

# Johnny Goes to the Hospital



written by **JOSEPHINE ABBOTT SEVER**

under the editorial direction of **SYDNEY S. GELLIS, M.D.**

Illustrated by *Mary Stevens*



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO

---

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC RELATIONS

THE CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

300 LONGWOOD AVENUE

BOSTON, MASS.

# Johnny Goes to the Hospital

---

by JOSEPHINE ABBOTT SEVER

*under the editorial direction of*

Sydney S. Gellis, M. D.

*Illustrated by Mary Stevens*

---

*Published for the Children's Hospital, Boston, through  
the Medical Information and Education Service*

HOUGHTON MIFFLIN COMPANY BOSTON

*The Riverside Press Cambridge*

## FOR PARENTS

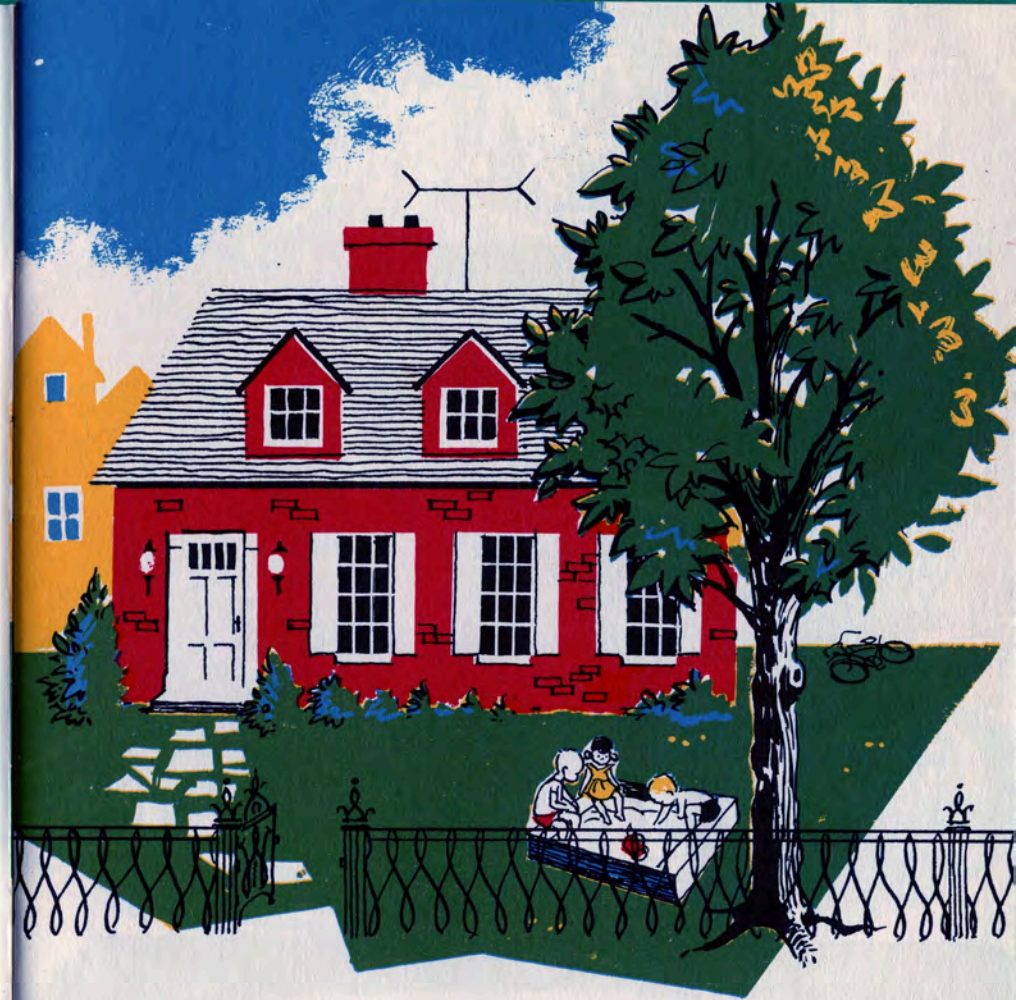
This book was compiled by the Staff of the Children's Medical Center of Boston, Massachusetts. The purpose of the book is to acquaint children and their parents with hospital environment and procedures in the hope of allaying the anxiety of children faced with hospitalization.

Please read this book to your child several times before he enters the hospital so that he may become familiar with hospital routine and procedures.

### POINTS TO REMEMBER:

1. This book describes a general hospital experience. It does not give specific details about any one kind of operation or illness, in order that it may apply to all hospitalized children.
2. Always tell your child the truth. You are the ones to tell him that he is coming to the hospital.
3. Tell him *why* he is coming as simply as possible in order not to frighten him. What a child knows he is less likely to fear.
4. Never threaten a child with hospitalization.
5. Do not tell him you are coming right back if the hospital rules will not allow you to do so. Find out the visiting hours from your own hospital in advance.

COPYRIGHT, 1953, BY CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO REPRODUCE  
THIS BOOK OR PARTS THEREOF IN ANY FORM  
LIBRARY OF CONGRESS CATALOGUE CARD NUMBER 53-7234  
PRINTED IN U.S.A.



