

## Book Review

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**Children in Hospital.** Carolyn Whitehead. Ashridge Press: Bakewell; Derbyshire, 2003, 125pp, ISBN 1-901214133. Paperback.

**Children in Hospital** - by Carolyn Whitehead is a collection of over 50 stories and brief accounts describing how conditions and treatments of children have changed over the past 100 years. The book is divided into nine chapters including an overview of examples of care in hospitals in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and leads on to a brief history of Philipshill hospital in Glasgow. The next five chapters are split into decades relating individual stories of stays in hospital from the 1920s through to the 1960s and present day.

With accounts from nursing staff and brief anecdotes describing the food, the wards and the education that children received, this book provides the reader with a real sense of what it was like to experience a hospital stay from a child's perspective.

Although unclear who the target audience are, the chapters themselves are well researched with a good mix of personal stories from differing hospitals throughout the UK. I found it to be a mostly enjoyable read, though some stories did give you a real sense of how their stay in hospital has affected them in later life.

All in all this book would be useful for anyone wishing to know historical background to children's hospital stays, including the illnesses that were most common in any given decade.