tion of the Marquis of Northampton (who boasts of being a man of science), on the ground that the subject of experiment was *disgusting*. This comes of allowing hereditary legislators to take the management of the Association. We do think that scientific men should manage the affairs of a scientific body. Those who are destitute of scientific spirit are totally unqualified to appreciate the absolute necessity for scientific research. £2263 were voted to the Physical Section, and £200 were refused to the united recommendation of the Chemical and Medical Sections. We believe, however, that the medical men are to blame, as none of them were present at the Committee. The Chemical Section was represented by Mr. Whewell, who knows nothing of chemistry, and has, we believe, some superficial acquaintance with many things, and a deep one of nothing, who actually in the General Committee voted against the grant.

THE LANCET.

London, Saturday, September 15, 1838.

THE "science" of mesmerism, like the "science" of fortunetelling, will always carry on a precarious existence wherever there are clever girls, philosophic Bohemians, weak women, and weaker men, but it can no longer affront the common sense of the medical profession, or dare to show its face in the scientific societies after the late exposure. MESMER was justly declared by M. BERTRAND to be "*a man of very moderate "talents, but possessed with an ardent desire "to distinguish himself by novelties*, and by "escaping from the trodden path of his con- "temporaries." He had talent enough to deceive himself, and shrewdness enough to convert his delusion into notoriety and Louis d'or. His example was seducing; but *Baron* DUPOTET will probably find a speculation on the credulity of London unprofitable, when the few men of science who have momentarily fallen, by a strange aberration, into the mesmeric snare, honestly withdraw, put on the white sheet, and proclaim their errors to the world.

In approaching the investigation of the science, falsely so-called, some knowledge of the character of the O'KEYS' minds was indispensable. This was easily obtained. JANE O'KEY appears, on a cursory examination to be but a tame copy of her sister. ELIZABETH is a genius in her line. This is betrayed by her dark, piercing eye, her wonderful performances, and the power which she exercises over all who have come much in contact with her. One of her performances, it is said, was essayed at the chapel of the mad and Rev. EDWARD IRVING: O'KEY arose during the service, prophesied, and spoke the "unknown tongues" so clamourously that the deacons were induced to lead her out of the midst of the congregation. Her improvisations at the mesmeric sittings, the witticisms, the sarcasms, the snatches of song, which she spouted so prodigiously, were, not unfrequently, worthy of the licensed fool of the old comedy: the audience was often amused, when the jokes derived their raciness neither from ribaldry, profanity, nor obscenity. Her very impudence was *naïf*. The talent which she possesses in greatest perfection is imitation; the talent possessed by few of representing feelings and states of the mind vividly, so as to impress spectators with their reality. In this O'KEY is excelled by few actresses on the stage. During what is called her natural state, she mimicked a poor patient at University College Hospital, who laboured under *tic douloureux*; expressed the agony of the thrilling nerves, smote the head and cheek, uttered imploring cries, raised the eye, red, and moist with tears, and then sketched, as a *divertimento*, the Wry-Mouth Family. In the course of the experiments on Thursday, she took occasion to descant on "affected young ladies," gave several examples of the character delicately drawn, and, having worked up the indignation of the audience, concluded with an abrupt characteristic interrogative,—"Now, "what would I do with such a *fine* young "lady? Why, kick her a— to be sure." The coaxing, flattering strain in which she addressed Dr. ELLIOTSON, and her other favourites, displayed tact, consciousness of power in dealing with other minds, and a

full knowledge of all the advantages of her position. In her *delirium* she took strange liberties with the worthy Doctor, and addressed him in the following strains, "I am "an idiot, Dr. ELLIOTSON, and you are an "idiot," concluding in a patronising tone, "I know, now, you like compliments, Doctor, so I pay you this one." All these facts are important.

The mesmerists are very fond of finding traces of their occult "science" in the mysteries, the priestcraft, the temples, and the miracles of past ages; they see in mesmerism a scientific solution of the Delphian oracles, the Sibyl's rage, and the miracles of of ALBAN BULLER's saints. One rash professor did not hesitate to pronounce JESUS CHRIST a great magnetiser; and Mr. HERBERT MAYO beheld in O'KEY an example of the soul's separate existence. The series of distortions exhibited by this girl, under the imaginary influence of nickel, admirably illustrated the traits depicted in the Cumæan Sibyl, by VIRGIL:—

"*Subito non vultus, non color unus,*
Non comptæ mansere comæ; *sed pectus anhelum,*
Et rabie fera corda tument; majorque videri,
Nec mortale sonans: afflata est numine quando
Jam propiore Dei."

