

A NEW DISPOSITION

CAN NOW BE PURCHASED—SO SAYS A FRENCH DOCTOR.

The Queen of a Horseless Magnet on the Brain—A Sure Cure for a Case of the Blues.

"Dispositions for sale"—this is the extraordinary sign which may come time after time in the windows of the drug shops. A series of extraordinary experiments which have been made by one of the best known scientists in France during the last year, but which have not been seen, made public, seem to promise some such marvellous results.

The strange discovery of all the strange discoveries which have been recorded during the past decade by the progressive scientists of France, one of which Dr. Luys has authorized the Journal to make the first announcement. Dr. Luys, it will be remembered, is the scientist whose strange experiments concerning the effect on hypnotized patients of drugs in hermetically sealed tubes, were recently described in the Journal. He has until lately been at the head of the famous Charcot Hospital of Paris. He was Charcot's favorite pupil and assistant, and he has been more about hypnosis than any other man who lives to day.

One of the things which he has learned is that it does not pay to leave any experiment untried. He has followed many blind alleys of scientific research, and he has at the same time given to the world more new facts concerning the science which is his specialty than any other one man except Charcot. He was the first to perform serious surgical operations while patients were under the influence of hypnosis, and he was the first to introduce hypnosis into regular hospital practice. His discovery, which was recently the subject of an article in the Journal, came about, he acknowledges, through his observation of an accidental fact. His present discovery is, to an extent, of a similar nature.

More than a year and a half ago a young woman went to Dr. Luys to receive a special treatment for chronic melancholia. He receives many patients at his house, which is located not far from where Du Maurier's old studio stood. The girl was about twenty-seven years old, and her malady was a peculiar one. It followed a severe attack of nervous prostration and was of a mental depression. This increased as time passed, and was accompanied by an insupportable lack of ability to sleep.

After a month or two of this a complication ensued which was especially distressing. The girl was of an affectionate disposition naturally, and was herself the first to discover that there was growing in her heart an unreasonable aversion for those people whom she had formerly loved. At first this aversion had been dear to her, and never in her life had she shown greater kindness than during her long illness. Yet she awoke one day to a realization of the fact that it was no longer pleasant to her to see him; that, indeed, her eyes involuntarily dropped when he came near, and her lips took on the sullen expression of

a displeased child. Her younger sister, a girl of her time, had probably spent more of her time than any other member of her family, amazed her one day by bursting into tears, and by giving as the reason for her melancholy the fact that she was evidently no longer welcome in her company. Her mother noticed the change in her general attitude toward her and grieved over it.

The girl herself told not for a second fall to realize the unreasonable nature of the change in her mental attitude. She did not for a second even try to find a sufficient cause for it in the actions of her family. She knew that it grew out of some sudden alteration in her own mental condition. But, in spite of her efforts to overcome it, her aversion to those who were nearest to her and should have been dearest to her, continued to increase.

Matters reached such a pass at last that she could not enter the room in which any of her family were present without shuddering and shrinking, so great was her dislike for them. At last she became convinced that she was on the verge of insanity, and went off every day to consult Dr. Luys. With him she talked frankly, and toward him she felt none of that strange aversion.

Of course, his first move was to see her family and learn what he could of the circumstances which had led to her unfortunate condition. Then he began a conventional system of treatment, consisting of nerve-tonics, physical exercise and similar health-giving measures. These had little effect upon the girl. She told him with the tears rolling down her cheeks, day after day, that the unaccountable aversion for the members of her family was increasing rather than decreasing. The moment she perceived her mind to dwell upon any of those persons whom she ought to have loved best, she was filled with a sickening dread, and she felt for certain dislike, such as one feels for a person who has reached the point where it made her home life unbearable.

All this, of course, had a serious effect upon her physical health. She had suffered in body as she pined, and suffered in mind. In three months she had lost fifty pounds. She became so weak that it was with great difficulty that she paid her daily visit to the doctor, and he was at his wits' end. He had accomplished much in many more or less similar cases by means of straight hypnosis, or treatment by suggestion, but he never followed this treatment without the consent of the patient; indeed, it was impossible to do so. The girl was strongly opposed to the use of hypnosis, and he did not attempt it. He finally decided that there was only one possibility of securing improvement in her mental and physical health, and that lay in a complete change of surroundings. At his request her father began to make arrangements to send her to England for a long time. It was during one of the last of her visits to the doctor that the accident occurred which Dr. Luys thinks has resulted in a discovery of a new property of magnetism.

Some months before the young woman's case had reached this point Dr. Luys, in a pure spirit of experimentation, had had a huge horseshoe magnet constructed in such a way that it would fit about the upper part of a person's head, with one of its ends or poles on either temple. It is his theory that the human body is a magnetic substance, and that it, like the magnet, has its north and south pole—its positive and negative sides. It was he who discovered the strange fact that this magnetic force was of value in the diagnosis of disease; that to the hypnotic subject in a certain state of mind, this magnetic force from any diseased portion of another person's body. It was in the course of his labors in support of this theory—a theory which had been suggested, despite its seeming absurdity, by some of the best scientists of France—that he had this magnet built.

