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I Need a Doctor— Was Physician To Blame for Child's Death?

Press of Duties May Prevent
Him From Answering a Call

(This is the fifth in a series of articles on the Hoosier physician)

By ROBERT BLOOM

NOT LONG ago a small child died in her father's arms in the ante-room of an Indiana hospital.

Friends of her family bitterly told and retold the sad story behind what still appears to them to have been a cruel and needless death. They blame—the doctors.

The little girl became ill and a doctor was summoned.

Later she became worse. Her symptoms were alarming and the parents attempted to recall the doctor. Friends' story is that he refused to come because he was in the midst of his office hours, attending a roomful of waiting patients.

The frantic parents then rushed the sick child to a hospital. They were too frightened to attempt to call other doctors. Even their untrained eyes and ears told them this was an emergency that would not wait.

At the hospital she was refused admission, the reports say, because she was not coming in as the patient of any doctor. It was shortly after this that the father stopped fighting for his baby's life. He had already lost.

DESPITE the fact that the medical profession can answer many complaints against it, and despite the fact that doctors have many valid complaints of their own, what is the answer to this true situation?

Does the blame lie with the doctor? If so, other doctors point out, it still cannot be laid at the door of all doctors.

Or was the hospital responsible? Some critics of hospitals charge openly that even had the child been accompanied by a doctor, the hospital might have denied admission unless the doctor was on the staff. Even the sharpest critics feel, however, that it would be an impossible situation to permit persons to enter hospitals on their own recommendation.

Many actual and potential patients of doctors, admittedly watching with interest the development of the controversy over "socialized medicine," are frank to say they will not be satisfied with medical care until things like this cannot happen, not even occasionally.

GENERALLY, complaints against doctors fall into a few categories—fees are too high, not enough doctors, individual doctors too independent, office waiting times too long, inclination to curbstone diagnoses and treatment by telephone to avoid making house calls.

It is relatively simple to find someone who has a story of his own or has heard a story of a doctor's refusal to answer a house call, either at night or in the daytime. Fortunately, the consequences are rarely so extreme as in the case of the little girl who died.

Here is another story, also exceptional, but which illustrates the potentialities on the other side of the picture.

AGAIN, fairly recently and still in Indiana, a doctor was summoned by a young woman who said she was too ill to go to work or come to the doctor's office. This doctor answered the call, although the woman was a stranger to him. He found her alone, but not as sick as she had professed. He complied with a request to telephone her employer and tell him she could not report for work that day, using a phone number supplied by her. After this, the woman made a surprising recovery from her erstwhile misery. She

Talks Break Off In Steel Dispute

Union Ready To Go on Strike

(Continued From Page One) shooter of the government mediation service, was assigned to the U. S. Steel negotiations by Mediation Chief Cyrus S. Ching. He said he did not plan immediate intervention, but that he would keep "in contact" with the negotiations.

"We're going to have to play by ear and make our plans as we go along," he said. "Time is short and we want to try to settle this thing before the strike deadline."

Government labor experts discounted speculation that the Ford Motor Co.'s pension agreement with the automobile workers might set a pattern for basic industry and thus help bring about a steel settlement.

The government experts said the Ford settlement had been indicated for days and had no noticeable effect on the steel talks.

As U. S. Suggested

The Ford settlement was within the framework set up by the presidential fact-finding board that investigated the steel dispute and recommended that the CIO Steelworkers abandon demands for a pay boost but that the companies finance a pension and insurance program.

Had peace come to the steel mills, peace probably would have come to the coal mines, for John L. Lewis has intimated strongly that he wanted to wait for a steel agreement before signing a United Mine Workers contract with operators.

In Virginia, where Gov. William T.uck declared a state of emergency and threatened to use state employees to mine coal "to keep Virginia warm no matter what it costs."

There appeared to be no likelihood of the miners returning to the pits under state operation.

Miners Amused

William Minton, president of the UMW's District 28, first announced the Virginia miners would return to work, but later he said the men seemed only amused at Gov. Tuck's directive.

The Ford contract will run for a record-breaking 2½ years after it goes into effect Oct. 1.

