

ain, the ordinary physician attending this lady, who had magnetized her for some months, with the intention, as he said, of dissolving the swelling (*engorgement*) of the breast, had obtained no other result than that of producing a most profound sleep, during which all sensibility appeared to be annihilated, while the ideas retained all their clearness. He proposed to M. Cloquet to operate upon her while she was plunged in this magnetic sleep. The latter having deemed the operation indispensable, consented. The two previous evenings, this lady was magnetized several times by M. Chaplain, who, in her somnambulism, disposed her to submit to the operation,—who had even led her to converse about it with calmness, although, when awake, she rejected the idea with horror. Upon the day fixed on for the operation, M. Cloquet arriving at half-past ten in the morning, found the patient dressed and seated in an elbow-chair, in the attitude of a person enjoying a quiet natural sleep. She had returned about an hour before from mass, which she attended regularly at the same hour. Since her return, M. Chaplain had placed her in a state of magnetic sleep, she talked with great calmness of the operation to which she was about to submit. Every thing having been arranged for the operation, she undressed herself and sat down upon a chair. M. Chaplain supported the right arm, the left was permitted to hang down at the side of the body. M. Pailoux, house-pupil of the hospital of St. Louis, was employed to present the instruments, and to make the ligatures. A first incision, commencing at the arm-pit, was continued beyond the tumour as far as the internal surface of the breast. The second, commenced at the same point, separated the tumour from beneath, and was continued until it met the first. The swelled ganglions (*ganglions engorgés*) were dissected with precaution on account of their vicinity to the axillary artery, and the tumour was extirpated. The operation lasted from ten to twelve minutes. During all this time, the patient continued to converse quietly with the operator, and did not exhibit the slightest sign of sensibility. There was no motion of the limbs or of the features, no change in the respiration nor in the voice, no motion even in the pulse. The patient continued in the same state of automatic indifference and impassibility, in which she was some minutes before the operation. There was no occasion to hold, but only to support her. A ligature was applied to the lateral thoracic artery, which was open during the extraction of the ganglions; the wound was united by means of adhesive plaster, and dressed. The patient was put to bed while still in a state of somnambulism, in which she was left for forty-eight hours. An hour after the operation, there appeared a slight hemorrhage, which was attended with no consequence. The first dressing was taken off on the following Tuesday, the 14th—the wound was cleaned and dressed anew—the patient exhibited no sensibility nor pain—the pulse preserved its usual rate. After this dressing, M. Chaplain awakened the patient, whose somnambulist sleep had continued from an hour previous to the operation, that is to say, for two days. This lady did not appear to have any idea, any feeling of what had passed in the interval; but upon being informed of the operation, and seeing her children around her, she experienced a very lively emotion, which the magnetizer by immediately setting her asleep.

"In these two cases, your committee perceived the most evident proof of the annihilation of sensibility during the somnambulism; and we declare that, although we did not witness the last, we yet find it impressed with such a character of truth, it has been attested and reported to us by so good an observer, who had communicated it to the surgical section, that we have no fear in presenting it to you as the most incontestable evidence of that state of torpor and insensibility which is produced by magnetism."

The alleged power of seeing through the closed eyelids, is next minutely discussed by the Committee, and with amazement we peruse the statement of M. Andral on this subject, in contrast with the following details by men of such presumed veracity as MM. Bourdois, Ribes, and Husson, supported by the testimony of other witnesses of less repute. M. Andral observed in one of his lectures on animal magnetism, published in No. 498 of this Journal, page 777:—"The commission have for six years sought for proofs of the *clairvoyance*, in common with the other phenomena of the magnetic ecstasy. The magnetizers had a deep interest at stake in convincing this commission, and in bringing forward their best proofs of magnetic vision. But of all the proofs which they have adduced, there is not one which is not infinitely more romantic than those I have cited. This absence of facts is, in itself, a most important feature in the affair!"

Magnetism was performed on M. Petit, the tutor before named, with the view of producing this lucidity (*clairvoyance*) in him, as he was said to possess it during somnambulism. A decided failure occurred in some of the trials, "but," say the Committee—

"This faculty occurred in all its clearness in the following experiment, and upon this occasion the success entirely justified the expectations held out to us by M. Dupotet."

