

Divine healer intrigues crowd

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that he was a rank imposter."

Schlatter said he had healed Hetty Green, the richest woman in the world of dyspepsia (indigestion), and that "she offered to marry him." While he was dropping names, the healer also mentioned Andrew Carnegie. The wealthy steel industrialist was supposed to have offered Schlatter a million dollars, but the healer refused, saying he needed only a dollar a day to live on. (The latter claim was remembered by the newspaper reporter a few days later.)

The man, who was staying at the

"Fourth Street hotel," set up shop at the Woodmen's Hall and conducted two meetings a day, 3 o'clock and 7 o'clock. Lest he raise any hopes among the bereaved, Schlatter made a public statement, which was passed on by the *Telephone* to its readers: "At the meeting Sunday all sick may come in on the healing deal, but no dead ones apply, as the Healer says he has raised from the dead the prescribed seven, three in Chicago and four in London."

Under a front-page headline that said, "DIVINITY THAT PAYS," the newspaper published an account of one of the healer's meetings. "A large and curious crowd filled the

room to witness the curing by laying on of the hands. Schlatter's first stunt at the meeting was to take up a collection, afterward announcing that on the Lord's day he always healed free of charge, but on a common week day the restoration of an eye or any like services would cost \$7 a head."

According to the *Telephone*, several participants took advantage of the man's Sunday free healing, one of whom was suffering from lumbago (muscular rheumatism). In keeping with the healer's use of the number "7," the believers would receive seven minutes of his time and would feel better in seven days.

Next Week: Bloomington's hospitality had its limits.