

Clairvoyance was for the same reason put aside. Only one experiment was tried in divining the experimenter's thoughts by the patient. It is concluded that in all cases where this is alleged to have succeeded, unintentional suggestions on the part of the experimenter explain the result.

Suggestions with reference to transformation of personality, the creation of hallucinations and false perceptions are interesting to mental science as experimental productions, and offer many analogies with the auto-suggestions of dreams and insanity.

Hypnotic suggestion is a valuable addition to the therapeutics of functional nervous diseases.

*(To be continued.)*

---

*Die Rolle der Suggestion bei gewissen Erscheinungen der Hysterie und des Hypnotismus, Kritisches und Experimentelles.* Von Dr. ARMAND HUECKEL. Jena, 1888.

Along with the recent rapid growth of the practical use of hypnotism in France there has been constant polemic between two main groups of theorists. On the one hand are the supporters of the hypothesis that every effect of hypnotism is the result of suggestion which may be conscious or unconscious on the part of the agent and the subject, and on the other are the supporters of the doctrine of a rather earlier date, which has found special favour at the Salpêtrière, that there is a natural sequence of the conditions of the subject, when once the hypnotic state is entered upon, which starts with lethargy, passes on to catalepsy, and thence to somnambulism. This second course, it is naturally granted, is not quite invariable, or else there would be hardly room for argument, but it is defended as the normal and typical course towards the perfection of which all hypnotism inclines, but of which there are some incomplete and even distorted examples. In defence of this it was often argued that this course and sequence of phenomena could generally be observed in an unlearned person who had never heard of these matters beforehand when he was hypnotized for the first time. If this is so he cannot be doing what he was expecting to do; and that it should be in any way suggested by the operators by their acts, words, or gesture was not admitted. That it should have been transmitted by the fact that it was in the thoughts of those present, independently of signs perceptible to the senses, was held to be too extravagant a hypothesis to be discussed by either party. The

common answer of the French suggestionists of Nancy or elsewhere has been that the hypnotized subject can be found to be susceptible to such extremely trifling, and indeed unconscious, suggestions on the part of the operator that it is probable that this is the case in all the subjects at the Salpêtrière, where the operators, after building up a theory of a normal course of hypnotism from inadequate data, carry on quite unconsciously the suggestions of what they expect. The main argument in support of this contention is that after some years now of a wider trial of hypnotism over civilized Europe, it is found that the vast majority of hypnotized subjects do not go through the stages of the Salpêtrière, *i.e.*, do not go through lethargy and then catalepsy to somnambulism, and that their phenomena, or very much the greater part of them, may be covered by a vigorous stretching of the theory of suggestion so as to explain its powerful action in response to some sign, perhaps unintentional and possibly invisible to any but hypnotic eyes. It is supposed that such a sign may be given by an innocent agent and appreciated by the acute but unconscious subject. Hüchel, who was an assistant physician at Tübingen, is a keen partisan of the suggestionists, and ridicules the blindness of both the masters and pupils at the Salpêtrière in not noticing the easy accommodation of the patients there to what is wished for or expected of them, but not sufficiently concealed. He finds suggestion sufficient to meet all difficulties, and it certainly needs most thorough attention at the Salpêtrière. It ought to be no impossible problem of carefully considered science to separate most absolutely the senses of the subject from the agent at no great distance, for a perfectly isolated third person to suggest an action to the agent, and for a fourth person completely isolated from the agent and ignorant of the suggestion to watch and chronicle the results. Granted that after these preliminary precautions the action is performed, there follow three possible conclusions, *viz.*:—that the act was done by pre-arranged fraud; or that it may have been done accidentally, a conclusion easily eliminated by repetitions of the experiment; or, thirdly, that the impulse to do the act was conveyed in some way unknown to the senses. Hüchel is very prudent in acknowledging that we cannot as yet know the full powers of the body and mind in a state of hypnotism; but he has realized the susceptibility of hypnotics to suggestion and is anxious to enforce on experimenters the additional care which that necessitates in experiment.