

NATURE'S MAJESTIC WONDER

The American Electric Light—Howells on Death by Electricity.

SOME NEW USES FOR THE FLUID.

The Telegraph Lighting Sleighs—Stockton's Road-Dynamo—A Novel Sleep Preserver—Electric Notes.

The American Electric Light.

The old Sun set up from the East. Said he, "I have lighted this world long enough. If I sleep down in sunshine all cry in a breath. Put a veil on your face, you will see me to death. If I put on a cloud cap, then one prolonged scold. Come out from behind there, we're freezing with cold. So, Dame Earth, I propose to remain in eclipse. You may trust for your light to the old tal-low dips. Or to terrestrial lamps, or to gas, or to stars: Perhaps you can make an arrangement with Mars: You may find some poor fool who will light up your sky with gas, or to stars: But no contract with me; I am off, so good by. "Old fellow, the Earth cried, "don't give yourself airs. You may possibly find I can manage affairs. You're a great one for business! Sometimes you can shine for fifteen or twelve hours, and sometimes for nine. We have always too much sun or else not enough. And we can't turn you on, and we can't shut you off. Old fellow, you're done for, come, bring on your night! I'll show you my daisy American light! It's electric and brilliant! and steady! and clear!" It will knock your spots out every night in the year.

Death by Electricity.

W. D. Howells in Harper's Weekly: At this season, when every influence and association reminds us of one who died that money might be made, even in the will of men, I have been peculiarly interested in the newspaper discussion of the proposition for the substitution of death by electricity for death by hanging in the infliction of capital punishment. It appears to me that the method in kind is to be brought forward in the New York legislature during the winter, and that there is reasonable hope for its adoption, though I observe that there is a great deal of affectionate regard for the good old gallows, even among the publicists of the press. In fact, there is much to be said in behalf of this venerable growth of centuries, rooted in the remotest past of our Anglo-Saxon race, and hardly surviving the axe and the block through every change of polity and religion. Yet there is a question whether it is not an instrument of torture as well as of death, and whether it is not our duty, after nearly nineteen centuries of the Christ who bade us not to kill at all, to kill by the humane method known to science. The weight of learned testimony seems to be in favor of electricity, and there is apparently no good reason why this mysterious agent, which now unites the whole civilized world by nerves of iron and intelligence, which illuminates every enterprise, which already propels trains of cars and promises to heat them, which has added to life in apparently measureless benefits, should not also be employed to take it away.

There is a sort of poetical fitness in its use which we ought not to overlook in an age and country ambitious of amenity as well as humanity. I understand that the electric shock is applied with a minimum of official intervention, and without even arousing the victim, or say patient, from his sleep on the morning fixed for the execution of the sentence. One journal has drawn an interesting picture of the simple process, and I have fancied the execution throughout the state taking place from the governor's office, where his private secretary, or the governor himself might touch a little annunciation button, and dismiss a murderer to the presence of his Maker with the slightest pressure of the finger. In cases of unusual interest the executive might invite a company of distinguished persons to be present, and might ask some lady of the society to touch the button. Or, when torpedoes are exploded or mining blasts fired in the completion of a great public work, a little child might be allowed to discharge the explanatory office.

In the case, however, that the legislature should refuse to touch a single bough of the honored tree which has so long sheltered Anglo-Saxon society, I have a suggestion to make in this matter of executions. I have long thought it cruel to the sheriff and his deputies to force them to this hangman's work, and monstrous to let some imbruted wretch make legal killing his trade; and I have to propose that the executioner should be drawn into the society at large as a murderer, and that no excuse should avail, except the oath of the person drawn that he is conscientiously opposed to capital punishment. This system, which is perfectly practicable, would give from time to time, to every profession and station an opportunity to attest their devotion to the great principle that if it is wrong to take life, a second of the kind dresses the balance and makes it right.

The Electric Light for 1887.

