

L. H. ANDERSON · 1895

Hypnotism and Spiritualism

ANCIENT MAGIC AND MAGNETISM · NOTEBOOK 2

The law of attraction and the key to occultism



CHAPTERS V-VII

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Hypnotism and Spiritualism

L. H. ANDERSON · ANCIENT MAGIC, MAGNETISM AND PSYCHIC
FORCES (CHICAGO, 1895) · CHAPTERS V-VII

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 is the second notebook of the series "Ancient Magic and Magnetism" — the complete text of Professor L. H. Anderson's book *Ancient Magic, Magnetism and Psychic Forces: The Key to Power*, published in Chicago in 1895 by The National Institute, Masonic Temple.

The time of the book. In the America of the 1890s the "magnetic" and "psychic" movement was at its height. Mesmerism — the doctrine of an invisible fluid passing from one person to another — had been known for a century; hypnotism had become a subject of medical study in France; spiritualist séances had spread across the country since the late 1840s; and the "New Thought" movement taught that the mind shapes health and fortune. Correspondence courses in "personal magnetism" were a popular business. Anderson's book belongs to this world: it promises its reader the "key to power".

What we know about the book. The title page names the publisher, The National Institute in the Masonic Temple building in Chicago. Of the author, L. H. Anderson, very little is known beyond what the book itself tells us, and we add nothing to it.

What is in this notebook. Chapters V–VII. Chapter V presents hypnotism as a universal "law of attraction" — from Jacob's flocks and prenatal influences to thought transference and the dream of an ideal society. Chapter VI links mesmerism with the mystics' path to ecstasy and surveys the uses of hypnotism: painless surgery, healing, clairvoyance and psychometry. Chapter VII deals with modern spiritualism: the conditions of the séance, the nature of mediums, and how to guard against fraud.

How to read it. Every chapter has four parts. *In Anderson's words* is the author's full text without cuts, opened by his own summary of the chapter from the book's table of contents. It is followed by our three parts: *In plain words* — what actually happens in the chapter; *Terms* — its key notions; *What modern science says* — how these claims are judged today. This is a text of 1895, and its views are those of 1895: it is not a manual, and nothing in it replaces a doctor. Obvious printer's errors of the 1895 edition have been silently corrected; the author's spelling and style are otherwise kept.

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 V

HYPNOTISM THE LAW OF ATTRACTION

IN ANDERSON'S WORDS

Prenatal Influences—Genius can thus be Assured—Magnetism is the Attracting Power through Life—The Science of Mind—The "Universal Will"—The Theory of Thought—The Law of Gravity—Thought Transference Proofs of Thought as a Living Force—The Psychic-ether—A Higher Plane of Thought—The Genius of Intuition—What are Seers?—Life a Puzzle to Man—The Secret Power of Telepathic Influence—An Ideal Condition of Social Existence—Plato was Inspired—Voltaire, Paine and Rousseau.

THIS law of mind, of magnetic attraction and influence, is manifest in all organized forms of life, becoming more and more active and powerful in effects, according to the brain development of the organism, and reaching its highest potency in man. The manifestation of this law in forms of animal life below man is a matter of observation. A good illustration is given in the biblical account of Jacob's handling of the flocks in his charge while in Laban's service.

We see from this that even the sheep and goats could be influenced by the staves which Jacob laid before them in the water from which they drank. The fact that mothers influence their children from that which they see, has been disputed, notwithstanding that its truth has been demonstrated in all ages, and is as deeply founded in the nature of mutual existence as the children may inherit the bodily and mental peculiarities of their parents. That Jacob's sheep were influenced by the peeled wands, which he laid with so much art in the water from which they drank, has a deep meaning. Jacob either did this from experience, or some vision or dream taught it to him. And, in fact, we find, Genesis, xxxi, 10: "And it came to pass at the time the cattle conceived, and I lifted up mine eyes and saw in a dream, and behold the lambs which leaped upon the cattle were ring-streaked, speckled and grised." With the water in which, as it were, they reflected themselves and the wands, they

drank in the image which impressed a new form upon their young, and thereby satisfied the imagination as well as the body.

