7. That the sleep produced by mesmerism does not differ from that which appears spontaneously in nervous persons.

8. That in consequence of the direct communication with the brain of numerous nerves belonging to the eyes and their appendages, it is very probable that a constrained and unusual position of the eyes for a considerable time, may induce various degrees of nervous somnolence, thus explaining Mr. Braid's method of mesmerising without making passes, by having the eyes long fixed on an object above them, while passes before the eyes may have a similar influence.

9. That artificial sleep in no degree depends upon any power, energy, or fluid, or physical influence, proceeding from the mesmeriser, but is occasioned either by an impression upon the mind of the patient that some effects will supervene, or by the effect upon the nervous system, caused by a fixed position or stare of the eyes.

10. That it is probable some persons oppressed by nervous sleep, feel so confused as readily to believe themselves in some extraordinary state, (especially when previously convinced that an unusual condition of the system is likely to ensue,) and in this state are ready to follow any suggestion of their mesmeriser.

11. That no person can be mesmerised at a distance, or without a knowledge or suspicion that something has been done, or is about to be done, from which effects are expected to follow.

12. That full credit may safely be given to any of the cures reported to have been effected by mesmerism, as equally remarkable recoveries, where strong faith exists in the remedies, and where the imagination is impressed, may be adduced from medical records; and where artificial sleep can be induced it is reasonable to suppose that soothing effects would ensue.

13. That although it is probable the nervous drowsiness produced artificially may be accompanied by a degree of insensibility to external impressions, so that pain is not acutely felt, (which is known to be the case in natural attacks of coma,) yet the recorded instances of severe operations having been performed without exciting pain, are so rare, and the evidence in favour of their reality, so far from being entirely satisfactory, that they do not encourage surgeons to expect any benefit to their patients from this source. At the same time, if patients who are to be submitted to operations have faith in mesmerism, and are desirous of trying it, and persons are at hand who have no conscientious scruples in practising it, there does not seem sufficient reason for forbidding a trial of the experiment.

14. That what is called *trac­tion*, (an apparent power the mesmeriser has of drawing the patient after him,) *community of sensation*, (the patient's feeling or tasting from impressions made alone upon the sense of touch and the tongue of the mesmeriser,) obedience of the patient to the will of the mesmeriser, may, in some instances, arise without any intentional deceit on the part of the patient, being induced while he is in a semi-conscious state by the observed suggestions of the mesmeriser; but that they never arise without some suggestion, and that in the majority of cases the exhibitions of these phenomena are willing imposture on the part of the patients, the mesmerisers, if respectable persons, being duped by the patients.

15. That "clairvoyance," in all its forms,—reading without the use of the eyes or touch, "the instinct of remedies," "mental travelling," "phreno-mesmerism," &c., &c., rest upon no satisfactory evidence. That in the somnambulant state, some individuals may have their imaginations unnaturally excited, and may make rather remarkable observations, or a disposition to cunning or deceit, which is known to attend this nervous condition when not artificially induced, may exist, thus freeing them from the charge of intentional duplicity, but that, in the greater number of those cases, the phenomena are the result of wilful imposture, sometimes on the part of the patient only, in others of both mesmeriser and patient.

16. That ordinarily persons, exemplifying what are called, "the higher phenomena of mesmerism," are not of that description whose education, intelligence, station in society, and moral character, would place them above the suspicion of deceiving themselves or others, but are generally selected from those who might be expected to derive a personal interest from the exhibition, or who at least would be likely to have their vanity gratified by the circumstances and society into which they have been introduced.

17. That the assertion of mesmerisers, that it is necessary to awaken their patients from the artificial sleep, by which is called the demesmerization, and the modes employed for this purpose, throw much suspicion upon the reality of the apparent sleep.

And lastly, that there is no *occult* influence possessed by one animal body over another; that mesmeric effects follow from sensible impressions, by influencing through the senses, the moral and physical state of the subject; and that the imagination alone, if not always equal to producing the effects, does so in some cases.