Her face changed colour, and dilated visibly; she panted violently, and every limb was convulsed; if the Sibyl had the advantage in immortal voice, O'KEY was never surpassed in the agony of opisthotonos, the intense squint of the eyes, the contortions of the countenance; the face was filled with blood, and dilated by holding the breath, or panting rapidly—*anhelum pectus*. The performance afforded a clear insight into the impositions of ancient priestcraft.

No one acquainted with the fertile resources of O'KEY's mind can doubt of her ability to represent—as pieces of acting—all the states erroneously called mesmeric; or question JANE O'KEY's capacity in the minor performances of enduring pain, and falling into a state of *apparent* insensibility. This deprives the experiments performed within reach of the girl's senses of all value; the waves of the hand before O'KEY's face, blowing in the eyes, blowing on the head, fanning the back of the head affect the senses, and leave involved the question whether the girl's will, or these motions, give rise to the phenomena. To take the passive endurance of pain as a test of insensibility is ludicrous; every medical practitioner has seen patients bear operations without exhibiting the ordinary signs of suffering; tricks of this kind are familiar to all military surgeons. ANN ROSS—who escaped the jealousy of O'KEY—who perhaps attempted to act in concert with her, and to realise that girl's "prophesies," settled the point to the reluctant satisfaction of the mesmerists themselves. She allowed "the "second upper molar tooth to be extracted "in the presence of Dr. ELLIOTSON and "several other gentlemen, *without evincing* "*the slightest evidence of pain*," yet the sleep was *feigned*; and what, we beg to ask, is the pain of a puncture, or a pinch, to the pain attending the extraction of a fanged tooth? Some stress has been laid on the circumstance that O'KEY, in the mesmeric state, withstood the shock of a galvanic battery; but the power of resisting the electrical shock is possessed by some, though not by many persons. We have heard of a gentleman, not far from the North London Hospital, whose arms do not sensibly contract under the influence of galvanism.

In the experiments last reported in this Journal the problem sought to be solved was simply this:—Are the O'KEYS affected by any influence which does not act on the senses? does a metal, "mesmerised," act upon them when they have no means of ascertaining its presumed state? To guard against O'KEY's keen eyes the pasteboard is a very imperfect contrivance unless carefully held; glimpses of light and shadow reach her on every side, sufficient to direct a practised student. Dr. ELLIOTSON had imagined that by merely looking at one hand he could cause it to move: on Thursday he

fixed his eyes mesmerically on the hand, but O'KEY had on the head a well-contrived brown paper cap, which completely precluded vision. No response was made to the most persevering gaze; the cap had not been tried so effectually before, and was evidently viewed with no ordinary spite by the young lady. She fell into the sleep, one of her many doors of escape. Dr. ELLIOTSON attempted to attract the left hand by waving his hand and retreating, but the noise of his boots distinctly betrayed the side to which his efforts were directed; this source of fallacy was met by Mr. WAKLEY walking backwards and forwards on the opposite side; no effect ensued. Dr. ELLIOTSON opened and shut his mouth behind the chair on which the subject of experiment sat; the motion of the jaw produced some noise; she knew the Doctor's position, and could, at any rate, make no great blunder in opening and shutting her mouth; this was done, but her jaw did *not* move synchronously with that of the experimenter.

The temperature of metals warmed in the hand is easily detected by the touch when the temperature of the air is as low as 60°. In all experiments with metals their temperature should, therefore, be raised to 85°. Water is open to the same fallacy. The anxiety, *empressement*, not to say the language of the mesmerists, often furnished O'KEY with indications which she knew well how to interpret. When these sources of fallacy were all guarded against on the 16th and 17th of August, the following is a summary of the results:—

Jane O'Key.—14 glasses of *mesmerised* water produced *no effect*; 10 *mesmerised* sovereigns in succession produced *no effect*; *mesmerised* sovereigns produced the mesmeric effects *five times*; nickel was applied *seven times*, without producing any effect.

Elizabeth O'Key.—Six glasses of *mesmerised* water produced no effect; the unmesmerised water produced a mesmeric effect three times. The convulsions coincided once with the application of *lead*, three times with the application of lead and a copper farthing; the nickel rubbed on the skin at the commencement and *end* of the series of experiments on the 16th produced *no effect*.

These experiments prove, incontrovertibly, that there is no constant relation between the "mesmeric" states of water, or gold, and the pantomimic phenomena exhibited by the O'KEYS. The phenomena were produced when the presumed cause was absent; the cause was present, and the effects were not manifested; and these anomalies were not "few and far between," but of frequent occuarence. If the mesmerists shuffle, shift their ground, and say that their experiments do not always succeed; if they shrink back from the generality of the principle, and pretend that there is no *constant connection* between the "mesmeric" cause and the "mesmeric" effect; if they merely maintain that "mesmerised" sovereigns produce the phenomena *more frequently* than sovereigns not mesmerised, the question resolves itself into one of mere probabilities; and here they are wide at sea, for where can they show us a series of 1000 recorded careful experiments (a smaller number would be inadequate) in proof of the alleged frequency?