Electric World: The prominent feature of the year in electric lighting is the number of systems of distribution by means of induction transformers, which have been brought out or elaborated. Prominent among these are the Westinghouse system (22), in which alternating currents are employed. But mention must also be made of a number of systems in which the interrupted continuous current is employed for the same purpose of reducing the potential through the medium of induction coils of various forms. Among these we note the system of Manuelli (33), who employs reversed continuous currents in connection with secondary induction coils, and the system of Bollman (34), which is somewhat similar to the above, but in which the induction coils are provided with only a single winding, and coupled up in such a way as to reduce the electro-motive force to the desired point. Another means of effecting distribution at high potential has been worked upon during the year, which consists in the employment of motor dynamos that is, machines provided with two windings of high and low resistance, respectively, the former acting as a motor winding, which revolves the armature and causes the generation of low tension currents in the winding of low resistance.

Among the systems of regulation.

Prof. Elihu Thomson has indicated an ingenious method of regulation of the three-wire system. By this method a motor dynamo having two similar windings which are respectively connected with the two sides of the circuit, acts to supply the unbalanced side with current taken from the side which has an excess of current.

In the department of the measurement of electricity, we find several new forms of meters and potential indicators.

Among the integrating meters we

find Aron's (36) the action of which depends on the registering of a differential clockwork gear acted upon by two clocks, one as a standard, and the other subjected to the influence of the current passing through the meter.

The indicator (37) depends on the heating action of the electric current passing through the wire, the heat generated causing the flow of air currents which set in motion a light mill wheel, the revolutions of which are recorded by registering train. Woods (38) and Westinghouse (39) have brought out indicating instruments which depend on the repulsion of the magnetic poles of like polarity, instead of the principle of attraction usually employed. The indications of the instruments for equal increments of current or potential are remarkably proportional.

To avoid the blackening of incandescent lamps due to the separation of the carbon filaments.

Dr. (40) patented an arrangement by which there is inserted into the lamp an insulated wire, connected to the ground and provided with sharp points upon which the carbon separated from the filament is deposited, thus preventing its deposits on the sides of the globe.

The Telegraph.

Electrical World: The jubilee of the telegraph, which was celebrated in England this year, marks an epoch in the history of this branch, and the comparisons made between the various speeds attainable at the beginning of telegraphic work and the present speak volumes for the ingenuity and perseverance shown by a host of seekers in this branch. This speed has now been brought up to such a pitch that, with improved apparatus, no less than one hundred per centum can be transmitted, whereas the early days showed that fifteen or twenty words were considered high. Among the improvements which have taken place during the year we may notice the additional value which is given to Edison's phono-telegraph system by an arrangement (1) by means of which the system is increased in extent, so that what was formerly a duplex was converted into a quadruplex, and the arrangement is such that it is particularly applicable to lines on which there are a large number of intermediate stations, so that it is specially adapted to railroad work. In an improvement introduced in the telegraph by the late Mr. Absterlin (2), the signals sent are retransmitted automatically to the sending station, thus avoiding the necessity of retransmission for the verification of dispatches. Robbins (3) has also introduced an improvement in telegraph lines such that upon a break occurring in the circuit the line will be automatically grounded at the point of the break, thus permitting of a continuous working notwithstanding the break. In the domain of printing telegraphs we note the successful operation of a system devised by Brown (4), by means of which eight printing telegraph instruments were operated simultaneously over the same wire.

Lighting Sleighs by Electricity.

Boston Transcript: At the recent Mechanics' fair one exhibitor had carriages with incandescent electric lights in the lamps. Several Newton gentlemen have made arrangements to use this form of illumination for their sleighs and carriages. Three cells of battery are to be used, and will furnish three lights of six-candle power for thirty hours. After the electric is exhausted the batteries are recharged by means of a dynamo in the stable of one of the gentlemen and recharged. The expense of this charging cannot be over 50 cents each time. The "plant" is a small one, and can be taken out and placed in any kind of a vehicle. It can be doubled, so that a gentleman can run himself in a blaze of light if he wishes. A procession of these electrically-illuminated sleighs, when colored glasses are used, would make a grand spectacle upon the white snow, and an electric-light sleighing carnival on the mile ground is not beyond the probabilities of the winter.

