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134. A. 23.

MESMERIC FACTS.

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OF THE GOVT

REPORTED BY

JAMES ESDAILE, M. D.,

CIVIL ASSISTANT SURGEON, HOOGHLY.

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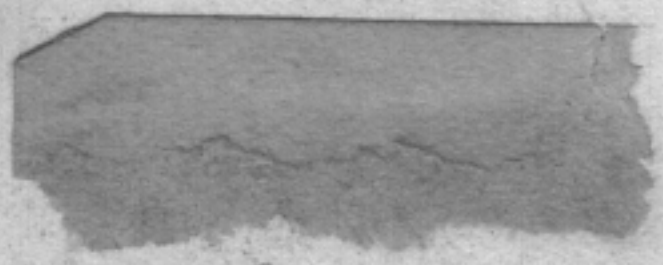
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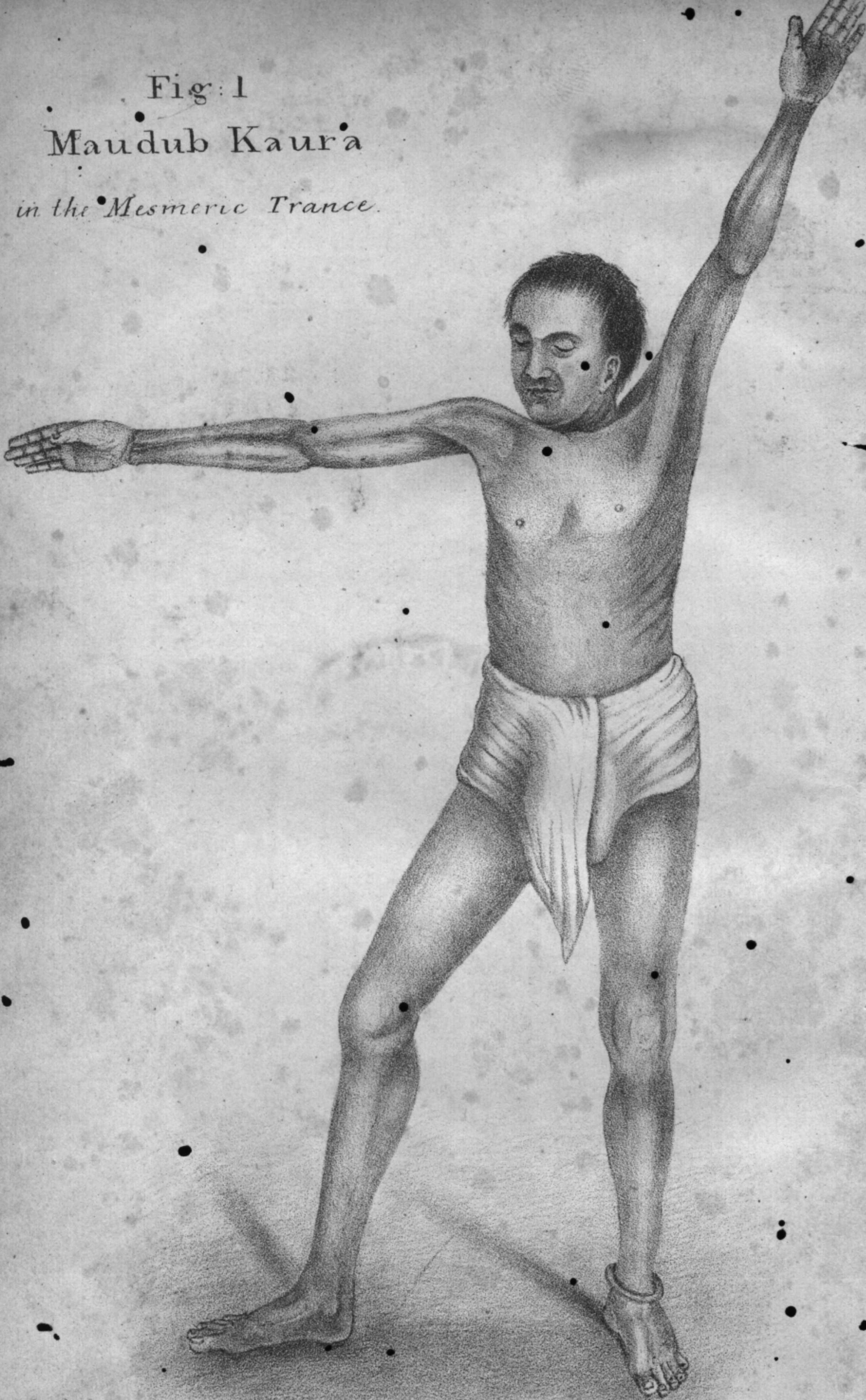


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Fig: 1

Maudub Kaur'a

in the Mesmeric Trance.



This portrait was taken in my presence and I am certain

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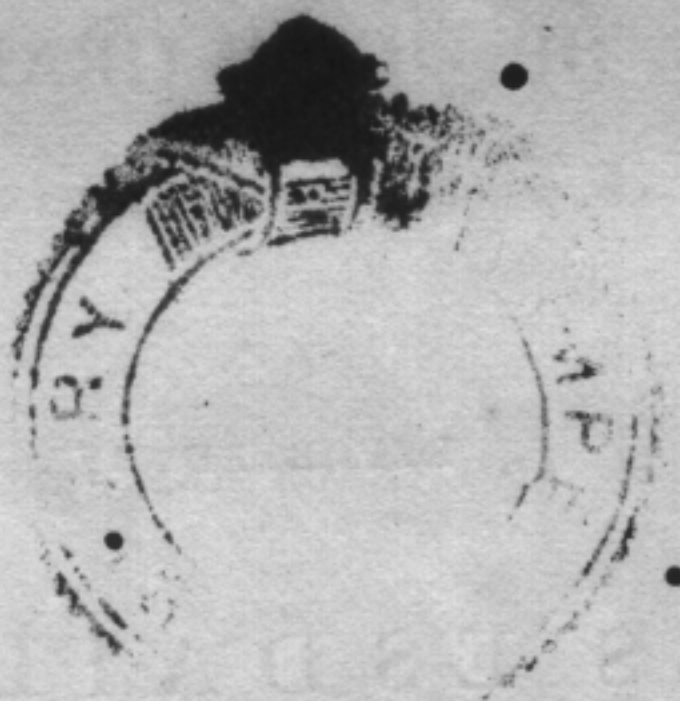
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CALCUTTA

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY

H. K. L. & CO.

1850

TO

DR. JOHN GRANT,

LATE APOTHECARY GENERAL, NOW IN ENGLAND,

THESE PAGES ARE INSCRIBED, IN REMEMBRANCE

OF MUCH PLEASANT INTERCOURSE,

AND OF BENEFITS RECEIVED BY HIS ATTACHED FRIEND,

JAMES ESDAILE.

Hooghly, July, 1845.

OUT OF PRINT

P R E F A C E.

As there are some signs, at present, of the real and practically useful parts of mesmerism running the risk of being despised and rejected along with the false and unprofitable part of it, as has happened before; I have thought it expedient to lay before the public the facts that I have observed during the last two months since experimenting for myself. These will, I hope, be considered a sufficient plea for an arrest of judgment; and if the testimony now given should prove satisfactory, I can with some confidence promise to reward the patience of the public by an accumulated mass of like evidence. For mesmerism is now daily prescribed by me in cases supposed to be adapted to it, and with the results recorded in the following pages.

If this production should be fortunate enough to excite criticism, I hope that it will be expended upon the examination of the reported "Facts," and not on my opinions, to which, unless directly deduced from the facts, I attach no consequence in my present state of ignorance.

What I suppose to be a well founded opinion to-day, I am often compelled to discard to-morrow because contradicted by realities. All that I now pretend to, is to give a literal transcript of what I have read (with all my senses about me, I hope,) in the book of Nature, which is the only work I have hitherto read on the subject, and to which I intend to confine myself for some time to come.

JAS. ESDAILE.

Hooghly, 1st July, 1845.

POSTSCRIPT.

This work consisted of three Reports when sent for publication, the rest having grown on my hands during its progress through the Press, and I had no access to mesmeric works till after the Fourth Report was written.

Since learning the history and recorded facts of the Science, I perceive that I can hardly claim to have done anything new; but in as far as I worked out the problem for myself without teacher or guide, the following pages may claim to be original observations of Nature, and their perfect unison with all that has been observed in other quarters of the globe, is most striking, and I should think would be convincing to reflecting minds.

I have purposely refrained from dwelling particularly on the most efficacious processes for exciting the mesmeric action in the system, because I should be sorry to be instrumental in making mesmerism easy to the unprofessional Public. But I shall be happy to lighten the labours of all who use it exclusively for the relief of human suffering, or the advancement of Science.—J. E.

Hooghly, August 30th, 1845.

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FIRST REPORT.

"I rather choose to endure the wounds of those darts which envy casteth at novelty, than to go on safely and sleepily in the easy ways of ancient mistakings."—RALEIGH.

To the Editor of the India Journal of Medical and Physical Science.

SIR,

I hope that the time has at last arrived when a man, under his own name, may address the public seriously on the subject of Mesmerism, and declare his belief in it, without a cry of "mad dog!" being raised against him. A member of the Medical Profession, and a public servant of the Government, may expect to be patiently listened to when he relates the facts that have come under his own observation regarding Mesmerism; especially when he pledges his private and professional character (as I hereby do) for the absolute truth of his statements. A writer has a right to expect, that under such circumstances his reported facts will not be at once rejected as incredible and worthless; it will be time enough for this when they are contradicted, or when dishonesty in any of the parties concerned shall have been detected, or the reporter proved to be a credulous simple fool, though per-

haps honest. But I confess, that I expect a liberal tone of mind from the Indian Public, for I believe it to possess an impartiality of judgment, and a capacity for receiving new ideas to be met with in few communities, and it is not difficult to explain why this should be so. Relying then on my own good faith, and the liberal construction of my readers, I will proceed to relate the Mesmeric Facts I have lately witnessed. Before doing so, I may perhaps be excused the egotism of giving a short sketch of the history of my belief in Mesmerism, as it is a remarkable epoch in a man's life, the day he discovers that he has the temporary power of life and death over his fellow-creatures.

Ever since Dr. Elliotson declared, years ago, "that he should despise himself if he did not declare his conviction of the truth of Mesmerism," I ceased to regard it lightly, and paid attention to all well attested reports upon the subject; at last, the facts became so numerous, and were so well supported by credible witnesses, and kept their ground so firmly both against adverse reasoning, and ridicule, (the test of truth) that I felt compelled to surrender my belief in the existence of the unknown Power, or cease to be a reasoning and judging being. Ten days before making my first experiment, I thus wrote to a friend at home: "What think you of this new mystery, Mesmerism? For my part I am thinking seriously about it, and cannot help suspecting that we have hit upon one of Nature's great secrets. I keep myself perfectly neutral, and hear the evidence *pro* and *con*. If it turns out a delusion, I will be happy to assist in digging its grave."

The uniformity of the phenomena described by different persons and coming from various parts of the world, strongly arrested my attention, and impressed me with the conviction that some new general law of nature had been discovered. England, France, Germany, and America, all combined to give the same evidence in support of the new doctrines, or rather new phenomena of nature. About the time that Miss Martineau's dis-

closures appeared, I also read a curious and striking document written in May, 1841, by the Archbishop of Lausanne and Geneva, and addressed to the Sacred Penitentiary, at Rome. As it may possibly make the impression upon others that it did on me, it is here transcribed.

“MOST EMINENT LORD,—Since that which has hitherto been answered respecting animal magnetism seems by no means to suffice, and it is much to be wished that cases not unfrequently occurring may be solved more safely and more uniformly, the undersigned humbly lays before your Eminence that which follows:—

“A magnetised person, who is generally of the female sex, enters into that state of sleep called *magnetic somnambulism* so deeply, that not even the greatest noise at her ears, nor any violence of iron or fire, is capable of raising her from it. She is brought into this kind of ecstasy by the magnetiser alone, to whom she has given consent (for consent is necessary), either by various touches or gesticulations, when he is present, or by a simple command, and that, too, an internal one, when he is at a distance of even several leagues.

“Then, being interrogated, aloud or mentally, concerning her own disease, or those of absent persons entirely unknown to her, this person, who is evidently one unlearned, at once exhibits great superiority in science to medical men; announces most accurately anatomical matters; indicates the cause, seat, and nature of internal diseases in the human body, which, to the skilful, are most difficult of understanding, and unravels their progress, variation, and complications, and this in the terms proper to them, and prescribes the most simple and efficacious remedies.

“If the person concerning whom the magnetised woman is consulted is present, the magnetiser establishes the relation between them by means of contact. If, however, he be absent, a lock of his hair supplies his place, and suffices. For when this lock of hair is brought into the proximity only of the hand

of the magnetised person, he declares what it is (without casting his eyes on it), whose hair it is, where the person is actually sojourning, to whom the hair belongs, what he is doing, and affords the above-mentioned information respecting his disease, not otherwise than if, after the manner of medical men, he were inspecting the interior of his body.

“ Lastly, the magnetised person does not see with the eye. The eyes being covered, though not knowing how to read, he will read off whatever is placed on his head or stomach, whether a book of manuscript, open or shut. His words, too, seem to issue from this region. But when brought out of this state, either at the order, even internal, of the magnetiser, or, as it were, spontaneously at the moment, previously announced by himself, he appears to be not at all conscious of the things gone through by him in the paroxysm, how long soever it may have lasted; what may have been demanded of him; what he may have answered; what he may have undergone; all these things have left no idea in his understanding, nor the least vestige in his memory.

“ Therefore, the undersigned petitioner, seeing valid reasons for doubting whether such effects, the occasional cause of which is shown to be so little proportioned to them, be simply natural, earnestly and most fervently prays that your Eminence in your wisdom, for the greater glory of the Omnipotent, as well as the greater good of souls, which have been redeemed by the Lord at so great a price, may be pleased to decide, whether, admitting the truth of the premises, a confessor or curate may safely permit to his penitents or parishioners—

1. That they practise animal magnetism endowed with such or other like characteristics, as an art auxiliary and supplementary to medicine.

“ 2. That they consent to be thrown into such a state of magnetic somnambulism.

“ 3. That they consult persons magnetised in such a manner, either concerning themselves or concerning others.

“ 4. Or, that they undertake one of these last mentioned three things, having first taken the precaution of formally renouncing in their minds every diabolic compact, explicit or implicit, as well as all Satanic interventions, since notwithstanding such precautions, similar effects, or some such effects, have been obtained by some persons. .

“ Most Eminent Lord, by command of the Most Rev. the Archbishop of Lausanne and Geneva, your Eminence’s most humble and most obedient servant,

“ JAMES XAVIER FONTANA,
“ *Chancellor of the Episcopal Chancery.*”

*Friburg in Switzerland,
Episcopal Palace, the 19th May, 1841.*

RESPONSE.

“ The Sacred Penitentiary, the premises having been maturely weighed, considers that these should be answered as it now answers :—The use of magnetism, as set forth in the case, is not permissible.

“ Given at Rome, in the Sacred Penitentiary, the 1st day of July, 1841.

“ C. CARD. CASTRACANE, M. P.

“ PH. POMELLA, of the S. P., Secy.

“ Certified as a copy conformable to the original.—

Friburg, the 26th July, 1841.

By Order,

“ J. PERROULAZ,

“ *Secretary of the Bishopric.*”

It will be observed, that although the subject is held in dread by the reporter, as being probably of diabolic origin, yet it is treated as a "great fact" known to, and believed in, by large communities; so that Protestants and Catholics again hold the same creed. All knowledge is of God, and its abuse is only to be dreaded; I therefore determined to try to find out the truth for myself on the first favourable occasion. For if the twentieth part of what is reported be true, it well deserves careful investigation.

In choosing a proper subject to experiment upon, I should probably have selected some highly sensitive female of a nervous temperament, and excitable imagination, who desired to submit and succumb to the supposed influence. But I beg it to be particularly remarked, that my first essay was not guided by theory; and was not made on any such favourable subject. On the contrary, the very worst specimen of humanity, theoretically considered, was the person experimented upon; being no other than a Hindu felon of the hangman caste, condemned to hard labour on the roads, in irons. Accident alone determined my choice, for I should as soon have thought of commencing operations on the first dog, or pig on the road, as of selecting this man for his good "matériel;"—chance decided the matter perhaps much better than reasoning would have done.

There are some particular points of interest in this case, to which I beg to attract attention.

1st. The purely accidental, and unpremeditated nature of the experiment.

2nd. All want of consent between the parties.

3rd. The operator's want of belief in his own powers.

4th. The absolute ignorance of the subject in the patient.

5th. The impossibility therefore of his imitating so exactly the phenomena of Mesmeric Coma.

6th. Collusion, it will be allowed, I presume, could not possibly exist between the agent and subject, and every possible care

has been taken to exclude any source of fallacy in the experiments.

European gentlemen, sceptical and critical, or so strong in disbelief that they would reason themselves out of the evidence of their senses, if they could ; ignorant Hindus and Musulmans, who simply used their eyes and ears without an attempt at reflection, will all be found by their separate and independent reports bearing testimony to the same series of phenomena.

As I may never succeed again, possibly, and at all events cannot afford the physical exhaustion of subduing new patients in the hot weather, I have endeavoured to make this case as perfect as possible in all its parts, by bringing the senses of different people to bear upon it in all its stages, and I must declare, that I cannot see any possible opening for mistake, or deception. I may hope to be able to retain my power over this person, and shall be happy to have any source of error pointed out to me, that it may be guarded against in future.

To those who may desire to test the truth for themselves by their own powers, I would venture to suggest that an earnest desire to know the truth, a fixed attention, and a resolution to subdue interposing difficulties, are essential conditions of mind for the operator, as the means of concentrating, and keeping up the continued action of the vital agent, whatever it may be. All after-dinner, and joking experiments are therefore likely to fail, and ought not to be practised either by those who desire to see the truth with their own eyes, or by those who have seen it, and believe.

My profound impression is, that the first effects are produced by a purely physical influence exerted by one animal over another, but I can hardly doubt that it extends also to the mind, for the mental phenomena (though more subject to suspicion) are as numerously attested as the bodily. In the present case, no mental phenomena can be reasonably expected, for the individual is

only one (?) degree above the brutes, and if his mind can be acted upon, I suspect it must be by some one who has more sympathy with his mental constitution.

EXPERIMENT I.

Mádhav Kaurá, a hog-dealer, condemned to seven years' imprisonment with labour on the roads in irons, for wounding a man so as to endanger his life, has got a double Hydrocele. He was ordered to be taken from the Jail to the Charity Hospital, to be operated upon.

April 4th.—The water was drawn off one side of the scrotum, and two drachms of the usual cor. sub. injection were thrown in. On feeling the pain from the injection, he threw his head over the back of the chair, and pressed his hands along the course of the spermatic cords, closing his eye-lids firmly, and making the grimaces of a man in pain. Seeing him suffering in this way, I turned to the Native Sub-Assistant Surgeon, an "elevé" of the Medical College, and asked him if he had ever seen mesmerism? He said, that he had seen it tried at the Medical College, but without effect. Upon which I remarked, I have a great mind to try it on this man; but as I never saw it practised, and know it only from reading, I shall probably not succeed. The man continuing in the position described, I placed his knees between mine, and began to pass ~~my~~ hands slowly over his face, at the distance of an inch, and carried them down to the pit of his stomach. This was continued for half an hour before he was spoken to; and when questioned at the end of this time, his answers were quite sensible and coherent.

He was ordered to remain quiet, and the passes were continued for a quarter of an hour longer—still no sensible effect. Being now tired, (thermometer 85°) I gave it up in despair, and declared it to be a failure. While I rested myself, the man remained quiet, and made fewer grimaces, and when ordered to open his eyes, he said there was a smoke in the room. This roused my attention, and tempted me to persevere. I now breathed on his head, and carried my hands from the back of his head over his face, and down to the epigastrium, where I pressed them united. The first time this was done, he took his hands off his groins and pressed them both firmly down upon mine, drew a long breath, and said, "I was his father and mother, and had given him life again." The same process was persevered in, and in about an hour he began to gape, said he must sleep, that his senses were gone, and his replies became incoherent. He opened his eyes when ordered, but said he only saw smoke, and could distinguish no one: his eyes were quite lustreless, and the lids were opened heavily. All appearance of pain now disappeared; his hands were crossed on his breast instead of being pressed on the groins, and his countenance showed the most perfect repose. He took no notice of our questions, and I called loudly on him by name without attracting any notice.

I pinched him without disturbing him, and then asking for a pin in English, I desired my assistant to watch him narrowly, and drove it into the small of his back; it produced no effect whatever, and my assistant repeated it, at intervals, in different places as uselessly. His back had continued to arch more backwards latterly, and he now was in a state of "opisthotonos;" the nape of his neck resting on the sharp back of the chair, and his breech on the edge of it. Being now satisfied that we had got something extraordinary, I went over to the Kutcherry, and begged Mr. Russell the Judge, and Mr. Money the Collector, to come and see what had been done, as I wanted the presence of intelligent witnesses in what remained to do. We found him

in the position I had left him in, and no hallooing in his ears could attract his attention. Fire was then applied to his knee without his shrinking in the least, and liquor Ammoniaë, that brought tears into our eyes in a moment, was inhaled for some minutes with perfect composure and without causing an eyelid to quiver. This seemed to have revived him a little, as he moved his head shortly afterwards, and I asked him if he wanted to drink; he only gaped in reply, and I took the opportunity to give him slowly a mixture of Ammonia, so strong that I could not bear to taste it; this he drank like milk, and gaped for more. As the "experimentum crucis," I lifted his head, and placed his face, which was directed to the ceiling all this time, in front of a full light; opened his eyes one after the other, but without producing any effect upon the iris; his eyes were exactly like an amaurotic person's, and all noticed their lack-lustre appearance. We were all now convinced that total insensibility of all the senses existed, and I ordered him to be placed on a mattress on the floor, and not to be disturbed till I returned. It was now 1 o'clock, the process having commenced at 11 A. M.

