

# THE PARK BENCH

By W. E. Hill

Copyright, 1938, by Chicago Tribune-N.Y. News Syndicate, Inc.

2 P. M.—The bird lover with plenty of leisure and a bag of bird crumbs shows up.



12 Noon—Three lovely office secretaries relaxing during lunch hour. They are discussing another office secretary who wouldn't believe, to look at her, was faster than greased lightning. AND her WEEK-ENDS! "It's always those meek-looking girls you have to watch out for."

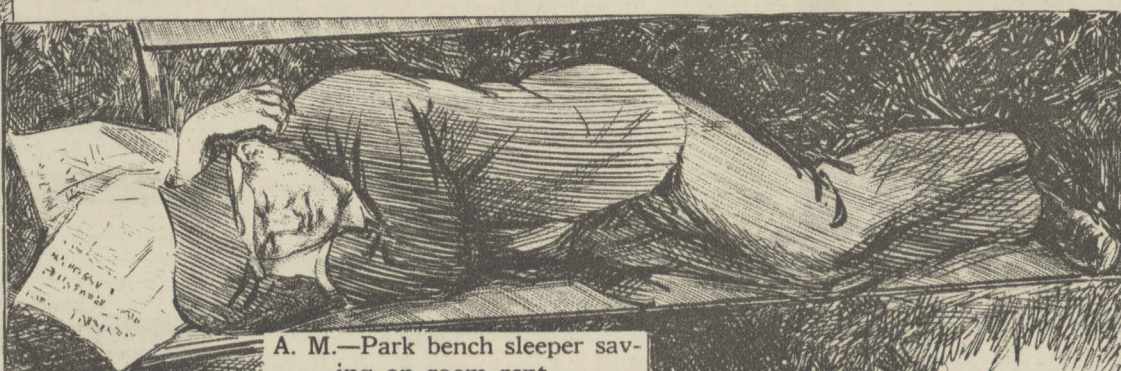
5:30 P. M.—Bernie, a realtor's personable office worker, on the park bench augmenting that athletic coat of Summer tan. The girls in the office think Bernie looks just dandy.



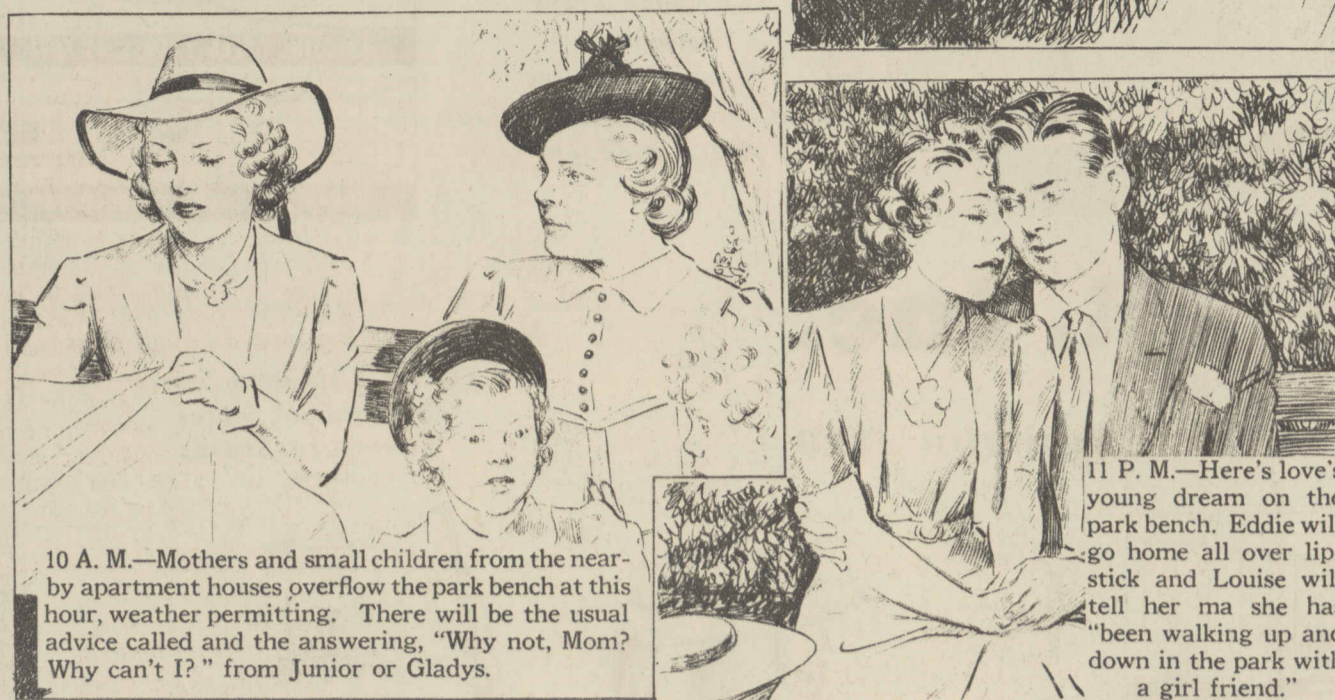
9 A. M.—The dog walkers rest from their morning exertions to tell each other how cute Rover was when he bit the exterminator man, and how Skippy knew right away the elevator boy was afraid of dogs and started to growl.



