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## INTRODUCTION.

THE most extraordinary facts in natural philosophy and physics, have been always subjects of investigation to me, naturally fond of that study ; of all those that excited my curiosity, none struck me more than the Animal Magnetism : every day I heard of the wonderful phænomena it produced, and I was convinced it described the attention of all Philosophers. I was not, however, quite inclined to believe them ; they were so surprising, that I thought them the production of enthusiasm. — Truth generally alters when transmitted from mouth to mouth. This incertitude made me wish to know, with my own eyes, what was meant under the name of Animal Magnetism, and the properties of this new existence. To obtain a

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perfect idea of the whole, it required more than to see how it affected the patients, and to examine the means employed in producing the effects I have been witness of ; I desired therefore, to be instructed, persuaded that, during my apprenticeship, I should find, in the vast number of different meetings, the greatest part of those phænomena that had been described to me as marvellous and uncommon.

I requested M. Deslon, to instruct me, and to admit me to the circle of his Machine† that I might learn to magnetize ; he condescended with the greatest politeness, and received me with those marks of readiness and civility he generally shews to all physicians that wish to be instructed. I was one of the pupils for about a month, and insisted on being one of the patients myself, that I might judge of the wonderful effects of the Animal Magnetism, as it was necessary to have felt the symptoms of the disorder, to  
give

† A kind of Vat or Tub ; vide Apherism XII.



give a proper definition of it ; I placed myself therefore, round the machine, and watched with the most scrupulous attention, all the sensations that might be caused by the points of iron which are the conductors, and by the rope that went round my body : I begged even the magnetizing practitioners, whose number was daily increasing, to magnetize me ; I preferred those who seemed to blend theory to practice ; but not being ill, and perhaps not a proper magnetic subject, the time passed away without having felt the least sensation.

The symptoms however I daily saw round me, did not make me conclude that, because I felt nothing, the others must be only exclusions, visionaries, or hypochondriacs.

It was between spring and summer that I remarked, that the days of the strongest crisis, were those that threatened a storm, and chiefly after dinner, and that various circumstances contributed very much to increase or diminish them.

At all times a piece of music descriptive of a storm, or war-like noise, animated the languishing crisis, and brought out the undetermined one; while those affected by violent convulsions found calm and relief, in notes of a stile *Andantino Affettuoso*, or in a pathetic air in a minor key.

The thermometer and our hygrometer, did not seem to predict any crisis; but the barometer announcing a storm, has seldom deceived me, chiefly after dinner.

I shall not relate the different crisis I have seen, every book that treats seriously of Animal Magnetism, even those who have turned it into ridicule mention enough of them.

My design is not to publish a theory of crisis, but to set it to light; that only made use of by M. Mesmer to produce the effects which he looks upon as crisis, because they generally tend to re establish health.

Thin bilious persons of a sanguine constitution whose nervous system is irritable, are commonly those on  
whom

whom, it seems to me, Animal Magnetism have the greatest power.

These observations I have made not only in M. Deslon's rooms, but in most of the Machines in and about Paris. All have confirmed me in the facts and phænomena I have remark'd. They have all announced themselves by the same symptoms, (viz.) pendiculations, gapings, choakings, short coughs, shiverings, drowsiness, starings, winking, buzzings, flatuosities, swellings in the breast, hips, &c. whatever the cause may be, I have remark'd crisis of the same manner at all the rooms I have attended.

It would be useless to give the public at this time the theory I have establish'd on this subject.

Persons must have an idea of the Magnetism, and know how to use it, before they can enter the secrets of this mighty power; the impartial and the unprejudiced may be the proper judges of the question that interests the divided multitude. Experience alone will determine their opinion,  
and

and after having obtained a clear idea of the effects of Animal Magnetism, they will enjoy the advantages resulting from it

I publish the Aphorisms chiefly for the physicians, whose opinion is suspended, and who in this uncertainty, will not risk a sum of money, nor leave their homes for the sake of coming to write these dictates and practice Magnetism; from the centre of their affairs.

It is at their solicitation I yield, by publishing this work, that has been given to me by a pupil of Mr. Mesmer.

I hope the Author will not be offended at its being rendered public, as the extension of his doctrine has often been the wish of his writings.

I have not absolutely made the least change in these maxims, that I might not be accused of having something foreign to his doctrine.

Inaccuracies of stile will be easily overlooked; beside, M. Mesmer, tho' a foreigner, communicates his thoughts very well.