They are pleased to cite LAPLACE, when, in his "Calcul des Probabilities," he censures those who declared mesmeric effects *impossible*; but let us test the facts by the doctrines of probability; of this LAPLACE did not speak. Guided by the analogies of Nature, we assume that all the mesmeric phenomena are produced voluntarily; that the O'KEYS guess when objects have been mesmerised. On this hypothesis, how often would they be right, how often wrong? You put a sovereign into O'KEY's hand. She asks herself this question:—Is the metal mesmerised? By the aid of temperature she decides the question at once; but, supposing this source of fallacy obviated, she is as likely to be *right* as *wrong* in guessing: the chances are equal; and the probability is, that she will be right every other time. If a player bet a sovereign that he can name the colour of every card turned

up in a pack of 52, and call "red" every time, he will lose 26 times and gain 26 times; so if a *clairvoyante* pretend to *see*, and call the colour of every card, she will be right every other time on an average. But the mesmerists would not be satisfied with this; at every run of ill-luck they would indubitably exclaim—"Ah! she is not lucid now," "She is not susceptible," or, "you *looked* at the card," &c., &c., so as to account plausibly for the 26 inevitable failures. These are the subterfuges. When no effect is produced by mesmeric agents, the patients are declared to be "unsusceptible," or "asleep," or in some convenient state of suspended action. When the effects happen without a cause, the spectators have "looked," or "breathed," or in some way thrown the subtle agency into action. Your mesmerist is not easily caught.

In Edinburgh, one of Mr. IRVING's apostles prayed ardently for the restoration of a disciple *in articulo mortis*: after asking the poor man repeatedly "if he had faith," the apostle exclaimed with all the fervour of impious fanaticism, "In the name of the LORD JESUS CHRIST I command thee to arise!" The patient arose with a convulsive effort, and dropped down dead. All eyes were directed to the Irvingite; his reply was worthy of a mesmerist. He ascribed the accident to the presence of unbelievers.

With the experience of CHARLOTTE BENTLEY, MARY ANN BUTLER, and ANN ROSS before their eyes, some persons (whom O'KEY, in her ecstatic state, would call d—d fools) assert that the young impostors have no motives for lending themselves to deception. No motives! We see such motives as few uneducated girls could resist. O'KEY, no doubt, in the first place, *pitied* the believers panting for signs and wonders, which the slightest exertion of her will could produce; she desired to please and astonish her dear good friends; and what ambitious spirit could avoid entering a field where all her faculties could exert their utmost power over a large audience? To all these fascinating allurements there was nothing opposed but an ill educated and, perhaps, half-deceived conscience.

As O'KEY, in our opinion, has been unwittingly *tempted* into a course of deception, less blame attaches to her than to ordinary impostors; and we cannot but regret that no means have been devised for giving her artistical talent a legitimate direction. If, a regular "*spectacle pour les enfans*" existed in London, as it does in Paris, O'KEY would make no insignificant heroine; in fact, some of the minor theatres may find it no bad speculation to get up a mesmeric farce, in which O'KEY, with a little training, would appear with advantage.

In the course of a well-devised series of experiments, and the "explanation" of failures, there would be room for much pleasant dialogue. Mr. HERBERT MAYO might be introduced with great effect, "*looking for a* "*minute fixedly upon one spot of mesmirable* "*surface, as, for instance, a* STONE MANTLE-"SHELF,"—and the intense, lack-lustre look of the mesmerist, as in VEAUMOREL's metaphor of "a sheep dreaming,"—*un mouton qui reve*

"Now brightly bold, or beautifully shy,"

magnetising a remote sovereign, or stone mantle-shelf, would of itself secure any farce success. Besides, Mr. MAYO's "mind," in illustration of his doctrine, might, like HARRY the EIGHTH's soul, be represented "dislocated and displaced from her corpo-"real tenement, holding on with misplaced "attributes to *unaccustomed points and* "*corners of the frame.*" The form and localisation of Mr. MAYO's "mind" would scarcely embarrass the artist. By enacting, in character, the elegant allegory sketched in his last letter this gentleman would supply an inimitable epilogue:—

Enter, *Mr. Herbert Mayo, properly habited, the infant, Mesmerism, in his arms.*

"I have now completed the *fostering offices* towards *Mesmerism*, which its *forlorn condition* appeared to me to claim for it, as soon as I detected beneath its dirt and frippery the marks of an honest extraction. I have viewed it as *stolen at its birth* by quackery from science. I have endeavoured

to restore it to its true rank and place; I have *clothed it in a dress* in which *its proper parent* need no longer be *ashamed to own it*; I have finally contrived for it something like *a philosophic appellation*. I am (ladies and gentlemen) your obedient servant,*——
HERBERT MAYO!"

