

One goes through life and meets many people, few of whom become real and lasting friends. It is that not sufficient reason why one should develop his acquaintances into better friends? For, as one grows older, one begins to understand that happiness consists very largely of friendship.

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New S. Oakland Hospital to Have Modern Maternity Unit
TLC—which stands for "tender, loving care"—is part of every prescription for infants at Detroit's voluntary hospitals. The father in this photograph, taken at Grace Northwestern Hospital, may be sure that his baby will receive constant attention until the day he is ready to go home. A completely modern maternity department is included in the plans for the new Southern Oakland Hospital, one of the four new hospitals that will be constructed as a part of the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund's \$19,720,000 program. Ten existing hospitals in Greater Detroit will be enlarged.

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*Editor's Note: What the construction of a new 200 bed hospital will mean in increased hospital care and better health for the residents of Southern Oakland County is told in a series of articles of which this is the first.
Toward this project \$2,500,000 has been allocated by the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund now beginning a campaign for \$19,720,000. The Fund's over-all program embraces ten leading hospitals in Greater Detroit to be enlarged and improved and four new ones to be built and equipped.
A child born today in metropolitan Detroit has a fifty percent better chance of survival than he would have had twenty years ago. Increased dependence on our modern hospitals for childbirth has coincided with decreasing hazards to both mother and baby.
This fine record of saving the lives of babies and their mothers continues despite the serious shortage of hospital beds throughout Greater Detroit. This situation will be relieved in Oakland County, by the construction of the new 200-bed Southern Oakland Hospital. An important unit of the new hospital will be its maternity department staffed by carefully selected, skilful and efficient doctors and nurses and containing every safeguard of modern medical science.
Eliminated the Terror
Modern hospital techniques have taken the terror from childbirth even for prospective fathers. Nurses and doctors at a modern hospital will tell you that most fathers nowadays are calm as they wait for the great event. They have learned that child-bearing is no longer dangerous.
There are, of course, still a few who pace the floor, lighting one cigarette from the stub of another and looking at the clock every few minutes. They have the attitude that all people had a century ago when bringing new life into the world was more dangerous than going into battle.
In grandmother's time, to be sure, some women raised families of ten to a dozen children but for each one who did, two others probably died from the ravages of puerperal fever, as a result of the unhygienic methods of the day. Semmelweis, the first obstetrician to discover the connection between cleanliness and puerperal fever, had a difficult time fewer than 100 years ago in Vienna trying to persuade his students to wash their hands when they came to the delivery room from an anatomy dissection.
A Minimum Risk
However, in a modern, well-equipped hospital where strict cleanliness is the rule, the bringing of new life into the world is accompanied by a minimum risk to mother and infant.
Statistics of the Detroit Department of Health show what hospitals do for mothers and children. Ten years ago, in 1938, less than 69 percent of births took place in hospitals. In 1948, nearly 98 percent of Detroit's babies were born in hospitals, although the number of births has increased from fewer than 29,000 in 1938 to more than 50,000 in 1948.
However, as hospitals have taken over the task of caring for mothers and infants, the death rate has greatly decreased. In 1938, more than 41 infants in every 1,000 live births died. In 1948 fewer than 32 died in each 1,000.
From 1938 through 1948, the maternal death rate per 1,000 decreased from 3.8 to 0.94. In other words, even in the brief space of ten years hospitals have made Detroit a much safer place for mothers and children.
Now Detroit is rapidly outgrowing its hospital facilities and unless they are expanded, it may be impossible, in a few years, for nearly 98 percent of prospective mothers to find accommodations in hospitals. This is one reason why the Greater Detroit Hospital Fund is conducting a campaign for funds to enlarge existing hospitals and build new ones.
The Fund has allocated \$3,500,000 to help construct the new Southern Oakland Hospital.*

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