

“La nature offre un moyen universel de guerir et de preserver les hommes.”

MESMER.

PAIN OF BODY AND MIND RELIEVED BY MESMERISM.

A

RECORD OF MESMERIC FACTS;

BY

THOMAS CAPERN,

AUTHOR OF THE “MIGHTY CURATIVE POWER OF MESMERISM,” AND LATE SUPERINTENDENT
OF THE LONDON MESMERIC INFIRMARY.

Here, and in a thousand other points, there is room for infinite discovery, to say nothing of the wonderful phenomena of Animal Magnetism, which only Englishmen, in their accustomed ignorance, venture to laugh at, but which no one has yet either understood or explained.
DR. ARNOLD.

MR. BAILLIERE, 219, REGENT STREET, LONDON, AND 290, BROADWAY,
NEW YORK;

MESSRS. HORSELL AND CAUDWELL, 335, STRAND, W.C.;

MR. ABEL HEYWOOD, MANCHESTER; MR. HENRY ROBINSON, EDINBURGH;
AND

MESSRS. FANNER, DUBLIN.

1861.

MESMERISM OR ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

PUBLIC LIBRARY OF VICTORIA

THE possession of this principle, whatever it may be, is essential to the very existence of animal life. By some it has been called a spark ; by others, vitalism, and various other appellations ; but no matter how it be designated, it is a real thing. A due proportion of it preserves its possessor in the condition of health ; a deficiency of it produces sickness ; the entire withdrawal of it occasions death.

Of what this principle consists we are not able accurately to define. It may be electricity, or something analogous to that subtle fluid.

The question that presents itself to our notice is—Have any means been discovered by which one person, possessing a superabundance of this vital fluid, can impart it to another who has a deficiency of it, and who is consequently in a state of disease ; and has the result been in accordance with what might be naturally expected ? I think I may with truth answer—Yes ; and the following facts which I am about to lay before the reader will fully justify this assertion.

It is well known that electric fluid is readily conveyed by mechanical means ; and the experience of many may be adduced to prove that the vital principle, whether identical with electricity or not, can be conveyed or imparted by one individual to another, by passes made with the hand. For my own part, I can confi-

dently state that, after a long course of well-intended labour, the number of cases in which I have been enabled to administer relief is such as fully to warrant my calling attention to them—proving the wonderful power of Mesmerism as a curative agent. If relief from pain can be thus obtained, strength restored to the withered limb, and repose procured to those from whom it has long been debarred, surely these facts are of themselves sufficient to recommend a process so simple, which anyone who may think fit can exercise for the benefit of those who are deficient in that which he possesses in greater abundance, and at no cost beyond his own labour and time.

If this be, as I maintain it is, a correct statement of the ordinary consequences ensuing from the application of this principle, it is of very little importance whether, under our present state of knowledge, it does or does not admit of a philosophical explanation: but surely it is worth while to have recourse to it in practice—thankfully using it as a means.

Of course it may be imagined that a long previous course of unhealthy action, in consequence of the loss of the invigorating fluid, cannot, in all cases, be overcome at once, nor indeed sometimes without long-continued, steady perseverance. In some cases it may be that the tendency to disease is so strong that a permanent cure is beyond any power to effect; still, in almost all cases, relief may be obtained.

Annexed are the opinions of many eminent and scientific men, who have bestowed great labour in the investigation of the powers of Animal Magnetism as a remedial agent in cases of disease.

Statement of Dr. Ashburner.

7, Hyde Park Place, Cumberland Gate, London.

Rheumatism and pains affecting parts of the body—upon the seat of, and causes of which medical men differed considerably, partly from their own mental confusion, and partly from the inherent difficulties of the subject—have been, it is well known,

in a great number of instances, very difficult of cure. Mesmerism has, in many such obstinate cases, been wonderfully successful. I have seen numerous examples of cure, by the hands of ordinary practitioners of Animal Magnetism; and many are recorded in that admirable work, "The Zoist." But if I were called upon to point out the individual who has, within my own knowledge, been the most successful in the removal of pain of long standing, I should unhesitatingly say Mr. Thomas Capern. I have known this gentleman seven years, and I have, during that time, witnessed so many extraordinary cures of pain and of serious disease, that I believe him to be gifted with a power similar to that which the Almighty bestowed on Mr. Valentine Greatrakes, the narrative of whose astonishing achievements, written by the Hon. Robert Boyle, occupied the attention of the Royal Society in the early period of their history. Mr. Capern has the records of numerous cases of cure performed by himself in a very short space of time. I have been at the pains of verifying many of his statements; and some of the cures have been made in my preence. I believe that this gentleman is incapable of making assertions that are untrue. I know he is a very conscientious person, and his character, disposition, and goodness to the poor, are too well known to require any attestation from me : they are truly beyond all the praises I could bestow upon him.

JOHN ASHBURNER, M.D.

Copy of a Letter from George Coles, Esq.

Tiverton, November, 1849.

I have taken great pains and interest in the exercise of Mr. Capern's Mesmeric powers, having had scores of instances before me of the extraordinary relief afforded by him. I have also taken some trouble to investigate minutely the characters of many of those who have assured me of the benefit they had received. The result has been very satisfactory, insomuch that I deem them worthy of credit in every particular which they declared to be true in my presence. I shall only add that it is with very great regret I hear that Mr. Capern is about taking up his abode in London ;

his absence will be greatly felt by his poorer neighbours, while his excellent conduct and behaviour, his kindness and usefulness, have most deservedly obtained for him the respect of all classes inhabiting this his native town.

GEORGE COLES,
Magistrate for the Borough of Tiverton.

Copy of a Letter from the late Earl Stanhope.

Chevening, March 17, 1851.

Sir,—You have rendered an important service to the world by publishing a very clear and satisfactory report of the cures you have performed successfully by Mesmerism. They ought to have much weight with the medical profession, which hitherto has, with few exceptions, exhibited such prejudice and perverseness on the subject; but, as it is said in Holy Writ, “Great is truth, and stronger than all things,” those who blindly and obstinately refuse to employ the sanative and safe power of Mesmerism will find, ere long, that the public will prefer to consult those who cure with ease and expedition diseases which were formerly considered intractable, or to require the employment of medicines which are injurious to the constitution.

It will always afford you satisfaction to reflect that you have persevered in your most laudable undertaking, which has been so beneficial to suffering humanity.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

STANHOPE.

Extract from Dr. Gregory's Work on Animal Magnetism.

The celebrated Valentine Greatrakes obviously possessed an unusual share of magnetic power; but at the present day we have a remarkable instance of it in Mr. Capern, a gentleman of Devonshire, who has just published a small work, giving an account of his magnetic practice. This work, which is a simple, unaffected statement of facts, is well worthy of perusal, and I cannot do better than refer you to it.

Extract from Dr. Arnold's Sermon (the 19th) upon "Our Hope towards God in Christ."

