'These observations may prove interesting to the Entomologist and Insect Anatomist, and it is probable that some nice insect dissections may be made with the help of these injecting tubes.

P. S.—If these facts are worthy of your notice, and are not remote in their connection with the spirit of your Journal, you will confer a favor by giving them a place.

Yours truly,

Salem, June 30, 1836.

C. G. PAGE.

INSTITUTE OF FRANCE.

Academy of Sciences—Session of the 3d of August, 1835.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.—M. Dupotet read the Introduction of a Memoir on Animal Magnetism, which he defines: "*The property that organized and living bodies have to act upon each other, through certain laws not yet well known.*"

This faculty, says the author, so evident to those who made earnest investigations upon it, was always objected to by learned bodies, and rejected as a chimera, notwithstanding the efforts of a great number of distinguished men, who endeavored at various times to turn the mind of people towards so important a discovery. Yet, those who so acted in regard to animal magnetism, studied with ardor the phenomena of light, those of electricity and galvanism; they seem to have thoroughly investigated the nature of all those fluids foreign to "*vitality*," and the surprising effects of the "*vital fluid*" still continue to be strangers to them.

M. Dupotet recalled to his hearers the excitement produced in the scientific and medical world, when Mesmer, in 1784, proclaimed at Paris his new ideas, and the *report* that was made by the committee appointed by the king on the effects resulting from the practice. Although the conclusions of that report were not favorable to the use of magnetism as a curative means, yet the experiments were eagerly pursued, and there was reason to hope that some positive results would soon be obtained, when the Revolution broke out. Then the public mind was not only directed from scientific researches, to occupy itself with more urgent concerns; but even in a short time there was no longer in France any of the individuals whom Mesmer had initiated to his doctrine. Indeed, we should remember, this "*initiation*" was very expensive, so that the disciples, who previously must have paid a hundred Louis (four dollars in each), belonging to the highest class of society, had most of them emigrated."

It is not here the proper place to examine whether the presence of the "*grand seigneurs*" in France (noblemen), forwarded much this branch of our knowledge. Whatever it may be, as soon as tranquillity was a little re-established, experiments on animal magnetism were resumed. If the enthusiasm, says M. Dupotet, was not so ardent and quick at this second apparition, it was, however, more durable. The facts were examined with less prevention, and some discoveries, partly acci-

dental, having brought great alterations into the proceedings used to produce the phenomena, the study of them had no longer anything to cause people to shrink from it. Scientific men, moreover, generally continued to manifest, even in presence of the facts, a very great indifference, and often invoked the old report of the committee of the academy, a report that most of them had not even read, and which, after all, could not be properly applied to the new face with which the question presented itself. Therefore, it was between the hands of persons, strangers to science, that animal magnetism made progress. It has now reached such a point as to allow scientific men to get the knowledge of it without departing at all from the plan usually followed by them in the sciences of observation, which constitute the ordinary subject of their researches ;—and I come to-day and propose to make them witness some experiments that seem to me calculated to convince them.

If, pursues Dr. Dupotet, I have not been deceived by the numerous phenomena that I have witnessed, and myself produced, they furnish the proof that our brain can, through the medium of the nerves, dispose of a peculiar physical force which has not yet been appreciated, and that this force, directed upon an individual organized as we are, is able to produce on his organization some physical phenomena, always appreciable—phenomena that are manifested only when the cause is acting, and are suspended as soon as it ceases to act.

This agent seems to me as producing a true saturation of the nervous system of the individual who receives it ; for, the effects do not instantaneously take place ;—a certain length of time is necessary to produce them. They manifest themselves by jolts that are renewed at intervals more or less distant. These motions are altogether automatic ; the person who experiences them is not conscious of it ; he is entirely a stranger to their manifestation ; his will cannot play any part therein, and I require as a necessary condition for the success of that experiment, only a passive state on the part of the individual acted upon.

The experiments alluded to, can be made at any hour of the day, and the places in which they can be multiplied are numerous, for we shall experiment on young children, and in easy circumstances, that I will let you know. *“The experiments that I propose to do, cannot be confounded with any of those that have been tried or proposed to obtain the proof of the existence of animal magnetism ; they are entirely different, and belong to me exclusively.”*

A committee was appointed by the Academy to attend the experiments announced by Dr. Dupotet. This committee is composed of Messrs. DULONG, MAGENDIE, SERRES, DOUBLE and ROUX.

The preceding article is an account of a seance of the Academy of Sciences of August, 1835. It may be considered as a document in favor of animal magnetism, and as a proof of its gaining more and more interest with the scientific world of Europe. It was extracted from the *Journal Hebdomadaire des Progrès et Institutions Medicales*, published at Paris by Prof. Bouillaud, Vedal and Forget.

CH. POYEN.

Boston, July, 1836.