

DOCTOR SCRIPT 1985

SONG  
An apple a day keeps the Doctor away  
You've heard the old saying no doubt  
And I'm sure it is true, but between me and you,  
There aint many apples about.  
Though they grow on a tree  
Money doesn't, you see  
And you've got to have money to buy.  
It's the same with your health  
It depends on your wealth,  
So if you are poor, you must cry -

Can we afford the Doctor,  
The dentist, the midwife, the nurse?  
It doesn't seem fair  
That medical care  
Should depend on the state of your purse.  
I know it's a hard pill to swallow  
But what can we take for a cure,  
And if only the rich can afford to be sick,  
How cheap are the lives of the poor?

MILKMAN (JODELLING) Ew-oo! Ew-oo! - Milko! Milko! Fresh from  
the cow. Bring out your basins. Get it while it's  
warm.

ANNIE  
When I was a child, people used to come round the  
streets, selling things. The milkman used to come  
round two or three times a day cos in hot weather the mi  
used to go off very quickly.

ICE-CREAM SELLER Hokey-pokey, penny a lump! Ha'penny ice-cream!  
Hokey-pokey a penny! Hokey-pokey!

SELLER Cresses! Young watercresses! Fresh picked water-  
cresses! Cresses!

ANNIE  
And in the open market you could buy anything.

SELLER Hot potatoes, hot potatoes! Ha'penny each. Keep  
your hands warm while you eat em. Hot potatoes!

SELLER Shrimps and winkles! Cockles and whelks! Ready to  
eat. Shrimps and winkles!

SELLER Flypapers, flypapers! Guaranteed arsenic compound.  
Hang a flypaper in your house and be free from flies.  
Bluebottles and flies! Catch em alive! Flypapers!

DENTIST  
Are you in pain? Are you suffering agony? Then,  
ladies and gentlemen, relief is at hand! I hold the  
world record for extracting teeth at amazing speed!

ANNIE  
Anybody could set up as a dentist in those days.  
You didn't have to have qualifications. And there

ANNIE (con) wasn't much to dentistry then except pulling teeth out. People didn't bother with fillings and things. You waited till a tooth hurt so much you couldn't stand it any more and then you pulled it out.

11) DENTIST What is more, you will be astounded at my prices! I don't have to pay rent for an expensive surgery. ~~All my equipment is behind this screen.~~ Can you afford to miss this incredible offer?

ANNIE If we had any teeth come loose, we'd tie a bit of cotton round the tooth and then tie the other end to a door handle. Then you'd slam the door. But sometimes it wouldn't work and you had to pay to have it done. It could be very expensive at an ordinary dentist.

DENTIST I can guarantee you won't know that tooth has gone. You will not feel a thing. Who's going to be first? You sir? Then step this way. You'll bless this day.

ANNIE People didn't expect so much. You put up with what the Lord sent you. When you got old, your teeth fell out. You didn't expect false teeth. My grannie never had false teeth. All her teeth came out except two - these two here. But she could eat nearly everything cos her gums hardened. She got by.

3) SELLER 2 Glasses! Watches! Mechanical bits and pieces! What you fancy, lady? A watch for your old man or a pair of glasses for your good self? Second-hand spectacles, all as good as new. Try a pair on, madam.

A WOMAN TRIES ON A PAIR AND SQUINTS THROUGH THEM.

ANNIE People didn't have their eyes tested in those days. They didn't worry about that. If they thought they couldn't see, they'd just find a pair of glasses off a stall and hope for the best.

SELLER Genuine tortoiseshell those frames. Came from a very wealthy old lady.

WOMAN RETURNS GLASSES

SELLER Suit yourself.

ANNIE Of course a lot of people couldn't read, so I suppose there was less call for glasses. My gran never learned to read and she never wore glasses.

CLOTHES SELLER Secondhand bargains! Clothes as new! Just look at this hat, lady. Hardly been worn. Belonged to

SELLER (con) one of them posh ladies up in Kensington, them what don't like to be seen twice in the same hat. Just you try it on for size. This season's fashion. Couldn't hardly be newer.

A WOMAN TRIES IT ON

SELLER Oh, you look a real picture. Don't she look a picture?

THE FIRST WOMAN TAKES IT OFF. SHE SCRATCHES HER HEAD.  
A SECOND WOMAN TRIES IT ON.

SELLER Well, I never did! I thought it couldn't suit nobody better than what it suited you, but, blow me, it suits the other lady just as well. Neither of you could go wrong with a hat like that. Or maybe, with a hat like that, you could go wrong...

THE TWO WOMEN PUT THE HAT DOWN, GIGGLING. THEY ARE BOTH SCRATCHING THEIR HEADS VIGOROUSLY.

SELLER You don't recognise a bargain when you see one.

QUACK DOCTOR Ladies and gentlemen! Are you suffering? Have any of you ever experienced lassitude, faintness, brain fag, nervous breakdown? You have! And do you have indigestion, loss of appetite, sleeplessness? You do! And do you break out in pimples, boils, abscesses, ulcers, sores of any kind, eczema, scrofula? Do you persistently suffer from backache, rheumatism, sciatica, gout? Are you, madam, experiencing maternity weakness, palpitations or anaemia? Are you, sir, experiencing mental exhaustion, premature decay, know what I mean...?

You are, aren't you? You are suffering? Well, put an end to your suffering now! Buy a bottle of my medicine - Doctor Harvey's Patent Blood Mixture! You see, blood is the answer to everything. Get your blood right and you get your whole body right!

WOMAN PLANTED IN CROWD (COMING FORWARD) Oh, it's true, it's true what he's telling you. Ladies and gentlemen, let me tell you my story. I was under medical treatment for years, with no result except getting worse. I couldn't sleep, night or day. I dreaded to be left alone. I started at the least sound. No food agreed with me. Whatever I ate caused wind and palpitations. I had violent headaches. The splitting pain in my head was agonising. I cannot describe my suffering.

Then, as a last resort, I tried Doctor Harvey's Patent Blood Mixture. After only one bottle, I began to feel brighter, I slept through the night, I grew stronger

PLANT (con) and better daily. I could hardly believe it was real. I want to tell everybody the wonderful properties of this medicine!

QUACK DOCTOR My dear lady! What a touching tale! And what more can I add, except this is an incredible bargain at only one shilling per bottle! Get your supplies now while stocks last!

SONG I am a learned surgeon, and my name is Doctor Quack,  
My draughts and pills to cure your ills I carry on my back.  
My med'cines are the nastiest that ever cured a pain  
If once you've tasted them I know you'd ne'er be ill again.

Then oh, my! anybody ill, anybody ill, anybody ill,  
Oh my hi! I'm Doctor Quack, quack, quack-a-ka-quack,  
I cure you of any attack.  
I've syrup of squills and I've camomile pills,  
And my name is Doctor Quack.

I've ointment for a mother-in-law, she swallows half a  
pound  
She'll never trouble you again for she will sleep so sound.  
Who'll have a gross of leeches? Shall I put them on your  
back?  
You won't - then he must go elsewhere to trade, must  
Doctor Quack.

Then, oh my! anybody ill, anybody ill, anybody ill,  
Oh my hi! I'm Doctor Quack, quack, quack-a-ka-quack,  
I cure you of any attack.  
I've syrup of squills and I've camomile pills,  
And my name is Doctor Quack.

A FAMILY GROUP: MOTHER IS PREGNANT AND HOLDING A BABY.  
FATHER JOINS LATER. ANNIE INTRODUCES.

ANNIE Nineteen hundred and eleven. <sup>That's my</sup> My mother and that's my  
older brother, Edward. That's my father. I was just  
a twinkle in his eye then.

FATHER I worked in the docks, when I could get work.

MOTHER We was very poor.

ANNIE Nineteen hundred and twelve. The year I was born.  
I was a very sickly baby. I wasn't expected to live.  
I think I only lived because my mother was determined  
I shouldn't die - very determined young woman, my  
mother.

FATHER Lloyd George had just brought in his National Insurance -  
the panel system. That meant a lot of workers started  
to get sickness benefit.

MOTHER But their wives didn't, nor their children.

FATHER No, just the important ones - the workers. Ninepence for fourpence. That's what they said.

MOTHER Still, I'm glad one of us'll be able to afford the doctor.

ANNIE In Woolwich, where we lived then, they got up a public subscription.

OFFICIAL To provide a fitting memorial to our late King Edward VII. The form this memorial might take will be fully discussed at an open meeting.

FATHER I vote we spend the money covering up the railway cutting, the Smoke Hole. You can't breathe when a train goes through.

MOTHER Yes. The filth what comes out of there's terrible. You can't keep anything clean.

GOOD WORKS LADY It must be terrible for you. But what we need more than that at the moment is a Babies Home.

MOTHER Oh, yes, that'd be good. Somewhere for the poor little babies.

FATHER I'd vote for a Babies Home.