8 P. M.—This park bench loaded with music patrons is at the ring-side of the band concert of a June evening, and a cornet soloist is obliging with "Oh, Promise Me," by request.



A. M.—Park bench sleeper saving on room rent.



10 A. M.—Mothers and small children from the nearby apartment houses overflow the park bench at this hour, weather permitting. There will be the usual advice called and the answering, "Why not, Mom? Why can't I?" from Junior or Gladys.

11 P. M.—Here's love's young dream on the park bench. Eddie will go home all over lipstick and Louise will tell her ma she has "been walking up and down in the park with a girl friend."

# 'NEVER SAY DIE'

## Science Never Quits in Fight for Life

(Continued from page one.)

day prevent today's so-called incurable diseases. The courageous way is to attack the problem as a problem and master it."

The value of the medical profession's "never say die" spirit is dramatically illustrated by such cases as that of the Dionne quintuplets, in which a country doctor refused to compromise with what appeared to be a hopeless situation and after days and nights of sleepless toil to keep his patients warm and nourished finally gave the world the now famous sisters, who have just passed their fourth birthday.

An outstanding example of how medical men battle against death when all the odds are against them was brought to light in the achievement of a young researcher into the germ-killing qualities of the drug prontosil. A doctor came to him with the case of a little girl who was suffering with erysipelas, whose fever was raging up to 106. The child seemed hopelessly ill, but the man, who had been experimenting with the effects of the new drug on inoculated mice, was willing to take heroic methods to save a life. The little girl was treated. Within thirty-six hours her fever had left her.

Throughout the whole long period of development of medical and surgical practice it has been the care of the childbearing woman that has stood out as an index of civilization. Four hundred years ago began the conquest of death at birth, and so great has been the progress made that today woman may look upon pregnancy not as a curse but as a great privilege provided by benevolent nature.

A century ago physicians were earnestly seeking means of relieving the pains of childbirth. Ether was found to be irritating in its action. Then Dr. James Y. Simpson of Glasgow, Scotland, who had experimented with and discarded ether, administered chloroform to a patient. He was taking a risk, of course, but it proved to be a risk well worth taking. The patient's child was born during what she (the patient) described as a very comfortable sleep.

