

The Canada Lancel

VOL. XLVII.

TORONTO, APRIL, 1914

No. 8

EDITORIAL

A MODERN MIRACLE.

The Messenger, Collingwood, prints the following letter from J. E. M. Patterson, once of that town, and now a farmer in Saskatchewan:

"You will all remember what a great sufferer our daughter Jane was for many years before leaving for the Prairie West. Last August after reaching Saskatchewan there was a marked change for the worse until about the 1st of December, 1913, when she had another paralytic stroke, through which she lost the power of speech and the use of one of her arms, while her whole body was left so full of pain that her suffering was intense. We daily watched for the end, as she gradually grew worse, and the doctor said there was no hope for her. On the night of January 1st 1914, we gathered around her bedside, and watched her from 10 p.m. till 10 minutes to 11, at which time her face was seen to light up with a heavenly smile, and as she afterwards related it, God spoke assuring her that He was going to heal her, and asked her to lift up the helpless hand, which she did. Then sitting upright in the bed, with her two arms outstretched, she spoke to us, declaring that God wanted her to get out on the floor. We, still thinking it was but the reaction before death, insisted she should lie down and rest. But in a few minutes she was out of bed, and after taking some refreshment, conducted family worship.

"Neighbors and friends were alike astonished on coming in to find her going about the house praising the Lord.

"Several weeks have passed, and she is still strong, rests well, is free from pain, and drives eight miles every Sunday to attend church."

Here we have a typical case of ordinary hysteria cured by suggestion, resulting from the watching of friends, or the anxiety of the patient to move about. It is a case in keeping with many others on record. Some years ago there was a woman in Boston who had been paralyzed for many years. She had been pronounced a hysteric, still