"M. Petit was magnetized on the 15th of March, 1826, at half-past eight in the evening, and set asleep in about one minute. The president of the committee, M. Bourdois, ascertained that the number of pulsations, since he was set asleep, diminished at the rate of 22 in a minute, and that there was even some irregularity in the pulse. M. Dupotet, after having put a bandage upon the eyes of the somnambulist, repeatedly directed towards him the points of his fingers, at the distance of about two feet. Immediately a violent contraction was perceived in the hands and arms towards which the action had been directed. M. Bourdois endeavoured to produce the same effects; and he succeeded, but less promptly, and in a more feeble degree. This point being established, we proceeded to ascertain the lucidity (*clairvoyance*) of the somnambulist. He having declared that he could not see with the bandage, it was taken off; but then we determined to assure ourselves that the eyelids were exactly closed. For this purpose, a candle was almost constantly held, during the experiments, before the eyes of M. Petit, at a distance of two or three inches, and several persons had their eyes continually fixed upon him. None of us could perceive the slightest separation of the eyelids. M. Ribes, indeed, remarked that their edges were superimposed so that the eyelashes crossed each other. We also examined the state of the eyes, which were forcibly opened without awakening the somnambulist; and we remarked that the pupil was turned downwards, and directed towards the great angle of the eye. After these preliminary observations, we proceeded to verify the phenomena of vision with the eyes closed. M. Ribes, member of the academy, presented a catalogue which he took from his pocket. The somnambulist, after some efforts which seemed to fatigue him, read very distinctly the words, "*Lacater. Il est bien difficile de connaître les hommes.*" The last words were printed in very small characters. A passport was placed under his eyes; he recognised it, and called it a *passé-homme*. Some moments afterwards, a *port-d'armes* was substituted, which we all knew to be in almost all respects similar to a passport, and the blank side of it was presented to him. M. Petit, at first could only recognise that it was of a particular figure, and very like the former. A few moments afterwards, he told us what it was, and read distinctly the words, "*De par le roi,*" and on the left, "*port-d'armes.*" Again he was shown an open letter; he declared that he could not read it, as he did not understand English. In fact it was an English letter. M. Bourdois took from his pocket a snuff-box, upon which there was a cameo set in gold. At first the somnambulist could not see it distinctly; he said that the gold setting dazzled him. When the setting was covered with the fingers, he said that he saw the emblem of fidelity. When pressed to tell what this emblem was, he added, "*I see a dog, he is as if on his hind legs before an altar.*" This, in fact, was what was represented. A closed letter was presented to him; he could not discover any of its contents. He only followed the directions of the lines with his finger; but he easily read the address, although it contained a pretty difficult name, "*To M. de Rothenstroh.*" All these experiments were extremely fatiguing to M. Petit. He was allowed to repose for an instant: then, as he was very fond of play, a game at cards was proposed for his relaxation. As much as the experiments of pure curiosity seemed to annoy him, with so much the more ease and dexterity did he perform whatever gave him pleasure, and thus he entered into of his own accord. One of the gentlemen present, M. Raynal, formerly inspector of the university, played a game at piquet with M. Petit and lost it. The latter handled his cards with the greatest dexterity, and without making any mistake. We attempted several times in vain to set him at fault, by taking away or changing some of his cards. He counted with surprising facility the points marked upon his adversary's marking card. During all this time, we never ceased to examine the eyes, and to hold a candle near them; and we always found them exactly closed. We remarked, however, that the ball of the eye seemed to move under the eyelids, and to follow the different motions of the hands. Finally, M. Bourdois declared that, according to all human probability, and as far as it was possible to judge by the senses, the eyelids were exactly closed. While M. Petit was engaged in a second game at piquet, M. Dupotet, upon the suggestion of M. Ribes, directed his hand, from behind, towards the patient's elbow, and the contraction previously observed again took place. Afterwards, upon the suggestion of M. Bourdois, he magnetized him from behind, and always at the distance of more than a foot, with the intention of awakening him. The keenness with which the somnambulist engaged in play, resisted this action, which, without awakening, seemed to annoy and disconcert him. He carried his hand several times to the back of his head, as if he suffered pain

