PSYCHOMETRY IN BROOKLYN.

DR. J. R. BUCHANAN SPEAKS BEFORE SOME SPIRITUALISTS—A LITTLE ABOUT MISS MOLLIE FANCHER AND A GREAT DEAL ABOUT DR. BUCHANAN.

Dr. J. R. Buchanan was one of a curious group of speculative psychologists and biologists whom the wave of mesmerism that swept over this country from 1840 to 1845 brought into prominence. A physician by profession, he evolved a science that he styled psychometry, of which, by the way, Edgar A. Poe was the most brilliant adherent. Dr. Buchanan was announced to lecture last night at Everett Hall, in Brooklyn, before the Brooklyn Conference of Spiritualists, on "The Case of Miss Mollie Fancher Considered in its Relations to Science and Psychometry," but, after a few remarks on the topic of the discourse, went into a general dissertation on Spiritualism, intermingled with a vast amount of denunciation of the "educated ignorance of physicians," and particularly of Dr. Hammond and Dr. Beard, who have scouted the evidences of superhuman intelligence gathered by various medical and other observers who have studied the case. After a few sentences of introduction, Dr. Buchanan said that the case of Miss Fancher stood in the very centre of the conflicting forces of the present century, on one side of which were arrayed reason, religion, and morality, and, on the other, materialism and the material theories of the medical colleges. He should not take time by describing his own experiments with Miss Fancher—experiments which had convinced him of the genuineness of the statements made respecting her case. He should simply say that she was by organization a young lady remarkably developed in the ideal and constructive regions of the brain, and had her health remained, would have been a ready and fluent writer. Disease had not evolved any new powers in her case, for such powers as she had shown were by no means uncommon, and there were probably 5,000 people in the City of Brooklyn who could exceed Miss Fancher in their exercise. The power of apprehending objects at a distance, without the assistance of the external senses, was in reality nothing extraordinary, nor was it in any sense an abnormal development of perception. It was simply rare because its development in modern life was little understood. Dr. Buchanan asserted that if the medical gentlemen who had made such an exhibition of themselves in the press had heard his lectures on psychometry, delivered last Winter, they would have refrained from many of the statements they had written.

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