

# HOSPITALS HIT BY DEPRESSION, SURVEY SHOWS

'Free' Institutions Gain While Pay Trade Declines.

CHICAGO, April 3.—The economic depression has been reflected in the hospital business throughout the country, it appears from the American Medical Association's annual survey of hospital service in the United States. Although the hospitals did more work during 1930 than the previous year, the increase came entirely in charitable institutions.

"While governmental and other charitable hospitals were burdened with an unusually large number of patients, those that serve pay patients generally suffered a decrease in patronage," the association states in the current issue of its journal.

During 1930 the number of beds in all types of hospitals increased from 907,133 to 955,869. This increase of 48,736 beds does not in-

clude bassinets, of which there were 1,945 more during 1930 than the year before.

Hospitals for nervous and mental patients continued to grow. More than nine-tenths of the beds available in these hospitals were occupied during 1930, while less than two-thirds of the available beds in general hospitals were occupied.

## DAREDEVIL WILLING TO BECOME LABORER

Took One Chance Too Many; Has Spent Months Convalescing.

PHILADELPHIA, April 3.—For seventeen years Ted Steelman's daring carried him through a hundred of fortune, he lived a tempestuous life replete with hair raising episodes.

As the human "cannon ball" he thrilled thousands of persons, while as a high diver who leaped into a tiny pool from a height of 125 feet, he risked death hourly.

The misfortune which he dared for years caught up with him last summer. Once too often he made his "chute" jump from a plane above the steel pier at Atlantic City. The parachute failed to open 1,000 feet above the ocean.

After four months of convalescence, he is willing to become a laborer and take any job that will keep the wolf from the door.

# DOCTORS DIFFER ON ANESTHETICS FOR CHILDBIRTH

Pangs Must Be Reduced as Far as Possible, Physicians Agree.

WASHINGTON, April 3.—Modern physicians agree with modern women that the pains of childbirth should be relieved as far as possible. The method of doing this, however, is still the subject for disagreement among the physicians.

"It is the obvious duty of the physician to alleviate the intense pain of childbirth to the utmost that is consistent with the safety of the child," declared Dr. Robert A. Hatcher, professor of pharmacology at Cornell university medical college, in a special report to the American Medical Association.

Expectant mothers and their families frequently feel that physicians are callous to the mother's sufferings.

"If such an attitude appears to exist on the part of many physicians, it probably arises from a widespread belief that pain can not be prevented without greater danger to the child than the circumstances justify," said Dr. Hatcher.

When the rights of the child and those of the mother appear to conflict, the physician must decide according to the dictates of his conscience.

Chloroform, ether, nitrous oxide gas with oxygen, rectal injections of ether or other drugs, "twilight sleep," morphine and local anes-

thesia with cocaine are among the many methods which have been used by physicians to relieve the suffering of childbirth. Of these chloroform, ether and nitrous oxide gas with oxygen probably are the most widely used.

The use of anesthetics or of narcotics to relieve the woman in labor dates back to biblical times at least. The mandrake, poppy and Indian hemp are the drugs which were used by the ancients. Rachel sought mandrakes of Leah, but whether to use for a love potion or to ease the pain of labor is not clear.

Sir James Simpson, British physician, was first to use ether in labor on Jan. 19, 1847. Later in that year he changed to chloroform. Ether was first used in childbirth in

America on April 7, 1847, by N. C. Keep of Boston.

Queen Victoria was the first crowned head to submit to the administration of an anesthetic for the relief of labor pains. From this comes the term anesthesia a la reine, which is the use of an anesthetic, generally chloroform, to diminish the sensation of pain without complete unconsciousness.

Bank President Dies

MILLVILLE, Ind., April 3.—Funeral services were held today for John H. Myers, 72, former Henry county commissioner, who died at his home south of here. He was president of the Farmers bank at New Lisbon.

DR. KING RE-ELECTED HEALTH BOARD HEAD

Incumbent Since 1922 to Serve in Post Four More Years.

Dr. William F. King, director of the state health department and secretary of the state health board, has been re-elected for a four-year term beginning April 14, when his present term expires.

Dr. King has held the post since October, 1922. Previous to that time he had been assistant to the secretary of the board, Dr. J. M. Hurty, who resigned.

Election is by the four members of the board. Terms of two of the members, Drs. John H. Green, North Vernon, and Cavius R. Marshall, Indianapolis, expire May 6. Board appointments are made by

the Governor, auditor and secretary of state.

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