I returned at 3 o'clock, and was vexed to find that he had awoken, and been carried back to the Jail Hospital. The native doctor of the Jail had come in, and on hearing that the Sáhibs could not awake the patient, he set about doing so, and succeeded by throwing water on his face, &c. I again went to Messrs. Russell and Money, and requested them to accompany me to the Jail to be present when he was interrogated regarding his reminiscences, and we put down a series of questions to be put to him at once, and without explanation. We found him looking well, with a lively expression of face, and the following questions were put to him; his answers being taken down at the same time.

How do you feel?

Very well.

Any pain in the throat, or elsewhere?

A little uneasiness in the throat; no pain any where else.

What has happened to you to-day ?

I went in the morning to the Imambarah Hospital to get the water taken out of my scrotum.

Was the water drawn off ?

Yes.

What do you remember after the operation ?

I went to sleep soon after, and remember nothing else.

Did you eat, or drink after the operation ?

I felt thirsty, but got nothing to drink till Kurreem Ali, the Native Doctor, awoke me.

Did any body prick, or burn you ?

No, no.

Did you smell any thing disagreeable ?

No.

Were you happy when asleep ?

Very.

Did you hear any thing when you were asleep ?

I heard voices, but did not understand them.

Did you see any gentleman in the Hospital, but me ?

No.

Did you feel any pain in the scrotum after going to sleep ?

I felt none till I awoke.

Any pain in that part now ?

A very little.

How many motions have you had to-day ? (he was suffering from chronic diarrhoea.) Four, before going to the Hospital ; none since : belly is much easier than it has been for sometime.

Having answered all these questions readily and frankly, he began to cry, thinking it was some kind of judicial investigation, I suppose.

The above is an exact relation of what took place in our presence, and we are thoroughly convinced that there was a complete suspension of sensibility to external impressions of the most painful kind.

F. W. RUSSELL,
 D. J. MONEY,
 BUDDEN CHUNDER CHOWDAREE,
Sub-Assistant Surgeon.

April 5th.—There is less than the usual inflammation, and he makes no complaint. I intend to operate on the other side in a few days, mesmerising him first, if possible, and have invited many persons to be present.

EXPERIMENT II.

April 6th.—11 o'clock, A. M. The inflammation has become high during last night; the part is hot, and excessively tender: the lightest touch causes great pain. Skin hot. Pulse quick. I could not resist the temptation to satisfy myself still further, and relieve him at the same time; so turning to the Native doctors, I said that I would again try the "Belatee Muntur," (the Europe charm,) and began the process as before, he lying in bed. In ten minutes the mesmeric haze, smoke he always calls it, was produced. After half an hour, he still complained of the pain in the inflamed part, and could not bear its being touched; in three-quarters of an hour the coma was established, and I squeezed the inflamed part with no more effect than if it had been a bladder. Having business to attend to in Chandernagore, six miles off, I called, in passing, on the Rev. Mr. Fisher, and said that he might now satisfy himself by going to the hospital in my absence, and

that he was at liberty to use every possible means to awake him, or make him feel, except mesmeric ones. Here I have the pleasure to introduce a report of the proceedings of Mr. Fisher and Mr. Money while I was at Chandernagore :—

To J. Esdaile, Esq.

MY DEAR SIR,

I beg to certify that I twice saw the native whom you had put into a mesmeric trance or state of catalepsy; and from the successful application of different tests, I have no hesitation in stating, should my statement add any weight to your own testimony, or be of any service to the cause of the imperfectly known and hitherto unfairly treated science of mesmerism, that the individual in question was in that state entirely insensible of pain, and that I believe, if you had cut his leg off, he would not have felt it. I saw, when I was in England, both publicly and in private, many cases of mesmerism accompanied by unnatural and wonderful phenomena, without being convinced. But your case is one so free from all possibility of suspicion, that to have doubted it one might as well have doubted one's own existence.

Yours truly,

D. J. MONEY.

Hooghly, 9th April, 1845.

I have only to add to the above, that I was present upon the last occasion referred to by Mr. Money, and fully concur with him in thinking, that the patient, during the mesmeric trance, was totally insensible to pain. Indeed, all the senses appeared to be unnaturally suspended from any manifestation of their ordinary operations, and every available test was tried in vain. Dr. Esdaile upon this occasion was absent at Chandernagore, having previously put the patient into the trance.

F. FISHER.

Returned to the hospital at 3 o'clock, and found him lying just as I had left him. Awoke him in a few minutes by rapid transverse passes, blowing in his face, and giving water to drink. Is free of pain, and still desires to sleep; says his head "turns."

— • —

Translation of a Report from Kureem Ali Khan, native doctor, of what he saw, and heard in the Jail Hospital, on the 6th April, 1845.

"At 11 o'clock, A. M., the patient, Mádháb Kaurá, was in a fever, and there was an acute pain in the scrotum. The worthy Dr. Sáhib (may he ever prosper) came to the hospital, and began to do something to him. When the experiment was going on, Mádháb was asked, What do you see?"

"I cannot see clearly; something like smoke is before my eyes.

"Do you see the doors?"

"No, nothing but smoke.

"Do you see Dr. Sáhib?"

"No, I see nobody, but perceive some one is talking near me.

"Is there any pain in your body?"

"Yes, breathing causes pain in the belly.

"Is there pain in the scrotum?"

"Yes, as acute as ever.

"How do you feel now?"

"I feel cold, and sleepy.

"After the Doctor Sáhib had tried for nearly three-quarters of an hour, he fell into a deep sleep, and there seemed to be no pain in the scrotum: he slept so sound that even the pricking of his body with a pin did not restore his senses, or awake him. Before, a touch of the scrotum was painful, but after he was asleep, even pricking it caused no pain whatever.

“ He continued in this state for three hours, when the Doctor Sáhib calling him aloud twice, or thrice, he came to his senses, and opened his eyes. He asked for water, which he drank ; and, feeling cold, covered himself.”

Translation of a Report from Noboo, native doctor, of what he saw and heard in the Jail Hospital, on the 6th April, 1845.

“ On the morning of the 6th April, I went to the Hospital, and found the body of Mádhav Kaurá hot and feverish, and he felt a great pain in the scrotum.

“ At 11 o'clock, Dr. Esdaile, the Civil doctor, came and made some operations on the body : something I do not know. While the operation was going on, the patient was asked if he could see plainly ; but said, No. When asked if he could see any one, he answered, that he could see no one, but knew by the sounds that some people were there.

“ Again he was asked if he felt any pain ; he said, that he felt a severe pain in the belly, on breathing, and also in the scrotum, and felt very cold. Soon afterwards, he became senseless.

“ At 2 o'clock P. M. the Rev. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Money came to the Hospital, and tried to bring him to his senses by pricking him with a pin, putting fire on his hand, and beating a gong at his ear, but all proved ineffectual.”

I forgot to note down what these reports notice—his complaining of feeling cold soon after the process began ; and when I left him the temperature of his body was natural.

On these two occasions, the effects were witnessed by all the patients and hangers on in and about both Hospitals.

• *April 7th.*—Has had a good night ; is a little feverish : pain in scrotum much less. He now complains, for the first time, of pain in the places where he was pricked and burned.

This makes one ashamed of one's incredulity, and I will never put a patient to the "question" in this way again. It is only excusable for the first time when we can hardly believe the evidence of our senses. Whenever the mesmeric *haze* is produced, the operator may be sure that he has obtained the specific effect, and the insensibility of the pupil will incontrovertibly prove the presence of mesmeric coma.

EXPERIMENT III.

April 11th.—Took the sub-assistant Surgeon with me to-day to the Jail Hospital, and desired him to watch the time taken to produce the different effects. There is still considerable pain in the side operated upon. Pulse regular, 60. Skin warm. At 11 A. M. I seated him on the floor with his back against the wall; placed myself before him on a stool, and proceeded pretty much as before. The process, in one particular, was varied; I leaned my elbows upon my knees, placed my mouth over the back of my joined hands, and breathed along their upper surface, the points of my fingers being pointed steadily at his eyes, nose, and forehead in succession. This seemed to be very effectual, and was done with the idea of concentrating the mesmeric influence of the whole body into one conductor. It was curious to observe that he had begun to think on the subject, and was observing the effects for himself, and testing his senses as we proceeded. After manipulating for a few minutes, he opened his eyes, looked sharply, and minutely about him; and being asked if he saw quite ~~well~~, he said, "O yes." In a minute or two, he repeated his inspection, and answered again, that he saw quite distinctly: in seven minutes he again looked about him, seemed surprised, and said he only saw "smoke."

In fifteen minutes he was pinched; and when asked if any one was pinching him, he replied, that he could not tell, as I might

now cut a piece out of his body without his feeling it. I now tried for an abnormal mental manifestation; certainly not expecting to be gratified. I asked, What will cure your complaint? You know best. Has the Baboo any complaint? How should I know! I understood this as a hint to attend to the business in hand, the body, and therefore proceeded to induce the mesmeric coma as quickly as possible, and succeeded in twenty minutes from the commencement. I then said to the Sub-Assistant Surgeon that I would operate upon him in this state if I could find some of the European gentlemen to be witnesses. On going to Chinsurah, two miles off, I fortunately found a considerable party, consisting of the Baron Law de Clapernoū, Governor of Chandernagore, Mr. Russell the Judge, Mr. Wauchope the Magistrate, J. St. Pourçain, Esq., Mr. Clint, Principal of Hooghly College, and Mr. Clermont, head Master of the Lower School, who all accompanied me back to the Hospital. The man had fallen down, and was lying on his back. The large gong of the Jail was brought, and struck violently within a few inches of his ear with no effect. I then pierced the scrotum, and threw in the injection without any one being sensible of the smallest movement in his face, or body. His limbs were quite flexible, but on holding one of his legs in my hand for a few seconds, it gradually became quite rigid, and we could not bend it again; the same occurred in the other leg. The arms were supple, and lay in any position into which they were thrown, and when the fore-arm was bent upon the humerus, and then let go, it fell upwards, or downwards instantly. But on placing my united fingers over the ends of his, the arm remained fixed at a right angle in the air, and swayed to and fro according to my movements. The insensibility of the iris was also tested, and proved.

6 o'clock A. M.—Still sleeps; most complete relaxation of all the limbs now exists. The legs and arms can be tossed about in every direction, and where they fall there they lie. Being curious to ascertain the effect of the artificial state on the

natural process of inflammation, I did not awake him, but saw that the part was as flaccid as when the water was just withdrawn.

April 12th.—He awoke at 12 o'clock last night, spontaneously. Recollects nothing after going to sleep; sees the water is gone, knows not how; supposes the Doctor Sáhíb did it. The testicle is considerably enlarged to-day; there is little pain, and it did not swell till after he awoke. He has had chronic diarrhœa for some time, four and five motions a day, but has had none since yesterday forenoon till this morning. *Natural, artificial, and diseased actions have therefore been all equally arrested for the last thirteen hours; a practical fact of the utmost importance, which will not be lost sight of by myself, or others, I hope.* What a blessed prospect this opens to sufferers who may be sensible to the mesmeric influence! In time, we may hope to discover who they are, by detecting the laws which regulate this power of Nature, and thereby save ourselves much trouble and disappointment. In the mean time, let us accumulate *facts*, as the seeds for a correct theory hereafter. Although I should never succeed again, I will in future think, speak, and write of Mesmerism as being as much a reality as the principle of gravitation, or the properties of opium.

I will continue this investigation, but wish to know what exceptions can be taken to the facts now related, and beg to be favoured with any suggestions calculated to give greater security to future experiments.

I am,

Your obedient Servant,

JAS. ESDAILE, M. D.

Hooghly, 9th April, 1845.

SECOND REPORT.

“Le vrai n'est pas toujours le vraisemblable.”

*To the Editor of the India Journal of Medical and Physical
Science.*

SIR,

Since it appears that nothing short of seeing with your own eyes will convince you of the *Physical* effects of Mesmerism even, I will be happy to afford you ocular demonstration. But this is a bad precedent, and I only make you this offer, because, as the Editor of a Medical Journal, you have it probably in your power to advance or retard the reception of an important truth among Medical men, in whose hands the investigation of this matter should be exclusively lodged for the satisfaction and safety of the public, for it is subject to enormous abuse in the keeping of the ignorant and knavish.

You are aware, that few can be privileged to the extent of St. Thomas in the solution of their doubts, and that the horizon of human knowledge would be very circumscribed, if we only believed in the evidence of our own senses. There are recognised laws of evidence for testing the credibility of human testimony upon whatever subject it may be given, and however new or

strange the proposition may be to us, we shall, by a careful and dispassionate examination of the proofs, be able to determine what we may safely believe; on what points we should suspend our judgment, and how much we ought to reject. In spiritual matters, we have been told, "Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed." This blessing also follows the ready, but discriminating reception of truth in philosophy, morals, and secular affairs. Mental satisfaction, honor, and profit, if cared for, reward the first discoverers of the secrets of nature; riches await the men of clear sense who know how to turn the new truths to practical purposes; and in medicine, the early application of new and powerful remedies removes much human suffering that would probably have been otherwise hopeless. It is a curious psychological phenomenon, that a hard disbelief in Mesmerism seems to be in proportion to the extraordinary facilities afforded to every one to satisfy himself by the evidence of his own senses. There is no "hocus pocus," or attempt at concealment practised by many Mesmerisers whose word has never been doubted in the course of their lives, and who are well known to be neither fools nor knaves. They say to us, "Do thus, and you will probably become as wise as ourselves; or if you cannot or will not be at the necessary trouble, come and see." But people, in general, prefer to dictate laws to nature from their easy chairs, and amuse themselves at the expense of the followers of nature chasing the shapes of their own imaginations as they are pleased to suppose.

Let us leave these infallible philosophers to their dignified repose, and I hope it will not disturb them, if I hint, that those who never doubt, will little learn.

But I beg to warn all those who have not a practical knowledge of the subject, that it is much easier to "see," than to "do;" nature will not "unsought be won," and only yields her secret treasures to those who court her with earnestness, sincerity, and resolution.



“*Labore et sudore,*” ought to be the Mesmerist’s motto* till he has produced the desired results by his personal efforts, and thereby given himself and others confidence. After this, all is easy, for any number of proper assistants may be taught to act under our superintendence, and this they do with good will and effect, having once seen the wonderful results that may be produced; any one of which will amply compensate for a hundred failures.

The most formidable, because reasonable argument, against the existence of Mesmerism as a natural power, is perhaps the Report of the French Commission in 1779, of which Franklin was president.

The verdict of the “Savans” was perfectly just, and a legitimate deduction from the evidence before them; but yet (such is human fallibility) in this case “*Summa jus,*” was also “*Summa injuria*”—truth was sacrificed to falsehood, as I think will clearly appear from a short analysis of their proceedings. This will probably not be time wasted, as I have heard intelligent gentlemen say, that the verdict of the French philosophers still decided their opinions. They had a series of “*Axioms of Mesmerism*” presented to them, whose truth they were to examine, and the efficacy of certain processes was to be proved to their satisfaction, by experiment.

The Mesmerist’s object seems to have been to try to convince the Commission that he had a secret worth knowing, and yet continued to keep it to himself by hiding its extreme simplicity under a load of complicated machinery, and various kinds of mummery.

Delson, the pupil of Mesmer*, propounded his laws of Animal Magnetism, after this fashion—

* The supporters of the “*diabolic theory*” will be glad to learn, that a “*Father Hehl*” was actually the first discoverer of the new power. The alteration of the orthography of his name was a poor “*ruse*” of the arch-deceiver.

“ 1. Animal magnetism is an universal fluid, constituting an absolute plenum in nature, and the medium of all mutual influence between the celestial bodies, and betwixt the earth and animal bodies.”

This is only a gigantic assertion.

“ 2. It is the most subtile fluid in nature : capable of flux, and of reflux, and of receiving, propagating, and continuing all kinds of motion.”

The two first clauses are probable enough, and in the last, he had perhaps a glimpse of motion by electro-magnetism ; but to call this, or any other combination of inorganic powers, and mesmerism identical, even at the present day, is taking every thing for granted.

“ 3. The animal body is subjected to the influences of this fluid by means of the nerves, which are immediately affected by it.”

Very possibly ; we see no other way at present.

“ 4. The human body has poles, and other properties, analogous to the magnet.”

The first proposition has never been proved ; the second, only true as far as likeness goes.

“ 5. The action and virtue of animal magnetism may be communicated from one body to another, whether animate or inanimate.”

True, as regards the relations between animate bodies, and these can also impregnate inanimate substances we are told by the best authorities.

“ 6. It operates at a great distance without the intervention of any body.”

True.

“ 7. It is increased and reflected by mirrors ; communicated, propagated, and increased by sound ; and may be accumulated, concentrated, and transported.”

Sound may possibly assist to lull the brain, but quiet is far

more essential ; the other assertions are borne out by modern experiments.

“ 8. Notwithstanding the universality of this fluid, all animal bodies are not equally affected by it ; on the other hand, there are some, though but few in number, the presence of which destroys all the effects of animal magnetism.”

The first part correct ; the last, probably so.

“ 9. By means of this fluid, nervous diseases are cured immediately, and others mediately ; and its virtues, in short, extend to the universal cure and preservation of mankind.”

True to so great an extent, that we do not know how far it may go. Is it surprising that the commission dismissed contemptuously such a jumble of mere assertion and nonsense, seasoned with a grain of truth ? Like a Bengal witness, the Mesmerist smothered his true tale in a score of circumstantial lies, till no one knew what to believe. Then again, he ruined himself and his cause, by loading the simple truth with a parcel of trumpery machinery, through which he hoped the power of nature would nevertheless penetrate.

But nature, like an overloaded camel, turned upon her driver, and threw him and his paraphernalia of magnetic platforms, conducting rods and ropes, pianos and magnetised trees into the dirt, and truth retired in disgust to the bottom of her well, there to remain till more honest men should draw her forth again to surprise and benefit the world.

As far as my observation goes, all that is necessary for success, if the parties are in the relation of agent and subject, is *passive obedience* in the patient, and a sustained attention on the part of the operator, and the more the bodies of both are *in a state of nature*, so much the better for the success of a natural process.

The successes I am now about to record, are mainly to be attributed, I believe, to my patients being the simple children of nature ; neither thinking, questioning, nor remonstrating, but passively submitting to my pleasure, without in the smallest degree

knowing my intentions. If the proud sons of civilisation will condescend to return for a moment to the feet of their Mother Nature, they will also probably benefit by her bounties.

A JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL MESMERISM.

Having satisfied myself of the existence of their Mesmeric power by the experiments reported in your last number, I have lost no time in applying it to practical purposes. The effects are nearly as various as the different individuals acted upon, but divide themselves into three prominent conditions: Simple somnolence; semi-insensibility; and total insensibility or coma. Of these I will give a sufficient number, collected during the last month, to prove how common all these states are, and that all are eminently useful in combating different diseases.

Simple Somnolence.

April 7th.—Janokee Sing, a chuprassie, aged 30, a hardy-looking man. The whole of the scrotum and the prepuce are sloughing from the application of some acrid leaves. Pain most intense. I foolishly wasted myself in trying to mesmerise him for an hour, but with no effect.

April 15th.—The whole scrotum has sloughed off: has had no sleep since he came to Hospital. The Compounder, a healthy, intelligent Hindoo, succeeded in putting him to sleep to-day, in half an hour. He awoke when called upon or pinched, but instantly fell asleep again.

April 16th.—Slept from 11 A. M. yesterday till 5 P. M.: took his dinner at 6 o'clock; immediately after went to bed, and slept till 7 o'clock this morning, the only rest he has had since he was burned.

April 19th.—Mesmerised daily since the 16th, with the same results; every time it becomes easier, and a few minutes now suffice to overcome him. Nothing else worth remarking.

April 20th.—Kowsoolla, aged 40, a peasant woman. Had her breast, and an axillary gland extirpated, three weeks ago, for cancer. There is only a skin wound now. I subdued her in ten minutes to-day for the first time. She awoke when called upon, but in a second fell asleep again; the limbs are quite loose, but when I fix them for a minute in any position, they remain in it, and require to be dragged into a new attitude. The muscles yield precisely like lead, without a vestige of re-action when the bending force is removed.

April 25th.—She can now be mesmerised in a minute: nothing new elicited.

April 20th.—When at the Hospital to-day, the Mussulman Compounder came and said, that he had put a woman to sleep in the female ward, and that he could not awake her. Went to see; found it true, and took the opportunity to inform every one about the Hospital, that if any body dared to attempt this again, without my orders, he should be instantly dismissed, and hanged into the bargain, if the patient never awoke again. I hope this will check experimental mesmerism.

May 3rd.—Bissumber Chowdry. Has had retention of urine for three days. The bladder is prominent at the navel: no catheter can be introduced; a quantity of pus came away with the instrument. Ordered to lie in the easiest posture, and to be put to sleep, if possible. Slept for several hours, and voided his urine freely when awoke.

May 11th.—There has been no return of the stoppage.

May 4th.—A prisoner, convalescent from cholera; has been tormented with incessant hiccough for twenty-four hours.

Opii. grs. ij.

Conf. Arom. grs. x.

If this does not check it, a blister to be applied over the diaphragm.

May 5th.—No better. To be mesmerised.

Returned after three hours, and found him asleep. Awoke him : has no hiccough.

May 11th.—The hiccough has not returned.

Semi-Insensibility.

April 20th.—Jeelal, my Dhobie, aged 35, has been eighteen months ill ; first with dysentery, afterwards with rheumatic fever, in consequence of which his left knee is bent at a right angle upon the thigh. I considered him to be a hopeless cripple.

