

**HYPNOTISM AND THE DOCTORS. II. THE  
SECOND COMMISSION, DUPOTET AND  
LAFONTAINE, THE ENGLISH SCHOOL,  
BRAID'S HYPNOTISM, STATUVOLISM,  
PATHETISM, ELECTRO-BIOLOGY**

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Hypnotism and the Doctors. II. The Second Commission, Dupotet and Lafontaine, the English School, Braid's Hypnotism, Statuvolism, Pathetism, Electro-Biology by Richard Harte

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**RICHARD HARTE**

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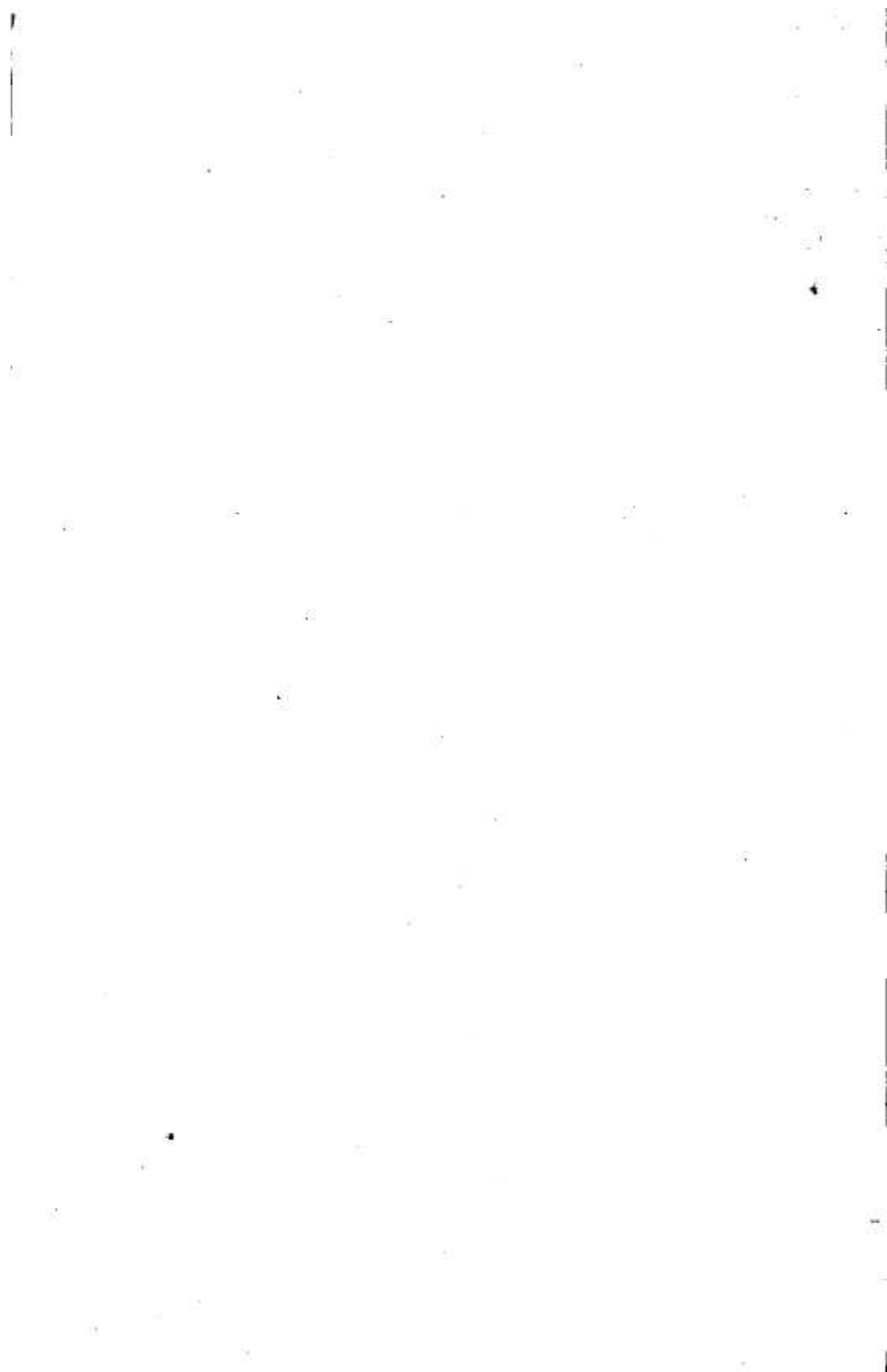
HYPNOTISM AND THE DOCTORS.

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II.

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*From MESMER*  
*to CHARCOT.*



# HYPNOTISM AND THE DOCTORS.

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## II.

*THE SECOND COMMISSION.*

*DUPOTET AND LAFONTAINE.*

*THE ENGLISH SCHOOL.*

*BRAID'S HYPNOTISM.*

*STATUVOLISM.*

*PATHETISM.*

*ELECTRO-BIOLOGY.*

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By RICHARD HARTE.

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## PREFACE.

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In this volume I sketch briefly the history of Hypnotism from the time of Mesmer to the rise of Modern Hypnotism, a survey which includes not only the vicissitudes of Animal Magnetism during that period, but also the consideration of four other systems of Psycho-physics, namely, Braidism (or the Hypnotism of Braid) Statuvolism, Pathetism, and Electrical Psychology (better known as Electro-biology).

These systems differ both from Animal Magnetism and from Modern Hypnotism, as well as from each other, although all are nearly allied; and unless they are taken into consideration, the Hypnotism of our day seems little more than a jumble of conflicting theories and a chaos of unexplained phenomena. Even when taken into account, these various systems do not complete the data for a comprehensive theory of Psycho-physics; but at all events they make it clear that the problem to be solved is very imperfectly conceived by our hypnotists, who have overlooked some of the most important and interesting questions involved in the subject they undertake to explain.

My object is to excite sufficient interest in the larger Hypnotism to induce my readers to study not only the systems of Braid, Fahnstock, Sunderland, and Dods, but also the writings of the Mesmerisers—Gregory, Townshend, Sandby, Colquhoun, Ashburner, Lee, Wilson, Middleton, Leger, Dupotet, Lafontaine, Gauthier, Teste,

and other well known writers, each of whom presents his own particular views, and details his own particular experiences, and all of whom are well worthy of study. Without a certain knowledge of these authors, the student of Modern Hypnotism will find himself as much at sea when he reads current treatises on Hypnotism as the writers of those treatises appear themselves to be with regard to the *rationale* of the processes they describe.

Modern Hypnotists are like people who have landed upon an unknown shore without map or compass. They have, as it were, met with great rivers, and they think that they can learn about their rise and outflow by analysing their waters, and cataloguing the fish they find in them. They find themselves hemmed in by mountains, and they regard those mountains as natural barriers, beyond which lies the empire of fraud and delusion, peopled by dreadful monsters of the imagination. I want to help them to take a bird's eye view, if not of the whole great continent on which they have landed, at least of the part of it into which the explorer is likely to venture, so that they may learn where their rivers rise and end, and know what lies beyond the mountains that now form their horizon. There are many clever men at present engaged in the exploration of Hypnotism, who have already extracted from their limited ground much that is of practical utility, but I am convinced that until they know what lies beyond the limits within which they now confine their investigations, they will be empiricists, whose theories only serve to blindfold them, and who wander round in a circle, mistaking each other for enemies when they meet.