

CURES GIRL VICTIM OF TRIANGLE FIRE

Dr. Frauenthal Demonstrates
Recovery of Miss Harris,
Who Suffered Paralysis.

FELL FIVE FLOORS IN SHAFT

And Was Rescued from Heap of
Dead and Injured—Her Life Had
Been Despaired Of by Many.

Miss Esther Harris, who saved her life by sliding down the cable of the elevator in the Triangle factory fire and suffered almost total paralysis was pronounced completely restored to normal health yesterday in the Hospital for Deformities at a clinic attended by a number of physicians. She had been given up by scores of specialist and medical men as a hopeless paralytic when Dr. Henry W. Frauenthal, surgeon in charge of the hospital, at Madison Avenue and 124th Street, became interested in her and ventured to try a new course of treatment.

She was taken to the hospital Dec. 10, 1911. Up to that time she had been paralyzed and bed-ridden in the home of her parents at 769 Howard Avenue, Brooklyn. She could speak a few whisper a few longer sentences, and move her head a little, and had to be fed. At the time of the fire she was employed as bookkeeper by the Triangle Shirt Waist Company, where the fire started.

With others of the terror-stricken girls she was swept to the elevator shaft in the hope of escape, but the car was not running. Miss Harris seized the cable and let herself down as far as the fifth floor. There her hands slipped and her strength ebbed, and she dropped to the bottom of the shaft senseless. When the firemen and police removed the dead and dying from her body she was taken to St. Vincent's Hospital. Regaining her senses there for a moment, she said yesterday, she overheard a nurse ask the physician at her bedside:

"What shall be done with her?"

"Leave her alone, as she has only a few minutes to live," was the reply, she says came to her ears. She knew nothing further until she awoke the following day and found that the only physical power she had was the strength to ask if she could recover, and was assured that there was no hope, when she insisted on knowing the truth. Three months later she was taken home by her parents. From that time she remained paralyzed from her head down.

Dr. Frauenthal's course of treatment was not fully disclosed at the clinic yesterday, but the chief features of the attempts to cure the young woman began with the "traction," a frame constructed to hold weights upon the patient for the purpose of reducing the pressure upon the spinal column. A weight of 25 pounds was placed on her head, and two of 15 pounds each on her feet, and a plaster cast was placed around her neck. Two weeks afterward she was able to sit up in a straight back chair, after being lifted from the bed by the nurses. A leather collar was worn for six months after the removal of the cast.

On Feb. 22, 1912, Miss Harris was overjoyed to find that she could move her legs, and she delightfully took her first two steps. Her general improvement continued gradually, and during the last two months she grew stronger and was able to walk a little further each day or so, until yesterday she was able to walk unassisted from her room on the third floor of the hospital to the other floors, to shake hands with physicians and nurses, and thank them again for what they had done for her.

A number of physicians were at the hospital and followed Miss Harris as she walked about, and studied her case. She will be permitted to leave the hospital within a few weeks, it is said.