I mesmerised him to-day in a quarter of an hour. At first he supported his knee with both hands, but soon allowed me to remove them and suspend them in the air. The leg was then gradually extended, and straightened to a considerable extent, without awaking him.

April 21st.—Process repeated to-day, and more force used, which awoke him : the leg still farther improved.

April 22nd.—The pully was used to-day, and very considerable power applied before he awoke. The muscular contraction of the extensor and flexor muscles of the thigh is now nearly overcome, and the remaining stiffness of the knee seems to be from the tendons and ligaments about the joint, and will probably yield to mechanical extension by exercise.

May 11th.—He can now walk without a stick, but the fibrous contractions give way slowly. I am convinced that direct force might have torn the muscles of the thigh, but could not have relaxed them.

April 23rd.—Ramchander Sircar. Saw him for the first time to-day, at 11 o'clock, A. M. He has got elephantiasis of the scrotum. The tumor is twice the size of a man's head.

I put him to sleep, and made his arms cataleptic in three-quarters of an hour.

Pricking and inhaling ammonia disturbed, but did not awake him; I therefore proceeded to operate, but he awoke after I had slit up the prepuce. I therefore desisted, and will try to educate him into insensibility.

April 27th.—Has been easily mesmerised daily since the 23rd. Is not insensible to pain, but it does not awake him; and I could not afford to spend more time upon him, and therefore re-commenced the operation. I pulled him by the legs to the edge of the table, and allowed the tumor to hang down unsupported; then bent his knees, and put his feet in the attitude for lithotomy, and in this painful position, he remained for half an hour without moving.

His legs and arms were then properly disposed of, in case he should awake, and the tumor quickly removed. The first incisions did not awake him, but he was soon thoroughly roused. This imperfect insensibility was a great comfort to the patient, and gave great facilities to the operator.

One testicle adhered to the fundus of the tumor, and was sacrificed.

The mode of operating was that described in this Journal for Sept. 1844, and though different from that adopted by several practised operators, I have seen no reason to change it. It is very simple and expeditious, and the wound is sometimes healed in one week instead of six.

May 12th.—Buxoo Khidmutgar. There is a fistulous opening in the urethra under the glans penis, which is sloughing, and requires to be amputated. I desired him to be mesmerised, and returned in an hour. Found him asleep, and while looking at him, he awoke with a start, but immediately went to sleep again, and in five minutes after, I cut off the glans without giving him pain. He awoke a moment after, but said it was from fear, not pain.

Total Insensibility, or Coma.

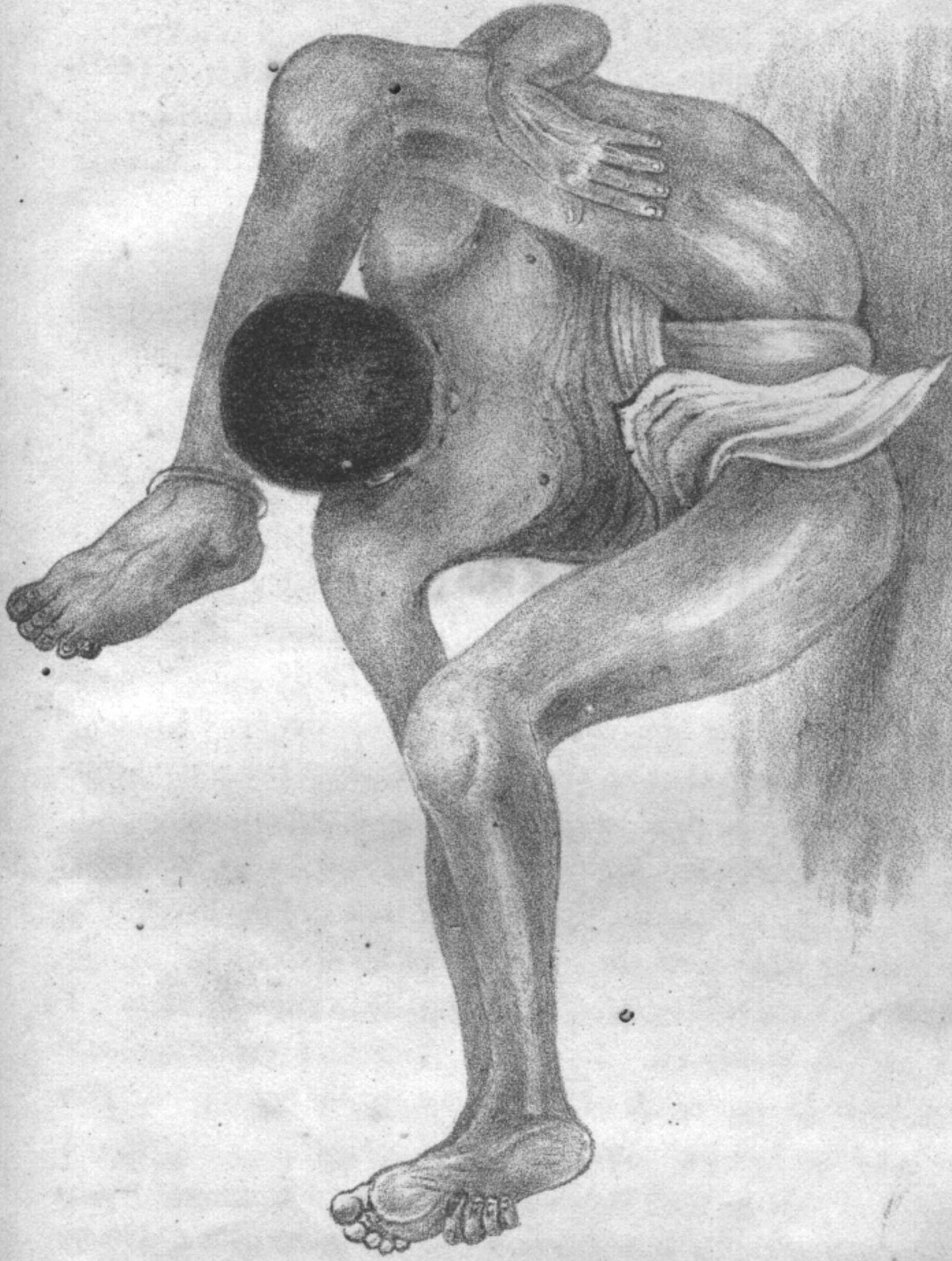
May 13th.—Mádub Kaurá, my first patient, reported on last month. This man can now be catalepted in less than a minute, and the effects are passing strange.

If I point my fingers at him for a few seconds, his eye-lids begin to droop, and if standing, his arms fall by their mere weight to his side; his whole body begins to tremble, showing the loss of command over the muscular system, and if not supported, he would fall down in a heap. But support him for a minute, and he becomes as rigid as a statue; and if the centre of gravity is well poised, he will remain in any posture he is put in longer than I have waited to see: (see *fig. I.*) but if there is any deflection from the perpendicular, he would, it is evident to all, knock his brains out against the floor. However inconvenient or grotesque the position may be in which he is put, he remains passively in it, till the muscles yield gradually like wax, under any incumbent pressure. When that is removed, they cease to yield, and remain "in situ." He is quite easy and comfortable with his heels behind his neck; (see *fig. II.*) and if his forehead is applied at an acute angle against the wall, he remains like a wooden prop longer than I have ascertained.

On awaking, which is usually in three or four hours, he always says that his head "turns," and that he feels drunk; a sensation he is familiar with, from the privileges of his caste.

April 20th.—11 o'clock A. M.: Kangalee, a peasant, aged 20; weak and ill nourished. He had a fever four years ago, after which sores broke out in different parts of his body, and have left large cicatrices like burns.

There is one around the left elbow joint, which has permanently contracted to this extent \sphericalangle for seven months. He was catalepted in twenty minutes; a bottle was then placed under his elbow for a fulcrum, and the arm gradually extended by depressing the hand. He moved uneasily, and the muscles contracted occasionally, but soon melted under my hand, and I left him with



Copied on Stone by J. Bennett

This portrait was taken in my presence and I am certain that
the man was totally insensible all the time.

Houghly 9th June 1845.

Printed by T. F. Black, Asiatic Lith. Press

(Ed.) J. R. Burdett Bennett



his arm perfectly straight, and extended in the air, and still asleep. Two o'clock, P. M. : he awoke half an hour ago. Sees his arm is straight; knows not how it was done : has no pain; can move it freely.

May 2nd.—He pulls the punkah daily with the left arm for exercise. No return of the contraction. Translation of a Bengalee statement made by this patient.

“ I came to the Imambarah Hospital after suffering for about eight months from a contracted elbow joint. Being put to sleep, on the 20th April, my arm was straightened without my feeling or knowing it, and it has remained straight ever since.

14th June, 1845.

Certified by me,

KANGALEE.”

May 5th.—Ramtoony ~~Battachargie~~, a brahmun, aged 40. Saw him for the first time at 11 o'clock A. M. to-day. There is a prodigious fungus hæmatodes protruding from the left elbow joint. A swelling took place at the joint when he was five years old, and has gone on increasing gradually, but the skin remained entire till an incision was made by a native doctor, twelve days ago, when the bloody mass started through the integuments. It exactly resembles the contents of a large old aneurism, the structure of the fungus having been disorganised by the actual cautery applied all over it to stop the bleeding : it is a frightful mass. I desired him to be carefully mesmerised, and went to Chinsurah to consult with Dr. Elton, in charge of the troops there.

We returned together to the Hospital at one o'clock, and found him in a profound slumber, and decided to take off the arm instantly. It was removed without his moving or complaining, and Dr. Elton assured me, that his countenance remained perfectly tranquil. He awoke immediately after the limb was off, and declared again and again, that he was aware of nothing being done to him till he awoke and saw his arm was off, and he then saw Dr. Elton for the first time.

May 13th.—Is doing well. Translation of a Bengalee statement made by this patient.

“ On the 5th May, I came to the Imambarah Hospital, and had my arm taken off when I was asleep, without feeling it or knowing who did it. Certified by me,

RAMTOONU BUTTACHARGIE.”

14th June, 1845.

May 11th.—Meer-oolla, a Jail Burkundauze, aged 28 ; strong and healthy-looking, begged me to take off a fatty tumor of his right mamma to-day, as he was ashamed of it. I desired him to lie down, and let me carefully examine it, and commenced mesmerising him. In ten minutes he was fast asleep ; in five minutes more, I transixed the tumor with a hook, drew it up from off the muscles, and cut it quickly out without disturbing him, and he did not awake till half an hour afterwards. He declares, that he felt no pain till he awoke, and remembers nothing after my hand was placed on his stomach, which was in about five minutes from the commencement. Translation of a Bengalee statement by this patient.

“ I came to the Imambarah Hospital on the 11th May, and the Dr. Sáhib having put me to sleep, cut off my breast without my knowing it. I only felt pain three hours after the part was removed. This certificate is given by me,

MEER-OOLLA, BURKUNDAUZE.”

Hooghly, 12th June, 1845.

May 11th.—Podoo, a young Hindoo woman. Has a swelling over the false ribs of the right side, requiring to be opened.

I desired the Compounder to mesmerise her, while I was engaged with the last patient. She was ready before I was.

A deep incision, an inch long, was made into the tumor, without awaking her, and I left her sleeping.

May 14th.—Madub, a healthy-looking cooly, aged 30. Saw him for the first time to-day, at eleven o'clock, A. M. He has got a sore on the heel, of two years standing; the skin is half an inch thick, and separated from the subjacent parts all round, and requires to be removed. To be mesmerised in my absence. I went on to Chinsurah, where I had the pleasure of being introduced to the Rev. Mr. Banerjie, who is there on a visit. He begged me to gratify him by permitting him to see a person under the mesmeric influence. I replied, that I disapproved of experimenting with so formidable a power to gratify mere curiosity; but I had left a man under the process, and that if he would be good enough to go to the hospital, on chance, he might possibly be satisfied.

I returned to the hospital after an hour, and there found the Rev. Mr. Fisher, the Rev. Mr. Banerjie, and Mr. Money the collector, and my patient who was fast asleep. I immediately commenced dissecting the thickened cartilaginous skin from the plantar fascia, which was very difficult from its thickness and hardness, being almost like a horse's hoof, and the operation must have been very painful under ordinary circumstances. The man however was completely insensible to pain, and remained asleep for a quarter of an hour after I had finished. Translation of a Bengalee statement by this patient.

“ I was ~~out~~ to sleep on the 14th May, and a piece of flesh was cut out of my heel without my feeling or knowing it at the time.

Certified by me,

MADUB BAGDY.”

Hoogly, 10th June, 1845.

Mr. Banerjie then questioned him in Bengalee regarding his feelings, and he protested that he felt nothing till he awoke. Most of the patients mentioned in this report being in hospital, Mr. Banerjie examined them in Bengalee, and I believe, that in

no particular, they gave a different account of their feelings from what I have described.

In no instance have I got any irregular or wonderful mental manifestation; as long as the patients could speak, they did not exhibit any alteration in their ordinary language or ideas.

As to "physique," men are nearly the same all the world over; an universal law of vitality reduces all to the level of animals, and the Cooly may therefore be able to mesmerise the Philosopher.

But the difference in "morale," not only between races, but in individuals, is so immense, as to amount to a total want of sympathy or even mutual repulsion; and my patients and I have, perhaps, too few ideas in common to admit of mental sympathy between us. But I am getting into the region of theory, and facts are my present business. If more are needed, they will probably be forthcoming, till your readers cry "Hold! enough!" For I will not allow this great and beneficent spirit to remain idle.

I am,
Your obedient servant,
JAMES ESDAILE, M. D.

Hooghly, 14th May, 1845.

THIRD REPORT.

“ I do not say that these things are probable, I only say they are true.”

In my former Reports, I classified the most prominent physical effects of mesmerism, as they are exhibited in different persons, to familiarise my readers with the phenomena, as they occur in Nature, and have shewn, I hope, how serviceable all the mesmeric stages may be made in the removal of human suffering. But in continuing this Journal, I shall simply chronicle the indiscriminate results, as they arose day by day, and leave my readers to their reflections.

Although accepting thankfully whatever Nature deigned to offer in answer to my inquiries in the various cases in which I consulted her, yet they have not been presented to the “ *Vis medicatrix Naturæ*” at hap-hazard, and without selection. My first, all-important case, was indeed “ a pomegranate full of many kernels,” and offered so many facts from which great practical deductions could be drawn, that I have only followed out the indications of Nature in all my subsequent operations ; so that my proceedings have not been

“ A mighty maze, and all without a plan.”

1. I was certain, (if life is not altogether a phantasmagoria) that in the mesmeric trance, the muscles of the whole body had

been as plastic and obedient to my will as clay in the hands of the potter, and I felt satisfied, that if the same state of things could be brought about, muscular spasms and muscular contractions would disappear before this great solvent; the very first experiments verified this inference, by the immediate straightening of an arm contracted for seven months, and the complete extension of a leg, after several trials, that had been immovably fixed for five months.

2. Having witnessed the total extinction of nervous sensibility in this case, it led me to conclude that, in a like state of things, nervous pains would vanish before this supreme Anodyne; and the first cases of nervous head-ache verified this idea, almost as soon as conceived.

3. I had seen general fever, and high local inflammation arrested, and subdued in my first patient by the interference of art, and that the artificial inflammation it was my object to excite for the cure of the hydrocele, did not develop itself while the mesmeric influence was in activity, and that the pulse and temperature of the body became natural; thence I inferred, that inflammation was probably incompatible, for the time being, with such a state of the system. Among the following cases will be found a corroboration of this theory, in the rapid extinction of acute inflammation of the eye and testis, and the speedy improvement of chronic inflammation of the eye.

I am fully aware, that this air of confidence created by first results, and the long list of successes with which this paper will terminate, will be viewed with suspicion, and some will probably turn away with contempt from such ravings. As regards the certainty of my conclusions, and the verification of them by subsequent experiment, it required no great sagacity to believe the evidence of my senses, and to go and do as Nature bid me. A "Fact" in Nature being once ascertained, and all its accessories observed, we may be confident of reproducing it, at will, by fulfilling the necessary conditions, if the phenomenon is under human

control. I therefore tried by the same means to bring about the condition of body required by Nature before she will condescend to interfere in our favour; feeling convinced, that if she did so, it would be with unerring wisdom and unapproachable skill; and that what had been feebly begun, by her feeble, but obedient creature, would be triumphantly completed by the Laws of Nature when brought into action, by simply preparing the way for them in the manner pointed out to us by experience.

“ Nature is but a name for an effect, whose cause is God :”

and the Author of Nature has ordained, that such effects should often follow such preceding actions. To those who may charitably think me mad, I only wish, for the sake of humanity, that they were equally rabid in their daily deeds, and the sooner they submit to be bitten, the better, for voluntary inoculation is safer and pleasanter than forced contagion.

Having stuck to *facts* so long, I hope that I may be permitted to indulge in a little theory, before returning to these “ stubborn things.” So far, from the mesmeric process being a new and unnatural art, I am disposed to regard it as probably the oldest, and most natural mode of curing many of the severe uncomplicated diseases of the human race; and it appears to me, that the analogies of the animal creation, and the universal benevolence of the Deity to His creatures, bear out this supposition.

Let us imagine, for a moment, the condition of savage men, before they have learned to avail themselves by long experience of the medicinal virtues of the vegetable and mineral kingdoms for the cure of their most pressing diseases. Man, in this state, is more helpless than the brute creation: they have happy instincts, many of them known to us, by which they are directed, not only to their natural food, but to their natural medicines. But Man could only, as far as we yet know him, in his sufferings, make vague experiments on the natural objects around him, in the desperate hope of accidental relief. This might occasionally fol-

low, but he was more likely to suffer from, or be poisoned by, his first experiments. The very fish are more favoured beings than he. The Salmon by an infallible instinct quit the sea, at a certain season, and ascend the rivers, thereby getting rid of the sea-lice that tormented them, (for fresh water kills them in a few days) and at the same time reaching the spots destined for the propagation of their kind : and after depositing the spawn, the parent fish black, lank, and sick, distasteful to themselves, and unwholesome to us, hasten to the sea to renovate their health ; whence again they issue increased in size, and brilliant as silver, to run the same course as long as life continues. The young Fry also, the moment they break the egg, turn their heads seaward, and never stop till they reach the ocean, whose action is necessary for their health and growth. The Dog eats grass, when sick ; the Cow, and Calf even, sham dead to induce the crows to pick the vermin from about their eyes and ears ; the Chick pecks gravel, as soon as it breaks the shell to aid its digestion ; the Mongoose retires to the fields to seek his antidote against the venom of his natural enemy, the snake, when bitten by him ; and the wild animals resort to the " Salt Licks" from the most distant parts of the country, at certain times of the season, to renovate their constitutions.

Numberless instances of the same kind will occur to the mind of the Naturalist, and even the humble observer of Nature.

Is it imaginable, that the ever-watchful, all-bountiful Provider of Nature should have left the " Noble Savage" alone of all His creatures to run such cruel, and often fatal risks ? Reasoning " a priori," we should say not ; and our positive knowledge of the equal care bestowed by God upon His creatures, forbids the supposition.

Man, then, had probably some instinct by which he was directed to a natural medicine of sovereign virtue, and by which the Hunter and his family were saved from starvation, when disease, for a time, deprived his right hand of its cunning, unnerved his iron sinews, and bowed his gallant head. If this is a natural

supposition ; what could his resource be, if not mesmerism, the inherent power implanted in the human being for the solace of his suffering fellow-creature? This is the simplest, and most speedy restorative of the powers of life (in cases adapted to it; for, like every natural agent, it has its conditions and limits) yet known, and men have an instinctive proneness to perform the required actions when in pain. How consonant such a power would be from its simplicity and efficacy with all we know of the laws of Nature, and how admirably adapted to meet the exigencies of Savage life! The more observing individuals among savage men, it is presumable, would soon detect the latent powers of their system, and develop them into an art for the relief of disease, and the advancement of their own interests. But when it became a source of gain, they found it necessary to make a mystery of their calling, (some remnants of this natural mode of practice may still be seen among civilised nations) and attempt to secure the lucrative secret for themselves and families. Hence we see among the savage races of mankind, the healing art practised almost exclusively by conjurors, either artfully concealing their secret by mummerly and incantations, or possibly deceived themselves into a belief of the efficacy of such accompaniments.

For an illustration of this, I beg to refer to the case of the Eastern Magician in the following Journal, and I feel much disposed to think, that if the Mumbo*Jumbo men of Africa, the Medicine men of America, and the Charmers of this country succeed in relieving their patients, it is in cases curable by mesmerism.

However fanciful this speculation may be thought, it in no way affects the matter of fact, to which I will now return.

As yet, I am sorry to say, that I cannot tell without trying, who are the persons susceptible of the mesmeric influence. But it is satisfactory to know, that by far the greater majority of those I have acted on, are so, in different degrees; all of which are in-

valuable to their possessors for the relief and cure of disease. How far artificial man may have forfeited his natural birthright, I have not yet the means of knowing, but three out of four Europeans who have come under my hands have succumbed to my influence on the first trial.

Many of my friends have been disappointed that I have hitherto had no mental wonders to relate, but, I believe, that this may be explained to their satisfaction; and the silence of my patients should only induce us to suspend our judgments on these points a little longer. The truth is, that my present researches preclude me from getting at the mind at all; my object being to extinguish bodily and mental sensibility together, and altogether, as soon as possible, and the activity of the mind is the natural enemy of the purely physical first impression made upon the system.

I therefore seclude the brain from all external impulses as rapidly as possible, and in proportion to my success in doing so, is the extent of the anodyne, or curative triumph.

It is quite unreasonable to expect to extract music from a fiddle without strings, and I endeavour to break at a blow, as it were, all the strings of the mind—the five senses.

But this treatment is only required for acute diseases, or to induce insensibility to pain; and when I come to treat chronic diseases, and administer smaller doses, I expect to elicit the mental phenomena, if they really exist in nature. I already understand how the mind may be acted upon through one or more senses, the rest remaining dormant; just as the musician can play imperfectly on one string of his instrument; and this I have done to the extent of making somnambulists in the presence of 100 people here.