Exit *Mr. Herbert Mayo, in great dismay; he discovers that Mesmerism is "no more."*

WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL.

TRAUMATIC DELIRIUM TREMENS

Successfully treated with Opium; mistaken for Insanity by the President of the College of Surgeons.

THOMAS HOLMES, an athletic man, 53 years old, having received an injury to the forearm, was brought to this institution on the 22nd August, and received under the care of Sir Anthony Carlisle. The patient was a free liver, and had for many years been employed as a coal-heaver at the gas manufactory, and two days preceding his admission had fallen on his forearm, whilst carrying a load. The injury occasioned him a great deal of pain, but he nenevertheless continued at his work for the remainder of the day, the injured limb, however, being nearly useless.

On the patient's admission, Mr. Bury Dasent found the left arm so much swollen and inflamed, as to mask the nature and extent of the injury. Mr. Dasent, suspecting the existence of fracture, ordered the man to bed, and placed the arm horizontally on a cushion, and had leeches and lotions applied. Saline aperient medicines were also administered internally. These measures effected but little benefit. On the evening of the 24th of August the man became restless and irritable, and at ten, P.M., was perfectly delirious. He imagined some terrific monster was staring him in the face, and he was making continual efforts to escape. All the voluntary muscles were agitated, and his eyes, lips, and alæ nasi perpetually moving; the conjunctiva was injected, and the pulse rapid and feeble. Mr. Dasent gave him half a grain of acetate of morphia.

25. The patient had a good night's rest; the pulse was still small and rapid, and the tongue brown. Though much quieter than last night, he still remains under the illusion. He is ordered the following medicine:—

Take of *carbonate of ammonia*, a drachm; *solution of acetate of ammonia*, two ounces; *laudanum*, a drachm; *camphor mixture*, six ounces. Mix, and let the patient have a fluid ounce of the mixture every four hours. Having swallowed two doses of this medicine the symptoms became more violent, and it became necessary to restrain the patient with a straightwaistcoat.

3, P.M. Holmes still continues violent, frequently starting up, struggling to loose himself, and remonstrating with his attendants for his unjust detention. Half a grain of *acetate of morphia* was now administered.

11, P.M. The morphia produced no appreciable effect. He has been exceedingly unruly, crying and talking incessantly. A grain of morphia was now administered, and in a short time its effects were visible.

26. The patient had some sleep in the night, but the delirium is as violent as ever this morning; he refuses his medicine. His bowels are freely open, and he is bedewed with perspiration. His pulse as rapid as before. Thirty minims of Battley's sedative solution of opium now given to him.

2, P.M. A grain and a half of acetate of morphia now exhibited.

5, P.M. No material amendment of symptoms has occurred. A drachm of Battley's solution injected in a vehicle into the rectum.

11, P.M. Delirium apparently undiminished. Two drachms of Battley's solution thrown up into the rectum. At midnight he is quite quiet and asleep.

27. He slept well all night, and he is quite rational this morning. The pulse is is 60, and soft, and the tongue moist and whitish. He is low in spirits; a dose of calomel and colocynth is given to him. The forearm, the injury to which was the original cause of his admission, is less tumefied and inflamed, and Mr. Dasent has consequently deemed it prudent to place the limb in splints, both bones of the forearm being ascertained to be broken.

31. The patient is rational, cheerful, and convalescent. The countenance is tranquil; he has slight exfoliation of the cuticle of the lips; the tongue is highly furred; his bowels act regularly; he has no headach, and sleeps well. Small doses of opium have been given to him daily.

The poor fellow was, however, nearly expelled from the hospital, in his helpless condition, in consequence of the following document, written by his surgeon. Through the interference, however, of Mr. Hale Thomson, the assistant-surgeon, the order of Sir Anthony Carlisle was not complied with.

"Westminster Hospital, Aug. 28, 1838.

"This is to certify that Thomas Holmes hath been, from August 22d instant, under my professional care, labouring under a high state of nervous and mental irritation, for which the usual treatment has been adopted, but during the time of his abode in the hospital he has shown decided marks of *insanity*, and has been so violent as to require bodily restraint by a straightwaistcoat, and been an incessant disturber of the

* Letter to the Editor of the "Medical Gazette."