in that part. At length he fell into a state of somnolency, which seemed like a slight natural sleep; and some one having spoken to him when in this state, he awoke as if with a start. A few moments afterwards, M. Dupotet always placed near him but at a certain distance, set him again to sleep, and we recommenced our experiments. M. Dupotet, being desirous that not the slightest shadow of doubt should remain with regard to the nature of the physical influence exerted at will upon the somnambulist, proposed to place upon M. Petit as many bandages as we might think proper, and to operate upon him while in this state. In fact, we covered his face down to the nostrils with several neckcloths; we stopped up with gloves the cavity formed by the prominence of the nose, and we covered the whole with a black handkerchief, which descended, in the form of a veil, as far as the neck. The attempts to excite the magnetic susceptibility, by operating at a distance in every way, were then renewed; and, invariably, the same motions were perceived in the parts towards which the hand or the foot was directed. After these new experiments, M. Dupotet having taken the bandages off M. Petit, played a game at *écarté* with him, in order to divert him. He played with the same facility as before, and continued successful. He became so eager at his game, that he remained insensible to the influence of M. Bourdois, who, while he was engaged in play, vainly attempted to operate upon him from behind, and to make him perform a command intimated merely by the will. After his game, the somnambulist rose, walked across the room, putting aside the chairs which he found in his way, and went to sit down apart, in order to take some repose at a distance from the inquisitive experimentalists, who had fatigued him. There, M. Dupotet awakened him at the distance of several feet; but it seemed that he was not completely awake, for some moments afterwards he again fell asleep, and it was necessary to make fresh efforts, in order to rouse him effectually. When awake, he said he had no recollection of anything that took place during his sleep. It is most certain that, if, as M. Bourdois has recorded apart in the *procès-verbal* of this sitting, 'the constant immobility of the eyelids and their edges superimposed so as that the eyelashes appeared to cross each other, are sufficient guarantees of the lucidity (*clairvoyance*) of this somnambulist, it was impossible to withhold, if not our belief, at least our astonishment at all that took place at this sitting, and not to be desirous of witnessing new experiments, in order to enable us to fix our opinion in regard to the existence and the value of animal magnetism."

"The wish expressed upon this subject by our President was not long of being gratified by three somnambulists, who, besides this *clairvoyance* observed in the preceding case, presented proofs of an intuition, and of a prevision very remarkable, whether for themselves or for others."

These statements are of a character well calculated to startle not only sober men, but even those who are watchful for the marvellous, and even eager to believe. If such things, however, be well attested, and the possibility of delusion on the part of the observers be diminished to the smallest point of which the mind is, under any circumstances, susceptible,—we can but listen and wonder, and await the future throes of time for the birth of facts which shall shine through the dark atmosphere into which we are thus plunged.

But now for the phenomena which are, for interest and importance, to leave at an infinite distance behind, all those which have as yet been related. "Here," as the committee observe, "the sphere seems to enlarge."

"There is not amongst you, gentlemen, who amidst all that he has been told about magnetism, has not heard of that faculty which certain somnambulists have, not only of discovering the species of disease with which they themselves are affected—the endurance and the issue of these diseases; but even the species, the endurance and the issue of the diseases of others with whom they are placed *en rapport*. The three following cases have appeared to us so important, that we have thought it our duty to make you acquainted with them at large, as affording most remarkable examples of this intuition and of this prevision; at the same time, you will find in them a combination of various phenomena which were not observed in the other magnetized persons."

