

Oxygen the Life-Giver

Our Hospital Is Now Prepared to Administer It When Needed
(By George B. Lake, M.D.)

Without air, the active constituent of which is oxygen, a human being could live only a very few minutes. This gas is the source of all those complicated processes of combustion that make up the picture of the assimilation of food and the destruction of waste matter which constitute the physiology of life.

When a person has pneumonia, from any cause whatever, parts of one or both lungs become partially or wholly solid, and often the remaining parts are unable to take up enough oxygen from the air (which contains

only 20 or 25 per cent of that gas, the rest being chiefly nitrogen) to keep the fires of the body burning, and the patient dies, not from the disease, but from suffocation. If he could be kept alive a few days or weeks longer, his body would be able to win the fight against the germs of pneumonia.

In such cases, the custom has developed in the last few years, of giving the sick man more oxygen for a while, to tide him over the danger point. For this purpose, gas-tight rooms have been constructed in some

large hospitals, at a cost of many thousands of dollars, into which the patient's bed was placed and oxygen added to the air inside, in any proportion he seemed to need; or the gas has been "fed" to him through a paper funnel, wasting a large percentage of it and doing him little or no good.

Recently an apparatus, the best of its kind now available, has been devised which gives all the advantages of an oxygen room at a fraction of the cost. This is known as the Roth-Barach oxygen tent, and is so arranged that the patient, lying comfortably in his bed, has his head surrounded by a gas-tight tent with windows so that the nurse can watch him all the time, into which any desired percentage of oxygen can be pumped regularly. The mixture of

air and oxygen is dried and purified in a chamber filled with soda lime, and cooled in another chamber filled with ice, so that he has all of the advantages of the out-door treatment which was so popular a few years ago, without any of its disadvantages.

Through the thoughtfulness and generosity of Mr. and Mrs. Richard Uhlmann, of Highland Park, our own Highland Park hospital is now equipped with one of these machines, as a memorial to Mary Ann Benjamin, of Glencoe, whose life was prolonged by this means.

As the head only, of the patient, is within the tent, he can be treated continuously for days or, if necessary, even for weeks (usually a few days are enough), for all necessary attention can be given him by the doctor and the nurse without disturbing the apparatus, except to feed him, give him medicine or wash his face.

The cost of the oxygen (about \$5 for twenty-four hours of treatment) is negligible, when we consider that it may, and frequently does, save a life. One who has seen the prompt and surprising improvement in a desperately ill pneumonia patient, after being supplied with this life-giving gas, would never give a thought to the matter of its trifling cost.

The benefits of this modern treatment of a serious and all-too-frequently fatal disease are now available to the residents of Highland Park and the territory near by; and this fact gives us another reason to be proud of our hospital and to be eager to enter its kindly and helpful atmosphere whenever we are at all seriously ill.

This oxygen tent is a very interesting piece of machinery, and those who have a yearning to see it will be courteously received and accommodated by the hospital authorities, who are more than glad to have people become thoroughly familiar with the active and up-to-date little institution over which they preside and which all our people should understand and appreciate.

Frigidaire Production Breaks 3 Months Record

All first quarter production records were broken by Frigidaire Corporation during the first three months of 1930, according to E. G. Biechler, president and general manager. More men are being employed than ever before at this time of the year, he stated.

"This increase in employment took place after the installation of a large amount of labor saving machinery, which in itself was counted upon to take care of a normal increase in business without additions to the personnel during the first quarter," he said. "This company the largest in the field, expects to again break all records in 1930."

"Present manufacturing activity is centered upon the household electric refrigerator. The moist air compartment, or hydrator, recently added to the line, has proved to be a very popular improvement and indications point to a still greater demand when the public becomes acquainted with the advantages it affords."

There are more Frigidaires than all other makes of electric refrigerators combined, a factory announcement says.

