removed at each succeeding operation, after which the child suffered from a severe attack of influenza, which evidently hastened the fatal termination.

This case appeared materially benefitted for a time after each operation, the position of the eyes was much improved, and the little patient appeared more cheerful. Although the accumulation of fluid was so considerable the child never became convulsed; the imperfect ossification would probably account for this, which rendered the containing parts more yielding, and consequently produced less compression of the brain. On a *post-mortem* examination a vast quantity of fluid was found at the base of the brain and in the lateral sinuses, the brain being remarkably soft and flabby.

CASES OF NERVOUS DISORDERS TREATED BY MESMERISM.

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Read before the Bath and Bristol Branch of the Association.

THE subject of mesmerism having been recently brought before the notice of this Association I have thought it right to make public the results of a few carefully-recorded observations solely as to its curative agency; for while I am of opinion that it is highly reprehensible to have recourse to it by way of experiment on healthy individuals, it surely is worth inquiry whether we are justified in resorting to it where grave disease exists, incurable by what have hitherto been considered more legitimate means.

CASE I.—H. B., aged 20 years, was attacked with typhus fever in 1842, being then 12 years of age. I attended her constantly for eight weeks, during the last two weeks of which period she was comatose, much emaciated, and taking no nourishment. From this state she slowly rallied, but then became almost idiotic, and the subject of severe and frequent epileptic attacks. From time to time I prescribed for her the usual remedies, and she was subjected to long courses of iron, zinc, and arsenic, but the fits recurred as frequently, and with more severity than at first; and in the summer of last year I determined to put mesmerism to the test, and accordingly mesmerized her once or twice a-week; and, finding that they recurred less frequently, I attended to her daily for a month; at the end of that time her appetite was much improved, the sallowness of her countenance had disappeared; she was, in fact, in robust health. She has been free from fits for nine months; and, although she has been suffering from dyspepsia, the result of a more sedentary life than was her wont, there has been no return of the distressing malady, and she is now quite well.

CASE II.—R. H., aged 12 years, was frightened by a rat in the dark, and immediately had epilepsy. She is intelligent, of active industrious habits, and was in service as a nurse girl. Her fits occurred as frequently as thirty times a day, according to her mother's state-

ment. I saw her frequently when convulsed. With her also I tried the usual remedies, and then commenced mesmerism, but as she lived some distance from my house I found it inconvenient to see her more than three or four times a week, and it was not until she was able to attend at my house daily that she derived much benefit, but after three weeks' tolerably regular attendance the fits ceased to recur. I immediately discontinued mesmerism, and she has ever since (eight months ago) been in good health.

CASE III.—John Humphreys, aged 40, a gardener, had been addicted to intemperate habits for many years, but from the influence of religious impressions had discontinued beer-drinking for a week. He was then attacked with delirium tremens. I gave him from 40 to 60 drops of Tinct. Opii. every four hours, without producing sleep or affording relief. I had attended him three days, when one morning his wife sent to say that he was worse. I was unable to see him till the evening, when I found that the Tinct. Opii. had produced no sleep the previous night; he had taken *none* during the day, having had none sent; and he was in a state of great anxiety and excitement. I requested him to sit down, and, after half-an-hour, succeeded in producing sleep. He was then assisted to bed, and slept soundly the whole of the night, and in the morning went to his work, apparently quite cured, but two days after the delirium returned, probably from his refusing to take his accustomed stimulus. Hearing that he was worse, I called upon him in the afternoon, and found him standing leaning on his elbow on the window-sill, and singing most loudly "Hallelujah," &c., which, after a time, he changed to the Evening Hymn. I waited till he came to the words—"Sleep, that may me more active make," and then stopped him to request him to act up to the spirit of his hymn, but he would persist in singing the verse out, and again repeating it, when I insisted upon his sitting down. After a few passes he attempted to shake off his drowsiness, and told me with great difficulty and inarticulately that he was just awaked from death to the life everlasting, and was afraid if he went to sleep he should awake in *hell*. I continued the passes a short time longer, and left him asleep. He continued to sleep till supper time, passed a good night, and awoke in the morning well. He has been in good health ever since. I should have said that previous to the attack of delirium tremens he was very subject to dyspepsia.

In conclusion, I have no theory to offer with respect to the *modus operandi* of the passes, I believe that diseases may occasionally be cured by the sleep which is produced! neither have I any remarks to offer as to what are usually termed the higher phenomena, having had no practical experience in that respect; neither have I time or inclination for the practice of mesmerism, excepting in extreme cases. In those I have resorted to it as a test of its truth, and I feel bound to say have been much gratified with it as a means of cure in suitable cases.

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