But these are the curiosities of mesmerism, and I purposely keep myself from embarking on the troubled sea of metaphysics till we have ascertained the extent to which this new power is capable of alleviating bodily suffering; having got hold of the bone, I will not quit it for the shadow.

As the mind depends much more upon organisation than is generally supposed, I fully expect that it will be found to a happy extent amenable to the mesmeric influence.

I am not sanguine, however, that we shall gain any direct information from persons in a state of disturbed intellect either valuable to themselves or others; but advantage may be taken by the careful observer to turn the phenomena of the artificial mental state to practical mental purposes; just as we avail ourselves of the abnormal condition of the body to effect our intentions on it.

It seems to me, that the "Mens sana in corpore sano;" a well constituted mind that has been cultivated by education, experience, and reflection is the true medium for rational "Clairvoyance," but time will show.

Knowing the new and wonderful nature of this subject, and that the public was ill prepared to receive even the naked truth on individual testimony, I have submitted to considerable inconvenience and humiliation (rightly considered, the humiliation is greatest to those who persevere in irrational unbelief when every opportunity of judging for themselves is afforded them) in appearing at the bar of the public with a string of witnesses behind me to vouch for my veracity, and in the remainder of this paper the same course will be followed. In future, however, I must take the liberty to dispense with this cumbersome and inconvenient "tail," and I take this occasion to thank my friends and patients for allowing me to make as free use of their names as of my own. They will have their proper reward soon, by witnessing the triumph of the truths they have borne testimony to, and I shall not require to trespass on their good nature any longer.

All I have done, or may hereafter do, has been done, and shall be done in the face of day, and every case hitherto related has had from six to fifty native witnesses, having been treated in two public hospitals. The patients are on the spot, or may easily be found, and a host of witnesses are ready for any one who may take the trouble to investigate the matter on the spot. And I

hope it will be remembered, that I am no longer the only Mesmeriser here, but have four assistants who sometimes succeed when I fail, and who enable me to do more good than I could do unaided, and it is now a matter of course to attempt to make a person insensible before operating on him. I consider it cruelty in fact, not to do so.

JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL MESMERISM.

May 16th.—Ramtarun Battacharjie, whose arm was amputated on the 5th instant while in the mesmeric trance, complains of great pain in the stump to-day. To be mesmerised.

May 17th.—He was easily put to sleep yesterday, and slept for three hours, (the average length of the induced slumber :) on awaking, was free from pain, and remains so to-day.

May 17th.—Nazir, a Mussulman ; aged 20 : is suffering from the sequelæ of ophthalmia, of two months standing : the sight of the left eye is destroyed by the iris adhering and protruding through the cornea.

The cornea of the right eye is muddy, with superficial ulcerations on it, and a pterygium is forming ; there is constant lachrymation, and he cannot distinguish a white man from a black one. Placing him erect in a chair before me, I directed the operation to the eyes and head generally, and desired him to mention what he felt as we proceeded.

He soon said, that he felt an agreeable warmth where my fingers passed without touching him ; shortly after, he said that his eyes were easier, and on extending the process to the body he felt a general warmth pervade it, and sweat stood in drops on his face. He next said, that he felt a fear come over him that he could not account for, and desired greatly to sleep. Having no desire to go farther, we here stopped. To be put into the sleep to-morrow, and mesmerised for ten minutes daily afterwards.

May 22nd.—Has been mesmerised daily, and put to sleep twice : he always feels better after the process ; says that after it his body feels light and pleasant ; and the expression of his face is much improved. The lacrymation has ceased, and he read two words in Bengalee and Persian* to-day : the pterygium will be the only impediment to his sight.

May 22nd.—Keenoo, a prisoner : saw him for the first time to-day, at 11 o'clock.

He has had a severe pain, extending from the left eye-brow to one half of the head, for four days ; and there is pain on pressure at the supra-orbital notch.

I made him lie down on the floor in a small room of the Hospital, and in twenty minutes left him asleep with one arm suspended perpendicularly in the air : locked the door, and left him alone.

I returned at 1 o'clock ; and, opening the door, found him lying exactly as I had left him. He awoke whilst I was looking at him, and said that he had not been asleep. On being asked why his arm was still in the air, he could give no account of it. So insensible is the approach of sleep under this grand narcotic, or so instantaneous its invasion, that generally no trace remains in the minds of the sleepers of the circumstances attending their repose. This will be seen in the following case also. He awoke perfectly free from head-ache. There is a little pain on pressing the supra-orbital foramen : three leeches to be put over it.

May 24th.—No return of pain. Discharged cured.

The parties concerned in the next case, have kindly permitted me to use their names, being convinced of the importance of the subject to the public.

May 22nd.—Went to-day to see my patient Mr. Clermont, head master of the Lower School, Hooghly College, and found that he had gone out to his duty.

Mrs. Clermont mentioned, that she was suffering from one of

her constitutional nervous head-aches, which commence with a pain in the back of the neck, that spreads over the scalp and around the eye-brows. She has been weakly and nervous of late. I said, that she had better permit me to try the effect of mesmerism on her complaint: that I had just put a prisoner to sleep with a similar disease, and expected to find him well on my return.

No objection being made, I requested her to turn her back to me, and sit erect in her chair, and describe any thing uncommon she might feel during the process. After a few minutes, she said, that she felt a warmth in the neck, and on extending my manipulations it advanced to the head and eyes. In about eight minutes, she said the pain was much less, but that she felt very drowsy. Upon which, I asked, "Shall I put you to sleep?" In reply, she only smiled; and in two minutes more she lifted her right hand, put it to the side of her head, and went to sleep. At this moment, a lady entered the room, (Mr. Clermont's sister, I afterwards learned,) and I begged her to be good enough to remain by Mrs. Clermont till I returned with her husband. Having found Mr. Clermont, I asked his pardon for taking such a liberty with his wife without his consent, and requested him to return with me to be present at her waking. We found her as I had left her, with some members of the family looking on. I extended her arm at a right angle from her body, in which position, or any other, it remained fixed till I moved it, and her sister-in-law pricked her hand several times unheeded. As I saw the party becoming uneasy, I proceeded to awake her, and it required considerable trouble to do so. When awoke, she felt confused and ashamed to have been found asleep by me, and it was only after long reflection and questioning that she recalled the circumstances under which she had gone to sleep. The head-ache was quite gone when she awoke.

6 o'clock P. M.—There is no head-ache, and she feels and looks greatly refreshed.

Letter from Mr. Clermont.

MY DEAR SIR,

I have read your report to the parties who were in the adjoining room, at the time you mesmerised Mrs. Clermont. They are perfectly satisfied as to its correctness, and have not the slightest objection to your making use of their names, if necessary. It would be superfluous to detail here the circumstances which came under my observation on my return from Judge Russell's, as they have already been described by you. But in short, I fully corroborate your account of the case, and can bear the most positive testimony to all that transpired in my presence. You will be glad to learn, that Mrs. Clermont has been doing well ever since.

Chinsurah, 25th May, 1845.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

T. W. CLERMONT.

P. S. I herein insert the names of the parties present.

Miss Clermont,

Mr. A. E. Manly,

Mr. Philipsz,

Mr. Scott,

} Students of the Medical College.

June 2nd.—Mrs. Clermont says, that she is better than she has been for a long time past; having never risen without a head-ache of late. There has been no return of the complaint, and she no longer feels the distressing languor and oppression that she complained of till operated upon by me.

May 24th.—Nazir Mahomed, a prisoner. Saw him for the first time to-day, at 11 o'clock A. M. For the last four days, he has laboured under acute inflammation of the conjunctiva of the right eye. The conjunctival vessels form a raised zone around the

cornea : there is constant lacrymation ; pain over half the head, and he cannot distinguish objects.

I made him lie down on the floor, and rendered him cataleptic in twenty minutes : then putting his clasped hands above his head in the air, I locked the door, and took the key with me to Chinsurah, where I met Mr. Money and Mr. Fisher, who are much interested in my proceedings, and daily ask " What progress ? " I answered, that there was a man entranced waiting my return, and they offered to go back with me. On opening the door, we found that the man had just awoke, (after $1\frac{1}{2}$ hours,) and being asked in what attitude he found himself on waking, he said, that his hands were clasped above his head. The patient reported, that the pain had quite left the side of his head; and only a little remained about the eye ; the eye-lid moves much freer, and the watering is less. His general feelings were greatly improved ; his body before the process was hot and heavy, and is now cool and light.

Cold water to the head and eyes constantly—a dose of physic, at night.

When we were leaving the Hospital, the Native doctor reported, that a man had just been admitted with a pain on one side of his head, like the man cured on the 23rd. I desired him to be brought before us, and he stated, that for the last six days he had suffered from an acute intermittent head-ache confined to one side of his head ; that it commences at 4 o'clock in the morning, and continues till 12 p. m. Turning to my friends, I observed, that I should like to entrance this man as a preventative, if they felt disposed to look on. They consented to do so ; and Mr. Fisher has been good enough to send me his notes of what followed.

Mr. Fisher's Report.

" On Saturday last, the 24th instant, I visited the Jail Hospital in company with Dr. Esdaile, for the purpose of seeing a

prisoner awakened out of the mesmeric trance, who had been suffering for some time from an inflamed eye. Upon our arrival the man was awake, and no farther experiment could therefore be tried with this patient. Another, however, immediately presented himself, who had never been subjected to the mesmeric influence before, and whom, I believe, the Doctor had never seen. He had been suffering much for some days from severe pains in the head and face, and though not at that moment in pain, it was thought advisable to try the effects of mesmerism as a *preventative*. The manipulations were immediately commenced, and in seven minutes the man was in a cataleptic state. We tried various means to test the intensity of the trance. His limbs rigidly maintained themselves in any posture in which Dr. Esdaile chose to place them, and at last he was raised up on his feet; his back being slightly bent, his arms stretched over his head, which was drooping upon his shoulder: and he remained fixed in this constrained position for some time, without exhibiting any symptoms of consciousness or uneasiness. After a few minutes, he was left to his "deep repose," reclined upon the ground; and I understand that since this first trial, he has never had the slightest return of the pains of which he previously complained. We were much astonished at the phenomena exhibited on this occasion: the limbs being so extraordinarily supple, and, at the same time, capable of being so rigidly fixed in any position, at the will of the operator.

F. FISHER."

Chinsurah, 29th May, 1845.

May 25th.—Nazir Mahomed, entranced yesterday for conjunctivitis. He has slept well all night.

There is no pain in the head; very slight uneasiness about the eye: no watering—zone of blood-vessels around the cornea gone, and the inflammation is reduced from vivid redness of the

acute stage, to the dull brick-red colour of the chronic state. He can now see very well with the inflamed eye.

I put him on a high stool before me, and desired him to tell me when he became sleepy; but he had not time to do so, as I left him sitting entranced in five minutes.

This was done with the idea of lessening the determination of blood to the head.

I then proceeded to my usual business in Chinsurah, and was there introduced to Mr. McQuesten, the Dentist, who was on a professional visit at the house of one of my patients. As he expressed a great desire to see some of my mesmeric cases, I said that he had better take the present opportunity, as I had left a man entranced, and hoped to find him so on my return, and that others were undergoing the process at the Charity Hospital, but I knew not with what results. The lady and gentleman of the house, hereupon, suddenly resolved to go too*. We returned to the Jail Hospital, after I had been absent an hour, and found the man sitting precisely as I had left him, and his body colder than natural. The influence was now nearly worn out, (partly, no doubt, by remaining by muscular exertion, though insensible to it, so long in this constrained position,) and he awoke soon after our arrival. He said, that the eye was still farther improved, and it looked so. I consider the case terminated. It was evident to the most unpractised eye, that inflammation was incompatible with such a state of the system.

But a man sitting on a high stool for an hour, *without knowing it*, was not enough to satisfy the curiosity and unbelief of my lady visitor. Her theory was, that I must be "Angelus aut Diabolus," to be permitted to do such things; and as both hypotheses had their difficulties, she took refuge in unapproachable disbelief.

This was a singular mental phenomenon to me, and I determined to experiment upon her mind through her own senses, and

* This "historiette" is given by permission.

watch the effects. The man entranced for hemicrania yesterday was sent for, and put upon the stool. The gentlemen pulled out their watches, and in three minutes he was as insensible to life as the stool on which he sat. He was now put through all the amazing postures so often described, and his friends called in to awake him, but all to no purpose till I came to their aid, when he awoke with a sudden start, and look of great alarm; and on being questioned, said that he had gone to sleep of his own accord.

My honoured visitor had now evidently some difficulty in collecting her senses, and kept exclaiming, "It's impossible! it can't be! I *won't* believe it—it's all a trick." I replied, "If you will be good enough to go on to the other Hospital, I shall perhaps be able to show you more tricks of the same kind." Having entered the "Blue Chamber," she was resolved to see all its horrors, and the party proceeded. I had ordered a man to be mesmerised in the morning, on purpose to have a tooth taken out, and on reaching the Charity Hospital, had the satisfaction to find him entranced, and begged Mr. McQuesten to draw the tooth. This he declined, and I extracted it before him, without awaking the man, and presented it to the lady as a mesmeric souvenir. Seeing a collection of matter at the ear, I also made an incision into the swelling before he awoke. On coming to his senses, he said, that he felt as if an ant had pricked him when asleep.

I had now the gratification rarely granted to first believers, that of living to see the triumph of the truth. My fair infidel now frankly gave up the diabolic theory; and although she could not yet adopt the angelic one in my favour, yet she was convinced, that instead of being a second Dr. Faustus, I was a highly favoured individual, and congratulated me on my new powers. At parting, I took the liberty to hint in the most respectful manner, that there was something still more wonderful to me than mesmerism,—and that was, the extent of human incredulity on the subject.

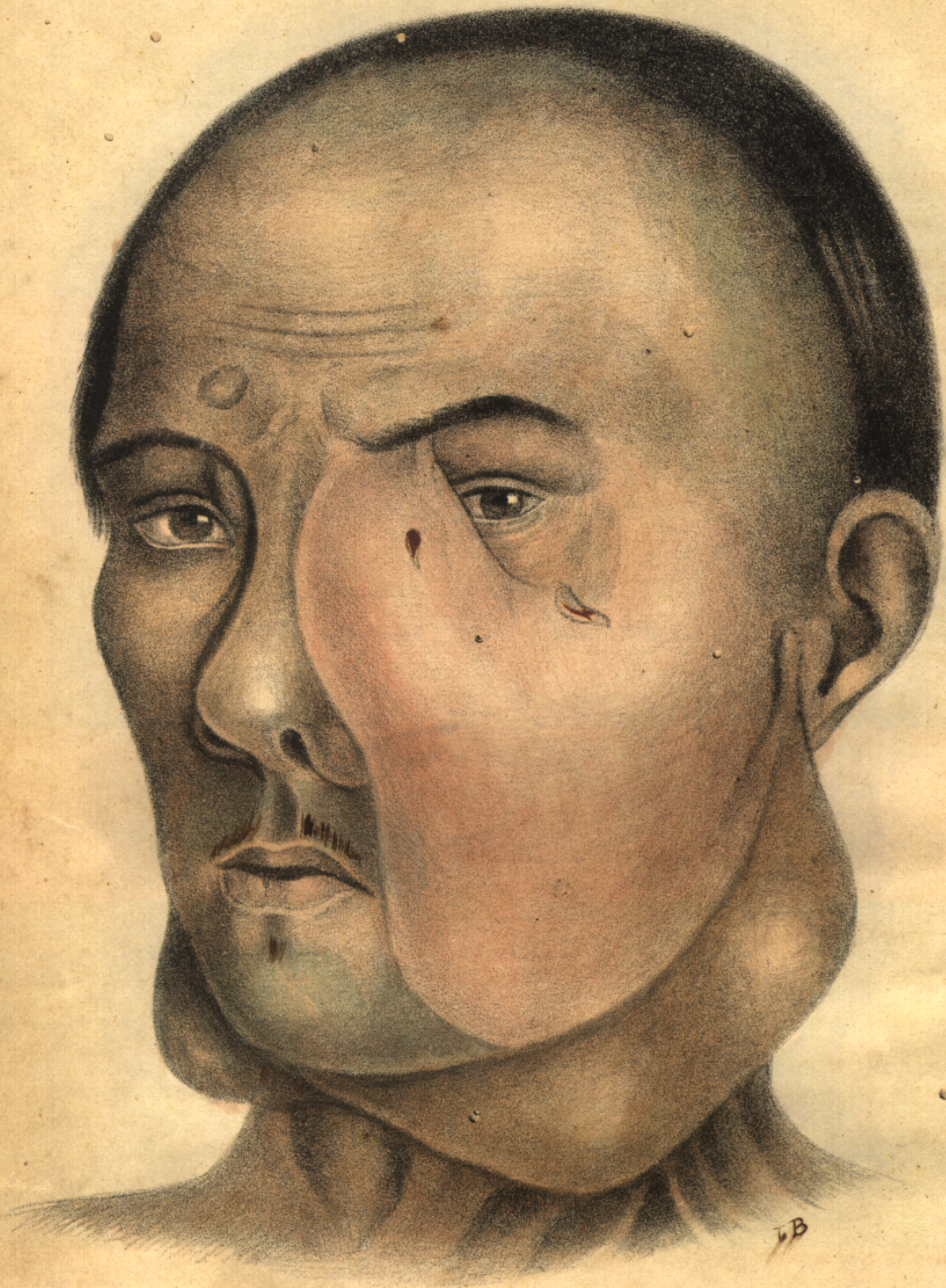
May 26th.—Ram Dass, a large robust man, has a supernumerary tooth between the eye tooth and the first grinder growing horizontally into his mouth, and causing him great annoyance. I put him on a mattress on the table. In a quarter of an hour his limbs were cataleptic, and I proceeded to open his jaws. The temporal muscles cost me some trouble to relax them, and I had to operate with great caution as he was not under the extreme influence of the power, and I had failed two days before in the case of a lady for want of necessary precaution in like circumstances. It was difficult to get hold of the tooth from its position, but it was at last grasped, and extracted. He moved, and moaned; but I soon tranquillised him, and he did not awake till suffocated by the blood.

He declared, that he awoke from this cause, and not from feeling pain. Several patients have exhibited these instinctive movements, of which they have no recollection on coming to their senses.

May 29th.—Sibchurn Sing, a young robust man, had his thumb nail nearly cut through by a sword, fourteen days ago. An attempt was made to unite it, but failed; and the point of the finger would be a source of annoyance, if kept. In ten minutes I made him insensible, and cut off the end of his thumb, without awaking him. He shortly after opened his eyes, and I asked him; "Have you been asleep? Yes. Have you any pain? No. Has any body hurt you to-day? No. Do you wish your nail cut off? Yes. Look at it? He did so; looked confounded, and exclaimed, 'It's gone!' Who did it? God knows. How did it happen? I know nothing about it. Has it fallen off itself? I can't tell."

May 30th.—Modoomohun Roy, a fine boy, 12 years old; was brought to Hospital fourteen days ago, with a compound fracture of both bones of the fore-arm. My Assistants have several times





Tumor of the Antrum Maxillare

Extirpated without the Patient feeling it.

tried to mesmerise him in the hope of assuaging the pain, but without success.

Matter has formed, and the wound must be enlarged upwards and downwards. As he was apprehensive, I put a piece of cloth soaked in cold water over his eyes, and went on with my affairs, telling him that it would cool his brain. The people were dismissed; and, approaching him unawares, I succeeded in entrancing him in ten minutes, and laid open the arm, without disturbing him.

I came back after three hours, and found him still asleep. On awaking, he said that the pain was much less, and that no one had hurt him to-day.

June 2nd.—Gungaram Dass, a prisoner; was injured ten days ago by some rubbish falling upon him, and three abscesses have formed in consequence, at the elbow, wrist, and ankle of the left side, which require to be opened. In a few minutes I subdued him, opened the abscesses, and left him still sleeping.

On my return, after two hours, I found him sitting up looking at the pus flowing from the wounds, and asked, How it had escaped since I saw him in the morning? He could not tell. Of its own accord? I suppose so. Has any body cut you, or given you pain to-day? Nobody.

Translation of a Bengalee statement made by this patient.

“ On the 2nd June, three wounds were made on my body by the Doctor Sáhib, without my knowing it at the time.

“ Certified by me,

“ GUNGARAM DASS.”

Jail Hospital, 6th June, 1845.

June 3rd.—Teencowrie Paulit, a peasant; aged 40. He began to suffer from a tumor, two years ago, in the antrum maxillare, which has produced the frightful condition shewn in his portrait, herewith given, *fig. III.* The tumor has pushed up the orbit and eye of that side, filled up and distorted the nose, and caused an extraordinary enlargement of the glands of the neck.

I was very desirous to reduce him to a state of insensibility before operating on him, and for the last fortnight my Assistants have all tried it perseveringly, but without inducing sleep even. I took him in hand, at 10 o'clock A. M. to-day, and succeeded after great labour, for three-quarters of an hour, in entrancing him sitting erect in a chair. I then put a long knife in at the corner of his mouth, and brought it through his cheek over the cheek-bone, dividing the parts between; from this, I pushed it through the skin at the inner corner of the eye, and dissected back the cheek to the nose.

The pressure of the tumor had caused the absorption of the anterior wall of the antrum, and on pushing my fingers between it and the bones, it burst, and proved to be a medullary tumor. A shocking gush of blood, and brain-like matter followed. It extended as far as the points of my fingers could reach under the orbit and cheek-bone, and passed into the throat, having destroyed the bones and partition of the nose.

No one held the man, and I turned his head into any position desired, without resistance, and there it remained till again moved. The man never stirred or showed any signs of life, except an indistinct occasional moan, till I passed my fingers into his throat, and directed the blood into his wind-pipe.