If we look through the records of past times we shall find many extraordinary facts not to be accounted for, nor yet, therefore, to be disbelieved; but still which are simply extraordinary wonders—not miracles—things to excite surprise, but which lead to nothing. And in our own times the phenomena of Animal Magnetism have lately received an attestation which, in my judgment, establishes the facts beyond question; as far as mere strangeness and departure from the known laws of nature are concerned, they are perhaps more extraordinary than some things which we call miracles. I mention this because I am inclined to think that there exists a lurking fear of the phenomena, as if they might shake our faith in true miracles, and, therefore, men are inclined to disbelieve them in spite of testimony—a habit far more unreasonable and more dangerous to our Christian faith than any belief in the facts of magnetism.

The following are a few cases cured and relieved by Mesmerism, or Animal Magnetism, in Manchester and neighbourhood.

Case of Sciatica, at the Manchester Royal Infirmary.—Early in the month of May, 1860, I had the pleasure of being introduced to Mr. Ransome, one of the surgeons to the Manchester Royal Infirmary, who expressed a desire to witness the power of Mesmerism, not only as a curative agent, but as an anæsthetic in cases of amputation and surgical operations as practised by Dr. Esdaile, in Calcutta. I accompanied Mr. Ransome to the Infirmary and was permitted to operate upon John Harrison, aged 64 years, well-sinker and excavator, residing at Cats Knowle, near Belle Vue. He had been subject to severe attacks of sciatica and pains in the limbs for upwards of thirteen years. In the year 1849 he was first admitted a patient at the institution, when he was bled, blistered, and cupped over and near the sciatic nerve. No improvement whatever resulted from this mode of treatment, and from some cause

his leg became shortened. In the year 1852 he again procured admission to the Infirmary, when he was treated medicinally, mercury being freely administered,—but without producing any beneficial result, and he again quitted the Infirmary. He still continued to suffer continuous pain and especially in stormy weather. In May last he was again re-admitted to the Infirmary, having a particular desire to try the sulphur bath. I commenced operating upon him in the presence of Mr. Ransome; first taking hold of the balls of his thumbs in my left hand, making passes with the right hand over the forehead and front to the chest, requesting that he would at the same time look intently into my eyes. I also requested him to relate any changes or unusual feelings he might experience. Within ten minutes after I had commenced to make the passes he felt shooting pains from his back to the hip, and down the leg. Shortly after sudden sharp shocks, as he called them, were felt from different parts of the body, more especially in the affected side, and tending to the lower extremities. There was then an unusual degree of warmth, accompanied with a tingling sensation; the toes also becoming much heated. All these feelings tended to confirm me in the opinion that much good would be done. Similar feelings and sensations were produced at each sitting. I continued to operate upon him daily for about three weeks, at the end of which time he was so much improved that after being examined by the proper medical officers he was discharged. Mr. Ransome attended daily to witness the progress of my operations. A number of surgeons and assistants were also present at different sittings. I have seen my patient occasionally since his discharge from the Infirmary, and, according to his own statement, he can now enjoy life.

THOMAS CAPERN.

Mr. Capern's first case in Manchester—Copy of a letter received from Mr. George Branson.

16, Ducie Bridge, Augt., 16th, 1859.

I am very thankful for the fortunate circumstance of being introduced to you. I have received great benefit from your

treatment, and can honestly recommend you to persons afflicted with rheumatism or sciatica. My case was and is as follows :— About the latter part of October, '58, I had a severe attack of sciatica and rheumatism, also fever, which confined me to my house for several weeks ; when I got out I could only walk with crutch and stick ; my health was good but I was lame. I used various lotions and liniments to rub with, to relieve the pain, but was little or no better. The doctors said they could do no more for me and recommended the Buxton waters. I visited the hot-wells, Clifton, near Bristol, about Christmas last, but found no benefit from them ; in fact I had so much pain and was so weak that I had to be lifted in and out of the coaches at Bristol. I returned to Manchester and went to Buxton in March last. I was at Buxton four or five days per week for ten weeks, and bathed about three times each of the ten weeks. I left Buxton on the 28th July last, and could then only walk short distances on level ground, and had to use crutch and stick ; in fact I could not walk across the room without the crutch and stick. I had given up all hopes of getting without the lameness. This was my opinion on the third of August and I told some of my friends so. On the fourth instant a friend of mine brought Mr. Capern to my house. I had neither heard of nor seen Mr. Capern before ; after a short conversation Mr. Capern said he thought he could do me some good, saying he would administer no medicine. I agreed that he should try. He passed his hand a few times lightly on the outside of my trousers over the sciatic nerve, from the hip to the knee. After a few passes, I found a tickling and a movement on the nerve. He continued rubbing lightly on the outside of my trousers, down the thigh and leg, for about twenty minutes, when I felt a pleasant sensation and considerable warmth. He then asked me to get up ; I did so, and to my astonishment could stand and walk across the room without either crutch or stick ; in fact I have not used the crutch or stick since that day—the fourth of August. He has attended me to this day, the sixteenth of August, and I can now walk more than a mile with my stick only ; indeed

I can walk without a stick, but do not like to part with it at present. I find I get stronger and better of my lameness every day. With thanks for the wonderful relief you have given me, I am, sir, your obliged servant,

GEORGE BRANSON.

P.S.—I have also to state that on one occasion Mr. Capern visited me at Buxton for a few days, and during his stay at the King's Head he operated successfully on several persons who were guests at the inn, and they invariably declared themselves benefitted by his manipulations. A female, Mrs. Stewart, a relative of Mrs. Brown's, had been suffering from tic-doloreux, and she stated with delight that Mr. Capern had effected a cure in a few minutes.

GEORGE BRANSON.

Rheumatism in Knees and Ankles.—Joseph Suthers, No. 271, County Police, at the Victoria Park Lodge, Rusholme, had suffered from rheumatism for two years, and had been under medical treatment six months, without any benefit. He was always in pain, principally in the knees and ankles. On August 11th, 1859, he saw Mr. Capern at Mr. Jewsbury's, Willow Bank, Greenheys. Mr. Capern placed his hands upon his knees, which produced immediate warmth and perspiration. Mr. Capern then made passes down the legs and feet for about twenty minutes, when the man rose from his seat, quite free from pain, and walked firmly to the door, ran down the garden, and said "he was a man again." He had not been able to do this for two years before. He states that one of his legs, which had always been cold, accompanied with a feeling of deadness, for nearly two years, was, for some days after being Mesmerised, in a continual state of perspiration, and especially at night, the bed-clothes being literally saturated with it. Previous to his seeing Mr. Capern, he intended to relinquish his situation, in consequence of his rheumatism, but he is now perfectly restored, and continues to perform his duties. He had formerly been in the royal artillery service sixteen years.

Sore Throat, and Inability to Swallow Food.—William Harrup, policeman 125 D, states that on the morning of Sunday, July 15th, he first felt pains in the throat, which increased so much that he could not masticate his food, and was unable to swallow anything but liquids. This continued for three days, when he saw Mr. Capern, to whom he related his case, and was by him invited into Mr. Fould's shop, in Lloyd-street, and cured in a very short time, by Mr. Capern placing his hand over the affected part. To his great comfort, he returned to his home and ate a hearty supper. There was a little stiffness left after the operation, which very soon disappeared.—July, 1860.

