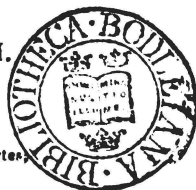
JOHN WHATLEY, M.D. A.M.

MEMBER OF THE ARCADIA OF ROME;
MEMBER EXTRAORDINARY OF THE ROYAL MED. SOCIETY OF EDINBURGH;
MEMBER OF THE MEDICAL AND CHIRURGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON;
AND OF THE MEDICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

(VOL. LXII.)

NEW SERIES, VOL. VII.

—
*Et quoniam variant morbi, variabimus apte:
Mille mali species, mille salutis erunt.*



LONDON:

JOHN SOUTER, 73, ST. PAUL'S CHURCH-YARD,

AND TO BE HAD OF ALL THE MEDICAL BOOKSELLERS.

1829.

Boylan's Lib.

THE LONDON
Medical and Physical Journal.


Nº 366, VOL. LXII.]

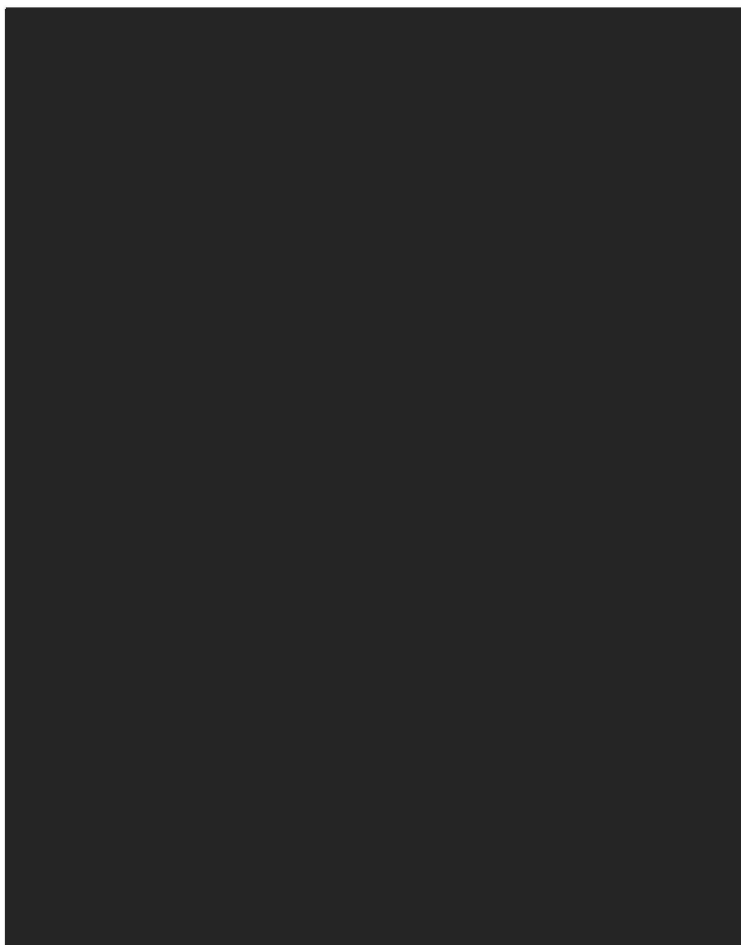
AUGUST, 1829.

[Nº 38, *New Series.*

For many fortunate discoveries in medicine, and for the detection of numerous errors, the world is indebted to the rapid circulation of Monthly Journals; and there never existed any work, to which the Faculty, in Europe and America, were under deeper obligations than to the *Medical and Physical Journal of London*, now forming a long, but an invaluable series.—RUSH.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, AND CASES,
OBTAINED FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER
AUTHENTIC SOURCES.





MESMERISM.

Experiments and Observations on Mesmerism. By RICHARD CHENEVIX, Esq. F.R. and E.S., M.R.I.A., &c. (3d Article.)

THE opinion of many who have devoted themselves to the study and practice of mesmerism is, that this art should be wholly confined to the benevolent end of curing diseases. This maxim is no doubt founded on charity, but it is satisfactory only as far as therapeutics are concerned; and more

* Revue Med. Fev. 1824.

than one great province of mesmerism would lie uncultivated, were it strictly adhered to.

Mesmeric phenomena, in the present state of our knowledge, may be classed under three heads: pathological, physiological, and psychological. Humanity, perhaps, in its limited sense of individual good, might demand no more than an acquaintance with the former; but a wider spirit of advantage, that which makes men feel that the researches of philosophy are of higher import than the alleviation of many a malady, will desire investigations conducted upon other principles, and directed to every ramification into which this old, but oft rejected, truth can branch out. It is fortunate that, in pursuing the subject with a view to immediate utility, its other departments cannot be entirely neglected; and, in the hands of those who consider it merely pathologically, other phenomena start into notice, and claim attention when they are least expected.

Of all these phenomena, the most worthy of consideration are those denominated psychological. They are also the most rare, and, as far as my observation reaches, they are not strikingly manifest in more than three or four cases out of a hundred. They consist in a peculiar state of the mental faculties; and to it the name of lucidity has been applied. As, in the present article, no allusion will be made to any of these, it is useless to describe them here. Persons who desire more ample information may obtain it by consulting the foreign works, (for I am sorry to say there are none in English that treat of this subject,) and of which an enumeration was made in a preceding article.

Physiological phenomena are of much more frequent occurrence. They consist principally in a peculiar state of the nervous system, without reference either to the state of the mind or to the cure of diseases. They manifest themselves in mesmeric sleep, in particular sensations excited or allayed in the patient, by the action of the operator; in the suspension or the promotion of certain functions of animal life, whether voluntary or involuntary; certain modifications of the senses, contrary to what are admitted as the usual laws of nature, and produced entirely by the mesmeric influence. These are the most common results of mesmerism; and so frequent, indeed, that it may be questioned whether two animated bodies ever can come within certain limits without producing some of them, provided the nervous system of the one be but actively directed toward the other. These effects, it is true, may not be perceptible

unless the nervous systems of both parties are suitably disposed; but they are not the less real on that account. As well might we say that the innumerable hosts of stars, discovered by later instruments, were created on the very day when Herschel first beheld them, as deny the existence of phenomena when so minute as to elude our senses, though we acknowledge their reality when they appear before us in more palpable forms.

To produce these phenomena, to make them evident to all who are attached to scientific truth, appears to me as legitimate a pursuit as any within the domain of physiology, provided it be held subordinate to the rules which should guide all similar researches, and the first of which is, that no experiment should be attempted if attended with unnecessary pain or danger. Since I began to occupy myself seriously upon the subject, not a single accident has occurred to me: neither is it probable that any will occur to operators who do not venture imprudently.

These observations were necessary, because much of what is to be stated in this article relates to the physiological class of mesmeric phenomena. Being desirous to prove by experiment that an assertion made in my first communication upon this subject is founded on fact, "*Mesmerism is true!*" I sought for an opportunity to put the science to the test, in some of the many hospitals with which this city abounds. By the kindness of Dr. WHYMPER, surgeon-major to the Coldstream regiment of Guards, and of Mr. G. SMITH, surgeon to the same regiment, the first trial was made in their establishment; and an account of these experiments shall fill the following pages.

My short stay in London did not permit me to undertake any patient in the absolute hope of effecting a cure. Neither could I expect, in so short a time, to spread conviction very far. All my ambition was to excite curiosity; to break the ice of public incredulity; to turn the attention of a few of my eminent countrymen to a subject, of which so many distinguished foreigners have long admitted the truth. The most rapid phenomena, those which manifest themselves in the shortest time, were the most likely to conduce to this purpose; and with this intention the following experiments were undertaken.

The mode of proceeding was constantly as follows: Dr. Whympers and Mr. Smith examined their list of sick, and called into the room whomsoever they pleased. I had no communication whatever with the patient submitted to experiment but in their presence; and it very rarely hap-

pened that I uttered one single word to any of them previously to the operation, or while it lasted. The minds of all were entirely unprepared, at least until the process had become a subject of conversation among the inmates of the hospital; and then their opinions must have taken their bias from effects already produced, that is to say, from mesmerism.

April 12th.—Mr. Smith only was present this day, Dr. Whympers being occupied elsewhere. *Serjeant Oakley*: mesmerised him twenty minutes; no sensible effect: tried him no more.

Case of Richard Ireland.