Farther insensibility was incompatible with life apparently, for he coughed and leaned forward to get rid of the blood. The operation was by this time finished, and he was laid on the floor to have the wounds dressed.

June 4th.—This is even a more wonderful affair than I supposed yesterday. The man declares by the most emphatic pantomime, that he felt no pain while in the chair, and that he first awoke upon the floor. So that his coughing, and forward movement yesterday, were purely instinctive motions for the preservation of life. He is wonderfully well.

June 6th.—The dressings were undone to-day, and the whole extent of the wounds in the face has united completely by the

first intention. He is out of all danger from the operation, and can speak plainly; he declares most positively, that he felt no pain, and did not come to his senses till he awoke on the floor, and found me to be stitching his face, and I presume he knows best. Translation of a statement in Bengalee by *Teencowrie Paulit*.

“For two years I laboured under this sickness, and scarcely slept for five months. On the 19th May, I came to the Imambarah Hospital, and three or four persons tried to make me sleep, but all in vain. On the 3rd June, Dr. Esdaile having kindly undertaken my cure, with a great deal of labour, made me sleep, and having operated on my left cheek, took out something, which at that time I did not perceive. After the operation, I did not sleep for two days; but after the third day, I have slept as usual.

“TEENCOWRIE PAULIT,
“*Of Madrah, Thannah Dhumakhaly.*”

June 6th.—I was called at eight o'clock, last night, to see the wife of Baboo Essanchunder Ghosaul, Deputy Magistrate of Hooghly.

I found her in dreadful convulsions; she was speechless, and suffering from a constriction in the throat that threatened to suffocate her every minute, and she constantly beat or pointed at the part. At one moment her body became perfectly rigid, and in another, it was bent back like a bow, till she rested on the back of her head and heels only.

I never saw such convulsions, except in tetanus and hydrophobia. All that I knew of the resources of medicine was useless, for how could she take physic when she could not take breath?

I therefore had recourse to my new solvent power, and after nearly an hour's hard work, I left her asleep, and catalepted.

June 7th.—She had a slight hysteric affection this morning: is now well.

June 8th.—No return of the fits: feels very well.

June 9th.—I am glad to be able to introduce here a little interlude to break the monotony of this string of dry facts; which is equally a fact however.

I had yesterday the honor of being introduced to one of the most famous magicians in Bengal, who enjoys a high repute for his successful treatment of hysteria, and who had been sent for to prescribe for my patient, but came too late; my charm having left him nothing to do. Baboo Essanchunder Ghosaul, at my request, introduced me to him as a brother magician, who had studied the art of magic in different parts of the world, but especially in Egypt, where I had learned the secrets of the great Sooleyman from the moollas and faqueers, and that I had a great desire to ascertain whether our charms were the same; as the hakeems of Europe held the wise men of the East in high respect, knowing that all knowledge had come from the East.

I proposed, that we should show each other our respective charms; and after a great deal of haggling, he agreed to show me his process for assuaging pain. He sent for a brass pot full of water, and a twig with three or four leaves upon it, about a span long, and commenced muttering his charm, at arm's length from the patient. In a short time, he dipped his middle finger into the water, and flirited it with his thumb into the eyes, and then commenced to stroke the patient's body from crown to toe with a long drawing motion of the leaves, and I saw in a moment, what I have long suspected, that if these charmers ever do good by such means, it is by a pure mesmeric process. The knuckles almost touched the body, and he said, that he would continue the process for an hour, or longer, if necessary. I assured him, that I was convinced of the efficacy of his charm, and would show him mine in return, and proposed to do it on his own person that he might the better understand it. After some difficulty, we got him to lie down, and I commenced my operations by chaunting the chorus of the "King of the Cannibal Islands," as an invocation. I bid him shut his eyes, and he clenched them

fast, as if to keep out the foreign devil. In about a quarter of an hour, he jumped up, and said he felt some thing disagreeable coming over him, and wished to escape. We over-persuaded him to lie down again however, and I soon saw the muscles about the eyes begin to relax, and his face became perfectly smooth and calm.

I felt convinced that I had caught my brother magician napping, but in a few minutes he bolted up; clapped his hands to his head, and cried he was drunk. Nothing could induce him to lie down again, and he fled from the room like Catiline before Cicero—"Abiit, excessit, evasit, erupit"!

I saw him next day, and addressed him with—"Well, you were too strong for me last night, I could not put you to sleep." "O yes, Sahib!" he answered, "you did; I allow that: it is allowed that you put me to sleep." "But why did you get up so suddenly then?" "An irresistible call of nature awoke me."

I have learned more curious matter about the Native charmers, but must reserve it for another occasion.

June 11th.—Kaloo, a faqueer; has an excrescence larger than a man's fist at the end of the penis, and the body of the organ is also much enlarged.

He was entranced in a few minutes on the first trial; and in the presence of Major Riddell, Captain Anderson, Mr. Bennett, and Mr. Jackson, I dissected out the organ, but was obliged to sacrifice the glans, as the enlargement was a cartilaginous degeneration of all the structures. I lost much time in trying to extricate the glans, but finding it impossible, performed amputation behind it, and the man did not awake till this point of the operation.

Wonderful to say, he relapsed into the trance in a few minutes, and remained for twenty minutes quite rigid and insensible, with his eyes wide open in a full light, and as insensible to the light as a corpse's. This is the only case in which the eyes have been quite open during the trance, and the eyes would not remain

shut when I closed them; showing, I conceive, the absolute extinction of muscular vitality. In most cases, the muscles of the eye-ball continue to act involuntarily after the rest of the muscular system has gone to rest; and on opening the eye-lids, the ball of the eye is seen rolling around the orbit like an agitated magnetic needle.

Under the extreme influence of this agent, the muscles of the eye and iris also lose their contractility, and the eye remains as motionless and insensible to light as a dead man's.

That the second trance was not a faint we all satisfied ourselves, not only from the continued rigidity of the limbs, but from the regular natural pulse.

June 12th.—Looke, a peasant woman, aged 60: has a sacculated tumor on the calf of the left leg, of nine years standing. It is full of deep ulcerations and maggots. I tried to subdue her yesterday, but the pain did not allow her to get beyond common sleep.

To-day, after much trouble, first by one person, and then another, she was entranced, and I cut out the tumor in the presence of Capt. Elder, without her feeling it, and we left her sleeping. A drawing of the tumor, and a certificate from Captain Elder, are here given. *Fig. IV.*

June 13th.—She awoke three hours after the operation, without knowing any thing about it, and to-day asked me who cut off the tumor?

Translation of a Bengalee statement made by this patient.

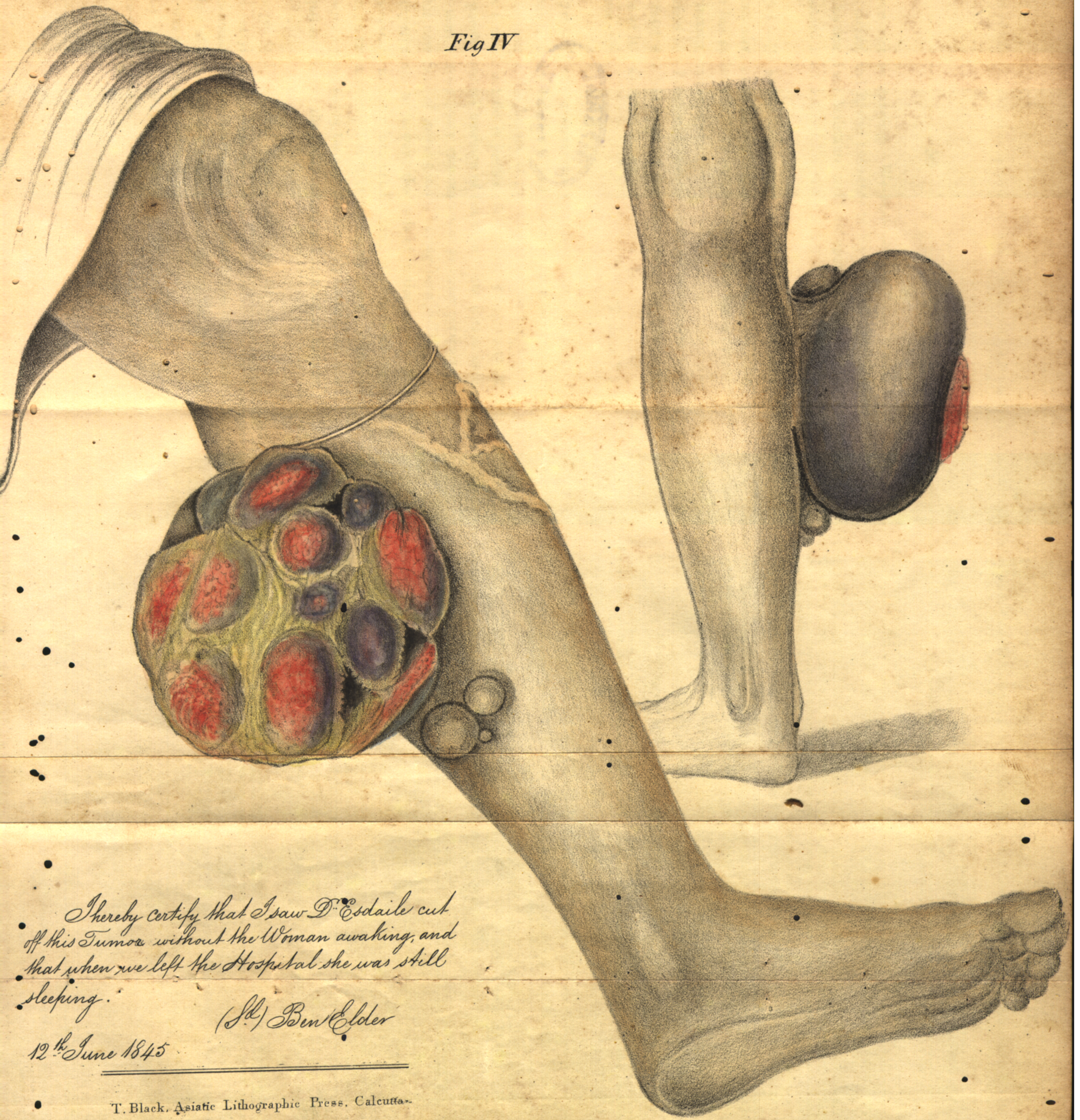
“The swelling on my leg was removed on the 12th June; but I know not when, how, and by whom it was done. Certified by me,

12th June, 1845.

“LOKKE.”

June 14th.—Toorab, a peasant, aged 30; of a ricketty constitution; has a sinus six inches in length, below the pectoral mus-

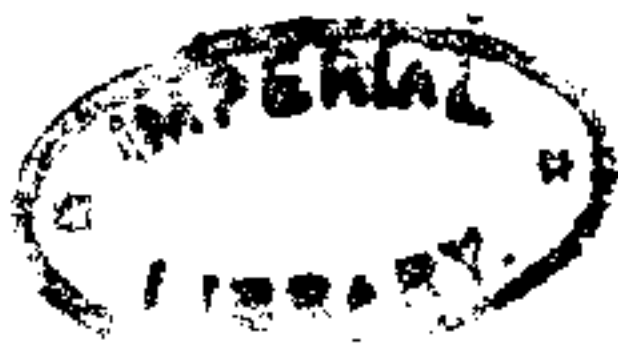
Fig IV



Thereby certify that I saw Dr Esdaile cut
off this Tumor without the Woman awaking, and
that when we left the Hospital she was still
sleeping.

(Sd) Ben Elder

12th June 1845



cle, of seven months standing. We have not been able to close it by any means, and it was necessary to lay it open. He was entranced by one of my Assistants, and I laid open the whole length of the diseased tract without his being aware of it, and left him sleeping.

June 15th.—He awoke soon after I left him, but immediately fell back into sleep; and on awaking, asked where the blood came from? He has suffered little or nothing since, and has no recollection of having been injured.

Translation of a Bengalee statement made by this patient.

“ My breast was laid open on the 14th June, but I have no recollection of it. Certified by me.

15th June, 1845.

“ TOORAB.”

June 17th.—In the observations preceding this last part of my Journal, I intimated that I had made somnambulists, and intended to reserve this branch of the subject for farther observation, as I could not do it justice, at present, being occupied with the purely medical bearings of the case. But I have been forced by most extraordinary circumstances to enter prematurely into this new field of investigation, having been called upon to make experiments to forward the ends of justice; and I feel it to be necessary to enter into details now, to prevent all misconception on the matter. The facts are simply these. About a fortnight ago, I was driving through the Hooghly bazaar, and saw a crowd gathered before the Police office, and stopped to enquire the cause.

The people told me, that a man had been apprehended in the act of carrying off a boy, and that the parties were inside the guard-house. Upon hearing this I entered the house, and found a boy of ten or twelve years old, sitting on the lap of a man who was said to have rescued him.

The boy was half stupid, and one of his eyes was swollen; I therefore ordered him to be carried over to the Hospital.

The culprit was then shewn to me, who said that he was a barber, and a bundle containing his implements of trade was produced. This I carefully examined, but found nothing but the usual tools. The boy soon recovered his senses, and told me readily and consistently the following tale, which I again heard him repeat before the Magistrate in a different sequence, without a tittle of variation. He said, that early in the morning he went into a field near his house in Hooghly, and that shortly after, a strange man left the road, and came up to him : as soon as he was near him he began to mutter charms, and then took hold of his hand : very soon after, he passed his hand across his eyes, and thereupon he lost his senses ; he only recollected, that the man led him away without force, and that he felt compelled to follow him. When he came to his senses, it was at the gate of Chandernagore, two miles from his house ; and this was all he had to say.

He had not eaten, drunk or smoked in the company of the man, and his master and friends all declared that he was a clever boy, and had never been known to have fits or walk in his sleep.

I then examined the man, who was said to have rescued him. He said, that on the morning in question, he saw this boy, whom he knew very well, following a strange man ; that he stopped him, and asked what he was doing there ?

The boy made no answer, and appeared to be idiotic. Upon this he became alarmed, and brought water to throw in his face, and took other means to revive him, and at last succeeded. On again questioning him, he said that he did not know why he was there ; that he was obliged to follow that man, and after saying so, he fell down and bruised his eye on the ground.

In the mean time, the man was making off, but was apprehended, and brought up to Hooghly.

I then called in the barber, and this was his story. He met the boy on the road stupid and crying ; and on asking what ailed him, he said that he had lost his way. Upon hearing this, he

asked the boy to accompany him to the Police station, and that the policeman would take him home.

The strange nature of the transaction, which ever side was true, strongly arrested my attention, and the trade of the man roused my suspicions; as I had heard, that barbers in this country could put people to sleep while performing their tedious processes of cleaning the ears, paring the nails, shaving, etc.

The barbers all over the world are a shrewd, observing race of men, and their occupation brings them into close contact with the parts of the body most sensitive to this natural influence; and they are therefore very likely to have become possessed at an early period of the secret, and perhaps it has descended to them as a mystery of their craft.

I could only see two roads out of the dilemma: it was either a case of natural, or artificial somnambulism; if the latter, how could it be induced unless by the mesmeric processes? As accident had made me a witness in the case, I anticipated that I should be examined as to the possibility of such a mode of abduction, and therefore instituted experiments to satisfy myself.

I thought it probable, that if this could be done by mesmerism, I should be able to repeat it, as the greater power includes the less; and that I had only to stop short in the progress to total insensibility to produce like effects, if obtainable by this means. I therefore went to the Jail Hospital, and mesmerised the man who had been treated for inflammation of the eye by being entranced, and only went to the extent of making his arms cataleptic, but leaving him the power of motion, and the sense of hearing. In this state, I led him, and allowed him to walk alone all round the Hospital enclosure, making him say his prayers, etc., and on awaking him, he had no recollection of having stirred from the spot. I then went to the Magistrate's court to which I had been summoned as a witness, and on being asked, "If I thought it practicable to carry off a person in the way described?" I replied, that "I thought it to be possible, as I had just done

something very like it, having made a prisoner follow me round the Hospital enclosure without his knowing it." The Magistrate committed the case. But when it came before the Judge, it was found to be utterly impossible to convey a glimpse of the meaning of my statement to the minds of the Native Law officers who had to try the case; and the Judge therefore asked me if I had any objection to show the Moulavies in Court what I meant by stating, that I believed it possible for a person to make another follow him without his knowing it. I replied, that I had no objection to try the experiment, (but would engage to do nothing,) if he would be good enough to order three men, I named, (whom I should not see in the interval, and who should be kept in total ignorance of my intentions) to be brought to Court.

I was requested to attend the Judge's court yesterday, which was crowded with Europeans and Natives.

Nazir Mahomed was brought in, and put at the bar. I stepped up behind him, mesmerised him in a few minutes, and led him with his arms catalepted out of the court, and set him a-walking down the road for some distance, making his arms rigid in any position as long as I pleased. He had merely sense enough left to hear me desire him to take care of the steps on going and returning.

I replaced him in the bar, where he was loudly addressed by the Judge and Moulavies, without paying any attention to them; and at their desire I awoke him. He was then asked from the Bench if he had left the room since he first entered it, and he confidently answered, "No." While they were speaking to him in front, I approached unperceived behind, and entranced him on the spot in the act of speaking. The words died on his lips, and he became totally unconscious of all voices that addressed him, and only answered me very faintly. He was awoke in a second by blowing in his eyes.

Madub was put in the dock, and he did not see me on entering. The Judge and Moulavies engaged him in conversation, and

while he was speaking with animation and intelligence, I catalepted him from behind in the usual praying attitude of a prisoner at the bar, and he ceased in a moment to hear or speak.

He was so deeply affected, that all motive power was nearly extinct, and I was told by those in front that his lips moved as in the act of speaking, after he ceased to be heard. I had to push him with my finger to make him walk; he did so for a short distance, and then became suddenly stiff from head to foot, and a slight push sent him down head foremost in a most alarming manner upon the floor. He was revived with some difficulty, and fortunately was not injured by his fall.

Soorooop Chund was next brought in, and as I had not seen him for a month, I began asking him about his head-ache, etc.; mesmerising him all the time. In a few minutes, he ceased to answer, and I took him out of the dock, and turned him round and round like a teetotum; his arms rigidly fixed all the time, and then restored him to his former place in a state of complete insensibility. No one could make him hear, or show the slightest sign of life. I then blew in his eyes, and he instantly recovered his senses, declaring that he had never left the spot since he came in. I hope at some future period that the Authorities will indulge me with a copy of the trial now going on.

I have observed many curious circumstances attending the sleep-walking state; but as this is only an accidental episode in this natural epic, I beg to be excused from entering farther into it, at present.

From the moment that I saw the extreme effects of this agent, I became impressed with a conviction of its power for evil as well as good, and I have driven it thus far in the hope of rousing the public mind to a sense of the dangers as well as benefits that may be expected from it.

I trust the day is not far distant, when public opinion will strongly condemn all those who practise the art, except for philosophic and medical purposes.

I shall be called "Quack and Croaker" by the "soi-disant" philosophers, who dogmatically exclaim "Not true, because new"! But I am not without a hope, that what has been now done and said, will afford food for serious reflection to the truly philosophic mind.

June 22nd.—Jeelal, my dhobie, whose case is related already. His leg is now quite straight, and the knee flexible; he has got a violent colic, and when speaking to me fell down in a fainting state.

Ordered to be mesmerised.

June 23rd.—He slept for an hour, and awoke much relieved yesterday; but a paroxysm returned last night, and still continues. Repeat the mesmerism.

June 24th.—He remained three hours in the mesmeric sleep yesterday, and awoke quite well, and continues so. A man was tapped to-day for dropsy, when asleep, and ten quarts of water withdrawn. He afterwards said, that he was only aware of being pricked by the trocar, but remembered nothing more.

June 26th.—This is a remarkable day; five persons being all entranced at the same time around me, but I will only here enter the two most interesting cases.

Parbuttie, an elderly woman; has a sinus extending from a little above the inner ankle under the calf to the outer side of the leg near the knee, which is contracted by a dense cicatrix running two-thirds round it, and involving the ham-strings: the knee has been in this state for ten years. Being put to sleep, a counter-opening was made in the leg, and a seton run through the sinus without her feeling it. I then leant all my weight on the knee, and succeeded in extending it a little, but the diseased structures would yield no farther. A strong and heavy gentleman present then applied all his power, and effected a little more; but it was clear that no force short of breaking the limb could straighten it. But it was equally certain, that any common muscular or ligamentous contraction must have yielded on the spot. The woman continued to sleep for hours afterwards.

The other case was that of Alunga, a woman, with slight contractions of both elbow-joints from rheumatism, with acute pain on pressing the ulnar nerve at the elbow. At first, she did not bear much handling without awaking; but on being left alone, the trance deepened, and she permitted me to work her joints as if they were door-hinges, and extend them to the necessary extent without awaking. One arm was much freer in its movements after the first process, and there was no pain.

Such cases will require a protracted chronic treatment, and it is very unfortunate that in the present state of things justice cannot be done to them for want of the necessary aids and appliances. I was much vexed to be obliged to operate to-day on a case of scrotal elephantiasis when the man was in a state of imperfect insensibility, because we could not spare more time and labour upon him to give him a fair chance of escaping from his torture. But I hope the time is not distant when not merely five, but fifty sufferers may be receiving, at once, any benefit derivable from this source of relief.

June 27th.—Alunga complains of considerable pain from the extension in her left arm to-day, and the nerve at the elbow is very tender. I passed my fingers along the course of the nerve for a few minutes, which removed the pain, and allowed her to extend the arm. I then held my fingers before her eyes for a few seconds, and she fell into my arms quite insensible.

I have already mentioned several instances of persons awaking and falling back again into the trance immediately, and in this woman it may be seen several times in one forenoon. The difficulty they find in opening their eyes, even when quite awake, and in possession of all their other senses, is very curious, and characteristic of the mesmeric state.

