

## Siamese Twins Dead, Both Passed Away Almost at Same Second; Refused Operation to Sepa- rate Living from Dead.

Chicago, March 30.—Josefa and Rosa Blazek, the Siamese twins, died here early today. Josefa died first and a few seconds later Rosa expired. Their brother Frank declined to permit the physicians to perform an operation severing the two. The twins were born in Czecho-Slovakia, forty-two years ago.

The twins had been confined in the hospital ten days. Josefa was ill with yellow jaundice and this was followed by pneumonia. Shortly before her death Rosa was afflicted with bronchitis.

Following the refusal of the brother to authorize the operation, Dr. E. M. Breakstone, chief of the surgical staff of the hospital, declared this morning that it would be impossible to save one of the twins in the event of the other's death.

Preparations had been made for the operations and the physicians were ready to make every effort to save the life of at least one of the women.

Hope of saving the life of Josefa was abandoned at midnight, according to Dr. Breakstone.

"I tried to get the consent of the brother to operate to save the life of Rosa but he refused to give his permission," added the physician.

Dr. Breakstone explained that a delicate operation would have been necessary. Before their death he had expressed the opinion that the physiological affinity of the twins was so vital that if one should die the other might also succumb before the bond of flesh and bone that joins them could be severed.

Although the twins possessed separate respiratory and cardiac systems Dr. Breakstone explained that they had only one set of secondary digestive and procreative organs. The operation, he said, would have necessitated the building up of a part of the digestive organs to save the life of one twin.

Rosa was once married, her name being Rosa Blak Vourk. She is survived by a normal 11 year old boy. Her husband was a captain in the German army and was killed in action in 1917. She was married 15 years ago. Josefa never married.

The little son Franz, has been at the bedside of his mother who until within the last few hours was less critically ill than Josefa.

Twins that have attracted world wide fame include the Hindu sisters, who were joined face to face, the connection being at the chest; the Newport twins somewhat similar to the Hindu twins; the Orissa sisters, Raddica and Doddica joined side by side, the Biddenden maids connected shoulder to shoulder with only two arms; the Hungarian sisters, Helen and Judith, joined back to back at the lower segment of the spine and the North Carolina sisters, Millie and Christine, joined as were the Hungarian sisters and the Bohemian twins, Resella and Josepha, connected in the same manner as the twins who just died. Their connection was through the pelvis, the right hip of one and the left of the other fused together.