Sore Throat.—James Bamfurth, policeman 67 D, suffering from pains in the throat, similar to William Harrup, policeman 125 D. He mentioned his ailment to Mr. Capern, who immediately operated upon him, and in a short time he felt a glow of heat over the part affected, and the pain altogether ceased. He could then take food, and has remained well from that time.

Rheumatism in Legs and Feet.—Mrs. Rippingille, 12, Wright-street, Greenheys, was suffering from severe rheumatic pains upwards of seven months, accompanied with great swelling and stiffness in the legs and feet, and could get no rest. Mr. Capern, having heard of her case, called upon her; she had retired to rest but got up to see him, and, after a few passes with the hand, extending over about fifteen minutes, to her great astonishment the pains left her, and she jumped from her chair to show her children what she could do. She also had an affection of the heart, and was greatly benefitted by Mr. Capern.—August, 1859.

Rheumatism and Heart Affection.—Joseph Swan, spinner, in the employ of Mr. J. Hibbert, Goodleigh, near Newton, suffered from rheumatic pains in right arm, ankles, and feet. The pains at times were distressing and almost continuous. He had been under the treatment of three medical men, but received little or no

benefit. On Sunday, September 25th, his master introduced him to Mr. Capern, who commenced operating upon him, and he was greatly relieved after one hour's application. After four sittings he was able to attend to his labours. He had also an affection of the heart, which was much benefitted by Mr. Capern's treatment.

Rheumatism in Shoulder and Arm.—Mrs. Horsfield, 18, Warde-street, Hulme, suffered from rheumatic pains in shoulder and arm upwards of two years. At times she could not perform her household duties. She had been a patient at the Homœopathic Dispensary upwards of three months, but received little or no benefit. Mr. Capern heard of her case, called upon her, and after four sittings she was quite restored.

Dysentery—John Henry Banks, 5, Radnor-street, had been suffering from dysentery for upwards of three months, and had received no benefit from the remedies employed. He was induced to try Mr. Capern's process, although he had no favourable opinion of it. He was relieved at the first sitting, and after seven sittings the pains and discomfort disappeared.—One of Mr. Banks' workmen had sprained his ankle upwards of twelve years since, and has been greatly relieved by Mr. Capern.

Injury from the Kick of a Horse.—John Patterson, in the employ of Mr. Barker, riding-master, Coupland-street, was suffering from a contusion in the arm, from the kick of a horse. Mr. Capern saw him near the Eagle Inn, Stretford Road, operated upon him, and gave him ease. After a second operation he was able to resume his labour.—August, 1860.

Pains in Teeth.—John Lee, whilst in the employ of Mr. Shaw, Lloyd-street, occasionally suffered pains in teeth and gums. His case was named to Mr. Capern, who invited him to try Mesmerism; he did so, and has never had pain since.—July, 1860.

Rheumatic Pains in Thigh and Leg.—Joseph Parrot, mason, 5, Sheffield-street, Hulme, suffered acute pains in leg and thigh. Although the pains at first were trifling, they became so bad that he was compelled to relinquish his work. He had heard of Mr. Capern's cures, waited upon him, and after four operations he was cured, and again resumed his labour.

Rheumatic Pains in the Back and Side.—Mrs. Brodie, farmer, Moss Lane, had been suffering rheumatic pains in the back and side for several months. At the request of a friend of hers she was induced to try Mesmerism. Mr. Capern called upon her, gave relief at the first operation, and after attending at her house for one week the pains were removed.

The following cases were cured after a few sittings :—

Margaret Little, Rusholme : tic-doloureux.

Maria Devlon, Mr. Rutter's, 54, Corporation-street : sprained ancle.

George Owen, Wilton-street : sprained ancle.

Mrs. Chapman, at Mrs. Glover's, Monton-terrace : lumbago.

Mrs. Jackson, at Mrs. Sharp's, Heald-grove : rheumatism.

Elizabeth Farrell, at Mr. Levers's, grocer, Salford : pains in the throat and external swellings in the neck.

Charles Willshire, printer, *Examiner and Times* office : pains in the leg, which was much swollen.

Ivie Crokell, Messrs. Crewdson & Worthington's, Back Mosley-street : rheumatism.

M. Goodall, at Mr. Whitehouse's, Back Mosley-street : pains in face, much swollen.

George Hull, 10, Upper George-street, pains in shoulder and arm for several months. Cured at Mr. Banks's, Radnor-street, in three short sittings.

THE FOLLOWING IS AN EXTRACT FROM THE
SEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LONDON
MESMERIC INFIRMARY, JUNE 11TH, 1856.

MR. MONCKTON MILNES *in the Chair.*

President of the Institution: His Grace the Most Rev. the Archbishop of Dublin.

Vice-Presidents: His Excellency the Right Hon. the Earl of Carlisle; the Right Hon. the Earl of Dunraven; the Baron de Goldsmid, F.R.S.; J. H. Langston, Esq., M.P.; R. Monckton Milnes, Esq., M.P.; the Rev. George Sandby, M.A., Oxon.; the Rev. Chauncy Hare Townsend, M.A., Cantab.; Professor Gregory, M.D.; Major-General Bagnold; Lieut.-Colonel Topham; James Esdaile, Esq. M.D.

Treasurer: John Elliotson, M.D., Cantab., F.R.S.—

Mr. CAPERN, the late Secretary of the Infirmary, then gave an account of several cures which he had effected among soldiers who had returned from the Crimea in great suffering. In the month of September, whilst in the Strand, he observed a fine-looking young man, although much attenuated, walking with a stick and considerably bent. Having passed the man, he reflected upon the poor fellow's case, turned back, and questioned him as to his suffering. The soldier stated he was always in pain from the effects of his wounds in the Crimea. This led Mr. Capern to offer his services to cure him. The soldier could not believe it possible, but however, was willing to allow the trial. Mr. Capern then engaged to attend on him, although he lived at a considerable distance from St. John's Wood, viz., at Morpeth Place, opposite the Waterloo Road Station. At the first visit some progress was made: warmth was produced. *After the fifth the patient could walk without the assistance of his stick;* and after the eighth sitting, this patient wrote a letter acknowledging a complete cure. It must be remarked that an ague which he brought with him from the Crimea was cured at the first sitting.

*Copy of the letter referred to in the foregoing case, received from
C. D. Berry, late of the Coldstream Guards.*

2, Morpeth Place, Waterloo Road, Sept. 23, 1855.

