

the sting from disease. Bernheim, when taunted with unwisdom because he employed hypnotism in the treatment of consumptive patients, and asked if by suggestion he expected to cure the disease and destroy the bacilli of tubercle, replied that he hypnotized those patients, not with the expectation of restoring disintegrated lung tissue, but because his suggestions relieved the wearing cough, reduced perspiration, improved the appetite, and gave refreshing sleep. If the disease was far advanced, suggestion by relieving the symptoms which constituted its sting enabled the poor sufferers to enjoy some comfort during the short spell of life remaining to them. If it had not passed the early stages there was a possibility that, by placing the patient under favorable bodily and mental conditions, reaction towards cure might be initiated and assisted.

After all, is it not the aim of most medical treatment to be thus Nature's auxiliary? The physician can aspire to do little more than place his patient in the most favorable position for cure, and thus aid that *restitutio ad integrum* which is the natural and vital reaction towards health. Some writers object to hypnotism for the reason that it removes pain without curing the disease of which it is a symptom, and aver that pain is Nature's danger signal, which should not be lowered unless the cause of danger is removed. Their objection carries little weight when hypnotism is employed by experienced physicians, who know how to interpret the signal, and who, while they try to dispel pain, do not neglect to combat the disease which it betokens. And we must not forget that in certain cases — for instance, in many forms of neuralgia — the pain is the disease, and its removal means the recovery of the patient; nor that pain is often the most distressing accompaniment of incurable disease. How can we let the poor victim of cancer or of locomotor ataxy drag out months or years of agony, when we have at hand the means of mitigating his sufferings? For such a one, the physician can often effect by hypnotism what otherwise he could effect only by narcotics and sedatives; and with this advantage, that hypnotism does not impair the mental and physical powers nor weaken the moral sense, as such drugs must do if their use be persisted in.

An objection frequently urged against hypnotism is that a person who has been subjected to it, even only once or twice, becomes over-susceptible to hypnotic influence. Repetition of the hypnotic process does generally increase susceptibility, though not to the extent which is often supposed. I have frequently seen a practised hypnotist fail absolutely to affect a subject who had many times before been under hypnotic influence. It should be the object of a medical hypnotist not to weaken but to strengthen his patient's will-power, and to make him understand that — to quote Bernheim's words — he hypnotizes himself under the guidance of the operator. It is a good plan to protect young and very susceptible subjects by impressing upon them during hypnosis that they are not to be hypnotized by any one except their own physician. I have seen sensitive persons who were thus protected resist all the efforts of the most successful hypnotists. It is hardly necessary to insist on the advisability of never hypnotizing women, nor, as a rule, very young persons, except in the presence of a responsible guardian or friend.

"RECENT Tendencies in the Reform of Land Tenure" is the title of a pamphlet lately published by the American Academy of Political and Social Science. The author is Professor E. P. Cheney of the University of Pennsylvania, who has written several other essays on the land question.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

\*\*\* Correspondents are requested to be as brief as possible. The writer's name is in all cases required as proof of good faith.

On request in advance, one hundred copies of the number containing his communication will be furnished free to any correspondent.

The editor will be glad to publish any queries consonant with the character of the journal.

### A Suggestion on Telepathy.

MANY persons, when in some public place, as a street-car, church, or theatre, have felt the peculiarly unpleasant sensation that some one is staring at them from behind. Some claim to be able to make certain persons of their acquaintance look around by simply gazing fixedly at them. I am assured by one that at any public gathering she is able, without fail, to make a very self-conscious and sensitive friend look around in an annoyed manner when stared at from behind and entirely out of the range of the friend's vision. One person in seeming physical isolation appears to control another at some little distance. Such cases seem not uncommon, and scientific investigation of them might throw some light on certain cases of telepathy and hypnotism.

Some people also claim to be immediately aware of the presence of certain individuals — to have a physical intuition wholly without sense impression. This is doubtless generally due to an interpretation, unconsciously made, of various sensations which are not welded into ego-experience, and so escape memory. Yet sometimes the physical break seems so complete that any sensation seems impossible, and the feeling of presence appears to be a true telepathy. Of one thing I am convinced, namely, that we must first study all instances of what may be termed short-distance telepathy before we can expect to make much progress with long-distance telepathy.

HIRAM M. STANLEY.

Lake Forest University, Dec. 2.

### AMONG THE PUBLISHERS.

IN the December number of *Babyhood* there are medical articles on "Biliousness in Children," "Nursery Ventilation and Warming," and "The Care of Delicate Children."

— The New York Mathematical Society has begun the publication of a monthly bulletin. Three numbers, for October, November, and December, have already appeared. The address of the society is 41 East Forty-ninth Street, New York.

— *The Review of Reviews* will issue about the middle of December a brochure that is sure to create a sensation. It is nothing less than a compilation of anecdotes and materials upon apparitions and ghostly hallucinations, prepared by Mr. Stead, the English editor, and issued with the assistance and approbation of the British and American societies for psychical research, of which Professor Sidgwick of Cambridge University, England, and Professor James of Harvard University are in their respective countries the guiding spirits.

"Jerusalem, the Holy City," is the title of Mrs. Oliphant's new book which Messrs. Macmillan & Co. are to publish early in December, uniform in style with "The Makers of Florence," "Royal Edinburgh," etc., by the same author. It will be illustrated by Hamilton Aid . The same firm will soon publish in this country "In Cairo," by William Morton Fullerton. The author formerly occupied the position of literary editor of the *Boston Advertiser*. For several years past he has lived abroad, and the book to be published embodies the result of a winter's sojourn in Egypt. It will be illustrated with drawings by Percy Anderson, the English artist, who was Mr. Fullerton's fellow-traveller in Egypt and Greece. A book of researches in the Peloponnesus, which Mr. Fullerton explored on donkey-back, will soon follow.

— The December number of the *Educational Review* completes the second volume of that journal. President Seth Low of Columbia has a suggestive paper on James Russell Lowell as an educator; Principal W. C. Collar of the Roxbury, Mass., Latin School studies the action of the colleges on the schools; Professor Joseph Jastrow contributes a psychological study of memory and association; while Dr. D. A. Sargent of Harvard discusses the subject of college