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JOLIET EVENING HERALD-NEWS

HUNDREDS GO TO MONK TO LEARN OF FAITH CURES

Brother Columba Report- ed To Be Making Prog- ress; No Religious Im- postor, Bruhn Asserts.

By THE REV. CARL F. BRUHN.

Is the age of miracles past? If wonderful cures were performed by Jesus nineteen centuries ago, and if He is, as Christians believe, the ever-living and all-powerful One, can not the same physical cures be accomplished today as the gospels record in the days of His flesh?

There are some in every age who have believed that the answer to these questions should be an emphatic "Yes." There are many in Joliet today who believe they can testify as eye-witnesses that they have seen these things within the last few days.

Report Many Cases.

Brother Columba, who lives at Notre Dame University, has been in Joliet for some time coming here in the first instance to seek relief for Miss Agnes McFadden, who was suffering from neuritis after an operation. Great crowds have gathered every evening at the home of Mrs. Ann Delaney, where Brother Columba is making his home while in Joliet. Many instances of remarkable cures are said to have been performed in answer to prayer by this simple man with a child-like faith.

To a reporter of the Herald-News, Brother Columba said that the power was not in himself, that he did not understand how or why he could do these things and not others, or why some seemed to be helped and some were not. He said that he was visiting in the city in the interest of the sick and afflicted and would remain so long as he could help. He seeks no publicity nor personal rec-
his work.

to the sick who cannot come to see him.

Says Soul Must Be Cured.

When asked if faith was a necessary condition on the part of the individual seeking relief, the healer said:

"No one can expect to be cured if he is neglecting his duty. The Lord can heal these people, but is not likely to do it. To cure the body is no real blessing unless the soul is cured also. Some pious people are not cured, and it seems as if the Lord cannot make saints out of some people unless He knocks out the props from under them."

He makes no distinction between Catholic and Protestant so far as healing is concerned. When asked the method of cure, he said:

"This is not Christian Science, but prayer to the Sacred Heart of our Lord."

The badge of the Sacred Heart is given to the sufferer and a special prayer is to be repeated. Protestants are told to pray in their own way.

Epileptics, tubercular sufferers and afflicted people of every kind are being brought to the Delaney home or are visited by Brother Columba. The number of cures in Joliet thus far is said to be more than twenty. No record of names is being kept, as there is no attempt to advertise except as those who are helped tell their friends and others.

Is Humble Cobbler.

Brother Columba is an unlearned man so far as books are concerned. He is a cobbler by trade and works as a shoemaker when not ministering to the sick, his hands showing the results of daily toil. He has a genial face and a ready Irish wit, with an answer or a proverb for every question. He seems to be absolutely sincere and has none of the marks of the religious imposter. No money is asked for his services.

Girl's Speech Restored.

Among the cures said to be accomplished in Joliet might be mentioned the restoring of speech to Bessie Egan, who has been speechless for four years as a result of scarlet fever. Elizabeth Delaney, who lost the sight of one eye nineteen years ago, says that she can see better than she has done for years. A girl of thirteen who was deaf, regained her hearing, and the neuritis of Miss McFadden was greatly relieved.

Brother Columba says that he has cured people who were insane, the blind and deaf and speechless, many afflicted with cancers, and others with rabies and lockjaw. He says that thirteen hundred cures have been the result of correspondence with those who could not come personally. During the day he is being taken to various homes to minister

Archivists Bro. Bonaventure Foley

House: Provincial Councillor