with the edges touching, rotation ceased completely, but when a gap was left on the south side by moving the two sheets of glass apart, rotation started again and increased in rapidity with the widening of the gap. This experiment conclusively showed that the thermal effect in itself was insufficient to produce the rotation.

Lord Dowding stated that the experiments could be carried out as well in darkness as in daylight.

The fact that the Z-current, which could be obstructed by glass, metal and wood, could be effective inside a room, could be accounted for by assuming that all material, including bricks and mortar, was permeable to a certain extent, so that the current could in time penetrate to the interior of a room, where it would regain its natural velocity. In support of this it could be shown that the cylinders under the cellophane cover would rotate more readily near the north side of the platform than near the south side.

In discussing the theory of the action of the hand, Lord Dowding considered that the rotation was caused by an " etheric " flow, what had been called " odyle " by Baron von Reichenbach, and was observed by certain sensitives as an emanation from the fingertips and as a flame-like protrusion at the poles of a magnet.

REICHENBACH

BY HECTOR MUNRO

Baron Carl von Reichenbach (1788-1869) was a chemist, and one of the most distinguished of his day. He is best known for his work on the chemistry of Coal Tar. Five important substances, including creosote, were discovered by him, and he was the real originator and pioneer in this most important of all branches of chemistry.

Mesmer results always fascinated him, and as soon as time and opportunity were favourable he began experimenting. In 1844 he published his *Researches* in two volumes, and the first was translated and published in this country by Gregory, the Professor of Chemistry in Edinburgh University.* Professor Gregory was also a very distinguished scientist and a Fellow of the Royal Society. The book created a considerable sensation in this country. The scientific and medical professions were profoundly sceptical, and all that I need say is that Reichenbach's

* Published by Taylor, Walton and Maberly in 1850.

Researches were condemned without even any attempt being made to verify his results.

Reichenbach did all his work on highly sensitive human subjects. To begin with, he got his sensitives to remain in a camera dark-room for at least one hour, as this greatly increased the sensitivity of the eye to light.

Iron magnets, crystals and the human hand were long known to influence powerfully certain individuals, and so he began his experiments with those three and a well-tested, sensitive girl of nineteen. He arranged a powerful horseshoe magnet so that it was fixed upright on a table, and he also had an oblong crystal, nine inches by four and three inches thick, in the dark-room.

When all was ready, he removed the armature from the magnet and the sensitive saw two flames—one from each pole of the magnet—one flame was blue in colour and gave a feeling of coolness, the other was red-orange and gave a feeling of warmth. The sensitive was then shown the oblong block crystal, and she at once described light emanating from each end—one light was blue and cool, the other was red-orange and warm.

Next Reichenbach stood in front of the sensitive with both hands just touching at the finger-tips. He slowly separated his hands, and she at once described five bars of light emanating from the finger-tips and divided into two parts—one blue and the other red-orange.

These experiments were carried out with eighty other sensitives collected from different parts, and the findings were confirmed. It is important to note that all these sensitives were unknown to each other, and so any kind of collaboration was quite impossible.

This light or flame seen by the sensitive has certain important characteristics :—

(*a*) It can be mechanically bent hither and thither like an ordinary candle flame.

(*b*) It can be concentrated to a focus by a lens.

(*c*) It is bi-polar, *e.g.*, positive and negative. The positive shows as a red-orange colour, and feels warm and is not agreeable. The negative is blue—cool and very pleasant.

(*d*) It can be conducted along copper or iron wire, silk, linen, &c.

(*e*) It can be accumulated in water, oil, and in many other substances.

The term animal magnetism is a misnomer, because the light seen and the influence felt on contact by a sensitive is not due to magnetism, and this can be easily demonstrated.

Soft iron quite free from carbon cannot be converted into a magnet. If it is rubbed or lies in contact with a powerful magnet it cannot be charged with magnetism. It cannot attract iron filings or lift a needle, but it can show light to and influence a

sensitive just as a magnet does. The bar of soft iron picked up from the magnet has imponderable vital energy which shows itself as light, &c., to the sensitive.

This imponderable vital force was given the name odyle—od for short—by Reichenbach. It apparently accounts for the many remarkable happenings recorded in history from earliest times, but always in the hands of those who knew how to use it. It is not possible to go into this subject further in a short article, but I will just mention the power to relieve pain and to even produce anæsthesia. Esdaile, a surgeon in India from 1820-1860, performed over 300 major operations and with all his patients under complete anæsthesia. One astonishing thing about Esdale's operations is that the freedom from sepsis and quick recovery of his patients was not attained in this country until Lord Lister introduced anti-septics. This removal of pain locally and the complete general anæsthesia is remarkable. This removal of pain locally is simple and most effective, and enables a doctor to do quite a variety of small operations, such as opening an abscess, extracting a tooth, &c. Another astonishing thing is the successful treatment of a large variety of illnesses and actual disease. Certain people have a natural gift of imparting this vital energy which heals. I have only to mention our friend Mrs. Kingsley Tarpey, known to many members of the Dowsing Society. Others learn by experience, but it is not easy, and it takes a long time before they are efficient.

A personal experience may be of interest. Some years ago my right thumb caught in a closing iron door. The pain was indescribable. My friend, W. V. Blewett, one of those who by nature has "the gift," and was with me at the time, removed all pain in about ten minutes, and it never returned. A local anæsthetic would have removed it, but only for a time.

This imponderable vital energy exists in relation with magnetism, electricity, every form of life, and every chemical combination. It is universal.

A good example of it in chemical combination is seen in the experiment with a Seidlitz powder. Fix one end of a copper wire in a tumbler, pass the other end into the dark-room to be held by the sensitive. As soon as the powders are mixed and effervescence begins the sensitive sees a thin flame of light emanating from the end of the wire.

Again, fix a copper wire to a largish copper plate; the other end is passed into the dark-room and held by the sensitive. As soon as the plate is exposed to hot sunshine, the sensitive sees a thin blue flame rising from the end of the wire, and it feels cool and pleasant.

The sun's odyle is negative. The moon's odyle is positive.

The universal nature of odyle was demonstrated by many thousand experiments extending over seven years.