I am very proud and happy to inform you that my legs are quite well, and the ague you stopped the first day you came to me. I am now able to walk without a stick: a few days ago I could scarcely walk with a stick, for I had the rheumatism so badly owing to having the frost in my legs last winter at Scutari; and believe me, sir, no one but myself knows the pains I suffered with my legs and with my shoulder before you came to me. I am now most proud and happy to say that you have made a perfect cure of my legs and of my shoulder also, where my arm was taken off in the Crimea. There is not the least pain in my legs nor my shoulder now; and I have to thank you for the ease you have given me by taking away those dreadful pains I had in my legs and my shoulder from the time I was wounded.

I beg to remain, your obedient servant,

C. D. BERRY.

N.B.—You have made a perfect cure of me.

The young soldier was presented on the platform to the meeting. He was a fine, interesting young man, with an excellent countenance and address; bearing the marks of the horrors of war in both the absence of an entire arm, the spareness of his form, and the paleness of his complexion. He wore his medal and clasps, and mounted the platform with agility, but was greatly overcome, even to tears. He described his sufferings, from his numerous wounds, the amputation of his arm, the ague, and the rheumatic pains contracted by lying on the field of battle: how kindly Miss Nightingale had attended on him. The pain in his shoulder, was tormenting, and his right leg was bad with the rheumatism, and he could not place his foot flat upon the ground. One day while in the Strand, Mr. Capern, whom he did not know, accosted him, took him into a coffee-shop, and in less than half

an hour, by passing the hand down the shoulder, completely removed the pain, which has not returned, and after seven more visits perfectly cured the leg by the same means. In the course of his remarks the fine fellow spoke of his wife and his situation at the Panopticon in Leicester Square, where he describes Sebastopol on a model.

This patient had received a stab in the shin, a graze in the thigh, a cut in the thumb, a bayonet wound through the breast—the point going out near the blade-bone, and his left arm had been shattered by a rifle-ball and amputated at the shoulder-joint; the last wound had been received when he was near His Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge.

On the fourth visit, Mr. Capern requested to be informed if he knew any poor person requiring assistance, it being a long journey to make for one patient. Berry then suggested his calling on a female residing in the adjoining house, who had been nearly blind with “amaurosis” for six years. She was cured in seven sittings.

The next soldier’s case was that of Charles Fleet, also of the Coldstream Guards. This patient had been wounded at Inkermann by a rifle-ball in the ankle, and whilst on the ground received another in the hip. Mr. Capern observed him in Hanover Square walking lame and having his ankle enveloped in flannel bandages; and questioned him as to the cause. On being informed, Mr. Capern accompanied him to the Hanover Square Rooms, passed his hand over the limb for a few minutes, and engaged to see him again on the third day; gave him a sitting, and the pains immediately ceased; shortly afterwards the man dispensed with the bandages, and could wear his boot. He is now quite well, and is engaged as a policeman at the Euston Square Station.

Mr. Capern having succeeded so well with Charles Fleet, he was induced to try his curative powers on an artilleryman present, who was also engaged at the Hanover Square Rooms, and appeared suffering. The following is his written statement, witnessed by Paul Tennucii, Hanover Square Rooms, Jan. 8th :—

"Edward Iviss, 51, Bedfordbury, states that at the second bombardment of Sebastopol, April 14, 1855, he was wounded in the fore-arm by the bursting of a shell; also in the side of the head,—a piece of the metal penetrating the outer plate, which was much fractured: the iron was nearly half an inch in length, and remained in the head four days, when it was extracted with splinters of the bone. The pains in the head were distressing, accompanied with fever and no rest. From that time he has had continuous pains in the head and temples, great giddiness and dimness of sight. Since his discharge he has had medical advice, but only experienced slight relief. On the 23rd December, Mr. Capern, having cured Charles Fleet of the Guards, offered to relieve him. He commenced by drawing the hand and pointing the fingers over the affected part, and within five minutes all pains disappeared, and to this day they have not returned. Edward Iviss had never heard of Mesmerism before. On the same day he witnessed the cure of M. Tennucii, who had been suffering pains in the head and temples for some time.

The next patient was Philip Carroll, of the Middlesex Militia, late of the Rifles. He had been suffering most agonising pains in the teeth and gums for six weeks, and obtained no relief from the regimental surgeon or at St. Mary's Hospital. He was maddened with the pain. Getting no rest, he has walked the streets nightly. He frequently threw himself on the floor. On one occasion, when in a paroxysm of pain, he dashed his head so violently against the door that he burst the panel of it. At the suggestion of two patients residing in the same house, and whom Mr. Capern had cured, he applied to Mr. Capern, and within five minutes was wholly cured.

William Wincup, late of the 76th Regiment, discharged as unfit for service twenty-five years ago, having rheumatic pains, and lately in the employ of the Marquis of Downshire, was also cured by Mr. Capern.

Mr. Capern then stated that, previously to benefitting the poor wounded soldiers, he had addressed one of the members of the Government as to the practicability of introducing Mesmerism

into the army ; and after the cures he communicated the results to Lord Panmure, offering his gratuitous services either at his own house or at any of the military hospitals, without any appointment or recompense whatever, and expressing his willingness to attend any inquiry or investigation, and that he would consider it a privilege to be allowed to prove the value of Mesmerism before any commission or the Medical Board : he also stated that, had Mesmerism been introduced into the Crimea, numbers of our brave soldiers would have assisted in the field instead of being discharged or confined in the hospitals. Immediately Mr. Capern was requested to attend on Dr. Andrew Smith at Whitehall. He handed to Dr. Smith's assistant a statement of his cases of cure, and said he would be prepared to attend any examination and prove the power of Mesmerism in the presence of the Medical Board on any of the poor wounded soldiers. Shortly afterwards, at Dr. Smith's request, he forwarded to the Board Dr. Elliotson's evidence of Mr. Capern having cured upwards of thirty cases at the Mesmeric Infirmary. The following is Dr. Andrew Smith's last letter :—

“ Army Medical Department, May 12.

“ In reply to your letter of the 6th inst., with enclosed list of cases cured by Mesmerism, I have to request you will accept my thanks for your communication.

“ The book and papers you were good enough to leave in this office some months since are in the hands of my assistant, ready to be consigned to any person authorised by you to receive them.

“ A. S.”

At the last interview with Dr. Smith's assistant, Mr. Capern stated that he regretted he had not been granted an interview with Dr. Smith, nor had an opportunity of proving to the Board the power of Mesmerism.

Dr. Elliotson mentioned to gentlemen near him that Dr. Andrew Smith, before he became Physician-General, had spontaneously called upon him to declare his full belief in Mesmerism, and to state

that he himself had Mesmerised; and yet now Dr. Andrew Smith shrinks from what all other Mesmerists consider to be his obvious duty, and even does not allow Mr. Capern an interview.

Thanks were then voted to the chairman; and by acclamation to Dr. Elliotson, who returned thanks.

Amaurosis Case, referred to by C. D. Berry in the Report.

1, Morpeth Place, Sept. 25, 1856.

I am happy to say that you have made a perfect cure of my eyes, from which I have been suffering for years. I can see very well now, but before you came to me I could scarcely see to get about.

Your humble servant,

SARAH WINTON.