As the girl sat in his office that day in August, while he was filled with that feeling of utter helplessness which comes to the physician who has exhausted his resources unsuccessfully in his attempt to treat a patient, his eye fell upon this magnet. He placed it on his glass shelf and placed it on the girl's head, with no idea that any important result would come from the action. A moment after that some important matters arose, and seeing to it that she was comfortably seated, he went out to confer with them. Probably three-quarters of an hour elapsed before he returned to his patient, and he will tell the story at this point as nearly as I can in the doctor's own words:

"I should not have been at all surprised," said he, "if I had found that during my really unwarrantably long absence the girl had taken off the magnet and gone home. When I re-entered the office, however, she was sitting in very much the same attitude which she had assumed before I left her. A remarkable change, however, had occurred in her appearance. She was even paler than usual, her eyes were more deeply sunken than they had been, and it was evident that she was weaker. I than before, indeed, I was very much alarmed by her appearance. A part of this I attributed to the effect of the weight of the heavy magnet on her head, but this I knew did not wholly explain the change which had occurred in her condition since I had seen her a short time before. I hurriedly removed the magnet from her head, replaced it on the shelf, and then, sending a servant for a carriage, administered some mild stimulants and prepared to send her home. She told me that she felt very weak, but that her head seemed clearer than it had been before for a long time. Giving her attendant some instructions about what to do for her that night, I parted from her at my door, feeling somewhat fearful lest my experiment had done her harm."

"After she had gone I sat down to think out the reason for this strange experience. It seemed highly improbable that her weakness had been caused by any effect of the magnet, when I considered the matter, yet that magnet was an unknown quantity. I went to the shelf, got it again and put it on my own head, deciding to wear it for at least as long a time as she had worn it, so that I might note its effect upon myself. For forty-five minutes I sat perfectly quiet in the same chair which she had occupied. I noted with considerable surprise that even my own strength—and I am a robust man—seemed to be wanting as the moments flew. At the end of the three-quarters of an hour I was quite unaccountably weak, but was as far from a solution of the mystery as I was before. I was, however, in a quandary as to what to do. I had been weakened by the magnet—as I had been in the first place. My dinner hour had arrived, however, and I placed the magnet on the shelf again and went across the garden into my house. I have several children and a wife, and am very fond of them."

"They were gathered in the dining-room as I entered and greeted me with the usual chorus of welcomes. I cannot describe to you my amazement when I found that their happiness at my coming had no echo in my own brain. My habitual pleasure at seeing them did not exist. Instead of that I felt toward them in a minor degree exactly the aversion which my patient had told me that she felt toward the members of her own family."

"Instantly the idea occurred to me that I might have discovered a new and most surprising property of the electro-magnet. My experience seemed to indicate that the magnet while resting on the girl's head had absorbed some subtle influence from her brain and stored it up to transfer it later to my own mind when I turned placed the instrument upon my head."

Thus Dr. Luys tells the story of his first experiment with his new instrument and its result. He has made many experiments since then. In the carefully written book in which he keeps a record of his work at his office the stories of these experiments are concisely told in scientific terms. It would not interest me to repeat them here, but the details of pulse, temperature and other medical technicalities which these records contain, if this evidence is borne out by subsequent experiments the sentence "Dispositions for sale," with which this article opens, may not in the future seem as absurd as it does now. What studies Dr. Luys has been able to make have tended to prove the following facts:

First—An ordinary electro-magnet so fashioned that it will rest upon a person's head with its poles touching his temples will to some unknown extent absorb any strongly morbid influence which may at the time be working in his brain.

Second—After the magnet has been left for a sufficiently long time on the head of a person suffering from a morbid mental complaint, and is then placed upon the head of a person in a normally healthy state of mind, the morbid tendency of the sick man's mind will be to a considerable extent transferred to the healthy mind of the other person.

Third—A comparable effect is produced by transferring the magnet from the head of one perfectly healthy person to another.

Fourth—The transfer of the magnet from the head of a healthy person to that of one suffering from melancholia always perceptibly beneficial.

These comprise about all the facts which have up to the present time been ascertained by these extraordinary experiments. Dr. Luys is so far as ever from understanding the reason of this strange effect of the electro-magnet, but he feels certain that further and careful study along these lines will result in important additions to the world's sum of electro-medical knowledge.

When I asked him if, in his opinion, it would ever be possible to develop this new plan that an artificial transfer of dispositions would be made between two people of different temperaments, as, for instance, the insertion of a good temper into the brain of a grumpy individual, the provision of a philanthropic disposition to a miser, and so on—he laughed.

"No," he said; "these things will not be possible, but the things which seem fairly possible are scarcely less wonderful. For instance, if my studies along this new line carry me far enough, so that by means of the electro-magnet I shall be able to inject healthy mental force into the mind of a morbid melancholic, so that I shall be able to transfer good brain influence from head to head as we now sometimes transfer healthy blood from wrist to wrist, I shall feel that my time has been valuably expended. That I shall within a year have the satisfaction of definitely accomplishing these things, and of accomplishing them every time I try, I have now little doubt."



