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A KEY
TO THE SCIENCE OF

Electrical Psychology.

ALL ITS SECRETS EXPLAINED, WITH FULL AND COMPREHENSIVE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE MODE OF OPERATION, AND ITS APPLICATION TO DISEASE, WITH SOME USEFUL AND HIGHLY INTERESTING EXPERIMENTS.

Every Person an Operator.

—A—

BY A PROFESSOR OF THE SCIENCE.
1849.

see Watson's boxes

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TO THE EDITOR OF

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CHAS. C. PARSONS, EDITOR

BY A PROFESSOR OF THE JOURNAL

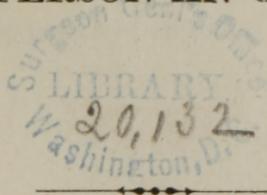
A KEY

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INTRODUCTION.

The Author deeming a knowledge of this science of the utmost importance to community, offers it to the public with the following reasons:

1st. As all those lecturing on this science hold it to be salutary in its application to disease, it should therefore be understood by all, that its benefits may be universal.

2d. Those who have paid the sum of Ten Dollars for merely the practical part of this science, have not been properly instructed with regard to its effects, to apply it effectually, which is necessary to produce good results.

3d. It should be thoroughly understood by all, as being the only safeguard thrown around it and the public, to prevent imposition, which may be practised on either sex, through its agency.

PSYCHOLOGY.

THE SCIENCE OF PSYCHOLOGY, or the relation of Electricity to the mind, is a subject of vast meaning, and one if rightly understood, would work a greater revolution in the mental world, than all the mechanical inventions that ever has been produced. That the science has arrived to its maturity, would be vain for me to contend. But it has been reduced from theory to practice, and now the field is open to thorough investigation. Much skepticism has prevailed in reference to this science, but it has not much to fear from that source in on intelligent manner.

When Fulton first introduced the subject of steam navigation, who was there to give credence to his theory. But when after much difficulty he succeeded in illustrating the principle upon which it was constructed, by exhibiting to their astonished gaze this complicated machinery in full operation, his unbelieving auditors were confounded by the genius displayed in making so grand an experiment through the propelling agency of steam.

It would be unnecessary for me to enlarge upon the application of steam power, as you are all so well acquainted with the convenience and benefits arising from it, that further comments would be merely a repetition of what we daily experience and witness in our observations.

I have merely introduced the subject of steam application, to show you how little reason we have to doubt a theory when it is reduced to practice, especially when convinced by the evidences of our senses.

The science of Electrical Psychology holds no analogy to steam power, otherwise than in the manner it is received by the public. In this work

I shall endeavor to give you a comprehensive view of the subject, by teaching you the *modus operandi*, so as to produce experiments, which would convey to your mind that it is not a chimera; or that which might fail to convince you by practical experiments. In order to give you a cause for this phenomena, it would be necessary to explain the manner by which it is produced.

This electricity is a substance more rarified than air; it is abundant, and inhabits all space. Every thing contains more or less of it; the air we breathe is charged with a greater or lesser degree of this subtile fluid, if it is pure; the manner in which we inhale a full supply, is thus described.

At every inspiration our lungs become inflated with air; the air being composed of two substances, oxygen and nitrogen; their relative qualities are about one-fifth oxygen, four-fifths nitrogen; but these are not all; it is evident that hydrogen and electricity are also component parts of air.

Oxygen and Electricity are the principles of flame and animal life, while Nitrogen extinguishes both; there is not a single square inch of air, but what contains more or less electricity. The air in this compound state is drawn into the lungs. The oxygen and electricity are communicated to the blood, which is charged with iron, while the nitrogen is disengaged and expires.

This iron, which gives color to the blood, is instantly rendered magnetic, under the influence of electricity, analagous to the poles of the galvanic battery, which become magnets, merely by induction.

The blood, after becoming oxydised by the oxygen of the air, assumes a cherry red. This creates an acidity in the blood, in some degree answering to the solution of sulphate of copper, as described in the galvanic battery.

The blood thus magnetically prepared at the lungs, is thrown upon the heart, and forced into the

arteries; from thence it is driven into every possible ramification of the circulating system. The blood, being propelled in this manner, creates a friction, which causes it to throw off the electromagnetic power to the nervous system, for which it has a strong affinity, and this being secreted by the brain, it becomes nervo-vital fluid.