I awoke this woman to-day, and she sat up conversing with us as usual; but she could not possibly open her eyes, and when ordered to do so, was obliged to pull her eye-lids asunder with her fingers: but the eye-lids would not remain open, the muscles

being completely relaxed. By rubbing and blowing in her eyes, the difficulty was removed.

June 28th.—This woman, Alunga, has opened out to me a most wonderful and highly practical part of the subject. But before relating the facts, it will perhaps be advisable to clear the way for the reception of them, by showing that there is no “prima facie” absurdity or physical impossibility about the matter. In accordance with Lord Bacon’s advice, I will attempt to remove the obstructions in men’s wills, and foment the parts to make the unguent enter the better.

The very mention of the subject of investigation, “mesmerised water” namely, will suffice to convulse the diaphragms of many with inextinguishable laughter, and it is a satisfaction to me to be able to amuse, if I cannot convince my readers. To those who will condescend to think seriously on the subject, and apply their previous knowledge to the examination of the question, I would beg leave to suggest, that if there is a vital emanation from the body called mesmerism, there is nothing improbable in the assertion that it can be communicated to water, and other inorganic substances. Other invisible, imponderable, and powerful agents can be so. A glass of water can be charged with electricity, and an empty glass filled with it. Water absorbs air and different gases with great facility, and imbibes odours and flavours from neighbouring objects. There is therefore nothing in the known laws of physics to make it improbable, that water can be mesmerised by changing its usual relations with the mesmeric element. On the contrary, it appeared to me so probable from analogy, that I made my first experiment with considerable confidence, and fully believed the statements of others regarding it.

It seemed probable to me, that the woman Alunga would exhibit the extreme extent of the virtues of mesmerised water, if it possessed any, from her great sensibility to the influence. As few of my exhibitions are adapted for ladies, I was glad of an

opportunity of perhaps satisfying my wife's curiosity, as the water experiment could not shock the most delicate nerves. In the presence of my wife, and the Hospital assistants, I mesmerised one ounce of the Hospital drinking water, and put the like quantity of the same water into another glass. We then went into the women's ward, and I gave her the common water slowly, asking if it had any taste? It was only common water, she said. I then gave her the charged water, and she said it was different from the first; that it was sharp to the tongue, and created a warmth in the stomach. Almost immediately her countenance began to change, and she insisted on getting up to walk, and I immediately saw that she was a somnambulist. After taking a few staggering steps, she would have fallen, but was prevented, and put to bed, where she instantly sank into the mesmeric coma, and remained so for hours.

June 29th.—My wife's testimony will probably be put out of court, as that of a confederate: I am therefore happy to be able to give the evidence of a clergyman to-day; though really I am sorry to bring so many respectable ladies and gentlemen into the same category as myself and Fernando Mendez Pinto. But in future I promise to spare them. I had the pleasure to meet the Rev. Mr. Long from Calcutta to-day, a stranger to me and mesmerism, who asked me if I could show him any mesmeric cases in Hospital at present. I replied, that I had entranced a man an hour ago, and that he might perhaps see him in that state still. Upon this, Mr. Long said, that he would return with me to the Jail Hospital. We found the man still sleeping, and I explained, that I greatly desired that he should sleep for many hours undisturbed, as I expected most important results from it. This man, Sidissur Ghose, a prisoner, I saw for the first time to-day, at eleven o'clock. He had been suffering for three days from an inflammation of the testes, which has been enlarged for years; it was exceedingly tender to the touch, and he was bent double in walking. I determined to subject him to

the trance, if possible, for the same reasons that induced me to treat an inflamed eye in this way. It seemed very probable to me, that inflammation would die out during many hours of absolute repose to the nervous and muscular systems, as fire expires for want of fuel; pain and irritation being the exciting and sustaining causes of inflammatory action. Remove all pain and sensibility for hours, and it is only natural to suppose that the circulation will return to its natural channels. If the absolute repose be too short to recruit the vital energies, at once; the mesmeric slumber can be reproduced at will, when once established, and how important mesmerised water would be for this purpose! There was nothing more to show Mr. Long at this Hospital; but I said, that I should be glad to verify an important experiment in his presence, which I had made for the first time yesterday regarding the efficacy of mesmerised water.

I was glad to hear that he had never heard of such a thing, and he willingly agreed to go to the Charity Hospital.

I took water out of the common reservoir in his presence, and mesmerised the same quantity as yesterday before him; the woman being in another room, and unconscious of our presence.

The common water was first given, and the effects waited for; none appearing, the mesmerised water was administered, and in a few minutes her expression altered; she rose and walked in a wavering uncertain manner, and then set about washing the floor, which was dirty, she said. Soon after, she complained of the room being full of kites, crows, and paddy birds, and desired them to be scared away. On being asked who I was, she said I was the Baboo her master; and that the sweeper of the Hospital was her brother Essan, who had come to take her home. Her mind seemed to be employed in her daily avocations at first. She was put to bed, and immediately sank into the mesmeric state of insensibility. We then retired to talk over the matter, and I asked Mr. Long if he had any doubts that could be resolved on the spot. He said, nothing could be more certain than the sequence of cause

and effect, and that he would gladly certify to it. After some time, we returned to her, and I awoke her all but her eyes, as has been observed before; these were opened with my assistance, and she was then seen to be in complete possession of all her senses and faculties, as evinced by her ready and consistent replies, and the total revolution in her countenance.

6 o'clock P. M.—The man entranced at eleven o'clock to-day, awoke at three. He bore pressure much better, and there was no heat in the part. I administered three ounces of mesmerised water, and in five minutes he was in the trance.

June 30th.—Sidissur awoke at nine o'clock last night, but went to sleep again immediately, and slept well all night. The swelling has decreased, and I can squeeze the part all over without pain, and he walks erect without uneasiness. The disease is subdued; but to make assurance doubly sure, I repeated the dose of water, and in three minutes he became insensible.

July 1st.—Sidissur slept till nine o'clock last night, and had a good night afterwards. Dismissed cured at his own request.

I thought of varying the experiment on the woman Alunga, whom I had not seen to-day. I therefore went to the house of the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, and asked him to give me a phial, and a little water, telling him my intentions, which were, to go to Mr. Betts, the Deputy Collector, who had never seen mesmerism, and to whom I had never spoken on the subject, and request him to go to the Hospital; give this water to the woman; and then send to inform me that it was done.

Having mesmerised the phial of water, I took it to Mr. Betts and begged him to be good enough to perform an experiment for me, and at the same time satisfy his curiosity perhaps. I assured him, upon my honour, that this was pure water only mesmerised, and requested him to administer it to the woman called Alunga, and then let me know. He kindly consented, and the messenger soon came for me. The woman immediately after my

arrival, got up to walk, and went through exactly the same phases in her progress to insensibility as yesterday, her phantasms only being varied; and again she could not open her eyes even by pulling; they instantly closed till I relieved her. On awaking, there was no vestige of derangement in her mind or perceptions. Mr. Betts was sure of the facts he witnessed, but I suspect he had some difficulty in believing that he only gave mesmerised water.

I hope it will not be for a moment supposed that I mean to say, that such will in general be the effects of mesmerised water. But only, that in persons already under the mesmeric influence, and very sensitive to it, such results can be procured. In this instance, as in my first essay, I have been fortunate in hitting upon the extreme development of the power in my patients, and the intermediate grades can be easily imagined.

From the foregoing facts, it is allowable to conclude, I hope :

That mesmerism is a natural power of the human body.

That it directly affects the nervous and muscular systems, and indirectly the circulation.

That under its extreme influence, the most painful operations may be performed without causing pain to the patient.

That spasms and nervous pains can be removed by it, if the person is to the necessary extent subject to the influence.

That as sleep and the absence of all pain is the best condition of the system for subduing inflammation, it will probably be found to be a powerful remedy in inflammatory complaints.

That the imagination has nothing to do with the first physical impression made on the system; the less imagination or mental activity the better, in fact.

That it is not necessary for the patient's eyes to be open, (I always shut them as a source of distraction,) and that persons may be entranced without knowing the presence of the operator.

That water can be charged with the mesmeric emanation, and has a powerful effect on the system.

These seem to me to be the most prominent and practical deductions derivable from my experiments; and by gradually limiting the sphere of inquiry by the exhaustive process of finding out what it is *not*, we may hope, in time, to come to understand what *it is*.

But I fear the power lies too near the sources of life and death for man to be permitted to approach it very nearly.

FOURTH REPORT.

THE PHENOMENA OF NATURAL AND MESMERIC SLEEP.

“General Sleep, is the assemblage of particular sleeps.”—BICHAT.

When puzzled by the unexpected exhibition of new and wonderful, bodily or mental phenomena; instead of inventing new theories for the nonce, or solving our difficulties by the introduction of supernatural machinery, we shall be far nearer our object if we re-study the known laws of Nature, and attempt to explain our new observations by the agency of some power already existing in the human constitution, but whose presence has been hitherto overlooked.

Like the careless knitter, we find at the end of our work that some stitches have been dropped, and that we must re-commence our labour “de novo.”

By a comparison of the effects of natural and mesmeric sleep on the system, it will be seen, I think, that the latter only imitates the former by a modification of a vital law of the animal economy: that they only differ in degree, and in the greater command we have over the artificial than the natural state of sleep; and I feel disposed to think, that the extreme conditions of the same power, the exhaustion, irregular distribution, or superabundance of the

nervous fluid or secretion, produce the same effects upon the bodily and mental organs in normal and abnormal sleep. To make this more clear, I will institute a parallel between common and mesmeric sleep, from which it will be apparent that most of the mesmeric phenomena exist in the daily routine of life, and that the novelty consists in our being able to produce and vary them, at will, by a new direction of a vital law.

1. *Common sleep*.—In this condition of the system there is an absolute repose of body and mind; at least, there is no consciousness of movement in either on awaking.

2. *Night-mare*.—If the brain is disagreeably affected by internal physical impressions, such as an unequal distribution of blood, or nervous energy in the lungs or brain, caused by indigestion or disease; then a confused train of painful images take possession of the mind, which is filled with causeless fears and shadowy horrors, and the sleeper struggles helplessly to shake off the incubus that oppresses him.

3. *Sleep-walking*.—Sometimes from irritability of the muscular system, there is a craving for motion as the natural source of relief, and volition sympathising to the required degree only, the person gets up and walks till tired; when having exhausted the nervous and muscular irritation by exercise in the night air, he returns to bed, sleeps soundly, and has no recollection next day of his nocturnal promenade.

At other times, one or more senses remain active after the others have gone to rest; the wants of the waking organ are transmitted to the sensorium, and an effort of the will follows to gratify them. The sleeper rises, and performs the necessary actions to satisfy his desires, in which eye-sight, to a small extent, usually assists; if not, hearing and touch come to his aid, and guide him with singular accuracy in known localities.

I may here give an illustration of the preternatural acuteness of hearing developed to aid the somnambulist in getting out of his troubles. I was an eager sportsman by flood and field in my

youth; and one night after a fatiguing day's sport, I found myself in the middle of the room, and very cold, but could not possibly contrive to get back to my bed. My last waking impression was made by the ticking of my watch under the pillow, and this recollection came to rescue me from my difficulties. After the most mature reflection, I came to the conclusion, that if I could but detect my watch by its ticking, I should also certainly find my bed. I accordingly hunted the watch by ear till I actually detected it, and got into bed again as the reward of sound reasoning and perseverance.

4. *Dreaming of the organs of sentiment and intellect.*—Perhaps no demand is made on the organs of sense, but the waking parts of the brain are those connected with the passions, feelings, hopes and fears of the individual. The imagination becomes inflamed by sympathy with the excited propensity, and the most vivid sensations of pain or pleasure, ecstasy and agony, according to the organ stimulated, and the controul, more or less, of the reflecting power. The lover, the miser, the philanthropist, and the murderer; the man who hopes for coming good fortune, and he who lives in constant dread of approaching evil; all enjoy or torment themselves to a height of pleasure or horror that cannot be felt when awake.

If the reflecting organs are chiefly called into play, then the man of business does a stroke in trade, or conceives a capital speculation that might be of use to him, if he could recollect it when awake: the student easily overcomes his difficulties; the mathematician solves a problem, and the historian dissolves a doubt; the poet's thoughts and lines no longer leave his brain like bird-lime, but he pours forth his soul in "thoughts that breathe, and words that burn." All good dreamers, in fact, confess that they think, say, and do better things when asleep than when awake.

Let us suppose, that the organs of reflection have been intensely engaged during the day in considering our proper course of action in certain circumstances, and the probable consequences;

or that a craving to penetrate futurity has been the haunting idea: then the judgment undistracted by external impressions, and undisturbed by passion, self-interest, and routine habits of thought, and supplied by the memory only with the past experience and knowledge that bear upon the question; in this condition of things, it is imaginable that the mind may jump to just conclusions, and receive a clear and happy glimpse into the future. These impressions when remembered on waking, and verified by subsequent events, are naturally converted into inspired dreams and supernatural warnings, merely by the train of thought having been lost. The persons, in reality, have only reasoned correctly by an unusual mode, whose processes are forgotten, and penetrated the future by comparing it with the past. In this way,

" Old experience may attain
To something like prophetic strain."

Such dreams, if the train of reasoning be correctly remembered and analysed, may be of real advantage to us in shaping our present and future conduct; because our sleeping conclusions have been come to from just premises, and the natural process of connecting cause and effect; and whether this is done sleeping, or waking, is of little consequence, the result being equally true.

o If the state of one's health has intensely occupied the thoughts, and the hope of being cured of some disease is the leading idea; the man of physical and medical knowledge may possibly hit upon the precise nature of his complaint, and prescribe for its cure in sleep better than he could have done by waking reflection; and perhaps the animal instinct of self-preservation may be concentrated upon the case, and prompt a course of proceeding, the rationale of which we do not understand, but yet may benefit the patient, if acted upon; just as morbid longings, as we call them, (though frequently they are promptings of nature, and should never be slighted by the physician) often do the system great good when yielded to and gratified. It is also intelligible, that the

physician and friends of a sick person may be so deeply interested in him as to make his case their own, and therefore dream scientific or instinctive modes of cure for him.—This is called dreaming of what will do one good.

5. *Last stage of all in this strange eventful history, comes Coma, separated by a fine partition only from the chamber of death.*—In this, mind and body are equally torpid and insensible to all impressions, and is seen in persons exhausted by long watching and fatigue, exposure to cold, or intense suffering of mind and body; and in this exploded condition of the nervous system, surgical operations might often be performed without causing pain.

Such are some of the most prominent conditions of the system under the natural influence of sleep; in other words, the effects of the exhaustion more or less complete of the nervous energies of the bodily and mental organs; and I will now proceed to show that we can very successfully imitate them by art, and produce a parallel chain of phenomena by the application of the vital agent, we call Mesmerism.

At the outset, I hinted, that possibly an undue accumulation, or irregular distribution of the nervous fluid artificially produced, might be the cause of the mesmeric appearances; the same effects following a state of repletion or exhaustion of the organs of the brain. If I might venture on so material an illustration; the first impressions made on the system by mesmerism, look to me like a river rolled back upon its source by a heavier current of water, stagnating in its channel, and unable to resume its usual course till the opposing tide subsides.

It would be more prudent to proceed at once to facts, and confess one's ignorance of the "modus agendi" of this mysterious agent; but it is impossible not to think, though perhaps little to the purpose, and I will therefore put down what I have been thinking about it; by turning it all round, we may make a happy hit perhaps, but nothing can be done by indulging in thoughtless wonder only.

It is certain that there is an influence of some kind that passes from one person to another, when one of two persons is mesmerised. The wonderful subtilty of this agent leads us to suspect, that it is a nervous product; and may it not be the superfluous nervous secretions passing off by the lungs, the organs of sense, and the periphery of the body, retaining their vital properties, and remaining under the controul of the will, even out of the body, for a short time? Supposing the existence of this disposable nervous emanation, and that it can be directed by one person upon another, then I would venture to imagine, that, being a nervous product, on coming into contact in a continuous and well-sustained stream, it is accepted by the nerves of sense, being congenial matter, and is transmitted by them to the brain; thereby having their functions reversed, by adding to, rather than subtracting from, the nervous secretions of the brain, which it is their duty to exhaust as soon as formed.

If the sensorial secretions are not carried off by the nerves of sense and volition, and the exercise of the perceptive and intellectual organs, the brain becomes oppressed and torpid. In like manner, the transmission of foreign nervous fluids might overwhelm the brain, and steep it in a sleepy drench of its own suppressed secretions, and the functions of the sensorium would not be restored until the usual outlet for its energies was re-established.

• The entireness of the organic functions would seem to countenance the idea, that the external influence is propagated to the brain by the organs of sense; and this abnormal susceptibility having been once established, it is possible to imagine the extreme degree to which this acquired habit may be developed of transmitting extraneous nervous fluids to the brain.

The general and capillary circulation; the respiration and temperature usually remain natural and tranquil as in sleep, showing that organic life is little interfered with. The accumulation of vital fluid that oppresses the brain, is also seen in the singular condition of the muscular system, and may perhaps explain the extra-

ordinary helplessness, and at the same time the wonderful passive power of sustaining muscular exertions witnessed in cataleptic patients, who will stand asleep in the most painful and exhausting attitudes imaginable, longer than would wear out the most practised athletæ with all the resources of art and training.

The absorption of another's nervous emanations being for a moment thought possible, we can comprehend the delicate impressions that may be made by so subtile an agent on such fine conductors as the nerves of sense: and it should not surprise us to be told, in this case, that the mesmeree receives at the same time some impressions of the individuality of the mesmerist, and manifests a certain degree of submission to his will even.

The shades of such an interchange of vitality would be infinite, and probably resemble what we are told can actually be effected by the mere will of the mesmerist acting on his patient.

I suspect, however, that there is considerable error about "*willing* people to go to sleep," which is done, I believe, by directing our nervous influence upon them by a concentrated attention, which is sufficient to impel it against the person we desire to affect, and thus accomplish our will that he should go to sleep.

The mesmeric power, like the great vivifying, invisible and imponderable powers of the earth and air—magnetism and electricity, exerts its influence through dense materials, and large portions of air.

On the 29th July, in the presence of upwards of fifty persons from Calcutta, and the neighbourhood,* I proved, that a person

* As I shall have occasion to refer to this public "Seance" again, I have given the names of such persons as I knew, or were introduced to me. Messrs. R. Barlow and Tucker, Judges of the Sudder Dewany Adawlut; Mr. Elliot, Law Commissioner, Mr. Hardinge, Captain Hardinge, Mr. Melville, Majors Wood and Anderson, Mr. Larpent, Captains Duncan and Cautley, Messrs. Bayley, Wauchope, Jackson, Graves, Clermont and Betts, Major Riddell, Revd. Messrs. F. Fisher, H. Fisher and Bradbury, Doctors MacPherson, Smith, Burt, Walker, Elton and Ross, Messrs. Hunter and Bennett. Those gentlemen, and the other spectators will, I hope, put me right if I misrepresent, or incorrectly report what they saw.

could be made insensible in fifteen minutes, at the distance of 80 feet; and caused my Assistants (and I have now ten skilful mesmerisers) to render men and women senseless through the walls of the Hospital. I have since produced the same results by merely directing my attention upon persons highly sensitive to the influence. I do not however attribute this to any mental sympathy propagated from me to the patients, but to a physical application of my nervous energies set in motion by my will, and directed upon the individual. In like manner, my Hospital apprentices, young Hindoos and Mahomedans, do not, I conceive, knock down their men on the other side of a wall by their *will*, for they have no will in the matter. I only put the heads of the parties opposite each other, without a word of explanation, and in five minutes often the susceptible patient is made rigid and insensible.

The will is no doubt very influential in directing our influence continuously; but much can be done without it, and I procure the most powerful effects for medical purposes by using the people about me as mere machines. We need not, I suspect, seek for this marvellous agent among the inorganic powers of Nature; for if they are employed, they are so altered, and endowed with new vital qualities, by being subjected to the principle of life, that they are no longer recognisable after being converted from their controul of brute matter, to be the directing powers of animal life.

Be this as it may, there is no doubt, that mesmerism can imitate the different phases of natural sleep enumerated at the commencement of this paper.

1. *Mesmeric Sleep*.—This simulates perfectly sound healthy sleep, and is more refreshing even, if it has been resorted to for soothing pain or disturbance of the system, and can be had recourse to when common narcotics are improper or useless; over which it has the advantage of leaving no disagreeable constitutional disturbance, after the specific influence has ceased. The

restorative powers of mesmeric sleep seem to depend upon an actual infusion of nervous vigour into the body, and this may account for its superiority as a remedy over common sleep. I will extract two cases from my "Journal of Practical Mesmerism," as examples of this artificial sleep, and its curative powers.

July 8th.—Geereeah, a girl of 10 years. Is suffering from suppression of urine for two days, in consequence of violence done to the perineum, by which the recto-vaginal septum has been destroyed. The bladder extends up to the navel, and the belly is extremely tender. It is impossible to introduce a catheter from the inflamed state of the parts. I mesmerised her for half an hour, after which she slept for an hour, voided her urine freely on waking, and all disagreeable symptoms immediately disappeared, and she was cured without a dose of medicine.

July 10th.—Oboychurn Roy, a Hindoo Zemindar. A stout brave man, had his left fore-arm struck off at the middle, twelve days ago, in defending his house against a gang of dacoits, who killed his servant at the same time.

There are two white rings on his arm the marks of cruel ligatures applied to stanch the blood, and the wonder is, that the arm was not strangled and mortified. Several pieces of dead bone required to be removed. This of course gave him much pain, for which the whole arm was mesmerised, with great relief. He dropped asleep in half an hour, for a short time, and slept the whole of that night; the only sleep he has had since the injury was inflicted.