The working of this same principle, or law of mental action and magnetic influence in its effect on the human being can be observed by any one as manifested in the wonderful parental influence of the mother over her child, which resulted, unhappily in some case, in birth marks and crippling of the child. It is a matter that has been practically demonstrated that the mother can, to a great extent, mould the character and disposition of the child before birth. Not only this but more; she can determine the genius of the child; or, in other words, direct the aptitude of the child to music, painting, mechanics, or whatever branch of life's industry and achievement she persistently fixes her thought upon during the period of her pregnancy.

We have not space enough here to enter into fully, and to defend the natural theory, by which is explained the manner in which spiritual impressions are even more easily propagated than is generally supposed possible in the matter-of-fact and tangible world.

We will, however, glance briefly over the subject and attempt to make clear beyond reasonable question the fact that magnetism in its various forms and phases is the attracting power throughout life. It is this law which governs the process of natural selection in earlier periods of the earth's development, evolving constantly higher and higher forms of life from lower; and since the perfection of man as a physical organism, it has manifested itself in higher and broader, constantly ascending planes of thought and consequent civilization.

We cannot say definitely what magnetism—this attracting power, or law of attraction—is, but we know, as the facts, ancient and modern, collated in this work show, that the nearer man approaches the divine in love, wisdom and use, the greater is his magnetic and attracting power. It is interesting at this juncture, in considering the manifestation of this law of magnetic attraction in the realm of thought, to note briefly the views held by the deepest thinkers, regarding the power of thought and its evolution through past centuries.

Advanced students in the science of mind affirm that thought is an actual living force in nature; that its physical manifestations in the minds of human beings, and in the brains and nervous system of the lower forms of organized life, are but the

strivings of the "Universal Will" for expression. No attempt will here be made to treat a subject of such vast import in its philosophic bearings. I shall not venture to sound the metaphysical depths of the real relations that exist between mind and matter; nor shall I express any decided opinion regarding the truth of this theory of thought. A few suggestions in favor of acceptance, however, may not come amiss.

It is often the case that in thinking of force, we confound it with its product, motion, and in this way we speak of light, heat, electricity, magnetism, chemical action, attraction, and gravitation, as physical forces. We use the term "Law of Gravity," but how little is really known by man of this mighty force whose power holds the visible universe in place. It is only in our present century that magnetism, the subtle, invisible, but all-powerful fluid, which permeates all matter, is studied with intelligence, and its possibilities suspected. This hidden force, for anything known to the contrary, may be the vital element in every form of life; its capabilities as an instrument for human development and dominion are even now, at this age, but little comprehended. A mysterious force exists in the vibrations of the ether, called sound, which science and invention have, so far, failed to utilize, but which, no doubt, in the near future will come under man's control for driving the wheels of industry.

The old beliefs regarding the constitution of the human mind and its faculties, have been shaken, and in many cases destroyed by facts, obtained from modern investigation and carefully tested experiment. The reality of thought transference, one mind impressing another, even from a distance in space, seems established beyond a reasonable doubt. The wonderful developments in the line of hypnotism, animal magnetism, and somnambulism; the unquestioned results for health, and the cure of disease, accomplished by the various schools of mental healing, all go far to prove the real existence of thought as a living force, which can be strengthened in its power, in a given direction, by individual effort and concentration of purpose. To state the theory of this advanced school of Psychology a little more clearly, I quote from one of its teachers. "The brain being a pulsating centre, its thoughts as they go out in waves have to other brains a tangible representation. The psychic-ether, pulsating with innumerable waves, may be regarded as a universal thought atmosphere, and the sensitive brain is able to gather from it thoughts and ideas which its pulsation express." We may supplement this theory by a belief in a higher