April 12th. Mr. Smith alone present.—In two minutes' mesmerization, Ireland's eyes began to water, and his left nostril to run. His eyelids trembled very much. In six minutes I saw he was asleep. I then raised his arm almost as high as his head, and let it suddenly fall: he did not waken. When he had slept twenty-five minutes, I attempted to waken him by transverse passes made in that intention. He remained asleep, however, until I called him by name.

Second; April 14th. Dr. Whympers and Mr. Smith present.—In about five minutes he was asleep, and remained motionless for thirty minutes; at the expiration of which, I called him by name, and he awoke. Questioned by Dr. Whympers, he said he had slept soundly.

Third.—Ireland having been thus put to sleep by my mesmeric action, and in a manner which left little doubt upon the minds of Dr. W. and Mr. S., I was anxious to prove to these gentlemen a truth, which is one of the most important features of the doctrine, viz. that the faculty of mesmerising is not a peculiar gift, confined to a few "*quos equus amavit Jupiter*," but a power diffused as equally as any other power over the whole species. *Serjeant Bradbury*, who for nine years has superintended the pharmaceutical department of the hospital, was called in. I showed him the mode of operating, and gave him the necessary instructions, (which preliminaries may have occupied two minutes,) and he then proceeded to act. In six minutes Ireland was fast asleep. While he was in that state, I desired *Serjeant Bradbury* to raise his (the patient's) arm, nearly as high as his head, and let it suddenly fall. He did so: Ireland remained fast asleep. *Bradbury*, by my direction, attempted to waken him by transverse passes, but in vain. His name was then called, and he awoke. Questioned by Dr. Whympers, he said he was not aware that his arms had

been raised or touched; that he had slept soundly, but had not been in the chair more than ten minutes.

Fourth; April 17th. Dr. W. and Mr. S. present.—Bradbury put him to sleep in five minutes very soundly. He remained motionless for twenty-five minutes, and was then awakened. Questioned by Dr. Whymper, he said he felt his health better, that he coughed less; did not know why he slept; was never in the habit of sleeping during the day, but supposed that the hands passing before his eyes, and the quiet of the room, set him to sleep.

Fifth; April 18th. Dr. W. and Mr. S. present. Mr. NORTH was also present this day.—Bradbury put him to sleep in three minutes, and very soundly. He slept until Mr. North raised his arm, and let it fall suddenly. It is here necessary to state, that no person should be permitted to touch the patient while asleep, except the mesmeriser; the most dangerous consequences might ensue: but, as this man was not particularly sensitive, and as the gentlemen present were anxious to make some trials of their own, I consented, in order to satisfy them; warning them, at the same time, that such experiments should not be repeated.

Sixth; April 21st.—He was mesmerised by Bradbury, I not being present this day. A person, who witnessed this day's sitting, told Ireland to try to resist sleep. He did so, and succeeded; but his eyes and nose watered much, and the inclination to sleep was very great. He said that, had he shut his eyes one moment, he must have slept.

Seventh; April 22d. Dr. W. and Mr. S., with two private gentlemen, were present. Bradbury put him to sleep in six minutes, he being told not to resist. At the end of twenty minutes I woke him, by making transverse passes with that intention.

Eighth; April 23d. Dr. W. and Mr. S. present.—Bradbury mesmerised him for twenty minutes; but, as he said that he came into the room fully determined to resist, he did not sleep. His health was not improving, and no more experiments were attempted on this man.

The third patient tried here was *Garrand*, of the band of the regiment.

First; April 15th.—He did not sleep, though mesmerised thirty minutes, and said he was not aware of any effect upon him. I then tried the following experiment: Having previously announced to Dr. W. and Mr. S., out of the reach of the patient's hearing, that my intention was to communicate to Garrand's hand a sensation of heat or of

cold, according to my will, without giving him any intimation of that will. I touched his hand with a silver pencil-case, with that intention. The results of the six first experiments were perfectly correct: that is to say, he felt the pencil-case cold when I willed that he should feel it cold, and hot when I willed that he should feel it hot, without committing a single mistake; but, when the experiment was often repeated, he began to err, and his sensations ceased to be according to my will. I must here state, that I have made this and similar experiments, with more or less success, at least upon eighty patients; and that I have always found that, when I repeated them too frequently at the same sitting, the tact of the patient, however accurate in the first trials, became as it were bewildered, and no longer distinguished the sensations according to my will. These anomalies have been observed by every practical mesmeriser, and are still more striking in the class of phenomena which I have above designated psychological. How to account for them, or for any of the effects of mesmerism, I know not; but such deviations from regularity are not uncommon in physiology. When we take successively into our mouths two known liquors, of different flavors, we immediately recognize them: when we repeat the trial too often, they are no longer distinguishable.

The following experiment was now performed: Garrand's eyes were most strictly blinded; he was desired to raise both his arms, and, being asked whether he felt any thing in either of them, he answered "No." A piece of paper, weighing perhaps from one to two grains, was placed upon his right sleeve, in such a manner that it was utterly impossible for him to feel it. He was then desired to raise both his arms, and was asked "Do you feel any thing?" "Yes." "What?" "A stiffness and weight in my right arm."

The same experiment was tried upon his feet, and with similar success, until too often repeated. Trial was then made whether he felt weight or stiffness in any of his limbs when the paper had been taken off without his knowing it: he felt none.

Second; April 16th.—He did not sleep, and evidently struggled much to avoid sleeping. His eyes, however, were so closed that, although he made many efforts to open them, he could not. He had a violent pain in his forehead, which some passes, made with an intention to relieve it, soon dissipated. The experiment of the pencil-case, tried by Dr. Whympers himself, succeeded as yesterday. That of the paper was not so satisfactory.

Had my intention been to follow up the treatment of this patient, and to attempt a further development of his mesmeric susceptibility, I should have kept him entirely under my own guidance; but, my object being to produce some prompt and striking result, the best method appeared to me to request Dr. Whymper to substitute his will and action in place of mine; for in this case he must be perfectly secure against collusion.

Third; April 17th.—Mesmerised him twenty minutes, but did not try any further experiments on him.

Fourth; April 18th. Dr. W. and Mr. S. present; Mr. North also present.—No sleep, but his eyelids were so much affected that he was two minutes at least struggling in vain to open them. After I had secretly announced to the gentlemen present that my intention was to make his limbs stiff and heavy by my action, I did so. It was acknowledged that this man could not have the slightest notion of what my intention was; consequently, that his mind could have no share in the effect. I then made a few transverse passes with an intention to set his limbs free, and they were free. The success of these experiments, upon frequent repetition, was not constant, and for reasons already stated; but the general result was acknowledged to be very extraordinary. I asked Mr. North, "Do you think these effects real?" "Yes." "Do you think they proceed from my action on this man?" "I can see no other cause."

Fifth; April 22d. Dr. W. and Mr. S., with two private gentlemen, present.—No sleep; was but slightly affected by the experiments above stated of the paper and the pencil-case. I fear they had been too frequently repeated the day before. I then said to the gentlemen present, (of course, without a possibility of being overheard by the patient,) "I will try to fix this man in his chair." I mesmerised him with that intention for about three minutes, and then said, in my usual tone of voice, "That will do for today; you may go." He rose from his chair like a man labouring under severe lumbago, and with considerable difficulty. Questioned by Dr. Whymper as to what prevented him from rising from his chair, he said, "My back and thighs are so stiff!" I then demesmerised him for about one minute, and he said the pains were gone; he added, "I felt as if a weight had been pulling me down."

The fourth patient was named *Simpson*. When he entered the room, Dr. Whymper asked him what he expected from the operation? he replied that he did not know, but

that the other men said it numbed their blood. He was, to all appearance, asleep in ten minutes, with his head reclining backwards. After thirty minutes, he was asked how he felt? "Very odd; but I have not been asleep." "What do you mean by very odd." "The gentleman's hands seem to go through my flesh."

The fifth patient was *Mrs. Whitaker*, a soldier's wife; native of Bruxelles; very nervous, headaches, earachs, noises in her head. Dr. W. and Mr. S. present. She was so much alarmed at the idea of the operation, that she could hardly be calmed. Mesmerised her thirty minutes: no sleep. She said, however, of her own accord, that she had felt drowsy, and indeed that she had been nearly asleep three times, but was too much frightened to allow a fair result."

