

repairer, methodical wise, are solely due to the ignifying element, and the renowned charcoal beans assimilation, by the plausible reason, that the sapientipotent physical trisnegistis, notwithstanding his unexemplified idolization for the Arabian vegetative production, the consistent patron authentically acknowledged the grains of the berry to be most notorious for their offensive and poisonous nature."

Will any presume to gainsay such logic? None but "prejudiced men and smatterers." Will any one ask for other demonstration? I would not give him other, if demonstrations were as plenty as blackberries.

P. S. The extraordinary coincidence in sentiment, language, mode of reasoning and conclusions in regard to dietetics, and particularly the poisonous nature of coffee, between Mr. Graham and the renowned DOCTOR SYLVAN, alias RAINWATER, is one of those surprising cases, of which there is an occasional instance in the history of individuals in other countries, distinguished for originality of genius.

A querist whispers in my ear a doubt, whether S. GRAHAM might not have been the pupil of DOCTOR SYLVAN, as he must have commenced his "twenty years" of severe physiological and psychological researches about the period and near the place wherein the "sapientipotent" RAINWATER flourished in his most resplendent glory. Perhaps, Mr. Editor, you can inform your readers as to the fact. Possibly, suggests my querist, Mr. Graham may be appropriating to his own behoof the labors and discoveries which belong to his most illustrious *prototype*, "patron and promoter," and which were bequeathed to the public in the inimitable treatise on "the dictical abstinence" about twenty-four years since. Was not S. GRAHAM pupil and heir of the RAINWATER glory?

#### ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

[Communicated for the Boston Medical and Surgical Journal.]

THOSE who attended my last lecture in this city, on Animal Magnetism, will recollect that in finishing, I pronounced the following words:— "These facts (the magnetical phenomena) have been produced, and are every day repeated, in almost every part of continental Europe. I have seen them also produced, and in a manner still more surprising, in the French West Indies. They have been witnessed and confirmed by men of the highest rank and merit. Therefore, from analogy, I say, and positively affirm, that they ought to be produced in this country, and they certainly shall be produced one day or other, by making proper experiments; for, those facts are but the natural consequence of certain faculties of human organization. Now human organization is pretty nearly the same everywhere, and absolutely the same under the same latitude. If the magnetical phenomena have manifested themselves in Germany, Prussia, France, &c. they undoubtedly will be manifested in the United States of America, and soon we shall see that important truth as fairly demonstrated here as it is now in Europe."

I am happy, Mr. Editor, to announce to the medical public, that my assertions are now fully confirmed, and prove, by indisputable facts, to

have been founded on a right reasoning. The magnetical phenomena, since I have finished lecturing on this subject, have been exhibited many times in several individuals; they have been witnessed by respectable persons, and although the effects produced were not yet very striking and convincing, still none of those who witnessed them could help acknowledging that there is, *as they say*, "something true in magnetism." But, I announce to the public that these phenomena may be now exhibited in such a degree of evidence as to oblige the most sceptical to exclaim, "*it is true, I believe.*" The following case will explain what I mean.

I was called on the 20th of this month, to a lady, Mrs. R—; living at No. 54 Belknap Street, who wished to have magnetism tried upon her. Mrs. R— is a woman 52 years of age, of a lymphatic temperament, nervous, with a strong predominance of the nervous system. She told me she was affected four or five years since with the tic douloureux in her back, and a rheumatic complaint, which occupied all the inferior part of the trunk, that is, the two hips, the lower part of the vertebral column, and the adjacent muscles. These affections were complicated with a chronic complaint of the liver. Several physicians had attended her, and drugs were not spared; but all was in vain. Mrs. R— suffered more and more, and for several days previous to my visit, was confined to her chamber. She had not slept a wink for two nights. When I entered her room, I found her on a rocking chair, in the most excruciating pains. She had almost continual spasmodic fits, which ran from the inferior part of the spinal marrow and the lower part of the abdomen up to the stomach, the diaphragm and the region of the heart, and kept her in the greatest state of distress. Mrs. L—, her friend, who was present, confirmed everything said by her, and added, that she, Mrs. R—, had been unable to stir and go down for three days.

After examination, I thought the case a proper one for the application of magnetism. Being not able myself to magnetize, owing to a weakened and disordered nervous system, I brought with me, to Mrs. R—'s room, a countryman of mine, M. Bugard, a teacher of the French language in this city, who is enjoying a full health, and to whom I had communicated the knowledge of the magnetical process. M. B. had already practised upon me two or three times. I had felt his action, and judged from that he would be a good magnetizer. I might say here, before going any further, that Mrs. R— and her friends were utterly ignorant of animal magnetism, even of the meaning of the word, and I have constantly kept them since in the same ignorance about it.