New Uses for Electricity.

Chicago Times: A new use has been discovered for the electric light. The body of a boy drowned at Winchendon, Mass., on Tuesday, was found through the use of the electric light, a bulb being fastened to a pole and submerged illuminating the water for a considerable distance in the neighborhood. The electric light promises to be an important aid in all manner of submarine operations.

The promises to become an important aid in all other sorts of operations.

Mr. Ernest Max Fassold, a manufacturing optician of this city, has just received a patent on a very clever contrivance for handling the incandescent electric light. It is a flexible standard so arranged that the lamp can be introduced into the throat, or wound, or any incision, for the sake of making medical examination. The handle will bend in any required position, and can be returned to its original form without breaking the electric circuit. This is accomplished by having one of the wires going to the light of copper and well insulated, the other wire, completing the circuit, is wound around the first wire in a spiral, so that the handle looks like a spiral wire spring. This can be easily turned and bent in any direction, and bent back again without the slightest trouble.

Stockton's Electric Road.

San Francisco Chronicle: Hanna, Swayne & Co., of Stockton, have seven miles of road for the electric road, preparatory to laying the rails for the electric motor road. The line will be about ten miles in length, running through the principal streets and to all the railway depots and boat landing. A capital is being formed with \$500,000.

The road will have no wires overhead.

underneath, but the power of each car will be stored in the batteries under the seats.

The contractors expect to have the road completed and in running order by September 1 of this year.

Dynamos.

Electrical World: The high state of perfection to which dynamo-electric generators had already been brought hardly affords much scope for improvement as regards the increase of efficiency; in consequence of this, the attention of inventors has been chiefly directed to the increase of the output of dynamo per pound of material, and we may say generally, that strange as it may seem, there seems to be a drift towards the employment of motor dynamos that is, machines provided with two windings of high and low resistance, respectively, the former acting as a motor winding, which revolves the armature and causes the generation of low tension currents in the winding of low resistance.

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presenting four poles to the surrounding armature.

Various forms of iron-clad dynamos have also been brought out during the past year, among which we may mention those of Eickemeyer (28) and Lahrmeier (29). In the latter a dynamo of novel feature is the insertion of the armature wire below the surface of the iron (30).

Mention must also be made of a new method of regulation brought out by Trotter (31), which consists in adding an armature across the pole pieces, which acts as a magnet shunt to the iron of the armature itself, and the magnetic resistance of which is varied in accordance with the current in the external circuit, so as to keep the current constant.

Long Distance Telephoning.

Prof. W. W. Jacques said, at a recent electrical convention, that he had spent in use in this country nearly 250,000 telephones. He went on at length to explain the uses and advantages of the telephone as a transmitter of short distance messages. It is impossible to use the telephone for any distance over seventy or 100 miles, the size of a lead pencil would be necessary in making speaking connections between New York and Boston, between Boston and Chicago a wire the size of a man's arm would be necessary, and an insulated cable percha cable as large around as a hoghead would be necessary to connect the country with the nearest part across the deep; therefore, it would be impracticable to attempt telephonic communication under the ocean.

A Long Streak of Lightning.

Indianapolis Journal: The Jenney Electric Company yesterday received a telegraphic proposition from Auckland, New Zealand, which contained several words, and cost the sender \$2.71 for each word. It is interesting to note the line of travel followed by this message in reaching its destination. The first repeating station was at Wellington, thence to Sydney, Australia, thence across the country to Palmerston, thence via cable to Saigon, Siam, then to Calcutta, thence across Hindostan to Bombay, from there under the Arabian sea to Mocha, thence up the Red sea to Mount Sinai, thence across Egypt to Alexandria, then to Palermo; from under the Mediterranean to Gibraltar, thence to Lisbon, London, Queenstown, New York and Indianapolis.