Second; April 18th. Dr. W. and Mr. S. present; Mr. North also present.—She was mesmerised about twenty minutes: appeared exhausted and sleepy during the operation, and said that she had been asleep. When she rose from the chair, she was reeling and tottering from side to side, and supporting herself upon every piece of furniture within her reach. She complained of great giddiness. A few transverse passes, made with an intent to demesmerise her, removed these sensations in less than half a minute. I then put the following questions to Mr. North: "Are not these phenomena extraordinary?" "They are." "Do you think they result from my action upon this woman?" "I do."* The other gentlemen, who had now become a little familiarised with mesmerism, were still more convinced of the reality of the effects which they saw.

When this woman was desired to sit again the next day, she objected, saying that it made her giddy, and confused and drowsy for the whole day, and that her child (she was pregnant) moved violently. She was evidently very nervous, and her imagination was much excited. She said, however, that the rheumatic pains of her head and face were much relieved.

The sixth patient was *Richard Gould*. April 22d. Dr. W., Mr. S., and two private gentlemen, present.—His complaint was rheumatism in the right thigh; he was

* It was not my intention to express my belief that the "transverse passes" removed the sensations of which the woman complained. I have no doubt she would have quickly and completely recovered from the sensations Mr. Chenevix describes, without any attempts to "demesmerise her." She had been, in fact, in a state very nearly resembling sound and natural sleep, and a few moments were required before she could regain her self-possession.—J. N.

selected promiscuously from a long list of patients. He slept in about three minutes, and remained motionless for half an hour. His arms were raised, as in the case of Ireland, and then let to fall, without any consciousness on his part. Transverse passes were made before his face, with an intention of wakening him, and in one minute he awoke. Questioned by Dr. Whymper, he answered that he did not know that his arm had been raised, or that any thing had been done to him; said that he felt his right thigh warmer than the other. He was not sensible to heat or cold produced by the contact of the pencil-case. A piece of paper placed upon his sleeve, as in experiments above related, gave him a sensation of weight and stiffness in the arm on which it rested; and he once complained of pain at the insertion of the deltoid muscle. He said, also, that his eyelids felt heavy and numb. A few transverse passes were then made, after which he declared that he felt quite recovered.

Second; April 23d. Dr. W. and Mr. S. present.—He was soundly asleep in one minute and a half. His arms were raised and let fall, without his knowing it. In twenty minutes, I woke him by transverse passes made before his face. I then put him to sleep again, and proposed to Dr. W. and Mr. S. to try upon him an experiment which is one of the most striking that can be performed upon patients who are affected by somnolency alone, without manifesting any other phenomenon. It is as follows: A patient being in complete sleep, the mesmeriser, without his knowledge, goes behind him, and there, at a given moment, makes transverse passes with an intention to awaken him. In such circumstances there can be no collusion between the operator and the operatee; neither can the imagination of the latter be anywise suspected of producing the result. It is an experiment which I have repeated before witnesses upon a great number of subjects, and very frequently, but which succeeds only upon persons endowed with great mesmeric susceptibility. In the present case the experiment was thus made: Having announced my intention to Dr. W. and Mr. S., without the possibility of Goold's being apprised of it, I took my station behind his chair. I then waited a couple of minutes, when I began to operate. At the very first pass his eyelids fluttered, and in about one minute he sat up erect in his chair. He soon became entirely awake, and in the same state as that in which he had been put by the previous operation.

Third; April 24th. Dr. W. and Mr. S. present.—Goold

came into the room today evidently determined to resist, and twenty-two minutes elapsed before I could produce any effect upon him; neither should I have done so then, had I not told him that I was aware of his intention. His sleep, too, was not sound; and I regretted most particularly that I was thus prevented from fairly repeating the experiment of yesterday. My wish was to awaken this man again to-day by transverse passes made behind his back; but no sooner had I ceased to mesmerise him before his face, than he awoke. I mention the experiment of yesterday, then, more as one of which I myself am entirely convinced, than as one to the validity of which the medical gentlemen, who witnessed it but once, can give their full assent.

The seventh subject was *J. Fuller*, suffering from chronic dysentery. April 15th; Dr. W. and Mr. S. present. He was taking a grain and a half of opium daily.—No sleep, but felt his head unusually light and giddy; felt very comfortable. He was not sensible of any effect produced either by the pencil-case or the paper. He sat constantly with his eyes closed, and, when desired to open them, he was full two minutes before he could do so. When asked, "What prevented you from opening your eyes?" "I could not; they were fast closed; there was no strength in my eyelids; I never felt so before in my life."

This man was mesmerised again the next day, but only for a few minutes, and without any remarkable effect.

In a preceding article inserted in this Journal, it was stated that about one person in six was susceptible of mesmeric sleep; but, sleep not being the only effect, a larger proportion than this may manifest some of the phenomena. In fact, to eyes accustomed to observe the results of mesmerism, more than half of the subjects submitted to experiment show a certain susceptibility, in some shape or another. But, in the present state of the science, it would be unfair to obtrude upon novices the questionable phenomena which inexperience may hesitate to acknowledge, however evident to old practitioners. In every art tyros fail to discern the delicate touches on which their satisfaction is afterwards founded. For this reason I forbear to insist upon any results which did not afford entire conviction to the medical gentlemen who beheld them for the first time.

Seven patients, then, were mesmerised at the Coldstream Guards' hospital; three of whom, Ireland, Goold, and Mrs. Whitaker, slept. Every one of the seven, Oakley alone excepted, exhibited phenomena which no mesmeriser could for a moment mistake; which even struck Dr. W. and Mr. S.

as most extraordinary, and for a large portion of which it is impossible to account upon any known principle. A single example is sufficient to establish a general mode of reasoning upon all. Garrand, for instance, did not sleep, but he was susceptible of other sensations, as in the experiments of the pencil-case and of the paper, and when he was nearly rendered incapable of rising from his chair. Had this man been inclined to deceive us, the only effect of which he could have heard when first I mesmerised him, was sleep. This, then, was what he would have counterfeited, for he knew of no other; but he did not do so. The first time I touched his hand with the pencil-case, he had no more idea of what my intention was than if he had never seen me; yet the sensation which he described not only was one of temperature, and never of any other physical quality, as weight, hardness, &c., but it most accurately corresponded with the variations of heat and cold which, without his knowledge, I had announced as my will to two unbiassed and enlightened observers, both leaning rather toward the sceptical than toward the credulous side of philosophic hesitation. In the same manner, Garrand never felt the paper hot or cold, but always light or heavy; and light or heavy in exact conformity to my will, previously and distinctly announced to credible witnesses. Had this man, too, been the only one of these patients on whom similar effects were produced, something might be attributed to accident, to a casualty of his temperament; but Goold was hardly less susceptible than he was: Mrs. Whitaker manifested analogous symptoms; and, in all, six out of seven patients experienced sensible and undeniable effects. Neither does the diminution of sensibility or of accuracy in these experiments invalidate their reality: it confirms it; because such a diminution is in perfect harmony with all the laws of physiology. The galvanic excitability of the dead frog is exhausted by repetition, and too frequent stimulation extinguishes even life.

Since these experiments were terminated, others have been made at three hospitals in London, and at my own house, in presence of some very eminent men. An account of them shall be given successively in this Journal. Conviction, of course, has reached these persons in different degrees; and, lest the opinion of any one of them should be attributed to any other, I shall forbear mentioning them until the exact words of each are attached to his name. In what I have to communicate, I shall state nothing which has not been submitted to the gentlemen whose testimony I adduce, for their approbation; and very often I shall be

able to quote their letters to me on the subject. My intention is to give, without reserve, and equally, an account of all the impressions, favorable and unfavorable, made by these experiments, and then to sum up the evidence on either side. In the present instance, the notes were taken, during each sitting, by Dr. Whympers himself, who communicated them to me; and from them I have drawn up the preceding narrative, adding only a few observations, which habit enabled me to make, and such explanations as appeared necessary to elucidate this unstudied subject.

Boylan Lib

THE LONDON
Medical and Physical Journal.

Nº 367, VOL. LXII.] SEPTEMBER, 1829. [Nº 39, *New Series*.

For many fortunate discoveries in medicine, and for the detection of numerous errors, the world is indebted to the rapid circulation of Monthly Journals; and there never existed any work, to which the Faculty, in Europe and America, were under deeper obligations than to the *Medical and Physical Journal of London*, now forming a long, but an invaluable series.—RUSH.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, AND CASES,
OBTAINED FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER
AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

MESMERISM.