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THE  
MOST REMARKABLE  
OF  
MESMER'S  
APHORISMS  
AND  
INSTRUCTIONS.

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I. **E**VERY thing in nature has a communication by an universal fluid, in which all bodies are plunged.

II. There is a constant circulation that forms a necessary succession of egress and regress, that will serve as currencies, or acting mediums.

III. There are several ways to ascertain them, and make them subservient to mankind: the surest method is, to place yourself



self opposite the person you mean to touch, so as to present the right side to the left of the patient. To be in perfect unison with him, you must put your hand upon his shoulder, then come down gently to the finger's end, holding the patient's thumb for a moment : you repeat this operation two or three times, and by that means you will establish a communication of agency from head to foot. The cause of the disorder, and the pain after this, must be enquired into ; the patient will easily point out to you the latter and often the former ; it is generally, however, by touching and reasoning, that you are able to determine the place of the disorder and the cause, together with the pain, which, for the most part, lies on the opposite side—chiefly in palsies, rheumatisms and the like.

IV. When you are thoroughly convinced of this, you keep constantly touching the cause of the disorder, and by aiding by degrees, the symptomatic pain produce a kind of crisis ; those, by the efforts of nature are assisted to combat the disorder, you bring on a happy turn, and effect a radical cure : the symptomatic symptoms yield to the touch, and are relieved without acting on the disorder ; these pains are different from those called simply symptomatic  
irritated

irritated by contact, and ending in a crisis; after which the patient finds himself relieved, and the cause of the malady diminished.

V. The seat of almost all disorders lie generally in the lower region; — the stomach, the spleen, the liver, the membrane that covers the intestines, the loins, and in females, in the womb and its dependencies: in those disorders where the aberration forms an obstruction, the want of circulation by pressing the lymphatic or blood vessels, and above all, the least branch of the nerves will cause a spasm, or attention at the end of them, chiefly where the fibres have not much natural elasticity, as in the brains, lungs, &c. or where a fluid runs thick and slow, as the chyle destined to facilitate the motion of articulation: if these obstructions should happen to press on the chief branch of the nerves, the motion and the sensibility of the corresponding parts are entirely suppressed, as in apoplexies, palsies, &c.

VI. Besides the above-mentioned reason for touching first of all, the viscera, in order to discover the cause of the disorder, there is a stronger one; nerves are the best conductors in the body, for magnetism, and they are so abundant in those parts,  
that

that many physicians have placed thither the seat of the soul. The greatest quantity, and the most sensible, are in the nerves, centre of the diaphragm, the foldings of the stomach, the navel, &c. this collection of innumerable nerves, corresponds to every part of the body.

VII. In the above mentioned case you touch with the thumb, and the fore finger, or with the palm of the hand, or with one finger supported by another describing a line on the part you wish to touch, and following as much as possible the direction of the nerves; or in fine, with the four fingers and the thumb half open. The contact at a small distance is stronger because there exists a fluid betwixt the hand or the conductor and the patient.

VIII. You touch with advantage by the means of an extraneous conductor, we generally make use of a little wand about ten or fifteen inches long of a conic form, ending in a blunt point, the base from a quarter to half an inch and the point about a sixth. After the glass, which is the best conductor, some of these wands may be made of iron, steel, gold, silver, &c. preferring the thickest body, because the small holes being more contracted and multiplied give an action proportioned



portioned to the least size of the interstices.

If the wand is touched with the loadstone it has more action, but it is necessary to observe that there are circumstances as in inflammations of the eyes, irritations of the fibres, &c. where it may be hurtful; it is better therefore to have two of them.

Magnetism is likewise effected by a cane or such like conductor, taking care however that if it is with an extraneous body, the pole is changed and you must touch differently (viz.) from right to right, and left to left.

IX. You should likewise oppose one pole to the other, that is to say, if you touch the head, the breast, the stomach, &c. with the right hand you must oppose the left to the hind part, chiefly in the line that parts the body in two, (viz.) from the middle of the forehead to the groins; because the body resembling a loadstone, if you fix the north to the right, the left is the south, and the middle the equator which remains without any predominant action.—You may easily form the poles by opposing one hand to the other.

X. You strengthen the Magnetic action by multiplying the medicines on the patient. Many more advantages will ensue by touching the face than any other part,

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because

because the effluvia of our vitals and all the rest of the body form a circulation. For the same reason we find the utility in ropes, trees, iron, and chains.

