

## ALMOST A MIRACLE

THE WONDERFUL RECOVERY OF  
A MINNESOTA MAN

**His Lower Limbs Had Become Useless and  
He Dragged Himself Around Like  
a Snake**

While the story of the wonderful recovery of John Hunter in the little town of Chico, Cal., from paralysis and locomotor ataxia is still fresh in the mind of everyone, an account of another equally remarkable and somewhat similar case comes from Minnesota.

Near Northfield, Minn., lives P. A. O'Brien, known to everybody round about the town. In the fall of 1900 he was obliged to give up work, because of a disease which one of the physicians who attended him called locomotor ataxia and another paralysis. He suffered for more than three years and, for part of the time, lay in a harness by the doctor's direction. He grew worse and the physicians pronounced him incurable. But at last, like a miracle, came his cure. Let him tell the story:

"It had been coming on slowly for eight years," he says. "A cold numbness commenced in my feet and worked upwards. It grew worse, and, in November, 1900, I had to quit work. The disease bent me over, and, when I attempted to straighten up, it felt as if someone was cutting me in the pit of the stomach with a knife. I always felt tired and could not rest at night, my feet felt as if there were needles sticking in them and my legs got so numb that I could stick pins in them and never feel it. They would shake so sometimes that I could not hold them still with both hands.

"Then I got so that I could not walk and I had to pull myself around like a snake. When I got excited my heart would palpitate and I would choke up. My kidneys also became affected and caused me much pain."

"Didn't the doctors help you?" was asked.

"No. One of them had me on my bed in a harness for several months, but that did me no good. They tried various things and, at last, said I could not be cured.

"I began taking Dr. Williams' Pink Pills for Pale People. The first box stopped my pain so I could sleep good. It was a week before I could move my feet the least bit, but from that on I gained pretty fast. I will never stop praising Dr. Williams' Pink Pills, for they have made a new man of me."

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## COAL AT COST

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### Sixteen to One

Don't be startled—this is no disquisition on the "crime of '73," but has reference to a new book by Dr. W. P. Brooks, of Cook, Neb., entitled, "16 to 1—Escaped Criminals to One Conviction." This book handles the liquor question in a manner different from all other books on the subject. In the introduction Dr. Brooks says that "he is conscious of the fact that the temperance question is a well worn subject, and that there has been enough written to convince the average mind of the evils of the drink habit, yet with all this, it still goes on

in its high handed career of cruelty and crime."

Chapter I. quotes Col. Billing as authority for the statement that of every seventeen charged with crime about sixteen escape conviction, and Dr. Brooks relates several incidents coming under his own observation to show why this is so. Chapter II. attacks the license idea. "What evil genius," asks the doctor, "concocted the license system? Have not all men the right to do that which is right? Where, oh, where does anyone, of himself, or collectively as a government, find authority to give another liberty to do right?"

Chapter III. relates a little hitherto unwritten history of the struggles attendant upon the attempt to secure a licensed saloon in the town of Cook, the author's home. This chapter has aroused the ire of the whisky element to such a pitch that not long since some unknown miscreant shot at the doctor, undoubtedly with the intention of murdering him, but fortunately missed him.

Chapter IV. is a story told by an old criminal lawyer—and very entertainingly told it is. Chapter V., on selfishness and greed, calls attention to the recent furore raised over the discovery that certain milk dealers had been selling milk treated with formalin, and Dr. Brooks inquires: "What is the difference in principle, in morals, between poisoning a town with formalin-poisoned milk to make money, and doing the same thing, either by keeping a saloon or voting for one, for the same purpose? There is none."

In chapter VI. the author discusses hereditary oversight; and in chapter VII. he shows how "it might be." "A united co-operative commonwealth," says Dr. Brooks, "is the only way by which the goal will ever be reached. The reforms sought will not be brought about by any system that proposes to legislate morality into the people. To imagine for a single moment that a healthy equilibrium of the mental, moral and physical of man, can be brought about by 'be it enacted,' is the sheer end of all 'discourse of reason.'"

"Sixteen to One" contains 114 pages, with seven illustrations drawn by Doane Powell of Omaha (who has done considerable cartoon work for The Independent); it is bound in cloth and the fact that the printing was done by the Woodruff-Collins Co., Lincoln, is a sufficient guaranty that it is correct typographically. Price, 75 cents a copy. Address the author.

### Mind Reader Wanted

Fusion organs profess to be sure Nebraska would not have been carried by the republicans at the recent election had all the voters registered their choice at the ballot box. The political mind reader who can tell how the stay-at-homes would have voted is sadly in requisition.—Omaha Bee.

The Bee suggests a point that should not be overlooked. It is doubtless true that a majority of those who did not vote were populists and democrats—but how would they have voted if they had gone to the polls? If the cry of "let well enough alone" was sufficient to lull them to sleep, no doubt a majority of them would have voted the republican ticket if they could have been persuaded to come to the polls. It is foolish to shut one's eyes to the facts—a populist or democrat who intentionally stays at home on election day has for the time being republican leanings. He is satisfied to "keep on letting well enough alone." Perhaps he may some day see his folly—but that has nothing to do with the present.

If you are in need of groceries you should examine the special ten-dollar combination offered by Branch & Miller Co. of this city in their advertisement on the last page. They are an entirely honorable firm, one of the largest in the city and will ship good goods and full weight just as advertised. The Independent will guarantee that and if you send them an order and do not find the goods satisfactory and as represented we'll see that they are made so.

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Because you bought a harness of a man and got cheated, is no reason for you to think that no harness makers are honest, is it? Because you bought some farm machinery and after you used it last year you let it stand out doors and get all rusted is no reason for you to find fault with your implement man, is it? Because you sent a mail order to Chicago and got done up is no reason to condemn all Chicago or to think that all mail order houses are cheaters, is it? Because we want you to order a suit of us—try us—try our mail order system—try our goods—get acquainted with our prices. We know that you'll like us, goods, prices, service and treatment. Try one of our Fancy Cassimere Suits for \$10.00 that we are showing on page 5 in our catalogue, and if you don't get your money's worth tell us, and we'll give you more than enough to square the shortcomings, if there are any.

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### Both Cheers and Warns

With congress republican, President Roosevelt's administration begins its last two years with great opportunities and with grave responsibilities. It has important measures to deal with and important interests to protect. It will make the issues upon which the

next presidential contest will be fought out. This election proves that it begins with the confidence and good wishes of a great majority of the people. But there are hints here and there in the returns that suggest that it will not do to flinch from doing plain duties. This has been an election which both cheers and warns.—Geo. E. Roberts' Iowa State Register (rep.).