

MIRACLES AT LOURDES.

MORE NUMEROUS THIS YEAR THAN EVER BEFORE.

Seventy-five Thousand Pilgrims Visit the Shrine—Marvellous Instances of Cures Verified at Sessions Attended by Over Eighty Medical Men—A Few of the Most Notable Miracles.

This year's national pilgrimage to Lourdes, but lately over, was, according to official reports, attended by some 25,000 persons, or about 5,000 fewer than the average of the last five or six years. We are assured, it is true, that this falling off in numbers was in no wise due to a falling off in faith, but merely to the weather. This, however, was powerless to check the course of the miracles among those who took their seats in the red, white, blue, grey, green and yellow trains which started from the Gare d'Orleans amid the fervent chanting of the "Ave Maria Stella." In fact, proportionately speaking, there have been more miracles at Lourdes this year than usual.

It will, doubtless, particularly interest the British reader, says a writer in the Westminster Gazette, to learn that one of the great miracle-workers of the pilgrimage was a Scottish lady, Miss Sarah Astor, of Edinburgh, who was born in that city in 1859, and since the age of 19 had been suffering from an ulcerous complaint of extreme gravity, which for five years had prevented her from taking any solid food. Bedridden and wasted to the state of a skeleton, she was transported from Edinburgh to Lourdes on a couch not unlike that of Zola's Mme. Diulafay, and reached the New Jerusalem in a condition of the utmost exhaustion. However, a first bath in the piscina at once brought her relief, a second one was followed by increased improvement, and she emerged from the third wholly cured—able to walk and run, and experiencing such a ravenous appetite that the hospital roast beef, bread and potatoes failed to satisfy her, and she betook herself to a restaurant, where she promptly dispatched half a fowl and a plateful of French beans, washed down by copious draughts of tea. "For five years," says one of the Lourdes newspapers, "this lady has been utterly unable to retain any solid food, but no sooner was she healed than her stomach asserted its rights in a manner which left no doubt of its being truly a Britannic one."

ANOTHER INTERESTING CASE

was that of Mlle. Ernestine Boyendal, a young woman of 20, belonging to the village of Monard (Oise), who for eighteen months had been suffering from a white tumor at the knee, accompanied by ankylosis. She was twice bathed in the piscina, and after her second immersion her tumor had disappeared, and she was able to walk without the assistance of the crutch which she had hitherto employed. She is now, we are assured, as well and as active as any other person of her age.

In the case of Mlle. Elise Guerin of St. Pierre de Maille, in the department of the Vienne, who had been ill for three years, Dr. Perivier of Pleumartin had been treating her for abdominal tuberculosis. She was in such a low condition on her departure for Lourdes that the vaticum was administered to her as a precautionary measure, and on her arrival she had to be carried to the grotto on a stretcher. Nevertheless, one brief bath in the piscina sufficed to cure her. She emerged from the water strong and active, refusing all help, dressing herself with the greatest ease, and afterward following the procession to the basilica with a light and buoyant step.

Another notable miracle was Mme. Broussin, the precise nature of whose illness is not stated in the reports I have before me. However, I understand Dr. Boissarie (M. Zola's Bonamy) to say that this lady had been bedridden for four years and had undergone a frightful operation to give stability to her back (fixer le rein). She is a woman of 38, and resides at Arcachon, where she had been attended by Dr. Deschamps. Coming to Lourdes, she was.

LYING ON A STRETCHER

when the blessed sacrament passed by. The sight of the host borne in triumphant procession appears to have thrilled her; like Marie in M. Zola's novel, she shouted, "I am healed!" and rose from her bed and walked.

"What did you feel when you rose?"

Dr. Boissarie afterward asked her at the verification office. "Did you experience a shock?"

"No," she replied.

"Then what was it that impelled you to walk?"

"A sudden flash of confidence. It all at once seemed to me that I should walk, and I did so."

The sight of the blessed sacrament and the confidence inspired also sufficed to heal Mlle. Camilla Meslard, residing in the Rue du Cloître de la Cathédrale at Orleans, who suffered from congenital displacement of the hips and could scarcely walk, even with the assistance of a stick. She threw her staff away, however, on beholding the host, and followed the procession with a firm, erect gait. Very similar was the cure of Sister Etienne of the Order of St. Joseph, who came to Lourdes suffering from both chronic peritonitis and a tumor in the left side. For ten months she had been unable to rise without help, and could only walk when on one side she had a person's arm to lean upon, and on the other a staff to support her. While at Lourdes, she was placed in a little vehicle in order that she might witness the 4 o'clock procession; and at the moment when the host passed before her she experienced a sudden pang, her tumor dissolved, and she rose and accompanied the procession amid the frantic applause of the multitude.

OTHER NOTABLE CURES

were those of Mme. Veuve Brun of Compiègne, a woman of 50, cured of arthritis of the knee of twelve years standing; and Mlle. Berthe Bourlier of Bordeaux, who was suffering from a severe form of neurotic anæmia, and for six months had taken no other nourishment than one glass of milk per diem. She was plunged into the piscina in a state of insensibility, suddenly gave a shriek, and upon being removed from the water eagerly asked for food.

All these cases of cure, and many others more or less similar, were certified by Dr. Boissarie at the verification office, where the seances were attended by over eighty medical men, several among them being Germans and Englishmen. According to the local newspapers, the number of English visitors to the grotto has this year been quite phenomenal, and numerous instances of conversion or perversion (as the reader pleases—I am without bias in the matter) are recorded.—*Boston Republic.*

RELIGIOUS NEWS ITEMS.