Curing Headache by Electricity.

New York Mail and Express: "Do you know," inquired a female nurse at Bellevue hospital of a reporter yesterday, "that electricity is the most effective cure for the headache? I have an apparatus at home which I purchased in England two years ago. It is charged with electricity, and cures headache as if by magic. The apparatus is about fifteen inches in length, and is composed entirely of flat or box-wire links made of No. 18 wire, and is about one and one-half feet in length. At each end of the apparatus is a circular cap or plate. One of the caps is made of carbon, the other is made of zinc. Two separate layers of thin wire run through the links, the brass wire on the inside and the zinc wire on the outside. The layers are divided in the center by sealing-wax, the idea being to form the electric circuit. Should the two wires touch one another the electric current would be shut off and the apparatus would be useless. A thin cord, an eyelid or smothering made to allow a string to pass through and be fastened to the head. The apparatus must be placed in vinegar for two minutes before being applied to the head. In operating the zinc cap is placed on the right eye or ear, and the carbon cap on the left. The electric current generated by the aid of the vinegar then sets to work and the victim of the headache is generally relieved within one or two minutes. The only objection I have to using this apparatus is that the zinc cap is sometimes so strong as to burn the flesh on the temple. I have had my right temple red for weeks after using it. Now, in applying it, I always place both between the zinc cap and the skin, and I find it effective in preventing blistering. No, these apparatus are not for sale in this country. The duty would be high on them. I paid four guineas for the one I use, and at that rate, taking the duty into consideration, it would cost \$100 to buy one here.

Electric Sleep Preserver.

In a recent issue, the English Medical Journal propounded the question, "What is it that disturbs sleep?" remarks that the popular view that noise is the disturbing cause, touches the truth without grasping it. It cannot be noise alone, for the inhabitants of beleaguered towns have been known to sleep through the roar of bombardment, and to waken suddenly when the firing ceased, and we all know that the sleeping miller awakes when his mill stops running; the rattle of a train in motion will induce sleep, and persons who are ordinarily very poor sleepers often find, the true cause is interruption; a sudden cessation of either continued silence or of sound awakes. For sound, providing it be monotonous, has a sedative effect on the brain as silence. The alarm-clock is based on this theory of interruption. It interrupts silence. This leads the Journal to make the suggestion that a similar mechanical might be made on the same mechanical principles, but with the object, viz: that of insuring sleep by sound.

Its utility to delicate persons especially would be undoubted.

Call it the "sleep preserver" or "somniferous" or christen it "the sleep preserver"—a name that would truly designate its object—for its real purpose would be not so much to promote sleep as to insure the sleeper against disturbance (the ordinary side-sleeping strategy) by placing a bulwark of sound between him and the sudden shock of extraneous noise. Let your sleep preserver produce the drowsy monotonous buzz of the humming toy—not so loud as to be heard in an adjoining room when placed close to the bedside or hung over the pillow loud enough to drown distinct noises.

Electrical Brevities.

Rev. C. E. Cline writes to a religious paper describing his sensation when struck by lightning, or rather when struck by a piece of plaster that the lightning struck from the sky. He says that he saw a great multitude of most beautiful children running towards him and waving their hands, and shouting greetings of joy. He does not trace any direct connection between the lightning stroke and the children, but he says he believes that on that night he entered heaven.

A Sioux City Light, Heat and Power company has been incorporated with a capital stock of \$100,000.

The Globe-Railroad looks forward to the running of railroad trains, within the next ten years, at the rate of 100 miles an hour by electricity.

Commenting upon the intended report of the New York capital punishment commission in favor of electricity as the lethal agent, the New York Tribune comes out strongly in support of electrical methods of execution.

Quite a number of enterprising newspapers already run their presses from electric motors.