Johnny lived in a red brick house with his Mummy, his Daddy, his older brother Richard, and his sister Sue, who was nearly his own age. In front of their house there was a nice wide yard with a maple tree and a big sandbox under it.



One day Richard wanted Johnny to come out and play with him in the yard, but Johnny didn't feel very well—his stomach ached. He lay on the window seat and watched Richard, who began to build something interesting in the sandbox.



Mummy decided the doctor had better look him over. Johnny liked young Dr. Thomas.

The doctor told Mummy, and Mummy told Johnny, that he was going to a hospital to have something done about the ache in his stomach.



When Johnny heard about this, he began to wonder about the hospital and what it was like. He was going to be away for a few days, Mummy said, so they asked him if he would like to pack his bag. He put in his toothbrush and his toothpaste, his favorite book, and his old Teddy bear. As a matter of fact, Brown Bear (that was his name) hadn't been feeling too well himself lately. His squeak had grown fainter and fainter.



Johnny kept thinking about his trip. It would be his first visit away from home. He could hardly wait for the taxi to come. It was exciting to drive with Mummy and Daddy up to the door of the hospital, which is where they take care of sick children. It was a great big building, like the school his brother went to.



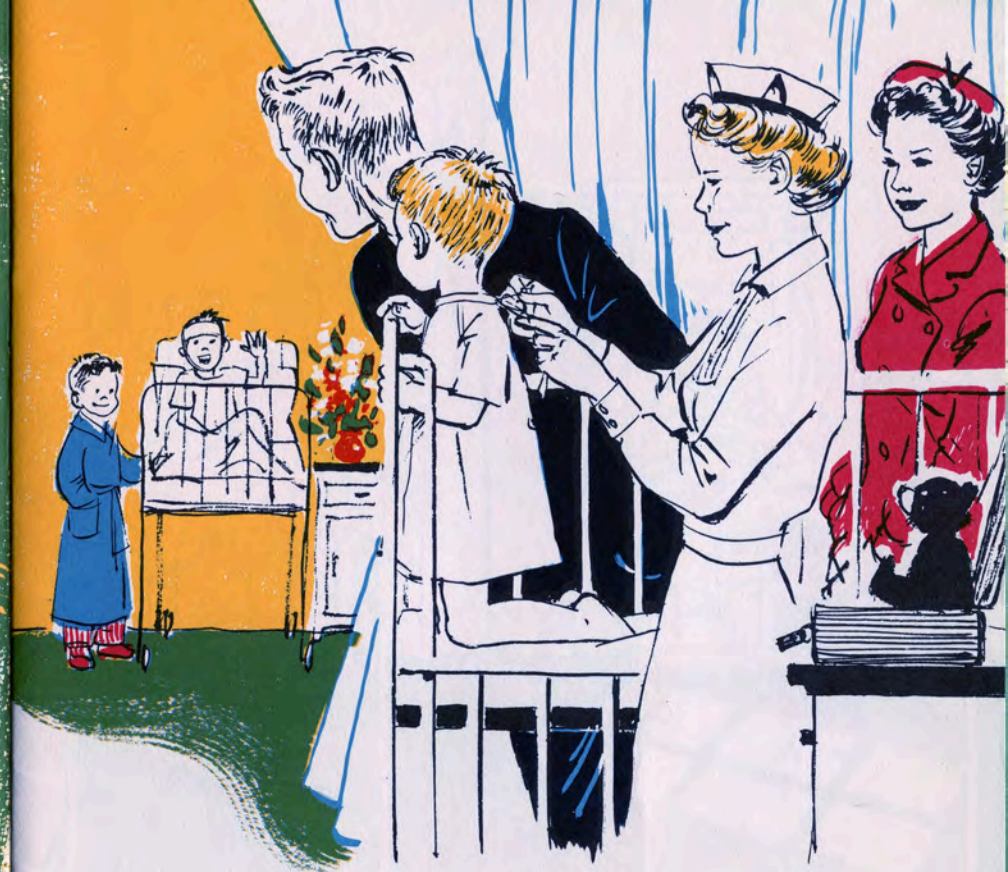
Inside the hospital Johnny noticed that all the ladies and some of the men were dressed in white. Mummy said they were called Nurses and Doctors.



They went to a desk where one of the nurses asked Daddy a lot of questions while Johnny and Mummy waited on a bench nearby and Mummy read to Johnny from some books.



Then a nurse took Mummy, Daddy, and Johnny upstairs in an elevator just like the one Johnny had seen in a store at Christmastime. Johnny rode in a funny little cart with wheels.



The nurse undressed Johnny and put him in a white bed in a room with a lot of other children. She put a little white gown on him that tied in the back. It was called a "johnny," just like his name. Some of the children were in bed. Some of them were walking around and others were wheeling themselves in chairs with big wheels. The children waved to Johnny and said "hello."



Johnny asked the nurse why that boy was in a little tent. She told him it was to help him to breathe more easily. Another boy had a queer little bottle hanging on a pole beside his bed. A tiny tube from the bottle was hitched to his arm. Johnny asked the nurse what was in the bottle. She said it was blood to make up for some he had lost.

