

Another man, having saved money enough to keep him there two months, every day drags his helpless limbs through the great church, seeking the physical relief which he trusts to obtain. "The father tells me," he explained, "that if I continue in my prayers and am worthy I shall be cured. But I have only money enough to last a month longer and I hope saint Anne will cure me before it is gone."

The pillars of crutches on either side of the door, that reach from floor to ceiling, bear evidence of the number of invalids whose health has been restored. The variety of crutches is a study. One finds those of expensive polished wood, those of cheap manufacture and those, the most numerous, that have been made by the poor pilgrims themselves. These are covered with plush or leather, flannel, calico or nothing, according to the circumstances of their former owners. There are also canes, appliances for straightening crooked limbs, ear trumpets plaster and sole leather jackets.

From dawn until dark the great procession of the miserable moves up and down the chapels, in and out of the doors and about the square in front of the church. Frail, despondent looking mothers carrying their diseased and deformed little ones, kneel continually before the shrine. Young people on whose faces are traced a long history of suffering; old men and women whose trembling limbs are scarcely able to support them; children who have never seen the light of day or heard a voice; these form the principal part.

One of the largest pilgrimages this year was from the New England States, and among these New Englanders was a great miracle wrought. A man who had been a helpless paralytic for many years, and who had nearly lost hope, decided to go as a last resort to saint Anne and there to pray her to alleviate his sufferings. He was borne into her presence upon the back of another man who carried him so easily that all present marvelled greatly. "I am not carrying him alone," the man remarked. "Saint Anne is helping me." The helpless man was placed, first, that he might kiss the relic, and then in a kneeling position at the altar. On receiving Communion a peculiar sensation ran through his limbs, a weight was lifted from the