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Science.

ANIMAL MAGNETISM

[CONCLUDED FROM OUR LAST.]

*Simple Somnambulism in a Healthy Female, and correct decisions made by her on the diseases of others. --- Her Diagnosis and Prognosis in the Case of one of the Committee. --- The same in two Patients of the Committee's Reporter.*

"Mademoiselle Celine Suavage was placed in a state of somnambulism, in presence of the committee, on the 18th and 21st of April, the 17th of June, the 9th of August, the 23rd of December, 1826, and 13th and 17th of January, and 21st of February 1827.

"In passing into the state of somnambulism, she experienced a coolness of several degrees, appreciable by the thermometer; her tongue, from being moist and flexible, became dry and wrinkled; her breath, until then sweet, became fetid and repulsive.

"The sensibility was almost entirely annihilated during the continuance of her sleep, for she made six inspirations, having a bottle filled with hydrochloric acid under her nostrils, without manifesting any emotion. M. Marc pinched her wrist; a needle used in acupuncture was thrust to the depth of three lines into her left thigh; another, to the depth of two lines into her left wrist. These two needles were united by means of a galvanic conductor; very perceptible convulsive motions were produced in the hand; and Mademoiselle Celine seemed quite unconscious of all that was done to her. She heard the voices of persons who spoke close to her and touched her, but she did not remark the noise of two plates which were broken beside her.

"It was while she was sunk in this state of somnambulism, that the committee recognised in her three times the faculty of discoursing upon the diseases of other persons whom she touched, and of pointing out the appropriate remedies.

"The committee found, amongst its own members, one who was willing to submit to the investigation of this somnambulist. This was M. Marc. Mademoiselle Celine was requested to examine attentively our colleague's state of health. She applied her hand to his forehead, and to the region of the heart, and in the course of three minutes she said, that the blood had a tendency to the head; that, at that moment, M. Marc had pain on the left side of this cavity; that he often felt an oppression, especially after having eaten; that he must often have a slight cough; that the lower part of the breast was gorged with blood; that something impeded the alimentary passage; that this part (pointing to the region or the xiphoid cartilage) was contracted; that to cure M. Marc, it was necessary that he should be copiously bled; that cataplasms of hemlock should be applied, and that the lower part of the breast should be rubbed with laudanum; that he should drink gummed lemonade, and that he should exercise immediately after waking; that he should be rubbed with mercurial ointment before drawing it off.

Besides, she prescribed a clyster composed of a decoction of Peruvian bark (kina), and immediately after, another, of the roots of the marsh-mallow,--friction of the limbs with ether, a bath every week; food made of milk (laitage), light meats, and abstinence from wine. This treatment was followed for some time, and there was a perceptible amelioration of the symptoms. But the impatience of the patient, who did not think her recovery proceeding with sufficient rapidity, determined the family to call another consultation of physicians, who decided that she should again be placed under mercurial treatment. From this period, the reporter ceased to attend the patient; and he learnt that the administration of the mercury had produced very serious affections of the stomach, which terminated her existence after two months of acute suffering. A proces-verbal upon opening the body, signed by MM. Fouquier, Marjolin, Cruveillier, and Foissac, verified the existence of a serofulous or tubercular obstruction of the glands of the neck, two small cavities full of pus, proceeding from the tubercles at the top of each of the lungs; the mucous membrane of the great cul-de-sac of the stomach was almost entirely destroyed. These gentlemen ascertained, besides, that there was no indication of the presence of any syphilitic disease, whether old or recent.

"From the preceding observations it follows, 1. That in the state of somnambulism, Mademoiselle Celine pointed out the diseases of three individuals, with whom she was placed in magnetic connexion; 2. That the declaration of the first, the examination which was made of the other after three punctures,