Under its terms, the company will pay 8½ cents per hour toward the pension plan which will cost the firm about \$20 million during the first 10 months of 1950. Under the contract, workers will receive from Ford that part of the \$100 monthly pension that he does not receive under Social Security.

In addition, the firm will continue its present health insurance plan and institute a \$280 per worker "package" medical and hospital plan.

Tipple Wrecked In Strike Blast

(Continued From Page One)

sheriff's deputies used tear gas to disperse club-wielding strikers who attempted to storm buses and motor cars carrying non-strikers to work.

The strikers were stopped short when deputies and plant guards detonated the tear gas bombs.

A strong wind drove the gas among the strikers and they scattered into fields, pursued by deputies. At least 12 were taken into custody.

The cavalcade of workers proceeded slowly into the plant. No one was hurt.

At Jasper, Ala., meanwhile, a mutual "cease fire" order restored an uneasy peace today at a non-union mine where a two-hour gun battle raged yesterday, leaving one union member near death.

People's Hospital reported that Herschel Davis, 51, of the United Mine Workers Local, was in a coma after a two-hour gun battle raged yesterday, leaving one union member near death.

James W. Batman, 76, at 58 W. 58th, coronary occlusion.

W. L. Williams, 51, of 100 N. Oaklawn, coronary occlusion.

At General—Madison, Mary Zelma Ed-

ward, 22, of 1111 N. Concord; Ida E.

Ward, 21, of Indianapolis; Dorothy E.

Ward, 19, of Indianapolis; Rose

R. Vianco, 26, 1716 N. Perry; Rose

B. Stewart, 28, 22 Morris; Naomi

Harold F. Brooks, 24, 8 S. Bradley; Esther

Jane Muriel, 26, 212 Douglas; Sue Smith

W. L. Tremont, 22, Manilla; Virginia

W. Wedde, 26, 113 Tecumseh;

Franklin C. Brazil; Bonita

Cole, 4, Brazil; Gene L. Robinson, 25, 1727 Broadway; Dora

George H. Cunard, 26, 1605 S. Norfolk;

Mary E. Cunard, 26, 1605 S. Norfolk;

Robert E. Grashoff, 25, S. Oriental; Alice

L. Daniel, 23, 2887 Brookside.

IN INDIANAPOLIS

MARRIAGE LICENSES

At Home—John, Jemima Davidson, 3726 N. Capitol.

At General—Madison, Mary Zelma Ed-

ward, 22, of 1111 N. Concord; Ida E.

Ward, 21, of Indianapolis; Dorothy E.

Ward, 19, of Indianapolis; Rose

R. Vianco, 26, 1716 N. Perry; Rose

B. Stewart, 28, 22 Morris; Naomi

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George H. Cunard, 26, 1605 S. Norfolk;

Mary E. Cunard, 26, 1605 S. Norfolk;

Robert E. Grashoff, 25, S. Oriental; Alice

L. Daniel, 23, 2887 Brookside.

DIVORCE SUITS FILED

Betty A. Arthur, Jane M. Y.

Clyde A. Lyon, Chester, vs. Dorothy Y.

Robert L. vs. Pamela Hurl; Elsie

W. Head; John, vs. Dorothy Head;

Roscoe Owen, Helen vs. Robert E.

Scott; John, vs. Joy E. vs. Donald C.

Widner; Eddie, vs. Charles D. vs. Mildred C.

Uterbeck; Ruby E. vs. Henry R. Perner;

Elmer vs. Jerome A. Antilia; Maeve vs. Roy E.

Donahue.

BIRTHS

At Home—Robert, Aurelia Williams, 3009 E. Minnesota, 2.

At St. Francis—Michael, Marcella Newport;

Raymond, Inez Benjamin; Harley Ruby;

At General—John, William, Laura, Sealey;

At Coleman—John, Mary Cool; Paul, El-

mer, Marvin, Martha, Huffm-

an, Clarence, Lorrie, Rabenau; Donald,

Thomas, Catherine, Lafever; Harold, Myra

Swift; Bernard, Dorothy Pollock;

At St. Vincent—John, vs. Mary, vs. John,

Ward; Alva, Lovie, Finn; Richard,

Patricia Schneider; Richard, Frances

Smoker; Alfred, Sadie Shikany.

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