

Back From Jerusalem:

The Life and Times of
Emma Hardinge Britten,
Spiritualist Propagandist

Marc Demarest
The Emma Hardinge Britten Archive

Version 2.1
January 2012

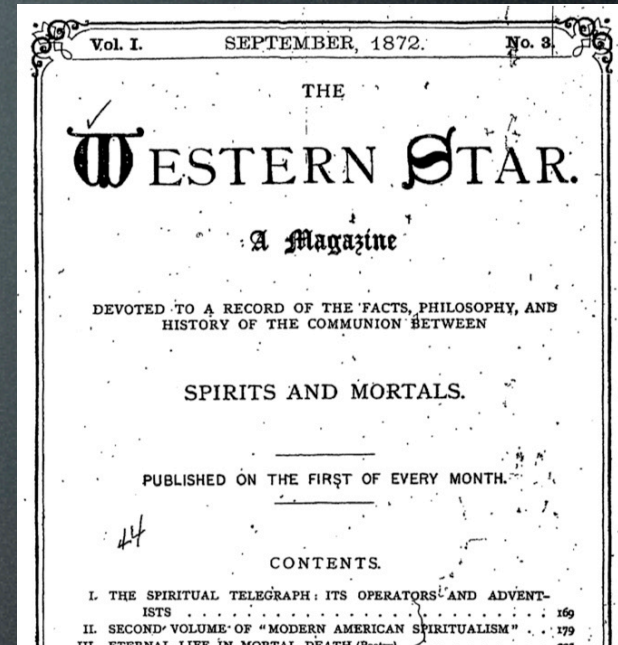
Module 7

1872-1875

The Electric Physician

1872-1875: The Electric Physician

- In July of 1872, Emma begins publishing The Western Star
- It will run for only six months, its funders hit hard by the Boston Fire of November 1872
- Today, it is chiefly noteworthy for two things:
 - Fragmentary publication of the promised second volume of Modern American Spiritualism
 - The first publication of sections of the first volume of Ghost Land, as (at that time) by "Austria"
- All pseudonymous, with evidence of collaborators



"GHOST LAND;" OR, RESEARCHES INTO THE MYSTERIES OF SPIRITUAL EXISTENCE.

BY AUSTRIA.

NO. II.

"To be, or not to be; that is the question."

HAMLET.

It is a phenomenon worthy of remark, that as the circle of our earthly existence tends towards the closing lines which unite the last days of old age with the first of extreme youth, the memory of our earliest experiences assumes a distinctness scarcely less vivid than the events of yesterday. The crowded page, overwritten by the hand of our manhood's prime, fades into a confused mass of ideality, from which nothing less than a strong cord of association can recall well-defined images; but the first and last become concrete and inseparable memories, and the events of our second childhood seem to take their

1872-1875: The Electric Physician

- The first serial publication of Ghost Land (Volume 1) differs from the book-length publication of 1876
 - Characters' names change (slightly)
 - The text is otherwise modified
- “Sirius” -- who will one day be conflated with the author of Ghost Land and Art Magic -- is a separate pseudonymous contributor at this time
- We will return to this issue -- Art Magic, Ghost Land, and the author(s) thereof -- in the next section

1872-1875: The Electric Physician

- From January of 1873 until mid-1875, Emma and William are, as far as can be determined, plying their new trade as electric physicians
- She is still lecturing (with J. M. Peebles, among others) on spiritualist and medical topics, during this period
- She bids a formal farewell to Spiritualism in Boston, in April of 1873 in an anti-reincarnationist, anti-free-love, anti-Woodhull lecture -- but doesn't leave the rostrum entirely

Medical Notices.

