PITTSBURGH GAZETTE.

The Divining Rod, or Bletonism.

Webster defines the divining rod to be "a rod, commonly of hazel, with forked branches, used by those who *pretend* to discover water or metals under ground." Of *Bletonism*, whose chief characteristic is the use of this rod, he does not speak quite so ambiguously; he says nothing of *pretence*, but designates it as "the faculty of perceiving and indicating subterraneous springs and currents by sensation; so called from one Bleton, of France, who was supposed to possess this faculty." If the great lexicographer had added to springs and currents, *ores* and *native metals*, as discoverable by sensation, his description would have been more full and correct. For, as the whole mystery of the so called divining rod resolves itself into a question of electricity, and as water and ore are the most powerful conductors of this subtle fluid that are found under ground, it follows that ore will affect sensation, or rather attract the rod, as well as water; and when this is the case, the question arises, whether it is the one or the other that produces the effect? The practiced geologist is best qualified to solve this question.

Some years ago there lived in the neighborhood of Hagerstown, Maryland, a man who was in the habit of informing the farmers who intended to sink a well, where they should dig with a certainty of finding water. He used the rod, or hazel fork, and his experiments almost invariably proved satisfactory. Neither he nor those who employed him understood the *rationale* of the matter, and hence they supposed that he possessed a superhuman faculty; and a great deal of other superstition was connected with it, both in his own mind and in that of others. He was regarded by some as a most extraordinary person, and treated by them with a degree of reverence bordering on idolatry.

This subject is now better understood. In our country it has indeed not yet received much attention, but in France it has been investigated, and is now honored there with a place among the sciences. It has been ascertained that almost everywhere individuals, females as well as males, may be found in whose hands the rod will operate, and that there is nothing in the phenomena manifested but what may be explained in accordance with the established laws of nature. The charge of weakness and superstition, and the imputation of delusion and humbuggery, must therefore be given up, and the subject be treated as other branches of science are. But what are the principles of Bletonism, or how are the phenomena of the so-termed divining rod to be accounted for?

1. Let it be borne in mind, that as the human body abounds with veins, arteries and other blood-vessels, both small and great, whose office it is to distribute the vital fluid throughout the system, and convey it back to the heart, the fountain-head; so the earth is a huge body containing numerous strata of ore and veins of water. By means of the latter the subterranean water is conveyed through hills and valleys; frequently finds its way to the surface, and having answered its destined purpose, it returns again to the briny ocean; is purified, again taken up by evaporation, descends in rain and snow, and again passes through the same useful process. These under-ground streamers and beds of ore are the best conductors of electricity to be found beneath the earth's surface.

2. It must be remembered that the wonderful fluid called electricity is distributed throughout the whole earth, but that some bodies generate or imbibe more than others. Those that contain more than their natural portion are said to be *positively*, and those which contain less to be *negatively* charged. Or, in other words, in the one case the electricity is termed *positive*, and in the other *negative*.

3. One of the established laws of electricity is found in the fact, that two bodies, both positively or both negatively charged, invariably *repel* each other; while, if the one be positively and the other negatively charged, they uniformly *attract* each other. This principle is so universal, that, so far as is known, there is no exception to it

4. It has already been remarked that the best subterranean conductors are beds of ore, or native metals, and veins of water. It is their nature to extract the latent fluid from surrounding objects, and absorb it themselves; hence, where these exist, there will be the most electricity. In general, the human body is also a good conductor; but there are some exceptions. Some men usually generate or imbibe almost as much positive as negative fluid, and maintaining an equilibrium in their system, the divining rod will not be visibly affected in their hands. Others produce positive electricity; they are surcharged, or have more than their natural share. It is said that some are occasionally so highly charged, that, like the fur on a cat's back in cold weather, they emit electrical sparks when touched or manipulated. We confess that this phenomenon has not yet fallen under our notice.

5. Let an individual highly negatively charged, i. e. an individual containing a very small amount of electricity, (only such an one is qualified to make the most successful experiment,) take the rod into his hands, and pass over a surface beneath which there is a stream of water or a stratum of ore, and what, according to one of the unchanging laws of nature, will be—*must* be the effect on the rod, and consequently on the sensation of him who holds it? Remember, the person making the experiment is highly negatively charged; the water beneath his feet has absorbed the electricity of adjacent bodies in the earth; the elastic twig in his hands forms a part of the connection between the positive and negative poles; and two bodies, the one positively and the other negatively charged, by an immutable law of nature, or rather of the God of nature, always attract each other;—what, under such circumstances, must be the effect on the twig, and on the perception of the experimenter? Unquestionably the twig will be attracted downward or toward the water, and the experimenter will perceive it as well by the sense of feeling as of vision.

