

nerves become : hence it is called the *portio mollis* of the auditory nerve.

The greatest portion of the seventh pair ramifies over the neck, face, &c.
—*Weekly Visitor*.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM.

Considerable interest was excited on this subject, about half a century ago, in France, and experiments were made to test the existence and power of such a principle. But nothing was decided by the experiments then made. For though some effects were produced which led the advocates of the doctrine to believe in it, others resolved the appearances and motions into imagination or deception. Still there have been a few, during the period mentioned, who have favoured the theory ; and some of them men of science and philosophy. They contend, that there is an attractive power or sympathy between all homogeneous bodies. The great and universal law of the universe affords proof of this fact. There is every where in operation an attractive power or influence. Electricity is of a similar power, and produces similar effects. There is also a magnetic power in certain bodies, which produces astonishing results.—Why may there not be a corresponding power in animals, or of which animals are susceptible? Animal heat, as is well known, may be communicated from one animal to another : and the suspended or dormant powers of the animal are revived by the application of animal heat. The aged are sometimes advised to keep the young and healthy in contact with them, for the purpose of giving heat and strength to the system. All this may be admitted, for it is supported by facts ; but the question recurs,—to what extent can this animal power operate, and is it capable of quickening any one of the senses, as hearing, or seeing?—The supposition is, that the magnetizer

or operator imparts a vivifying, strengthening power to the magnetizee : And it is therefore only the more healthy and robust who are able to produce any benefit to those more feeble, or diseased. The operation is generally by close contact and rubbing : but sometimes by passing the hand near the magnetizee : And thus one who has animal powers *plus*, communicates a portion to one who is *minus* : as in electricity or metallic magnetism. Something of the temper and disposition is said to be thus imparted ; and it is even pretended, that the magnetizer is sensible of losing a portion of his former usual power.—The magnetizee gradually perceives an increase of strength, and also a serene and pleasant sensation, which leads to sleep, but not to a suspension of the senses. For in this state of apparent sleep, they converse as though they saw, and perform and predict many things of a very wonderful character ; too extraordinary to be credited, except that they are verified by respectable witnesses.

Some cases recently narrated in a publication of the French Academy, with the sanction of respectable characters as to the truth in their opinion, are thought worthy of record ; nor do we perceive how they can be considered as the effects of the imagination alone.

A lady, afflicted with a cancer in her breast, submitted to be magnetized to remove the pain, or to weaken the sense of suffering. Magnetizing it should be observed, produces apparent sleep, or somnambulism, as one of its effects.—A celebrated surgeon who visited the lady, though not an operator in magnetism, was willing the experiment should be tried, as he saw no other hope of saving her life. The lady was magnetized, and a state of sleep followed, when the surgeon cut out the cancer. The patient was not sensible of the operation, being kept asleep for two days by the magnetizer.

It is still more surprising, that a per-