FRONT VIEW.

a displeased child. Her younger sister, a girl of her time, had probably spent more of her time than any other member of her family, amazed her one day by bursting into tears, and by giving as the reason for her melancholy the fact that she was evidently no longer welcome in her company. Her mother noticed the change in her general attitude toward her and grieved over it.

The girl herself told not for a second fall to realize the unreasonable nature of the change in her mental attitude. She did not for a second even try to find a sufficient cause for it in the actions of her family. She knew that it grew out of some sudden alteration in her own mental condition. But, in spite of her efforts to overcome it, her aversion to those who were nearest to her and should have been dearest to her, continued to increase.

Matters reached such a pass at last that she could not enter the room in which any of her family were present without shuddering and shrinking, so great was her dislike for them. At last she became convinced that she was on the verge of insanity, and went off every day to consult Dr. Luys. With him she talked frankly, and toward him she felt none of that strange aversion.

Of course, his first move was to see her family and learn what he could of the circumstances which had led to her unfortunate condition. Then he began a conventional system of treatment, consisting of nerve-tonics, physical exercise and similar health-giving measures. These had little effect upon the girl. She told him with the tears rolling down her cheeks, day after day, that the unaccountable aversion for the members of her family was increasing rather than decreasing. The moment she perceived her mind to dwell upon any of those persons whom she ought to have loved best, she was filled with a sickening dread, and she felt for certain dislike, such as one feels for a person who has reached the point where it made her home life unbearable.

All this, of course, had a serious effect upon her physical health. She had suffered in body as she pined, and suffered in mind. In three months she had lost fifty pounds. She became so weak that it was with great difficulty that she paid her daily visit to the doctor, and he was at his wits' end. He had accomplished much in many more or less similar cases by means of straight hypnosis, or treatment by suggestion, but he never followed this treatment without the consent of the patient; indeed, it was impossible to do so. The girl was strongly opposed to the use of hypnosis, and he did not attempt it. He finally decided that there was only one possibility of securing improvement in her mental and physical health, and that lay in a complete change of surroundings. At his request her father began to make arrangements to send her to England for a long time. It was during one of the last of her visits to the doctor that the accident occurred which Dr. Luys thinks has resulted in a discovery of a new property of magnetism.

Some months before the young woman's case had reached this point Dr. Luys, in a pure spirit of experimentation, had had a huge horseshoe magnet constructed in such a way that it would fit about the upper part of a person's head, with one of its ends or poles on either temple. It is his theory that the human body is a magnetic substance, and that it, like the magnet, has its north and south pole—its positive and negative sides. It was he who discovered the strange fact that this magnetic force was of value in the diagnosis of disease; that to the hypnotic subject in a certain state of mind, this magnetic force from any diseased portion of another person's body. It was in the course of his labors in support of this theory—a theory which had been suggested, despite its seeming absurdity, by some of the best scientists of France—that he had this magnet built.

As the girl sat in his office that day in August, while he was filled with that feeling of utter helplessness which comes to the physician who has exhausted his resources unsuccessfully in his attempt to treat a patient, his eye fell upon this magnet. He placed it on his glass shelf and placed it on the girl's head, with no idea that any important result would come from the action. A moment after that some important matters arose, and seeing to it that she was comfortably seated, he went out to confer with them. Probably three-quarters of an hour elapsed before he returned to his patient, and he will tell the story at this point as nearly as I can in the doctor's own words:

"I should not have been at all surprised," said he, "if I had found that during my really unwarrantably long absence the girl had taken off the magnet and gone home. When I re-entered the office, however, she was sitting in very much the same attitude which she had assumed before I left her. A remarkable change, however, had occurred in her appearance. She was even paler than usual, her eyes were more deeply sunken than they had been, and it was evident that she was weaker. I than before, indeed, I was very much alarmed by her appearance. A part of this I attributed to the effect of the weight of the heavy magnet on her head, but this I knew did not wholly explain the change which had occurred in her condition since I had seen her a short time before. I hurriedly removed the magnet from her head, replaced it on the shelf, and then, sending a servant for a carriage, administered some mild stimulants and prepared to send her home. She told me that she felt very weak, but that her head seemed clearer than it had been before for a long time. Giving her attendant some instructions about what to do for her that night, I parted from her at my door, feeling somewhat fearful lest my experiment had done her harm."

"After she had gone I sat down to think out the reason for this strange experience. It seemed highly improbable that her weakness had been caused by any effect of the magnet, when I considered the matter, yet that magnet was an unknown quantity. I went to the shelf, got it again and put it on my own head, deciding to wear it for at least as long a time as she had worn it, so that I might note its effect upon myself. For forty-five minutes I sat perfectly quiet in the same chair which she had occupied. I noted with considerable surprise that even my own strength—and I am a robust man—seemed to be wanting as the moments flew. At the end of the three-quarters of an hour I was quite unaccountably weak, but was as far from a solution of the mystery as I was before. I was, however, in a quandary as to what to do. I had been weakened by the magnet—as I had been in the first place. My dinner hour had arrived, however, and I placed the magnet on the shelf again and went across the garden into my house. I have several children and a wife, and am very fond of them."