THE WONDERFUL
Electrical Cranial Diagnosis,
 Or the method of detecting disease with infallible precision on the Cranium through Electricity, pronounced to be the greatest scientific discovery of the age.
MR. W. M. BRITTEN and Mrs. EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN,
 Electric Physicians, 155 West Brookline street, F10417 Jan 2

DR. WALES, Physician and Surgeon,
 No. 25 Green street, Boston.
 Gives his special attention to the treatment of all diseases of the Kidneys, Liver and Urinary organs. Kidney diseases are becoming alarmingly prevalent. Nephritis, Diabetes, and Urinary diseases carry off multitudes of victims yearly. The majority of Kidney Complaints are brought on through a want of knowledge of Physiological Laws and the use of stimulating drugs. Dr. Wales's remedy for these diseases are the finest cures ever offered to the public. They not only cure a person but will cleanse the system of infectious medicine poisoning the blood and excursions. Try them all! You will never taste the breath-sweetening mixture of Kalmthout, Copahu, Cubebs, Bala, etc., which frequently injure those delicate plan in the Kidneys. Microscopic and other tests made to detect the above diseases. Jan 2

THE GREAT
FRENCH ELECTRICAL CURE.
 Every form of disease, however hopeless or acute, treated with natural-led success by Mr. W. M. BRITTEN and Mrs. EMMA HARDINGE BRITTEN, Electric Physicians, 155 West Brookline street. Hours from 9 to 5. A few pupils received. F10417 Jan 2

Boston Journal, January 6, 1874

PARKER-MEMORIAL
ENTERTAINMENTS.
 Corner Berkeley and Appleton streets.
SUNDAY EVENING, Dec. 7, at 7½ o'clock,
Mrs. Dr. Emma Hardinge-Britten,
WITH LECTURE ON
"The Physiological Wonders of the Human
Structure.
 Illustrated with a superb MANIKIN and MODELS.
 Tickets, 25 cents--at Ditson & Co.'s, and the door.

Boston Daily Globe, December 6, 1873

LECTURES.

—**DR. LORD'S LECTURES.**—The eleventh lecture of Dr. Lord's excellent historical course will be delivered at Horticultural Hall at noon to-morrow, on "Lord Bacon and the Inductive Philosophy." The lecture on Friday, on "Queen Elizabeth," was the theme of general admiration, and that to-morrow we can promise will be equally entertaining and instructive, and full of suggestions for the student of English literature and philosophical readers generally.

—**THE PHYSIOLOGY OF COMMON LIFE.**—Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten will deliver a course of physiological lectures at Cosmopolitan Hall, Broad and Arch streets, commencing to-morrow afternoon. Subject—"Man, the Microcosm."

Philadelphia Inquirer, February 10, 1873

"Man the Microcosm"... occult, or homeopathic?

ABOUT TOWN.

The Rev. Dr. Bliss, president of the Protestant college at Beirut, with his wife, is in this city.

The Rev. Frank H. Morris is to deliver the lecture in the Temperance Album course next Sunday night.

Subscriptions for the erection of a new building for the Harvard Medical School already amount to \$75,000.

The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Charitable Eye and Ear Infirmary will be held at 60 State street, at eleven o'clock today.

Mr. L. W. Derby has been appointed deputy collector of taxes for Charlestown, and has opened an office in the old city hall building.

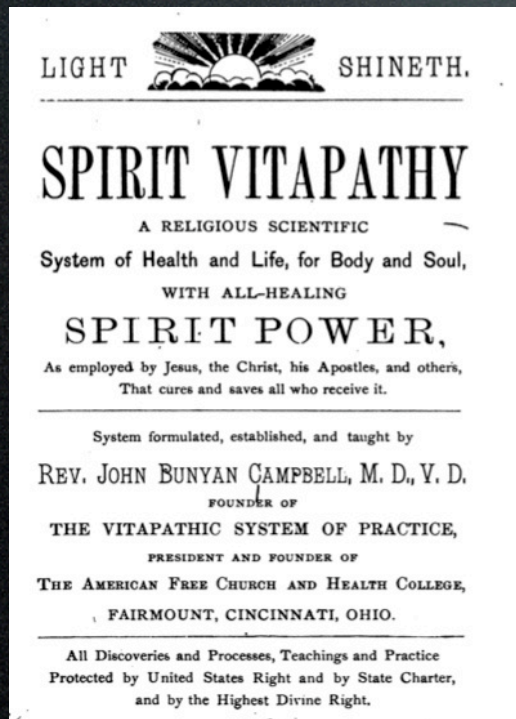
Mrs. Emma Hardinge Britten gives a free lecture on "Medical Electricity," in the Parker Memorial Hall tonight.

