

The strength of prayer and trust

We have already seen that Dr. Galaine had made an initial diagnosis of Josette's condition when he arrived at a place called La Barrière. The urgency was now to try everything possible to have the little girl hospitalized. Given the gravity of the situation - we heard her say: "***She is gone!***" - he could see only one solution: trepanation.

It was the doctor himself who took the initiative to drive Josette to Saint-Joseph clinic. He was accompanied by the mother and Marie-Ange Guitton, while Mrs. Lambert took care of the other children. During her transportation, the girl did not react in any way, but her condition remained stable. This did not prevent Marie-Ange Guitton from saying to herself: "***She is lost!***". The obsession was to imagine that the worst could happen before the intervention.

In this race against the clock, the urgency was therefore, to proceed and carry out the trepanation without being sure whether it would cause decompression of the intracranial hematoma, the only solution that would allow healing.

It was the director of the clinic, Sister Antoinette, who received the child around 6 p.m., and put her in a room so that they could prepare the trepanation. The Sister observed the child and quickly made a judgment on her chances of survival. Another Sister expressed her concern: "***I believe we have lost her!***" Josette remained under the supervision of Marie-Ange Guitton, while the mother returned home to mind her other children.

There was, in the surgical department, an operation under preparation. A razor blade was passed over Josette's head who did not react except when it passed over the hematoma. she only made a few little cries. Meanwhile, Dr. Galaine gave instructions and requested that his fellow surgeon in Dinan, Dr. Méheut, be called. He was occupied with an operation, it was only a little later that he would be able to come to Combours.

Meanwhile, Dr. Galaine went to visit the patients who were waiting for him. For her part, Sister Antoinette, concerned about Josette's condition, kept on coming to take a look...

Night fell, Mme Poulain went back to the house; it was a 40 minutes walk. On her way she met Sister Madeleine, Josette's mistress, and announced to her that her daughter would not be in class the next day. She explained what had happened and that the operation was scheduled for the evening. Sister Madeleine tried to comfort the mother by assuring her of the prayers of the school Sisters, as well as those of the children in her class, the next day. "***I told her,***" she said in her deposition at the diocesan process, "***that we would ask for healing from God by the intercession of Father de la Mennais and that I would send to the clinic his 'relic image'***". Although far from faith, the mother was comforted by this promise.

In the meantime, Sister Madeleine sent another Sister to bring Fr. De la Mennais' "relic image" to Josette's room; the image was slipped under the little girl's pillow. The next morning at the opening of the class, Sister Madeleine, not aware about what happened after meeting the mother, asked the students of her class to pray for this intention ...

A person from Combours who testified at the recent Rennes process, could still remember very well the prayer in which herself participated as a pupil at Saint-Anne school.