"They were gathered in the dining-room as I entered and greeted me with the usual chorus of welcomes. I cannot describe to you my amazement when I found that their happiness at my coming had no echo in my own brain. My habitual pleasure at seeing them did not exist. Instead of that I felt toward them in a minor degree exactly the aversion which my patient had told me that she felt toward the members of her own family."

"Instantly the idea occurred to me that I might have discovered a new and most surprising property of the electro-magnet. My experience seemed to indicate that the magnet while resting on the girl's head had absorbed some subtle influence from her brain and stored it up to transfer it later to my own mind when I turned placed the instrument upon my head."

Thus Dr. Luys tells the story of his first experiment with his new instrument and its result. He has made many experiments since then. In the carefully written book in which he keeps a record of his work at his office the stories of these experiments are concisely told in scientific terms. It would not interest me to repeat them here, but the details of pulse, temperature and other medical technicalities which these records contain, if this evidence is borne out by subsequent experiments the sentence "Dispositions for sale," with which this article opens, may not in the future seem as absurd as it does now. What studies Dr. Luys has been able to make have tended to prove the following facts:

First—An ordinary electro-magnet so fashioned that it will rest upon a person's head with its poles touching his temples will to some unknown extent absorb any strongly morbid influence which may at the time be working in his brain.

Second—After the magnet has been left for a sufficiently long time on the head of a person suffering from a morbid mental complaint, and is then placed upon the head of a person in a normally healthy state of mind, the morbid tendency of the sick man's mind will be to a considerable extent transferred to the healthy mind of the other person.

Third—A comparable effect is produced by transferring the magnet from the head of one perfectly healthy person to another.

Fourth—The transfer of the magnet from the head of a healthy person to that of one suffering from melancholia always perceptibly beneficial.

These comprise about all the facts which have up to the present time been ascertained by these extraordinary experiments. Dr. Luys is so far as ever from understanding the reason of this strange effect of the electro-magnet, but he feels certain that further and careful study along these lines will result in important additions to the world's sum of electro-medical knowledge.

When I asked him if, in his opinion, it would ever be possible to develop this new plan that an artificial transfer of dispositions would be made between two people of different temperaments, as, for instance, the insertion of a good temper into the brain of a grumpy individual, the provision of a philanthropic disposition to a miser, and so on—he laughed.

"No," he said; "these things will not be possible, but the things which seem fairly possible are scarcely less wonderful. For instance, if my studies along this new line carry me far enough, so that by means of the electro-magnet I shall be able to inject healthy mental force into the mind of a morbid melancholic, so that I shall be able to transfer good brain influence from head to head as we now sometimes transfer healthy blood from wrist to wrist, I shall feel that my time has been valuably expended. That I shall within a year have the satisfaction of definitely accomplishing these things, and of accomplishing them every time I try, I have now little doubt."

Some months before the young woman's case had reached this point Dr. Luys, in a pure spirit of experimentation, had had a huge horseshoe magnet constructed in such a way that it would fit about the upper part of a person's head, with one of its ends or poles on either temple. It is his theory that the human body is a magnetic substance, and that it, like the magnet, has its north and south pole—its positive and negative sides. It was he who discovered the strange fact that this magnetic force was of value in the diagnosis of disease; that to the hypnotic subject in a certain state of mind, this magnetic force from any diseased portion of another person's body. It was in the course of his labors in support of this theory—a theory which had been suggested, despite its seeming absurdity, by some of the best scientists of France—that he had this magnet built.

As the girl sat in his office that day in August, while he was filled with that feeling of utter helplessness which comes to the physician who has exhausted his resources unsuccessfully in his attempt to treat a patient, his eye fell upon this magnet. He placed it on his glass shelf and placed it on the girl's head, with no idea that any important result would come from the action. A moment after that some important matters arose, and seeing to it that she was comfortably seated, he went out to confer with them. Probably three-quarters of an hour elapsed before he returned to his patient, and he will tell the story at this point as nearly as I can in the doctor's own words:

"I should not have been at all surprised," said he, "if I had found that during my really unwarrantably long absence the girl had taken off the magnet and gone home. When I re-entered the office, however, she was sitting in very much the same attitude which she had assumed before I left her. A remarkable change, however, had occurred in her appearance. She was even paler than usual, her eyes were more deeply sunken than they had been, and it was evident that she was weaker. I than before, indeed, I was very much alarmed by her appearance. A part of this I attributed to the effect of the weight of the heavy magnet on her head, but this I knew did not wholly explain the change which had occurred in her condition since I had seen her a short time before. I hurriedly removed the magnet from her head, replaced it on the shelf, and then, sending a servant for a carriage, administered some mild stimulants and prepared to send her home. She told me that she felt very weak, but that her head seemed clearer than it had been before for a long time. Giving her attendant some instructions about what to do for her that night, I parted from her at my door, feeling somewhat fearful lest my experiment had done her harm."

