

L. H. ANDERSON · 1895

Ancient Magic

ANCIENT MAGIC AND MAGNETISM · NOTEBOOK 1

Magnetism, magi and dreams



INTRODUCTION · CHAPTERS I-IV

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Ancient Magic

L. H. ANDERSON · ANCIENT MAGIC, MAGNETISM AND PSYCHIC
FORCES (CHICAGO, 1895) · INTRODUCTION · CHAPTERS I-IV

Every chapter — four parts

IN ANDERSON'S WORDS

the complete text of the 1895 edition

IN PLAIN WORDS

what the author says in the chapter

TERMS

the concepts and names explained

**WHAT MODERN
SCIENCE SAYS**

*hypnosis, suggestion and what is still
unexplained*

A historical text, not a manual.

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FOREWORD

This notebook opens the series "Ancient Magic and Magnetism" — the complete text, in five parts, of Prof. L. H. Anderson's book *Ancient Magic, Magnetism and Psychic Forces: The Key to Power* (Chicago, 1895).

The world the book came from. In the America of the 1890s "magnetism" was a word everybody knew. A century earlier Franz Anton Mesmer had taught that an invisible fluid passes from one living body to another and can heal; his followers called it "animal magnetism", and throughout the nineteenth century mesmerists gave demonstrations in lecture halls and drawing rooms. By the 1890s the same experiments had a new name — hypnotism — and doctors in Paris and Nancy were arguing about what it really was. Since 1848 spiritualism had filled parlours with séances, rapping tables and mediums. The "New Thought" movement taught that thought and will shape health and fortune, and correspondence courses in "personal magnetism" promised their readers success, love and influence over others. Anderson's book belongs to this world.

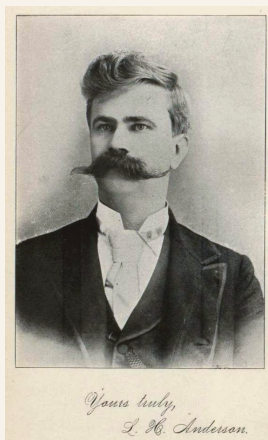
The book and its author. The book was published in 1895 by "The National Institute", whose address was the Masonic Temple in Chicago. Of Professor L. H. Anderson himself little is known beyond what the book says: in his Introduction he writes that he had worked in the field of magnetism for eighteen years and that he kept "some few most secret things" for his pupils only.

What is in this notebook. The author's Introduction and his first four chapters: the phenomena of magnetism and Mesmer's "animal magnetism"; black and white magic as the Kabbalah describes it; dreams, visions and the healings of the Bible; and the temple sleep of the Egyptian priests.

How to read it. Every chapter has four parts. *In Anderson's words* is the author's full text without cuts, with his own chapter summary and the illustrations of the original. Obvious printer's errors of the 1895 edition have been silently corrected; the spelling, style and views are otherwise Anderson's own. Then follow our three parts: *In plain words* — what the chapter actually says; *Terms* — its key words; *What modern science says* — how these ideas are judged today. This is a book of 1895, not a manual: the "magnetic" healing it describes is history and no substitute for a doctor.

About the sources. Compared with Joseph Ennemoser's *The History of Magic* (German 1844; English translation by William Howitt, 1854), many paragraphs of the Introduction and of Chapters I–IV turn out to be taken almost word for word from that translation, without acknowledgement — a common practice in popular books of the time. We give the text as Anderson printed it; this part of the book is in effect Ennemoser's view of the history of magic.

In the series "Ancient Magic and Magnetism": 1 · Ancient Magic 2 · Hypnotism and Spiritualism 3 · The Power of the Will 4 · Vital Magnetism 5 · The Laws of Magnetism



CHAPTER I

PHENOMENA OF MAGNETISM

IN ANDERSON'S WORDS

Miracles not Necessary—Magnetism Explains Ancient Mysteries—None so Blind as Those Who Will Not See—Natural and Divine Operations—The Mind of Man all Powerful—Scriptural Proof of our Assertions—All Classes are Interested—Of Vast Importance for Many Reasons—Magnetism a new Medical Science—How Personal Magnetic Influence Operates—The Magnetic Hand and Eye—Prejudice Must give way to Knowledge—It is Beyond Miracles and Sorcery—A Development of the Powers Inherent in Man—Magnetism not New.

