

yet we must write guardedly concerning it. There is little doubt of the value of suggestive therapeutics, as every physician is aware. We know that mental states and bodily states interact on each other, that dwelling in thought on a diseased part may cause pain. But this is explained by the irritation that nerves carrying impulses, set up in the affected region. But such influence has its limitation; but to decide just where is one of the greatest of problems. The extreme idea is that of Christian Science, which holds that all diseases are mental, and, with a certain degree of religious faith, are under mental control. Just where hypnotism stands is difficult to define, as it introduces the huge factors of a foreign mind influencing in minute details the mental phenomena of another, and the total submission of the will-power of the latter to that of the former. At my present stage of study I cannot grasp the relations of any natural laws that accurately cover the whole of each case, and so must wait for more light.

However, in explanation of such phenomena we must be specially guarded against being deceived by a species of psychological legerdemain that I believe permeates many of the theological, metaphysical and even scientific theories of the age. Telepathy was, and is yet a fad of this nature in psychological circles, but it is losing ground, and we may expect soon to find it among the debris of undemonstrated theories. I am convinced at the present stage of my study that human mental phenomena can take place in no other region than in the confines of the nervous system, and consequently can find no evidence whatever for telepathy, spiritualism, and mind-reading, where there is no external thread of suggestion or sense communication, except the coincidence of some of the thoughts which, with great rapidity and in marvellous numbers, pass through the mind of the subject, coupled with the emphasis due to the mere fact of coincidence, which is always more or less striking. Also there is in the subject often a strong and apparently innate desire to wrap such a coincidence with circumstances that render an explanation difficult, by eliminating all possible clues to its solution. How often have we seen this subtle failing in our friends! Perhaps it is an evidence of the doctrine of total depravity. It appears to be governed by our feelings of prepossession or prejudice, and leads us to cherish that which we will to choose.

In conclusion, I quote a passage from the *Nineteenth Century* of a few years ago, which bears on some of the points at issue in which there are some dogmatic remarks that may apply in part to hypnotism as I have seen it from many platforms, but more especially to other later day psychological fads.

“TELEPATHY.

“Telepathy sounds better to modern ears than mesmeric trance or clairvoyance; it has no more substantial foundation. It is an attempt to discover whether it is possible to see without eyes, to hear without ears, to receive or convey impressions without the aid of the special senses. The spirit-rappers, the Davenports, the Bishops, the thought readers, the animal magnetizers, have dropped into darkness and are buried in the mud. Telepathy is a silly attempt to revive in a pseudo-scientific form, such as self-deception of this kind has always assumed, but in a very feeble form, and with very futile and inane results, the failures and impostures of the past. Happily, it is confined to a few, and those, I am ashamed to say, chiefly in this country. It has a feeble and lingering existence, and is undoubtedly destined to die immaturely.

“To conclude, then, these delusions, this miracle-mongering, these disordered visions and hysteric hallucinations, this exploitation of the love of the mysterious, these pseudo-magnetic attractions, these sham scientific floatings in the air, these fixations of the body, these thought-readings and foretellings, these vain pro-

nouncements concerning unseen worlds and invisible planes of being, these playings on the fears, the hopes, the feeble senses, the eager imaginations, and the ill-balanced reason of the masses, are as old as—nay, apparently older than—history. Sometimes in this, as in other things, we are tempted to ask, ‘Does the world make any progress, or are we still moving on the same planes and in the same grooves of ignorance and superstition, knavery, folly, and self-deception?’”

ALPHA.

THE LITERARY SOCIETY.

The postponed meeting of the Literary Society was held Monday evening. After waiting in vain for the arrival of the customary crowd, Vice-President Hancock, in the absence of Mr. McLennan, took the chair.

The small audience quickly came to order, and the son of Venus and Zeno read the minutes. Mr. Scarfe read a communication from the Osgoode Legal and Literary Society inviting a representative to their annual dinner. Mr. Shotwell was presented with the enclosed tickets.

A list of the conveners and officers of the Conversat Committee was then read, and Messrs. Little and Munroe immediately raised various objections to one name on the list, because he was a third year man. The little unpleasantness which threatened to disturb the meeting was quelled by a motion to refer the matter back to the Executive. Fault was also found with the committee in choosing a Mathematical, a Natural Science, and a Psychological Committee for the Conversat. Mr. Little said it was customary for these societies to select their own men. On a motion being put, it was decided to follow the custom.

The question whether the ladies should be asked to the meeting of the Mock Parliament after Christmas was now brought forward. After a long discussion as to who should have the honor of bringing in a motion to the effect that they be admitted, Mr. Sandwell won the coveted prize. On a vote, the motion was lost, and most of the ladies' men departed.

The meeting was now resolved into a Mock Parliament. Mr. Johnston was elected Speaker.

The Hon. Mr. Boulton moved that Messrs. Sandwell, Hancock and the mover be a committee to draft a reply to the Speech from the Throne. Mr. Hancock, in seconding this motion, made one of the most brilliant speeches of the session. The Opposition occasionally interrupted, and the Speaker was forced to make Mr. Hancock retract several of his statements, by proving conclusively by Bourinot, in the hands of Clerk Creighton, that they were entirely out of order, but the bulk of his voluminous speech was listened to with great attention.

The member for Spodunk moved in amendment that the discussion of the Speech from the Throne be continued. The original motion was carried.

The Hon. Mr. Sandwell now appeared from the devastated ranks of the Government, to deliver the best Budget Speech it has been the pleasure of the Mock Parliament to listen to for some sessions.

He assured the members of the Opposition that he would judge their actions, when in power, solely from the report of the blue book, and if they did not “blush a flaring red it was because their prospects of return to power were blue indeed.” Someone said Mr. Little tried to make a joke here, but this is not vouched for.

Mr. Sandwell proceeding told of a deficit of \$7,000,000 in the Finance Minister's report, the year previous. Small though the amount, the Honorable gentleman, and various members of both sides dwelt long and laboriously in trying to explain where it had gone.