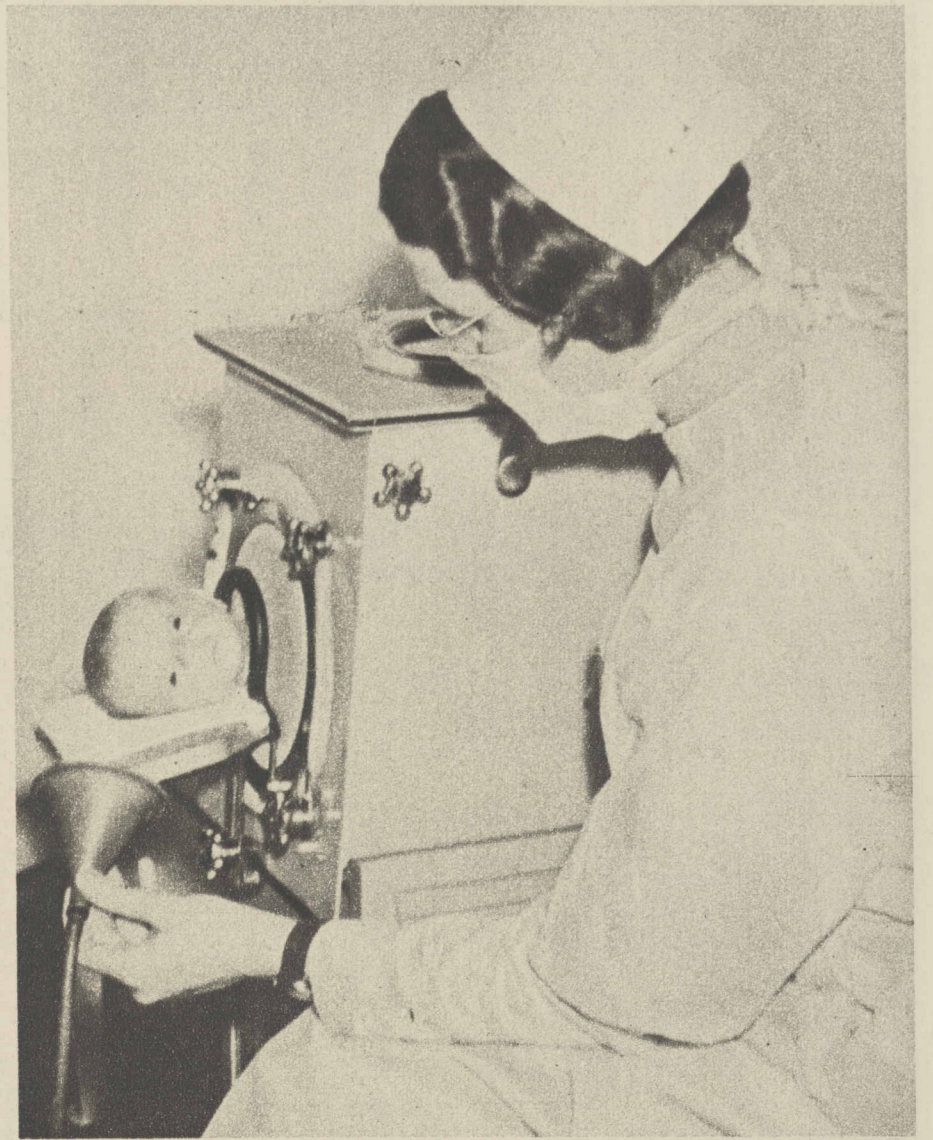
• • •

Still another case of how heroic methods saved a life was that of a baby boy twenty-eight days old who appeared to be hopelessly afflicted with hydrocephalus, which is the forming of a watery fluid in the brain or just outside it. He was one of two "identical" twins, but his head was swollen to a size much larger than that of his brother, and the right side of his head was bigger than the left half. The physician in charge of the case, Dr. J. Grafton Love of Elizabeth City, N. C., would not abandon hope. On June 17, 1936, he pumped air into the stricken infant's head and through this means was enabled to diagnose the disorder as "intracranial hematoma on the left side." The risk of an operation for removal of the tumor was great, but it seemed the only possible choice, and so Dr. Love unhesitatingly took it. When he had removed the growth the baby's head immediately became smaller and color returned to its cheeks. Only twelve days afterward the baby was dismissed from the hospital with the report, "General condition excellent."

And still another baby case which called for more than ordinary ingenuity and perseverance on the part of the physician was that of Baby Marilyn Zeigmond in Chicago five years ago. One morning the mother put her ten-week-old infant face up on a dressing table preparatory to giving her her bath. She stood over the baby, an open safety pin in her mouth, watching the little one squirm and gurgle. Suddenly she burst out laughing. The pin fell from her mouth and landed in Marilyn's open mouth, and Marilyn promptly swallowed it.

Dr. Gustav G. Herpe was summoned and he took the baby to the hospital, where an X-ray picture revealed the open pin in the lower part of the stomach. The doctor decided that the baby was too young to survive an operation to remove the pin by opening the stomach, and so he awaited developments, meanwhile keeping careful track of the pin.