6. Suppose the experimenter is highly positively charged; like the water below, his system has produced or imbibed a very large portion of the latent fluid;—what then? Why, by the law already referred to, there will be a manifest repulsion. The twig, instead of bending downward toward the water, will bend backward toward himself, and the phenomenon will be equally perceptible. Thus it appears that persons either greatly surcharged, or greatly deficient, are nearly alike competent to make the experiment; while with those who are only moderately supplied, or in whose system something like an equilibrium exists, no perceivable effect will take place.

The whole theory, if a delusion, can do no harm; for it may be easily tested, and if after a full and fair investigation it is found to be a "humbug," it will fall to the ground of itself. But ridicule, sneers and contempt, in such a case as this, amount to nothing; they are often the only weapons of ignorance and self-conceit. A complete and impartial trial, based on an adequate number of experiments, can alone finally settle the question.

A gentleman in the North "has been examining the subject for many years, and has tried a great variety of experiments, which show that all the phenomena of the rod are governed by the laws of electricity. He has tested the rod by the electrical machine. When the rod is brought near the positive pole, it is attracted towards it. But bring it towards the negative pole and it is repelled." "Place," says he, "a silk handkerchief under the rod, so as to break the connection between it and the conductor, and there is no electrical attraction made upon the rod. Remove the handkerchief, and the rod is instantly drawn down. The numerous experiments which the writer has made show that all the phenomena of the rod may be explained by electrical excitation."

"A recent extract from a French paper gives the description of a man of high moral and intellectual standing, who is so sensitive to electrical excitation, that he can tell without a rod or anything in his hands, where the veins of water are, by the sensation produced by electricity on his throat, as he passes over any conductor in the earth. This sensation is described as being similar to that prickling feeling which is experienced from the galvanic battery.

"The Rev. Mr. Avery, of Holden, some years since, made some scientific investigations, and arrived at the conclusion that the effects on the rod were produced by electricity. The subject is now being thoroughly investigated. In almost every place there are those in whose hands the rod will operate. In other words, they have more or less than the usual quantity of electricity."

"Men of high intellectual, moral worth, far above deception or trick, are found among those in whose hands the rod will operate. Being an electrical operation, it is not confined to either age or sex. Hundreds of wells have been dug and water found just as the writer had previously pointed out. No instance of failure has yet come to his knowledge. He has gathered many facts on this subject, which might be interesting to relate, had he time."

"The person who has had patience to read this article thus far will perhaps inquire, how are we to know whether the effect on the rod is caused by a stream of water or a bed of ore? This is only an *apparent* difficulty; for an experienced geologist will, in most cases, be able to decide from the soil, &c., whether it is likely that there is any ore or native metal in the vicinity.

It now remains to describe the *modus operandi*, and in doing so we shall adopt the language of another: "A green forked stick, of almost any kind of wood, answers a very good purpose. Sprouts of recent growth, full of sap, are the best. Two pieces of whalebone, or elastic steel, about twenty inches long, of a size that will bend easily, fastened together at one end, will answer all practical purposes. In experimenting on the subject, the two extremities of the rod are firmly grasped in each hand with the palms upwards, and held a little distance apart; with the point vertical, describing a figure like the letter V inverted. When the operator passes over a vein of water in the earth, the rod will turn over and point downward, and there remain till he passes on, when the rod will usually resume again its vertical position. The rod does not turn in the hands, which are firmly grasped, but is twisted over, as though something took hold of the top and pulled it down."—*Luth. Ob.*

MISCELLANEOUS.

SELLERS' VERMIFUGE!—"It has never in a single instance failed to expel worms."

Mr. R. E. SELLERS—You will remember that when you were in Pittsburgh in October last, you gave me a few bottles of your Vermifuge, to test its virtue. We had school through the winter we sold what we purchased, which gave it a fair reputation in this place. I have purchased of you which was disposed of immediately. By this order you will see I have purchased on the 21st of January, and on yesterday, we sold the last one. I believe your medicine to be very good, and I do not hesitate to recommend it to do more. We find it so valuable a medicine, that every person of a family should have it on hand. Yours, &c. JAS. MILLER.