XI A bason is magnetized in the same manner as a bath by plunging the cane, or any other conductor into the water, to communicate to it a medium, by turning it in a right line, the person opposite to it will feel the effect of it. If the bason is large, four points may be fixed to answer the four cardinal ones; a line may be drawn on the water following the brim of the vessel from east to north, and from west to the same point. The same may be repeated for the south. Many persons may be placed round the bason, and will feel the magnetic power, if there are a great many, several rays may be conveyed to each person, after having stirred the mass of the water as much as possible.

XII. The apparatus of magnetism consists in a flat tub, round, oval, or square; the diameter proportioned to the number of patients. Some painted staves properly joined so as to contain some water about a foot high, the part about two inches broader than the bottom with a cover, that parts in two, screwed to the tub, in the inside you range some bottles in lines,  
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tending from the circumference to the center. Others you place quite flat all round with their bottoms against the tub, in one layer, only leaving between them space enough to contain the neck of another bottle. This arrangement made, you fix in the middle a bottle upright or flat from whence you form with small points, and then with bottles the necessary rays. The bottom of the first is in the center, its neck enters the bottom of the next, &c. so that the neck of the last ends in the circumference. These bottles must be filled with water, well corked and magnetized in the same manner, and by the same person if possible. To give greater activity to the tub, you lay a second or third layer on the first, but generally the second is made by drawing it from the center and making it cover the third, the half or three quarters of the first. The inside of the tub is then filled with water, so as to cover all the bottles, steel filings, pounded glass, or other like articles, may be added, which in my opinion will produce different effects.

XIII. Tubs may be likewise constructed without water, the intervals of the bottles being filled with glass, steel filings, sand, or dross iron, before water, or any other

other body is introduced, you mark on the cover the places where the pieces of iron are to pass into the bottom of the first bottles, four or five inches, from the sides of the tub, the pieces of iron are like thin rods that enter in a right line almost to the bottom of the vat; they form a curve on the outside, and their blunt ends will point and reach the part you mean to touch and effect such as the forehead, the ears, the eye, the stomach, &c &c.

XIV. From the in, or outside of the tub issues a rope tied to a piece of iron; this the patient applies to the affected part, and twists it round himself by holding the rope and fixing the right thumb on the left, or the left on the right of his neighbour, so that the inside of it may touch the other. All the patients must stand near one another very close, and endeavour to obtain a contact with their thighs, feet and knees; if possible they should seem to form only one body, in which the magnetic fluid may circulate in constant succession, and be reinforced by all the different points of the contact to which the position of patients will greatly contribute, being opposite to one another. There may be irons long enough to reach a second row thro' the intervals of the first.

XV.



XV. There are some little tubs, called Magic, or Magnetic boxes, for the use of patients who cannot go to the public tub, or whose disorders require private and constant attendance; some of these boxes are differently made, the simple ones contain only one bath laid flat and filled with water, or pounded glass, inclosed in a box, whence derives a wand or a rope, a bottle by itself properly applied will answer the purpose still better, some bottles may be put upright under a bed, their necks filled with iron and covered with clay, will produce singular effects. The general form of the Magic box, is a long square of a middling size, suitable to what they are to contain, their height cannot exceed that of the bedstead which is about 10 or 12 inches high, five or six bottles may be put properly prepared and ranged in the same order as in the vat or tub, the box destined to be placed under a bed, must be filled with pint bottles half filled with water and half with ground glass, those filled with water are close and those with glass are armed with a small iron conductor out of the neck where it is fixed and projects an inch out of the box's cover. The interval of the bottles is filled with pounded glass, either dry or moist, a rope twisted round their necks

necks, causes a communication and comes out of the box thro' a hole on the outside, the cover is made sliding or fixed with a screw from the box that lies under the bed, you draw and bring the ropes to the bed-clothes, and even between the sheets to the very body of the patient.

XVI. The boxes that are made use of in the day time are filled with bottles of water or glass prepared and laid as in the large tub, if you add a rope and irons, you may make a family tub.

XVII. The thicker the matter you fill the bottles with, the more active it will be, if they could be filled with quicksilver, they would have greater power.

XVIII. Many are the ways to encrease the mediums and to enforce them; if you intend to affect strongly a patient to collect the greatest number of persons in the room fix the chain from the patient to the operator, and a person leaning on him, or his hand upon his shoulder will encrease his action. There is an incredible number of other means to effect Magnetism, such as sounds, music, sight, and looking glasses, &c.