Having given you some idea of the manner in which blood passes through the system, the changes undergone by coming in contact with some of the essential elements contained in the atmosphere, we pass on without further investigation, believing you are already too well acquainted with the effect of these combinations, to need more instruction, but which was introduced merely to show you what properties were necessary for an individual to possess, also their affinity for each other, in order that we might operate more successfully, and thereby produce the desired results.

We next proceed to convey to your mind our mode of operation, or the manner by which we get in communication with persons. The principle upon which it is founded is simple, and easily comprehended. The science of Electrical Psychology is divided into five grand divisions, or numbers. The first, is mesmeric passes; passes made from the head downward, in order to induce the state, and the upward, to arouse the subject. These are not very essential, until a communication is formed between the operator and the subject.

The second, is a testing operation, or grip. I say testing, because it can be ascertained whether a person stands electrically negative to yourself, or not. Upon this principle, it would be well to remark here, that a person must be in the negative to the operator, in order to produce the experiment. Two positives repel each other; but if a positive come in contact with a negative, we can affect the subject immediately. It is ascertained by placing the thumb

of the right hand on the fore-arm nerve on the back of the hand, between the large and ring finger bones, and the other fingers of your hand in the palm of his. During this operation, it is necessary for you to keep the attention of the subject upon you; that is, let his eyes be placed on yours, and look at him firmly, maintaining throughout the entire operation a positive manner towards the subject. In the mean time, make passes over his eyes from right to left, occasionally placing your thumb back of the eyes and on the eyebrows: then make a few passes before his eyes with the palm of your hand. You next tell him to close his eyes; make passes downward, over them; impress him thoroughly that his eyes are closed: after which, place your thumb at the top of his nose in the region of the skull, between his eyes. Tell him that he can not open them; if he make the effort, and does not succeed, you may be certain that he is a good subject.

This part of the experiment is the most important of this science; and in reading it, great caution should be observed, that you may perform your operations successfully, and without failure. As we are not all charged with the positive and negative properties, some means should be resorted to, in order to bring us into that state. We have a coin, the metal of which is composed of three different substances, zinc, copper and silver. By placing this coin in the centre of the hand, and remaining quiet for the space of half an hour, in the mean time keeping the eyes steadily fixed upon it, a galvanic current is soon formed, and the individual finally becomes a fit subject for operation. If it is not produced the first setting, by repeating it, it is sure effect what we desire.

The fourth division teaches us the doctrine of impressions. Electrical Psychology controls us when awake; and in order to carry out this principle, it is necessary for us to impress the subject firmly, that

he can not do otherwise than he is directed. For example, you tell a person when under your control, that he can not raise his feet from the floor, then make a downward movement with your hand in a positive manner; hence you will perceive the movement is beyond his control. It is evident that you must govern by your voice, in order that the effect may be certain. It is essential that you understand this part of the experiment well, that you may become good operators. From the simplest, to the most complicated experiments, it is necessary that you be very positive in making impressions, in order to induce the subject to obey involuntarily.

The first experiment, or closing the eyes, is done partly by impressions. You must tell him positively he can not open his eyes, in order to keep them closed. So all through in controlling voluntary motions, accompanied by the usual passes from the head to the extremities of the limbs, that you intend to govern. If we design to control the mind, or the different sensations which exercise the mind, to become acquainted with what is passing around it, you will be required to study impressions entirely.

To control the sight, an impression must be made upon the brain by your voice and manner: consequently the individual upon whom you operate, sees what you would have him to see; the form being there, he can receive no other impression through the optic nerves. The nerves are only agents used in communicating sensations to the brain, which is the seat of all sensation; and if the mind is controlled, it follows that there can be no sensation registered, so long as we hold the sensation in gift. For instance, you tell the subject that your cane is a serpent; if you control his mind, you make the impression on his brain, that he discovers what you intended he should. Hence this object being registered on his brain, he can not bring any other sensation through the ordinary organs of sight;

therefore the form of a snake being completed, the phenomenon is produced.

The other organs of sensation are acted upon by the same principle, or *modus operandi*; as the tongue by flavors. If we impress the subject that he tastes vinegar, that is at once stamped upon the brain; an acidity seems to have been created, the same as if it had actually occurred. The same effect is produced if we give him water to drink and tell him it is vinegar, or any other liquid, he will at once believe it to be so, for the same reason as before mentioned, that it is impressed upon the brain, as there can be no other sensation communicated by the ordinary organs of taste.