A project is on foot in California for utilizing the water power of Lake Ta-

hoe by means of an immense siphon. It is believed that 100,000 horse power can be obtained, which would be distributed to various localities through the medium of electricity.

The electric light is apparently a great attraction for the people. It has been introduced in the Osaka bazaar, which has in consequence received a great increase of visitors.

It is said that the German government will spend \$750,000 in putting its electric telephone wires underground.

Every day some new employment is being found for electric motors and in the industries where they have already been put to work their use is greatly on the increase.

An electric heater is the only one which will be tolerated in the cars of the future.

The following is from the Richmond, Va. Dispatch: One of the wonders of electricity was seen at the Times office last evening. With a rapidity that seemed hardly controllable, a small machine—an infant in appearance by the side of the steam engine—was running the Times office, and the paper after paper poured forth, and the Times in its this morning's edition may be certainly said to be "struck by lightning." The machine itself is scarcely more than two feet square, noiseless in its motion, but powerful in its action. The use of electricity as a motor is spreading in all directions. The latest is that a Swedish farmer has hit upon the ingenious idea of lighting his farm by electric light, having purchased a dynamo and connected it with a water-wheel. At present the machine is used only for lighting, but the man intends also to employ it for working threshing machines, etc. The light has been found cheaper than paraffin oil.

Steps are already being taken to prepare for the next meeting of the International Electric Congress, which is to be held at Pittsburgh next month.

The year 1887 has been eminently fruitful in the large number of electric railways undertaken, and in the new systems brought out. In so far as the electric motors, the inventor is concerned, a number have made their appearance, which, as in the case of the dynamo, chiefly present modifications of details intended to increase their efficiency.

Mr. J. C. Cattle and others are the inventors of the "Seward Electric Light and Power company, of Seward, Neb., with a capital stock of \$10,000.

The New York Gas and Electric Light company, of New York, incorporated by D. E. Sedgwick, M. Sovereign and others, has a capital stock of \$5,000.

ABOUT HEADACHES.

Common Causes of the Common Complaint of Everyday Life.

Cassell's Family Magazine: Probably one of the most common headaches if not the most common, is that called nervous. The class of people who are most subject to it are certainly not your school-boys. It is an ailment which the gardener had had a headache it would not have been one of this description. Nor does Darby, the plowman, nor Jarvey, the business man, or Great-foot, the gauger, suffer from nervous headaches. It is an ailment which leads an outdoor life or who take plenty of exercise in the open air. But poor Mattie, who slaves away her days in a stuffy draper's shop, and Jeanie in her lonesome attic, bending over her white seam, and who has to sit all fall to the night, and thousands of others of the indoor working class are martyrs to this form of headache. Are they alone in their misery? No; for my Lady Bonhomme, who comes to have her ball dress fitted on, has often a feeling with Jeanie and Mattie. Her, however, we cannot afford to pity quite so much, because she has the power to change her modus vivendi whenever she chooses.

What are the symptoms of this complaint which makes your headache so? You will almost know it is coming on from a dull, perhaps sleepy feeling. You have no heart and little hope, and you are restless at night. Still more restless, though, when you are in bed, and you are unable to get up in the morning, however much you may wish to, scarcely can you sleep at all.

"How my poor head does ache!" This you will say often enough; sadly to yourself and to those who are near you, from whom you expect no sympathy and get none. And yet the pain is bad to bear, although it is generally confined to only one part of the head.

The worst of this form of headache is that it is so often a sign of a disease arising from unnatural habits of life or peculiarities of constitution, this periodicity is no more than we might expect.

If I just note down some of the most ordinary causes of nervous headache, people who suffer therefrom will know what to do and what to avoid. I will then speak of the treatment.

Overwork indoors.

Overstudy. Over-indulgence in food, especially of a stimulating character. Weakness or debility of body, however produced. This can only be remedied by proper nutriment.

Nervousness, however induced.