OFFICIAL The Town Hall needs a new organ.

SILENCE. THEY ALL STARE AT HIM.

MOTHER Another thing what we need, to get the sick children back on their feet again, is a convalescent home.

GOOD LADY A convalescent home would be splendid.

FATHER Yes, I'd vote for that.

GOOD LADY Or, another idea would be a row of almshouses for the elderly where they could live out their lives in some sort of comfort.

FATHER My old mum would think she was in heaven if she could get an almshouse.

MOTHER That's a lovely idea.

OFFICIAL If it is to be a memorial to our late King, it ought, properly speaking, to be a statue.

MOTHER            A statue?

FATHER            Who needs a statue?

GOOD LADY        Though, when you think about it, what we need more than absolutely anything else, something that would benefit the whole community, not just the babies, not just the children, not just the elderly, but everybody in the community, would be a hospital. We badly need our own local hospital.

MOTHER            She's right, you know. We do need a hospital.

FATHER            Hospital. Yes, that's the one. Right, we'll go for that. Hospital.

OFFICIAL         Very interesting discussion. Thank you. I now have pleasure in announcing the decision of the organising committee on how to spend the £1,200 collected by public subscription as a memorial to King Edward VII.

MOTHER            Babies home?

FATHER            Almshouses?

GOOD LADY        Hospital?

OFFICIAL         Unanimous decision: a new organ for the Town Hall and a bust of his Majesty.

ANNIE             Nineteen hundred and fourteen. When the war came my dad decided to join up.

FATHER            King and Country and-all that. You'll get regular money if I'm in the army.

MOTHER            Fourteen and sevenpence a week - wasn't much. We couldn't afford to stay on in the place we had in Woolwich. We had to move out. My old mum found us a room in Deptford, just one room. Still there was only me and the two little ones.

ANNIE             Till Dad came home on leave.

FATHER HANDS MOTHER ANOTHER BABY.

SONG              Everybody seems to be in trouble nowadays,  
 Trouble comes to all of us in many, many ways.  
 Everywhere you go, you'll hear a tale of woe,  
 The butcher wants to meet you when the baker wants his  
 dough.  
 But there's one thing no-one ever wants to pay,  
 This is why this is the latest saying of the day:

SONG (con)

Have you paid the rent? Have you paid the rent?  
 Naughty, naughty, naughty, have you paid the rent?  
 Here's a wrinkle when the landlord is about,  
 Send the kiddies down to say that mother says she's out.  
 Have you paid the rent? Have you paid the rent?  
 Never, never, tell a lie.  
 If you haven't paid the rent,  
 One day you'll repent,  
 Or you won't go to heaven when you die.

Johnston spent the night out with no knocker on the door,  
 Got no door to hang the blessed knocker on no more,  
 No more roof remains, and though he still complains,  
 He has his dinner underneath the table when it rains.  
 And the neighbours' children make old Johnston glare,  
 Shouting through the keyhole of the door that isn't there:

Have you paid the rent? Have you paid the rent?  
 Naughty, naughty, naughty, have you paid the rent?  
 Here's a wrinkle when the landlord is about,  
 Send the kiddies down to say that mother says she's out.  
 Have you paid the rent? Have you paid the rent?  
 Never, never, tell a lie.  
 If you haven't paid the rent,  
 One day you'll repent,  
 Or you won't go to heaven when you die.

1916. ANNIE IS FOUR, EDWARD IS FIVE/SIX. MUM HAS  
 A BABY PERMANENTLY IN HER ARMS. THEY ARE ALL DIRTY  
 AND RAGGED. MOTHER IS ABOUT 31.

MOTHER

In those days there was no refrigerators and the butcher  
 had to get rid of his stock at the weekend. So, if you  
 waited till ten o'clock on a Saturday night, they'd  
 auctioneer the meat off.

BUTCHER

Who'll give me four bob for this lovely piece of sirloin?

MOTHER

That's never sirloin.

BUTCHER

Lovely piece of meat. Three bob. Worth every ha'penny  
 of three bob. Two and sixpence then. Who'll give me  
 two and sixpence?

MOTHER

It's all bone.

BUTCHER

Nothing wrong with bone. Two bob.

MOTHER

One and six.

BUTCHER

For you love...one and nine. I wouldn't sell it anybody  
 else at that price.

BUTCHER WRAPS MEAT, HANDS IT OVER AND GOES.

MOTHER So that way you got a bit of cheap meat that would last you through the week, or you hoped it would. Look, Edward, Annie, what a nice bit of meat I got.

EDWARD Sunday - roast! *knife*.

ANNIE Mum, I got a sore eye.

MOTHER Oh dear, so you have. Don't rub it. You'll make it worse.

EDWARD Monday - bubble and squeak.

ANNIE Mum, my eye's ever so sore.

MOTHER Come here, let's have a look. Yes, you've got a stye or something. Let's give it a rub with my wedding ring, that'll make it better. Eddie, run along to the greengrocers - see if he's got any throw-outs. Ask him for a pennorth of potherbs.

EDWARD Tuesday - stew.

ANNIE Mum, my eye still hurts.

MOTHER No better, is it. Let's give it another rub with my wedding ring.

EDWARD Wednesday - shepherds pie. We ate a lot of potatoes cos they filled you up.

ANNIE Mum, my eye...

MOTHER Oh, gawd. It is getting bad. Let's try some tealeaves on it. That's good for sore eyes. Here, hold that against it.

EDWARD Thursday - she'd get a pot of bones going, put some pearl barley in, called it a white stew. Didn't like that much. Mostly we ate bread, bread and dripping.

MOTHER Just run up to the shop with this cup and ask him to put an ha'porth of jam in it.

EDWARD Sometimes we had bread and jam, but then we didn't have no fat on the bread, no butter or anything.

ANNIE Mum, my e-ye's awful.

MOTHER Tealeaves done no good? Let's try 'em again. I suppose I ought to take you to the doctor really.

MOTHER GETS OUT HER PURSE AND COUNTS THE ODD COPPERS LEFT IN IT. CAN WE AFFORD THE DOCTOR TUNE.



EDWARD Friday - you was lucky if you got a dinner at all.

MOTHER Just run round to the bakers and get twopennorth of stale bread. And while you're out get three farthings of skimmed milk.

ALL HER MONEY IS GONE.

EDWARD We never had fresh bread cos stale bread was cheaper. Sometimes it was so hard we couldn't eat it. Then she used to cut it up and soak it in this skimmed milk. No sugar on it. We all sat round. We were so hungry. She used to deal us out a spoon all round.

MOTHER FEEDS THEM FROM THE BOWL.

ANNIE Mum, my eye's all stuck up.

MOTHER I don't know what to do, love. I can't afford to take you to the doctor, not at half-a-crown a time. Not unless I break into Gran's bit of money. But I'd never pay it back. No, can't do that.

ANNIE It hurts.

MOTHER I know. I'll take you to that McMillan clinic that's opened.

~~Blepharitis - house~~  
JERUSALEM, MUSIC ONLY. THE MCMILLAN CLINIC.  
MARGARET MCMILLAN, AN UPRIGHT SCOTS LADY.

MARGARET My sister Rachel and I opened our clinic for poor children in Deptford in 1910. Deptford is a very poor and very crowded district in South East London. Each year we deal with thousands of cases. We put teeth in order, heal up ears and throats, and prescribe glasses. Thousands of cases are seen yearly and are treated. But they come back - again and again. And why do they come back? Because the clinic cannot make any kind of war with the causes that breed these diseases. We have not wiped out any disease at all. We cannot empty our own waiting room. We cure them again and again. We cannot prevent their return.

MOTHER AND ANNIE ENTER TO WAIT THEIR TURN.

MARGARET In the waiting room - ranged on seats by the walls, scores of sufferers whose illnesses need not exist at all. Blepharitis, conjunctivitis, scabies, impetigo, skin diseases of many kinds... Chest troubles are the most common among the ill-housed - colds, coughs, bronchitis, suspected tuberculosis. [A great many children are more or less deformed before they are

MARGARET (con) ~~twelve-years old.~~ ] So many young backs crooked, so many young insteps fallen. How needless is this suffering. It need not exist at all.

MARGARET EXAMINES ANNIE.

MARGARET How old is Annie?

MOTHER She's four now.

MARGARET ~~Have you any~~ other children? *do you have*

MOTHER My first baby was William - he died of convulsions at two months. Then I had a miscarriage. Then I had Edward - he's six now. Then Annie here. Then another miscarriage. Then I've just had Nellie here.

MARGARET Are you planning for any more?

MOTHER My husband's in France.

MARGARET Good. Now, Annie has an eye infection. Not too serious, but it must be treated properly, or it will be. You must bathe her eye in a solution of bicarbonate of soda and I'll give you some ointment to put on it. It is contagious, so she should sleep on her own.

MOTHER We only got the one bed. I sleep at the top with the baby and Annie and Edward sleep at the bottom.

