

## CHAPTER V

### ANIMAL MAGNETISM UNMASKED

*For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders, adulteries, fornications, thefts, false witness, blasphemies: these are the things which defile a man. — JESUS.*

1 **M**ESMERISM or animal magnetism was first brought  
2 into notice by Mesmer in Germany in 1775. Ac-  
3 cording to the American Cyclopædia, he regarded this  
4 so-called force, which he said could be ex-  
5 erted by one living organism over another, as  
6 a means of alleviating disease. His propositions were  
7 as follows:

Earliest in-  
vestigations

8 “There exists a mutual influence between the celestial  
9 bodies, the earth, and animated things. Animal bodies  
10 are susceptible to the influence of this agent, disseminat-  
11 ing itself through the substance of the nerves.”  
12 In 1784, the French government ordered the medical  
13 faculty of Paris to investigate Mesmer’s theory and to  
14 report upon it. Under this order a commission was  
15 appointed, and Benjamin Franklin was one of the com-  
16 missioners. This commission reported to the govern-  
17 ment as follows:

18 “In regard to the existence and utility of animal mag-  
19 netism, we have come to the unanimous conclusions that  
20 there is no proof of the existence of the animal magnetic

fluid; that the violent effects, which are observed in 1  
 the public practice of magnetism, are due to manipula- 2  
 tions, or to the excitement of the imagination and the 3  
 impressions made upon the senses; and that there is one  
 more fact to be recorded in the history of the errors of  
 the human mind, and an important experiment upon 6  
 the power of the imagination."

In 1837, a committee of nine persons was appointed,  
 among whom were Roux, Bouillaud, and Clo- 9  
 quet, which tested during several sessions the <sup>Clairvoyance,</sup>  
 phenomena exhibited by a reputed clairvoyant. Their <sup>magnetism</sup>  
 report stated the results as follows: 12

"The facts which had been promised by Monsieur  
 Berna [the magnetizer] as conclusive, and as adapted to  
 throw light on physiological and therapeutical questions, 15  
 are certainly not conclusive in favor of the doctrine of  
 animal magnetism, and have nothing in common with  
 either physiology or therapeutics." 18

This report was adopted by the Royal Academy of  
 Medicine in Paris.

The author's own observations of the workings of 21  
 animal magnetism convince her that it is not  
 a remedial agent, and that its effects upon <sup>Personal</sup>  
 those who practise it, and upon their subjects who do <sup>conclusions</sup> 24  
 not resist it, lead to moral and to physical death.

If animal magnetism seems to alleviate or to cure dis-  
 ease, this appearance is deceptive, since error cannot 27  
 remove the effects of error. Discomfort under error is  
 preferable to comfort. In no instance is the effect of  
 animal magnetism, recently called hypnotism, other 30  
 than the effect of illusion. Any seeming benefit derived  
 from it is proportional to one's faith in esoteric magic.

1 Animal magnetism has no scientific foundation, for  
 God governs all that is real, harmonious, and eternal, and  
 3 <sup>Mere</sup> His power is neither animal nor human. Its  
<sup>negation</sup> basis being a belief and this belief animal, in  
 Science animal magnetism, mesmerism, or hypnotism is  
 6 a mere negation, possessing neither intelligence, power,  
 nor reality, and in sense it is an unreal concept of the so-  
 called mortal mind.

9 There is but one real attraction, that of Spirit. The  
 pointing of the needle to the pole symbolizes this all-  
 embracing power or the attraction of God, divine Mind.

12 The planets have no more power over man than over  
 his Maker, since God governs the universe; but man,  
 reflecting God's power, has dominion over all the earth  
 15 and its hosts.

The mild forms of animal magnetism are disappear-  
 ing, and its aggressive features are coming to the front.  
 18 <sup>Hidden</sup> The looms of crime, hidden in the dark re-  
<sup>agents</sup> cesses of mortal thought, are every hour weav-  
 ing webs more complicated and subtle. So secret are the  
 21 present methods of animal magnetism that they ensnare  
 the age into indolence, and produce the very apathy on  
 the subject which the criminal desires. The following  
 24 is an extract from the Boston Herald:

“Mesmerism is a problem not lending itself to an easy  
 explanation and development. It implies the exercise  
 27 of despotic control, and is much more likely to be abused  
 by its possessor, than otherwise employed, for the in-  
 dividual or society.”

30 Mankind must learn that evil is not power. Its so-  
 called despotism is but a phase of nothingness. Christian  
 Science despoils the kingdom of evil, and pre-eminently

promotes affection and virtue in families and therefore 1  
 in the community. The Apostle Paul refers to the  
 personification of evil as "the god of this 3  
 world," and further defines it as dishonesty Mental  
 and craftiness. Sin was the Assyrian moon-god. despotism

The destruction of the claims of mortal mind through 6  
 Science, by which man can escape from sin  
 and mortality, blesses the whole human fam- Liberation  
 ily. As in the beginning, however, this libera- of mental  
 tion does not scientifically show itself in a knowledge of powers 9  
 both good and evil, for the latter is unreal.

On the other hand, Mind-science is wholly separate 12  
 from any half-way impertinent knowledge, because Mind-  
 science is of God and demonstrates the divine Principle,  
 working out the purposes of good only. The maximum 15  
 of good is the infinite God and His idea, the All-in-all.  
 Evil is a suppositional lie.