Mrs. R— has been magnetized six times, on the 20th, 22d, 24th, 26th, 27th, and 29th inst. As I intend giving a lecture soon upon animal magnetism, in which I shall relate all the particulars in regard to those various sittings, I will content myself with mentioning here, in general terms, the most important phenomena. At the first course of operation, the patient slept two hours, and felt sensibly relieved by it. At the second operation, she slept all the night, viz. from 10 o'clock in the evening until 7 or 8 the next day. She began to be so well, that she was able to go down and attend to her housework. She said that she felt especially relieved from her palpitations of heart. (I was not yet

aware of the existence of that other complaint in her.) At the third sitting, she showed the first symptoms of somnambulism. She could hear perfectly well, and answered by monosyllables, in a low voice. In the fourth and fifth sittings, she manifested a very remarkable degree of somnambulism. The chief phenomena we observed in these two last courses of operation were the following. 1st.—The patient could hear nobody else but the magnetizer, to whom she answered, even when he spoke to her in a low voice. 2d.—The insensibility of the external senses. The somnambule remained insensible to the severest trial exercised upon her; such as pinching her feet and hands, puncturing her skin with a pin, blowing the smoke of tobacco into her nose, burning bits of candle-paper under her nose, speaking loud to her, clapping our hands before her ear, shaking her arms and legs, and she did not stir a single time. 3d.—The complete forgetfulness, when awaked, of what she had said, and what was told or happened to be heard during her sleep. She already felt so well, that she spoke of setting out on a journey to Beverly, near Salem, on particular business.

I now arrive at this morning's sitting (29th inst.). I will particularly describe what took place in that sitting, for it was intended to be a scientific examination of the case, by some respectable medical gentlemen of this city. This examination, I say by the way, we had deferred until this moment—wishing to have the patient thoroughly under the magnetical influence, before showing her to any person whatever. Judging, then, that it was time to have such an examination made, we invited Drs. Winslow Lewis, G. B. Doane, Samuel G. Howe, J. V. C. Smith, and H. Kimball, to resort to the patient's house at about 10 o'clock in the forenoon. Of the five gentlemen above mentioned, two could not come, being detained elsewhere by some previous engagement. We found the patient already prepared and waiting for us in her apartment. Being asked how she felt, she answered, pretty nicely. Dr. Lewis asked her several questions concerning her complaints, and the treatment she had been following. Both from her answers and her whole appearance, it was evident that Mrs. R—— was a plain, sincere, and candid woman, knowing nothing of magnetism, except the good she had already received from it. We asked her whether she had slept well last night: she answered she had slept but very little. Before commencing the operation, Dr. Lewis touched her pulse—it was 96 a minute. The operator commenced at twenty-five minutes past 10; in the course of twenty minutes she appeared very drowsy; sighed several times, coughed a little; we noticed some slight motions of the muscles of the face. Finally she closed her eyelids, at ten minutes before 11. The operation had been disturbed two or three times by the coming in and going out of several persons, and also by an almost continual noise in the street and on the stairs of the house. At this moment Dr. Doane was introduced into the apartment. Drs. Lewis and Kimball touched her pulse, and found that the number of pulsations had come down to 76, 20 less than when the operation commenced. Mons. Bugard asked her several questions about her present feeling, and the state of her health—she answered in a low voice, but very distinctly to the surrounding persons. Drs. Lewis,