Experiments and Observations on Mesmerism. By RICHARD CHENEVIX, Esq. F.R. and E.S., M.R.I.A., &c. (4th Article.)

It is the duty of a conscientious narrator to relate, with equal frankness, every portion of his story; to give the testimony of all who depose against his doctrines, as well as in their favor; to record failure no less than success. In the present instance, however, this duty may be dispensed with, on account of the details into which it would lead me; and having, in a former article, premised that not more than one patient in six slept, or was sufficiently susceptible of the mesmeric influence to manifest convincing phenomena, I may spare my readers an enumeration of many experiments; telling them merely that, before I met with cases worthy of being submitted to the witnesses whose evidence I am going to adduce, I encountered many disappointments. Such is the fate of all who make researches upon mesmerism in its present state; and the happiest practical addition which could be made to the science now, would be some certain indication of mesmeric susceptibility, as nearly five-sixths of the labour would be abridged to all who could produce prompt and convincing results.

Being in Dublin on the 26th of March, 1829, I made

some experiments at the Hospital of Incurables there, by permission and in presence of Dr. CROKER, physician to the establishment. The first six patients exhibited no effects; at least, none which could convince an inexperienced observer. The seventh patient was *Mary Glynn*, a severe case of vomiting, originally caused by an injury. She was obliged to have the nurse and a crutch to enable her to come down stairs, as she said she could not come down without their assistance. She could, however, with the help of her crutch alone just walk from her bed to the fireside in her own ward. For the last two months she had excruciating pains in her left arm, which Dr. Croker feared was threatened with paralysis. I had never seen this woman before, and now only in the presence of Dr. C. I desired her to sit down, and, without any conversation whatever, mesmerised her for thirty minutes. She then, of her own accord, said that she thought herself better, and believed she could walk. She did so. I made her sit down again, and in fifteen minutes more she had *clignotements* of her eyelids, complained that she was too warm, and got up again to walk. This time she used no crutch, and declared (what, indeed, was notorious in the hospital,) that for two months she had not been able to do as much. She was mesmerised again immediately, and, after about sixty minutes, got up again, and walked quite well. The nurse and attendants, when called into the room, expressed the utmost astonishment at seeing her pace along without the least unevenness in her gait; and she went up stairs to her ward without any assistance whatever, leaving even her crutch in the room where she had been mesmerised.

Second; March 27th.—She said she had slept better last night than she had done for a long time, and continues to walk quite well. She complained of a stinging pain in head and hand; has long been unable to put her left hand behind her back. No effect was produced on it by mesmerism; neither was any effect apparent upon her this day.

Third; March 28th.—Continues to walk perfectly well, inasmuch that two medical students, who had not seen her till now, could hardly credit that, but forty-eight hours before, she could walk only with a crutch, and that very badly. She did not sleep so well last night, on account of an eruption on her head, caused, as it was supposed, by the use of nitric acid. She felt heavy and drowsy today during the operation. Her left arm is not getting better. Saw her no more after this day.

The improvement produced in this case, though so much

yet remained undone, was most striking, and made a forcible impression upon all who were present, Dr. Croker and three private individuals. The plain and undeniable fact is, that, in about fifty-five minutes' mesmerising, this woman, deemed incurable, who for two months had not been able to walk without her crutch, and had been in violent pain, was enabled to walk alone without pain, and so well that even medical observers could not perceive any lameness. One more patient in this hospital was also strongly affected; but I pass over her case, to hurry on to the metropolis of science.

April 21st, at St. George's Hospital, London, I mesmerised two female patients, in the presence of Mr. BRODIE, Mr. SMITH, of the Coldstream Guards, and some other persons. The effect was hardly perceptible.

April 26th.—I had two patients at my own house, sisters, both epileptic from their childhood, and daughters of an epileptic father. Mary Ann was aged nineteen; Sarah, sixteen. The former had been mesmerised once, on the preceding day; the latter I had never seen before. I mesmerised them both this day, in presence of Dr. MILLIGAN and Mr. SMITH; but I shall confine my account to Sarah, whom I mesmerised for the first time. After a very few passes her eyes closed, and in about one minute she was in sound mesmeric sleep. She awoke when I spoke to her, was sickish in her stomach, and had a pain in her head. A few transverse passes removed her headach, but the sickness in her stomach remained. After the operation, Dr. Milligan declared his opinion to be that the somnolency produced upon this patient was the effect of a peculiar influence exercised by me; and that, on account of its suddenness, it could not be the result of any of the usual modes which produce sleep. Mr. Smith coincided in this opinion. I shall presently quote Dr. Milligan upon another occasion.

On the eleventh day of Mary Ann H. and the tenth of Sarah H., May 7th, Mr. BRODIE, Dr. PROUT, and Capt. BAGNOLD, were present.

Mary Ann H. appeared to sleep in about four minutes. In twenty minutes I woke her by speaking to her. She had a headach, which a few transverse passes, made with that intention, removed.

Sarah H. had a headach when I began, which a few transverse passes dissipated. Her eyes closed almost instantly, and in about one minute she was fast asleep. While she was in that state, I opened her eyelids, in order to show that the appearance of the eye was different from

what it is in waking persons. As these gentlemen were hurried, I awoke both these patients in twenty-two minutes. The opinion of Mr. Brodie, on seeing these experiments, was doubtful as to the reality of Mary Ann's sleep. The following conversation took place respecting her sister. I said, "Let me ask you two questions; but beware of your answers, for it is fair to tell you that I wish to have them for the express purpose of publication: Do you think this girl really and truly slept?" "I do, and very soundly too." "Do you think she went to sleep herself, out of fatigue or ennui, or, in short, by means of what you saw me do?" "Certainly by means of what you did." In a subsequent conversation, Mr. Brodie said that, though he did not doubt that sleep had been brought on by means of what I did, he saw no necessity for supposing the existence of any new agency; for the effect may be accounted for upon the same principle as giddiness, &c. produced by a quick rotatory motion.

Dr. Prout doubted whether Mary Ann really was asleep, but he had no doubt as to Sarah. He was by no means convinced, however, that my action was the cause of her sleep; though he did not immediately see to what other agency it could be ascribed. He added, that the circumstance of these girls having been so often acted upon before makes the subject still more doubtful in his estimation.

The opinion of Capt. Bagnold was, that both patients were asleep in three minutes and a half; and in this belief I perfectly coincided.

The fact is, however, that the appearance of Mary Ann was much more equivocal to persons who never before had witnessed mesmeric phenomena; while it was impossible to hesitate one moment respecting her sister. But let Mary Ann be entirely struck off the list of facts, Sarah still slept; and that she did sleep, is testified by the above highly credible witnesses.

The preceding statement was submitted to Mr. Brodie and to Dr. Prout for their approbation, and the following answers were returned in writing.

16, Saville row; May 13, 1829.

"My dear Sir: What I have to say on the subject of the experiments on the two girls which I saw made by you in Jermyn street, is as follows: I have my doubts whether the eldest of these girls really slept. I have no doubt that the other slept very soundly for several minutes, and until you awoke her. I have no doubt also that she slept in consequence of the means employed by you. With such information, however, as I at this moment

possession, I see no reason to believe that this girl's sleep may not be explained on principles already known; and I should think that it may be compared to the giddiness which is produced by turning round; or, still better, to the sleep produced by rocking a child.*

"Believe me to be, my dear sir, yours most truly,
"B. C. BRODIE."

"29th May.

"Dear Sir: I return your statement with some slight alterations, (which made it as given above, relating to Dr. Prout's testimony,) &c. * * I fear, on the whole, my evidence is rather against you; and I confess that I must see much more before I can be satisfied of the reality of mesmerism.

"Most truly yours, N. PROUT."

On May 12th, the fifteenth time of Mary Ann, and the fourteenth of Sarah H., Mr. FARADAY and Dr. HARGOOD, both of the Royal Institution, were present.—Sarah H. complained of a pain in her stomach and head, which a few transverse passes removed. I then directed my intention toward producing sleep. After a pass or two her eyelids closed, and in less than two minutes she was asleep. While she was in that state, I raised her left eyelid, and showed the eye under it with the glossy and lifeless appearance which it generally assumes when she is in mesmeric sleep. In thirty minutes I awoke her, calling her by name.