As regards the progress mesmerism has made during the last year in this country, I am of opinion that it has found its way into drawing-rooms more than it had ever done before, but that the ground on which alone it can have a permanent foundation in public estimation, has been rather weakened than rendered more substantial.

Gentlemen,—I have trespassed too long upon your time in speaking of this subject, but it is one which must occasionally be forced upon our attention, and as I have had some opportunities of examining into it, it occurred to me that the result of my observations, if not interesting to the meeting, might not be altogether devoid of use.

CASE OF POISONING BY PRUSSIC ACID: RECOVERY.

By THOMAS NUNNELEY, Esq.,

Surgeon to the Leeds Eye and Ear Infirmary, and Lecturer on Anatomy in the Leeds School of Medicine.

Late on Monday night I was sent for to Kirkstall, to see a young gentleman who had been taken seriously ill. When I got there, about half an hour after midnight, I was informed that shortly after the messenger had been sent for me, a man who resided at the next house had taken prussic acid; that Mr. Bishop, who is a very respectable young medical man, recently settled in the village, had shortly after seen him, and had acted so promptly and judi-

ciously that he was now coming round. I was, however, requested by Mr. Bishop to see the man. I found him in bed perfectly sensible, the limbs natural, the pulse about 60, the heart pulsating regularly, but somewhat laboriously; the eyes not unnatural, but injected, perhaps a little prominent, and the pupils rather dilated. He was able to give me a detailed and perfectly natural account of the whole transaction, and of his feelings to the time of becoming insensible. This he repeated to me the next day, and the different parts of it were so confirmed by different persons, that there cannot be any doubt of its accuracy.

The party is about 40 years of age, a book-keeper in a large iron-forge establishment, and by no means one of the most abstemious men. I made out that during the afternoon and evening he had taken not much less than three pints of beer, and at least one glass of brandy; but all agree that he was not intoxicated; and it appears this quantity is not more than is usually taken by him. He had read the account of Tawell's trial, and had been so much interested by hearing that a great number of dogs had been poisoned by prussic acid, that he thought he would give some to a cat and to a rabbit. Accordingly he got three-pennyworth during the evening from a druggist in the village, with this pretence, for such I regard it, although he still says that he had intended it for this purpose; but considering the very cool manner in which he took it himself, and the fact of his wife having often been afraid of his destroying himself, there can be little doubt of self-destruction being at the time in his thoughts.

About half-past eleven o'clock his wife retired to bed, in which there was a little girl, five or six years old, already placed. The man, after some hesitation, left the room, and went into an adjoining one; he was followed by his wife, who tells me that she had the idea he was about to cut his throat with a razor; of this she accused him, when he promised her that he would neither harm himself nor any one else, but get quietly into bed.

This satisfied her, and she lay down again, being followed into the room by him. He then undressed himself by the bed-side; when quite ready for getting into it, he passed round to the other side where his daughter was, kissed her, and told her she would soon not have any father, returned to his own side of the bed, and nearly filled a wine glass with common gin; emptied the bottle containing the hydrocyanic acid into the glass, corked the bottle, and laid it down upon the chimney-piece, (which was very near to the bed,) drank off the contents of the glass which he set down, then threw down the bed-clothes, and got into it,* covering himself up with them. He now said to his wife, "Well Bessy, I have taken something, and it will be all over with me in a few minutes." Though awake, she had not noticed his taking the acid, but this speech, in conjunction with her previous suspicions, alarmed

her; she immediately jumped out of bed, and ran screaming to the door. When she left the bed, the child, who was frightened, crept to its father, and said to him, as he informs me, for no one else was in the room, "Father, don't leave me," to which he replied, putting his arms round it, "No, my dear, I won't leave you." He now perceived his jaws becoming stiff, and crammed the sheet between his teeth, thinking, he says, he should like something to hold by: he felt his jaws becoming stiffer and tighter, which is all he was conscious of until the water was dashed in his face, when he raised up, and to his surprise, found several persons round the bed. He had no idea of how long he had been in the unconscious state; and says there was not any pain until the water was dashed upon his face; the sensation he then felt, he says, was most awful, but he cannot describe it.