2. *Mesmeric Delirium.*—This very much resembles *Nightmare*, but with a greater tendency to walk and talk, and appears to depend upon the irregular action of the power on the brain, and the consequent derangement of the respiration and circulation. This is so alarming, and perplexing an effect of mesmerism, that it is enough to frighten an amateur or an unprofessional exhibitor, and make him forswear experiments for the future; and the principal reason for my consenting to make

a public display of the mesmeric power, was to convince a number of persons having weight in society of the tremendous effects of this agent, and the dangerous consequences to the public of encouraging trifling and uncalled-for mesmeric displays. The mesmeric condition ought only to be developed by the physician, or under his direction, as a means of cure.

I do not envy the amateur who may produce the following state of things in his patient.

July 4th.—Bunnoo, a Hindoo girl, aged 15. She sprained her ankle ten days ago by a fall; the foot, ankle and half the leg are much swollen, infiltrated, and excessively painful. I mesmerised her for about an hour; but she only slept for a few minutes, and little relief was given.

July 5th.—She got a dose of mesmerised water to-day, and was manipulated upon, at the same time. In ten minutes, she became much agitated; her chest convulsed, and she showed all the symptoms of a violent attack of hysteria. The convulsions were soothed in a short time, by the usual means, and then she became delirious, crying out, that there was a man with great eyes before her, and desiring him to be sent away. Her eyes were wide open, but she said I was a Bengalee; that she was in her own house, but did not know her own or her mother's name, who was present.

*I placed her mother before her, whom she said was a man, and covered him with a load of Bengalee flowers of abuse. She was sitting up, and carefully protecting her leg all this time, and answered all my questions about it quite clearly. As it was not in a good position, I desired her to place it to her liking, as she would not let it be touched. This she did, and said it was now right. I then asked her, if she would go to sleep; she answered, "yes:" upon which I pointed my fingers at her eyes, and she fell back as if shot, and went into the trance. The leg could now be freely pressed all over, without her feeling it, and I made my Assistants apply their hands, to show that the heat

had disappeared; the inflamed parts were now cooler than my hand.

July 6th.—This is not a case in which the mesmeric trance can rapidly subdue inflammation; it is of too long standing, and the ligaments have been too much injured to hope for this; but local manipulations give great relief, and induce sleep even.

July 7th.—Last night I gave her a dose of mesmerised water only, which produced very distressing effects. The convulsions were more violent than before, and the chest greatly oppressed. Being unwilling to irritate the system to this extent to no purpose, this time I resorted to the expedient of concentrating rapidly the mesmeric influence on the brain and epigastrium, and succeeded in establishing the trance in a short time.

July 9th.—The constitutional disturbance being so great from the general application of mesmerism, it has been confined to the diseased part, and always affords great relief.

3. *Mesmeric Sleep-walking.*—To produce simple somnambulism, it is only necessary to operate on the person till he says he is asleep, and you are convinced that he is so; in which there can be no mistake in unhacknied subjects; and my instruments are so many that I seldom need to use them twice. The arms usually become cataleptic; all expression vanishes, even when the person answers on subjects of interest to himself; and whether the eyes are shut, half-closed, or wide open, is of little consequence to the sleep-walker; it is only the difference of no sight, and the faintest glimmering, which only enables him to walk, when put in motion, with a little more security.

If properly set about, somnambulism can be produced as the first mesmeric symptom,* or developed as the first stage of awaking to life again from the mesmeric coma; and I will now exhibit a party of simple somnambulists made for the purpose.

July 18th.—To-day I entranced five men all at once with mes-

* See the man-stealing in Court.

merised water, in the presence of two gentlemen here, who have been good enough to assist me in this investigation. On being pulled up and set on their feet, two of them awoke; the others slept standing.

No. 1. Could not possibly open his eyes, and was also deaf to my orders to walk, and had to be put in motion; this once done, he poked helplessly forward till he came in contact with the wall or a pillar, against which he bored his head, and then stood motionless. Being relieved from his dilemma, and set agoing again, he slouched about, a most forlorn looking wretch, till he got embayed between a window-shutter and the wall, and there he would have remained for hours (if the sleep lasted so long) if I had not taken pity on him.

No. 2. On being raised, and roused a little, by rubbing and blowing in his eyes, half opened them, and saw sufficiently to enable him to avoid obstacles. Being ordered to walk, he stalked out of the Hospital like a walking corpse; descended four steps very cautiously, and continued his solemn promenade about the green; his course being only determined by the obstacles he met. Looking at him from a distance, he might have been taken for a peripatetic philosopher absorbed in contemplation. When ordered to stop, he did so, and would never have moved again of his own accord, till the unnatural state disappeared.

No. 3. Being roused, opened his eyes wider than natural, but saw no better than the other; from this, I think he even saw less, as he had to be warned of the steps to prevent his falling. Having got upon the grass, his actions portrayed the most helpless timidity; walking as if upon glass, and staring intently at every tuft of grass, and sometimes turning aside to avoid what to his disordered senses probably appeared to be wooded mountains.

He turned, when ordered, and made towards the Hospital again, picking his steps very cautiously, and never looking up. On reaching the steps, leading up to the verandah, he stopped short, carefully studied the nature of the obstacle, and not being able to

comprehend it, looked up for the first time, and seeing the mass of building before him, gave up the idea of ascending the steps as hopeless, and turned along the road running round the Hospital, till he came to the steps where we were standing. Here I stopped him, and very distinctly told him the nature of the obstacle; four steps, namely, and desired him to come to me. This he understood, undertook, and accomplished, being assisted by my warning him at each step, and counting them. All the men, as usual, were perfectly unconscious of having moved from the spot where they first lay down.

The pure somnambulist may next be converted into an imitative automaton, mimicking most servilely and exactly the actions and words of the mesmerist, or any one else substituted for him, who concentrates the somnambulist's attention upon him.

July 29th.—I made a man senseless and cataleptic to-day, in fifteen minutes, at the distance of eighty feet, in the presence of the party already mentioned, among whom were six Doctors, in whose hands, and the rest of the company he was left as long as they pleased, without my approaching till I was needed to awake him. This I did, but only to the degree of enabling him to follow me, when led. I then said, that I would endeavour to clear up his perceptive organs enough to permit him to understand my wishes, which he would implicitly comply with. I did not wish to leave him the power of speech even, at this stage. Having attracted his ear, I ordered him to do what I did, and this he very faithfully performed by throwing himself, on the instant, into every attitude I assumed. But I required to be careful, for if I threw him much off his balance, he would have gone head foremost against the floor, and perhaps fractured his skull. Those who did not see him, may imagine the small extent that the poor fellow was left to himself, when they are told, that he took the "longitude" of the Judges, and of the other "potent, grave, and reverend Seigniors" present, with great precision, and becoming

gravity. I then proceeded to develop his vocal powers, but only to the extent of making him my echo. He was told to repeat whatever I said, and showed his intelligence by echoing back the order. He then gave us "the Meteor Flag of England," and if the pronunciation was not very perfect, it seemed to me to be an exact reverberation of my intonations; my gesticulations were as faithfully copied.

Having no objection to the "seria mixta jocis," he passed to "Hey diddle diddle," and did it such justice that I lost my gravity, and burst into a laugh: the company followed, and he joined in full chorus, to the satisfaction of some, who thought they had now found him out. It was remarked, that "he could not help laughing himself." Upon this, I stopped, and pointed out, that it was no joke to him, but purely imitative laughter; his countenance undergoing in the most wonderful manner an instantaneous transition from the most uproarious mirth to perfect death-like repose, as often as I lost his attention. He ended by singing, "God save the King," certainly as well as I, which is paying him no compliment, for he is capable of better things under a more skilful music master. I now woke him up a little more, and asked him if he could fence? He said, that he could; and I bid him shew me. He began to cut the preliminary capers of the native fencers, and made some good hits; but in stooping forward, he in an instant became quite rigid, and plunged head foremost into my breast. I was expecting this, and was able to break his fall by a violent exertion; but he upset me, and I rolled head over heels.

I am always alarmed, and on the watch when this man is experimented on, from this tendency to instantaneous rigidity of the body.

The sensibility of the whole system was now exploded, and a profound trance ensued, from which it would have been difficult to rouse him; he usually awakes in four or five hours, after such labours.

Eight men then drank mesmerised water, prepared by my Assistants, and superintended by four of the company. I did not exhibit the process in public, because I thought it improper to do so; but said, that I would be happy to explain it to those engaged in medical and philosophic pursuits. In spite of the incessant tormenting of their visitors, four of the men, to my great surprise, became entranced and cataleptic. These were converted into somnambulists, and I showed another step in the mental phenomena, by enabling them not only to hear, but to answer questions correctly; extinguishing and reluming the power at will. In this way, they tell me frankly and directly whatever I please to ask; reflection being dormant, they feel an instinctive impulse to answer a direct question, directly. We are assured, that common sleepers can be played upon in the same way by skilful and patient persons.

And here, I fear, that my psychological experiments must come to an abrupt conclusion, for want of proper subjects to try them upon. The mental range of my patients is so limited, that the topics of food, drink and clothing, almost exhaust it, and with most of them, I can only communicate through an interpreter; having no knowledge of Bengalee, and its different jargons.

But I have done enough to show, how the higher grades of somnambulism may be reached, and feel confident that I could elicit them in more highly organised and intellectual natures.

4. *Mesmeric Sleep. Waking of different organs.*—The organs of the passions, moral sentiments, and intellect may also be brought into activity in like manner; and, as in natural sleep, different organs are often preternaturally excited, and their powers singularly increased by the concentration of the nervous energy upon them; so, in the mesmeric sleep, may this be effected, and, of course, to a much greater extent by the person being under the controul of a reflecting and directing being, instead of being left to the fitful lights of his own imagination, and the unsustained short flights of his intellect, as in common dreaming.

This power of acting on separate portions of the brain, and thereby inducing such trains of thought as we may please to excite, may be found to be of practical utility in the treatment of mental diseases; but it would require great patience and perseverance, and establishments devoted to the purpose of curing cerebral diseases.

The diseased haunting idea, I think, might be banished, and a more healthy tone of feeling and reasoning substituted, and sustained, till a new and better habit of mind was produced.

Seeing no reason to doubt, that the mental organs can be isolated, and exalted by the mesmeric influence under the direction of a skilful suggester, and mental leader; I can conceive, and believe, that the reasoning and imaginative organs may, by this artificial stimulus properly applied, be excited into more vigorous activity, than when under the usual condition of life.

If persons may derive benefit from night dreams; their day dreams, well directed, should be more valuable, but the one has no more pretensions to supernatural power than the other. The night dream is woven out of past events, lighted up by a flickering imagination, and an unsettled judgment, and the somnambulist has only the advantage of having his efforts sustained, and concentrated by his director; and that wonderful things can be thus done, I no longer doubt. Nor, considering the excessive nervous delicacy developed in the course of long mesmeric treatment, and the power of fixing the whole attention upon their bodily sensations, do I think it impossible that somnambulists may acquire an instinctive perception of the condition of their organs, and occasionally be able to prescribe something for their relief; just as some persons dream under nearly an analogous state of what will do them good, and which sometimes really does so. Up to this point, it appears to me that the course of Nature can be followed, and more than imitated; and I see nothing more wonderful in the mesmeric phenomena, than the disturbances that occur in the atmosphere when the electric relations

of the earth and air are changed, and the electric equilibrium destroyed for a time.

But how our senses, and instinctive or reasoning powers can reach, and understand in the mesmeric condition, bodies whose existence we are not aware of in our natural state, and the ignorant acquire not only the wisdom of the wise, but the prescience of God, is altogether incomprehensible; and seems to me to be stepping at one gigantic stride from matter and common sense, into the regions of infinite space, and supernatural power, and a passing of that "bourne whence no traveller returns."

It will require the most overwhelming evidence from the highest and purest quarters, to induce us to quit this body in the investigation of the daily phenomena of life. The bodily and mental powers implanted in the human frame, and their modifications by alterations in the usual balance of nervous fluid, will probably account, when properly understood, for all that is wonderful and *true* in the phenomena of mesmerism. But the indolence and presumption of man; his passion for the mysterious and marvellous, and his powers of self-delusion, with the pranks of knaves, and the simplicity of fools, have so mystified the subject, that the artificial difficulties cost us more trouble than the real ones—a world of rubbish must be removed, before the foundation-stone of Truth can be reached.

5. *Mesmeric and Natural Coma are as similar and dissimilar as possible.*—The same in the complete extinction of sensibility; the one usually characterised by the rigidity of the muscles, the other by the complete relaxation of them.

In mesmeric coma, the great organic functions are performed regularly; the countenance is calm, and the complexion that of health. Natural coma is in direct opposition to this; irregularity in the vital organs, anguish, misery and pallor of the countenance, all indicate, that the icy hand of death is arresting the currents of life, and the last Trump, in general, can only awake the sleeper from this torpor of exhaustion.

How different is the waking from mesmeric coma! In an instant, often, the person returns to full life and consciousness, without knowing that he has been asleep, or feeling any effects from it; if he does, they are those of pleasure and relief; having lain down in pain, he awakes often free of it, and renovated in strength and spirits.

The supposed causes being different, (I presume the exhaustion of the nervous system in natural coma, and its repletion in the mesmeric state) explains the opposition of the two conditions, and I leave it to my readers to say, whether what I have thrown out, tends to account for the similarities observed between natural and mesmeric sleep.

FIFTH REPORT.

“The enquiry of truth, which is the love-making, or wooing of it; and the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it; and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it; is the sovereign good of human nature.”—BACON'S ESSAYS.

In communicating my first mesmeric successes to my friend Dr. Grant, now in England, I wrote thus: “I now know mesmerism to be true, and should think myself a poor cowardly creeper, if I did not declare it.”

Apart from the personal gratification of being admitted to see the secret processes of Nature's work-shop, and the advantages of being able to imitate them successfully for the alleviation and removal of human suffering; it is a sufficient satisfaction to me, to be able from personal observation, to give my evidence in support of the truths discovered, and declared by honest and independent men in different parts of the world, both living and dead.

If my labours should assist in raising the dishonoured dead into the public consideration and respect which is their due, and excite a regret that “wisdom called aloud in the streets, and no one regarded her,” or if my proceedings should strengthen the testimony of the living witnesses who have been persecuted for

the truth, and hasten their tardy reward, I shall not have laboured in vain.

I now know, (and deplore my long ignorance) that the battle was fought and won before I was born, by the truthful and benevolent Deleuze, Puysegur, and their associates, and I am only repeating upon the Hooghly, what they, and their worthy successor Elliotson, had long ago established on the banks of the Seine and Thames; thereby proving, the universality of the truths propounded by them. While France issued Royal and Academic commissions to investigate the matter, and her literature abounds with works written by medical and scientific men on the subject, and Prussia very properly prohibited it from being practised, except by medical men, and Holland, Denmark, Sweden, Germany and Russia, have been familiar, for the last thirty years, with both the good and evil of mesmerism; we, in consequence of our insular ignorance, pride and presumption, are now only hearing of what the whole civilised world has long known, and condescending to give an unwilling attention to well established natural phenomena, which are as much part of the human constitution as the processes of thought and digestion.

The dangers incident to the practice of mesmerism ought not to deter mankind from benefiting by its benignant qualities.

That this agent may, and will be turned to diabolical purposes, is most certain, if the public will not be at the trouble to defend itself by common-sense precautions. But the power is pure, as it comes from the Creator, and diabolical perversion is the work of the creature. The object of man's moral nature here, is clearly to separate the evil from the good; to prove all things, and hold by that which is best; and this can be done in mesmerism, as well as in any thing else. The intention is everything; the abuse, and not the use of any great power is to be dreaded and guarded against.

I have great hopes that my present experiments will go far to separate the regions of mind and body which have been, it seems

to me unnecessarily and perplexingly intermingled by former mesmeric observers; and this will not only simplify the mesmeric treatment of disease, but remove the principal objection to it; the necessity of acting on the mind, often injuriously, and perhaps improperly during the treatment of a bodily infirmity. The results of my late experience are now in the press, and will soon appear. It will be seen from them, that in the exercise of the art as a medical agent of the most benign as well as powerful nature, the mind has never been attempted to be influenced, nor has ever even been heard of. No mental "Rapport" has been thought of in subjecting my patients to the curative influence of mesmerism for diseases of the body; and if so much can be done without it, I am sanguine that it will be proved to be a tedious and unnecessary complication of the art, and "more honoured in the breach than in the performance."

In the management of mental diseases, it will probably be required, and be useful, as different ends require different means. But this is only an extension of the blessing, if the power is wielded with knowledge, and in all honour and simplicity of purpose.

In this, as in other matters, the danger lies in the company we keep. The possessor of a well-filled purse does not seek the company of pick-pockets, and the honest man eschews the society of knaves. The same common-sense mode of proceeding should influence us in the disposal of our bodies and minds, when diseased, if mesmerism is thought to be likely to benefit us. I am convinced, that in the generality of bodily evils curable by mesmerism, there will be no need to interfere with the mind at all. It is a mere travelling out of the record, and where a mixed treatment is required, it can be safely adopted by using the simple precaution of seeking an honest man with the necessary knowledge of the subject; and let us hope that such will soon abound.

In Surgery, the benefits of mesmerism are not confined to the extinction of pain during an operation, but are of the greatest

general, and particular advantage in the after treatment of Surgical diseases. The nerves and brain have not been shattered by bodily agony and mental anguish, which generally excite an irritative fever of the system, wasting the powers of life, and rousing local inflammation in the injured part; thereby often destroying all the hopes and precautions of the Surgeon.

In the mesmeric sleep, none but the necessary local injury has been done; and on awaking, the patient only feels a slight smarting in the part, and the constitution sets about repairing the breach of substance quietly, and under the best possible circumstances, and if local pains follow, they can be easily removed by topical manipulations.

JOURNAL OF PRACTICAL MESMERISM.

July 2nd.—Nobee, an elderly worn-out woman. Has had rheumatic pains in her back for some months. She was put into the trance to-day; and on waking, was free of pain.

July 3rd.—No pain. Gave her a dose of mesmerised water: she soon said, that she felt warm all over; a general tremor followed, and on being desired to walk, she complained of her head turning, and walked a little with great difficulty. On returning to bed, she fell asleep immediately, and slept for two hours.

July 3rd.—Alunga. This woman's pains fly about, but I can chase them away in less than a minute from any part, by merely holding my fingers over it. She came limping up to me to-day to have the pain taken out of her heel, and "tendo Achillis;" and this I did by passing my fingers along the pained part, and then grasping it. She expressed the utmost astonishment and delight both by words and looks.

These two women can be mesmerised by me, or any one else, by merely looking at them for five minutes.

July 4th.—Dookee. For several months has had a constant feeling of insects crawling about his face and scalp, and it extends often

to the whole body ; his eyes wink and water constantly. He was mesmerised for an hour, and then got a dose of water. He soon complained of general agitation and feeling of alarm at the heart, and then slept a little. On leaving the Hospital, the sense of formication had entirely disappeared, and he did not wink more than natural.

July 9th.—Mrs. C. is suffering much from one of her wisdom teeth ; half of it has come through, but the rest is covered with the indurated and ulcerated gum. I explained, that the source of the irritation must be removed by cutting away the gum. As she was harassed by face, jaw, and ear aches, I mesmerised her for ten minutes locally to soothe the pain, and removed it completely for two hours.

July 10th.—I entranced her to-day sitting on a couch, in the presence of her husband and his sister ; laid her back, and cut off the offending gum, without awaking her, and left her sleeping.

July 11th.—This is a very interesting case, as it shows the invasion of the waking state by the mesmeric one. Mrs. C. on waking yesterday, arose as if from common sleep, and the blood about her mouth only attracted her notice to the tooth ; she thought the gum had burst, and was expecting to see me. For, strange to say, she had no recollection of having seen me that day, nor of what happened for half an hour before her sleep. The incidents that took place immediately before she was mesmerised were these, as her husband informed me,—

She received letters from the postman, a lady came to visit her, and then I arrived, and sat conversing with her and her visitor a short time : after seeing the lady to her carriage, I returned, and mesmerised her. All these incidents were blotted from her mind.

She feels quite well, and awoke much refreshed. If such inroads are made into the regions of sense, at one sitting, it may probably be pushed to the extinguishment of all sense ; and this is the power made a show of for money !

July 12th.—Sheik Nurree Oodeen. Seen for the first time to-day; was entranced, and the last grinder tooth taken out, without awaking: slept for an hour after, and felt no pain on waking.

July 13th.—Four men and one woman were entranced to-day.

No. 1. for Lumbago.

No. 2. for Sciatica.

No. 3. for pain in the course of the crural nerve.

No. 4. for syphilitic rheumatism.

No. 5. Ditto. They were all affected by the usual manipulations, assisted by the breath.

After the first day, the trance was induced in them all by giving mesmerised water daily, till the 17th; on which day, the three with neuralgic pains were dismissed cured; the syphilitic cases were not materially benefited, as might be expected; the constitutional specific disease being still in operation.

July 17th.—To-day, in the presence of Mr. Davidson, Commissioner of the Division, and Mr. Alexander, Registrar to the Board of Revenue, who have requested me to name them as witnesses, I operated on a man for hypertrophy of the prepuce, without disturbing him. After letting him sleep some time, I asked the gentlemen if I should awake him, and at their desire, did so, in a moment, by blowing in his eyes. He was restored at once to full consciousness, and Mr. Davidson remarked, "I wish —— was here, who says, you do this by opium."

My visitors, knowing Bengalee, asked him "If any one had hurt him to-day? He answered, No. If he would like, to have his disease removed? He said, that he would thank God if any one would do so." He was then desired to sit up, and his cloth removed; when seeing that his nuisance was gone, he fell back with an exclamation of wonder and gratitude. I had also the pleasure of showing these gentlemen many phases of the mesmeric phenomena.