"After she had gone I sat down to think out the reason for this strange experience. It seemed highly improbable that her weakness had been caused by any effect of the magnet, when I considered the matter, yet that magnet was an unknown quantity. I went to the shelf, got it again and put it on my own head, deciding to wear it for at least as long a time as she had worn it, so that I might note its effect upon myself. For forty-five minutes I sat perfectly quiet in the same chair which she had occupied. I noted with considerable surprise that even my own strength—and I am a robust man—seemed to be wanting as the moments flew. At the end of the three-quarters of an hour I was quite unaccountably weak, but was as far from a solution of the mystery as I was before. I was, however, in a quandary as to what to do. I had been weakened by the magnet—as I had been in the first place. My dinner hour had arrived, however, and I placed the magnet on the shelf again and went across the garden into my house. I have several children and a wife, and am very fond of them."

"They were gathered in the dining-room as I entered and greeted me with the usual chorus of welcomes. I cannot describe to you my amazement when I found that their happiness at my coming had no echo in my own brain. My habitual pleasure at seeing them did not exist. Instead of that I felt toward them in a minor degree exactly the aversion which my patient had told me that she felt toward the members of her own family."

"Instantly the idea occurred to me that I might have discovered a new and most surprising property of the electro-magnet. My experience seemed to indicate that the magnet while resting on the girl's head had absorbed some subtle influence from her brain and stored it up to transfer it later to my own mind when I turned placed the instrument upon my head."

Thus Dr. Luys tells the story of his first experiment with his new instrument and its result. He has made many experiments since then. In the carefully written book in which he keeps a record of his work at his office the stories of these experiments are concisely told in scientific terms. It would not interest me to repeat them here, but the details of pulse, temperature and other medical technicalities which these records contain, if this evidence is borne out by subsequent experiments the sentence "Dispositions for sale," with which this article opens, may not in the future seem as absurd as it does now. What studies Dr. Luys has been able to make have tended to prove the following facts:

First—An ordinary electro-magnet so fashioned that it will rest upon a person's head with its poles touching his temples will to some unknown extent absorb any strongly morbid influence which may at the time be working in his brain.

Second—After the magnet has been left for a sufficiently long time on the head of a person suffering from a morbid mental complaint, and is then placed upon the head of a person in a normally healthy state of mind, the morbid tendency of the sick man's mind will be to a considerable extent transferred to the healthy mind of the other person.

Third—A comparable effect is produced by transferring the magnet from the head of one perfectly healthy person to another.

Fourth—The transfer of the magnet from the head of a healthy person to that of one suffering from melancholia always perceptibly beneficial.

These comprise about all the facts which have up to the present time been ascertained by these extraordinary experiments. Dr. Luys is so far as ever from understanding the reason of this strange effect of the electro-magnet, but he feels certain that further and careful study along these lines will result in important additions to the world's sum of electro-medical knowledge.

When I asked him if, in his opinion, it would ever be possible to develop this new plan that an artificial transfer of dispositions would be made between two people of different temperaments, as, for instance, the insertion of a good temper into the brain of a grumpy individual, the provision of a philanthropic disposition to a miser, and so on—he laughed.

"No," he said; "these things will not be possible, but the things which seem fairly possible are scarcely less wonderful. For instance, if my studies along this new line carry me far enough, so that by means of the electro-magnet I shall be able to inject healthy mental force into the mind of a morbid melancholic, so that I shall be able to transfer good brain influence from head to head as we now sometimes transfer healthy blood from wrist to wrist, I shall feel that my time has been valuably expended. That I shall within a year have the satisfaction of definitely accomplishing these things, and of accomplishing them every time I try, I have now little doubt."

Some months before the young woman's case had reached this point Dr. Luys, in a pure spirit of experimentation, had had a huge horseshoe magnet constructed in such a way that it would fit about the upper part of a person's head, with one of its ends or poles on either temple. It is his theory that the human body is a magnetic substance, and that it, like the magnet, has its north and south pole—its positive and negative sides. It was he who discovered the strange fact that this magnetic force was of value in the diagnosis of disease; that to the hypnotic subject in a certain state of mind, this magnetic force from any diseased portion of another person's body. It was in the course of his labors in support of this theory—a theory which had been suggested, despite its seeming absurdity, by some of the best scientists of France—that he had this magnet built.

As the girl sat in his office that day in August, while he was filled with that feeling of utter helplessness which comes to the physician who has exhausted his resources unsuccessfully in his attempt to treat a patient, his eye fell upon this magnet. He placed it on his glass shelf and placed it on the girl's head, with no idea that any important result would come from the action. A moment after that some important matters arose, and seeing to it that she was comfortably seated, he went out to confer with them. Probably three-quarters of an hour elapsed before he returned to his patient, and he will tell the story at this point as nearly as I can in the doctor's own words:

"I should not have been at all surprised," said he, "if I had found that during my really unwarrantably long absence the girl had taken off the magnet and gone home. When I re-entered the office, however, she was sitting in very much the same attitude which she had assumed before I left her. A remarkable change, however, had occurred in her appearance. She was even paler than usual, her eyes were more deeply sunken than they had been, and it was evident that she was weaker. I than before, indeed, I was very much alarmed by her appearance. A part of this I attributed to the effect of the weight of the heavy magnet on her head, but this I knew did not wholly explain the change which had occurred in her condition since I had seen her a short time before. I hurriedly removed the magnet from her head, replaced it on the shelf, and then, sending a servant for a carriage, administered some mild stimulants and prepared to send her home. She told me that she felt very weak, but that her head seemed clearer than it had been before for a long time. Giving her attendant some instructions about what to do for her that night, I parted from her at my door, feeling somewhat fearful lest my experiment had done her harm."