His wife remained out of the room until a man came to her assistance, which, as he was at some little distance, I conclude to have been about two minutes from the time the poison was taken; certainly not less, and perhaps more. They entered the room together, and she states her husband was then lying upon his back insensible, breathing hard, the eyes wide open and staring, the face "black red." The person who entered with her says he was lying as though in a fit, on seeing which he immediately started off for Mr. Bishop, who returned with him, and reached the house, as nearly as can be estimated, in ten minutes after the poison had been swallowed. Mr. Bishop informs me, that at this time he was foaming at the mouth; the face was rather pale than otherwise, and that it was covered with large drops of sweat; the arms were rigid, the hands being half extended. He tried to administer some solution of sulphate of zinc, but could not, owing to the jaws being so firmly closed. Mr. Bishop then dashed cold water over the head and neck immediately; with the first dash the man raised up, and became sensible; ammonia was now rubbed over the hands, the smell of which he quickly perceived, and tells me he felt better for it, and the sulphate of zinc given; vomiting speedily followed, the matter ejected smelling strongly of hydrocyanic acid. About a pint of blood was next taken from the arm. In this I could not detect any smell of hydrocyanic acid. Mr. Bishop however said that he thought the blood, when first abstracted, did give off the odour of the acid, but as this was by the side of the bed where the man lay, and had just vomited, I am inclined to think in reality the odour arose from this, rather than from the blood. The blood was of a muddy red brick cast; the following day it had coagulated as usual; perhaps the crassimentum was not quite so firm as usual, but still distinctly separated from the serum. I sent the blood to Mr. West for his analysis. He informs me, that after using every care, he did not find the least trace of hydrocyanic acid in it.

The quantity of acid taken was forty minims. The bottle, a half-ounce one, was quite empty, with the cork in it, upon the chimney-piece. On asking the man the quantity he had taken, he pointed with his finger to the place in the phial to which the acid reached; and on enquiring of the druggist who had sold it the quantity he had given, he said he had not measured it, but he pointed with his finger to the exact spot the

* I asked the man if he got into bed in the same manner as usual, or if he fell into it. He says just as usual. His wife says that she thought he came down upon his shoulder, as though he was hurried or confused. He, however, says, that he did not, and that he was quite as conscious as he ever was, only that he thought it was all over with him, and that he had not many minutes to live; and the woman admits that on any other occasion she would not have noticed any thing particular in his manner of getting into bed.

man had previously, without his knowledge, done, to show how far he had filled the bottle. On measuring, it was found to contain exactly forty minims, which quantity there can be no doubt was swallowed. The druggist's acid was labelled Scheele's, which he believed it to be; but knowing from the case which had recently occurred to me, and which is recorded in the *Journal* of July 30th, that this was not a guarantee of the actual strength, I requested to be furnished with some of it in order to try its effects upon dogs, as well as to obtain Mr. West's analysis of it. I ascertained that twenty minims were sufficient to destroy dogs. A small half-grown mongrel dog was dead in two minutes and a half after having swallowed twenty minims; and a full-sized terrier bitch in one minute after the same quantity had been given. Since then Mr. West has found the actual strength of the acid to be three and a quarter per cent. of real acid. The man had, therefore, taken nearly one grain and a half of real anhydrous prussic acid, which is probably as large a quantity, if not larger, than any recorded as having been taken and recovered from.

This case, like the previous one, is sufficient to show the continuance of perfect consciousness for some time after the poison has been taken. It might be worth while to enquire what share the remedies had in restoring the man, and what value these or other means possess; but I forbear to enter upon this just at present, as from an extended series of experiments which I instituted, and intend shortly to lay before the profession, I shall be in a better position to show not only the quantity of hydrocyanic acid which is required to destroy life, as well as the effects of it in different doses, but also to ascertain the value and importance of different remedies.