XIX. The Magnetic fluid, retains some of its virtue even after being extracted from the body, not unlike the sound of a flute that loses itself by degrees. Mag-

netism

netism at a certain distance, produces greater effect than when applied immediately.

XX. After the man, all animals, vegetables, and plants, and chiefly the trees, are more susceptible for some use; you must choose a young and a sound one, full of branches, without any knots, if possible, and with straight fibres; although all sorts of shrubs may serve, the hardest, as the oak and the elm, are to be preferred:—When the choice is made, you place yourself at some distance to the southward, and form a right and left side for the two poles, and the line of demarcation, the equator; you describe other lines with your finger, an iron rod, or a cane, and follow the leaves down to the branches, from the principal of which you draw all your mediums down the trunk to the very roots. The operation must be repeated, till you have magnetized every side of the plant; it must be done with the same hand, because the rays issuing divergent from the conductor become convergent at a certain distance, and are not liable to be repelled. The north is magnetized in the same manner. After this operation you approach the tree, and after having magnetized the roots, if there are any visible, you embrace  
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the tree, and present it to the poles one after another; the tree then possesses all the virtues of magnetism. Persons in perfect health; by standing for some time near it, or by touching it, may feel the effects of magnetism; those who have been already magnetized, and sick, will receive a violent shock, and bring the disorder to a crisis. To give it a proper action, some ropes must be tied, at a certain height, to the trunk and the principal branches of the tree, the number and length of them according to the quantity of persons who are for the operation: the patient will twist them round the affected parts, sitting on chairs or straw, with their faces to the tree, all in a circular or oval form, as at the great tub—the more they turn the ropes round them, the more effect they will find, and yet not very violent. The greater quantity of patients, the greater power in the magnetism, for thereby the mediums multiply, and the fluids gain strength by the union and the contacts; if the wind shakes the branches of the tree it will add force to the action; the same will happen at a rivulet or cascade, if you are so happy as to meet with it: if many trees should stand near, they may be  
all



all magnetized, and by the means of ropes made to communicate with one another.

The patient will find in the trees a very disagreeable smell, not to be compared to any other, which will remain some time after having quitted them, and return the moment they approach the trees again. It cannot be determined how long a tree may preserve the magnetism; very likely many months, but the surest way is to renew it now and then.

XXI. To give the magnetic power to a bottle, you must take it by the two ends, and rub them with the fingers, bringing the motion to the borders; you must lift up your hand successively from the extremities, pressing, if I may say so, the fluid. A glass, or any kind of vessel may be magnetized in the same manner, and when you present it, you must take care to hold it with the thumb and the little finger, and make the person drink exactly in this direction. The patient thus will find a taste which otherwise would not exist in an opposite direction.

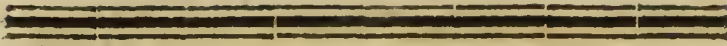
XXII. A flower, or any other body may be magnetized by the contact, made according to these principles and a proper intenseness.

XXIII.

XXIII. By rubbing a bathing tub with your fingers, a wand, or a cane, letting them down into the water, where you describe a line in the same direction, and by repeating the same several times, you magnetise a tub. The water may be moved contrary ways, but yet towards the line already described, where the greatest medium unites the smaller that surround it, and acquires strength. If the patient finds the water too cold, by dipping a cane into the bath, you may, by the agitation, convey one of the mediums to him; this will make him believe that the sensation of heat proceeds from the water. Where there is a vat, (or tub) or some trees, you bring one of the ropes into the bath, and that answers all other operations: some bottles likewise, filled with magnetized water, and put into the bath, according to the direction of the body, will produce the same effect. A little sea salt thrown into the bath, will increase the consistent motion.

XXIV. In the center of the tub, a glass in the form of a cylinder, or any other, may be placed, open at the top, to receive the conductor that might be brought on the out or inside of the apartment; an  
iron

iron rod, in proportion to the height of the ceiling, the lower part of which might end in a funnel, would communicate by a hole to the tub, and there being fixed and sealed to the glass vessel, its base full of apertures, would partake of the magnetic power of the bottles: the conductor likewise might be made of glass.



GENERAL NOTIONS  
ON  
C U R E S  
PERFORMED BY  
MAGNETISM.

