WONDERS OF FAITH CURE.

MRS. WOODWORTH'S GREAT SUCCESS AT SPRINGFIELD.

Great Crowds of People Attend the Meetings and Scores Stand Up to Relate Their Relief from Infirmities and to Praise the Lord—A List of Persons Who Claim to Have Been Cured—Scenes and Incidents at the Camp.

SPRINGFIELD, Ill., July 25.—[Special.]—Something in the way of real religious conversion is running its course in this city and vicinity. Four weeks ago Mrs. Maria B. Woodworth, the so-called faith-cure evangelist, came here and pitched her tent at Oak Ridge Park, just north of the city limits, and has held two meetings daily and three Sundays ever since. For a time they attracted little attention, but latterly have been a perfect jam, and people come from great distances in despairing hope of release from the most distressing maladies. Faith-cure is talked everywhere, and the evangelist of that doctrine now counts her advocates among all classes of people.

MRS. WOODWORTH.

Mrs. Woodworth is a native of Columbiana County, Ohio, and is about 45 years old. She is a woman of no special education, but claims to have received her impulse to the work she has undertaken solely from the Holy Spirit, and that from the Spirit she receives instruction as to what she shall say. That she draws words from some abundant fountain is an undeniable fact. Her husband, who acts as general manager of her affairs, is with her, and does evangelistic work himself. She has with her also two young women—Allie Daggett and Emma Eisenberg—who were converted under her ministrations two years ago, and have ever since gone with her and assisted her. New Testament ecstasy, or trance, Mrs. Woodworth herself often falling into one which lasts some hours. A young coal miner sitting back in the audience the other evening went into a trance, was carried home, and lay perfectly motionless for five hours.

To say that the interest is becoming intense is to speak mildly. It has spread far, and people come from adjoining States, either to gratify curiosity or seek spiritual or physical relief, or both. One of the remarkable cases of cure reported is that of a woman brought here on a stretcher from Springfield, Mo. She was cured, as she claims, and has determined to prepare herself for evangelistic work. Her name is Mrs. Richard Steell. The paralytic referred to above is F. W. Shearburn of Lowder, this county.

The meeting began today by Mrs. Woodworth and her young woman assistants appearing suddenly on the platform and singing:

I am a happy Christian, one of the noisy crew;
I shout when I am happy, and that I mean to do.
Some say I am too noisy, I know the reason why;
And if they felt the glory, they'd shout as well as I.

From this an experience meeting sprung up. Thomas A. Ragsdale, who spoke yesterday, was one of the first to speak. He said he had not really told his physical experience before, but only acknowledged his conversion. Now, he said, through faith he had been cured of catarrh of the stomach and bowels and of Bright's disease of the kidneys, the latter of over eight years' existence. He knew he was cured, he said, and no doubt about it.

"Yes," said Mrs. Woodworth, "I know you are healed, my brother, and if you have any other ills lay them all on the Lord. The prayer of faith does and will heal the sick. And yet I am told that even the preachers, when they get sick, run for the doctor. Isn't that funny! Some of them, I believe, keep a little patent medicine or a bottle of pain-killer in their book-cases, to have it handy, and never think of going to God. Thus they deny the power of their own religion. Some of the Springfield preachers are the bitterest opponents I have. They have lost faith in the power of prayer and gone back on the teachings of the Bible. May the Lord open their eyes."

It was a painfully interesting spectacle to witness the row of twenty-three mourners at the altar. Nine of them had to be helped there, some of them carried. There was not a well person among them, and their

rshermen could not have lived in a simpler style than do these propagators of the faith cure. They dwell in three little tents at Oak Ridge and subsist on the voluntary contributions of the faithful. "I wouldn't ask for amore secure support," said Mrs. Woodworth, speaking about the manner of living. "The Lord will provide, bless His name! And these good friends are the instruments He uses to feed those who serve Him."

MISS ALLIE PAGGETT.

She can hardly be said to preach. Occasionally she enters upon a sermon, but, for the most, the services are begun by singing a few hymns, which the congregation have quickly caught up, and everybody sings in the choruses, such as:

Away, far beyond Jordan,
We'll shout in that land, we'll shout in that land;
Away, far beyond Jordan,
We'll shout in that heavenly land.

Then she talks merely at random, telling of innumerable cases of instant cures of frightful maladies under her ministrations, and follows this up by calling for testimony from those who have been cured—"healed soul and body" is her favorite expression for it. Then follows a round of "testimonies." For example: Mrs. Sarah Ledbrook arises and says that ten days ago she came here from her home at Modesto, Macoupin County. She was bent and twisted with rheumatism, and unable to lift her hand to her mouth. She gives thanks, with many tears, that she is healed and entirely free from pain, and, not only that, but her soul has been healed, which she considers far better.

MISS EMMA EISENBERG.

"And now, brothers and sisters," says she, "I have come back today and brought with me my brother, who has not stood on his feet without the aid of his crutches for six months, and I have faith that he will go back with me perfectly well. O, how happy I shall be then!"

"Stick to your faith in that," shouts Mrs. Woodworth, "and it shall be as you say. The Lord is able and willing, and why shouldn't He be! He made this wonderful machine, the body; and can't He repair it! Can't He! Now, tell me that. Now, all sing with me:"

"Tis the very same power,
The very same power;
"Tis the very same power
That they had at Pentecost;
The power, the power,
The power that Jesus promised should come down.

This were too various for description.