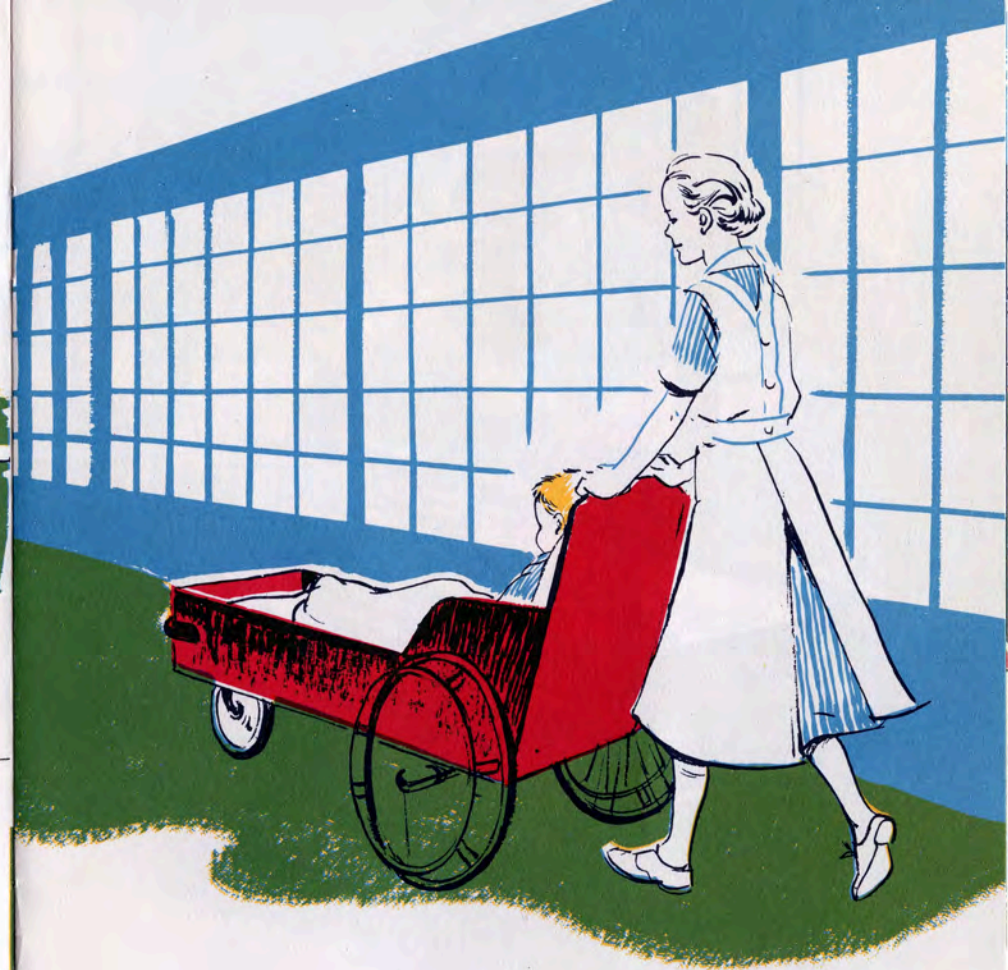


Soon a doctor in white came to feel his stomach. In the hospital most of the doctors wear white suits and caps, and sometimes have a piece of white cheesecloth over their mouths so that if they have a cold the children won't catch it.