The raspberry bushes in the garden of Mr. Martin Fay, Washington park, have borne a second crop.

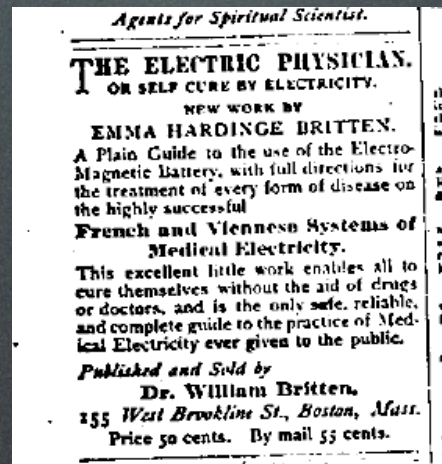
Boston Daily Advertiser, October 29, 1874

1872-1875: The Electric Physician

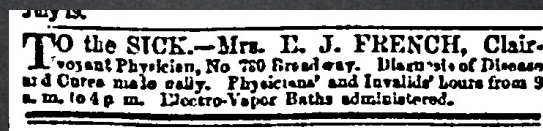
- Her galvanic medical practice was closely associated with (a) Spirit Vitapathy, as practiced by John Bunyan Campbell and (b) cranial diagnosis via electricity, as practiced by Elizabeth J. French
- The “French System”



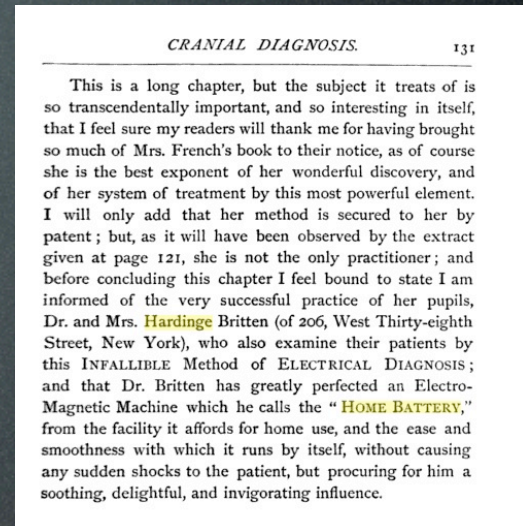
JC Bunyan's central work



Advertisement in March of 1875
in *The Spiritual Scientist*



EJ French, advertising similar treatment
in New York, in 1856



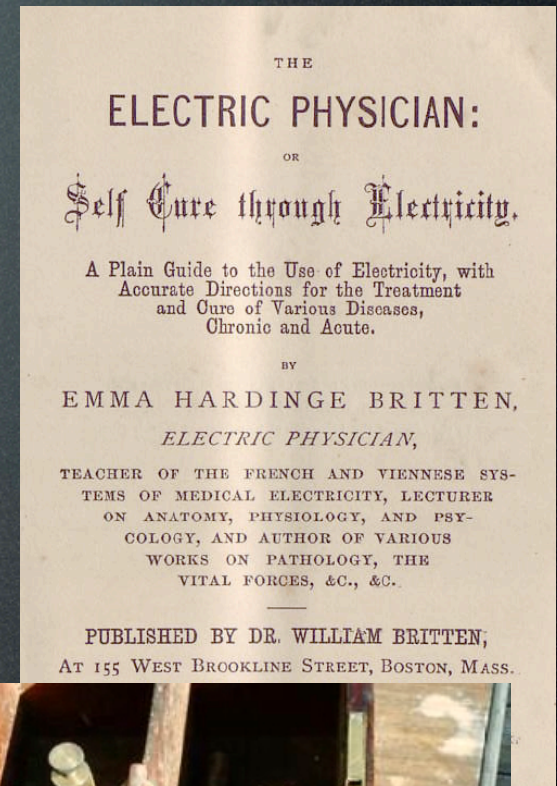
Marie, Countess of Caithness,
Old Truths In A New Light (1876)