Those who have purchased should be perfectly willing to give testimony of its excellence. One of the purchasers in this place, Mr. Jacob Ewing, of Ohio, stated that he would be happy to give testimony.

Prepared and sold by R. E. SELLERS, 57 Wood st.

A Valuable Improvement in Trusses.

DR. HARD'S Improved Patent TRUSS and RUPTURE REMEDY, by which a permanent cure can be effected. This Truss differs in principle and principles of action from other Trusses, having all the advantages of a well-fitting and common priced Truss. The pressure can be regulated to the wearer's comfort in the most difficult cases of Hernia, and can be increased to almost any large degree, if necessary, yet natural and bens brought to bear immediately over the natural opening, and affording perfect security, and heal in a short time, even under the most violent exertion by the use of this Truss, when applied as directed. As a natural support, the wearer is protected beyond the danger of strangulation, or any other fatal consequences, which is not an unimportant consideration in the selecting of fully adapted trusses. It is a very common practice for persons affected with Rupture to select a truss and apply it themselves. This is a bad practice, which can be seen only by those who understand the anatomy of the parts affected in hernia.

We would most respectfully call the attention of Physicians to this Truss, as we know they will appreciate its merits. We also have a variety of other Trusses, on the lowest prices. Infant Trusses kept constantly on hand.

REYSER & McDOWELL, Agts.
140 Wood st., Pittsburgh.

Dr. Hard's Abdominal Supporters.

THESE SUPPORTERS are intended chiefly for the cures of Prolapsus Uteri, and will be found to afford a permanent support to the abdominal region, when required. They give perfect support to the abdominal organs, and may be worn with comfort by persons in cases produced by a weakness of the abdominal muscles and Prolapsus Uteri, Painting of the Stomach, Spine, Pains in the Back and Spine, Leucorrhea and kindred Feelings of Prostration, Dropsicalia, Shortness of Breath, Palpitating of the Heart, Dyspepsia, and general debility.

REYSER & McDOWELL,
140 Wood st., Pittsburgh.

Sellers' Liver Pills.

BIRMINGHAM, opposite Pittsburgh, June 28, 1849.

MR. R. E. SELLERS:—I take this opportunity of testifying in favor of your invaluable medicine. About two years ago I was taken down with severe inflammation of the liver, and was so bloated by their effects, that I was obliged to quit work. I thought that my life was departing. After other means had failed, I was advised by my physician to try your Liver Pills, and cheerfully do I testify that after taking one box and a half I have been restored to reasonable health, which I attribute to your medicine. I therefore take great pleasure in commending them to others affected with disease of the liver.

Yours respectfully, JOHN OLIVENCER.

All other Pills called "Liver Pills," are counterfeits or base imitations. The genuine are prepared only by

R. E. SELLERS, 57 Wood st.

X. Bazin's (successor to Roussel) Perfumes for the Handkerchief.

EXTRACTS of Rose, Orange Flower, Jessamine, Portugal, Verbena, Jonquil, Pink, Vanilla, Violet, Mignonette, Millefleurs, Bouquet, Lily of the Valley, Bouquet de Caroline, Geranium, Heliotrope, Tuberose, Musk, Tuberose, Bergamot, Lavender, Honeysuckle, Jonquille, Jockey Club, Lubin, Marechale, Spring Flowers, Cinnabite, Sweet Bud, Jenny Lind, Circus, Citronelle Rose, and Extract Musk, in one ounce bottles, with glass stoppers. All the above Extracts, which are only a part of our assortment, are of the very best quality, being manufactured with especial care. The extensive sales made in the country, fully test the high estimation in which they are held by the community. For sale by

R. E. SELLERS, 57 Wood st.

White Paint.

TON OF WHITE OXIDE OF ZINC, received and for sale at Nos. 7 and 9 Wood st.

R. E. SELLERS invite the attention of House and Steamboat Painters to this article, which we have been using in our supply of three months, and can recommend it to be superior to white lead paint in every respect. Instead of sinking in the light like white lead, this white reflects it, and consequently has a fresher and more lasting color. It is also greater hardness, and is more durable for inside or outside work. It will not rub off, and can be washed as easily as paint, and as it covers more surface with equal weight, it is really as cheap as white lead.

J. & R. PHILLIPS.

Watches!

