
CHAPTER V — ANIMAL MAGNETISM UNMASKED

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

Earliest investigations

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

9 "There exists a mutual influence between the celestial
bodies, the earth, and animated things. Animal bodies
are susceptible to the influence of this agent, disseminat-
ing itself through the substance of the nerves."

12 In 1784, the French government ordered the medical
faculty of Paris to investigate Mesmer's theory and to
report upon it. Under this order a commission was
15 appointed, and Benjamin Franklin was one of the com-
missioners. This commission reported to the govern-
ment as follows:

18 "In regard to the existence and utility of animal mag-
netism, we have come to the unanimous conclusions that

there is no proof of the existence of the animal magnetic

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

Clairvoyance, magnetism

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

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

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

Personal conclusions

21 The author's own observations of the workings of
animal magnetism convince her that it is not
a remedial agent, and that its effects upon

24 those who practise it, and upon their subjects who do
not resist it, lead to moral and to physical death.

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

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Mere negation

1 Animal magnetism has no scientific foundation, for
God governs all that is real, harmonious, and eternal, and
3 His power is neither animal nor human. Its
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.

Hidden agents

The mild forms of animal magnetism are disappearing, and its aggressive features are coming to the front.
18 The looms of crime, hidden in the dark recesses of mortal thought, are every hour weaving 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 individual or society."

Mental despotism

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

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

Liberation of mental powers

6 The destruction of the claims of mortal mind through Science, by which man can escape from sin and mortality, blesses the whole human family. As in the beginning, however, this libera-
9

tion does not scientifically show itself in a knowledge of both good and evil, for the latter is unreal.

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

The genus of error

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

Thought-transference

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

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- 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,
6 so unjustly persecuted and belied by wolves in sheep's
clothing.

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

Perfection of divine government

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.

Adulteration of Truth

The medicine of Science is divine Mind; and dishonesty,
sensuality, falsehood, revenge, malice, are animal pro-
21 pensities and by no means the mental quali-
ties 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.

Motives considered

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-

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

Mental crimes

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

Important decision

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

Evil let loose

Whoever uses his developed mental powers like an es-

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

The misuse of mental power

30 The distance from ordinary medical prac-
tice to Christian Science is full many a league
in the line of light; but to go in healing from the use of

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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.

Proper self-government

6 Like our nation, Christian Science has its Declaration
of Independence. God has endowed man with inalien-
able rights, among which are self-government,
9 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.

Right methods

15 Let this age, which sits in judgment on Christian
Science, sanction only such methods as are demonstrable
in Truth and known by their fruit, and classify
18 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."