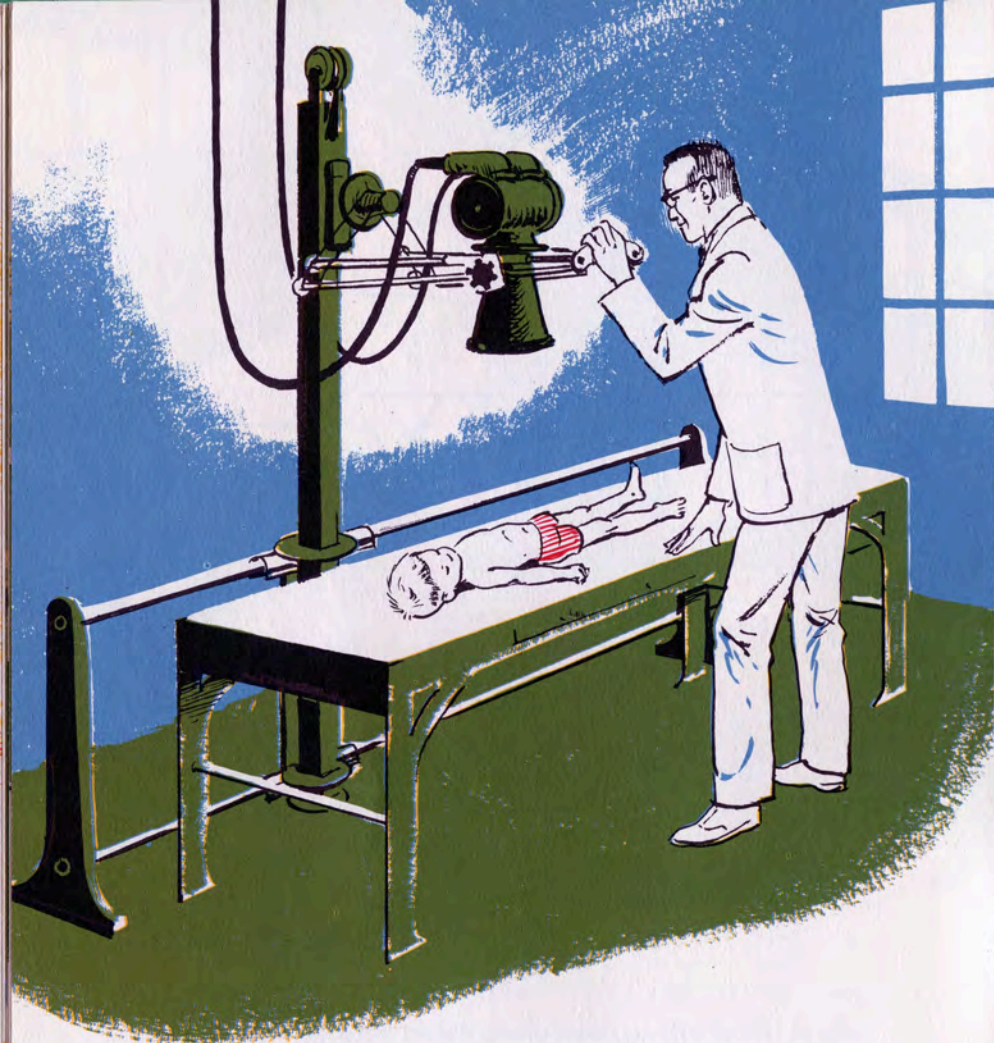




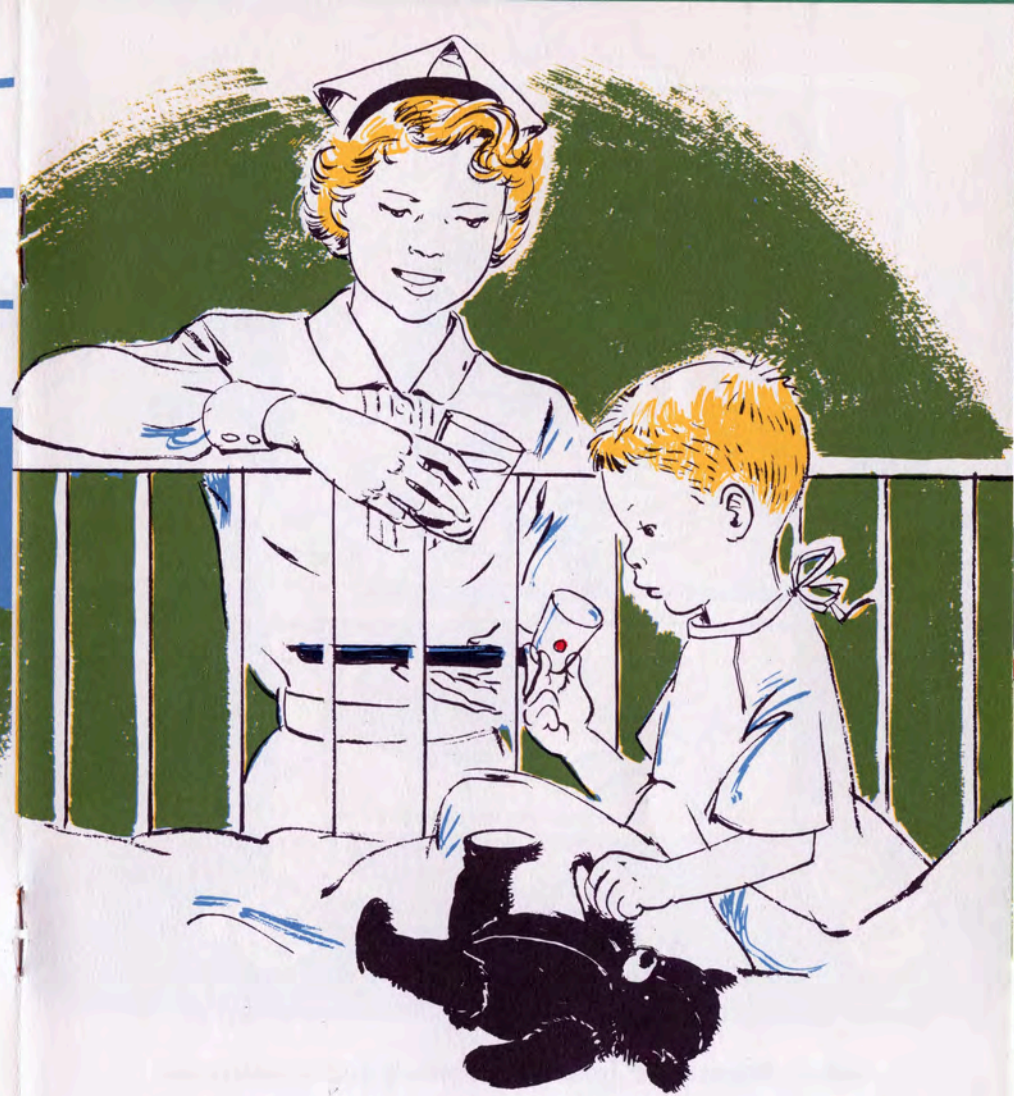
Pretty soon a lady carrying a tray came in. She said she was Miss Jones and would have to prick his finger with a little needle to see what the color of Johnny's blood was like. She said it would hurt for a second. It felt just as if he had pricked his finger with a pin. He really didn't mind it at all. Miss Jones said he was a very good boy.



