

ject of them shall feel hot, or cold, taste bitter or sweet, hear exquisite harmony or jarring discord, see angels or men, &c.; shall assume and maintain painful or awkward postures, manifest no feeling while undergoing a painful operation, exert unusual muscular strength or vocal powers, and so on, in accordance with the suggestion or commands made to him, and will feel perfectly assured of the reality of the sensations, ideas or emotions thus produced in his mind without his own co-operation, and without the power of recalling them when the mental state in question has been removed.

The phenomena of "mesmerism," "electro-biology," "clairvoyance," &c., when witnessed by persons unacquainted with mental physiology, undoubtedly appear marvellous, and it may be even admitted that some of them require a profound knowledge of psychology for their comprehension.

Thus far we may go, though in doing so it must be confessed there is often so much deception mixed up with what is real, that we are going near the line, if not actually overstepping it which divides scientific facts from humbug. For as we have seen it is quite possible for a person so to imitate or induce in himself or others a condition simulating one of these nervous states sometimes, but rarely, met with; and so to cultivate the habit of employing his powers of observation and intuition, aided by our in-born love and fondness for the mysterious, as to take such a strong hold on our mental organization as to induce us to overlook the imposition, and fancy him to be a being supernaturally endowed. On this point Sir Thomas Watson, whom I have already quoted, than whom no more eminent, clear-headed, or unprejudiced observer ever wrote, says. "Do not suppose, from what I have just said, that I ignore the glaring *facts* of mesmerism. I have seen and scrutinized too many of them to doubt their genuineness, or ascribe them to mere imposture or collusion, Of the brain and nerves there are many and various strange conditions which we reckon as manifestations of disease or disorder. I have given you several wonderful examples of such unnatural and morbid states under the heads of hysteria, chorea, catalepsy, ecstasy, trance. Now, whatever condition of this kind may arise thus spontaneously, may also, I believe, be produced in some persons under the mesmeric practisings; not, however,