

practice of mesmerism for the entertainment of general audiences and for gain to the operator we again raise our protest. It is not so very long since an exhibition of this sort was given in Toronto.

A few days ago the readers of the daily press was startled by the announcement of the death of a person by the name of Robert Simpson, in Somerset, N.J. A person by the name of "Prof." Arthur Everton had been giving an exhibition of his hypnotising powers in a local theatre. Dr. Long, the county physician, describes what he saw as follows:—

"After my office hours last night I decided to go to the theatre and see the work of the hypnotist. Everton hypnotized a couple of subjects and put them through some amusing performances. Then he took Simpson, who had been hypnotized, apparently, stretched him out with his head upon one chair and his feet upon another and commanded him to be rigid. I watched this performance closely, and, to all appearances, the subject was in a cataleptic condition when the operator stepped from a table on to the subject's abdomen. When Everton stepped on the stage again he told some of the assistants to put the subject, Simpson, on his feet. As the assistants were doing this, I noticed that the subject's body lost rigidity and collapsed, sinking to the floor."

"Prof." Everton found his way to the jail as the result of what had happened to Robert Simpson. He begged that his former instructor, W. E. Davenport, be sent for, as he thought he could arouse Simpson. Davenport arrived and made an effort to revive the victim. He spoke to him. "Bob, your heart," then, again, "Bob, your heart, your heart is beating." Then again, "Bob, listen! Hear what I say! Your heart! Your heart is beating!" Once more he appealed, "Bob, Bob, you hear me. Your heart is moving." Davenport had to admit that the conclusions the doctors of the hospital to which Simpson had been removed, that he was dead, was correct. When the victim collapsed Drs. Long and Flynn had made every effort to arouse Simpson, but without avail.

Simpson is reported to have been a heavy drinker, and that he was a "good subject" for hypnotism. The post mortem, made by Drs. Lond and Stilwell, revealed a rupture three-fourths of an inch in length in the aorta near the heart. The doctors thought the rupture had been caused by a strain. The organs of the man's body were in a weakened condition owing to his drinking habits.

It is to be hoped that this occurrence will awaken public conscience to such an extent that there will be such legislation as will put these "exhibitors" out of business. The words of Charcot should be ever kept in mind, "That hypnotism is a very dangerous condition to induce and should only be resorted to in cases of extreme necessity." This was said after he had very great experience.