In a little while, the doctor came back and said they wanted to take a picture of his stomach. Johnny wondered how they could do that. He was put in another cart with wheels and had a long ride. The nurses' helper pushed the cart down many corridors with windows on both sides.



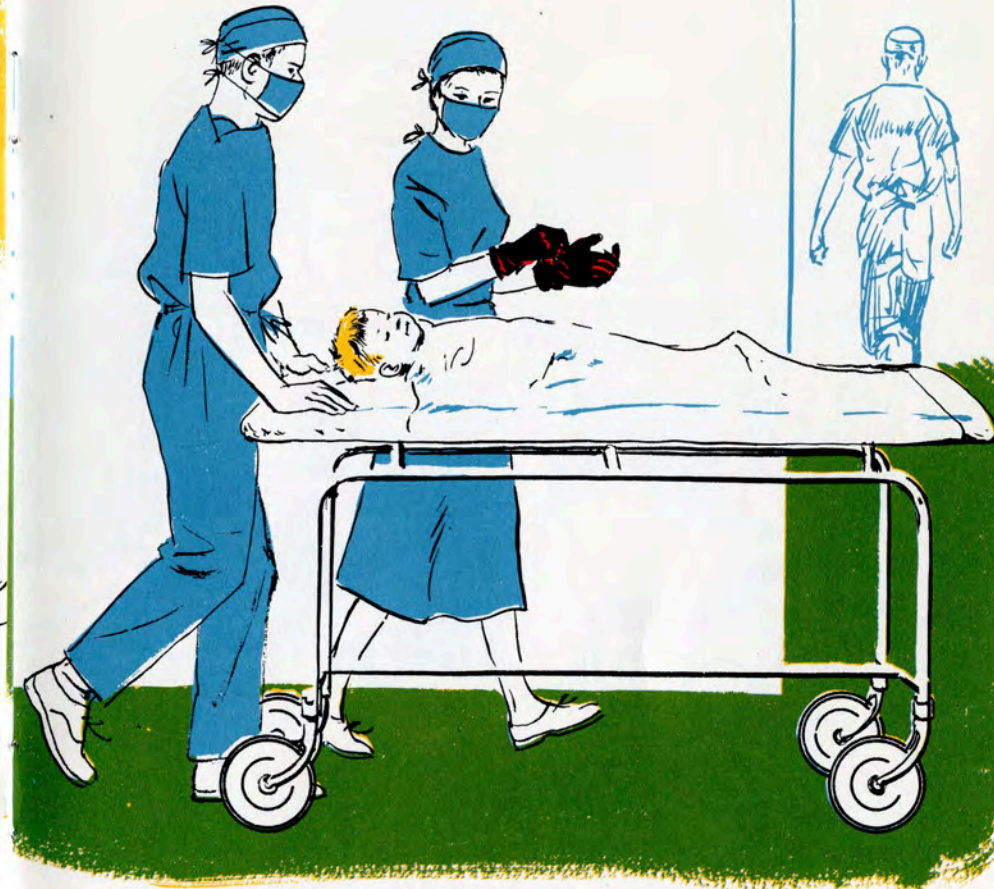
They came to a room where he had to lie down on a hard table and some people there took a picture of his stomach with a big camera. Johnny thought it looked like the big cameras he had seen on television. Then he had another ride back to his bed.