Illustration from a JC Bunyan Patent
(606887)

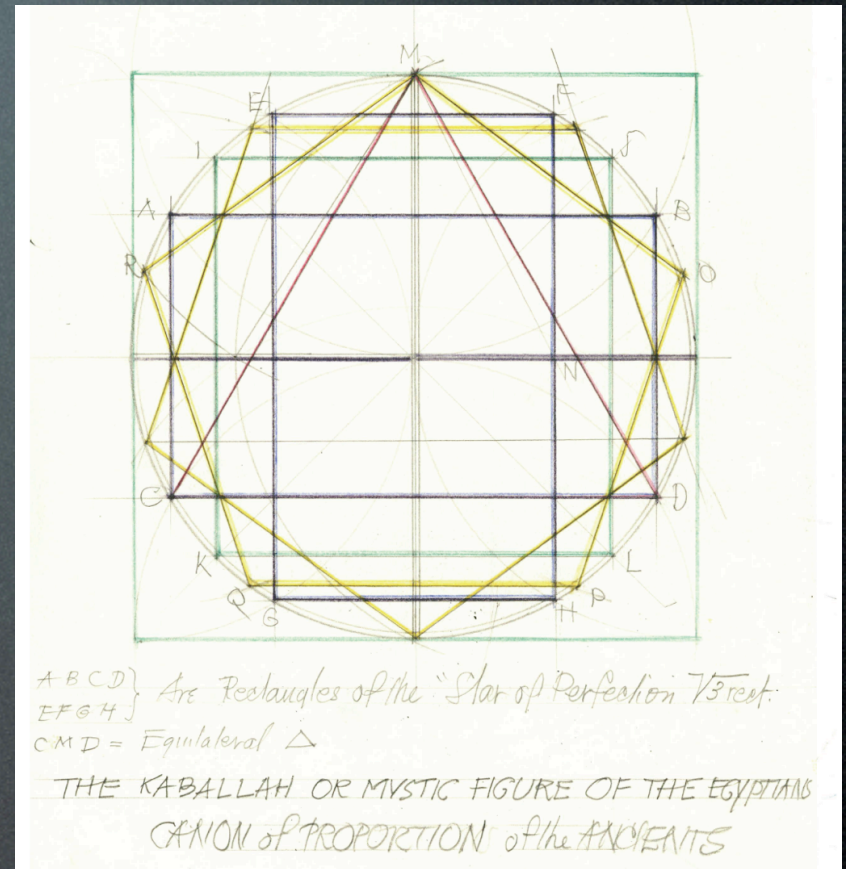
1872-1875: The Electric Physician

- The publication of The Electric Physician, or Self-Cure Through Electricity (1875) is coincident with Emma's return, in a very public way, to the pages of Spiritualist periodicals
- “Self-cure” -- is she **scorching the galvanic-medicine earth** with the book?
- Beginning in September of 1875, Emma and William are advertising their galvanic medicine practice in NY
- They have moved... why?



1872-1875: The Electric Physician

- By the fall of 1875, Emma has become connected (or re-connected) with Henry Steel Olcott
- On September 7, 1875, an inventor and self-taught mathematician named George Henry Felt delivers a lecture on the Greek canon of proportion, in Blavatsky's rooms, before Emma, William, HSO, HPB and others...
- In the winter of 1875, she is arranging rooms for Helena Blavatsky in New York City, while loaning Olcott her skrying crystal
- And Emma's world is changed, irremediably, once again.



In 2011, a team of researchers from different disciplines have traced what remains of George Henry Felt's The Egyptian Kaballah up through the later 1940s.

This is a copy of one of the plates from Felt's work, made by Claude Bragdon and/or Viola de Gruchy from Felt's materials, and currently in the Bragdon collection at the University of Rochester.

Felt claimed that, on the basis of his research and findings, he was able, at will, to **conjure elementary spirits**.