July 25th.—Buggabuttee, a Hindoo woman, aged 40. Has been much troubled with a suppurating pile as big as the end of my

thumb. She was mesmerised at 11 o'clock; and at 12, I cut off the tumor: she moved and moaned, but on awaking, half an hour after, recollected nothing about it. She missed the swelling, but knew not what had become of it.

July 29th.—In the presence of some sixty witnesses who came from Calcutta, etc, I amputated a man's prepuce. He awoke, and cried out, before I had finished; but was immediately thrown back into the trance, from which all the efforts of the spectators, six Doctors included, could not arouse him. He was operated on at 12 o'clock, and awoke at 3.

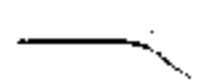
On being questioned, he said, that he had not seen an European that day, and had suffered no pain; as I said would probably be the case, if the trance could be speedily re-established.

Next day, he complained much of the pricks inflicted upon him by the practical philosophers, who had literally made a pincushion of him.

August 4th.—Sona, a Hindoo woman, aged 25. Both nails of the great toes are decayed to the roots; their place being filled by fungoid ulcers, the effects of syphilis and mercury.

She was mesmerised at 12 o'clock; and at 1½, I dissected out the entire root of one nail, without awaking her. The left arm and hand trembled only, and this I subdued by placing her hand between mine for some minutes, and left her sleeping.

August 5th.—Repeated the operation to-day with precisely the same effects; on neither occasion did she feel any increase of pain on waking.

August 6th.—Golam Hossein. His knee has been contracted to this extent  for two months from rheumatism. He was mesmerised for the first time at 11 o'clock, and his leg made quite straight at 1 P. M. I both felt, and heard the new ligamentous adhesions cracking under my hands.

It did not at all annoy him, and on coming to his senses, half an hour after, he knew nothing about it.

August 8th.—Gendo, a Hindoo woman, aged 50. There is a large sloughing ulcer covering all the right temple. She was mes-

merised at 10 o'clock; and at 11½, I applied muriatic acid (there being no nitric acid in store) freely to the whole surface, without her showing any sensibility: she awoke twenty minutes after, and knew nothing about it.

A MEDICAL VISIT OF INVESTIGATION.

August 13th.—I received a note a few days ago from Dr. Finch, Editor of the Calcutta Medical Journal, saying, that he was now desirous of accepting my offer made three months ago, to give him ocular demonstration of the physical effects of mesmerism, in the hope of hastening its reception among Medical men; and that if I had no objections, he would bring Dr. Bedford with him. In reply, I said, that I would be glad to see him, and that he might bring any body he chose with him, provided that he, and they would publish what they saw, as I would not be at the trouble of gratifying curiosity that ended in nothing, as on the 20th July: no person present having under his own name condescended to say, "I saw it." My conditions were accepted, and Drs. Finch, Brander and Bedford paid me a visit yesterday, and several unprofessional gentlemen were also present at the proceedings.

I took them first to the Charity Hospital, and told them, that I was desirous of making their visit as satisfactory to them as possible, and that probably they would prefer to dispense with any intermediate agents, and mesmerise for themselves. That if they would condescend to give me the command of their persons for a short time, and attend to my instructions, I hoped they would return to Calcutta practical mesmerisers.

This was exactly what they wished to propose, and they went to work at once. I will content myself with a simple summary of the results of their labours; leaving it to them to enter into details.

At this Hospital,

Dr. Finch made the woman Alunga delirious, and a somnambulist, by looking steadily at her for a few minutes.

Dr. Finch placed the woman Nobee in any part of the room he pleased, and made her a somnambulist through the wall in a short time: both women afterwards sank into the mesmeric trance.

Dr. Finch freely applied muriatic acid,* (such as is furnished by the Company's Dispensary) to the sore covering the whole right temple of the woman Gendo, who was mesmerised in their presence by one of the Hospital attendants, without her showing the smallest degree of consciousness; and it was with great difficulty that I awoke her, after they had failed to do so. On coming to her senses, she declared, that she knew nothing about it.*

I then showed them the boy Kangalee, whose arm I straightened, at once, the first time he was mesmerised; and proposed that some one should mesmerise him in the usual way. I was asked how long this took, and had to inquire of my assistants, as I had never mesmerised him. They said an hour, and no one seemed disposed to enter on such a task. While the carriages were getting ready to go to the other Hospital, I offered to try to elicit some indications of the mesmeric influence in this boy for their gratification, saying, that if I did not succeed, it would probably be for want of time. I placed him standing before me; put his forehead close to mine, and placed one hand on his stomach, and the other behind him. In a short time, I tested his arms; and as they indicated the cataleptic tendency, I said, that he was now probably under the influence, and put him into the most constrained and painful position, desiring the spectators to test the unnatural condition of the muscular system by freely handling his limbs.

I also said, that they might ascertain his degree of sensibility, and he was pricked from behind suddenly; his trunk shrunk, but

* I heard it remarked, that this woman's pulse fell from 88° to 80° during the burning with acid, and that her respiration had become entirely abdominal, shewing that the involuntary muscles were only engaged in the act. All this, no doubt, will be duly reported by the experimenters.

his arms and body maintained unchanged the catalepted attitudes they were in.

I left off mesmerising him, having effected what I proposed, the exhibition of the first invasive symptoms of mesmerism in their presence. The gentlemen continued to rouse him by tickling, etc.; in this they succeeded, and awoke the boy, who very naturally laughed, when he saw and felt two Sahibs tickling his arm-pits. This I perceived was considered a decided proof of imposture, and I regretted having interfered at all, as nothing short of Sledge-hammer effects seemed to be satisfactory. I merely observed, that if they for a moment imagined, that I had put this boy forward to undergo tests of insensibility, they were labouring under a false impression entirely, which I hoped they would on the spot dismiss from their minds; any modification even of sensibility being more than was to be expected.

This appearing to be understood, we adjourned to the Jail Hospital. Here I proposed, that Dr. Finch should repeat the experiment of mesmerising a man at a great distance; and, to give him confidence, I informed him, that it had been done by others, besides me, and that I believed the properly directed vital emanations of any human being to be all that was necessary, after the tendency to mesmeric action had been developed in the system.

Dr. Finch suggested, that I should rather mesmerise him at a distance. In answer to this, I said, that I was now making him repeat the experiments in his own person that had been successfully performed by others, and that this was the limit of my proceedings, I had confidence in what I knew by experiment; beyond this, I could lead them to expect nothing.

Dr. Finch consented to try the "Long Range," and Madub was placed in a chair at one end of the verandah, having been carefully examined first, and Dr. Finch planted himself at the other end, at the distance of 200 feet. Having given Dr. Finch his instructions, and sent the other gentlemen down to watch the effects on the man, I retired to a room out of sight, and only took an oc-

casional peep to ascertain progress. In about twenty minutes, I suppose, I called on the man by name; and as he paid no attention, I begged Dr. Finch to go and look at his work. Suffice it to say here, that he was subjected to torments from which an Indian at the stake would have shrunk, and which I only permitted, that it might not be said that I interfered to save my phenomena. The man might have been a corpse for any effect produced; the only sign of vitality being that streams of tears ran down from his chin from the long irritation of the lachrymal gland by the fumes of ammonia.

The Medical physiologist, or attentive observer, has no need of such expedients for testing the condition of a living being.

Dr. Brander mesmerised Soorooop Chung, through the wall; made him rigid and senseless, and then converted him into a somnambulist.

Dr. Bedford also mesmerised Nasir Mahomed standing before him, by following my directions. I left the man in his hands, and he had to request me to awake him. Their "debut" as mesmerisers was most triumphant, and I hope they were as well pleased with their performance as the spectators.

We now proceeded to mesmerise water, the process of which I fully explained, and I proposed to give it to two parties of men; the one, having felt the mesmeric influence before; the other, not. They however begged to be allowed to give plain water to the men who had been mesmerised before, in the first place. I answered, that they might make the experiments in their own way, if I knew the conclusions intended to be drawn, and thought them warranted by the premises. If it was intended to infer imposture in the event of the men going to sleep, or showing other mesmeric symptoms from drinking plain water, they would fall into a great fallacy, and form an unphilosophic opinion. I could not speak from my own experience on the subject; but I had read, that after the mesmeric tendency was established in the system, it could be spontaneously brought into activity by going

through the usual forms, or from being expected to show the effects the patients were accustomed to feel.*

If this explanation was understood, I should be glad to extend my knowledge by making the experiment. What I said, being thought reasonable; plain water was given to three very sensitive persons, and sure enough, they not only went to sleep, but became cataleptic, more or less. I had no doubt about the reality of their condition, and still believe that they were "bona fide" asleep; the possibility of which, I had anticipated. They rolled away to get rid of the fumes of ammonia, and showed all the natural indications of annoyance; and having done this, it was of no use to sham sleep any longer, but they slept on, and could not be roused. From this, I infer, that their sleep was neither natural nor assumed. If it had been the former, they would have got up to get rid of their annoyances; if the latter, they would not have persevered after being detected in their imposture: therefore, in my estimation, the sleep was unnatural, and partook of the mesmeric character; how induced, I will not now hazard an opinion, but only cite the experience of a higher authority. Dr. Elliotson says, in No. 111 of the "Zoist," kindly sent to me the other day by my friend Dr. W. B. O'Shaughnessy,—“At length there is sometimes such susceptibility, that almost anything will induce sleep. Indeed, no process at last may be requisite to produce the

* If these men should be claimed as imposters by the Doctors, I make them a present of them.

I only ask to retain the *first effects* in each new experiment, as proofs of the reality of mesmerism.

This being conceded, I maintain, that the results were the same, and as complete on the first trial as the last in both hospitals; between which there is no possibility of intercourse: the one being a charity hospital; the other, a hospital for convicted felons.

In both, at the first trial, and without the possibility of divining my object, men and women, who had been mesmerised in the usual way first, were,—

1. Entranced, or made delirious by drinking mesmerised water.
2. Ditto, through a wall.
3. Ditto, at a great distance.
4. Ditto, by regarding them steadily.

effect. I have three patients, whom I was originally some weeks in sending to sleep, though I gave each half an hour daily of manipulations and gazing ; but who now go to sleep on my merely raising my hand, or looking at them, when they are prepared to expect sleep. I told each of them that, if she sat still, I would mesmerise her in the next room through the door ; I retired, shut the door behind me, did nothing, but walked on into a farther room, turned back, and found her asleep : so with the other two in succession. While I did this, I thought as little of them as possible, and busied myself with anything to distract my attention."

The mesmerised water was next given to five men nearest the door of the Hospital, who had not seen what was going on, and who had never been in any shape affected by mesmerism ; at the expiry of half an hour, one man was only asleep, and he, to my senses, was made a true somnambulist.

That the imagination (or rather commotion in the brain we choose to call so) can simulate the specific effects of mesmerism alone, is most certain, and during mesmeric treatment it becomes inexplicably, and inextricably mingled with the true physical first mesmeric influence ; but from all I have seen, and here recorded, I would as soon adopt the "Opium, diabolical, or all-humbug theory," as attempt to explain the facts ascertained by the action of the imagination on the body. Would the most imaginative of my readers ever think of the following process as the means of making people insensible to pain through their imagination ? A Bengal cooly or pariah comes before me with a disease requiring a surgical operation : I never say a word to him, because I cannot, but desire my Hospital attendants to mesmerise him. He is ordered to lie down and shut his eyes, and for an hour or hours, they pass their hands slowly along the most sensitive parts of the body, exhaling their breath upon the patient, and larding him with their sweat if total insensibility is desired ; and this they do in relays for a fortnight together perhaps, before

any effect is produced. A few minutes, or half an hour sometimes will suffice, but it is hard work all the time, and the least imaginative process I can imagine, and is what all must undergo who wish to become practical mesmerisers to the extent of producing coma frequently. My learned brethren yesterday reaped the fruits of three months of severe labour of body and mind on my part, for I spared neither, till I had encouraged and instructed others by my example and success. Now, I am enjoying my reward, having no occasion to mesmerise at all. My last chapter on Somnambulism was written before I had seen the 111th No. of the "Zoist," and I am not a little pleased to find in it this quotation from the works of that infallible observer, and true philosopher, Gall: "We acknowledge a fluid which has an especial affinity with the nervous system, which can emanate from one individual, pass into another, and accumulate in virtue of particular affinities, more in certain parts than in others.

"We admit the existence of a fluid, the subtraction of which lessens, and the accumulation augments, the power of the nerves, which places one part of the system in repose, and heightens the activity of another; which therefore may produce an artificial Somnambulism.

"We should in general regard the magnetic fluid as a great exciter of the nerves, able to produce favourable or injurious effects in diseases, and like other fluids subject to certain laws, the knowledge of which must be the basis of manipulation. It must, therefore, always be a very important object to the naturalist, provided he guard against his own illusions and those of others."

Whether the first successes of my visitors will induce them to "go and do likewise," I cannot tell, but I know, that one medical man, at least, has gone and done so, and with as much effect as myself, I hear.

It is to be hoped, that he will not long hide his light under a bushel.

ANOTHER MEDICAL INVESTIGATION.

August 18th.—I thought that, having chronicled the mesmeric success of my medical visitors on the 11th instant, I had terminated my task for the present. Dr. Bedford however paid me an accidental visit yesterday, and spent the day in experimenting at his discretion in both my Hospitals. As his proceedings bear upon many of the facts related by me regarding his first visit with his friends, I beg to be allowed to add this postscript to my former narrative.

I requested Dr. B. to satisfy himself if the woman Alunga had pain in any part of her body. On being asked, she said there was acute pain in one heel, and Dr. B. spent a long time in testing the reality of its existence. He at last said, that he was convinced there was considerable pain in that spot. I then passed my fingers over the part for a minute, and grasped the heel as firmly as I could, and she declared the pain had vanished; and Dr. B. allowed that it had. He then looked at her steadily, and in a few minutes developed the mesmeric delirium, and desire to sleep-walk, always produced in this woman if the influence is not quickly concentrated upon her; the other symptoms, tremor of the eye-lids, inability to open them when closed, and the mesmeric trance all followed in due course.

The woman Nobee was placed by him against the wall for twenty minutes, and left leaning against it without any one being on the other side. At the end of this time, when desired to get up, she did so with a bewildered, alarmed look and manner; she was in a state of excessive mental alarm, crying bitterly, and perspiring profusely; but there was no specific mesmeric symptom, and I succeeded in tranquillising her by merely speaking kindly to her, and restored her to perfect self-possession. I now said to Dr. B. that he might try the effects of direct influence upon her; these are, the sealing of her eye-lids, the impossibility of opening them, and consequently great distress and uncertainty on being made

to walk ; this state can be induced by five minutes of real mesmerisation through the wall, or by gazing. She was sitting in a chair, and he placed himself directly in front of her, and regarded her attentively (I forget if he pointed at her) for a few minutes, when her eyes closed, and no effort on her part, or his, could open them till they were demesmerised in the usual way.

The woman Gendo next fell under his observation. The ulcer on this woman's temple was covered with muriatic acid by Dr. Finch on the 11th instant, with the results already related. Dr. B. asked leave to apply the acid to her when awake ; and whatever I might think of such a proposal, I consented. The end of the glass-stopper wetted with the acid was applied once or twice, and the woman for a few seconds shewed none of the instinctive movements of acute pain. There could be no mistake about it—she was found out, and I confess that I felt considerably obfuscated, and not relieved from my thick-coming fancies by Dr. B. suggesting, that "*she was probably a naturally insensible person.*" I began to think the Arch-Deceiver was at the bottom of it after all ; and that having set a snare and delusion for me, he was now laughing at my beard. Then again, I thought of complaining to the Medical Board against the Apothecary General for furnishing such asses' milk as mineral acids for the public service—when lo ! I was roused from my trance of bewilderment by hearing the woman complain, that we had "put pepper on her head ;" and her actions corresponded with such an idea, for she sat up shewing she was in great pain, and immediately after declared her head was on fire ; got out of bed, and walked distractedly about the room in great agony. I ordered her head to be fomented to soothe her ; Dr. B. saying, that "he had done more than he intended." The defective sensibility that had nearly compromised my mesmeric surgical operations, and the honesty of my patients and the Company's acids, was simply a film of insensible lymph that adhered to the surface of the sore, and protected,

for a moment, the nerves below.* As the most effectual means of assuaging the poor woman's sufferings, I desired the Durwan, who is her mesmeriser, to endeavour to throw her into the trance; this he succeeded in doing, and I took the occasion to pare off some tubercles around the sore that prevented it from healing: she moved a little, and put her hand to her ear; but immediately after became quite tranquil. In about half an hour I awoke her with very great difficulty, that Dr. B. might see her awake, and hear her first words; which were, that she knew nothing about what we were talking of, she had even forgotten being burned; shewing the same invasion of the waking by the sleeping state, that I recorded in the case of Mrs. C. Dr. B. then gave plain water to all the men in Hospital, who had, and who had not been mesmerised. After a short time, he said, "there is a fellow beginning to tremble already;" (the man had been operated on the day before in the mesmeric sleep, without knowing it) I turned to look, and without going near him said, "Yes! with fever," and so it was the Doctor found. The trembling of the eyelids, and sometimes of the whole body when the person is mesmerised standing, and which is mistaken for fear, and every thing but the truth, is an indication of the incipient loss of voluntary controul over the muscular system, and speedily passes into the mesmeric catalepsy. No other symptom was elicited by the water.

I observed, without remark, singular inferences being apparently drawn regarding this woman's powers of endurance, natural insensibility, or the weakness of the acid, on the 11th instant. Half an hour after Dr. Finch had covered the whole sore with the acid, she was awake, and the stopple of the bottle applied to the part without giving pain apparently. If red-hot iron had been applied to the part, the result would probably have been the same: the most effectual means had been used for killing the part and destroying its sensibility, and the success of the process seemed to excite surprise.

The fall in the pulse, and the abdominal respiration were thought to be easily explainable by the change from the standing to the lying posture—assisted of course by the muriatic acid, which will now take rank as a powerful anodyne and sedative, if freely applied to raw surfaces.

In the other Hospital, eight men who had never felt the influence, of mesmerism in any shape, were dosed with plain water, and shut up in a room by themselves for half an hour, and were found in "statu quo." Eight other men, similarly circumstanced, got mesmerised water with no more effect. So that the result of the water experiments was "Nil." When the person has become highly susceptible, I look with considerable confidence for decided effects from the mesmerised water. I have succeeded in affecting the system by it as the first agent; but this is extremely rare.*

Not being acquainted with my medical visitors, I know not their previous mental conditions, and with what feelings they commenced their course of practical experiments. If with a simple love of truth, and a sincere desire to acquire new information, I should think that I took the best mode of convincing them, and the public, and that the fact of having seen and done so much themselves would have the usual effects on their minds. But if any one came with the resolution of proving a fore-gone conclusion, and a determination to see imposture in every effect produced even by himself, then I took the most effectual means to harden him in unbelief,

"As a man convinced against his will
Is of the same opinion still."

If the members of the medical profession wish to see and understand the effects of mesmerism on the body, the natural and rational mode is to attempt to develop them themselves in their own patients; and if they will take one tithe of the trouble I have been at, I can promise them very general success. Then, the finest, as well as most striking symptoms will be equally diagnostic to their practised eye, and their understandings be left clear, and free to study and imitate the curative processes of nature, undisturbed by doubts and suspicions regarding the powers of observation, and the honesty of others.

*The men who slept at the public "Seance," had all been mesmerised.

The following hints for the formation of a rational belief in mesmerism may perhaps be of use beyond the precincts of the Hindoo College.

“ To Baboos —, —, —,

Students of the Hindoo College,

Calcutta.”

“ SIRs,—I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 16th instant, requesting me to go to Calcutta next Sunday to mesmerise one of you to satisfy the rest. I am sorry that I cannot comply with your wishes, for several reasons. ●

“ 1st. Because I have made it a rule not to mesmerise, except for philosophical and medical purposes.

“ 2nd. Conviction from the evidence of the senses is valueless, as the means of propagating a great truth interesting to the whole human race.

“ 3rd. Any thing that is worth knowing, is worth some trouble, and if you have any curiosity about the matter, I should expect you to come to me.

“ It would be extremely foolish in me to waste myself and the valuable gift I possess, in the gratification of a curiosity I do not participate in, even if I did not consider trifling with so formidable a power highly improper, and likely to lead to great evils, by placing it at the disposal of wicked and unworthy persons. No one thinks of experimenting on his fellows with opium, and mesmerism is more dangerous than opium, and like it, ought only to be administered by the physician. There is no merit in any one being converted to the truth by the evidence of his senses; for, if it were reasonable to withhold our belief till satisfied to this extent, every individual would be entitled to reject every fact not submitted to his own senses. A clown can believe what he has actually seen, but it is the privilege of reason to believe well attested facts, and adopt the conclusions deduced from them, although the facts may have been observed and the deductions drawn by our antipodes. One such rational conversion is worth

a thousand merely sensual ones, for its influence extends to reasoning minds all over the world.

“ In like manner, although I feel the personal compliment, I am very little gratified, as a lover of truth for its own sake, to be told by my friends, “ I believe it, because *you* say so.” This is a barren belief, and only extends to a small circle; our faith and opinions should be built upon a broader and sounder foundation than personal confidence in any one.

“ If you wish to know the truth of mesmerism, I would venture to recommend you to examine the evidence in support of it, as you would do in any other matter worth inquiring about; and I can confidently promise, that you will be richly rewarded, and I should think that you could not be better employed than in examining the matter on the spot, where the most ample materials exist for testing the truth or falsehood of the reported facts. Permit me to remind you, in the words of Bacon, “ that the inquiry of truth, which is the love-making, or wooing of it; the knowledge of truth, which is the presence of it; and the belief of truth, which is the enjoying of it; is the sovereign good of human nature.” And that this highest gratification of humanity can only be attained by carefully training and exercising our intellect, to which the senses are only handmaids.

I am your obedient servant,

J. ESDAILE.”

“ Hooghly, July 18th, 1845.

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