Tommy Torrell, 17 years old, son of a merchant of Easton, Mason County, was one of the worst. He was prostrated from inflammatory rheumatism and unable to stand. Shortly he stood up and walked. Mrs. Woodworth said he was simply weak now, and if he stuck to his faith he would be entirely healed.

Lena Vogel of Springfield professed to be cured of a tumor in the nose. "The Lord is able to cure a tumor just as well as anything else," said Mrs. Woodworth.

Julia Cole of Round Prairie, this county, came on a crutch, her right leg being drawn up with rheumatism. She walked off without either the crutch or rheumatism. "Well now," said her mother, "the power of the Lord has come down right here in Sangamon County."

Mrs. Charles King of Springfield, who fell in a trance last night, related a vision she saw. She was carried to Heaven, saw wonderful sights and the glory of the saved, but her powers of description failed her, and in a flood of tears she sat down.

Ella Reed of Springfield is another of the noted ecstatics of this meeting. She was cured of deafness, and went into a trance which lasted nine hours. She has been twice since in a trance at her home. The faith-healers understand that her parents refuse to let her come to the meetings any more.

The number of persons who claim to have been cured of some form of disease is estimated at nearly 200, but no record of them is kept at the camp, and they are gathered merely from reporters' notes and the uncertain recollections of the evangelists themselves. The following are a few of them and the ailments:

MRS. RICHARD STULD of Springfield, Mo.; a cripple for fifteen years from leaping from a hay loft; brought here on a stretcher; claimed to be cured instantly and went home to become a faith cure evangelist.

GEORGE BAKER of this county, 60 years old; was blind and led into the meeting; claims to have been cured instantly.

JAMES W. MOORE of Athens, Menard County; crippled by an accident in a coal mine; unable to work for a year; healed and back at work in the mine; his remark is that "The Lord is mighty good medicine for us poor folks."

The little infant daughter of Mrs. JAMES HOWETT of Riverton; helpless for six months from the effects of cerebro spinal meningitis; cured by the prayers of her mother and Mrs. Woodworth. This case is relied on as illustrating the power of the parents' faith.

Mrs. JAMES MCKINNEY of Springfield; paralysis of the lower limbs; had not walked for four years. She says: "I just prayed, 'Lord Jesus, set me on my feet,' and then I got up and am well. That's all there was about it."

Mr. and Mrs. JAMES SPENSER of Macoupin County; complications of disease; both cured and write back from their home that their cure is permanent.

SARAH LEDBROOK of Modesto, Macoupin County; paralysis of the lower limbs; says she was instantly cured, and that she then brought her brother, F. W. Shearburn of Lowder, who was similarly paralytic from curvature of the spine. He had not stood alone for six months. In five minutes he not only stood alone, but walked and declared himself healed.

OLIVER LAWRENCE of Springfield; cured of

d sure enough, at the prayer-meeting h follows, this afflicted brother, perly paralyzed in his lower limbs, is helped t's altar, and after prayer and much struggling and shouting he stands erect, stamps his feet on the ground in perfect amazement to find not only that he can use

MRS. WOODWORTH SPEAKING.

them, but that he has feeling in them. He looks about him, half frightened, throws up his hands, turns up his face toward Heaven, and shouts: "Praise the Lord! I can stand alone." Then taking a few steps forward, "and I can walk alone, too."

"Well you may shout, my brothers," says Mrs. Woodworth, smiling. "If ever we get to that glorious country beyond the river we'll be a shouting people. But who has a better right to shout? The country is there for us, and the last mortgage has been canceled. But let us not be fooling by the way. Let us have testimony from others."

And the testimony given is as various as the ills of humanity. One woman insists that she has been cured of cancer in the breast, and her husband asserts that he has been cured of a rupture. Another woman stands up to say that she had not heard a human voice for twenty years, and that in an instant her deafness was cured, and that she hears perfectly well. Another said she had been perfectly blind and that now she could see, and so the current of testimony runs on, Mrs. Woodworth piously saying at the end of each story, "Bless the Lord," or "Give God the glory."

There are frequent cases of emotional

rupture of ten years' standing.

MR. AND MRS. SHEPPARD of Pawnee; the former of rupture, the latter of cancer of the breast.

A CATHOLIC LADY of Springfield was cured of sciatica, and her sister of paralysis and atrophy.

LIZZIE MELCHON of Springfield; cured of deafness of seven years' standing.

KENNETH PALMER of Dawson; dizziness and dyspepsia of six years' duration.

JULIA WOOD of Cantrall; cured of deafness following typhoid fever.

Besides these there are many who claim to have received the power only partially and believe they will come out all right if they stick to it. Among these is a Mrs. Neff of St. Louis, who came here woefully twisted up with rheumatism. She thinks she is better. Mrs. Woodworth told her this afternoon that she only needs a little more faith. The poor little woman, who has been pretty, looked anxious enough to have the required measure of faith, whether she had it or not.

Many sensitive people who profess to believe in what is going on at Oak Ridge have ceased to attend the meetings, saying the spectacle of so much human infirmity is more than they can endure. The evangelists and her assistants, Miss Doggett and Miss Eisenberg, confess today that they are nearly worn out, and there is talk of closing the meeting next week, especially as the ridge is engaged for a Free Methodist camp-meeting, to begin Aug. 2 and last two weeks. The local enthusiasts declare, however, that they will move the faith-healing machine to another quarter on the outskirts of the city and set it in motion again. To this the evangelists have not yet fully assented.

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