ANNOUNCING—

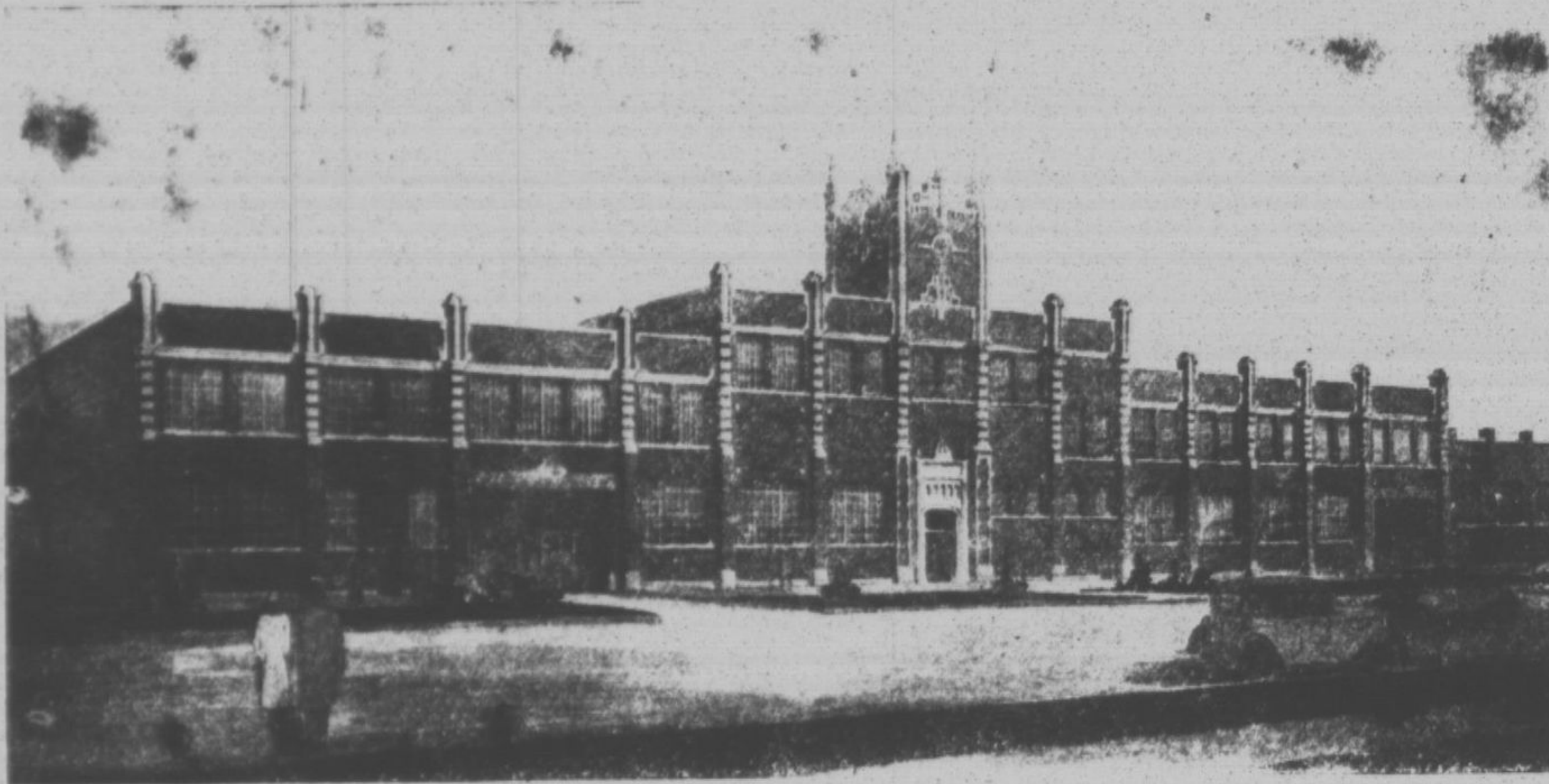
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