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I. **T**HERE is but one malady, and one remedy, the perfect harmony of all our organs and their functions, contribute health. A malady is only the aberration from this harmony : the cure thereof consists to re-establish disturbed harmony. The general remedy is, the applying a magnetic power by the indicated means.

Motion is either augmented or diminished, in the body, it must therefore be checked or accelerated. It is on the  
completes

solids that magnetism will act, as our viscera are the means by which nature completes her functions of preparing, triturating, and assimilating all humours.—

The power therefore of these organs must be rectified, without intirely forbidding inward or outward remedies; you must be very careful how to use them, because they are often contrary or uselefs; contrary, on account of their abounding for the most part with acrimony, and increasing the irritation, spasm, and other effects, contrary to that harmony which should be re-established and preserved: of this kind are violent cathartics, warm diuretics, osperatives, blisters, and all epispastic medicines uselefs, because the remedies once received into the stomach, and the common receptacles will there find the same elaboration as the aliments, whose parts analogous to our humours, are assimilated by chyliification, and the heterogeneous are discharged by excretion.

II. The magnetic fluid not acting on extraneous bodies, nor on those out of the vascular system, when the stomach contains some putrid humour, or too great a quantity of viciated gall; emetics, or purgatives, are administered.

C

III. If



III. If acids are predominant, absorbents are given, such as magnesia<sup>\*</sup>; if Alkalines, acids are prescribed, such as cream of tartar<sup>†</sup>. If you want to administer them as purgatives, you must give them one or two ounces at a time: a less quantity serves only to render them alteratives proper to neutralize the acids or the alkalines, and procure an evacuation, somehow or other. As the alkaline is, for the most part, more predominant than the acid, a regimen of acids is generally prescribed — salad, currants, cherries, lemonades, acid syrups, small vinegar, &c. &c.

IV. The diminution of strength and motion being the cause of the greatest part of our disorders; in a magnetic regimen, not only diet is never ordered, but is recommended to the patient to take some nourish-

<sup>\*</sup> Magnesia must be calcined to obtain the wished for end, on account of the air it contains, when not thus prepared: it occasions then swellings in the stomach, proceeding from the expansion of the air when it meets with something acid.

<sup>†</sup> This acts infinitely better when an ounce is dissolved into four of water. A lemonade is then made agreeable to the taste, and not nauseous to take as when in powder; chiefly when you wish to take enough to serve as a gentle purge.

nourishment ; whatever he wishes, he may take : nature seldom deceives them.

V. Strong wines, liquors, coffee, and all sorts of food, very hot in themselves, or by their ingredients, are forbidden, together with snuff or tobacco, of which the irritating is propagated by the phlegmatic membrane to the throat, the breast, and the head, and causes crispations contrary to the harmony, &c.

The ordinary potion shall be good wine, plentifully diluted with water, or some pure or acidulated water. Glysters and bathing are often useful ; phlebotomy is used in inflammations and phletorics.

VI. In Epilepsies, you touch the head on the crown, or the root of the nose, with one hand, and the nape of the neck with the other : you endeavour to find in the viscera the primary cause, which is easily perceived. By the double contact you dissolve obstructions in the vital parts, and the swelling that lies in the brains of epileptic persons, and almost all the nervous system acquires its usual force. Catalepsies, are treated in the same manner.

VII. In apoplexies, touching is applied to the principal organs, the breast, the stomach, and chiefly the place called the hollow, under the *Xiphoide* ; where

lies the nervous centre of the diaphragm, that re-unites an innumerable quantity of nerves, the back bone is likewise touched about an inch from the spine, from the neck down to the end of the trunk, you must insist till you bring the disorder to a crisis, by making use of all means possible with the iron, or the rope, which is rendered more efficacious by the communication it has with as many persons as possible together, when the patient is affected and the crisis obtained, the symptoms and the cause of the disorder will suggest to you, whether you are to administer aperients.

VIII. In ailments of the ears, the patient twists the rope round the head, and the rod of the tub, in the ear, the wand in the mouth for deafness, and paralytic cases as well as for dumbness, you touch by putting the ends of the thumbs into the ear, and collecting the magnetic fluid with the fingers, and the palms of the hands to the forehead, where one of the hands must be kept for some time.

IX. For the eyes, you touch likewise with the rod, and the fingers gently stroking the eye ball and the lids, chiefly the tegument, in case of inflammation you must be extremely careful.

X. Tet-



X. Tetters is likewise cured by touching, morning and evening, you rub it with magnetic water, and the rope round the head.