MARGARET Perhaps she could sleep on a sofa in another room?

MOTHER We only got the one room and there isn't space for a sofa.

MARGARET Well...proper cleansing is very important. Have you reasonable washing facilities?

MOTHER The standpipe's in the yard so I bring the water up in a bucket. We have got a washing stand.

MARGARET Each room in the house is let to a different family?

MOTHER NODS.

MARGARET And where do you play, Annie?

MOTHER Oh, I don't let her out on the street. I couldn't keep a proper eye on her. And she's a sickly child, gets tired quickly. You just play on the bed, don't you, love.

MARGARET Poor appetite?

MOTHER She don't eat a lot.

MARGARET Stand up straight, Annie. Hold your skirt up. Look at her legs, Mrs. Taylor. That's rickets. Not too bad, but it's not going to get better. And she's anaemic. What Annie needs is plenty of fresh air and sunshine, and plenty of good food.

MOTHER I do my best on what the Army sends me.

MARGARET Would you like to come to my nursery school, Annie. and have a garden to play in?

ANNIE Billy Long comes to your school. Billy Long lives in the cellar in our house.

MARGARET Yes, and poor Billy has a very bad chest from the damp of that cellar. And is he a friend of yours, Annie?

ANNIE NODS

MOTHER How much would it cost?

MARGARET Would a shilling a week be too much?

MOTHER BITES HER LIP

MARGARET Well...we can come to some arrangement.

MOTHER AND ANNIE GO. ~~ANOTHER SNATCH OF JERUSALEM.~~

MARGARET Space is what children want at all ages. But from the age of one to seven, space is almost as much wanted as food and air. To move, to run, to find things out by new movement - that is the life of early childhood. In front of our clinic doors there was an acre of waste ground which the London County Council had bought - we asked for leave to use it, cleaned up the ground as well as we could, and opened our nursery. At that time there were no nursery schools proper, certainly no outdoor nurseries.

ANNIE RETURNS WITH BILLY LONG.

MARGARET Welcome to our nursery, Annie. Billy Long, you must show Annie what we do.

BILLY First thing in the morning we go to our teacher for register. Then we go to the bathroom and have a bath.

ANNIE I have a bath on Friday night.

BILLY We have a bath every day whether we need it or not. And then we have to clean our teeth even if we've already cleaned them.

BILLY AND ANNIE GO.

MARGARET

We take their clothes off and bath them first thing every morning. Some of their little bodies... (SHE HESITATES, THEN DECIDES TO MAKE A SPEECH) To be blunt, when we first started, 75% of them were verminous. I know we shouldn't record this. We should forget it. But a heavy duty is laid on us to tell 'all, to hide nothing, so that it can be remedied, so that it will not be allowed to happen again. You see, the grim streets, the cruel rack-renting, the epidemics and the high death-rate have to be the concern of the teacher just as much as bombs and gangrene and broken limbs are the concern of the nurse in the war hospital. (PAUSE, SPEECH OVER) Now, few of the children come back dirty. They all thoroughly enjoy the bath. ~~They love it,~~ splashing in the water. Afterwards we dress them again, not in their own worn clothing, but in the nursery's special coloured overalls.

BILLY AND ANNIE RE-APPEAR. THEIR FACES ARE CLEAN AND SHINING. BILLY IS WEARING A BRIGHT BLUE OVERALL. ANNIE IS IN HER PETTICOAT.

MARGARET

What colour overall would you like, Annie? What about a red one?

ANNIE (THRILLED) Red!

MARGARET HELPS ANNIE INTO THE OVERALL. ANNIE DANCES ABOUT IN DELIGHT. MARGARET COMBS BILLY'S HAIR AND THEN INSPECTS HIM.

BILLY

Then we come back to the big room and the nurse does our hair, combs it all.

MARGARET

Your hair must shine like silk, your teeth must shine like little pearls, your nails must shine like seashells.

MARGARET

Come and have your hair combed, Annie, and then we'll find you a ribbon.

WHILE MARGARET COMBS HER HAIR, ANNIE PLAYS WITH THE RIBBONS IN THE BOX.

ANNIE

I never had a ribbon.

MARGARET

What colour ribbon would you like? I think a red ribbon would match your red pinafore today.

*Red.*  
MARGARET POINTS TO THE RED ONE AND ANNIE SELECTS IT IN DELIGHT.

MARGARET

In a minute you shall have some breakfast. What do we have for breakfast, Billy?

BILLY Porridge and milk.

MARGARET That's right - porridge, made of Highland meal from Inverness. All the children eat it and some take four big helpings. And then milk to drink. Each child has a pint of milk a day. You must drink as much milk as you like, Annie. Off you go.

BILLY AND ANNIE RUN OFF TO PLAY.

MARGARET Nothing can be prettier than the children coming from the bathroom on a June morning. They are at last in harmony with Nature, gay as the butterflies or the blossoms that greet the sun. Their pretty clothes are the symbol of new life.

BILLY We got sand and buckets and spades. I'll show you how to make sand pies if you like. And we got rocking horses and a slide.

MARGARET [It is a mistake to think that all poor children are underweight and underfed. Some are too heavy, because they eat the wrong kind of food. Bread, bread and always bread is their portion. They suffer from starvation of what Nature supplies in green food and fruits.] Our lunches of fresh vegetables, meat and milk work marvels.

CHILDREN (SINGING) Thank you for the world so sweet,  
Thank you for the food we eat,  
Thank you for the birds that sing,  
Thank you, Lord, for everything.

MARGARET Within two years of opening the nursery, we have registered over 70 cures in rickety children. How easy it would be to make rickets disappear altogether.

BILLY Now we have a sleep.

ANNIE In the middle of the day?

BILLY We have a camp bed.

ANNIE A whole bed to ourself?

THE CHILDREN GO TO SLEEP

MARGARET Soon every bed holds a little occupant all warmly wrapped in blankets. [The toddlers will not wake for two hours or more.] On every little face a great peace has fallen. Annie looks as peaceful as the others. One has an impression of rallying powers, of roots striking firmer, and of joy. The quiet shelter seems to hold a great secret.

THE CHILDREN WAKE UP.

MARGARET In the afternoon we go round the gardens and have Nature Study, and we sing nursery rhymes.

THE CHILDREN SIT AT HER FEET, AND SLOWLY JOIN IN.

MARGARET Jack and Jill went up the hill  
To fetch a pail of water.  
Jack fell down and broke his crown  
And Jill came tumbling after.  
Then up Jack got and home did trot  
As fast as he could caper.  
He went to bed to mend his head  
With vinegar and brown paper.

-BILLY Tea is bread and butter and jam! And milk to drink.

ANNIE'S MOTHER, STILL CARRYING THE BABY, COMES TO WATCH.

MARGARET All day there are groups of mothers near the entrance and eyes watching through the palings.

MOTHER Just look at those kids. Are they really kids from round here? It's better than a play, watching them. better than the pictures.

ANNIE SEES HER MOTHER AND STARTS TO RUN TO HER BUT RETURNS TO CHANGE OUT OF HER PINAFORE.

MARGARET There is only one sad moment in our schoolday. It comes when the children lay aside their pretty school clothes and go back to the old clothes, laid aside and forgotten all day.

MARGARET IS ABOUT TO UNDO THE RIBBON BUT ANNIE CRIES AND CLUTCHES IT. MARGARET LETS HER KEEP IT. ANNIE RUNS TO HER MOTHER AND THEY GO OFF.

MARGARET It is a point of honour with us to make every child so well that it does not need a doctor.

SONG

*SONG THIS HOUSE*  
All things bright and beautiful  
All creatures great and small  
All things wise and wonderful  
The Lord God made them all.

EDWARD ENTERS, COUGHING. HE IS FOLLOWED BY MOTHER AND ANNIE. ANNIE IS NOW NOTICEABLY LIVELIER THAN EDWARD AND IS AMUSED AT THE HUMILIATION OF HIS VARIOUS CURES. EDWARD NOW 7/8ish.

MOTHER Oh, Eddie, you're not coughing again.

EDWARD            Every winter I used to start coughing about October and go on all through the winter.

MOTHER            I'd better make you something for it.

EDWARD            She used to get an onion and slice it, hollow it out and put brown sugar in it, demerara sugar, cover it with a basin and leave it overnight. You had to drink the syrup that seeped out.

MOTHER            Now, let's give your chest a rub. We don't want it getting on your chest.

EDWARD HAS TO TAKE HIS SHIRT OFF AND BE RUBBED.

EDWARD            She used to rub goose grease on my chest... and then put a brown paper jacket over it. You had to leave it on for about a week.

ANNIE              Then you could tear off a little bit every day till it was all off.

EDWARD (MISERABLE) You couldn't take it all off at once.

MOTHER GIVES EDWARD SOME ONION JUICE AND THEN AS AN AFTERTHOUGHT GIVES SOME TO ANNIE TOO.

