

RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

Sept. 22, 1924.

One Engineer with Crit.

Good news comes from Van Wallace. Under new treatment his arms are acquiring more activity and the muscles of his legs are coming back to life. He is not quitting his fight for one minute, although it was a sore disappointment for him not to come back to Notre Dame this year. His case has remarkable spiritual features, and lends itself well to a Bulletin lesson.

He met with his tragic accident on the Fourth of July. Attempting to dive into two feet of water he jerked his head back suddenly and broke two vertebrae in his neck. His body was immediately paralyzed, although he remained perfectly conscious. The doctors gave no hope for his recovery, but they placed him in a plaster cast. Word was sent to Notre Dame immediately, and the students of the Summer School began a novena for his recovery.

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He grew worse steadily until the ninth day of the novena, when his death was expected hourly. Then he lapsed into a deep, natural sleep of eight hours, and awoke much refreshed. Within a week he dictated a letter of thanks to his friends at Notre Dame.

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Slowly, very slowly, a bit of life came into his dead frame. His heart held up well all the time, his stomach came gradually into function, here and there the twitch of a muscle showed that nerve-connection was not broken. The bones of his neck knit and the cast was removed about the time Summer School came to an end.

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Perhaps his friends forgot to pray for him as they had at Notre Dame; certainly the month of August gave him less encouragement. His friends had little good news for us when they came on without him. Then prayers began again....and now good news comes again.

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His cheerfulness at all times has been the big lesson of his sickness. Every day he receives Holy Communion, just as he did at school last year. He keeps everyone about him in happy mood. When the doctor was preparing the cast he remarked: "You'll only get \$1.65 and hour on that job, Doc." "How's that?" "Plastering."

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Let us hope that Van will not be left entirely to the mercy of his class-mates, the sophomores. True to form, they are showing the smallest percentage of attendance at daily Communion this year.

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