THE AUTHOR'S INTRODUCTION

Of the nature and character of a work like the following nothing need be said. It is enough that at a moment when the public mind occupies itself with the class of subjects on which it treats, the researches of an earnest and indefatigable student cannot be unimportant, even though the reader may not always arrive at the same conclusion that he has done.

Thus it appears to me, that while we cannot deny the extraordinary psychological phenomena which are familiar to the experience of every human being, they are yet capable of a certain explanation wherever we are enabled to arrive at the circumstances which render the mind receptive of such impressions. The susceptibility either of individuals or bodies of people to these influences seems to presuppose an abnormal condition.

Different readers will look at this book from very different points of view. By some it will be esteemed only as a curiosity, others will find matter for further research; one will wish to learn magic arts from it, and another will draw from it philosophical conclusions. All will be welcome; and will find, I believe, if not

instruction, at least amusement and ample food for reflection; for it treats of remarkable phenomena and uncommon effects, which have certainly been hitherto looked upon as mere phantoms, or as belonging to a sphere quite unconnected with nature, but which nevertheless are a portion of history, and surely on that account are of universal interest.

Magnetism, by its remarkable phenomena, in modern times has led us into a sphere which still, like a closed book, contains secrets of a higher order of things lying beyond the familiar, every-day history of nature. Before the discovery of magnetism it was believed that science had already exhausted the world, and that the human mind had noted down on the map of natural and inner life everything that could or could not exist in heaven and earth. Magnetism itself stood in the background; it was looked upon as something that is nothing, and cannot exist. Such obsolete dusty charts are still often found hanging over the desks of zealous champions, who, in knightly manner, fight boldly against deceit and destruction for the beautiful prepared possession. Now, however, magnetism, not content with its manifold wonders, leads the way back into the mysterious domain of exploded magic, gathers up old tales and long-forgotten laws of mysterious action, from a transcendental world, which, estimated on one hand the present standard of science as valueless, and on the other, orthodox dogmas as the work of the devil. Whilst the former thus fears to be led back into the gloom of the mystical twilight of the past by such attempts as are described in this book, where only the phantasms of faith in miracles play their wild game, the latter resists boldly, in the anxious fear lest all miracles should cease to be miraculous.

The contents of this book are, without reference to the above mentioned contradictory motives, chiefly occupied with those mesmeric appearances which were formerly called magical, and now magnetic; in the present state of opinion, therefore, it cannot, of course, aspire to universal approbation. It may, however, if it does not interest, at least not be generally displeasing, as the author seeks everywhere with complete impartiality only the historical traces of true facts, and the phenomenon connected with them; compares these, and endeavors to lead them back to certain laws of nature, which, in truth, may be considered as something more than mere polluted pools or decayed pillars.

If some which are discussed do not always bear the impress of infallible truth, or even if some principles on which they are based be not the firmest, still it cannot be easily said that they are invented, or that it is all a deception. Even if they were really true, of which, indeed, we have many proofs, we may here and there find occasion to give them more consideration and to test the utility of their application, in order, perhaps, to succeed in discovering constant forces, even in the midst of more frequent actions, in clearing away many difficulties which general science does not solve, and in opening a wider field of operations for human activity, so that it may attain at last the exalted end of spiritual destiny.

The author for the last eighteen years has moved on the still uncultivated field of the wonderful phenomenon of magnetism; and after having once ascertained its reality, and been convinced of the striking effects voluntarily produced by it, he believes it his duty, in accordance with the saying, "that a grain of experience is of more value in medicine than a book full of reasoning," to persevere with a certain self-sacrifice and constancy, of which not all are capable. He considered his first necessary task to be the making of experiments for the discovery of a fixed law for these phenomena. As it soon appeared that such regularity really existed, the next thing required was to search in history for those similar mysterious phenomena which show a greater or less relation to those of magnetism. General accordance is now found everywhere and at all times, and thus common laws may now be assumed for all those wonderful phenomena and problems. This justifies the axiom that all such remarkable phenomena as are in accordance with magnetism are, in general, true. The author feels now with a certain joy which none can repress that he has at last done his duty, perhaps thrown some light into the obscurity, and thus given the most necessary hints for proceeding with a cautious, firm step, and offering a helping hand to human weakness.

We make no pretense to being considered as an infallible teacher of science and philosophy; he addresses his revealments to the intuition and reason of the human soul.

Hence, whatever he communicates to mankind must live upon its own intrinsic merits—upon its own indwelling vitality—and not because he has