

## REGAINING SPEECH

SUDDEN FRIGHT OFTEN A HELP



**T**HE recent case of Miss Lily Curl, of Ashford, Kent, who, after being deaf and dumb for 24 years, is slowly recovering both hearing and speech—the shock of the tragic end of her brother, who drowned himself in the Stour, being regarded as responsible for the miraculous recovery—is by no means an insulated example of shock succeeding where doctors and scientists have failed.

Some time ago the narrow escape of a boy from drowning off North Shields Fish Quay had a remarkable sequel. While efforts were being made to restore the apparently drowned boy to consciousness by means of artificial respiration, a man named Thomas Cummings, who had been deprived of speech for two years earlier as the result of an accident, pushed through the crowd merely out of curiosity.

As soon as he saw the prostrate boy, although not in any way related to him, the sight gave him such a shock that his speech suddenly returned, and he fell to the ground in a state of collapse. Upon recovering he continued to speak freely, and has suffered no further impediment since.

One of the most amazing cases was that of Walter Speck, a resident of Glouster, who eight years ago lost his power of speech through the death of his father. For several weeks his wife was only able to understand him by watching the movement of his lips, and he gave up all hope of ever recovering his speech.

Being a football enthusiast, he one day witnessed a Glouster versus Cheltenham match, and when the city team scored Speck, in the excitement, forgot that he had been deprived of his voice and attempted to cheer with the rest of the crowd.

To his amazement and that of his friends, his shout was heard above that of any of those standing near. Since then Speck has been able to converse as well as ever, and there is no likelihood of his speech failing him.

One of the medical journals tells how the fear of an accident was once the means of restoring speech to a dumb man. J. Moore, of Gesport, had been dumb for many years, when, on returning home one evening, his bicycle skidded. In his alarm he shouted, and was so startled and surprised at hearing his voice that he called out again and again, until he was convinced that his long lost voice had come back to him.

It is not many years since a remarkable case of dumbness excited great interest in medical circles in Germany. Twelve months earlier a