Over 1,000 priests from a distance said mass in the Montmartre Basilica in September.

There are nearly 800 Catholic orphan asylums in the United States, sheltering about 30,000.

Rev. A. M. Quatman preached the sermon at the blessing of the new St. Peter's Church, Fort Wayne, Ind., last Sunday.

Father Francis, of Loretto, of the Capuchin Order, has been designated as Prefect Apostolic of the Italian Red Sea Colony of Erythrea.

Mgr. Zardetti, the new Bishop of Bucharest and formerly Bishop of St. Cloud, Minn., has arrived in Rome and had an audience with the Pope.

Rev. F. Degnan, S. J., editor of the English Messenger of the Sacred Heart, has just died, aged 62. He had been a priest for twenty-seven years.

A volume containing the history and text of all the Concordats concluded during the Pontificate of Leo XIII., has recently been prepared by the Holy See.

News has reached Rome that at Garadagna, in Bengal, over eighty Protestants have lately become Catholics. Conversions have also taken place in other districts.

Rev. Father Suchy, pastor of St. Wenceslaus Church, and a pioneer Bohemian priest of Milwaukee, died suddenly on the 20th. Father Suchy was born in Horsiw, Tyn, Bohemia, July 20, 1841.

A Catholic Women's Club has been organized in Brooklyn by the Rev. Ed. F. McCarty. The club proposes for itself a variety of objects which calculate to promote the true interests of women.

A recent estimate of the Catholic population in England shows that in the year 1800 there were only 120,000 Catholics in England and Scotland. In 1841 the number increased to 400,000, in 1860 to 1,620,000, and in 1890 to 1,682,000. During the past eleven months the large

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number of 160 converts to the Catholic faith have been received in St. Francis' Church, Glasgow.

There is a monastery, St. Honorat, on an island near Cannes, France, which was built in the fourth century. No woman has ever been allowed to enter its walls during the 1,400 years of its existence.

We much regret to learn that the Comte de Mun has had an attack of paralysis, the face being affected. Fortunately the attack was slight, and the life of the distinguished orator is not, it appears, in danger.

Maynooth has a new President in the person of Right Rev. Monsignor Gargan. Rev. Dr. Thomas O'Dea has been made Vice President, and Rev. Daniel Mannix has been promoted to the post of Professor of Theology.

Rev. Henry Guenther celebrated his first mass at St. Mary's German Church, New Orleans, La., on last Sunday. Father Guenther will leave next week for Kansas City. Rev. Geo. Umbach will shortly be ordained at the same church.

The archaeological works published by the late Chevalier de Rossi prove that he was not less remarkable for unwearied industry than for brilliant intellectual gifts. His "Inscriptiones Christiane Urbis Romæ" contain no fewer than 12,000 specimens of early Christian inscriptions.

In France there are 200,000 religious who possess 6,000,000 francs, or about 3,000 for each member. This property consists of hospitals, charitable institutions, asylums, free schools and orphanages—that is, of everything that can be used and profitable for the people, and especially for the poor.

At the recent conference of the Archbishops of the United States at Philadelphia, it was decided that the first Eucharistic Congress be held at the Catholic University at Washington next September—for the clergy only. The committee appointed to attend to the arrangements in preparation for it are Archbishop Elder, of Cincinnati, Archbishop Kane, of St. Louis, and Bishop Maes, of Covington, Ky.

A heroic Irish nun died in France a short time ago, Sister Mary Matildia, one of the Sœurs de Bon Secours. For five months she nursed cholera victims in Eaples, St. Etienne and Preures, and when that plague was over, she went to Berek to care for some typhus fever patients. She worked for them until she was worn out, and then she took the disease herself and died. A gold medal awarded to her by the French Government was laid on her coffin.

Bishop Foley, of Detroit, who has worn a mitre six years, announces that he is about to go on *ad limina* visit to Rome, and has named Vicar-General Joos the administrator of the diocese during his absence. Dr. Foley, says the Republic, has had a very successful administration since he assumed charge of his episcopate, and his safe return from Rome will be earnestly prayed for by his flock. The Detroit diocesan is the national chaplain of the A.O.H., in which organization he has long taken a warm and active interest.

It seems that threats have been made against Rev. Father Cronin, of Buffalo, by the Apostles, because of the vigorous fashion in which he has, through his paper, exposed their nefarious organization. Such threats, while they are only what might be expected from the cowards who utter them, will not deter the Buffalo clergyman from continuing

his warfare on the un-American associates, and we do not imagine that Dr. Cronin loses any sleep of nights because he has incurred the malignant hatred of the Buffalo bigots.

The Holy Father has put a considerable sum at the disposal of the art committee for the purpose of restoring several valuable masterpieces in the Vatican. The work will be commenced this week, and will last several years, occupying about thirty artists, to be chosen by the said committee.

A Papal document that will be eagerly awaited is the one that Leo XIII. is said to be preparing to address to the clergy-men of the Church of England, inviting them to return to the true Church. The full results of such an appeal cannot be estimated, of course, but it is safe to say that more than one Anglican minister will be influenced by it. The number of such individuals who have already gone over to Rome is surprisingly large; so large, in fact, that it has been said that there is hardly one important Catholic Church in all England that has not had at some time or other connected with it as a priest a former Anglican preacher. Pius IX., by the appeal he issued on the eve of the Vatican Council, induced not a few such individuals to become converts to the true faith; and the chances are that his successor will recall many more.

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