Paul Tennucii's Statement of his case, referred to in the Report.

I beg to present my grateful acknowledgments to you for the great benefit I have received at your hands. Although I have only passed one operation, I am certainly rid of the pain in the head and temples. I have tried many remedies, but all others have failed: your painless mode of operating surpasseth all other antidotes I have tried.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

PAUL TENNUCII.

N.B.—Tennucii was cured at the Hanover Square Rooms with E. Iviss and Charles Fleet: he is now in the police force.

Copy of Statement received from Joseph Cox.

19, North Street, Edgeware Road, May 13, 1857.

I have great pleasure in informing the public that I have been restored to health through the treatment of Mr. Capern, by his Mesmerising me for rheumatism, from which I have been a severe sufferer for some time, and which was brought on through the hardships that I had undergone throughout the whole of the Crimean campaign.

The first time I went to Mr. Capern, I sat down about ten minutes, when I found great relief; I went four or five times afterwards, and I am happy to say that I am now able to walk about as well as ever.

JOSEPH COX,

Late of the Commissariat Department, Crimea.

Pains in Face and Gums.

James Burke, residing at the Alma coffee-house, Edgeware Road, late of the second battalion of Rifles, received a contusion in the face before Sebastopol. He took a chill early in March, and suffered intense pain, and was about applying to St. Mary's Hospital. His cheek was much swollen, and he could not open his right eye. He was cured by Mr. Capern, in three sittings, at the Alma coffee-house.

June, 1857.—Cured in the presence of Mr. Pedrick, Alma coffee-house.

Severe Pains in the Head.

Richard Howell, late of the R. S. F. Guards, was engaged in the Crimea. Has had severe pains in the head for three months. No improvement from medicines. Named it to Mr. Capern, who had benefitted several of the labourers in the Regent's Park; accompanied him to the boat-house in the park, and was cured in a short time.

R. Howell is engaged as park keeper in Regent's Park.

Diarrhœa.

I hereby certify, that on the 3rd of this month I had a violent attack of diarrhœa for two days and nights. I met Mr. Capern, by chance, in St. John's Wood, and, on relating to him my complaint, he invited me to a house near, and after passing his hand over the bowels a short time the pain perfectly left me and I have felt no pain since.

GEORGE HOARE.

36, New Square, Portland Town.

THE FOLLOWING IS A STATEMENT OF WHAT OCCURRED AT THE EIGHTH ANNUAL MEETING OF THE FRIENDS AND SUBSCRIBERS TO THE MESMERIC INFIRMARY, WHICH TOOK PLACE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 20TH, 1857, AT WILLIS'S ROOMS, ST. JAMES'S STREET.

Major-General BAGNOLD *in the Chair.*

The Report having been read, and the meeting addressed by various gentlemen, Mr. Capern was introduced by the chairman.

Mr. Capern expressed the satisfaction he experienced in witnessing the meeting so well attended, and with permission he would introduce a few of his patients who had been cured by Mesmerism.

The first case was that of Michael Quirke, whom Mr. Capern met near the Marylebone Workhouse. On the 27th December, 1855, Michael Quirke was thrown down violently and injured his leg and ankle; the injury being serious, he was conveyed in a cab to St. Mary's Hospital, and examined by Drs. Coulson, Staples, and Gascoyne. The pains were agonising. He was confined to his bed three weeks. On leaving his bed he could only walk on crutches. Three days after leaving his bed he was informed that he must leave the institution, there being a deficiency of beds. Dr. Staples suggested his applying to the infirmary of the workhouse. On the following day (Wednesday), whilst on his way to the workhouse, he was accosted by Mr. Capern, who, observing his miserable condition, questioned him as to the nature and cause of his malady. On his explaining that he was a patient at the St. Mary's Hospital, and was about applying to the workhouse for admission to the infirmary, Mr. Capern requested he would defer it, and meet him on the following day, at the

Pitt's Head public-house, Paddington-street, at twelve o'clock. He was true to his appointment. Mr. Capern having ordered refreshment for him, commenced by passing his hand from the knee downwards, over the ankle, and finishing at the toes; in a few minutes the limb, which had been previously cold and chilly, became warm, accompanied with unusual sensations; this was followed by immediate ease and a freedom of motion which he had not enjoyed from the time of his accident. Mr. Capern then requested he would walk across the room, and, much to his own astonishment, he was able to do so without the aid of his crutches. A few more passes were made, and, by the blessing of God on Mr. Capern's exertions, he was as free from pain as at any period of his life. Mr. Capern gave him his card, and desired he would present it with his compliments to the gentlemen at the hospital. He retained his crutches until the fourth day, and then returned them; it being board-day his medical attendants and others were present, to whom he related the circumstances of his cure.

The cure being of so extraordinary a character, he was questioned by Major-General Bagnold, and answered satisfactorily to the interrogatories, and stated that he was quite free from any discomfort, and had been so from the time Mr. Capern had operated upon him.

The next case introduced to the meeting was that of William Ippurn, aged 63 years, of Paradise Row, High Town, Marylebone, late in the employ of Mr. Bacon, tanner. Upwards of nineteen years since, he first felt a want of power in his knees, accompanied with slight pains and stiffness, which gradually increased. For upwards of two years he attended as an out-patient at the Middlesex Hospital. Lotions and liniments were applied, but with little or no benefit. Eventually his master discharged him. On Saturday, May 3rd, he applied to Mr. Capern, at the suggestion of Michael Quirke, whom Mr. Capern had cured. Mr. Capern placed his hands on the knees, drawing them down the legs over the feet, which were much swollen. A decided warmth was felt, and the swelling decreased. He had more ease on that

day than he had had for years. He attended at Mr. Capern's, Alpha Place, on the following day, and after a few more operations he considered himself cured.

The next was the Copy of a Statement from John Biggs :—

"This is to certify, that I, John Biggs, carpenter, met with an accident when at work at No. 1, Wilmington Square, on the 24th of April, by hitting my knee against the frame of a trap-door. On the 20th of May I attended Dr. Stuart, South Bank, who ordered me a lotion of vinegar and alum. Finding no relief, I attended at the dispensary, June 7th, and saw Dr. Murcheson, who told me that matter would accumulate where I had injured the knee, and that I must lay up or I should have a very bad knee. On Monday, June 9th, I was going down Church-street, with the intention of going to St. Mary's Hospital. I was then walking with two sticks, when Mr. Capern, a stranger to me, came to me and asked me if I was suffering from rheumatism. After I had explained to him the nature of the case, he invited me into a barber's shop (Mr. Turner's), and after making passes for a short time over the knee, I could walk without sticks and have not used them since.

"40, Great North-street,
Lisson Grove."

"JOHN BIGGS.

Mr. Capern presented several more patients who had been crippled and in agony, and who had been completely cured by his manipulations. These persons all testified to the truth of what he said.

Copy of an Address presented to the Managing Committee of St. Mary's Hospital, Paddington, by Mr. Capern.

