

The Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes is now in progress. The feast of the Apparitions... University of Notre Dame Religious Bulletin February 5, 1937 ...is February 11th. Better visit the Grotto these days and try to make Mass and Communion.

Christian Science "Miracles" And Miracles At Lourdes.
 By Arnold Lunn.

Question XXVI. Is any of the so-called miracles at Lourdes more remarkable than the miracles claimed by Christian scientists?

Answer. The British Medical Association in 1909, and a committee of doctors and clergymen who concluded their labors in 1914, examined the claims of Christian Science. Both committees were convinced that there was no evidence for the genuine cure of organic diseases.

You are entitled to insist that doctors and clergymen could hardly be expected to pass an unbiased verdict on a sect which is competing with both the medical and clerical professions. To which I reply that many non-Catholic doctors who have investigated the Lourdes miracles have no rational explanation of their cures, I shall begin to take Christian Science seriously when Christian Science cures are submitted to the same scientific scrutiny that prevails at Lourdes. Lourdes is unique, for the cures at Lourdes are submitted, as no other faith cures are submitted, to a medical bureau on which doctors of every nationality, of all religions and of none, are invited to serve. Lourdes is visited by a yearly average of some five hundred doctors.

Testimony of Famous Scientist.

Question XXVII. Have any well-known scientists been to Lourdes and examined these cures?

Answer. Professor Alexis Carrel, Nobel Prizewinner, President of the Rockefeller Institute of New York, and one of the most distinguished of modern scientists, himself witnessed a remarkable cure at Lourdes.

In his book, "Man the Unknown," which created an immense sensation, he writes as follows:

"The most important cases of miraculous healing have been recorded by the Medical Bureau of Lourdes. Our present conception of the influence of prayer upon pathological lesions is based upon the observation of patients who have been cured almost instantaneously of various affections, such as peritoneal tuberculosis, cold abscesses, osteitis, suppurating wounds, lupus, cancer, etc. The process of healing changes little from one individual to another. Often, an acute pain. Then a sudden sensation of being cured. In a few seconds, a few minutes, at the most a few hours, wounds are cicatrized, pathological symptoms disappear, appetite returns. Sometimes functional disorders vanish before the anatomical lesions are repaired. The skeletal deformation of Pott's disease, the cancerous glands, may still persist two or three days after the healing of the main lesions. The miracle is chiefly characterized by an extreme acceleration of the processes of organic repair. There is no doubt that the rate of cicatrization of the anatomical defects is much greater than the normal one. The only condition indispensable to the occurrence of the phenomenon is prayer. But there is no need for the patient himself to pray, or even to have any religious faith. It is sufficient that someone around him be in the state of prayer. Such facts are of profound significance. They show the reality of certain relations, of still unknown nature, between psychological and organic processes. They prove the objective importance of the spiritual activities, which hygienists, physicians, educators and sociologists have almost always neglected to study. They open to man a new world."

PERSONS: (deceased) Joe Nemessy, former student, '30-'31; grandfather of Lloyd Barron (Cav.); Mrs. George Keogan's sister; grandmother of T. Graves (Dill.). Ill, John Simon (How.); Ed Schroeter (Morr.); friend of John Gilrane (St. Ed's.); mother of Wally Arendt (Morr.); friend of Ed Grimes (How.). Two special intentions.