Mary Ann slept in about three minutes, and very soundly. I uncovered her eye also, which was not quite so much affected as her sister's. In thirty minutes I awoke her. She had a violent headach, which a few transverse passes calmed.

Mr. Faraday's opinion was, that there was nothing in these phenomena which a good actor could not play. A circumstance which induced him to doubt the reality of the sleep of Mary Ann, was that she coughed, and put her hand before her mouth, as she might have done being awake. But it is a great error to confound mesmeric sleep with common sleep; for, in the former, many appearances are assumed which are incompatible with the latter. The second person I ever saw in the state of artificial somnambulism walked about the house, and performed many do-

* This is precisely the explanation of mesmeric sleep which we offered in our review of DUPAU on Animal Magnetism, in our Journal for November, 1826, p. 469; and we are, of course, confirmed in the opinion we then expressed by finding it supported by Mr. BRODIE. In speaking of this phenomenon, we observed "There is here no mystery: the effect might be anticipated. The magnetic fluid is not required. Upon the same principle, a child is lulled to rest by fatiguing its senses with some nursery lullaby, or some gentle and oft-repeated motion."—EDITORS.

mestic functions while in that state. In natural somnambulism the fact has long been acknowledged.

Dr. Hargood was struck at the promptness with which the pain in Sarah's head and stomach were relieved by the transverse passes made with that intention, before the operation for sleep was begun. He believed both sisters to be soundly asleep, but attributed all the phenomena which he saw to imagination. Both Mr. F. and Dr. H., however, considered these experiments as well worthy of investigation, and expressed their wish that the subject might meet with fair and candid inquiry.

May 16th, I mesmerised Mary Ann for the eighteenth time. Unfortunately, her sister, who was in service, could not come this day. The Marquess of LANSDOWNE and Dr. HOLLAND were present. In about five minutes the girl was asleep. I opened her eyelid, and showed the state of the eye under it, fixed, and with a dead and glassy appearance.* She was slightly disturbed by this experiment, yet she continued asleep. At the expiration of about twenty minutes I awoke her. I then put the same questions to Dr. Holland as I had put to Mr. Brodie; telling him also that my object was to have his testimony, be it what it might, for publication. "Do you think this girl was asleep?" "I do." "Do you think she went to sleep of herself, out of lassitude, ennui, or by means of what I did to her?" "Certainly I think that, without your means, she would not have slept." I asked the same questions of Lord Lansdowne, and received the same answers. Neither Lord Lansdowne nor Dr. Holland, however, admitted the necessity of any new agency to account for these effects.

This statement was sent to Dr. H. for his approbation, and his answer was as follows:

"Dear Sir: I return the enclosed paper, having nothing to object to the statement respecting the girl whom I saw at your house. I believe that she was asleep, and that she would not have slept but for the means employed by you.

"Most truly yours, H. HOLLAND."

May 19th, the seventeenth sitting of Sarah H. Drs. BABINGTON and B. BABINGTON present.—She slept in two minutes. I opened her eye, and pressed my finger hard upon the eyeball: she did not make the slightest motion. I then put my middle finger into her mouth as far as

* Mr. MAYO, who accidentally saw this passage in its way through the press, observed to us that, in a doubt between genuine and pretended sleep, the state of the pupil is a valuable criterion. In natural sleep, the pupil, according to Mr. Mayo, is always greatly contracted.—EDITORS.

I could, and stirred it about for more than a minute, endeavouring to stimulate the fauces: she showed not the slightest symptom of feeling any thing from this operation. I then tickled her nose and upper lip with a slip of paper, and put the same slip of paper up her nostril; but she did not manifest the slightest sensibility to the impressions which should have resulted in ordinary cases.

Dr. Babington said that, if long experience of the many impositions practised by the poorer classes in the hospitals had not put him upon his guard, he might be induced to give some credit to these appearances; but he wished to suspend his judgment until he could make some experiments himself, in which he would use every means to guard against deception on their part. I observed to him, that in this case there could be no motive for imposition, as the girl came to me every day from a considerable distance, without a hope of any remuneration but health. My wish, however, being much more to excite active curiosity than to impart supine conviction, most heartily do I hope that many will adopt the same mode of obtaining truth.

This statement was submitted to Dr. B. for his approbation. He confirmed it in writing; adding, that he had not yet had an opportunity of showing it to his son; "but I have no doubt that he will agree with me in finding it quite correct."

Dr. B. Babington has since written, to say that the two girls "did present the usual phenomena of sleep: I may even say, of profound sleep. This did not, however, appear to me to be induced by any new or extraordinary influence, and it seemed that the imagination, aided by the will, exercised a power over the faculties," &c.

On April 27th and 28th, I tried some patients at the Middlesex Infirmary in Great Pulteney street, but with little success.

April 29th, I mesmerised an epileptic boy. In seven minutes his eyes closed, and his head fell back; he did not entirely sleep, however. On coming to himself he felt a trembling, which I soon calmed. Mr. EVANS RIADORE, of this establishment, was present, but said he saw nothing which could authorize him to admit a mesmeric effect.

April 30th.—Mesmerised the same boy again. Dr. Milligan and Mr. Evans Riadore were present. No somnolency was produced; but in six minutes a tremor ensued, as yesterday, and the boy said he felt a fit coming on. I increased the intensity of the mesmeric action, with the intention of preventing the fit, but without giving him any

intimation of my purpose. In three minutes he said he was much better; and in two minutes more he said he was quite well, with the exception of a headach, which a few transverse passes, with an intention to demesmerise him, took away. During the tremor he became very pale, and after it, Mr. Evans Riadore found his pulse slower than before. Dr. Milligan, who had witnessed the first day's mesmerization of Sarah H., reaped new conviction from this patient. Yesterday, Mr. Evans Riadore had said to me, in conversation, that mesmerism seemed so repugnant to his reason, that he could not bring his mind to consider it at all. This day he exclaimed, "I have seen something to-day, I must confess, and I did not expect it. There certainly is something in all this, and I will try it in this very institution." "Will you sign this," said I, "and let me publish it?" He answered, "I will." To which Dr. Milligan added, "There is nothing which we say to you on this head that you may not publish."

The handsome manner in which these gentlemen avowed their conviction enhances its value. It is not every man who today will admit, even upon experiment, what yesterday he thought repugnant to his reason. Dr. Milligan and Mr. Riadore did sign this report, approved by them.

The experiments which I shall now relate were performed at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. On May 23d, Mr. EARLE was kind enough to allow me to accompany him to that establishment. The first patient submitted to trial was an epileptic young man, who at that moment was taking large doses of nitrate of silver. His fits were very bad and frequent. Though to all appearance this was a person likely to be affected by mesmerism, he manifested little susceptibility; so slight is yet the confidence to be placed in any prognostic relating to this unfathomed subject. Being pressed for time, I continued to operate upon this man only eight minutes.

The next patient was a woman afflicted with disease in her bladder. During the first five minutes no effect was manifested. She then said that she felt a fluttering in her inside. I observed to Mr. Earle, in a language which this woman certainly did not comprehend, "This is a mesmeric effect." Mr. Earle smiled doubtingly. "To convince you," continued I, in the same language, "I will now take this effect away." By altering my intention, and demesmerising the patient, without letting her perceive any alteration, I did calm those feelings. Still Mr. Earle doubted. "I will now," said I, "give her those sensations back again." After two minutes' mesmerising, they re-

turned. "I will now take them away again." I did so, and by the same means. Still, however, though Mr. Earle and a student of the hospital, who was present, acknowledged that the results most accurately corresponded with the intentions which I had announced, conviction made but little progress, so extraordinary did the facts appear; and had not good fortune thrown another patient in my way, on whom the effects were still more palpable, my labour at St. Bartholomew's would have been in vain.