The excitement inseparable from a fashionable life.

Do not disregard a cough.

It is often the symptom of the most fatal diseases, bronchitis and consumption. Use Dr. J. H. McLean's Tar Wine Lung Balm. 25 cents a bottle.

A novel weapon of defense has been found in the ruined pueblos of Arizona.

In the doorway of several Los Muertos rooms the Hominy was found. These stones are ponderous masses of volcanic rock, rather handsome in shape but destructive in design. The upper end tapers to a sort of handle. The stone was suspended in the doorway by a twisted rope which was fastened to the ring or handle. The method of using it was extremely simple. By holding it back and then letting it fly a file of men could be hewn down.

Statistics of the women graduates of twelve American colleges show that two-thirds of those who have passed the age at which girls generally marry are still unmarried. Evidently the college is not conducive to matrimony.

At Orlando, Fla., a dog is owned by a man who has a habit of being a tiresome visitor; so long he will stand up in front of him and begin to yawn and show other signs of being sleepy. It is said that the hint is readily taken.

A WOMAN OF GREAT POWERS.

But She is Not the Cause Nor the Creator of Theosophy.

MME. BLAVATSKY ANALYZED.

The Recent Exposure of the Great Spirit of the Theosophical Society—Study of the Mysteries of Nature.

Washington Star: Dr. Elliott Cones talked quite freely with a Star reporter the other evening concerning the recent publication as to the "exposure" of Mme. Blavatsky, the great spirit of the Theosophical society.

As a well-known man of science, and at the same time the head of the Theosophical society, in this country, what he says on the subject will doubtless be of interest. He held in his hand an editorial abstract of the report of Mr. Hodgson, in which the "exposure" is made, and he read and commented upon it.

"They start out with the assumption," he said, "that Mme. Blavatsky created or discovered theosophy—they speak of her as the 'inventor' of theosophy—and think that to assail her is to attack the school of thought. Theosophy is no more dependent upon her than upon you or anybody else. The school of thought is as old as the Greek language. Theosophy means the wisdom of God. It is merely a school of higher thought, a study of those things in nature that are still mysterious to the majority of mankind. Mme. Blavatsky was one of the founders of the Theosophical society, and to her is due the credit of forming the society. But she is no more the founder or 'inventor' of theosophy than the organizer of a literary society is the inventor of literature. So whether she ever played any tricks on people or not has no bearing on the science of theosophy. But she has been hounded and maligning in an outrageous manner."

"Theosophy is a study of the finer forces of nature that are more or less beyond the grasp of the ordinary mind. I have never heard of a theosophist pretending that he applied to any unnatural agency. His object is to discover pure natural causes of things that appear strange and miraculous. I do not believe in miracles, or know of no theosophist who does. I do not think a miracle was ever performed or ever will be."

"There have been things that seemed miracles to those who did not understand them, but theosophy discovers their natural cause; and their happenings are as natural as the force of gravitation. Theosophy studies the mysteries of nature, and dispels the idea of the supernatural. It cannot be explained so a person who has not made a study of the subject any more than you could explain the sense of smell to one who had never had the power of smelling. It is a mere matter of science, like any other branch of research. There is nothing sentimental about it. It is not a sect or religion."

"It is said here that the society claims to be under the special protection of a mysterious brotherhood in Thibet, spoken of as adepts and as Mahatmas. A Mahatma is not a man holding communion with supernatural powers. Mahatma means great soul or high spirituality. A Mahatma is a man of great soul or a magnanimous man. Emerson might be termed a Mahatma. Plato and Moses were Mahatmas."

"You see what folly and ignorance is displayed in all this talk. 'As to the projection of the double, or the appearance of the astral form far away from where the body is, I know that to be true. Speaking as a scientist, say I know it to be true that the astral form may be projected a great distance from the body, and visible, audible and almost tangible. It is accompanied by natural forces that have been discovered by scientific research. I can do it myself. I have attained that power, and have many times projected my astral form.'"