*Paralysis of the Left Side.—Failure of Cure in the Hospital.—Trial of Animal Magnetism.—Relief from Deafness and Head-ache.—Repetition of Magnetism, and production of Somnambulism.—Prescriptions during Sleep for his Disease by the Patient himself.—Prediction of his Cure.—Treatment followed.—Partial Cure.—Repetition of Somnambulism.—Final Recovery.—Subsequent Somnambulism, and Vision with the Eyes closed.*

"Paul Villagrard, student of law, born at Magnac Laval, (Upper Vienne,) on the 18th of May, 1803, suffered a stroke of apoplexy on the 25th of December, 1825, which was followed by paralysis of the whole left side

of the body. After seventeen months of different modes of treatment, by acupuncture, a seton in the nape of the neck, twelve applications of moxa along the vertebral column—modes of treatment which he followed at home, at the Maison de Santé, and at the Hospice de Perfectionnement, and in the course of which he had two fresh attacks,—he was admitted into the Hôpital de la Charité on the 8th of April, 1827. Although he had experienced perceptible relief from the means employed before he entered this hospital, he still walked with crutches, being unable to support himself upon the left foot. The arm of the same side, indeed, could perform several motions; but Paul could not lift it to his head. He scarcely saw with his right eye, and was very hard of hearing with both ears. In this state he was intrusted to the care of our colleague, M. Fouquier, who besides the very evident paralysis, discovered in him the symptoms of hypertrophy of the heart.

"During five months, he administered to him the alcoholic extract of *nux vomica*, bled him from time to time, purged him, and applied blisters. The left arm recovered a little strength; the head-aches, to which he was subject, disappeared; and his health continued stationary until the 29th August, 1827, when he was magnetized for the first time by M. Poissac, by order and under the direction of M. Fouquier. At this first sitting, he experienced a sensation of general heat, then twitchings (*soubresauts*) of the tendons. He was astonished to find himself overcome by the desire of sleeping; he rubbed his eyes in order to get rid of it, made visible and ineffectual efforts to keep his eyelids open, and, at length, his head fell down on his breast, and he fell asleep. From this period, his deafness and head-aches disappeared. It was not until the ninth sitting that his sleep became profound; and at the tenth he answered, by inarticulate sounds, the questions which were addressed to him. At a later period he announced that he could not be cured but by means of magnetism, and he prescribed for himself a continuation of the pills composed of the extract of *nux vomica*, sinapisms, and baths of Baresges. Upon the 25th September, your committee repaired to the Hôpital de la Charité made the patient be undressed, and ascertained that the inferior left limb was manifestly thinner than the right,—that the right hand closed much more strongly than the left,—that the tongue, when drawn out of the mouth, was carried towards the right commissure,—and that the right cheek was more convex than the left.

"Paul was then magnetized, and soon placed in a state of somnambulism. He recapitulated what related to his treatment, and prescribed that, on that same day, a sinapism should be applied to each of his legs for an hour and a-half, that next day he should take a bath of Baresges; and that, upon coming out of the bath, sinapisms should be again applied during twelve hours without interruption, sometimes to one place, and sometimes to another; that, upon the following day, after taking a second bath of Baresges, blood should be drawn from his right arm to the extent of a *palette* and a-half. Finally, he added, that by following this treatment, he would be enabled, upon the 25th, i. e. three days afterwards, to walk without crutches on leaving the sitting, at which, he said, it would still be necessary to magnetize him. The treatment which he had prescribed was followed; and upon the day named, the 28th September, the committee repaired to the Hôpital de la Charité. Paul came, supported on his crutches, into the consulting-room, where he was magnetized as usual, and placed in a state of somnambulism. In this state, he assured us, that he should return to his bed without the use of his crutches, without support. Upon awakening, he asked for his crutches,—we told him that he had no longer any need of them. In fact, he rose, supported himself on the paralyzed leg, passed through the crowd who followed him, descended the step of the *chambre d'expériences*, crossed the second court of the Hôpital, ascended two steps; and when he arrived at the bottom of the stair, hesitated down. After resting two minutes, he ascended, with the assistance of an arm and the balustrade, the twenty-four steps of stairs which led to the room where he slept, went to bed without support, sat down again for a moment, and then took another walk in the room, to the great astonishment of all the other patients, who, until then, had seen him constantly confined to bed. From this day, Paul never resumed his crutches.

"Your committee assembled again on the 11th of October following, at the Hôpital de la Charité. Paul was magnetized, and he announced to us that he should be completely cured at the end of the year, if a seton were placed two inches below the region of the heart. At this sitting, he was repeatedly pinched, pricked with a pin, to the depth of a line, in the eyebrow and in the wrist, without producing any symptom of sensibility.

(To be continued.)

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