"After she had gone I sat down to think out the reason for this strange experience. It seemed highly improbable that her weakness had been caused by any effect of the magnet, when I considered the matter, yet that magnet was an unknown quantity. I went to the shelf, got it again and put it on my own head, deciding to wear it for at least as long a time as she had worn it, so that I might note its effect upon myself. For forty-five minutes I sat perfectly quiet in the same chair which she had occupied. I noted with considerable surprise that even my own strength—and I am a robust man—seemed to be wanting as the moments flew. At the end of the three-quarters of an hour I was quite unaccountably weak, but was as far from a solution of the mystery as I was before. I was, however, in a quandary as to what to do. I had been weakened by the magnet—as I had been in the first place. My dinner hour had arrived, however, and I placed the magnet on the shelf again and went across the garden into my house. I have several children and a wife, and am very fond of them."

"They were gathered in the dining-room as I entered and greeted me with the usual chorus of welcomes. I cannot describe to you my amazement when I found that their happiness at my coming had no echo in my own brain. My habitual pleasure at seeing them did not exist. Instead of that I felt toward them in a minor degree exactly the aversion which my patient had told me that she felt toward the members of her own family."

"Instantly the idea occurred to me that I might have discovered a new and most surprising property of the electro-magnet. My experience seemed to indicate that the magnet while resting on the girl's head had absorbed some subtle influence from her brain and stored it up to transfer it later to my own mind when I turned placed the instrument upon my head."

Thus Dr. Luys tells the story of his first experiment with his new instrument and its result. He has made many experiments since then. In the carefully written book in which he keeps a record of his work at his office the stories of these experiments are concisely told in scientific terms. It would not interest me to repeat them here, but the details of pulse, temperature and other medical technicalities which these records contain, if this evidence is borne out by subsequent experiments the sentence "Dispositions for sale," with which this article opens, may not in the future seem as absurd as it does now. What studies Dr. Luys has been able to make have tended to prove the following facts:

First—An ordinary electro-magnet so fashioned that it will rest upon a person's head with its poles touching his temples will to some unknown extent absorb any strongly morbid influence which may at the time be working in his brain.

Second—After the magnet has been left for a sufficiently long time on the head of a person suffering from a morbid mental complaint, and is then placed upon the head of a person in a normally healthy state of mind, the morbid tendency of the sick man's mind will be to a considerable extent transferred to the healthy mind of the other person.

Third—A comparable effect is produced by transferring the magnet from the head of one perfectly healthy person to another.

Fourth—The transfer of the magnet from the head of a healthy person to that of one suffering from melancholia always perceptibly beneficial.

These comprise about all the facts which have up to the present time been ascertained by these extraordinary experiments. Dr. Luys is so far as ever from understanding the reason of this strange effect of the electro-magnet, but he feels certain that further and careful study along these lines will result in important additions to the world's sum of electro-medical knowledge.

When I asked him if, in his opinion, it would ever be possible to develop this new plan that an artificial transfer of dispositions would be made between two people of different temperaments, as, for instance, the insertion of a good temper into the brain of a grumpy individual, the provision of a philanthropic disposition to a miser, and so on—he laughed.

"No," he said; "these things will not be possible, but the things which seem fairly possible are scarcely less wonderful. For instance, if my studies along this new line carry me far enough, so that by means of the electro-magnet I shall be able to inject healthy mental force into the mind of a morbid melancholic, so that I shall be able to transfer good brain influence from head to head as we now sometimes transfer healthy blood from wrist to wrist, I shall feel that my time has been valuably expended. That I shall within a year have the satisfaction of definitely accomplishing these things, and of accomplishing them every time I try, I have now little doubt."

Some months before the young woman's case had reached this point Dr. Luys, in a pure spirit of experimentation, had had a huge horseshoe magnet constructed in such a way that it would fit about the upper part of a person's head, with one of its ends or poles on either temple. It is his theory that the human body is a magnetic substance, and that it, like the magnet, has its north and south pole—its positive and negative sides. It was he who discovered the strange fact that this magnetic force was of value in the diagnosis of disease; that to the hypnotic subject in a certain state of mind, this magnetic force from any diseased portion of another person's body. It was in the course of his labors in support of this theory—a theory which had been suggested, despite its seeming absurdity, by some of the best scientists of France—that he had this magnet built.

