

having had her in hospital under constant care for nine weeks, sent her home "helpless, with no hope on earth of relief from her terrible affliction." With the steel corset, and now a pair of crutches, she could move painfully along a level floor; but "kneeling, standing on her feet, or going up or down stairs was an utter impossibility." But in the darkest hour came the light; human help had failed, and confessed its failure, and then Our Lady stepped in. The girl had all through her pains and confinement been good, cheerful and uncomplaining; in the earlier years she used to be carried at times to school or church; she made her first communion, and was confirmed. We are not told whether she was in any marked way devout to the Blessed Virgin; probably as much as good Catholic girls often are. But one day in August, 1888, as she was praying before the shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help (or "Succour," as is usually said in England), the rector of the church recommended that a novena should be made entirely at the shrine for her. For nine days she was, therefore, carried before the miraculous picture—representations of which are so familiar to us. As the novena proceeded she grew worse. On the last morning she made an ineffectual effort to stand unaided, and had to be carried to the shrine, as usual, helpless, weak, and in wonted pain. The Redemptorist Father who said the Mass brought her Communion to her place, and after receiving she was suddenly "seized with a darkening, dizzy sensation, as if sight and sense were leaving her," and she turned as if for assistance, but when her crutches were offered to her she suddenly had recovered and was cured, and only said joyfully: "No I shall not need them; I can walk," and thereupon got up and did walk to the altar steps where she knelt long, praying—with what fervent gratitude can easily be imagined. That over, she walked home at her happy father's side, ran briskly up the door-steps and then upstairs to her mother's room, for her mother had been unable through illness to attend. She received her restored