ANNIE              If you didn't get better with goose grease, they'd rub you with camphorated oil, which really stank. Nobody would sit next to you at school. If you got very bad, they'd rub you with turpentine.

EDWARD IS GETTING MORE AND MORE TEARFUL AT ANNIE'S THREATS.

ANNIE              Or you could be poulticed - a linseed poultice or a mustard plaster - or a kaolin poultice - as hot as you could stand. So hot it would make you scream.

EDWARD COLLAPSES IN TEARS AND HAS A BAD COUGHING FIT.

MOTHER            Oh dear. Annie, here's sixpence. You'd best pop round to the chemist for something for his cough. "What shall I get? Ipecacuanha wine - that's very good.

ANNIE              That makes you sick.

EDWARD            Don't want to be sick.

MOTHER            That's good for you - fetches it all up. Otherwise it's syrup of squills... No, let's have paregoric. I always swear by paregoric.

SONG                    Onions and brown sugar  
                           That really was the best  
                           Mustard, linseed, kaolin  
                           And goose grease on your chest.  
                           Paregoric, opodeldoc,  
                           Always on the shelf,  
                           But as for curing chilblains  
                           You did that by yourself.

EDWARD                 Once, when I had a sore throat, she got some oatmeal  
                           and mixed it with hot vinegar, wrapped it in a cloth  
                           and tied it round my neck while it was hot.

ANNIE                    But usually it was a sweaty sock.

                          MOTHER WRAPS A SOCK ROUND EDWARD'S NECK.     ANNIE VERY  
                           AMUSED AT EDWARD IN BROWN PAPER AND SOCK.

MOTHER                 There, that'll do you the world of good.

ANNIE                    For boils, she'd make a poultice out of bread, or  
                           out of carbolic soap and sugar.

EDWARD                 What I have seen done for boils - a friend of mine -  
                           his mum filled a stone bottle with boiling water and  
                           then emptied it out and clapped the neck of the bottle  
                           over the boil and it stuck fast. You couldn't loose it  
                           till the boil burst. He was screaming and yelling.  
                           Eventually he ran outside and s\_mashed the bottle against  
                           the wall.

ANNIE                    She was always sending me to fetch opper...

MOTHER                 Opodeldoc - that was the best there was in liniments.  
                           And Basilicon ointment - that was good for everything.

SONG                    Ipecacuanha wine  
                           And cod liver oil  
                           Eucalyptus, camphor,  
                           Bread poultice for a boil.  
                           Paregoric, opodeldoc,  
                           Always on the shelf,  
                           But as for curing chilblains  
                           You did that by yourself.

MOTHER                 What you really need is a good clearing out.

                          THE CHILDREN ATTEMPT TO ESCAPE BUT FAIL.

ANNIE                    Every spring you had to have your blood purified.  
                           Sulphur was what you had. You could either have  
                           flowers of sulphur mixed in black treacle, or sulphur  
                           tablets.

                          MOTHER GIVES SULPHUR TABLETS



EDWARD                   And then every Friday night, whether you need it or not, you'd be lined up.

ANNIE                    Senna pods and liquorice powder was what my mum believed in most.    Liquorice powder was horrible.

THEY ARE DOSED.

EDWARD                   Sometimes for a change, she'd go on to syrup of figs or castor oil, but she always came back to the liquorice powder.

SONG                     Figs and prunes and senna  
Would help to clear you out.  
Castor oil and liquorice  
Would make you run about.  
Paregoric, opodeldoc,  
Always on the shelf,  
But as for curing chilblains  
You did that by yourself.  
I tiddly I tie  
I tiddly I tie  
I tiddly I tie, pom pom.

MOTHER AND EDWARD GO.   ANNIE SITS ON THE FLOOR.  
EARLY 1919.   ANNIE IS 7.

ANNIE                    One day I was sitting on the kerb and this soldier came along.

FATHER                   Hello.

ANNIE                    And I just looked up and said, hello.

FATHER                   What you sitting there for all on your own?    You haven't forgotten me, have you Annie?

ANNIE                    And then I looked up again and it was Dad.    Dad!

ANNIE JUMPS UP FOR A HUG.   MOTHER AND EDWARD COME RUNNING OUT OF THE HOUSE.   EDWARD A BIT EMBARRASSED AT BEING HUGGED.   MOTHER SHOWS TODDLER BUNDLE.

MOTHER                   This is Nellie.

FATHER HUGS MOTHER.   HE OBVIOUSLY FANCIES HER.

EDWARD                   When Dad came home the one room we were living in wasn't big enough for us any more and we moved to live in my uncle's house.   We had two rooms there - a bedroom and a kitchen.   I slept on a couch in the kitchen.   Annie and Nellie pigged in with Mum and Dad.

MOTHER GOES OFF WITH DAD

ANNIE Mum and Dad had the big bed and we had a little bed of our own. Dad hung a curtain across the room to give us some privacy.

THE TWO CHILDREN ARE PUZZLED AT THIS CONCEPT.

EDWARD After the war there were terrible epidemics. First there was the flu epidemic. There was nothing you could take for that except quinine mixture.

ANNIE A lot of people died. They said more people died of that flu than died fighting in the war.

EDWARD Then there was scarlet fever.

ANNIE I'd started proper school by then and my best friend was called Patsy. I used to call for her every morning. One morning I called. Is Patsy ready for school?

MRS. PITT Get away, get away. Don't come near.

ANNIE Where's Patsy?

MRS. PITT She's been took away in the night with scarlet fever.

MRS. PITT GOES.

ANNIE I thought, if I can catch it, I can miss school and I can go to hospital and be in the next bed to Patsy. I didn't feel too well a few days afterwards but there was no rash come.

EDWARD BRINGS A SKIPPING ROPE

ANNIE/EDWARD Touch your collar  
Never swallow  
Never catch the fever  
Touch your knee  
Touch your chin  
Never let the burglar in.

EDWARD The ambulances used to come to fetch them and we'd all go running up the street and stand round the door...

THEY HOLD THEIR HANDS OVER THEIR NOSES

EDWARD ...and whoever it was would be brought out wrapped in a red blanket and be put in the ambulance.

ANNIE/EDWARD Touch your collar  
Never swallow  
Never catch the fever  
Touch your nose  
Touch your toes  
Never go in one of those.

MOTHER COMES RUSHING ON

MOTHER Don't you dare go running up the street after ambulances. You'll catch it.

EDWARD Of course, kids don't listen to grown ups.

ANNIE/EDWARD Mother, mother, I feel sick.  
Send for the doctor, quick, quick, quick.  
Doctor, doctor, shall I die?  
Yes, my dear, and so shall I.  
How many carriages shall I have?  
One, two, three, four.....

ANNIE SKIPS OFF. MRS. PITT ON.

MRS. PITT (WHISPERS TO MOTHER) Dennis Bannister's just been took.  
Diphtheria, they say. Very bad. Not expected to live.  
The doctor said he should have been called in sooner.

MOTHER Oh, ~~my gawd~~. Which is Dennis Bannister?

EDWARD (OVERHEARING THIS LAST) Dennis Bannister's in my class at school.

MOTHER You haven't been talking to him, have you?

EDWARD He sits next to me.

MOTHER Oh, my gawd, and you didn't finish your dinner tonight.

MRS. PITT Being off their food's a very bad sign.

MOTHER You said you had a sore throat.

MRS. PITT Always starts with a sore throat.

MOTHER Have you still got it?

EDWARD It's worse.

MRS. PITT It develops very fast.

MOTHER How do you feel in yourself?

EDWARD Not very well.

MRS. PITT You ought to get the doctor in.

MOTHER But then, he's always having sore throats, aint you.  
Always got a cough and a sore throat.

MRS. PITT It's worse if you leave it.

MOTHER But what if he's all right. It's money down the drain.

MRS. PITT None of my business, but I know what I'd do.

MOTHER I can't afford the doctor.

MRS. PITT That's what Mrs. Bannister said, but she had to afford him in the end, and then it was too late.

SONG  
 Can we afford the Doctor,  
 The dentist, the midwife, the nurse?  
 It doesn't seem fair  
 That medical care  
 Should depend on the state of your purse.  
 I know it's a hard pill to swallow  
 But what can we take for a cure  
 And if only the rich can afford to be sick,  
 How cheap are the lives of the poor?

MOTHER Which doctor should I have?

MRS. PITT Well, now...My husband's on the panel with Dr. Jones. But he's very quick-tempered. Hasn't got time for nobody. I have been to Dr. Smith - he has a nicer manner, but he wears a filthy old hat. I threw it out one day when he come, wouldn't have it in the house. Now Mrs. Birkett says that Dr. Brown's medicine bottles are just that bit bigger and he still only charges half a crown same as the others. Dr. Black comes out on a Wednesday afternoon where some of the others won't. Dr. Green, I do know, lets you have more tick. Mrs. Bannister had Dr. White cos he's only in the next street.