JUST RECEIVED, by this morning's express, a very superior assortment of Watches. We respectfully inform our customers and the public generally, that we have now, and intend keeping constantly, as good an assortment of fine Watches as may be found at any eastern establishment. Our arrangements with manufacturers and importers are such as to warrant us in advertising that we are enabled to sell at the lowest regular prices found in the United States.

Being assisted by experienced and finished workmen, customers may depend on having their Watches repaired in the best manner, and warranted.

W. WILSON, Watch Maker,
67, corner Market and Fourth streets.

REFINED SUGARS—650 bbl. Small Loaf, Crushed, Powdered, and Clarified, for sale by

JAMES A. HUTCHISON & CO.
Agents for St. Louis Sugar Refinery.

4-4 PLAIN GREEN, glazed and unglazed WINDOW BLIND PAPER, just received and for sale by

THOMAS PALMER,
54 Market street.

SOAP—109 boxes Cincinnati Palm Soap, just received on consignment and for sale by

R. A. CUNNINGHAM,
No. 120 Liberty st.

ALCOHOL—90 bbls. for sale by

B. A. FAHNESTOCK & CO.

LARD OIL—75 bbls. No. 1, for sale by

B. A. FAHNESTOCK & CO.

MACKEREL—100 bbls. Large No. 3, for sale by

R. A. CUNNINGHAM.

EPSOM SALTS—10 casks for sale by

J. KIDD & CO.

INDIGO—2 cerrons Caracoas:

1 cerron will be sold low to close a consignment. 2 kegs Manilla will be sold low to close a consignment.

ISAIAH DICKEY & CO.,
Water and Front st.

POTASH—20 casks pure, for sale by

J. S. DILWORTH & CO.

CORN—500 bu. Shelled, for sale by

J. S. DILWORTH & CO.

HAMS—4 casks superior, for sale on consignment by

T. WOODS & SON,
61 Water st.

WHITING—100 bbls. (dry and very fine) for sale by

J. S. SCHOOMAKER & CO.

SALERATUS—8 casks (warranted pure) for sale by

J. S. SCHOOMAKER & CO.

MACKEREL—Nos. 1, 2, and 3, in bbls. and half bbls., for sale by

JOHN WATT & CO.

ROCK POWDER—300 kegs for sale by

S. F. VON BONNHORST & CO.

BRITANNIA TEA SETTS, CASTORS, Candlesticks, Candelabras, Tea-trays in sets, Plated Waiters, Cake Baskets, finest quality Ivory Balance Handle Table Cutlery.

Silver Spoons, Forks, Ladles, Sugar Tongs, manufactured to order, and a good assortment always on hand, at the lowest prices.

W. WILSON,
Silver Smith, 67 Market street.

Summer Quilts.

I HAVE received a case of fine Marseilles Quilts, of different prices, for sale low.

WM. NOBLE, Upholsterer, 3 third st.

SMOKED HERRING—50 bxs. New No. 1, for sale at MORRIS' TEA MART, in the Diamond.

BOOKS, MUSIC, &c.

New Books, Just Received.

YEAST: a Problem; reprinted with corrections and additions, by the author of Alton Locke. 12mo. mus.

History of Cleopatra, Queen of Egypt; by Jacob Abbott. 12mo. mus.

Cash Field; a Tale of the Puritans. 12mo. mus.

Kathbury; a Tale; by Anna H. Drury, author of "Friends and Fortune." 18mo. and mus.

Appleton's Mechanics' Magazine and Engineers' Journal, No. 3.

Burgess' Dictionary of Mechanics, Engine Work and Engineering. No. 2 (to be completed in 3 numbers).

Bowing's Pictorial Field Book of the Revolution; No. 15.

Palestine, its Geography and Bible History, with 20 Lithographic Maps; by F. H. Hubbard, of Lawrence Academy, edited by Daniel P. Kidder. 12mo. mus.

For sale by

J. S. KIDD,
Apollo Buildings, Fourth st.

New Books;

GODFREY MALVERN; or, the Life of an Author. By Thomas Miller. With twenty four illustrations by Phiz.

Travels in the United States, &c., during 1849 and 1850. By the Lady Emmeline Stuart Wortley.

No. 3 of London Lake and the London Rose.

The above books just received and for sale by

J. S. KIDD, 61 Market st.

MECHANICS' MAGAZINE, No. 8, for August.

Mona; a Romance in Domestic Tale.