XI. Tumors of all sorts lymphatic, or bloody swellings, wounds, and even ulcers may find wonderful effects by Magnetism. Lotions with magnetic water, particular baths with the same warm or cold, prove of infinite service, the most excruciating pains in ulcerated or wounded parts, may be instantly relieved by twisting the rope round the wound, in short, all cutaneous and inward disorders are cured by this wonderful art.

XII. For the head-ach you touch the forehead, the top, the temples, &c. sometimes likewise the viscera for the sake of investigating the cause.

XIII. For the tooth-ach, the contact is applied on the articulations of the mandibles and the dimples of the chin.

XIV. Leprosy is cured in the same manner as the tetter, and by putting the rope round the affected parts.

XV. In difficulty of utterance or a total privation of it, as in palsies, &c. you introduce the rod into the mouth, and touch oral muscles.

XVI. In

XVI. In sore throats, or lymphatic disorders, you magnetize the phlegmatic membrane, and all other parts that corresponds to the pectoral region.

XVII. In violent head-achs, called by the French *la migraine*, touch the stomach and the temple, where the patient feels the greatest pain.

XVIII. In asthmatic disorders and other oppressions of the breast, the parts themselves are touched, one hand gently glides down the breast and the other the back bone, you rest a while on the upper part, and then descend slowly to the stomach, where you must keep your hand a long time, chiefly in the case of a humid asthma.

XIX. The night mare is cured in the same manner, recommending to the patient not to lie on the back, 'till the cure is performed.

XX. All other pains, obstructions, tumors, &c. in the stomach, the liver, the spleen, or other viscera, are treated by contact in the very place of the disorder, and require more time and attention in proportion to the size, hardness or duration of the tumor.

XXI. In cholics, vomitings, irritations of the fibres, pains in the intestines, and dis-

disorders of the lower region, the contact must be very gentle, and if there is an inflammation, or a probability, no friction can be used and sometimes not even the touch.

XXII. In disorders of the womb, you must touch not only the part, but its dependencies, the ovaria, and the broad ligaments that lie all round about the groin, the palm of the hand applied to the privy parts will forward the menstruum, and repair all losses. In salivations and fallings of the womb, and the vagina, such applications will prove of infinite utility.

ON THE  
C R I S I S,  
OF A  
D I S O R D E R.

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**N**O disorder can be cured without being brought to a crisis, which is an effort of nature, against the malady by an increase of motion, tone and intension, together with the action of the magnetic fluid, to dissipate the obstructions that prevent circulations to dissolve and evacuate the particles that formed them, and re-establish harmony and an equilibrium in every part of the body.

II. A crisis is more or less visible, more or less salutary, and natural or accidental.

III. A natural crisis, cannot be ascribed but to nature, that acts forcibly on the  
cause

cause of the disorder, and dispells it by different excretions, as in fevers, where nature alone triumphs and gets the better of whatever was detrimental, expelling it by spontaneous vomitings, perspirations, urine hemmorrhoidal flux, &c:

IV. The least apparent crisis, is when nature acts in secret without any violence by breaking by degrees the obstacles that prevented circulation, and dispelling them by insensible perspiration.

V. When nature has not power enough to establish the crisis, magnetism set in motion by the indicated means will assist it, and conspire jointly in producing the wished for revolution, the crisis is always salutary, when after the effect the patient feels a remarkable relief, and is attended with happy evacuations.

VI. The tub, the rods, the rope, and the chain, will effect a crisis, if they are found too weak to act forcibly on the malady, you increase the power by touching the seat of the disorder. When the crisis is at the utmost, which may be seen by the tranquillity, you let it finish by itself, or when you think it has had the proper effect, you rouse the patient from that kind of stupor, and lethargy it as been thrown into.

VII. A natural crisis is seldom ominous.

VIII. A



VIII. A crisis of either kind throws often the patient into a catalepsy, which is by no means dangerous, and ends generally with the crisis.

IX. In the case of irritations, you must take care not to provoke too strong a crisis, for you increase the trouble in the animal œconomy, you cause a greater intension, and augment the inflammations you suspend or rather suppress the evacuations that will promote the cure, you oppose diametrically the views and effects of kind nature.