GENTLEMEN,—I beg respectfully to call your attention to the cases of Michael Quirke, William Addyss, James Shineer, and Philip Carrol, late patients of the hospital, whose cases, I think, are eminently entitled to examination by all of the medical profession. These patients had been suffering for some time, and had received but little relief from medical treatment, when, by mere accident, they came under my notice; and after they were treated Mesmerically, their pains ceased.

It may probably be in the recollection of some of the gentlemen connected with the hospital, that Michael Quirke returned his crutches and made a statement of his case to the board then sitting.

The object of this address is to beg that an opportunity may be afforded me, in the presence of the medical officers of the establishment, of proving the power of Mesmerism, as a curative agent, upon some patient or patients in the hospital, whose cases have hitherto resisted the ordinary treatment.

I ask no recompense or appointment: my only wish is to do good, and to teach others to do that which I know to be beneficial in almost all cases of disease.—I remain, your obedient servant,

THOMAS CAPERN.

Blandford Place, Regent's Park, August, 1857.

No notice or acknowledgment was taken of this application by the managing committee.

Rheumatic Gout, accompanied by serious affection of the Heart.—

Copy of a Letter from Dr. Ashburner.

Boulogne, Sept. 17th, 1856.

DEAR SIR,—I wish you would have the goodness to ask Mr. Underwood as to the date when I was called to see him, as I have no notes of it here: it was in the month of August. He had been attended, as I understood, by Dr. Snow Beck, who called his case rheumatic gout. When I was called to see him, I found the heart affected—as it very often is in that complaint,—and distressing symptoms about the head, which not unfrequently accompany that peculiar affection of the heart, which is an aggravation of gout and rheumatism. In Mr. Underwood's case the heart's surface was seriously involved; and I thought so badly of the case, that I told his mother-in-law, Mrs. Lambert, that I saw no hopes of his recovery. I prescribed effervescing magnesia and potass as medicinal auxiliaries to a course of Mesmerism. I occasionally Mesmerised him myself, but I urged them to send for you, and not to desist because they could not at first obtain the expected relief. The pulse, for the first week, was never under 120 in a minute, and at night the thumping of the heart was most distressing. By dint of the Mesmeric sleep and the agency of your passes, the heart became

tranquil, the pulse sank to 98, then to 88, and at last to 78. I never saw so rapid a cure of so serious an affection of the heart, and you may well adduce it as a proof of the marvellous power of Mesmerism. You may tell your timid friend you write to me about, that he has no occasion to fear Mesmerism: I can assure him it will only afford him unmixed good.

To Mr. Capern.

JOHN ASHBURNER, M.D.

Sciatica.—Copy of a Letter received from Mrs. A. C. Smythe.

[Accompanied with a magnificent Bible.]

Kensington, May 17th, 1850.

DEAR SIR,—I beg your acceptance of this holy testimony of the good work you have performed in restoring me to health and strength, after a long period of weakness and suffering. My thanks are but a small addition to the gratification you receive daily in carrying out your system of benevolence, and bestowing upon those who are in need the fruits of the gift of healing that you have received from the Giver of all Good. That you may long continue its exercise, with abundant and continued success, is the sincere wish of, dear sir, your faithful servant,

To Mr. Capern.

ANNE CARMICHAEL SMYTHE.

[The cure was effected in fourteen sittings.]

ELIZA BROWNE, aged 24 years, in the service of the Marchioness of Downshire, was examined by Dr. Elliotson, who called her case "Anæmia." She was placed under Mr. Capern's care. Her legs were much swollen. Sleep was induced at the first sitting. She generally slept from two to three hours.

Copy of a Letter received from Lady Downshire, in reference to the foregoing case of Eliza Browne.

Hillsborough, January 9th, 1853.

SIR,—I am glad to say that Eliza Browne has been at her work upwards of a fortnight, and is quite well. She tells me she is even stronger and better than when she first arrived, and her legs do

not swell at all. She has reason to be thankful to you for all the care you took of her, and certainly must attribute her cure to Mesmerism. The other girl, Mary Hunt, who attended at the same time, continues well.

C. DOWNSHIRE.

To Mr. Capern.

Copies of two Letters received from Mrs. Finch, 3, Brecknock Terrace, Camden Town.

August 7th, 1858.

DEAR SIR,—Through friends who are acquainted with Mr. Vieussieux, I have heard of your great Mesmeric power, and of your equally great benevolence in its use. I venture to ask your kind assistance in my very sad case, begging you, at the same time, to pardon me if at all intrusive. I have suffered from sciatica for several years, but when leading a tranquil life as a governess, the attacks were at wide intervals; while now, from the narrowness of my widow's means, I am obliged to use continuous efforts, the pain is almost perpetual. I have lately returned from France, where I went to friends, hoping to pass a less trying winter than that of the former year; but even there I was seventeen weeks in my room, better and worse alternately.—I have now been a month in lodgings, and my packages are nearly all about me. The few remnants of my household possessions have been three weeks in my room: I try in vain to arrange them; the pain in both back and limbs keeps me quite powerless. * * *

I am, Sir, yours gratefully,

To Mr. Capern.

MARY FINCH.

3, Brecknock Terrace, August 26th, 1858.

DEAR SIR,—I have been hoping to see you for a long time to pay me a farewell visit; but as I have not had that pleasure, I must write you my earnest thanks for your most kind attention to my suffering. I have had no return of sciatica since your last visit, and I do hope your Mesmeric power has banished this dread-

ful malady from me for ever. If you settle in Germany, you will please remember that I shall be delighted to be of service to you in England, if you have any commissions within my power to execute. I leave London on Saturday, and beg you to believe me, kind sir, yours very gratefully,

MARY FINCH.

Pains in Teeth and Pains in Face.

73, Norton Street.

SIR,—I have great pleasure in testifying to the extraordinary powers of Mesmerism on two servants in this establishment—Catherine Hall and Eliza Thorpe, one with violent toothache, the other with pains in face; both of whom you cured by a few passes. They are now both perfectly well.

To Mr. Capern.

EDWARD FITZBALL.

Scrofulous Enlargement of the Knee, or White Swelling.