Doane and Kimball asked her also several questions, but received no answer. The patient being not in relation with them, could not hear what they said. M. Bugard asked her whether she liked the smell of tobacco. She answered that she could not bear it; that tobacco made her very sick. Then Dr. Doane, at my invitation, said to her, in a loud voice, "Mrs. R—, M. Poyen is going to burn a cigar under your nose;" but the patient did not stir—she had not heard. I lighted up a cigar, filled my mouth with smoke, and blew it into her nose. I also held the cigar, while smoking, before her face—she felt nothing. I clapped my hands twice, and Dr. Kimball moved with much noise a piece of furniture behind her head. We kept talking and moving about her, but she remained quietly sleeping, nothing disturbed her. But Dr. Kimball having clapped his hands twice at her ear, she moved her head and complained a little, as a person struck by a sudden and unexpected noise. The magnetizer asked her what it was. She answered, "a cracker." In the meanwhile I put a bit of blazing paper under her nose; but we noticed that she breathed the smoke, and yet did not stir. The magnetizer passed his hands before her face, with a strong intention to calm her and keep on the state of somnambulism; she exclaimed—"Oh! what a light!" M. B. "A light?" "Yes, a light; it dazzles me." M. B. "How does that light shine?" "Like the sun." M. B. "Do you see it still?" "Yes, before my face." We were all in amazement, and I particularly was struck with the coincidence of that phenomenon, manifested in this country, in a person quite ignorant of magnetism, with what had been observed in the somnambules of Europe. M. B. carried his hand down to the abdomen. "Do you see now that light?" "No, it is gone." M. B. brought again his hand before the face. The somnambule exclaimed, "here it is again." M. B. "How do you like it?" "I don't like it, it dazzles me." M. B. "Do you see my hand?" "No." "Do you feel it?" "Yes, very well." "How do you feel it?" "Warm, very warm." M. B. then takes his hand away, and the somnambule says again, "The light is gone." Dr. Lewis speaks to her, but obtains no answer. The magnetizer takes Dr. Lewis's hand and puts it in the somnambule's—with a *desire* that she may hear and answer him. Dr. Lewis spoke again to her, and she soon answered him, but rather low. Dr. Kimball placed a silver pencil case upon her face, but she felt nothing. Then holding it at about three or four inches distant from her eyes, M. B. asked her whether she sees something? She answers, "yes." "What is it?" "A piece of silver,"—and her eyes were perfectly closed. But here is a phenomenon still more surprising. I suggested to the magnetizer the idea of convulsing a limb by directing his fingers, at several inches distant, towards that limb. The somnambule could not by any means understand what I said, for I spoke to M. B. in French. Agreeably to my suggestion, M. B. stretched his two fingers towards the right hand, at about two or three inches distant, and immediately the limb was seized with convulsive motions, slight at first, but increasing with such an intensity that the patient could not keep her arm in place. Drs. Lewis and Kimball tried the same experiment, but unsuccessfully. I directed my two fingers towards the same hand, and

it was set to convulsions. Dr. Doane tried after me, and appeared to produce also some effect. A few minutes after, Dr. Lewis, in order to prevent all deception, put a book before the patient's eyes, and told me, *by signs*, to convulse the hand. I directed my fingers, and the whole arm was so much agitated that the patient complained, and moved her whole body, with an expression of intense suffering on her face. M. B. magnetized her and put her to a quiet repose. Wherever he carried his hands, the pain was taken away as by charm.

Such are the most interesting particulars of this morning's sitting—all which, as I said, was witnessed by Drs. Lewis, Doane and Kimball, and Mrs. L., the somnambule's friend. The patient was awaked at about 12 o'clock. Being asked how long she had been sleeping, she answered that she had been resting twelve or fifteen minutes at the longest. She had not the least recollection of what she had said or suffered during the operation.

CHARLES POYEN.

Boston, March 29, 1836.

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### A MANUAL OF MIDWIFERY.\*

If ever an author exerted physical strength, to say nothing of mental effort, to manufacture a book, Michael Ryan, M.D. member of more learned societies than many other savans on the globe, is the man. In order to make a plain subject as obscure as possible, he possesses the happy fact, with little exertion, for accomplishing whatever he undertakes in that way. To begin—a new nomenclature is introduced, more difficult to pronounce than the vernacular language of an aboriginal tribe on the Withlachcooche, who used seven trisyllables to express the number two. The book is an American reprint, well executed—having 520 pages, octavo—and purports to have been published at Burlington. Chapter I. is entitled Gynæcotomy, or History of Women. Next follows Gynæcophysiology, which is divided into something worse, viz. Parthenosology, or Diseases of Nubility—Encyonosology—Lochionosology—and Paidonosology! Not to be thought wanting, however, in the coinage of elegant and expressive terms, this voracious areopagite, instead of using the homely and well understood name of Cæsarean operation, introduces in its stead the euphonious word Gastrohysterotomia—and so on, through oceans of equally incomprehensible scholastic jargon. Before leaving this modern Babel, we cannot resist a provoking inclination to copy the newest technic for instrumental parturition, viz. Organikotocia—to which may be appended Chiragotocia, should the labor, by any accident, necessarily terminate manually.

When science comes to this sad pass, and common sense is driven

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\* A Manual of Midwifery, or Compendium of Gynæcology and Paidonosology, comprising a new Nomenclature of Obstetrical Medicine, with a concise account of the Symptoms and Treatment of the most important Diseases of Women and Children, and the management of the various forms of Parturition. By Michael Ryan, M.D. &c. &c. First American, from the third London Edition. Burlington: Smith & Harrington. 1835.