



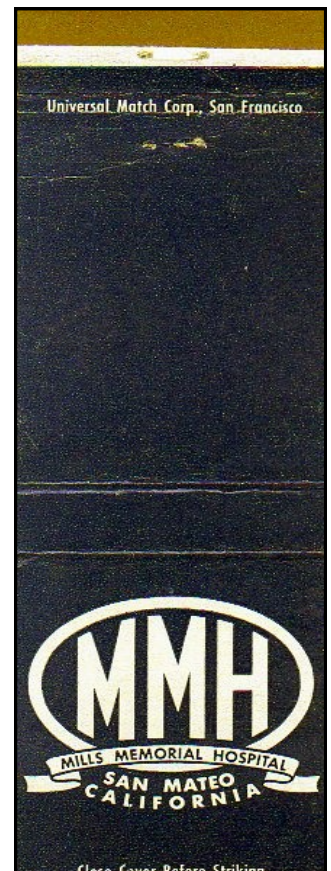
Hospitals



by
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Hospitals! They're like lawyers. No one wants to go to one, but when you need one...you *need* one!

The earliest documented institutions aiming to provide cures were ancient Egyptian temples. In Ancient Greece, temples dedicated to the healer-god Asclepius functioned as hospitals. India had hospitals at least



as early as c. 400 BC. Historically, hospitals were normally founded and funded by religious orders or charitable groups or individuals.

Nearly 100,000 Americans are hospitalized every day, which means nearly 40 million every year. It's difficult to compare and rank all hospitals. They differ greatly in service, results, etc., but many specialize in certain areas. For example: the Anderson Cancer Center in Huston is ranked no. 1 in cancer treatment; the Cleveland Clinic in Ohio is ranked no. 1 in cardiology and heart surgery; and the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York City is ranked no. 1 in Orthopedics.

Still, a *U.S. News & World Report* listing of the top ten best U.S. hospitals, released last year, gives the following:

1. Massachusetts General Hospital
2. Mayo Clinic
3. UCLA Medical Center (tied)
3. Johns Hopkins Hospital (tied)
5. Cleveland Clinic
6. Brigham and Women's Hospital
7. New York-Presbyterian University Hospital of Columbia and Cornell
8. UCSF Medical Center
9. Hospitals of the University of Pennsylvania-Penn Presbyterian
10. Barnes-Jewish Hospital/Washington University

Many hospitals used to issue their own matchbooks. Of course, they don't anymore. [*sigh!*] I have 833 in my own collection, and that includes military hospitals.