George Townsend, three years and a half old, son of Mr. George Townsend, 14, Upper Marylebone-street. About fifteen months ago he fell from his crib and injured his right knee. A swelling commenced, and he became lame, and complained of great pain. A surgeon was applied to, who ordered medicines, and leeches and blistered the limb for six weeks. No improvement whatever resulted from this mode of treatment; on the contrary, the knee increased in size and the child became weaker and weaker. His moans were truly distressing to hear; he was continually crying out—"Bad knee, bad knee, bad knee." His mother then applied to Mr. Gay, of Finsbury Pavement, who pronounced it scrofula, and prescribed preparations of iron and lotions. As no benefit resulted from this treatment, his mother took him to Mr. Ayling, of Upper Marylebone-street, who coincided with the opinion expressed by Mr. Gay, and, in addition to the medicines, painted the knee with tincture of iodine. His health was much impaired, and his appearance indicated a steady progress to an early grave. This hitherto fine child was now a pitiable object,

only repeating, from day to day, the words—"Bad knee, bad knee." Mr. Ayling then kindly introduced the case to the consideration of some of his medical friends at the Middlesex Hospital. Mr. Campbell de Morgan and the house surgeon saw him; they considered the case a desperate one, and suggested the application or use of splints, and, should this treatment not succeed, considered that amputation would be unavoidable. Just at this time a relative of Mrs. Townsend's, residing at Exeter, recommended Mesmerism, and Mrs. Townsend took the little sufferer to the Mesmeric Infirmary, 9, Bedford-street. Mr. Capern instantly commenced to operate on the child, his only request being that they would attend regularly and desist from all other remedies. After the third time of being Mesmerised there was certainly a mitigation of the pain, and after the first week he would cry if not taken to the infirmary in proper time. The improvement in the limb became more and more decided, the hue of health appeared in the cheek of the child, and Mrs. Townsend's neighbours generally congratulated her on his altered and improved appearance; whilst others, with this powerful proof before their eyes, would not believe the improvement to be the effect of Mesmerism. Mrs. Townsend believes that, after the first week, he experienced no pain; he was perpetually at play, hopping about the room. Two months after his admission to the infirmary he could rest his toe on the ground without any pain, and the knee had decreased two inches and a quarter in circumference. After being Mesmerised three months altogether, he was pronounced perfectly cured by Dr. Elliotson, and remains so to this day.

December 3rd, 1860.

*Case of Bursa in the Knee.—Letter from Mrs. Julien,
66, High-street, Marylebone.*

July, 1853.

By your request I give you a short sketch of my suffering with my knee. It had been bad since the first week in January; at the end of February I called in my medical attendant, being unable to

use it. It was much swollen, and in great pain ; he wished me to have further advice. An eminent consulting surgeon was called in, who pronounced it a bursa in the knee. I also had a physician ; he and the surgeon said it would be dangerous to operate, and they did not see what more could be done. Their coming to so painful a conclusion, my own medical man proposed Mesmerism, and kindly offered to see you, which he did on the 3rd of April ; he met you at my house on the 5th, when you Mesmerised it, and the result is most satisfactory, the swelling is decreased, the pain and stiffness gone, and without the least pain or inconvenience I can now walk more than a mile. I should add that a country physician, who doubted the power of Mesmerism, was brought by my brother to see me ; he said had he attended the case he should have amputated at once. After expressing his surprise at the effects of Mesmerism, he told me if it never was any better I had reason to be thankful. That was on the 1st of June, since then it has much improved. It is allowed by all to be a most wonderful cure, and I think we may now call it so. I hope I have made this statement clear enough to be understood. You will please to excuse all defects ; I write in haste, as I am going out.

Yours, &c.

S. JULIEN.

To Mr. Capern.

[From the Report of the London Mesmeric Infirmary. p. 1, 1852.]

Statement of Elizabeth Key, living with her parents, 14, Brompton Place, Hall Park, Paddington.

On the night of the 24th of November, 1851, at ten o'clock, in the presence of her father and mother, and being apparently in perfect health, felt, as it were, an electric shock in the left eye, which instantly closed firmly ; in five minutes a similar shock was felt in the right eye, and it closed as firmly. Her father procured medical advice, and she took a draught, but her eyes remained closed in spite of medical treatment. The next day she was taken to the Mesmeric Infirmary, and Mr. Capern caused them to open

freely in a few minutes, by Mesmeric passes. The surgeon who was called in, Mr. Hammond, of Paddington Green, most honourably gave a certificate that the case was an excellent proof of the power of Mesmerism in nervous affections.

Copy of Letter and Statement received from Hugh Purviss, in the employ of Mr. Thomas, sculptor, Alpha Road, London.

1, Windsor Place, Harrow Road, Nov. 5th, 1857.

I beg to express my obligation for your unexpected attendance to my case. I had been suffering for days severe and excruciating pains in my teeth and gums; the latter was burnt with applications and no benefit derived. At the time you offered your services I was in intense pain. I had heard of cures being performed by your process, but could not have anticipated such immediate relief. I shall be glad to give any explanation as far as the operation is concerned, and should there be any return of the pain, which to this time there has not been, I will again take advantage of your kind offer to attend me.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

To Mr. Capern.

HUGH PURVISS.

Process of Cure.

In relating my case to Mr. Capern, he requested I would look him steadfastly in the face, keeping my eyes, if possible, fixed on his, which I did, and the pain gradually left me, and in four or five minutes a complete cure was effected, and I have had no return of the pain since.

H. P.

Parallel case to the above, from Dickens' "Household Words."

"WANDERINGS IN INDIA.

"Whilst at Bignore I was seized with an attack of tic-doloureux, and suffered all its extreme agonies. One of my host's servants informed me that there was a very clever native doctor in the village who would immediately assuage any pains, tooth-ache for instance, and he begged permission to bring him to me. I consented. The native doctor was a tall, thin, mussul.

man, with a lofty forehead, small black eyes, long aquiline nose, and finely chiseled mouth and chin, his hair, eyebrows, and long beard were of a yellowish white or cream colour. Standing before me in his skull cap, he was about the most singular personage I ever beheld. His age did not exceed forty-five. He put several questions to me, but I was in too great agony to give him any replies. He begged me to sit down. I obeyed him mechanically. Seating himself in a chair immediately opposite to me, he looked very intently into my eyes. After a little while his gaze became quite disagreeable, and I endeavoured to turn my head aside, but I was unable to do so. I then felt that I was being Mesmerised. Observing, as I suppose, an expression of anxiety, if not of fear, in my features, he bade me not be alarmed. I longed to order him to desist, but as the pain became less and less acute, and as I retained my consciousness intact, I suffered him to proceed; to tell the truth, I doubt whether I could have uttered a sound; at all events, I did not make the attempt. Presently, that is to say, after two or three minutes, the pain had entirely left me, and I felt what is commonly called in a glow. The native doctor then removed his eyes off mine, and inquired if I was better. My reply, which I had no difficulty in giving at once, was in the affirmative,—in short, that I was completely cured."

Case of Atrophy, or Disease of the Mesenteric Glands.

I certify that Mr. Thomas Capern has been of the greatest service to my child, who had been suffering from mesenteric disease for eight months. His belly was very much enlarged, and as hard as a drum. His little legs and arms were nearly all skin and bone. His appetite was voracious, but he derived little or no nutrition from his food. After Mr. Capern had operated upon the child for about a fortnight, there was a sensible difference in his appearance for the better. The belly had decreased considerably; the extreme tension of the abdomen was much reduced, and his appetite perfectly natural. He is at the time I write this in perfect health.

J. D. PIERRE.

Cité l'Etoile, Paris, September, 1853.