As the girl sat in his office that day in August, while he was filled with that feeling of utter helplessness which comes to the physician who has exhausted his resources unsuccessfully in his attempt to treat a patient, his eye fell upon this magnet. He placed it on his glass shelf and placed it on the girl's head, with no idea that any important result would come from the action. A moment after that some important matters arose, and seeing to it that she was comfortably seated, he went out to confer with them. Probably three-quarters of an hour elapsed before he returned to his patient, and he will tell the story at this point as nearly as I can in the doctor's own words:

"I should not have been at all surprised," said he, "if I had found that during my really unwarrantably long absence the girl had taken off the magnet and gone home. When I re-entered the office, however, she was sitting in very much the same attitude which she had assumed before I left her. A remarkable change, however, had occurred in her appearance. She was even paler than usual, her eyes were more deeply sunken than they had been, and it was evident that she was weaker. I than before, indeed, I was very much alarmed by her appearance. A part of this I attributed to the effect of the weight of the heavy magnet on her head, but this I knew did not wholly explain the change which had occurred in her condition since I had seen her a short time before. I hurriedly removed the magnet from her head, replaced it on the shelf, and then, sending a servant for a carriage, administered some mild stimulants and prepared to send her home. She told me that she felt very weak, but that her head seemed clearer than it had been before for a long time. Giving her attendant some instructions about what to do for her that night, I parted from her at my door, feeling somewhat fearful lest my experiment had done her harm."

"After she had gone I sat down to think out the reason for this strange experience. It seemed highly improbable that her weakness had been caused by any effect of the magnet, when I considered the matter, yet that magnet was an unknown quantity. I went to the shelf, got it again and put it on my own head, deciding to wear it for at least as long a time as she had worn it, so that I might note its effect upon myself. For forty-five minutes I sat perfectly quiet in the same chair which she had occupied. I noted with considerable surprise that even my own strength—and I am a robust man—seemed to be wanting as the moments flew. At the end of the three-quarters of an hour I was quite unaccountably weak, but was as far from a solution of the mystery as I was before. I was, however, in a quandary as to what to do. I had been weakened by the magnet—as I had been in the first place. My dinner hour had arrived, however, and I placed the magnet on the shelf again and went across the garden into my house. I have several children and a wife, and am very fond of them."

"They were gathered in the dining-room as I entered and greeted me with the usual chorus of welcomes. I cannot describe to you my amazement when I found that their happiness at my coming had no echo in my own brain. My habitual pleasure at seeing them did not exist. Instead of that I felt toward them in a minor degree exactly the aversion which my patient had told me that she felt toward the members of her own family."

"Instantly the idea occurred to me that I might have discovered a new and most surprising property of the electro-magnet. My experience seemed to indicate that the magnet while resting on the girl's head had absorbed some subtle influence from her brain and stored it up to transfer it later to my own mind when I turned placed the instrument upon my head."

Thus Dr. Luys tells the story of his first experiment with his new instrument and its result. He has made many experiments since then. In the carefully written book in which he keeps a record of his work at his office the stories of these experiments are concisely told in scientific terms. It would not interest me to repeat them here, but the details of pulse, temperature and other medical technicalities which these records contain, if this evidence is borne out by subsequent experiments the sentence "Dispositions for sale," with which this article opens, may not in the future seem as absurd as it does now. What studies Dr. Luys has been able to make have tended to prove the following facts:

First—An ordinary electro-magnet so fashioned that it will rest upon a person's head with its poles touching his temples will to some unknown extent absorb any strongly morbid influence which may at the time be working in his brain.

Second—After the magnet has been left for a sufficiently long time on the head of a person suffering from a morbid mental complaint, and is then placed upon the head of a person in a normally healthy state of mind, the morbid tendency of the sick man's mind will be to a considerable extent transferred to the healthy mind of the other person.

Third—A comparable effect is produced by transferring the magnet from the head of one perfectly healthy person to another.

Fourth—The transfer of the magnet from the head of a healthy person to that of one suffering from melancholia always perceptibly beneficial.

These comprise about all the facts which have up to the present time been ascertained by these extraordinary experiments. Dr. Luys is so far as ever from understanding the reason of this strange effect of the electro-magnet, but he feels certain that further and careful study along these lines will result in important additions to the world's sum of electro-medical knowledge.

When I asked him if, in his opinion, it would ever be possible to develop this new plan that an artificial transfer of dispositions would be made between two people of different temperaments, as, for instance, the insertion of a good temper into the brain of a grumpy individual, the provision of a philanthropic disposition to a miser, and so on—he laughed.

"No," he said; "these things will not be possible, but the things which seem fairly possible are scarcely less wonderful. For instance, if my studies along this new line carry me far enough, so that by means of the electro-magnet I shall be able to inject healthy mental force into the mind of a morbid melancholic, so that I shall be able to transfer good brain influence from head to head as we now sometimes transfer healthy blood from wrist to wrist, I shall feel that my time has been valuably expended. That I shall within a year have the satisfaction of definitely accomplishing these things, and of accomplishing them every time I try, I have now little doubt."

Some months before the young woman's case had reached this point Dr. Luys, in a pure spirit of experimentation, had had a huge horseshoe magnet constructed in such a way that it would fit about the upper part of a person's head, with one of its ends or poles on either temple. It is his theory that the human body is a magnetic substance, and that it, like the magnet, has its north and south pole—its positive and negative sides. It was he who discovered the strange fact that this magnetic force was of value in the diagnosis of disease; that to the hypnotic subject in a certain state of mind, this magnetic force from any diseased portion of another person's body. It was in the course of his labors in support of this theory—a theory which had been suggested, despite its seeming absurdity, by some of the best scientists of France—that he had this magnet built.

