

In the asylum in the Faubourg St. Antoine there was an old lady, eighty years of age, who had been blind for many years. Every morning she had the door and windows of her apartment set wide open, to allow a number of persons to pass out who filled the room, and whose dresses and ornaments she could perfectly distinguish.

A lunatic was in the habit of seeing, to the right of him, near the wall of his cell, a number of beautiful women, whom he would sometimes address with insults, sometimes with compliments. This man was blind, and after his death M. Calmeil found there was atrophy of both the optic nerves.

Hallucinations of hearing and of sight are often combined, as in the following case, which occurred in Bedlam :

Some years back there was in the hospital at Bedlam a lunatic of the name of Blake, who was called the *Seer*. This man firmly believed in the reality of his visions : he would converse with the angel Michael, chat with Moses, and dine with Semiramis. There was nothing of the imposter about him ; he seemed to be thoroughly in earnest. The dark portals of the past were opened to him, and the world of spirits crowded around him. All that had belonged to the great, the wonderful, and the celebrated came into the presence of Blake.

This man constituted himself the painter of spirits. On the table before him were pencils and brushes ready for his use, that he might depict the countenances and attitudes of his heroes, whom he said he did not summon before him, but who came of their own accord, and entreated him to take their portraits. Visitors might examine large volumes filled with these drawings : amongst others were the portraits of the devil and his mother. " When I entered his cell," says the author of this notice, " he was drawing the likeness of a girl whose spectre he pretended had appeared to him.

" Edward III. was one of his most constant visitors, and in acknowledgment of the monarch's condescension, Blake had drawn his portrait in oils in three sittings. I put such questions as were likely to have embarrassed him ; but he answered them in the most unaffected manner, and without any hesitation.

" ' Do these persons have themselves announced, or do they send in their cards ? ' ' No ; but I recognize them when they appear. I did not expect to see Marc Antony last night, but I knew the Roman the moment he set foot in my house.' ' At what hour do these illustrious dead visit you ? ' ' At one o'clock : sometimes their visits are long, sometimes short. The day before yesterday I saw the unfortunate Job, but he would not stay more than two minutes ; I had hardly time to make a sketch of him, which I afterwards engraved—but silence ! Here is Richard III. ! ' ' Where do you see him ? ' ' Opposite to you, on the other side of the table : it is his first visit.' ' How do you know his name ? ' ' My spirit recognizes him, but I cannot tell you how.' ' What is he like ?