

the education of the deaf must be subservient to this. Parents and friends of the deaf need to be placed on their guard against this grave error, and to be advised that those schools and systems best deserve their confidence and support that seek to give the broadest and most valuable education possible to *all* the deaf."

After what has been said, the conclusion which the unbiased will be forced to is, that the combined system, which consists of the sign-language as the basis of instruction, and, in addition, as a side-show, pretends to teach articulation, is a farce, which serves to mislead parents and friends of the deaf; and that the language of signs, instead of being a stepping-stone, is a hinderance to deaf-mutes in the acquisition and in the use of spoken language.

B. ENGELSMAN.

New York, Oct. 8.

### Another Magnetic Man.

My attention has been called to the following account from a Lewiston paper, dated Sept. 25, of a scientific phenomenon in which your readers may be interested.

"The writer was entertained Friday evening by a wonderful man, a resident of College Street. The gentleman is a well known citizen of most trustworthy character. After an evening's performance he feels exhausted in the morning. He can do nothing with the palms of his hands on the object, but must use the tips of his fingers only. He first began with a common table with swinging sides. Placing his fingers nearly in the centre, he could cause either end to rise and remain suspended. It would rock, beat time to music, or turn a complete somersault. No part of his person touches the object but his finger-tips; and there are no secret wires, for we examined the table carefully. Next he let down the swinging sides, which are on hinges, and, by placing his finger-tips, could raise the leaf, and hold it in that position several minutes while we tried to pull it away from his fingers. Then we took a heavy braided rug, and folded it in four thicknesses, and placed it on the table. With this obstruction he easily lifted the table, and turned it completely over. A plate was put upon the table, and this proved no hinderance. Then a tin dish inverted was given to him, and still the table not only came up, but the tin dish stuck fast to the table. He lifted chairs and other objects while resting. Then the table was inverted; and, placing his finger-tips upon the table-legs, the heavy table came up, and remained clearly suspended from the floor, with one foot of clear space beneath.

"The writer then sat upon the end of the table, which came up so suddenly as to throw him off upon the floor. At last came a strong test. We seated ourselves in chairs at opposite sides of the table, the writer grasped the table-legs with all his strength, and the gentleman stood clear of the table, and, placing only his fingers upon the smooth surface, drew the table so violently as to bring us down upon the floor in confusion.

"Finally we grasped hands and tested our natural strength in pulling, and the writer was the stronger man; but, as the current came down in his arms, it went up into ours, feeling just the same as when we hold the handles of a battery. Then the strength of the gentleman was wonderful, throwing us around the room as one would handle a toy. The whole evening was filled with these performances. There is no possible chance for deception, and those who have seen this say that the only motive power which these objects receive comes directly from the finger-tips of this man. He can perform the same feats in any room, or with any soft-pine table, which may be placed in any position."

E. W. HALL.

Waterville, Me., Oct. 7.

### BOOK-REVIEWS.

*Erster Nachtrag zur Bibliographie des Modernen Hypnotismus.*  
Von MAX DESSOIR. Berlin, 1890.

IN *Science* of June 22, 1888, will be found a notice of the original work to which the author now issues a supplement. The arrangement of the two contributions are practically the same, the

supplement including all that was published from May, 1888, to May, 1890. No more striking proof of the increase of interest in the subject of hypnotism could be furnished than the fact that this record of two years' work includes 382 titles of articles or books, written by 274 authors in 13 different languages, and appearing in 113 periodicals. Very interesting, too, is the variation in interest in different countries that has been going on in the last two years. In the former bibliography the French language was credited with 473 titles; English, with 102 (40 of which were American); Italian, with 88; German, with 69; and the rest scattering. In the supplement France still leads with 139, but Germany (probably in part including Switzerland) is a close second with 103; English comes next with 46 (24 of which are American); Italian following with 32.

The author has evidently done all in his power to render this bibliography useful and complete, and deserves great credit for carrying on this necessarily unpleasant work. He again asks for contributions and notices of works and articles bearing upon hypnotism, to be sent to R  thenerstr. 27 W., Berlin.

*Guyot's Earth and Man.* Revised edition. New York, Scribner.

THE republication of Guyot's famous lectures on "The Earth and Man" recalls a time which seems, in comparison with the wider opportunities of the present, to be a time of scientific awakening, and which is marked in contrast with this age of conventionalism as a time of scientific enthusiasm. In 1849, when Guyot gave these lectures in French at the Lowell Institute in Boston, the earlier geological surveys of our States were in progress or had but recently been completed. A great fund of fresh scientific information was published by them. Agassiz had come to this country a few years before, and was then about to gather around him the first of the band of students of natural history through whom he so greatly enlightened us. Lyceum lectures then held the place now taken by magazines, and public teachers were orators in the sight of their hearers, not writers hidden behind paper and print. Guyot's book is characteristic of that time. The several chapters retain to perfection the quality of enthusiastic discourses by a man full of his subject and devoted to it. It is doubtless for this charm of style, as well as for the interest of its matter, that the book has so long and deservedly been popular with geographic readers.

Two chief lines of thought run through the book. One is the importance of the vertical element,—the relief of the land; the other is the intimate relation between the conditions of the land and of its inhabitants. Concerning both of these aspects of geography we owe much to Guyot; but the "Earth and Man" hardly represents their present position. The more modern phase of geographic study accepts the importance that Guyot placed on relief, but adds the more direct consideration of local form and its evolution, to which Guyot gave but brief attention. The physical control of human conditions is as attractive a study as when Guyot brought it to us; but, with a fuller understanding of its complexities, we have come to be perhaps more cautious in our generalizations than he was. The modern writer might well hesitate before connecting the great area of our forests and the "melancholy, cold, and insensible" nature of our Indians in the relation of cause and effect.

As a book illustrating a well-marked epoch in our geographical literature, Guyot's "Earth and Man" should be placed in every school library; but, as a school-book for this end of the century, it cannot be highly regarded, although its publishers would seem to place it in that light. It does not appear to us to be true, as is claimed in a prefatory note to the book, that "the present edition of 'Earth and Man' has been revised in a few points affected by the progress of scientific knowledge since the appearance of the work." It would not be Guyot's "Earth and Man" if it were so revised. It would be a new book. Moreover, it possesses few of the qualities desired in a modern text-book. It is not demonstrative or disciplinary in its quality, and this because it accomplishes so precisely the intention of its author. It presents his glowing lectures as they were given; and as such, without significant revision, its republication is welcome.