

"Electro-psychologists." The hypotheses under these names have "strutted on the stage," but where are they now? The last hypothesis which has been advanced so far as have been constructed into a theory, built nevertheless upon a most sandy foundation, is that of Karle Baron Von Reichenbach, who, comfortably located in his castle near Vienna, refers all the phenomena, elicited by what has been termed mesmerism or animal magnetism, to a peculiar fluid which he calls "Odyle," somewhat analogous to magnetism, and associated with the latter force in the magnet.

In a review of "Mesmerism in India," by Dr Esdaile, (see Vol. III. of this Journal, page 20,) we employed, in concluding our article, the following expression—"Mesmerism is either true or it is false. Undoubtedly many extravagancies have been perpetrated under its name; but is every thing which has been recorded of it extravagant—or is every thing equally so? It behoves the profession now to examine the subject for themselves. If false—let it be proved to be so; if true—no matter to how trifling an extent—let its therapeutic value to that extent be determined." We believe Dr Esdaile to have been a perfectly credible witness, with regard to the facts put forth in that review, from which we have just quoted; and we propose now to continue our investigation of the subject.

There is one circumstance in the publication now before us, with which we must, *in limine*, find fault. The work is evidently written for the public; not for the profession, and the fulsome dedication to "His Grace the Duke of Argyle," by no means diminishes this objection to it. Can it be that Dr Gregory imagines that the judgment of the profession, or that of men of science unconnected with it, will be controlled by popular opinion in a matter of this kind? The author's eminent scientific attainments preclude such an

idea, and would have secured for any production from his pen an attentive consideration. He has not seen fit to do so, however, and he is on this account open to censure.

The first three chapters are occupied in disposing of the various objections which have been raised against animal magnetism. These objections are cleverly managed, although in some cases, the force of the argument is weakened by exaggeration. For example: "Every one knows that catalepsy, and cataleptic rigidity of muscles is of very frequent occurrence as a natural symptom, in certain diseases.—The same may be said of preternatural acuteness of the senses, of utter insensibility for the time, to sounds, to light, to smell, to taste, and even to pain; of divided consciousness, of the state of somnambulism, with its multitudinously attended train of strange phenomena." Therefore, argues our author, there is nothing incongruous in the induction of similar phenomena by artificial influence. Admitting the induction of such conditions, which are, at most, but only *apparently* analogous to those effected by the operations of animal magnetism,—the circumstances of induction are not the same, nor are the pathological conditions the same, or their removal or suspension would be a matter of as easy attainment in the one case as in the other.

Without following our author through the whole volume before us, for he appears to be a most enthusiastic believer in, and advocate of everything strange and even extravagant, in animal magnetism, we propose now to give a *resumé* of the proposed "Odyllic" hypothesis, as entertained, or at least approved of, by our author, commensurate with the space at our disposal.

There can be no question that the hypothesis now advanced is a modification of that proposed by Mesmer. The latter conceived that the phenomena produced were the efflux of a subtle fluid from, or its in-