"We were struck with this analogy between the feelings of M. Marc and the announcement of the somnambulist; we noted it with care, and awaited another opportunity of procuring a new confirmation of the existence of this singular faculty. This opportunity was presented to the reporter, without his having sought it, by the mother of a young lady, whom he had attended for a very short time. The patient was from twenty-three to twenty-five years of age, and had been afflicted, for about two years, with dropsy of the abdomen (ascites); accompanied with a number of obstructions, some of the size of an egg, some of the size of the fist, others as large as a child's head, which were situated principally on the left side of the belly. The belly externally was unequal and corrugated, and these inequalities corresponded to the obstructions which had their seat within the abdomen. M. Dupuytren had already punctured this patient ten or twelve times, and had always withdrawn a large quantity of clear, limpid albumen, without smell, and without any mixture. An alleviation of the symptoms always followed this operation. The reporter was once present at this operation, and it was easy for M. Dupuytren and him to ascertain the size and the hardness of these tumours, and, consequently, to become sensible of their inability to cure this patient. Nevertheless, they prescribed different remedies, and they attached some importance to the putting Mademoiselle Celine upon a regimen of goat's milk, the goat having been previously subject to mercurial frictions. Upon the 21st of February 1827, the reporter went in search of M. Foissac and Mademoiselle Celine, and conducted them to a house in the street of the Faubourg du Raule, without mentioning the name or the residence, or the nature of the disease of the person whom he wished to submit to the examination of the somnambulist. The patient did not appear in the room where the experiment was made until M. Foissac had set Mademoiselle Celine asleep, and then, after having placed a hand of the one in that of the other, she examined her during eight minutes, not as a physician would do, by pressing the abdomen, but percutting, by scrutinizing it in every way, but merely by applying her hand repeatedly to the stomach, the heart, the back, and the head. Being interrogated as to what she observed in Mademoiselle Celine, she answered that the whole belly was diseased, that there was in it a scirrhus and a large quantity of water on the side of the spleen, that the intestines were very much puffed up, that there were pouches containing worms, that there were swellings of the size of an egg, containing a puriform matter, and that these swellings must be painful; that at the bottom of the stomach there was an obstructed gland (glande engorgée) of the thickness of three of her fingers; that this gland was in the interior of the stomach, and must injure the digestion; that the disease was of old standing; that Mademoiselle Celine must have headaché. She prescribed the use of a diet-drink of borage and nitrate of potash, and a decoction of Peruvian bark (kina), five ounces, to be taken every morning, and a clyster composed of a decoction of Peruvian bark (kina), and immediately after, another, of the roots of the marsh-mallow,--friction of the limbs with ether, a bath every week; food made of milk (laitage), light meats, and abstinence from wine. This treatment was followed for some time, and there was a perceptible amelioration of the symptoms. But the impatience of the patient, who did not think her recovery proceeding with sufficient rapidity, determined the family to call another consultation of physicians, who decided that she should again be placed under mercurial treatment. From this period, the reporter ceased to attend the patient; and he learnt that the administration of the mercury had produced very serious affections of the stomach, which terminated her existence after two months of acute suffering. A proces-verbal upon opening the body, signed by MM. Fouquier, Marjolin, Cruveillier, and Foissac, verified the existence of a serofulous or tubercular obstruction of the glands of the neck, two small cavities full of pus, proceeding from the tubercles at the top of each of the lungs; the mucous membrane of the great cul-de-sac of the stomach was almost entirely destroyed. These gentlemen ascertained, besides, that there was no indication of the presence of any syphilitic disease, whether old or recent.

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emollient decoction. The diet should consist of white meats, milk and flour, and no lemon. She allowed very little wine, a little orange-flower rum, or the liquor of spiced mint. This treatment was not followed, and if it had, it could not have saved the patient. She died a year afterwards. As the body was not opened, we could not verify what had been said by the somnambulist.

"Upon an occasion of great delicacy, when very able physicians, several of whom are members of the Academy, had prescribed a mercurial treatment for an obstruction (engorgement) of the glands of the neck, which they attributed to a syphilitic taint, the family of the patient, under this treatment, alarmed at the appearance of some serious consequences, wished to have the advice of a somnambulist. The reporter was called in to assist at a consultation, and he did not neglect to take advantage of this new opportunity of adding to what the committee had already seen. He found the patient to be a young married woman, Madame La C --, having the whole right side of the neck deeply obstructed by a great congeries of glands close upon each other. One of them was opened, and emitted a yellowish purulent matter.

"Mademoiselle Celine, whom M. Foissac magnetized in the presence of the reporter, placed herself in connexion with this patient, and affirmed that the stomach had been attacked by a substance like poison; that there was a slight inflammation of the intestines; that, in the upper part of the neck, on the right side, there was a serofulous complaint, which ought to have been more considerable than it was at present; that by following a soothing treatment, which she prescribed, the disease would be mitigated in the course of fifteen days or three weeks. This treatment consisted of some grains of magnesia, eight leeches applied to the pit of the stomach, water-gruel, a saline cathartic every week, two clysters each day--one of a decoction of Peruvian bark (kina), and immediately after, another, of the roots of the marsh-mallow,--friction of the limbs with ether, a bath every week; food made of milk (laitage), light meats, and abstinence from wine. This treatment was followed for some time, and there was a perceptible amelioration of the symptoms. But the impatience of the patient, who did not think her recovery proceeding with sufficient rapidity, determined the family to call another consultation of physicians, who decided that she should again be placed under mercurial treatment. From this period, the reporter ceased to attend the patient; and he learnt that the administration of the mercury had produced very serious affections of the stomach, which terminated her existence after two months of acute suffering. A proces-verbal upon opening the body, signed by MM. Fouquier, Marjolin, Cruveillier, and Foissac, verified the existence of a serofulous or tubercular obstruction of the glands of the neck, two small cavities full of pus, proceeding from the tubercles at the top of each of the lungs; the mucous membrane of the great cul-de-sac of the stomach was almost entirely destroyed. These gentlemen ascertained, besides, that there was no indication of the presence of any syphilitic disease, whether old or recent.

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