X. If you provoke a violent crisis in a body that is inclined to it, you keep up in the organs a kind of forced elasticity, which diminishes in the fibres the faculty of reacting on themselves, and on the humours, whence proceeds inaction against the orders of nature. This habit baffles all the efforts of nature against the cause of the disorder, increases the aberration, and forms in the organs that bent or wrinkle, which being ingeniously compared to one in a piece of silk, seldom loses the mark. A crisis is therefore often useful, but as often dangerous, a physician struck with the doctrine of animal magnetism, and a faithful observer of the effects produced by a crisis, may draw all the advantages it is capable of producing but will guard against being too free with so alarming a trial,

OBSER.

OBSERVATIONS  
ON  
NERVOUS DISORDERS.

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I. **I**N nervous cases, when the crisis is the occasion that the irritability attacks strongly the retina, the eye becomes susceptible of perceiving microscopic objects. All that the optician's art could invent has not been able to approach this degree of perception. The darkest obscurity still preserves so much light, that the sight by assembling a sufficient quantity of rays, can distinguish the forms of different bodies, and determine their affinity; some will even distinguish objects through bodies deemed opaques, which proves that opaqueness in bodies is not a particular quality, but

But a circumstance relative to the degree of irritability of our organs.

II. A female patient, and many others that I have treated and have observed with care, has furnished me with numberless expedients on that subject. One of them could perceive the pores of the skin of a considerable size, so that she could explain the structure of them as well as a microscope, she went even further, the skin appeared to her like a sieve, she could distinguish the texture of the muscles on the fleshy parts, and the joinings of the bones in the bare ones, she explained every thing in an ingenious way, and often would be quite out of patience at the sterility and insufficiency of our expressions to paint her ideas, an opaque body very thin did not prevent her seeing the objects, it only gradually diminished the impression she received, as a dirty glass would do for us.

III. With her eye-lids down she could see better than me, and often to see whether she spoke the truth, I made her carry her hand on the object, without her ever missing.

IV. This very person could perceive in the dark, the poles of the human body lighted by a luminous vapour, it  
was



was not a flame, but the impression it made on her organs, gave her an idea of fire, which she could only explain by *light* from my head.

V. She could perceive the bright rays that part from the eyes and generally re-unite with those of the nose to strengthen them, the whole of these rays will bend to the nearest part that is opposite to them, if however I want to consider my objects sideways without turning the head, then the two rays of the eyes quit the end of my nose, to go in the direction I order them to.

VI. Every point of the lids, lashes, and hair, emits a feeble light, the neck appears a little bright, and the breast lighted. When I present the hands, the thumb appears surrounded with a visible light, the little finger not so much, the first and the third seem to have only a borrowed light, the middle finger, obscure, but the palm of the hand likewise bright.

VII. If an excessive irritability falls on other organs, they acquire the same quality as the sight, they become susceptible of appreciating the lightest impressions analogous to their constitution, which were totally unknown to them before.

D.

CON-

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## CONCLUSION.

**T**HIS is a vast field for speculation, but very difficult to enter, art forsakes us, and we have no means to determine what persons affected by strong crisis are daily perceiving, we have very indifferent microscopes for the ears, none for the smelling and touching, consequently we can never draw any reference. But if art abandons us, nature remains, and that suffices; the infant knows not the use and springs of his organs, nature and education shew him by degrees how to make use of them, in the beginning you will find nothing but mysterious darknes, in this surprising doctrine of magnetism, but by little and little the light will appear and your knowledge will encrease. Persons of strong imagination hear a noise sooner than others, and I have known one that proclaimed the sound of a French horn a quarter of an hour before I could, if some are affected by a crisis, they will find in  
different

different sorts of meat a variety of fragrant particles, and enjoy a flavour unknown to those that are in a common state of body, it is owing to the irritability of the tongue and palate. A person very sensible and of veracity, whose nerves was always irritated and particularly the tongue, who would often say "in eating this crust of bread as big as a pins head, it seems as if it was a large mouthful and of exquisite flavor, I find in it not only the taste of a bit of bread, but what is very singular, I taste in it distinctly the particles that compose it, the water, the flour, every thing in short, produces a multitude of sensations that cause a rapid succession of ideas, but cannot be expressed by words," I need not remark, that the olfactory nerves are more susceptible of greater faculty than taste. I have known persons who could smell at a great distance, and even thro' wainscot doors, and others will distinguish odours that compose a perfume all at once, so great is their faculty of smelling. But of all our senses, contact, could furnish us with the greatest quantity of phænomena, and yet hitherto it has been the least examined or understood.