When the pin had not moved in thirty hours Dr. Herpe resorted to a shrewd strategy. He made an incision in the outer abdominal wall, inserted his hand, and carefully pulled out Marilyn's tiny stomach until he could



Premature by three months, this baby lives today because modern medical science had developed the iron lung to assist its breathing. The nurse is holding a respirator funnel through which oxygen was administered four times. (Acme photos.)

feel the pin inside it. Although he never cut the stomach itself open, he skillfully maneuvered the pin by fingering the thin stomach lining until he succeeded in closing the pin. He then sewed up the incision, having used no surgical instruments at all except in making the initial incision.

Thus the principal peril to Marilyn's life was removed. After the operation was over, and the baby had had time to rest, she was easily induced to regurgitate the closed safety pin.

Sometimes in an emergency a doctor must operate with makeshift instruments, which was the case with Dr. A. Matheson of Chicago on July 4, 1934. Early that morning he received a phone call from Jack A. Berg: "My little girl is dying; hurry over, hurry!" Because he had no time to go to his office to get his instruments, he arrived without them. He found

speedy death. In this case, however, the physician's skill and judgment were rewarded. Nearly two years after the remarkable operation Dr. Gardner examined the woman and found her well in both body and mind.

"The examination discloses no changes in intellect," he wrote; and, with little more than half of her brain left, the woman was found able to talk, see, go shopping, perform her household tasks, and in general carry on a contented and fairly normal existence. Of course, there was some paralysis on the left side, which is the half of the body usually controlled by the right side of the brain. On that side the woman could not distinguish between 40 and 140 degrees Fahrenheit, there was a slight weakness in the left side of her face in the process of closing her eyes or smiling, and she couldn't feel light touches or pin pricks on her left side below the neck. She could see, hear, and taste perfectly, however, and smell with one nostril.

• • •

Rare indeed is it that physicians are forced to deliberately let a patient die. The following story, of an occurrence which took place in San Francisco in the summer of 1930, shows that it can happen, but it had nothing to do with euthanasia, for the doctors could not have prevented it under the circumstances.

A young artist named Johnston was brought to the Children's hospital on the verge of death from infantile paralysis. He was unable to breathe because his lungs were affected by the disease. Luckily, however, the hospital had an "artificial lung," the respirator that enables a paralysis victim to breathe by changing the air pressure on the outside of his lungs in a steady natural rhythm. This wonderful device was then a new thing in the world, and the only one of its kind on the Pacific coast, but it saved Johnston's life, and his wife and their fourteen-month-old son watched him slowly recover day by day through the glass case in which he was confined.

After this had been going on for a week a 30-year-old girl named Miss May Jean McCulloch was brought to the hospital with paralysis of the lungs similar to Johnston's case and demanding the same treatment. The desperate doctors removed Johnston from the artificial lung to make room for Miss McCulloch, but when they did so he began to sink. He couldn't breathe.

The hospital authorities had to choose immediately between saving his life and that of the woman. They had to decide that one should live and that the other should die. They made their choice, perhaps influenced by the sight of the young wife and baby watching at the glass. They elected to save Johnston. Miss McCulloch died.

But they did not stop working to avoid repetition of such a tragedy in the future. Today artificial lungs are widely distributed throughout the country and can be brought on short notice to almost any point where needed in an emergency.



Decision to remove a diseased eye is credited with saving the life of Alice Louise Query, 5, who at birth was afflicted with glioma, dangerous eye disease.

the child unconscious from strangulation caused by a swelling in her throat, which in turn was the result of a bad infection. She would die unless she could get air within the next five minutes or so. Quickly Dr. Matheson sterilized a kitchen knife and made an incision into the girl's windpipe. Through this hole he forced a short piece of rubber tube which luckily happened to be in the house and thus made it possible for the girl to breathe. She responded nicely to this treatment and was shortly driven to the hospital, where after another operation she recovered rapidly.

• • •

The brain is ordinarily considered a pretty vital organ, but Dr. W. James Gardner of Cleveland is an uncompromising surgeon who saw a woman about to die of a tumor on the brain and realized that there was no hope for her life as long as any part of her brain contaminated by the tumor remained in her head. And so he boldly operated and removed almost all of the right half of the brain, although he knew that the few times that course had been taken before had almost without exception resulted in