The organ of hearing is likewise experimented upon by the same process. After getting control of this electric or galvanic fluid, which the mind exercises through the nerves to convey sensation from the brain, we control this circulation, and at our will we stop the sensation from being communicated to the brain. Hence, you perceive, the subject can not hear sound, there being no action through the nerves of the ear; therefore no sensation can be communicated through them to the brain.

The nerves of feeling, or of the skin, can be operated upon in the same way. For example, we place a coin, or any convenient substance on the hand, and make the impression on the brain that it will burn him, a sense of heat will evidently be communicated from the hand to the brain, and there impressed, which will also convey a sense of pain, which will cause him to withdraw his hand immediately. Thus you discover a way by which a person is operated upon by impression. In order to give you a correct idea of the subject under consideration, it would be advisable to understand the manner you must assume in making these impressions.

First, you must always assume a positive appearance towards your subject, and make the impression

in a clear, firm, and unwavering tone of voice. If the subject fails to be affected, try another experiment; if you do not succeed in this, make an impression on his mind that you can accomplish it by getting farther control of him. Some are not easily affected; when you succeed in governing their voluntary motions, others that you have more difficulty in controlling can be readily managed through the organs of sensation. You will sometimes affect a person so thoroughly that it becomes necessary to use the utmost caution, so as not to leave any bad impression on his mind. With such persons it is better to take the recollection of what you have been doing, away from him. This is accomplished by placing your hand upon the front part of his head, and making backward passes, impressing him with the fact that you are taking his memory away from him: continue until he does not recollect his name, nor the name of his most intimate friend. Then impress him that he will not recollect what has transpired throughout the operation, unless you leave some pleasing remembrance; impart to his understanding a sense of health, strength, agreeable emotions, &c.; next bring back his memory with a sense of a good one, after which, withdraw your control in the following order. Say to him, when I count three, and bring my hands together, you will be awake, or I will withdraw my control from you. It will be necessary for you to observe these rules in order to become a good operator, and never express any doubt of your success in the presence of the person upon whom you are making the effort.

And now I come to the fifth and last classification of this science, that is, its application to disease. Here you will sometimes find that all the other divisions are brought into requisition. It has been used as a remedial agent with the most astonishing effect. Therefore I consider this the most important part of the science: if it can be used to allay the pains and afflictions to which flesh is heir to, it is

certainly a cause of benevolence and mercy; and this has been established by incontrovertible testimony, and ocular demonstration of the most intelligent members of society.

The brain is the seat of all sensation; and by it we are enabled to judge of all sensation, whether it be of pleasure or pain. Now if we go no farther than controlling the mind, we go far enough to deprive that of the sensation of pain; and this of itself is of inconceivable value to those suffering under the most excruciating pain, caused by some disease or accident, such as broken bones, surgical operations, &c.

In order to give a clear idea of its application, it will be necessary for me to describe some of the milder diseases, to which it has been successfully applied. For instance, palsy is a loss of sensation in the parts affected; it is a nervous disease, and of all the affections of the nerves, this is the most fatal. Now this is entirely nervous, and if the patient be a good subject, it can in all cases be removed by proper treatment, and that by this science alone.

When this nervous fluid becomes thrown out of balance in the nervous system, by some cause (I can not here stop to give causes separately), it settles in parts affected, and there rests in a state of inaction; and through the nerves there can be no communication to the brain, therefore it follows that the parts affected become totally senseless. Now by getting control of this fluid in the nervous system, or charging it sufficiently with healthy *galvanism* from our own bodies, and by this process obtaining control of the nervous circulation (if life remains), we have power to throw it into action, by frequently drawing our hands from the patient's brain over the parts affected, and thereby creating circulation through the affected nerves; and by continuing this process, a thorough action will be established, and the palsied limb will be restored to its former usefulness. Several cases of this kind have come under

my observation, and by the above treatment have entirely recovered.

Rheumatism is a disease that frequently attacks persons of a debilitated system, brought on by some immoderate practices; or it may sometimes occur by a person being too fully charged with this fluid, which is secreted by the nervous system. It usually settles in the joints, creating great pain; swelling and inflammation ensue. In order to operate effectually on persons with this disease, it is necessary to get good control of the patient, and then destroy the sensations of pain: let him use his limbs freely, creating as much action as possible, by passing the hands frequently over the parts affected. Continue this, until thorough action is created in the nervous system; then an apparent perspiration will commence, and the disease will immediately yield to this treatment. Some caution must be exercised with regard to yourself; it has sometimes been ascertained that by throwing it off toward the operator, that he in consequence has become affected by it. Toothache will also readily yield to this treatment; and in most cases it will not be as difficult as many other diseases, for it sometimes can be cured without controlling the patient in the least degree. But the more susceptible the subject, the more readily cured. Headache, also, is speedily removed. After forming a communication, place your hands on the front part of the patient's head, pass them backward, throwing them off at the back region of the brain: continue this until the pain has entirely ceased.