MOTHER And if he's seen her Dennis, he'll know what to look for...

MRS. PITT I'll go and fetch him.

MRS. PITT GOES.

ANNIE (TO EDWARD) Dip, dip, dip  
 You look sick  
 Let me hear you cough (EDWARD COUGHS)  
 Very bad indeed, sir,  
 You should see a doctor.  
 O, U, T spells out.

MOTHER I could pawn my wedding ring, I suppose. Or, I could break into Gran's money. Perhaps now Tom's home, I might manage to put it back...

THE DOCTOR ARRIVES, VERY BRISK.

DOCTOR Where's the patient? How long has he been feeling ill? Off his food is he? Restless at night? Take

DOCTOR (con) his temperature. Feel his pulse. Look down his throat. Feel his glands. Afraid it's diphtheria. No doubt about it. Have to go to hospital. I'll make the arrangements. I'll send the ambulance. Need to take swabs from everyone else. Seal up the room, block up the chimney. Burn sulphur candles. Fumigate thoroughly. Send off the blankets, the mattress, the bedding. Have it all stoved. You'll get it back yellow, yellow but sterile. I'll come back tomorrow when I've tested the swabs. Now, I've got some more patients. That'll be half-a-crown.

MOTHER Half a crown?

DOCTOR I'll take it in instalments. Sixpence a week.

MOTHER No, that's all right. I'd rather pay on the nail.

DOCTOR Always the best. I'll see you again.

SONG I'm a most important member of the medical profession  
With a practice that's esteemed for many miles  
And I earn a reputation by the most profound discretion  
And the luring fascination of my smiles.

I am always most seductive to the darling lady patients  
And if they're nervous try to pave the way  
Or perhaps they've only brought the child to get a  
Well, it's just the same - I always make them <sup>vaccination</sup> pay.

I'm the doctor and always in demand  
I'm the doctor. Oh, you need not be alarmed  
For if you've a trembling or a tickling in the toes  
Just take a drop of this and then a few of those  
And you always may depend upon the doctor.

THE NURSE MAKES UP THE BED AND EDWARD GETS INTO IT.

EDWARD I was taken to the Brook Hospital. That was the isolation hospital in those days. Twelve wards for scarlet fever, ten wards for diphtheria. Huge wards they were, Florence Nightingale wards. And the ceiling seemed miles away.

THE NURSE BRINGS SOMETHING IN AND THEN LEAVES

EDWARD It was the first time I'd been away from home and I was desperately frightened.

EDWARD STARTS CRYING. THE NURSE REAPPEARS.

NURSE There now. What is it?

EDWARD WHISPERS. NURSE NODS AND GOES.

EDWARD I was frightened of wetting the bed.

THE NURSE RETURNS WITH A BEDPAN.

NURSE Part of our work as a nurse in those days was to talk to the patient, to make them feel at home. You had to care for the patient. There weren't any antibiotics, no miracle cures. Your only hope was to nurse them through.

THE NURSE REMOVES THE BEDPAN AND LEAVES.

EDWARD It was mainly bedrest. ~~We weren't even allowed to sit up.~~ Bedrest and gargling with permanganate of potash.

NURSE RETURNS

NURSE And of course they were on the spot if their throat closed up altogether and we had to do a tracheotomy.

SHE MIMES SLITTING HER THROAT.

NURSE Go to sleep now. You see that light on the desk? I'll be sitting there. If you need anything, I'll come.

SHE MOVES TO SIT AT THE DESK. SHE HAD A LOT OF PAPER WORK TO DO. TUNE OF NURSIE, NURSIE.

NURSE A Nightingale Ward was a long narrow ward with beds either side and a desk at one end where the night nurse sat. The nurse could see every patient and every patient could look to that light.

The time I started, you really had to want to be a nurse. You had to choose it as a vocation. We worked from eight in the morning till eight at night, or eight at night till eight in the morning, though usually it was more like seven thirty till nine. We did our studying when we came off duty. And we had one day off a month. You had to be dedicated.

SHE GETS UP AND DOES A ROUND WITH A LITTLE TORCH.

NURSE (TO EDWARD) Would you like a drink of milk? Then try to go to sleep.

SHE MOVES BACK TO THE DESK AND PICKS UP A TORN SHEET.

NURSE We had to darn the sheets. The big sheets were cut down to make draw sheets and then you darned the draw sheets. You even darned the darns. The pay we received was so paltry - even shop assistants earned two or three times as much as we did. I worked at a fever hospital. You got a bit more for doing fevers.

NURSE (con) £45 we got for fevers on account of the risk attached.  
£45 a year, mind you, not a week. And didn't we work  
~~for that.~~

LIGHTS UP. SHE DOES WHAT SHE DESCRIBES.

NURSE First job in the morning was to pull all the beds out to the middle of the ward, sweep all round, damp dust at the back of the beds, push the beds back again... and get your wheels straight! It was all inspected - there was a sister's round and a matron's round.

Make the beds of course - exact envelope corners. If the sister was in a bad mood, oh it was fatal! She would stand at the top of the ward, you'd look at her face, and if those corners weren't envelope corners, oh god, she was vicious. The whole lot would have to be done again.

We had to dust the patients' lockers, change the water and do the flowers. But, while you were doing that, you could chat to the person in the bed.

NURSE (TO EDWARD) How many sister's did you say you had?

SHE LEANS OVER AND HE WHISPERS TO HER.

NURSE There was this contact. You got to know the patients. They got to know you.\* (They were in hospital for weeks and weeks, and you were with them all the time until they got better.)

EDWARD Visitors weren't allowed into the ward. They could only come and wave to you through the glass.

FATHER APPEARS AT THE FAR SIDE OF THE STAGE

FATHER Hello, Edward. (PAUSE) Are you all right? We are. The doctor took swabs but nobody else has got it. (PAUSE) It's a long walk up to the Brook Hospital. It's taken me a fair old time. Your mother would have come but it's too far for her to walk just now. We couldn't afford the fare. (PAUSE) You can't hear me can you? Well, just wave to show you've seen me.

FATHER WAVES. EDWARD WAVES BACK.

FATHER (TO NURSE) I've brought him an egg. I've put his name on it.

THE NURSE TAKES THE EGG AND TIDIES AWAY THE HOSPITAL.

NURSE If you want to be a lady go to Tommy's  
If you want to be a nurse go to Bart's  
But if you want to marry go to Guy's.

EDWARD IS FETCHED FROM BED BY HIS FATHER

FATHER           While he was in hospital I made him this shop.

EDWARD           And it was a beautiful shop.

FATHER (SHOWING)   It's got everything in it - meat and fish, and greengrocery and bread and cheese.

EDWARD           I thought it was real cheese and I ate a piece and it was white soap.

FATHER           I did a bit every night while you were in hospital.

EDWARD           I was in Brook seven weeks and when I went home again I'd grown four inches.

MOTHER COMES TO GREET HIM.

MOTHER           Edward! Oh, it's nice to have you home again. But none of your clothes fit you.

EDWARD           Well, if I've grown taller, mum, you've got a lot fatter.

MOTHER           Oh, yes...well...it's pigeon chested.

EDWARD           I'd no idea of course that my mother was pregnant. We were never told things like that. I thought to myself - pigeon-chested? I've seen a lot of them like that. It must be a common complaint.

SONG             Missus Moore, who lives next door,  
She's such a dear old soul.  
Of children she's a score or more,  
Her husband's on the dole.  
I don't know how she manages  
To keep that lot, I'm sure,  
I said to her today  
As she was standing at the door:

Don't have any more, Missus Moore.  
Missus Moore, please don't have any more.  
The more you have the more you want, they say  
But enough is as good as a feast any day  
If you have many more, Missus Moore,  
You'll have to rent the house next door.  
They're all right when they're here  
But take my advice, old dear,  
Don't have any more, Missus Moore.

MOTHER AND MRS. PITT ~~HANGING UP CLOTHES~~

MRS. PITT        You're never. Not again.

MOTHER           I can't help it. As soon as he puts his trousers over the bed rail, I'm like it.



MRS. PITT            You can't go on like this.    Why don't you get in a hot bath with a pint of gin?

MOTHER              Can't afford the gin!

MRS. PITT            You could throw yourself d<sub>o</sub>wnstairs.

MOTHER              Knowing me, I'd just break a leg and nothing else.

MRS. PITT            You can make pills out of lead plaster, you know. You have to be careful how many you take.    Penny-royal. you could try that...

MOTHER              I know such a lot who've died ~~through abortions~~ <sup>getting rid of them</sup>.

MRS. PITT            True.    But then how many do you know who've died in childbirth.    Remember Rosie.

MOTHER              Only young, wasn't she.

MRS. PITT            Then theres quinine crystals, parsley oil, slippery elm...

