

neither performed at his best, though Braid appears to have done the better. Lafontaine failed altogether in attempting to replicate Braid's results, and did poorly in employing his own techniques on volunteers, though he was as successful as ever with his pair of responsive subjects. Some have criticized Braid for seeking such publicity at so early a point. However he appears to have felt it was the best way to secure the attention and support of the substantial portion of the medical establishment that had come to believe there was definite therapeutic value in magnetizing, but were still held back by their aversion to the mesmerist doctrine of the all-pervasive fluid and its mystical trappings.

Braid had read, in Alexandre Bertrand's writings, how the Abbé Faria, a generation earlier, had reached the same conclusion about the non-existence of the magnetic fluid, and the primacy of suggestion in the induction of trance. Yet Faria had failed to convince all but a small minority of the many brilliant and competent magnetizers who followed him in France. Braid did not want a similar failure to ensue in Britain. He meant to strike while the iron was hot. In the short run, his success was only partial; in the long run, all modern hypnotherapy would stem from his work. ▼

(To be continued.)

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