
Think it Over.

Well thought-out plans and resolutions, considered and prayed over for some days, are the kind that carry through. Before the Blessed Sacrament (exposed during the Forty Hours from Sunday morning to Tuesday night) lay your plans for Lent.

Try to answer these two questions in the presence of your Lord: "If I am really as sorry for my sins as I say I am, why should I not get up and go to Mass and Holy Communion every morning during Lent? After all, is there any other form of penance more efficacious and more pleasing to You?"

Zola's "Exposé" of Lourdes.
By Arnold Lunn.

Question XXVIII. Did not Zola write a novel exposing Lourdes?

Answer. Zola's novel is an excellent example of the dishonesty of a certain type of dogmatic atheist. The original of "La Grivotte" of Zola's novel was Mlle Lebranchu who was dying of tuberculosis, but was restored to perfect health after her first bath. Zola did not dare to deny that she had been cured, but in his novel he deliberately falsifies the facts and makes her relapse and die. In point of fact she had no relapse.

In his novel Zola describes Marie Lemarchand whom he saw on her way to Lourdes. He says, "It was a case of lupus which had preyed upon the unhappy woman's nose and mouth. Ulceration had spread and was hourly spreading and devouring the membrane in its progress. The cartilage of the nose was almost eaten away, the mouth was drawn all on one side by the swollen condition of the upper lip. The whole was a frightfully distorted mass of matter and oozing blood."

All this is true as far as it goes, but the account given by Zola was incomplete. She had been coughing and spitting blood and every evening there was a high temperature. The apices of both lungs were affected and she had sores on her leg and other parts of her body.

Dr. d'Hombres saw the patient immediately before and immediately after her bath. He says: "I saw her waiting her turn to go into the piscina. I could not help being struck by her aspect, which was particularly revolting; both her cheeks, the lower part of her nose, and her upper lip were covered with a tuberculous ulcer and secreted matter abundantly. On her return from the baths I immediately followed her to the hospital. I recognized her quite well although her face was entirely changed. Instead of the horrible sore I had so lately seen, the surface was red, it is true, but dry and covered with a new skin. The other sores had also dried up in the piscina."

Dr. d'Hombres at once took Marie Lemarchand to the medical office, which was full of doctors, literary men and reporters. The doctors could find nothing the matter with her lungs and they testified to the presence of new skin on her face. Zola was there. He had said before, "I only want to see a cut finger dipped in water and come out healed." "Behold the case of your dreams, M. Zola!" said the President, presenting the girl, whose hideous disease had evidently made such an impression on the novelist before the cure: "the visible sore, suddenly healed." "Ah, no!" said Zola, "I do not want to look at her. She is still too ugly"--alluding to the red color of the new skin.

Before he left Lourdes, Zola had hardened his soul. "Were I to see all the sick at Lourdes cured, I would not believe in a miracle," he said to Dr. Boissarie, the President of the Bureau.

Prayers: (deceased) Cousin of Byron Casey (Morr.); mother of Eddie Geiger, sports editor of the Chicago Am. Ill, friend of Francis E. Lougee (Dill.); Francis Toyne; George Belting. Four special intentions.