In order to treat the above named diseases successfully, you must observe all the classifications of this science, particularly impressions. During the operation, it is necessary to impress them with the fact that the disease or pain is leaving them, keeping their mind in action, which operates through the nerves, aiding circulation.

Thus I have given you the modes of operating, or the secrets of Electrical Psychology. It has been taught by those lecturing on this subject, but instead of giving general information, they have required Ten Dollars, making it a mere speculation, imparting no further knowledge to their class, than sufficient to teach the pupil how to effect, without any cause for it. Now as its advocates hold that it is a principle of benevolence and mercy, and that all may become acquainted with it, I have thought proper to place it within the reach of all.

But some of them may contend that a general knowledge may lead to its being practised by some vicious persons upon the unsuspecting; but I contend that a knowledge of this science will be a sufficient defence for the innocent. It is a well established fact, that a person can not be operated upon, unless he first assume the passive position, and become a willing subject.

I know if people are rightly informed as to the mode of operation, they would not permit persons in whom they have not sufficient confidence, that they might not have advantage taken of them while under their influence.

But it has probably been taught to many, that if an opportunity should occur, who would not hesitate to take advantage of persons unacquainted with this science.

I would solicit the attention of ladies on this subject, not to permit themselves to be experimented upon psychologically, except in the presence of their friends, or the public; if they understand it fully, I think they will scarcely need cautioning with regard to this subject.

It is evident that it can be used as an evil agent in a community where it is not understood, but if comprehended, it destroys all chance for imposition, and thereby gives us the full benefits of its virtues.

REMARKS.

In this work, I have given you a full and faithful course of instructions, which, with meditation on your part, will enable you to perform all the experiments which have been produced in this science.

But I would impress upon your mind that it can not be accomplished in a careless and doubting manner; you must approach your subject in a resolute way, and in making your impressions, let your whole soul accompany the word, and if you fail in the first effort, maintain your dignity with a show of unshaken confidence, and by leaving these impressions on his mind, you will find him more susceptible at the next trial.

Should you be desirous to excel in this science, it would assist you very much to examine a good work on electricity; and should you wish to apply it to disease, it would be well to become acquainted with the human system.

I have tested this science in various diseases and find its efficacy all that could be desired. Now all that is necessary is, that it should fall into a greater mass of mind, to be theorized upon, until it arises to the stature of a perfected science, and the result is glorious.

It has in all ages defied the skill of physicians to prescribe a sure remedy for a disordered mind, but thanks be to the founder of this science that light is beaming upon us, and the day is nigh when the sick mind can be restored to health.

And it is not presumptuous for me to predict, that the day is not far distant when this science will be so far perfected, that the diseases of the mighty mind which have baffled all human skill, from the

raving maniac down to the love-sick swain, through the agency of this science will be conquered, and the poor suffering millions which peole the asylums and mad-houses of our own beloved country, and the world, will be restored to the bosoms of their friends, clothed in their right minds, shedding glory on this science.

This science has been treated by many as humbug, for no other reason which I can conceive, but the following, viz: Lecturers have ever studied to hold it in mystery out of mere selfish interests; but now the veil is removed; an intelligent man after a perusal of this little work, and reducing it to practice, can no longer cry humbug. Truth will beam upon his mind, scepticism will wither before its blaze, and all its benefits be made to appear, and he be competent to administer the hand of mercy to his family and friends, when in affliction.

The author, being aware of the opposition which this book of instructions is doomed to meet, deems it due to the science, to place one sentence within its pages, which will defend it against all the calumny which may be heaped upon it by professors of this science, which is this. *Study its doctrines, and reduce them to practice.* I ask no further evidence of its truths.

My duty is done. I feel that the information which I have imparted to the public is due. I have therefore done it unhesitatingly, and all I regret is, that I did not urge it sooner, although I may call down the execrations of many lecturers on my head, yet I can affirm that, "I have no *friends to reward*, nor *enemies to punish*."

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