

R. MARRIANNA HERBERT

1 10, 1845.

August 8, 1920.



MARIANNA HERBERT, KNOWN AS RAG DOCTOR, DIES AT LAKE GEORGE

Man Who Had Thousands of
Patients Succumbs Suddenly
—Methods as Healer
Never Disclosed.

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MARGARET'S

GRANDMOTHER

Mrs. Herbert, Famed 'Rag Priestess,' Noted for Cures, to Be Buried Wednesday

Although She Possessed College Certificate,
She Treated Patients Merely by
"Reading" Bandage.

Mrs. Marianna Herbert, known for many years as the "rag priestess," whose death occurred at Lake George on Sunday, will be buried Wednesday morning in Assumption cemetery following private funeral services from her late home, 1000 Park street, at 8:30 o'clock.

With the passing of Dr. Herbert, as she was known, Syracuse loses one of its most interesting characters. Although she had been at one time a student of medicine and held a certificate from a college in Ohio, she did not practice in any accepted meaning of the term, but treated patients by "reading" a piece of cotton or linen cloth which had been worn around their bodies.

She had an immense clientele and those who sought her ministrations firmly believed in her healing power. People came from far and near to consult her. Her office hours began at 9 o'clock and continued with only a short interruption until 6 or later at night. Thursday she kept for a day of rest. Sunday she reserved for out of town patients.

Physicians Sought Her Advice.

She prescribed only two kinds of medicine—one a cathartic, the other a blood tonic. She kept immense jars of

these in her consultation room and dispensed them to those who wanted them. She charged the fee of an ordinary physician and was paid at every call.

Numerous women were among her patients and they refused to have any other physician, even when suffering from maladies which would have been looked upon as subjects for a surgeon. But men consulted her also. More than one well known physician secretly sought the advice of the "rag priestess" and followed her directions. College professors, business men and even clergymen were reckoned among her patrons.

Mrs. Herbert was born in Bavaria 75 years ago and had treated patients at her Syracuse home for 34 years. She was a devout Catholic and had in her home a private chapel where she went to pray and meditate. She took a special interest in St. Anthony's convent in Court street and in the Franciscan monastery, upon both of which she bestowed large gifts.

She is survived by eight children, Mrs. Monica Braungart, Mrs. Matilda Warner, Mrs. Tina Litt, Dr. Leo J. Herbert and Mrs. Emma Barrett of Syracuse, Edward Herbert of Buffalo and Mrs. Clara Dederich and John Herbert of Detroit, Mich. There are 21 grandchildren and one great-grandchild.