Passages in the Life of Mrs. Margaret Maitland, of Sunnyside; written by herself.

Received at Hall Mc' Literary Depot, opposite the Post office.

BOOKS!—No. 33 of Byrne's Dictionary of Mechanics and Engineering.

No. 2 of Appleton's Mechanics' Magazine and Engineers' Journal.

Also—A large assortment of Classical and School Books, just received and for sale by

J. S. KIDD, Agent,
Apollo Buildings, Fourth street.

N. B.—Rags taken in exchange.

New Music.

THE SPIRIT POLKA, composed by H. Kleber, and dedicated to Stephen C. Foster, of Pittsburgh.

Berry's Waltz, arranged by H. Kleber, as played by Berry's Band—one of the most popular waltzes out.

Nelly Bly, with variations, by Jaell.

Bobby Jones, with variations, by Jaell.

The Autumn Leaves, by George Barker.

Also, a fine selection of Foreign Music for Piano, Flute, Violin, &c.

H. KLEBER, 3rd Third street.

Sign of the Golden Harp.

N. B.—A splendid lot of New PIANOS now opening, one very good second-hand 6-octave Piano for sale.

AMERICAN STATE PAPERS.—State Papers and Public Documents of the United States, from the Accession of George Washington to the Presidency, exhibiting a complete view of our Foreign relations since that time, including Confidential Documents.

Niles' Weekly Register, containing Political, Historical, Geographical, Scientific, Statistical, Economical and Biographical Documents, Essays, and Facts; together with Notices of the Arts and Manufactures, and a Record of the Events of the Time. From 1811.

The above valuable works for sale by

R. E. SELLERS, 57 Market st.

Music for the Bloomers.

HUKLEBER, 3rd Third street, sign of the Golden Harp, has just received—

Bloomer Polka, by Stephen C. Foster, Pittsburgh, with a beautiful vignette of the bloomer costume, principle fair in Pittsburgh, and dedicated to the lady patronesses of Bellefonte.

SERAPHINE QUICK STEP, a very spirited composition dedicated to Miss Serapine Pomeroy, of Bellefonte.

Also, a supply of Boosey Temperance Melodies.

Chickering's Pianos.

JOHN H. MELLOR, Agent for Chickering's Pianos, 1 Pittsburgh Row, Wood street, Pittsburgh, has just received and now open for sale the following elegant assortment of Pianos, direct from the manufactory, at Mr. Chickering's distinguished prices:

One grand Piano, rosewood veneered, 7 octaves, carved legs and lyre.
One grand Piano, rosewood veneered, 7 octaves, plain legs and lyre.
One grand Piano, rosewood veneered, 7 octaves, plain legs and plain lyre.
One grand Piano, rosewood veneered, 7 octaves, plain legs and plain lyre.
One square Piano, rosewood veneered, 7 octaves, carved legs and lyre.
One square Piano, rosewood veneered, 7 octaves, plain legs and lyre.
One square Piano, rosewood veneered, 7 octaves, plain legs and plain lyre.
One square Piano, rosewood veneered, 7 octaves, carved legs and lyre.

The above Piano Fortes are of the latest styles of furniture, and with all Mr. Chickering's improvements, the prices materially the same as at Boston, thereby saving the purchasers in the vicinity the cost of their transportation.

ALSO FOR SALE:

One Rosewood Cabinet Mounted Piano, of a very superior quality, slightly damaged by a flood, which has been entirely repaired, and is now in good order. Also, Bacon & Raven.

Do. Chickering, of good sweet tone, but slightly injured in the late flood.

Do. Stodart & Stodart.

Do. Loud & Brothers.

Do. Babcock & Contant.

Which will be sold very low to close the concern.

MAGAZINES FOR AUGUST at Hallmc' Literary Depot, three doors above the Post office:

Graham's Magazine.
Godey's Lady's Book.
Sartain's Union.
Arthur's National Magazine.

DRY GOODS, &c.

NEW EMBROIDERIES just received per express, a very large and superb assortment of Embroidery, Swiss and Jaconet Insertings and Edgings, Collars, Cuffs, Chemisettes, and beautiful Sets, Dress Trimmings, Ladies' Cloth Cloaks, Ladies' Silk Cloaks, Ladies' Silk Mantillas, Ladies' Cloth Mantillas, Ladies' Cloth Sacques, Ladies' Cloth Talmas, Ladies' Cloth Cloaks