MOTHER              No.    I've never tried to get rid of one.    I've lost enough without that.    I expect the Lord will find a crust for it somewhere.

SONG                  Don't have any more, Missus Moore.  
Missus Moore, please don't have any more.  
The more you have the more you want, they say,  
But enough is as good as a feast any day.  
If you have many more, Missus Moore,  
You'll have to rent the house next door.  
They're all right when they're here  
But take my advice, old dear,  
Don't have any more, Missus Moore.

MOTHER              Annie, go and find Mrs. Pitt and tell her it's started.

ANNIE                What's started, Mum?

MOTHER              Never mind.    She'll know.

EDWARD              You weren't even allowed to ask questions about it. That was all taboo.

ANNIE RUNS ACROSS TO MRS. PITT.

ANNIE                Mrs. Pitt?    Mum says it's started.

MRS. PITT            I thought it was about time.

MRS. PITT COMES ACROSS

MRS. PITT            Let's get you into bed and have a look at you.

EDWARD                   What's happening?    What is it?

ANNIE                    All I know is, it's started, but Dorothy Crouch says she's on the bump.

EDWARD                   What you mean?

ANNIE                    She's got a big bump on her front.

EDWARD                   She's got ever so fat. <sup>but</sup>

ANNIE                    Dorothy Crouch says if your mum's got a bump that means she's going to have a baby.

EDWARD                   A baby?

MRS. PITT EMERGES FROM BEHIND THE CURTAIN

MRS. PITT                I can't deliver this one.    You'll have to have the doctor.

MOTHER                  I can't afford a doctor.

MRS. PITT                There isn't any choice.    I can't manage.    Annie, run round the corner for that Dr. White.    Say can he come immediately.    It's urgent.    What do you say?

ANNIE                    Surgent.

MRS. PITT                Run all the way.

MRS. PITT GOES BACK BEHIND THE CURTAIN

EDWARD                  In those days if you sent for a doctor to come out in an emergency, they'd come right away.    Wouldn't matter how many patients were in his surgery.    He'd stop work.    Won't be long.    Leave all the patients just sitting there.

THE DOCTOR ARRIVES WITH HIS BLACK BAG

DOCTOR                  Where is the patient?    Better be urgent.    Sent for like this at the drop of a hat.    Never called out for advice or for check-ups.    Emergencies only and usually too late.

MRS. PITT BECKONS HIM TO COME BEHIND THE CURTAIN.

ANNIE                    There was never any ante-natal care or anything and she could never afford a proper midwife and usually she couldn't afford the doctor.    In those days you just more or less had it at home.    There was always a woman in the street who'd help with deliveries and laying out and things.

MRS. PITT AND THE DOCTOR EMERGE. MRS. PITT SCURRIES ACROSS THE STAGE. THE DOCTOR ROLLS UP HIS SLEEVES.

DOCTOR Boil up a kettle. Pour castor oil down her. Give her some chloroform. Knock her right out.

MRS. PITT SCURRIES BACK WITH A KETTLE. THEY BOTH DISAPPEAR.

EDWARD Where does the baby come from then?

ANNIE Shan't tell.

EDWARD You don't know.

ANNIE Yes I do. Dorothy Crouch told me - everything! (HESITATES) The doctor brings it in his bag.

EDWARD We really thought that he'd got the baby in this big black bag. We were told they came like that.

ANNIE I didn't know any better till I was about 14 and yet we never went anywhere else. We were all in the next room. We sat there, quiet, never moved, until we heard the baby cry.

THE BABY CRIES

ANNIE It's here! It's here! The baby's come! We've got a baby. We've got a baby!

MRS. PITT PULLS ASIDE THE CURTAIN. THE DOCTOR IS HOLDING THE BABY. MOTHER IN THE BED.

MOTHER What have I got?

DOCTOR Little boy. Another soldier for the King.

MOTHER Never if I can help it! I'm not going through all this just to have him shot down in a trench somewhere.

DOCTOR, INSULTED, GIVES THE BABY TO MOTHER.

DOCTOR Stay in bed for a fortnight. I'll send you my bill.

THE DOCTOR MARCHES OUT. TUNE OF DOCTOR SONG.  
MRS. PITT MAKES MOTHER COMFORTABLE.

MRS. PITT You've got a little brother. You can go and look.

MRS. PITT LEAVES. EDWARD AND ANNIE GO TO THE BED.

MOTHER SINGS    Bye oh my baby  
                   If I was a lady  
                   Oh then my babe would not cry  
                   But my baby is weeping  
                   For want of good keeping  
                   I fear my poor baby will die.

EDWARD            What's the baby sucking that for?

MOTHER            He's got a bad tongue and I've put a little piece of  
                   sulphur in this handkerchief and he's sucking the  
                   sulphur to clear his tongue.

ANNIE             It was what they called thrush.    Some babies were  
                   born with it then.

EDWARD            Mum, Dad says he's going to make us a suet pudding,  
                   and if he does we're not going to eat it, not with  
                   his hands.

MOTHER            Go on then.    Bring the suet up to me, and the flour  
                   and some water.    And don't forget the basin to mix  
                   it in.

ANNIE             And she sat up in bed and she made it.

MOTHER            Do you want to hold the baby?

ANNIE             ANNIE NODS.    MOTHER PASSES BABY OVER.

ANNIE             From that time onwards that baby was more or less my  
                   responsibility as much as my mothers because she was  
                   ill so often.    I never seemed to have a baby out of  
                   my arms from the time I was eight years old.

EDWARD            Course the neighbours used to come in and help.    They  
                   always rallied round in births, deaths, weddings,  
                   funerals, all that.    They used to come in and prepare  
                   all the food.    We usually had ham salads.

SONG              Here we are again, all the family,  
                   And we haven't been together for years,  
                   Someone's getting christened, so we meet once more,  
                   And out come the smiles and tears

                  Oh, we've scores of relations down our street  
                   But there's something wrong with their poor feet  
                   For the only time they ever seem to meet  
                   Is at a Wedding or a Christ'ning or a Fun'ral.

                  The men shake hands, and when that's done  
                   The ladies kiss there, one by one,  
                   And the only time we have a bit of fun  
                   Is at a Wedding or a Christ'ning or a Fun'ral.

SONG (con)

There is a happy land, far, far away  
 One man's meat is another man's poison - that's what the  
 Oh, we hear some real good-natured chaff, say  
 Everybody's clean, they've had a bath,  
 And the only time Mother ever has a laugh  
 Is at a Wedding or a Christ'ning or a Fun'ral.

FOR THE SHORTER VERSION GO STRAIGHT ON TO THE  
 SECOND CHORUS OF THIS SONG ON PAGE 32.  
 FOR THE LONGER VERSION, CARRY ON.

MOTHER

Come on, we'll take the new baby to see your Gran.

ANNIE

I don't like going to the Workhouse, Mum.

MOTHER

Neither do I, but we've got to go. Gran's got  
 nobody else left now.

ANNIE

The workhouse was more like a prison than anything.  
 We had to go through these big iron gates. Inside  
 it was bare brick walls, painted a kind of grey-green.  
 Wooden furniture - just benches to sit on - very bare.  
 They didn't try to make it comfortable.

All these old ladies wore black dresses with white  
 aprons and mob caps. All dressed identical. They  
 were all sitting there, all dressed the same. They  
 could have been effigies sitting there, doing nothing.

Then we went up this old iron staircase to the wards  
 and all up the sides were these cradles to keep the  
 old people in, all crammed together.

GRAN IN BED.

MOTHER

Hello, mother.

GRAN (PEERING)

Who's that?

MOTHER

It's me, mother.

GRAN

Is it Lizzie?

MOTHER

I've brought the new baby to see you.

GRAN

You've never gone and had another.

MOTHER

It's a little boy. We thought we'd call him Harry  
 after his grandad.

GRAN

Harry? I never see Harry now. They never let me  
 see him.

ANNIE

In the workhouse they used to separate males from

ANNIE (con) females, so the husbands were separated from their wives.

MAYBE A BACKGROUND SNATCH OF MY OLD DUTCH

GRAN You still got that money I gave you? You haven't gone and spent it?

MOTHER (HESITATES, THEN LIES BRAVELY) I still got it.

GRAN I saved up for a good funeral. You'll see I get a good funeral, Lizzie? Promise me when I die you'll put me next to Harry.

MOTHER Oh, mother, of course. Don't talk about it.

GRAN Promise me, though.

2 MOTHER I promise.

GRAN I don't want a pauper's grave. I want a proper funeral.

MOTHER You're not going to die yet. Hasn't anybody combed your hair today? SOUND

MOTHER COMBS GRANS HAIR.

ANNIE They wasn't looked after. They had shelter and they had food, but they wasn't looked after. They were just lying there and calling out.

ANNIE AND MOTHER LEAVE

GRAN Harry? <sup>MISS</sup> Where are you, Harry?

ANNIE Why is Gran in the workhouse, Mum?

