

VOLUNTEERS NOW CANVASSING
HALLS FOR LENTEN ADORATION
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University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
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FIRST FRIDAY--Mass 6:25
main church--Adoration all
day--Benediction 7 and 7:30

Scientific Approach; A Case To Consider.
By Arnold Lunn.

Question XXIV. Is there any scientific approach to this problem of miracles?

Answer. There is. As that distinguished French scientist, Professor Richey, remarks, "Why should there not be intelligent and puissant beings distinct from those perceptible to senses? By what right should we dare to affirm on the basis of our limited senses, our defective intellect, and our scientific past, as yet hardly three centuries old, that in the vast cosmos man is the sole intelligent being, and that all mental reality always depends upon new cells irrigated by oxygenated blood?"

The trouble with most nineteenth century scientists was that they were perverted by a snobbish deference to the mental fashion of the moment from admitting the possibility that "intelligent and puissant beings distinct from those perceptible to senses" might exist and produce effects in this world.

Question XXV. Is there any real evidence for miracles?

Answer. (Write to the Catholic Truth Society, 59 Eccleston Square, London, S.W. 1. England, and ask them to send you their pamphlets, "A Modern Miracle" and "The Miracles at Lourdes." Send 6d (12¢) stamps or the equivalent to cover postage. You will, if you are open to conviction, admit that there is in these pamphlets overwhelming evidence for miracles in the modern world.)

Consider, for instance, a case described in "A Modern Miracle," the case of Peter de Rudder, a Belgian farm laborer whose left leg was shattered in 1867 by the fall of a tree. Seven years passed and the bones had not united. Peter de Rudder stubbornly resisted the advice of his doctors, who had advised an amputation, and determined to ask his cure from Our Lady of Lourdes, venerated at the shrine of Oostacker near Antwerp. The doctor, Van Hoestenbergh, who was converted to Christianity by this miracle, gave his testimony in the following solemn words:

"I declare on my conscience and on my soul: 1. I have examined de Rudder a dozen times and my last visit was two or three months before the cure; 2. Each time I was able to make the ends of the bones come out of the wound: they were deprived of their periosteum, there was necrosis, the suppuration was fetid and abundant and had passed along the tendons.....3. At each examination I introduced two fingers to the bottom of the wound and always felt a separation of 4 or 5 centimetres between the broken parts and this right across their breadth. I was able to turn them about easily. 4. A large sequestrum had come away at the beginning and little bits of bone often came away during these years."

This testimony was confirmed by witnesses who saw de Rudder a few days before the cure and on the way to Oostacker. The driver of the tram on which he travelled from Antwerp to Oostacker, observing the broken leg swinging to and fro, made a joke at de Rudder's expense. De Rudder entered the Grotto, sat down on a bench and prayed. Suddenly he felt a strange sensation. He rose, forgetting his crutches, without which he had not taken a single step for eight years, knelt before the statue of Our Lady, and, rising unaided, walked three times round the Grotto. He was cured. He was immediately taken to a neighboring chateau. The restored limb was examined, the two wounds had closed up, leaving two scars: the broken bones had suddenly come together again. I have said enough to induce anybody who claims to possess the slightest grain of scientific curiosity to secure the pamphlet mentioned above, "A Modern Miracle," in which this case is described.

PRAYERS: (deceased) Sr. Mary Rose of the Annunciation; friend of John F. Murphy '35; uncle and aunt of Tom Ziegler (Morr.); grandfather of William I. (How.) and Philip (Cav.) McManara, Ill, Brother of William Dorsey (Dill.); Francis Toyne (Carr.); Dave Crooks (Dill.); Ed. Schroeter (Morr.). Two special intentions.