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### Sister Methoda Votrobek

On February 16, 1913, Sister M. Methoda, formerly Mary Votrobek of Greenfield, Michigan, died at the Motherhouse in Joliet in the forty-sixth year of her age and the twenty-sixth year of her religious life. Sister Methoda was of a cheerful and sunny disposition, and was very successful in parochial school work. After teaching for some years her health apparently began to fail in 1896, a year which seemed to be one of the worst for the development of tubercular ailments in the community, since an unusually large number of sisters were thought to be afflicted with this disease, Sister Methoda being one of the number. In the spring of the same year Rev. Father Paradis, pastor in Coal City, Illinois, told some of our sisters who were engaged in preparing some children of his parish for their first Holy Communion of the wonderful cure discovered by a certain chemist in Chicago, Dr. John Clancey. This man had already gained a reputation for curing consumption and had through the mediation of his clerical friends received recognition for his services in behalf of suffering humanity from Pope Leo XIII.

Nineteen suspicious cases among the sisters were examined and all but three of these were pronounced tubercular. The following are the names of the sisters who took the cure: Sisters M. Anna Miller, Raymund Dannenmiller, DeSales Aschemann, Cassilda Mayer, Alphonse Draehn, Delphine Krivanek, Cypriana Svaty, Francisca Sorn, Eusebia Goldschmit, Methoda Votrobek, Magdalen Lukasek, Berchmans Fryewska, Laurence Rubenstein, Merceda Haarh, Wilhelmine Pesicka, Amata Lais. Of these Sisters DeSales and Berchmans were said to be the most serious cases.

Dr. Clancey prescribed no medicine but had all his patients come to his office, which was located near Harrison and Rockwell Streets, and administered the treatment in person. He based the cure not so much upon medical aid as on the fresh air treatment, on which he insisted. This was to be afforded his patients by riding in the elevated electric cars during several midday hours when it was supposed the cars were not overcrowded and well ventilated. Many of the sisters in reality were benefitted by this treatment. Sister Methoda is the eighth sister to die out of the sixteen who took the treatment, the deaths of the others occurring as follows: Sister Francisca Sorn, Dec. 1896; Sister Berchmans Fryewska, June 1898; Sister Merceda Haarh, October 1898; Sister Lydia Steger, August 1899; Sister Cypriana Svaty, Sept. 1899; Sister Cassilda Mayer, June 1900; Sister Magdalen Lukasek, August 1908.