

Art and Science.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

[As our readers are, no doubt, desirous to be informed of the manner in which the professors of ANIMAL MAGNETISM operate on their patients, we subjoin the following description, extracted from a very clever article on the science, in a number of the NORTH AMERICAN REVIEW.]

The mode of producing somnambulism, and all other magnetic effects, are given at great length, in *L' instruction pratique sur le Magnétisme animal, par Deleuze*, as well as in his *Histoire critique*. As some of our readers may wish to try the experiment themselves, we have endeavoured to reduce these rules to as small a compass as possible.

"When any person is desirous of being magnetised, you must make him promise to obey your directions in every particular, and, above all, not to mention his intention of submitting to the operation, to any individual. When he has agreed to this, the process may be undertaken, but nobody is to be present, except the necessary witnesses, and if possible but one of these; whoever does attend, must not be allowed to interfere in the operation or its results."

"Having fixed the person in a commodious posture, you are to place yourself on a seat a little more elevated than his, and directly opposite to him, so that your knees and feet may touch. Then take his thumbs between your fingers, in such a manner, that his and your thumbs may be applied to each other; you are to remain in this position, till you feel that they have acquired an equal temperature."

We would remark, that all the authors on animal magnetism, are of opinion, that the action of this fluid is better communicated by the thumbs, than in any other manner.

"The hands are then to be placed on the shoulders, and suffered to remain there two or three minutes, and afterwards gently brought down the arms to the thumbs; this manœuvre is to be repeated three or four times. Then the two hands are to be placed over the pit of the stomach, so that the thumbs are over the solar plexus, and the fingers on the ribs. When you feel an equalization of temperature, the hands are to be gradually lowered to the knees, then carried to the head, and again brought down to the knees, or even to the feet; this process is to be continued for some time, always taking care to turn the palms of the hands outwards, whenever they are brought up; this, as well as never to magnetise from the feet to the head, is very essential."

This mode of magnetising, is called by the professors of the art, *magnétiser à grandes courans*, and should always be used at the commencement of the treatment; for, all the authorities we have consulted, agree that it is dangerous to concentrate the magnetism on any one part, particularly in nervous persons; but, after they are thus universally magnetized, you may apply an additional quantity of this fluid to the diseased part. MM. Deleuze and Puysegur also give some very important directions as to the conduct of the operator:—

"He is not," say they, "to employ any muscular force to direct the magnetic action.

All the movements are to be easy and graceful, doing it gently, but very tight, by pushing the cork in, for agitation will be apt to burst the bottles; lay the bottles on the side, to keep the air from escaping, and let them lay in that position until wanted, after turning them over once in a week, or once in a month.—*Silliman's American Journal*.

ENORMOUS DIMENSIONS OF COMETS.—It remains to say a few words on the actual dimensions of comets. The calculation of the diameters of their heads and the lengths and breadths of their tails offers not the slightest difficulty when once the elements of their orbits are known, for by these we know their real distances from the earth at any time, and the true direction of the tail, which we see only foreshortened. Now, calculations instituted on these principles lead to the surprising facts, that comets are by far the most voluminous bodies in our system. The following are the dimensions of some of those which have been made the subjects of such inquiry:—The tail of the comet of 1680, immediately after its perihelion passage, was found by Newton to have been no less than 20000000 of leagues in length, and to have occupied only two days in its emission from the comet's body! a decisive proof this of its being dashed forth by some active force, the origin of which, to judge from the direction of the tail, must be sought in the sun itself. Its greatest length amounted to 41000000 leagues, a length much exceeding the whole interval between the sun and earth. The tail of the comet of 1769 extended 16000000 leagues, and that of the great comet of 1811, 36000000. The portion of the head of this last comprised within the transparent atmospheric envelop, which separated it from the tail, was 180000 leagues in diameter. It is hardly conceivable that matter once projected to such enormous distances should ever be collected again by the feeble attraction of such a body as a comet—a consideration which accounts for the rapid progressive diminution of the tails of such as have been frequently observed.—*Sir J. Herschel on Astronomy—Cabinet Cyclopædia*.

After somnambulism is produced, the patient should be asked if he sleeps; if this should wake him, this state must not be attempted to be re-excited during that sitting; if, however, he answers without waking, the desired effect has been induced, and other questions may be proposed, on the nature of his disease, and the remedies to be employed in its cure; but caution must be used, in so asking the questions that no mistake can ensue.

METHOD OF PRESERVING FRUIT WITHOUT SUGAR.—You must use wide-necked bottles, such as are used for wine and porter. Have the bottles perfectly clean. The fruit should not be too ripe. Fill the bottles as full as they will hold, so as to admit the cork going in. Make the fruit lie compact; fit the corks to each bottle, slightly putting them in that they may be taken out the easier when scalded enough; this may be done in any thing which is convenient; put a coarse cloth of any kind at the bottom of the vessel, to prevent the bottles from cracking; fill the vessel with water, sufficiently high for the bottles to be nearly covered in it; turn them a little on one side to expel the air that is contained in the bottom of the bottle; then light the fire; take care that the bottles do not touch the sides or the bottom of the vessel, for fear they should burst, and increase the heat gradually, until the thermometer rises to 160 or 170 degrees. If such an instrument cannot be procured, you must judge by the finger; the water must not be so hot as to scald; it must be kept at that sufficient degree of heat for a half hour; it should not be kept on any longer, nor a greater heat produced, than above mentioned. During the time the bottles are increasing in heat a tea-kettle of water must be ready boiled as soon as the fruit is done.—When the fruit is properly scalded, take the bottles out of the water one at a time, and fill them within an inch of the cork with the boiling water. Cork them down immediately,

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NEBULÆ.—The nebulæ furnish, in every point of view an inexhaustible field of speculation and conjecture. That by far the larger share of them consists of stars there can be little doubt; and in the interminable range of system upon system, and firmament upon firmament, which we thus catch a glimpse of, the imagination is bewildered and lost. On the other hand, if it be true, as, to say the least, it seems extremely probable, that a phosphorescent or self-luminous matter also exists, disseminated through extensive regions of space, in the manner of a cloud or fog—now assuming capricious shapes, like actual clouds, drifted by the wind, and now concentrating itself like a cometic atmosphere around particular stars;—what, we naturally ask, is the nature and destination of this nebulous matter? It is absorbed by the stars in whose neighbourhood it is found, to furnish, by its condensation, the supply of light and heat; or is it progressively concentrating itself by the effect of its own gravity into masses, and so laying the foundation of new sidereal systems or insulated stars? It is easier to propound such questions than to offer any probable