"On the 23d of June I was in Chicago at a reception given in my honor by my sister, Mrs. J. M. Flower, wife of Judge Flower of Chicago. On that occasion I received my mobile and called on and talked with a very accomplished lady in Washington, who possesses great psychic powers. This is her own account of the visit: 'You have paid me three astral visits during the past six months. I will state the circumstances now. There may be something in them which will be further proof of your power to project your double. On the evening of June 21 I was standing at my window when I distinctly heard you say "No." Naturally I turned to see from whence the voice came, and to my surprise saw you (your double rather) standing by my side. "Why not?" I asked. "Because I have gone," was the reply. "I am in Chicago visiting my sister, Mrs. J. M. Flower (whether such a person exists or not I do not know), and looking into theosophical matters a little. Just then I saw you in the midst of a gathering of people. I asked what it meant. The reply was: "Oh, only a little reception my sister is giving in honor of me." I then asked you to come to my room, as my sister is present, as a proof. These names were given: Prof. Rodney Welch and Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson. With this you disappeared. I immediately got up, noticed the time—10:30—and then noted the above down, as you once requested me to do, so I could give it to you as it happened.'"

"On the evening of November 2, and the morning of the 3d, you again appeared. "At the time my astral form appeared to her," said Cones, "I was talking to about forty people, among which were the two named in this note. "As to the transportation of solid bodies by means of science, I do not know as much. The precipitation of writing, I know, can be performed. There is no supernatural agency in it. It is merely a use of the subtle forces of

nature. Like all other true sciences, theosophy is incomprehensible to those who have not studied it. A man must have peculiar powers of sensitiveness in order to study the more subtle forces of nature. It is a difficult study.

Robert G. Ingersoll possesses peculiar psychic powers. He is a great deal of a theosophist. His attacks on the christian religion are on account of the revolt of his soul against the belief in the supernatural. He has a fine mental faculty and can see deeply into the secrets of nature. It is not necessary for a man to belong to the Theosophical society to be a theosophist. He may not call it by that name, but the delicate sensibility to the touch of nature is theosophy.

"Henry Ward Beecher was another man of this character. He saw and knew a great deal more than he ever talked about."

"And Dr. McGlynn! He is a man of particularly high psychic powers. He is a man of sensitive organism, of great learning, and a fine perception of the subtle in nature. It is this power that gives him such an influence over his hearers when he talks. It was the same way with Beecher, and is so with Ingersoll. It is a mesmerism influence, if you want to call it such. Mesmerism was but a short time ago spoken of with contempt. No one who knows anything about it thinks of disputing that it is a force, and certainly it would be silly to speak of it as supernatural."

"Now I will say again that Mme. Blavatsky never made any claim to supernatural powers. She is a wonderful woman and can do things through perfectly natural means, which may appear supernatural to the ignorant. She is a woman of great powers, as I happen to know. Of course I know her well and correspond with her. She has never tried to deceive me. The story about the Coulomb letter is an old one that has been talked about until there is nothing to be got out of it. I do not know as to the truth of the matter on one side or the other. I was not there, but even if what Mr. Hodgson says is true, it does not prove anything as to theosophy. Even if Mme. Blavatsky did become impatient at being bothered by people who wanted her to perform miracles, (which she has not the power to do), and if she did fool them as they asked to be fooled, that proves nothing as to the theosophy—whether it is or is not a true science. The investigators started out on an entirely false assumption. They attribute to her a claim of supernatural powers, and then go to work to prove that she has no such powers. Of course she has not. She doesn't pretend to have. Quite the contrary, she claims that no one can have supernatural powers."

"But Mme. Blavatsky is not the cause and creator of theosophy. She is simply a very powerful theosophist. The Theosophical society is formed like any other society for the advancement of science. It is advancing all the while. Its objects are legitimate scientific. The society has its secrets as other societies have."

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