Extracts from ancient and modern writers, proving that Animal Magnetism was practised by the Egyptians, Grecians, and Romans, in the early ages :—

Prosper Alpinus says that mystic frictions were the secret remedies employed by the priests for incurable diseases; and that tablets relating the wondrous cures were suspended from the columns in the temples.

Hippocrates and the family of the Asclepiades took many of these tablets from the temples of Memphis and Heliopolis. The learned have preserved to us a few of these inscriptions, five of which have been translated and commented upon by Sprengel. (*Dans l'Histoire Pragmatique de la Médecine.*)

Sprengel says that surprising cures were produced by manipulations and frictions during ablutions, especially on persons of a nervous temperament.

Plutarch relates that Pyrrhus, king of Epirus, used to cure persons who suffered from the spleen, by touching them slowly and for a long time on the place affected.

Pliny says there are men whose whole bodies are medicinal, and who can, by strength of will or intention, give out their curative power.

Apollonius of Tyana, the most celebrated man of his time, was instructed in all the mysteries of the temples of Ephesus, Smyrna, Athens, Corinth, and Nineveh. He had travelled in Persia, and visited the Brahmins in India. He had learned the marvellous secret for the cure of diseases. His cures were so surprising, that he was called by some a magician, by others a god. He effected his cures by means of insufflation, that is, by breathing upon his patients, and by means of light frictions.

Celsus, in Book III., says that Asclepiades made use of frictions for inducing sleep in those who were afflicted with frenzy.

Cœlinus Aurelianus prescribes frictions in pleurisy and megrims. It is necessary, says he, to carry the hand from the upper to the lower part of the body. In epilepsy he orders light frictions to be made over the head and forehead, having carefully warmed the hands.

Tacitus informs us that the Emperor Vespasian cured several poor people of blindness and lameness on the same principle as that practised by Cœlinus Aurelianus.

Elanus Claudius says (*Hist. Animal*, lib. xvi. cap. 28), that the Psylli cured the bites of venomous serpents by applying saliva to the wounds. They cured also by contact with the sick. He also adds that on approaching the Psylli, people were struck with stupor, as if they had drank a soporific potion, and that they remained deprived of their senses until the Psylli withdrew.

Origen speaks of men who cured maladies by the same means as those cured by Apollonius of Tyana.

Gregory the Thaumaturgist cured epileptic fits by breathing on the head of the patient through a veil thrown over the head.

Alexander of Tralles, a physician who lived in the middle ages, in his writings recommends the use of longitudinal frictions, and touching the eyes lightly with the fingers, for convulsions and frenzy.

In the beginning of the fourteenth century, Arnauld de Villeneuve learnt from the Arabs the practice of Magnetism, and used it for the cure of diseases with great success, for which he was persecuted and anathematised. His mind could not bear up against such cruel treatment and he gave way to melancholy.

Pomponius, born at Mantua, 1462, attempted to prove that the cures attributed to relics were effected by natural means; for which boldness he was cruelly persecuted, and his book placed in the Index.

Paracelsus, born 1493, studied the occult sciences and cured diseases which had been reported incurable. He was the first to use the term Magnetism.

Van Helmont, born at Brussels, 1577, made such surprising cures by Magnetism, that, notwithstanding his virtue and piety, he was suspected of practising magic and consigned to a dungeon. He says Magnetism has nothing new in it but the name. It is only a paradox to those who mock at and ascribe to Satanic power what they cannot understand.

Iarchas, a celebrated Indian philosopher, relates that he saw every description of disease cured by the application of the hand of Indian sages. He relates particularly the case of a man wounded by a lion, who was cured solely by manual friction.

One of the most celebrated men who professed to cure by manual contact was Valentine Greatrakes. He was born at Waterford, in the year 1628. He cured numbers of diseased persons by the touch, or by passing his hand over the body, more especially rheumatism, rheumatic gout, and nervous affections. Among the number of his patients were the second Duke of Villiers, and the astronomer Flamstead. At the request of the Earl of Orrery he visited England to attend on the Right Hon. the Viscountess Conway. His success was so great that he was requested by Lord Arlington, Secretary of State, to proceed to London. In the year 1666, an account of his strange cures, addressed by him to the Right Hon. Robert Boyle, was printed, with the testimonials of many eminent persons. Dr. Rust, the Lord Bishop of Dromore, states: "I was three weeks with him at my Lord Conway's, and saw pains strangely fly before his hands. There is something in it more than ordinary, but I am convinced it is not miraculous. The manner of his operation speaks it to be natural."

Pomponatus, in his work "*De Incantationum Occulta Protesta*," declares that he does not believe in magic, but he affirms that the virtue of curing diseases by the touch is possessed by certain men without any miraculous or magical intervention.

Charles Toogood Downing, in his work on "*China and the Chinese*," vol. ii. p. 165, states that Animal Magnetism is used by the Chinese as a remedial agent.

LINES

Written by a young Lady, on hearing Mesmerism called "IMPIOUS."

CALL not the gift unholy : 'tis a fair, a precious thing,
 That God hath granted to our hands for gentlest minist'ring.
 Did Mercy ever stoop to bless with dark, unearthly spell ?
 Could impious power whisper peace, the soul's deep throes to quell ?
 Would evil seek to work but good—to lull the burning brain,
 And linger in some scene of woe, beside the bed of pain,—
 To throw upon the o'erfraught heart the blessings of repose,—
 Untiring, watch the eye of care in healing slumber close,—
 And as the agony of grief fell 'neath the spirit's will,
 O'er the wild billows of despair breathe tenderly, "Be still ?"
 Speak gently of the new-born gift, restrain the scoff and sneer,
 And think how much we may not learn is yet around us here ;—
 What paths there are where *Faith* must lead that Knowledge cannot
 share,
 Though still we tread the devious way, and feel that Truth is *there*.
 Say, is the world so full of joy—hath each so fair a lot,
 That we should scorn one bounteous gift, and, scorning, use it not ?
 Because the finite thought of man grasps not its hidden course,
 Do we reject the stream because we cannot track its source ?
 Hath Nature, then, no mystic law we seek in vain to scan ?
 Can man, the masterpiece of God, trace the unerring plan
 That places o'er the restless sea the bounds it cannot pass,—
 That gives the fragrance to the flower, the "glory to the grass" ?
 Oh ! life, with all its fitful gleams, hath sorrow for its dower ;
 And with the wrung heart dwell the pang and many a weary hour.
 Hail, then, with gladness what may soothe the aching brain to rest ;
 And call not impious that which brings a blessing and is blest.
 The gladden'd soul re-echoes praise where'er this pow'r hath been ;
 And what in mercy God doth give, O call not thou unclean.

"God hath showed me that I should not call any man common or unclean."—Acts x. 28.

WORKS PUBLISHED BY MR. CAPERN :—

THE MIGHTY CURATIVE POWERS OF MESMERISM.

Price Two Shillings.

THE RECORD OF MESMERIC FACTS.

Price Sixpence.

Two or more Copies Post Free.

A. IRELAND and Co., Printers, Pall Mall, Market-street, Manchester