MOTHER She got too old to look after herself. She wasn't eating properly.

ANNIE You won't ever go there will you, Mum? I don't want you to go there when you're old.

MOTHER Oh, I should never have let her go. I should have had her with us. But there wasn't the room....

MOTHER CRIES. BY NOW IT IS PROBABLY 1921. MOTHER IS AROUND 36, ANNIE IS 9, EDWARD 11.

ANNIE When Gran died they brought her body home to us.

FATHER COMES ON WITH EDWARD.

FATHER Don't upset yourself, love. It's all for the best.

MOTHER I should never have let her go in the Workhouse.

FATHER PUTS HIS ARM ROUND MOTHER AND LEADS HER OFF.

ANNIE They made us go and say goodbye to her,

EDWARD The coffin was there on a couple of trestles, but the lid wasn't screwed down.

ANNIE There was a lot of flowers. The neighbours had all been in to see her and brought wreaths and things.

EDWARD The flowers smelt very strong and there was a smell of varnish off the coffin.

ANNIE They lifted me up to see and told me to stroke her forehead. It was stone cold. They wanted me to kiss her goodbye, but I wriggled free and ran out of the room.

EDWARD Nobody played outside our house all week, cos it was a death house.

MOTHER RETURNS IN MOURNING, BRINGING A HAT FOR ANNIE.  
FATHER WITH BLACK ARMBAND.

FATHER We've put ourselves in debt up to here for all this.

MOTHER Thank God for the Provident Clothing Society.

FATHER I don't know how we're going to pay it back, even at two bob a week.

MOTHER But she had to have a proper funeral. I promised her a proper funeral.

ANNIE I was bought a black hat for the funeral. That was the first time I ever had anything new.

EDWARD I had a new pair of black trousers - all on the Provident Clothing.

ANNIE The funeral was beautiful. Beautiful horses with the plumes on their heads. And the coffin was draped in purple.

EDWARD All the neighbours had their front room curtains drawn till after the funeral had left the street.

MOTHER You got to have a proper funeral. You're looked down on if you have a cheap funeral.

EDWARD After Gran's funeral, we had another ham salad.

SONG

Here we are again, all the family,  
And we haven't been together for years,  
Someone's getting buried, so we meet once more,  
And out come the smiles and tears.

THIS IS THE END OF THE SECTION THAT CAN BE LIFTED  
OUT. EITHER VERSION, GO ON TO SECOND CHORUS.

SONG

There are lots of them without a doubt  
Whose clothes are always up the spout  
And the only time they ever get them out  
Is at a Wedding or a Christening or a Funeral.

They all discard their overalls  
They all flip up and pay their calls  
And there's always an awful smell of camphor balls  
At a Wedding or a Christening or a Funeral.

There is a happy land, far, far away,  
One man's meat is another man's poison - that's what they  
Oh, we hear some real good-natured chaff, say  
Everybody's clean, they've had a bath,  
And the only time Mother ever has a laugh  
Is at a Wedding or a Christening or a Funeral.

ANNIE

Just after the end of the First World War, it seemed  
at first like things was going to change.

FATHER

Lot more ~~of us~~ got the vote.

MOTHER

Even some women got the vote - but not me.

FATHER

No. Just the important ones, like me. Land fit for  
heroes. That's what they said.

ANNIE

See, towards the end of the war they brought in  
conscription for the first time and all these millions  
of men had to go for a medical.

MOTHER

And there was getting on for half of them put in the  
bottom category.

FATHER

"Totally unfit for military service." Not even fit  
enough for cannon fodder. "A C3 Nation" - that's what  
they said.

MOTHER

Made the powers-that-be think that did. Worried 'em.

ANNIE

There was a lot of talk about improving living conditions -  
subsidised housing - and talk about forming a Ministry  
of Health. Yes, it seemed at first like things was  
going to change.



FANFARES. ENTER THE OFFICIAL.

OFFICIAL To provide a memorial to the men of Woolwich who gave their lives fighting for their King and Country, it has been decided to set up a public subscription.

MOTHER Town Hall needs another new organ, does it? What about that hospital?

OFFICIAL The need for a hospital has been recognised. The cost is estimated at £50,000,

MOTHER That's a lot of money.

OFFICIAL Donations have already been received. The Council will contribute. Proceeds from Victory Concerts and other functions will go to swell the fund.

ATTRACTIONS ARE SHOUTED BETWEEN LINES OF THE SONG

SONG There were Peace Parades and Cavalcades  
And dances by the score

SHOUT Popular Dance at Plumstead!

SONG There was Icelandic wrestling  
And then a tug of war

SHOUT Select Dance at Woolwich!

SONG Gymnasts and acrobats  
Performing dogs galore

SHOUT Mammoth Carnival - Danson Park!

SONG To swell the funds  
To buy the ground  
To purchase a brick  
To heal the sick  
And help us afford  
Another ward  
In the hospital that we built.

OFFICIAL The target has been reached!

THEY CHEER. PICTURE OF WOOLWICH HOSPITAL IS ERECTED.

ANNIE The Woolwich Memorial Hospital was opened by the Duke of York, accompanied by the Duchess.

MORE CHEERING

DUKE This fine new hospital on the hill is the last word in design and function, the best possible memorial, honouring the dead and serving the living. I declare this hospital opened.

## MORE CHEERING AND CLAPPING

MOTHER And it wasn't just the Woolwich Memorial they were collecting for. There was the Eltham and Mottingham Cottage Hospital - started off as a little two-ward place and they kept collecting for more wards.

ANNIE First a children's ward, then a casualty department, then another ward...

PICTURE OF ELTHAM AND MOTTINGHAM IS ERECTED. THEY CHEER.

MOTHER There was a big extension to the Children's Hospital at Sydenham...

ANNIE £20,000 they collected for that.

PICTURE OF SYDENHAM HOSPITAL IS ERECTED. THEY CHEER.

MOTHER And then there was the Mothers and Babies Hospital at Woolwich. That was my favourite.

SONG There were fun fairs and carnivals.  
Torchlight processions.

SHOUT Garden Party at Charlton House!

SONG Horse shows and flower shows.  
All sorts of exhibitions.

SHOUT Hospital Sunday!

SONG And the boy scouts, the Army,  
And the Co-op made donations.

SHOUT House to house collections! Flag Days!

SONG To swell the funds.  
To buy the ground  
To purchase a brick  
To heal the sick  
And help us afford  
Another ward  
In the hospital that we built.

? The target has been reached!

THEY CHEER. PICTURE OF BRITISH HOSPITAL IS ERECTED.

MOTHER Queen Mary came to open it.

ANNIE And some children had been chosen to present her with purses of money that had been donated, and one of them

ANNIE (con) dropped out at the last moment and they asked me if I would do it! The Queen was sitting up at the end of a corridor and you had to walk up and present the purse to her and curtsey and then back away. You had to walk backwards down this corridor. You couldn't turn round. Little leather purses they were with drawstrings.

SONG  
 To swell the funds  
 To buy the ground  
 To purchase a brick  
 To heal the sick  
 And help us afford  
 Another ward  
 In the hospital that we built.

CHEERING, ETC.

MOTHER Annie.

ANNIE Yes, mum.

MOTHER I'm really pleased about that Mothers and Babies hospital. Do you know what my dream is?

ANNIE No, mum.

MOTHER One of these days, you'll grow up and you'll meet a really nice young man, somebody like your father. And you'll get married and after a bit you'll decide you'd like to have a baby...

ANNIE I saw some babies all in a row at the hospital and I picked out the one I'd like to have.

MOTHER Well, you're not old enough yet to pick a baby. But what I hope is that when you are, you'll be able to go to that hospital to have it and be properly looked after. Not like me. You'll have proper care.

ANNIE Did Harry have to come in that black bag all the way from the hospital?

MOTHER Come on - time to go to school!

ANNIE School...

EDWARD School...

THE TEACHER BLOWS A WHISTLE. THE CHILDREN LINE UP. A FILTHY BOY RUNS IN AND TAGS ON THE END. THEY MARCH INTO SCHOOL. THE FILTHY BOY PINCHES EDWARD'S CAP AND PUTS IT ON. EDWARD GRABS IT BACK.

SONG Here we are again, all the family,  
And we haven't been together for years,  
Someone's getting buried, so we meet once more,  
And out come the smiles and tears.

THIS IS THE END OF THE SECTION THAT CAN BE LIFTED  
OUT. EITHER VERSION GO ON TO SECOND CHORUS.

SONG There are lots of them without a doubt  
Whose clothes are always up the spout  
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And there's always an awful smell of camphor balls  
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There is a happy land, far, far away,  
One man's meat is another man's poison - that's what they  
Oh, we hear some real good-natured chaff, say  
Everybody's clean, they've had a bath,  
And the only time Mother ever has a laugh  
Is at a Wedding or a Christening or a Funeral.

MOTHER Time to go to school!

