

perished. The medical scientists will look forward with expectancy to any statement of an official nature which the prison authorities may see fit to make.

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### FAITH HEALING

We again return to this subject because it is of the utmost importance. If faith can heal, as different from mere suggestion, there should be some way of determining the matter. The press despatches of November 14th, 1920, gives the following.

"Baltimore, Nov. 14.—So ill from arthritis that she was unable to walk without assistance, and after physicians had declared they could do nothing to help her, Mrs. M. J. Gillies of Toronto, Ont., sister of Jerome H. Joyce, owner of the Hotel Joyce, in Baltimore, was restored to strength at a public novena, at the Carmelite Monastery at Wheeling, W.Va. Word of the miraculous cure has just been received by the Joyce family here.

"Mrs. Gillies had been ill since last January, and when taken to the monastery was in such condition that it required 45 minutes for three persons to conduct her up the stairs to her room. When the novena, which is conducted annually in honor of St. Teresa of Jesus, Seraphic Mother of the order stated, she was taken in an invalid's chair to the chapel.

"After Thomas A. Judge, Vincentian missionary, who conducted the ceremonies, blessed her with the relic of St. Teresa, according to the Joyce family, Mrs. Gillies arose to her feet and walked without assistance declaring she had recovered."

Now, we wish to be quite frank and state that we do not believe that any real cure occurred at all. Many persons think they are much worse than they are, and under strong emotion they think they are very much better than they really are. Thus a person may feel some pain, and by introspection and dwelling upon it their condition becomes markedly exaggerated. They then come under some influence that makes a strong impression upon their minds, and they declare they are feeling very well. This is well-known. In a moment of excitement a person may be severely wounded and not realize it at the moment. We are here dealing solely with suggestion. It is the same as the paralytic spoken of by O. W. Holmes, who in an excited moment got up and walked quite well. Such an event could not occur in organic paralysis.

In *The Telegram* for October 25th, 1920, we find this item: