



PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT.

Hypnotism

Its causes and effects. By the Editor.

CHAPTER IV.

ANOTHER question is often asked which is this; "Is it not possible for persons who are evil-disposed to do a great deal of harm through an understanding of Hypnotism, and should we not put an end to its practice and prevent the public from understanding its principles?"

To which I answer a great deal of harm may be done through a knowledge of its principles; but ignorance can never be considered a successful weapon with which to attack or ever attempt to suppress evil of any kind. If "knowledge is power" (and such we acknowledge it to be) in the hands of those who would use the principles of hypnotism for EVIL; then we assert that knowledge may be made equally powerful for GOOD in the hands of those who are so disposed.

But that we may show more plainly wherein there is a liability of a knowledge of hypnotism being used for evil purposes, we must first clearly set forth its possibilities.

The question that is agitating the thinking minds in the present age is; "To what extent may this power be used in influencing people to do wrong"? And when the fearful truth flashes across the mind or is indelibly stamped upon our consciousness, (through oft repeated phenomena), that there is no seeming limit to this powerful agency of sin, but that vice and crime of every dis-cription, even to the extent of MURDER may be perpetrated under its baneful influence;