As the girl sat in his office that day in August, while he was filled with that feeling of utter helplessness which comes to the physician who has exhausted his resources unsuccessfully in his attempt to treat a patient, his eye fell upon this magnet. He placed it on his glass shelf and placed it on the girl's head, with no idea that any important result would come from the action. A moment after that some important matters arose, and seeing to it that she was comfortably seated, he went out to confer with them. Probably three-quarters of an hour elapsed before he returned to his patient, and he will tell the story at this point as nearly as I can in the doctor's own words:

"I should not have been at all surprised," said he, "if I had found that during my really unwarrantably long absence the girl had taken off the magnet and gone home. When I re-entered the office, however, she was sitting in very much the same attitude which she had assumed before I left her. A remarkable change, however, had occurred in her appearance. She was even paler than usual, her eyes were more deeply sunken than they had been, and it was evident that she was weaker. I than before, indeed, I was very much alarmed by her appearance. A part of this I attributed to the effect of the weight of the heavy magnet on her head, but this I knew did not wholly explain the change which had occurred in her condition since I had seen her a short time before. I hurriedly removed the magnet from her head, replaced it on the shelf, and then, sending a servant for a carriage, administered some mild stimulants and prepared to send her home. She told me that she felt very weak, but that her head seemed clearer than it had been before for a long time. Giving her attendant some instructions about what to do for her that night, I parted from her at my door, feeling somewhat fearful lest my experiment had done her harm."

"After she had gone I sat down to think out the reason for this strange experience. It seemed highly improbable that her weakness had been caused by any effect of the magnet, when I considered the matter, yet that magnet was an unknown quantity. I went to the shelf, got it again and put it on my own head, deciding to wear it for at least as long a time as she had worn it, so that I might note its effect upon myself. For forty-five minutes I sat perfectly quiet in the same chair which she had occupied. I noted with considerable surprise that even my own strength—and I am a robust man—seemed to be wanting as the moments flew. At the end of the three-quarters of an hour I was quite unaccountably weak, but was as far from a solution of the mystery as I was before. I was, however, in a quandary as to what to do. I had been weakened by the magnet—as I had been in the first place. My dinner hour had arrived, however, and I placed the magnet on the shelf again and went across the garden into my house. I have several children and a wife, and am very fond of them."

"They were gathered in the dining-room as I entered and greeted me with the usual chorus of welcomes. I cannot describe to you my amazement when I found that their happiness at my coming had no echo in my own brain. My habitual pleasure at seeing them did not exist. Instead of that I felt toward them in a minor degree exactly the aversion which my patient had told me that she felt toward the members of her own family."

"Instantly the idea occurred to me that I might have discovered a new and most surprising property of the electro-magnet. My experience seemed to indicate that the magnet while resting on the girl's head had absorbed some subtle influence from her brain and stored it up to transfer it later to my own mind when I turned placed the instrument upon my head."

Thus Dr. Luys tells the story of his first experiment with his new instrument and its result. He has made many experiments since then. In the carefully written book in which he keeps a record of his work at his office the stories of these experiments are concisely told in scientific terms. It would not interest me to repeat them here, but the details of pulse, temperature and other medical technicalities which these records contain, if this evidence is borne out by subsequent experiments the sentence "Dispositions for sale," with which this article opens, may not in the future seem as absurd as it does now. What studies Dr. Luys has been able to make have tended to prove the following facts:

First—An ordinary electro-magnet so fashioned that it will rest upon a person's head with its poles touching his temples will to some unknown extent absorb any strongly morbid influence which may at the time be working in his brain.

Second—After the magnet has been left for a sufficiently long time on the head of a person suffering from a morbid mental complaint, and is then placed upon the head of a person in a normally healthy state of mind, the morbid tendency of the sick man's mind will be to a considerable extent transferred to the healthy mind of the other person.

Third—A comparable effect is produced by transferring the magnet from the head of one perfectly healthy person to another.

Fourth—The transfer of the magnet from the head of a healthy person to that of one suffering from melancholia always perceptibly beneficial.

These comprise about all the facts which have up to the present time been ascertained by these extraordinary experiments. Dr. Luys is so far as ever from understanding the reason of this strange effect of the electro-magnet, but he feels certain that further and careful study along these lines will result in important additions to the world's sum of electro-medical knowledge.

When I asked him if, in his opinion, it would ever be possible to develop this new plan that an artificial transfer of dispositions would be made between two people of different temperaments, as, for instance, the insertion of a good temper into the brain of a grumpy individual, the provision of a philanthropic disposition to a miser, and so on—he laughed.

"No," he said; "these things will not be possible, but the things which seem fairly possible are scarcely less wonderful. For instance, if my studies along this new line carry me far enough, so that by means of the electro-magnet I shall be able to inject healthy mental force into the mind of a morbid melancholic, so that I shall be able to transfer good brain influence from head to head as we now sometimes transfer healthy blood from wrist to wrist, I shall feel that my time has been valuably expended. That I shall within a year have the satisfaction of definitely accomplishing these things, and of accomplishing them every time I try, I have now little doubt."

Some months before the young woman's case had reached this point Dr. Luys, in a pure spirit of experimentation, had had a huge horseshoe magnet constructed in such a way that it would fit about the upper part of a person's head, with