

that it was a true religious exercise. As already stated, the epidemic was rather widespread in its range. It continued to reappear for several years, and involved a district of country extending from Ohio to the mountains of Tennessee, and even into the old settlements of the Carolinas. Lorenzo Dow relates that at a religious meeting in the courthouse at Knoxville, when the Governor of Tennessee was present, he saw 150 people jerking at one time, but at other places the frenzy reached a greater height, and it is recorded that at a religious meeting in Kentucky not less than 3,000 persons fell to the ground in convulsions. These so-called "epidemic convulsions" eventually died out in a few years.

It will be seen that in all the epidemics thus far cited religious enthusiasm seemed to be a large determining factor. In this connection I might quote a few lines from an excellent article on "Fanaticism in the United States," by James M. Buckley, LL. D., the author of "Faith Healing, Christian Science and Kindred Phenomena," which appeared in the *Century Magazine* for December, 1903.

Under the heading of "Determining Causes of Fanaticism" he says, "the determining causes of fanaticism are as numerous as objects of thought or action. Granted a predisposition, if there be no sufficient counteracting influence, any topic may develop it. But that which would excite it in one person might not affect another, and what might affect a man at one period might