

DR. RYDER ON GENESIS.

A cutting from a local paper of July, 1880, has just come to light with a report of a lecture by Dr. Isaiah Ryder expounding the physiological interpretation of the Bible. The Doctor appears to think that this is the only key, but the Easterns declare the existence of seven on the seven different planes of being. The physiological key, which Dr. Ryder has independently discovered, they say is the lowest, and was well known to the Jews. Appended is a portion of the cutting referred to.

At a meeting in a room at the Mechanics' Institute Dr. Ryder read his paper, in which he gave a new interpretation of the Mosaic account of man's creation and fall. In this he held that the "Tree of Life" meant the great sympathetic or ganglionic nervous system, which is also recognized as the involuntary nervous system. Its function is still undecided by the general profession, but the Doctor claimed that it presided over and controlled the processes of nutrition and depuration. The "Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil" he understood to be the cerebro spinal system of nerves, the function of which is to take cognizance of our external surroundings, thus making it to each individual an instrument of knowledge. So the reference to these, as to the "serpent" in Genesis, was strictly scientific, and not allegorical, as generally held. This inference he took to be borne out by the fact that man is the only species among the vertebrata that naturally maintains an erect position, but more especially to the resemblance of these nervous systems to a tree with pendant branches, and the fact that their functions depend on the presence of the vital principle, as do those of trees. The identity of the serpent he traced to the base of the human brain, which is analogous in functions to the base of the brain in the lowest animals, including that of the serpent. This function consists of the perversion of "alimentaryness" and "bibative-ness," which he thought was the direct sin against the "Tree of Life," causing the gradual deterioration of the fluids and tissues of the body. This was the death referred to in the warning given to Adam and Eve by the Almighty. Indirectly this sin was brought about by the perversion of the faculties of the mind known as "secretiveness," which degenerate into deception, factious op-

position, and violence, as exhibited in the serpent in capturing its victim. These, with "vitativeness" or loss of life, and "amativeness" afforded the temptation to which our first parents were subjected. These organs constituted the lower range of faculties, and completed the circle of the base, excepting the frontal lobe, which was occupied by the perceptive faculties alike in man and serpent. The "forbidden fruit" is anything that vitiates the vital current.

In the penalty imposed upon the serpent. "Upon thy belly shalt thou go and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life" God meant that when man allowed himself to be tempted by a perversion of the faculties mentioned, the higher faculties would be dragged down, or lose their controlling influence, and that he would be not physically, but mentally and spiritually debased as the serpent which goes on his belly. The latter portion of the penalty meant the effects of this debasement on his vital current, on which his health so surely depends. It was the introduction into that current of anything that did not possess the vital principle, and was consequently a portion of the inorganic world or "dust," from which man was originally, and is now, made. So, the doctor judged, the opinions generally received in reference to this matter were erroneous, and had led to results most disastrous to the interests of the human family.

118 YEARS OLD IN TORONTO.

At 691 Markham street, just north of London street, lives Mrs. Deborah Brown, who was born in the State of Maryland on the 10th day of August, 1776, and is now, therefore, 118 years of age. Mrs. Brown's maiden name was Gleaves and she was born in slavery from which she escaped 54 years ago with her second husband. Her only surviving child, Mrs. Elizabeth Brooks, also resides in the city, and is 84 years of age. Mrs. Brown enjoys very fair health and indulges in a pipe of good tobacco with relish. She is pleased to receive visitors.

Then let us pray that come it may,

As come it will, for a' that.

That sense and worth, o'er a' the earth,

May bear the gree, and a' that.

For a' that, and a' that,

It's comin' yet, for a' that,

When man to man, the warid o'er,

Shall brithers be for a' that.

—ROBERT BURNS,