This patient was a woman afflicted with iritis, for which she had been largely bled; and she was, moreover, recovering from a severe mercurial course. In less than two minutes' mesmerising, her head fell back, her eyes closed, and a kind of hysterical trance came on. In three minutes she awoke, said she felt hot, then cold, and a shivering ensued, particularly in her knees and thighs. This I stopped in about one minute, by continuing the mesmeric action in this intention, as I had announced to Mr. Earle in a foreign language. I tried the experiment of the piece of paper on her arm, but she felt it very slightly. Touched with the silver pencil-case, my intention being (as in the cases described in a former article) to give her a sensation of heat, she said she felt as if all the warmth of her hand had gone to that spot. I then demesmerised her, as she complained of much uneasiness; and, having made her stand up, I drew my hands down before her from the head to the very soles of her feet, at the distance of three or four inches, for about one minute and a half, with the intention of destroying the preceding effects. She then said that she felt better, and left the room much recovered. She declared that, in her life, she never had experienced any thing like what she had just felt; that she never had an attack of hysteria, epilepsy, or any nervous paroxysm.

This woman showed considerable susceptibility; and, had time permitted me to continue the treatment, I have no doubt that she would have become a remarkable subject. Mr. Earle assured me that he had witnessed sufficient effects to encourage him to continue the experiments on both these women, and recommended them, for that purpose, to two of his pupils who were present, and to whom I gave all the instructions in my power, pointing out to them the works in which the amplest details upon the modes of operating, together with the dangers and advantages of each, are given. These two gentlemen, also, were fully convinced that extraordinary effects had been produced.

These three patients were entirely selected by Mr. Earle, without my influencing his choice in any manner. I had

never seen one of them before, and now only in the presence of incredulous witnesses, eager for truth, who granted nothing that was not proved, and who were very fairly watchful to detect illusion or deception; and all can testify that no act or word of mine could, in the remotest degree, have conducted to intimate to those patients what my intentions were. They came into the room with their minds unsophisticated, unprepared for any result, for any impression; yet, as Mr. Earle saw, at the very first pass of my hand, the last patient began to manifest some of the symptoms so often described in every German and French work on the subject as among those which mesmerism produces; and in less than three minutes was violently affected. I must add that, at the time of operating, I was ignorant of the disorders under which the two female patients were labouring.

On the following day the operation was repeated on the third patient, by one of the pupils; and, in about seven minutes, still more violent convulsive effects were produced, and which lasted longer than on the preceding day. From their violence and duration, indeed, Mr. Earle would not permit the experiments on this patient to be carried to a greater extent.

When this statement was submitted to Mr. Earle, he returned the following answer.

"George street; May 28th.

"My dear Sir: In reply to your request that I would state my honest opinion of the trials which you made at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, I have no hesitation in saying that, in the first case, no effect was produced; that, in the second, the patient was under considerable alarm, in expectation that she was about to have her bladder examined, and that she said that she felt a fluttering in her inside, which abated for a time, and was reproduced, as you represent, on your repeating the motions of your hands. In the third case a very decided effect was produced; and it was reproduced the following day by my pupil. In making this acknowledgment, however, I am by no means prepared to say that the effects were any thing more than the influence produced upon the mind of an enfeebled patient by the mysterious movement of your arms, and her ignorance of the object of these movements. The circumstance of her erroneous sensations I have frequently observed after syncope.

"You will perceive, from these observations, that I am yet an unbeliever; but I am quite open to conviction, and will certainly repeat the experiments under less doubtful circumstances. Should more ample experience induce me to alter my opinion, you may depend upon hearing from me. Believe me, my dear sir, very truly yours,

"HENRY EARLE."

I shall at this moment refrain from making any observations upon the preceding testimonies, and the modes in which the medical gentlemen, who admit the facts, endeavour to explain them. The next article, which will be the concluding one, will contain the few trials which remain to be mentioned, together with a summing-up of the evidence. I must merely remark, that the convulsions of the third patient, when mesmerised by Mr. Earle's pupil, do not in the least surprise me; neither would they have deterred me from pursuing the experiment. I have never met with one case in which such accidents were attended with danger, provided the operator continued to act upon the patient with an intention of arresting their progress. It requires, however, some experience, and the confidence which practice gives, to enable the mesmeriser to preserve his calmness; and a person who witnesses such phenomena for the first time may, in common prudence, be deterred from carrying the operation any further. This experiment proves, too, that mesmerism is not a thing to be trifled with, and that its power of injury is not less than its power to do good. The only result to be regretted in this case would be, if the alarming symptoms manifested by this patient should prevent the prosecution of the inquiry by so candid an observer as Mr. Earle.

THE LONDON
Medical and Physical Journal.

Nº 368, VOL. LXII.]

OCTOBER, 1829.

[Nº 40, *New Series*.]

For many fortunate discoveries in medicine, and for the detection of numerous errors, the world is indebted to the rapid circulation of Monthly Journals; and there never existed any work, to which the Faculty, in Europe and America, were under deeper obligations than to the *Medical and Physical Journal of London*, now forming a long, but an invaluable series.—RUSH.

ORIGINAL PAPERS, AND CASES,
OBTAINED FROM PUBLIC INSTITUTIONS AND OTHER
AUTHENTIC SOURCES.

MESMERISM.

Experiments and Observations on Mesmerism. By RICHARD CHENEVIX, Esq. F.R. and E.S., M.R.I.A., &c. (5th and last Article.)

THE experiments which I now have to relate were made in presence of Dr. ELLIOTSON. The following notes were drawn up by him each day, and I transcribe them with a few verbal alterations, and remarks, to elucidate some points.

Dr. Elliotson says, "On May 14th, 1829, I was introduced to Mr. Chenevix, at the Royal Society, by Dr. Hodgkin, and invited to witness the phenomena of mesmerism, the next morning, at Mr. Chenevix's lodgings in Old Burlington street. On the following morning I found two females,* said to be sisters, sitting in two chairs side by side; the one apparently about eighteen years of age, of a pretty full habit, but a colourless and heavy countenance; the other apparently about twelve years old, with a fine skin, florid complexion, and animated expression.

"Mr. C. asked the elder whether she had any pain? She replied, 'Yes, in her forehead.' He passed his hands before her forehead two or three times, and I believe placed one of his fingers on it; when she said the pain had moved to the top of her head. The same operation was repeated on the top of her head; when she said the pain was gone. Mr. C. then began to draw down his hands before her, in the usual way of magnetisers, and frequently in contact with her face and clothes, and likewise placed his hands motionless on the front of the body and the loins, sometimes at the same moment; and in three or four minutes she looked sleepy, when he gently pressed down her eyelids, and inclined her head to one side, as if to place it for support against a piece of wood at the back of her chair. She remained for a considerable time, as far as I could judge by very carefully watching her features and her breathing, in a sound sleep; and was at last awakened by Mr. C., as any person might be awakened by another.

"As soon as this girl appeared fairly asleep, Mr. C. began the process with the younger sister; but, though she soon appeared sleepy, she was as long again in assuming the same appearance of sleep as the first; and, as I had placed my chair at the side of Mr. C. close to her, and consequently could not make very minute observations on the elder, I resolved to satisfy myself, as fully as I could,

* Mary Ann and Sarah H., mentioned in the last article.

that the little one played no tricks; and, if she had not shown more marks of sleep than she did for the first few minutes that her head reclined to one side, in the attitude of repose, I should have remained doubtful of the power of the manipulations. But at length, perhaps in about seven or eight minutes from the commencement,* I was as satisfied of her being in a sound sleep as a bystander could be. She did not waken until roused by Mr. C., as her sister had been roused. Her eyes and cheeks were then red, and her eyes heavy; exactly as is observed in persons really awakening from sleep. While they were both apparently asleep, Drs. Wright and Wilmot entered the room.

Mr. Chenevix was requested to attempt to throw the younger one into sleep again. He did attempt it during about four minutes, and she fell into the same appearance as in the beginning of the former process; and, on being questioned, she very ingenuously answered that she had not been asleep this second time.

"On the second morning I took Mr. C. to —, for the purpose of seeing the process tried upon persons who had never heard of mesmerism, who were ignorant of what was to be done, and had never communicated with Mr. C. Dr. — met us there, and was requested to send for any patient he thought proper. Mary P., about eighteen years old, was introduced. She was subject to hysteria, and had suffered a paroxysm that morning, and was asleep at the time she was sent for. She appeared a little flurried, and her pulse was 150. Mr. C. had scarcely touched her when an hysterical paroxysm came on, and lasted for an hour; during the whole of which the process of mesmerism was continued by Mr. C., who frequently attempted, but in vain, to calm and rouse her. She was perfectly insensible during the whole hour, but the fit was less violent (said Dr. —) than ordinary. A second fit, too, he informed us, rarely happened in one day. I could discern in this nothing but an hysterical paroxysm induced by agitation of mind. Mr. C. frequently attempted to remove the rigidity of her arms, and to relax the fingers by mesmerism, without the least effect.