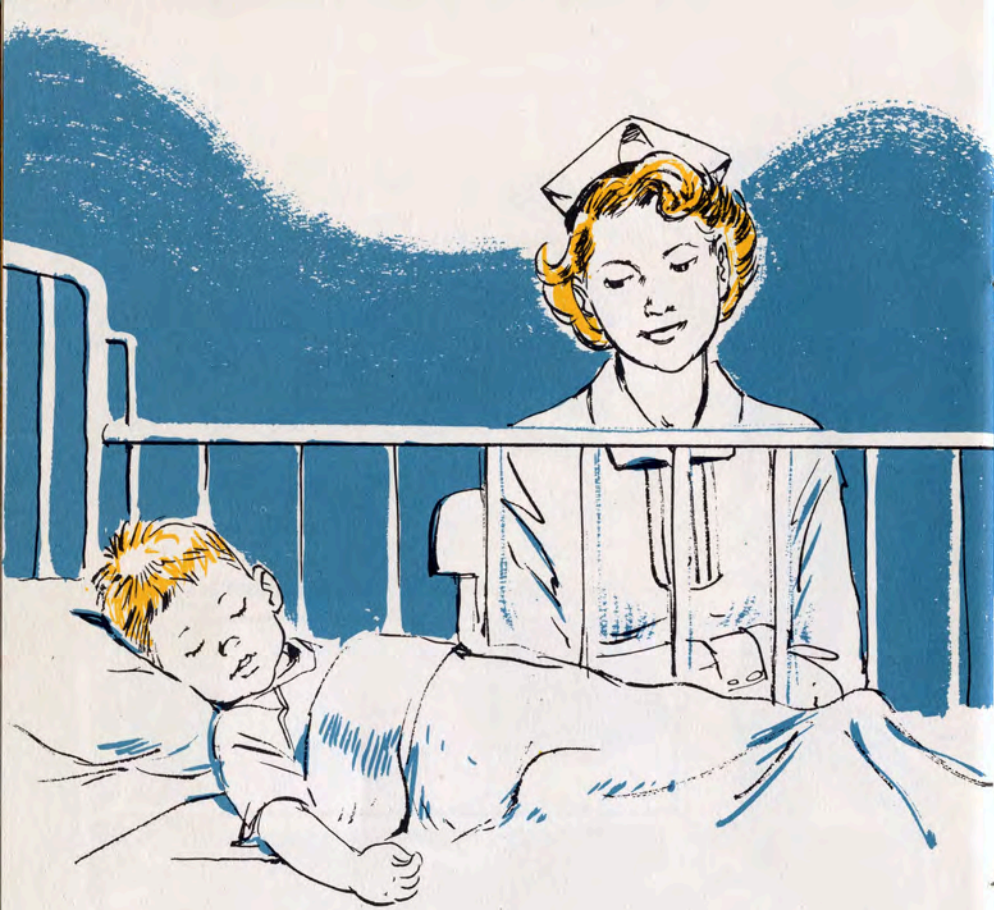
After Johnny was back in his bed, Miss Peters, the nurse, gave him some pills which made him sleepy.



Miss Peters told Johnny she was going to put some medicine into his arm to make him more sleepy. She said the needle might hurt for just a minute. It only took a second and wasn't very bad. When she rubbed Johnny's arm afterwards, it stopped hurting right away.



A nurse put Johnny on a long table with wheels and told him he was going to a room where he was to blow a tube just as if he were blowing up balloons. But afterwards he would come back to his same bed and to the nurses he knew.

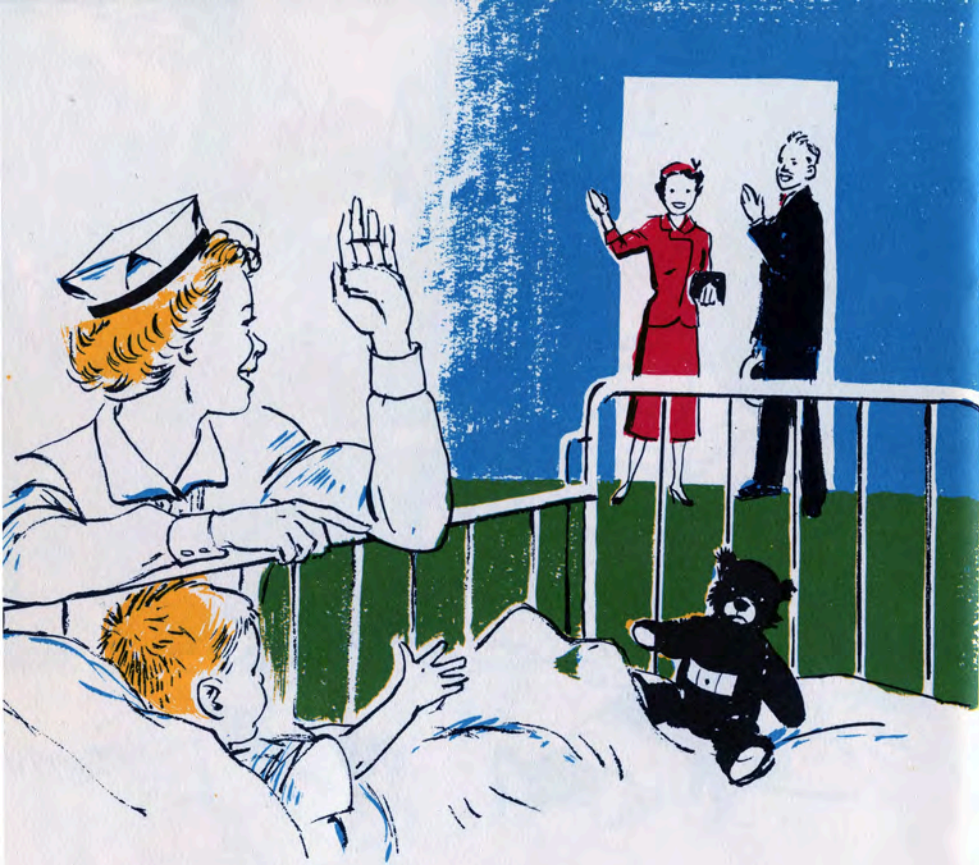


When Johnny woke up he was back in his bed again. Miss Peters told him he had had an operation. His stomach was sore, but the nurse said it was all right and that he would feel better soon.



He had a long, long nap. When he woke up his Mummy and Daddy were there and the nurse was bringing him something to drink in a glass with a straw in it. It tasted funny, but Johnny was thirsty so he drank most of it.

Johnny wanted to know when he could go home. Mummy and Daddy said the doctor would decide that soon.



