Visitors' car parks are also illustrated on the plan, and it would be helpful if you would park in these areas only, in order to avoid congestion on the hospital roadways.

On Admission:

- When you bring your daughter to hospital, let her have with her favourite possession (unless it is alive).
- Please mention any details of your daughter's habits or routine to the Nurse who meets you. This is especially important to younger children, many of whom have their own special words which they use in connection with such matters as pottie training and other essential requirements.
- 3. Please bring with you, soap, flannel, toothbrush and paste, brush and comb, and, if possible, dressing gown and slippers.

Visiting Arrangements:

There are no set daily visiting hours for the Children's Ward, and except on Thursday afternoon from 2—5 p.m., parents may, at the discretion of the Doctor or Ward Sister, visit their children at any time of the day.

Parents are asked to note, however, that there may be times when the Doctor or Ward Sister may feel that it would be unwise for their child to have visitors on a particular day or time, or that on medical grounds the whole ward, or a part of it, should be free of visitors for a period. Such measures are not used unless absolutely necessary, but the success of the arrangements for unrestricted visiting of children depends upon mutual co-operation of this kind between parents and the medical and nursing staff.

The Committee regret that children under 14 years cannot be allowed to visit the Children's Ward, other than in very exceptional circumstances, and then only by arrangement with the Ward Sister.

Entrances for Visitors:

When you come to visit your daughter would you please use the entrance marked 'A' on the plan.

Food:

If you wish to bring sweets, fruit or food, please ask Sister or Staff Nurse first. Diet is often an important part of the treatment and you may even delay recovery by not asking and accepting the advice of the Nursing Staff in this matter. It is extremely important that you adhere strictly to the advice given.

Illness:

If you have a cold or diarrhoea, or any illness, or if anyone is ill in your family, please speak to Sister or her Deputy before you visit.

Social Services:

The Medical Social Worker (formerly known as the Almoner) is available to help you regarding personal problems or difficulties, and if you wish to see her, please inform the Ward Sister. This service is available throughout the time your daughter is under the care of the hospital.

Mail:

Children like to receive picture postcards or letters, and it would be helpful if you would write frequently to your daughter particularly if you are unable to visit.

Telephone:

It would be helpful if you could leave a telephone number with the Ward Sister, either your own, or, if you are not on the telephone, that of a friend who lives nearby and who is willing to take messages for you.

Your daughter's progress:

The Ward Sister or Staff Nurse will be glad to give you as much information as possible about your daughter's progress, but you should appreciate that some tests require days of work and observation before results are known, and many treatments need to be carried out for long periods before any improvement is obvious.

Coming Home:

Home coming day will be decided upon by the Medical Staff, and Sister or Staff Nurse will make the necessary arrangements with you. It is regretted that sometimes notice of home coming may be unavoidably short. Some children need to be seen by the hospital medical staff from time to time after they are discharged from hospital and, if this applies to your daughter, Sister will give you an approximate idea of when to expect an out-patient appointment.

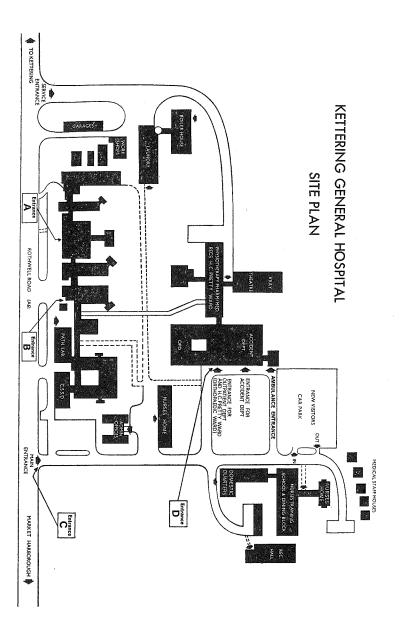
At home again:

It is quite common for young children to be upset when they first come home from hospital and they demand a great deal of attention. If you understand that this is quite usual and make allowances for it, it will soon pass. Very shortly your daughter will settle into her normal routine and her stay in hospital will, we trust, gradually become a not wholly unpleasant memory.

Suggestions for improving the Service:

It is the constant aim of the Management Committee and the staff, to continue to improve the services provided at the hospital and constructive suggestions for improvements will be welcomed and should be addressed to:—

The Administrative Officer, General Hospital, Rothwell Road, Kettering.



KETTERING GENERAL HOSPITAL

Admission of Children to Hospital

INFORMATION BOOKLET

Introduction:

Your daughter is to be admitted to this hospital, and the staff wish her a speedy recovery and are anxious to make her stay

here as happy as her condition may allow.

Many children are happy once they are in hospital, but they are often worried at the idea of going to stay there as it may be a new experience for them. The more wisely you prepare them for it the less strange it will seem, and this leaflet is intended to answer some of your queries, and suggest some ways in which you may help your daughter.

Before Admission:

- I. Please try to avoid any suggestion that your daughter's stay in hospital will be either a treat or a punishment.
- 2. Tell your daughter that she is going into hospital to be made well and that although you cannot stay with her all the time, you will visit her whenever possible.
- Assure her that the doctors and nurses want only to be kind and if they should have to hurt her a little it is done only to make her really well.
- 4. If your daughter is to have an operation, tell her that she will be put into a deep sleep, and that when she wakes up the operation will be over. She will be drowsy and not very well for a day or two, but she will know that she is getting better all the time.

Notice of Admission:

Please accept our sincere apologies if your daughter has to be brought into the hospital at short notice. The number of children requiring emergency admission varies from week to week, and this makes it impracticable to plan too far ahead.

Admission Procedure:

For your guidance, a plan of the hospital is printed at the back of this leaflet.

When you bring your daughter to the hospital you should enter the grounds by the entrance in Rothwell Road farthest from the town (the entrance marked 'C' on the plan), and go to the Admissions Desk in the Medical Records Department. The Admissions Clerk will ask you to verify the accuracy of certain personal particulars already in her possession, and then you will be escorted to the Ward.