"I now sent for a little girl labouring under chorea, but who was nearly cured by subcarbonate of iron. The same manipulations were tried for ten minutes, but not the least effect was produced.

* She was, in truth, asleep, as usual, in one minute; though, to a person who saw these experiments for the first time, she might not appear so.

"I sent for two other females, about eighteen or twenty years old, on both of whom Mr. C., judging from the tremulous motion of their eyelids, hoped for success; but the manipulations of mesmerism, continued for ten minutes, had no effect. One of them, indeed, questioned by Mr. C., said she felt her head light. He then, without speaking, moved his fingers before her forehead: she said it felt heavy. These sensations alternated four times, till, after a last manipulation, she declared her head to be quite well.

"Dr. — then brought in Emma W., about twenty-five in appearance, and subject to epilepsy; her age was, in fact, but eighteen. In ten minutes her eyes closed, and her head suddenly dropped forwards; but I did not consider her to be asleep until ten minutes more had elapsed. She then really seemed in sound and tranquil sleep. Her hands, when raised, dropped immediately; her eyes were completely closed. The whole frame remained motionless. I placed my face close to hers, for the purpose of seeing if her eyes were quite shut, and she did not move a feature; neither did the friction of her eyelashes cause contraction in any muscle. On being woke by Mr. C., the redness of her eyes and cheeks, and the heaviness of her look, were completely those of a person wakening out of sleep. Before she appeared to waken, Mr. C. asked her some questions, which she answered; and, while the conversation proceeded, she became gradually, as it appeared, quite awake. Mr. C. declared her to have been asleep, and her first answers, to have been given by her in magnetic sleep. He augured from this that in time lucidity might be manifested.

"May 17th, carried Mr. C. again to —, where he proceeded to mesmerise the hysterical girl, Mary P. He said that, to his mind, it was clear that the paroxysm of yesterday was the effect of mesmerism; and he was inclined to think that, should another be brought on today, it would be slighter. He looked upon this patient as the most susceptible he had yet met with in London. She was much calmer to-day on coming into the room than yesterday: her pulse was 130. She presently closed her eyes, and her head went from side to side, as that of a person asleep; and I felt satisfied that she was so. In a few minutes convulsive motions began, and continued near an hour. Dr. — said that her convulsions were generally preceded by a short drowsiness and insensibility. At length the convulsions became very violent, and Mr. C. again and again attempted, in vain, to tranquillize her, to calm her arms,

legs, &c.; and we thought it prudent to stop the process. She was carried to her bed, strapped down upon it, and in about five minutes she returned to herself, and became calm.*

"Mr. C. then mesmerised Emma W. In about the same time as yesterday she looked asleep; her hands, when raised, dropped as before; and Mr. C. signified that he thought her to be asleep. She remained so for ten minutes. Mr. C. proceeding as he expected her to answer him in that state. When he addressed her, however, she spoke as if awake, and assured us that she had not been asleep, either to-day or yesterday; contrary to Mr. C.'s expectation. She said that both times she felt drowsy. He then mesmerised her arm, with the intention, as he said, of paralyzing it. She said it pained her. After a few transverse passes, she said the pain was gone. The same effects were produced, and by the same means, on her head. He then placed a piece of paper (as related in a former article) on one of her arms, and desired her to raise them both. She felt some difficulty in raising that on which he had put the paper. When she had walked about half-way across the room to go away, he darted his hands violently towards her feet. No effect ensued. Mr. C. said that he had often arrested the progress of his mesmeric patients, and rendered them motionless, by a similar process.

"May 18th.—The chorea girl, who had felt her head successively light and heavy on a former day, had commenced menstruating this morning, though she had not done so for several months. Three more female patients were submitted to the process, but with no apparent result.

"A fourth patient was now seated in the chair. She exhibited no apprehension of any kind, but was talking very cheerfully to me. Mr. C., without saying one word to her, began his manipulations, at the distance of half a foot, but did not touch her. In about one minute she said, in a plaintive voice, "Sir, don't do that;" and seemed in great distress. She afterwards told us that Mr. C. drew weakness

* My opinion upon this patient is, that both these paroxysms were induced by mesmerism. I have generally seen, too, that the intensity of such attacks diminishes each time, while the patient is undergoing the process. A girl, aged ten, had eleven fits the first day I mesmerised her, all, from first to last, decreasing in violence and duration. The second day she had three, and never after any. Had the patient, whose case is here recited by Dr. Elliotson, been mine, I would not have permitted any one to touch her, but would have continued the operation that day, and afterwards. Persons unacquainted with the extraordinary effects of mesmerism may, however, well be alarmed at them; and the prudence of these gentlemen was highly commendable.

into her, and made her feel faint. She complained of pain in the abdomen. Mr. C. moved his hands transversely before it, and she said the pain was gone. (She had felt a slight pain there before we saw her.) She then complained of great uneasiness in her chest; and after some transverse movements, made by Mr. C. with the intention of removing it, she declared it was gone. The pain in the abdomen returned and ceased, as before, by the manipulations of Mr. C. Mr. C. then darted his open hand towards one arm, without touching it, and told her to raise both arms. She scarcely could move that which he had thus mesmerised. He then made some transverse passes before it: she at once moved it, and declared the stiffness and uneasiness to be gone. The same was repeated with the other arm, and with the same effect. He told her to lift her feet: she did so with perfect ease. He then darted his hand toward one leg, and she stared with astonishment at finding that she could not stir it without the greatest difficulty. He then made some transverse passes, when she instantly raised it, and said there was neither pain nor stiffness in it. He then closed her eyes, and put a very small piece of paper, weighing perhaps one grain, on her foot, in such manner that it was utterly impossible she could perceive it: she could scarcely move that foot. The paper was removed in the same manner, and without her knowing it: she could instantly raise her foot. She now complained of pain about the heart: Mr. C. demesmerised her, and she said it was gone. In all these experiments, Mr. C. had most clearly announced to me, in French, what his intentions were; and the effects coincided so accurately with those intentions that I confess I was astonished. Deception was impossible. Mr. C. looked round at me, and asked, in French, if I was satisfied. I really felt ashamed to say no, and yet I could scarcely credit my senses enough to say yes. I remained silent. He then asked me, still in a language unintelligible to the patient, 'Shall I bring back a pain or disable a limb for you once more?' I, of course, requested that he would do so. He complied instantly, giving her a pain in the chest once, and disabling her several times from moving her limbs, and removing those effects at pleasure, according to the intentions which he announced to me; the whole taking place exactly as it had done in every former trial on this woman. As, however, she began to feel faint and uncomfortable, Mr. C. judged it prudent to desist; assuring me that such experiments as these should never be repeated, but with moderation, and only by experienced mesmerisers.

"On questioning this woman a few days after Mr. C. had produced such decided effects upon her, respecting what had occurred, she declared that he had disabled first one limb, then another, and restored their use, exactly as appeared to be the case; that she never had felt any thing like it in her life before; that, though she had not slept during the operation, she had felt very drowsy; that she had not been at all afraid; but, said she, 'I hope never to see that doctor again, as I am sure he has something to do with the devil.'

"On May 20, I witnessed some experiments on another patient, at Mr. C.'s lodging, in company with Dr. Wright; but the results were not satisfactory."

Here ends Dr. Elliotson's narrative.

The persons who have given up the most time and attention to such mesmeric experiments as I could make in London, were Drs. Whymper and Elliotson, with Mr. Smith; and they, too, have witnessed the most extraordinary phenomena. Other persons saw but one or two trials, and with five to one against success, that number is small. I will, however, conclude the subject by summing up and discussing the evidence of all; for, like every other evidence, this must be appreciated not piecemeal, but in toto.