CASE OF FATAL HÆMOPTYSIS IN A CHILD AGED FOUR YEARS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PROVINCIAL MEDICAL AND
SURGICAL JOURNAL.

SIR,

You may perhaps think the following account of fatal hæmoptysis in a child worthy of acceptance, in consequence of the unfrequent occurrence of such cases. The patient was a little boy who was brought to this place from a distant county, and placed under my care. I give the statement of his symptoms as it was written down in my note book at the first examination, forbearing to add anything from memory, or to lengthen out the description by the progressive detail of symptoms or treatment.

March 30th, 1845. Master Q., aged four years. His family said to be scrofulous; ample cerebral development and great quickness of intellect; hair light and soft; eyes dark blue; features long and pointed. Has been ill four months, previously to which he is said to have been a healthy child; brought from a locality described as cold and damp.

Present symptoms:—Great emaciation and loss of strength; skin pale; tongue nearly clean; but preternaturally red; orifices of nostrils red and ulcerated, and he is often, almost constantly, picking them. Never known to have passed worms; lymphatic glands in the neck enlarged; abdomen hard, enlarged, and tympanitic; no pain on pressure; no enlarged glands can be felt;

the head at times becomes hot, and he has alternations of chills and flushings during the day. Respiration hurried, harsh and puerile all over the left side of the chest. On the right side there is very decided dulness on percussion for some distance below the clavicle, and some diminution of resonance over the supra-spinous fossa of the scapula; respiration harsh in one spot, accompanied by a loud souffle or hiss; expiratory sound loud and much prolonged. Has had a cough for some time, attended with expectoration; appetite not good; bowels inclined to be costive; the stools are dark and solid, and passed in dry rounded lumps, resembling pieces of stiff clay.

At the end of three or four weeks, finding that there was no apparent improvement, but that the little patient seemed rather to get weaker, and as there was little to be hoped for, either from treatment or a prolonged stay on this coast, I advised his return home. A few weeks after I heard that he had died suddenly, and I cannot do better than transcribe the account of the circumstances attending his death, which has just been kindly furnished me by one of his relatives. The words of my correspondent are as follow:—

"Dear little Charles on his return home seemed to improve in health; his cough was less frequent, and he seemed to enjoy his food. He frequently went into the air, and it always seemed to revive him and put him in good spirits. He continued in this state, losing flesh, however, for about three weeks. He had had an excellent night, and his uncle was really anticipating, if not recovery, lengthened life. The servant carried him out, he was in very good spirits; on his return home he began to cough and the blood gushed out of his mouth; he breathed but a very few times after this."

It is unnecessary to add any lengthened remarks. The foregoing details sufficiently point out the nature of the case; the mode of its termination is well known to be very uncommon in one so young. I may just observe, that on referring to the cases related by Dr. Hennis Green, in a former volume of the *Provincial Medical Journal*, (vol. 6, p. 505,) I perceive that the subjects of them are all of the age of nine years and upwards; but he alludes to one given by Mr. Murdoch, which occurred at two. Louis, after remarking that "hæmoptysis is extremely rare in tuberculous children under the age of fifteen,"* refers to two cases of M. Guesnard's, the subjects of which were females, "one aged nine, the other eleven years." My little patient's case, therefore, presents almost the youngest example with which I am acquainted of this affection, which has been described from the time of Hippocrates as one chiefly "of adolescence, as epitaxis is that of childhood."† "Potissimum vero ad hæmoptysin prænior est adolescentia, ætasque ab anno duodevigessimo usque ad trigessimum quintum. Hinc Hippocrates scripsit: Adolescentibus autem sanguinis spuitones, tabes, febres acutæ, morbus comitialis, et alii, sed præcipue ante dicti."‡

I am, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

EDWD. D. WALKER, M.D.

Teignmouth, July 23, 1845.

* On Phthisis: Sydenham Society's Edition, p. 170.

† Watson's Lectures, Vol. 2, p. 139.

‡ Bursarius Institut. Medic. Pract., Vol. Quart. Sec. xxvi.