As named in Christian Science, animal magnetism or 18  
 hypnotism is the specific term for error, or mortal mind.  
 It is the false belief that mind is in matter, and The genus  
 is both evil and good; that evil is as real as of error 21  
 good and more powerful. This belief has not one qual-  
 ity of Truth. It is either ignorant or malicious. The  
 malicious form of hypnotism ultimates in moral idiocy. 24  
 The truths of immortal Mind sustain man, and they anni-  
 hilate the fables of mortal mind, whose flimsy and gaudy  
 pretensions, like silly moths, singe their own wings and 27  
 fall into dust.

In reality there is no *mortal* mind, and conse-  
 quently no transference of mortal thought Thought- 30  
 and will-power. Life and being are of transference  
 God. In Christian Science, man can do no harm, for

1 scientific thoughts are true thoughts, passing from God to man.

3 When Christian Science and animal magnetism are both comprehended, as they will be at no distant date, it will be seen why the author of this book has been  
6 so unjustly persecuted and belied by wolves in sheep's clothing.

Agassiz, the celebrated naturalist and author, has  
9 wisely said: "Every great scientific truth goes through three stages. First, people say it conflicts with the Bible. Next, they say it has been discovered before. Lastly,  
12 they say they have always believed it."

Christian Science goes to the bottom of mental action, and reveals the theodicy which indicates the rightness of  
15 all divine action, as the emanation of divine Mind, and the consequent wrongness of the opposite so-called action, — evil, occultism,  
18 necromancy, mesmerism, animal magnetism, hypnotism.

The medicine of Science is divine Mind; and dishonesty, sensuality, falsehood, revenge, malice, are animal pro-  
21 pensities and by no means the mental qualities which heal the sick. The hypnotizer employs one error to destroy another. If he heals sick-  
24 ness through a belief, and a belief originally caused the sickness, it is a case of the greater error overcoming the lesser. This greater error thereafter occupies the ground,  
27 leaving the case worse than before it was grasped by the stronger error.

Our courts recognize evidence to prove the motive as  
30 well as the commission of a crime. Is it not clear that the human mind must move the body to a wicked act? Is not mortal mind the mur-

derer? The hands, without mortal mind to direct them, 1  
could not commit a murder.

Courts and juries judge and sentence mortals in order 3  
to restrain crime, to prevent deeds of violence or to punish  
them. To say that these tribunals have no <sup>Mental</sup> jurisdiction over the carnal or mortal mind, <sup>crimes</sup> 6  
would be to contradict precedent and to admit that the  
power of human law is restricted to matter, while mortal  
mind, evil, which is the real outlaw, defies justice and is 9  
recommended to mercy. Can matter commit a crime?  
Can matter be punished? Can you separate the men-  
tality from the body over which courts hold jurisdiction? 12  
Mortal mind, not matter, is the criminal in every case;  
and human law rightly estimates crime, and courts rea-  
sonably pass sentence, according to the motive. 15

When our laws eventually take cognizance of mental  
crime and no longer apply legal rulings wholly to physical  
offences, these words of Judge Parmenter of <sup>Important</sup> Boston will become historic: "I see no reason <sup>decision</sup> 18  
why metaphysics is not as important to medicine as to  
mechanics or mathematics." 21

Whoever uses his developed mental powers like an es-  
caped felon to commit fresh atrocities as opportunity oc-  
curs is never safe. God will arrest him. Di- <sup>Evil let</sup>  
vine justice will manacle him. His sins will <sup>loose</sup> 24  
be millstones about his neck, weighing him down to the  
depths of ignominy and death. The aggravation of er- 27  
ror foretells its doom, and confirms the ancient axiom:  
"Whom the gods would destroy, they first make mad."

The distance from ordinary medical prac- <sup>The misuse of</sup>  
tice to Christian Science is full many a league <sup>mental power</sup> 30  
in the line of light; but to go in healing from the use of

- 1 inanimate drugs to the criminal misuse of human will-  
 power, is to drop from the platform of common manhood  
 3 into the very mire of iniquity, to work against the free  
 course of honesty and justice, and to push vainly against  
 the current running heavenward.
- 6 Like our nation, Christian Science has its Declaration  
 of Independence. God has endowed man with inalien-  
 9 <sup>Proper self-</sup> able rights, among which are self-government,  
 government reason, and conscience. Man is properly self-  
 governed only when he is guided rightly and governed by  
 his Maker, divine Truth and Love.
- 12 Man's rights are invaded when the divine order is in-  
 terfered with, and the mental trespasser incurs the divine  
 penalty due this crime.
- 15 Let this age, which sits in judgment on Christian  
 Science, sanction only such methods as are demonstrable  
 18 <sup>Right</sup> in Truth and known by their fruit, and classify  
 methods all others as did St. Paul in his great epistle  
 to the Galatians, when he wrote as follows:
- 21 "Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are  
 these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,  
 idolatry, *witchcraft*, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath,  
 strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness,  
 24 revellings and such like: of the which I tell you before,  
 as I have also told you in time past, that they which do  
 such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. But  
 27 the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering,  
 gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against  
 such there is no law."