Confining myself to the experiments made in London; admitting five failures to one success; bearing in mind that one positive experiment can do more to support a fact than ten negative experiments can do to subvert it; that "plus valet unus affirmans quam mille negantes;" I proceed to say that I can quote, as witnesses to the mere fact of sleep, the Marquess of Lansdowne, Dr. Babington, jun. Drs. Elliotson, Hargood, Holland, Milligan, Prout, Whymper, Wilmot, Wright, Messrs. Brodie, Smith, Bagnold; as witnesses of other effects, Drs. Elliotson, Milligan, Whymper, Messrs. Earle and Riadore Smith: fifteen most credible men, or there are none in the world. These credible and highly enlightened men, then, admit the facts which they saw; but, as is very natural on so novel a subject, explain them by various theories. Dr. Prout, who is not prepared to admit that my action upon Sarah H. was the cause of her sleep, or to believe in mesmerism, is yet at a loss to know to what other agent but me, he can ascribe that sleep. Mr. Brodie explains it as he does giddiness by a rotatory motion, or sleep produced by rocking a child. Lord Lansdowne and Dr. Holland attribute it decidedly to me, but deny the existence of any new agency. Dr. Hargood

attributes all to the imagination of the patient, influenced by me. Dr. Milligan, struck by the promptness of the effect, admits that he cannot explain it by any of the usual modes which produce sleep, but inclines to admit a peculiar influence exercised by me. Mr. Evans Riadore was not very remote from a similar opinion. Mr. Earle, giving ample and able testimony of facts, is more a believer in the operation of the patient's mind than of my mesmerism. Drs. Whymper and Elliotson, and Mr. Smith, attempt no explanation; but the facts which they saw need no comment; for it is absolutely impossible to explain them by any known agency. It will be sufficient, then, to prove that these effects are inexplicable by any of the hypotheses advanced by the persons above quoted, in order to prove that what they saw is also inexplicable by their hypotheses. Imagination shall be first discussed.

Imagination cannot act in conformity with the expectations of the operator, unless it has been previously told what is expected from it. Now, even admitting the minds of Garrand and Gould, in the Coldstream Guards hospital; of the woman at St. Bartholomew's hospital; of the woman whose case has been just stated by Dr. Elliotson, to have been prepared for *some* result, still it was impossible for these patients to guess *what* my intention was in each experiment. Yet their sensations, by the fair avowal of Dr. Whymper and Mr. Smith, of Mr. Earle, and of Dr. Elliotson, most accurately corresponded with the intentions which I had previously announced each time. All these witnesses, too, strictly watchful to prevent deception or collusion, confess that nothing of the kind could be: for, till the minute of trial, I had never seen any of these patients; had not, for twenty years, been in any of the hospitals where I operated; and could not know what persons would be selected for trial, since the physicians themselves did not know whom they would choose. Imagination, then, cannot be admitted as the agent by which these effects were produced. Should a patient as often divine the operator's will as occurred in these experiments, the wonder would be as great as if the coincidence resulted from a new agency; for his mind must, indeed, be endowed with supernatural sagacity.

Mr. Brodie saw but one experiment and one result, sleep; the least interesting and the least convincing of any. But let him admit the evidence of Messrs. Earle and Smith, of Drs. Whymper and Elliotson, (and surely we must sometimes credit each other's testimony;) let him connect their

facts with his facts, as proceeding from one cause. How will he explain this truth: that, at my will, whichever limb I pleased, of a woman whom I had never beheld till that moment, was deprived of motion and restored to motion instantly, without my giving that woman any intimation of what my will was? That I gave her pains, and took pains away from her, as I pleased, she being ignorant of my intention? That Garrand was almost nailed to his chair by the same means? That Gould was wakened from profound sleep by transverse passes made behind his back, unknown to him? The rocking of a cradle could not do all this. Mr. Brodie diffidently says, "With such information as I at this moment possess, &c." Most heartily do I regret that his occupations did not permit him to follow up the subject more particularly; for no testimony can be of higher value than his. Had he seen the experiments here alluded to, his rationale of the facts would have been very different.

Upon the whole, sufficient time could hardly be allotted by any of the persons here named to these researches; and they were attempted under great disadvantages from that circumstance.* Things which are so directly opposite to current opinions should be witnessed more than once before they are judged. Could these phenomena be infallibly produced at will, and before an unlimited number of witnesses, the question would be decided at once. Sentence might long since have been pronounced upon a public theatre. But they are too delicate for common exhibition.

To combat all evidence on a subject which seems so marvellous, to destroy the value of every testimony, they who think that no man can see but themselves, adduce the many errors and impostures which have gained evidence in the world for a time, and then have been exploded. They appeal to the fables of antiquity, to the superstitions of Mahomet, to the savages of Africa. But can any man of good faith compare the principles and conduct of mesmerisers with those? The ancients knew not what the diffusion of knowledge was, and science was a secret of priestcraft. Mahomet founded an empire and a sect, and these two great prizes of his ambition rewarded the lies and devastation which his military apostles spread through the world. Savages, at all times, were the easy dupes of superstitious credulity. But the partizans of mesmerism,

* It is impossible to give an elementary course of mesmerism in these articles; but the "Instructions Pratiques," by M. DELEUZE, in one small vol. 8vo., more than supply every deficiency.

stimulated by no interest but truth, appeal not to an ignorant multitude, easy to deceive or to fanaticise; but to men of science and genius, scrutinizers of nature, ponderers upon her works. Would the author of the "*Mecanique Celeste*," which not fifty men living can comprehend, condescend to lay his opinions bare to umpires so much his inferiors as they would be, whom mesmerism could this day deceive? Would all the learned disciples of this art in Europe give up their honest fame for the reputation of impostors? Some antagonists avail themselves of the discredit into which Mesmer fell by his own doctrines. But this is a fallacious mode of reasoning; for, if his doctrines are true, Mesmer is absolved from this imputation. Mesmer was, indeed, declared to be the greatest mountebank of the last century; but by whom? by the greatest mountebank of modern history, Bonaparte. That Mesmer was disinterested, a profound philosopher, an original discoverer, cannot, indeed, be supported by the history of his life: his rapacity was excessive; his injustice, in not sufficiently acknowledging the prior claims of Maxwell, Greatreakes, Gassner, &c. was extreme; his own title to the doctrines which he taught was small. But those doctrines are independent of his talent or his veracity: they stand upon their own merits; they have been proved by thousands; and, if his name has here been affixed to them, it is the hope that the appellation of animal magnetism, now deemed to convey an erroneous notion of this agent, may be discarded.

How strangely must they estimate nature, how highly must they value themselves, who deny the possibility of any cause, of any effect, merely because it is incomprehensible? For, in fact, what do men comprehend? Of what do they know the causes? When Newton said that gravitation held the world together, did he assign the reason why the heavenly bodies do not fly off from each other into infinite space? He did but teach a word; and that word has gained admittance, as it were, surreptitiously amid causes, even in the minds of the most enlightened, insomuch that to doubt it now were a proof of ignorance and folly.

Let an untutored Indian hear, for the first time, that the moon, which rolls above his head, is suspended there by the power of gravitation; that she obeys the influence of every little speck which his eye can discern in the firmament; of orbs placed beyond them again, but invisible to us, because their light has not yet reached our globe; that the earth cannot be shaken, and the shock not communicated through the whole system of the universe; that every pebble under

his feet as virtually rules the motions of Saturn as the sun can do. Let him then be told that one sentient being, placed in the vicinity of another sentient being, can, by a certain action of his nervous system, produce the daily phenomenon, sleep, and the rarer one, somnambulism; and which of these lessons would he be the most prompt to credit? Certainty not that which inculcates an impalpable action and reaction between infinite masses, separated by infinite distances. The pride of learning, the arrogance of erudition, deem it ignoble to believe what they cannot explain; while simple instinct, struck with awe by every thing, is equally open to credit what it cannot as what it can comprehend, and admits no scholastic degrees of marvellousness.

Whatever explanation be given of mesmeric phenomena by those who have seen them once, or by those who have seen them repeatedly, still the facts remain the same; and these are the truly precious parts of every science. If medical men assert that the alleged cures of mesmerism are performed by the mind, and that this is the peculiar province of imaginative therapeutics, do they not culpably neglect the most powerful agent of mental medicine, if they do not practise mesmerism? If imagination can cure, and if this be its most energetic exciter, then excite it thus; cure by imagination, and the sick will bless you. If the cause be analogous to a rotatory or a rocking motion, then whirl or rock your patients into sleep and health. If it be a new agency, find it out, and prove it by experiment. Many of the persons named in these articles have promised to put it to this test. I here summon them to fulfil that promise, and to fulfil it speedily. The interest of science demands it, whether it be to establish a truth, to subvert an error, or to detect an imposture. All my hope is that ere long the public may hear from them and others, that "mesmerism is true"—or false.