After a visit with Johnny Mummy had to go home to take care of the other children and Daddy had to go to work, but they said they would be back soon and would bring him a present. Johnny wanted a little toy train.



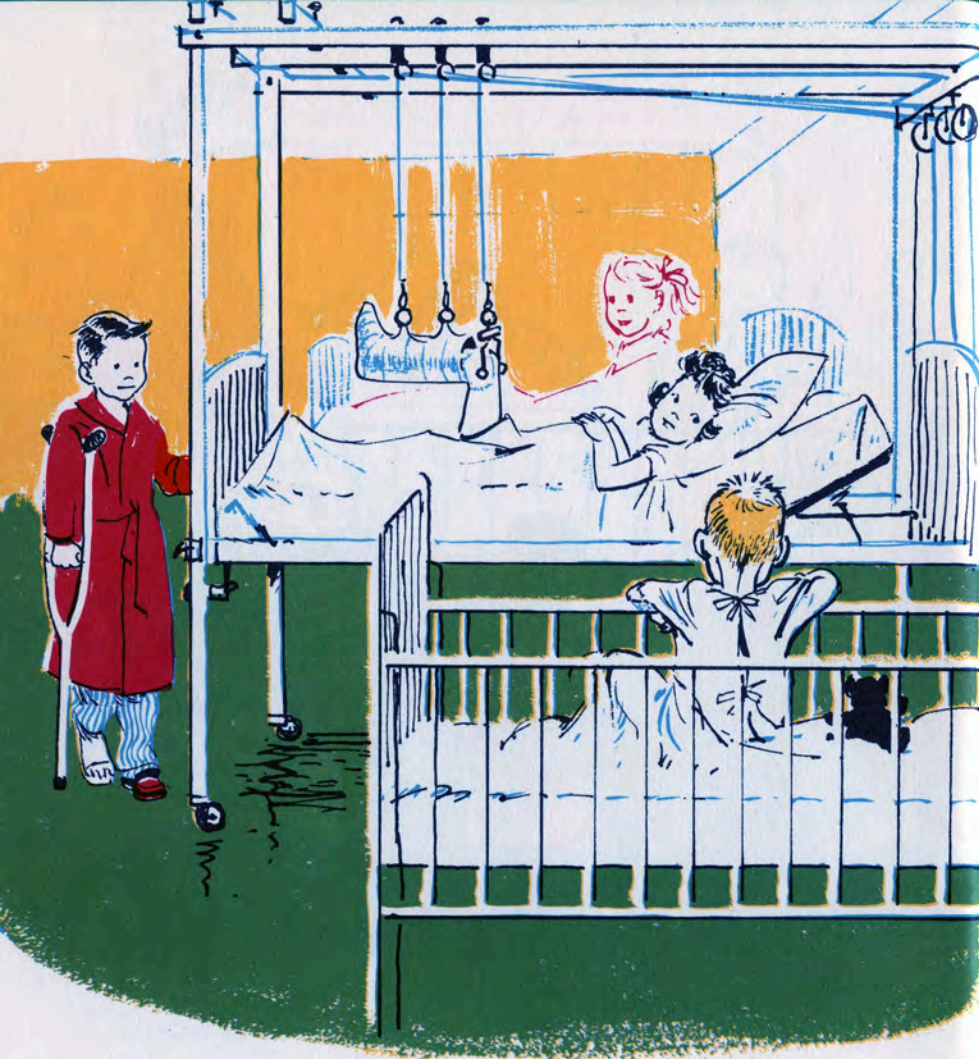
In the morning Miss Peters came to wash his face and hands and help him brush his teeth.



Soon it was time for lunch. The nurse brought him a tray with nice things to eat. It was fun eating in bed and watching all the other children eat. The ice cream tasted good. It was so cool.



In a few days he was able to sit up in bed. A lady in a smock with a basket on her arm came to see Johnny. The other children called her a "play lady." In the basket there were crayons, coloring books, pieces of colored paper, scissors, toys, and little games. She told Johnny he could choose what he'd like to play with.



Johnny looked at the new girl in the next bed. She had a strange sort of bandage around her knee. Johnny asked her what was the matter. She said she had hurt her leg.



That day his Mummy and Daddy came to the hospital to see him, and they had brought him the train he wanted. His friends had sent him some cards, too. Mummy read the cards to him and the nurse pinned them up on his bed. Then Mummy opened another package she had brought, and gave Johnny a black box that looked like a suitcase. It had a handle and a clasp which he had to open to see what was inside.



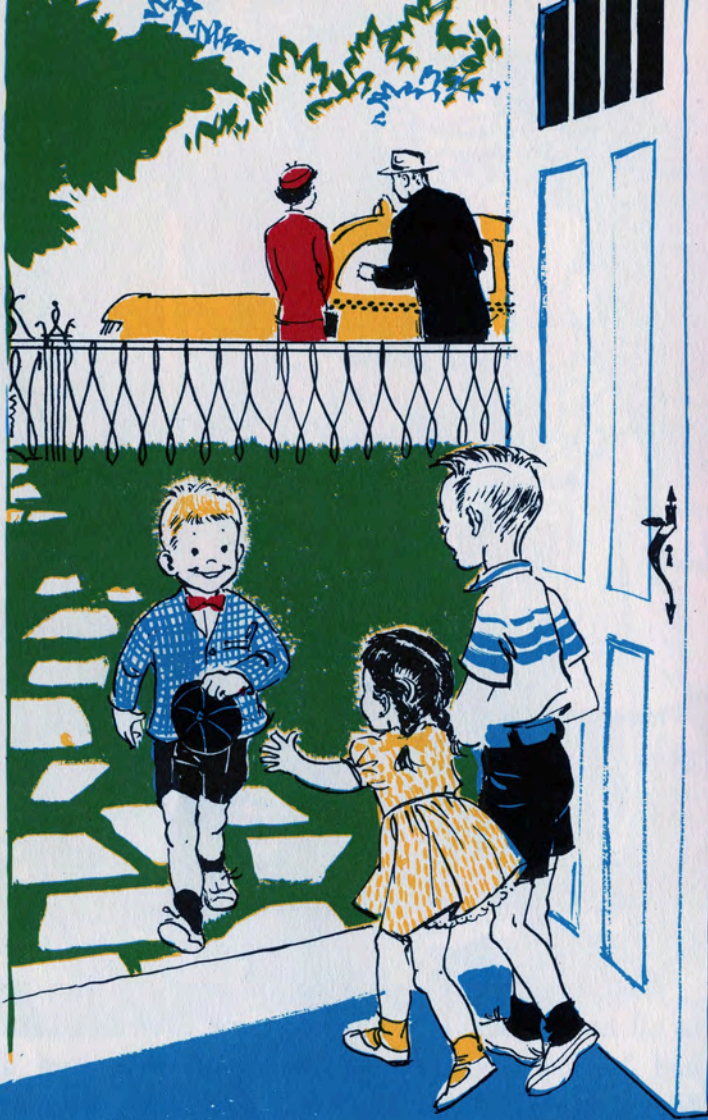
Inside the bag were just the sort of things Dr. Thomas had used on Johnny, only smaller. He thought he would try them on Brown Bear to see if his squeak was any better.

It was better.



The next day the doctor said Johnny could get up and walk to the playroom. There they had a television set and a record player, blackboards, and toys. The "play lady" came to help the children.





HOME AGAIN!



## ABOUT THIS BOOK, THE AUTHOR, AND THE ILLUSTRATOR

This book was undertaken by the staff of the Children's Medical Center, Boston, to answer a need which they have long experienced. It prepares young children for their first hospitalization. Too often parents have not known how much — or how little — to tell the child, sometimes have not themselves known what to expect, and often in an attempt not to alarm the child, have conveyed their own anxieties and dread of the experience.

The book aims to inform both child — and parent — of what is in store for the child through the visit of a little boy named Johnny. He goes to the hospital with a bad stomach ache. He takes his beloved old Brown Bear, and his mother and father see them both safely tucked into bed in a ward with several other children. He has a blood test and takes a long ride in a wheeled cart to have an x-ray. Before his operation he is given some pills to make him sleepy and then a hypodermic, which puts him entirely to sleep before he leaves the ward. The period of discomfort afterward is short, and during his swift recovery he discovers what fun it is to eat ice cream in bed, make the things which the "Play Lady" has in her basket, and eventually watch television in the play room. His parents bring him a play doctor's bag and he cures Brown Bear of his sickness, too. Altogether there is nothing very terrifying about it — he has a good time — and his contemporaries who hear his story and look at the delightful and brightly colored illustrations will be familiar with the experience when it is their turn. Such indoctrination should lessen the shock of an unexpected trip to a strange place, and should spare the parents any necessity for hasty, inadequate explanations.

Authenticated by the staff of the Children's Medical Center, this book was written by Josephine Abbott Sever, under the editorial direction of Sydney S. Gellis, M.D. Herself the mother of six children (and grandmother of eleven) Mrs. Sever was Massachusetts State Mother of 1947. Through both her personal and professional experience she is well qualified to write this book. She holds degrees from both Smith and Radcliffe. As an accredited psychologist, she was Educational Consultant of the American Social Hygiene Association, and consultant in Parent Education in the Division of Child Hygiene, Massachusetts State Department of Public Health. Mrs. Sever was for many years on the staff of the Judge Baker Guidance Center in Boston, and this year marks her fifth as Director of Public Relations, the Children's Hospital and Children's Medical Center, Boston, Massachusetts.

Dr. Sydney S. Gellis is a physician at the Children's Medical Center, and Assistant Professor of Pediatrics, Harvard Medical School. It was the same teamwork between Mrs. Sever and Dr. Gellis which produced the Accident Handbook, published by the Children's Medical Center in 1950.

The illustrator, Mary Stevens, already has many children's books to her credit, including *TINY TOOSEY'S BIRTHDAY* and *THE FIRST BOOK OF NURSES*. For this book she came to Boston where she observed and made countless drawings at the Children's Hospital. Her pictures of Johnny, Brown Bear, the doctors and nurses, and the many parts of the hospital which Johnny sees reflect equally her accuracy of observation and the spontaneous understanding for children which distinguishes all of her work.