ANNIE School.

EDWARD School.

THE TEACHER BLOWS A WHISTLE. THE CHILDREN LINE  
UP. A FILTHY BOY RUNS IN AND TAGS ON THE END.  
WHISTLE AGAIN. THEY MARCH INTO SCHOOL. THE  
FILTHY BOY PINCHES EDWARD'S CAP AND PUTS IT ON.  
EDWARD GRABS IT BACK. THEY MARCH INTO CLASS.

TEACHER Good morning, Class Four.

CHILDREN Good morning, Miss Sharpe.

TEACHER Times tables.

CHILDREN (CHANTING) One times one is one, one times two is two,  
one times three is three, one times four is four...

THE CHANTING GOES ON UNDER THE TEACHER'S NEXT SPEECH  
one times five is five, one times six is six, etc.

TEACHER Local education authorities are now required to provide  
school meals for the very poor and under-nourished  
children. As well as the mid-day meal, they have milk  
and cod-liver oil at eleven o'clock.

THE TEACHER BLOWS HER WHISTLE. THE CHANTING STOPS.

ANNIE Play-time!

THEY RUSH TO GO OUT AND ARE HALTED

TEACHER The cod-liver oil children will come to my desk.

SHE PRODUCES AN ENORMOUS BOTTLE OF OIL AND A SPOON.

EDWARD You had to queue up at the teacher's desk and get your cod-liver oil and malt out of this big jar which she ladled from one to the other regardless.

THE TEACHER DOSES THE FILTHY BOY FIRST AND THEN WITHOUT WIPING THE SPOON, DOSES EDWARD AND ANNIE. THEY EXPRESS DISGUST AT THE DIRTY SPOON.

ANNIE But only if you came from certain homes you had to go up. I really resented having to go out and stand there and get this stuff given to me. I knew I was poor and so did everybody else, but I didn't want my nose rubbed in it.

EDWARD It tasted of fish and it was like very dark, runny toffee. It was a peculiar taste. Most of us didn't like it.

CHILDREN Yeerrrgghh!

TEACHER ~~Weights and measures!~~

CHILDREN (CHANTING) Twelve inches one foot, three feet one yard, twentytwo yards one chain, ten chains one furlong, eight furlongs one mile.

*— Annie —* *... m e Bell rings*

EDWARD There were school dinners but, my god, you had to be poor. Even I didn't come into that category. The kids that went to school dinners and also to the cleansing station - they were looked down on as social outcasts. And the school dinner place was in a kind of little mission hall - a kind of soup kitchen. We'd rather go without a dinner than go there.

CHILDREN What's for dinner? What's for dinner?  
Irish stew. Irish stew.  
Sloppy semolina. Sloppy semolina.  
No thankyou. No thankyou.

*— Bell ring.*  
[Weights and measures!]

TEACHER

CHILDREN Four gills one pint, two pints one quart, four quarts one gallon.

TEACHER Many of the children in our schools need soap and water much more urgently than they need pen, ink and paper.

CHILDREN Sixteen ounces one pound, fourteen pounds one stone, two stones one quarter, four quarters one hundredweight, twenty hundredweights one ton.

TEACHER Luckily the education authorities are now required to provide a schools medical service.

ENTER SCHOOL NURSE

CHILDREN (WHISPERING) It's Nitty Nora, Nitty Nora.

ANNIE Nitty Nora, the bug explorer.

NURSE The reason for these medical inspections is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. It's a good preventive service because it can pick up conditions early on and treat them.

TEACHER Line up, children.

ANNIE She'd come round to look in your head to see if you had any marks of where the fleas had bit you.

THE NURSE EXAMINES ANNIE - NAPE OF THE NECK AND BEHIND THE EARS. SHE DISMISSES HER. SHE NEXT EXAMINES THE FILTHY BOY.

NURSE As usual, Jimmy Jones, you'll have to be sent to the cleansing station.

ANNIE They had to go down to this place and be bathed and have their hair combed with kerosene.

THE NURSE EXAMINES EDWARD.

NURSE Edward Taylor, your hair is usually clean.

THE NURSE GOES.

EDWARD I was found to have a lousy head. Everybody was horrified.

ANNIE AND TEACHER EXPRESS HORROR.

TEACHER Edward Taylor, I shall write your mother a note. I know she usually keeps you clean but you've obviously been in contact with another child who is not so clean. And we all know which child that is.

THEY ALL STARE AT JIMMY JONES. TEACHER BLOWS WHISTLE AND GOES. JIMMY JONES SKULKS OFF.

CHILDREN Red, white and blue  
The cat's got the flu  
The dog's got fleas and  
So have you!

ANNIE After that, Mum used to rub our heads with some  
[ghastly] smelling ointment every Thursday night...

EDWARD Greasy muck it was.

ANNIE ...and we had to go to school with it on every Friday  
and then have it washed out Friday night.

EDWARD We had a scullery with a flat-looking sink and a cold  
water tap.

ANNIE That's where mother used to do all her washing. There  
was a copper in the corner to boil the washing and she  
used that to get the water hot for our baths.

EDWARD There was a whacking great tin bath out in the back  
yard and she'd bring that in on Friday night and we'd  
all have a bath in the scullery.

MOTHER STRUGGLES IN WITH THE BATH.

SONG A mother was bathing her baby one night  
The oldest of ten and a tiny wee mite  
The mother was poor and the baby was thin  
Only a skeleton covered in skin.

The mother turned round for the soap off the rack  
She was gone but a minute and when she turned back  
Her baby was gone and in anguish she cried  
Oh where is my baby? - the angels replied:

Your baby has gone down the plug hole  
Your baby has gone down the plug  
The poor little thing was so skinny and thin  
It should have been bathed in a jug.

Your baby is perfectly happy  
It won't need a bath any more  
Your baby has gone down the plug hole  
Not lost but gone before.

MOTHER We can't afford any coal for the copper.

EDWARD We used to walk round the streets scavenging for fire  
wood, searching about, walking round the streets,  
looking for boxes and broken stuff to burn on the stove.

ANNIE Everything went up the copper - old wood and cardboard,  
old boots, anything.

MOTHER Shove 'em up the copper. Get the water hot.

ANNIE Then she'd fill this great tin bath with hot water and we'd all of us get in that same water.

MOTHER Little Harry first, then Nellie.

ANNIE STARTS TO UNDRESS. EDWARD IS SLOUCHING ABOUT.

MOTHER Then you, Annie. Are you getting ready, Eddie?

EDWARD MAKES NO ATTEMPT TO GET READY. HE IS EMBARRASSED.

MOTHER Eddie, I don't want the water to be all cold when I get in it. Not to mention what it'll be like for your *Dad. father*.

EDWARD As I got older, I left the tin bath to the girls and I went down the public baths on a Saturday morning.

MOTHER (GRUDGINGLY) Here's a penny then.

MOTHER AND ANNIE TAKE BATH OFF.

SONG  
Your baby has gone down the plug hole  
Your baby has gone down the plug  
The poor little thing was so skinny and thin  
It should have been bathed in a jug....

EDWARD  
X You sat in the waiting room till your turn to go in and then you went in this stinking bath place. A hefty-looking bloke used to be in charge.

THE BATHS SUPERINTENDENT COMES IN TO TAKE EDWARDS PENNY AND TO GIVE HIM A TOWEL.

5 SUPER I hate you kids.

EDWARD You paid a penny and you got this blessed thing they called a towel. It was as stiff as a board. It was very painful drying yourself on it. If you were rich you paid twopence and you got another towel which was slightly better, but I wouldn't say it was comfortable.

SUPER Right. You're next. Get in that one. No mucking about. Otherwise, out you go.

EDWARD GOES INTO THE BATHROOM

EDWARD So you'd get in there. Then he'd turn the water on from outside. He'd lock the door and turn the water on and you had so long. If it wasn't right, you had a number and you shouted out. Bit more hot in number six!



SUPER More hot in number six, is it? I'll give you more hot.  
HE GIVES THE TAP A HUGE SWIRL.

EDWARD Sometimes you was almost scalded. More cold, more cold!

SUPER Thought you wanted more hot?

EDWARD He didn't like doing it. More cold, more cold in number six!

SUPER If you don't stop mucking about in there, I 'll come in and yank you out.

EDWARD ~~He had a key -~~ he'd come in and turf you out. You couldn't be in there too long.

THE SUPERINTENDENT YANKS HIM OUT. EDWARD IS ONLY HALF-DRESSED. HE STARTS SHIVERING.

2 MOTHER x Eddie, you're shivering. You haven't gone and caught a chill have you? You know better than to catch a chill with your chest.

EDWARD Every winter I had these terrible chest coughs. I couldn't breathe with it.

MOTHER You know you have to wrap up well coming out of a hot bath and then walking home through a peasouper.

EDWARD We used to have these thick yellow fogs - you couldn't see your hand in front of you, literally.

MOTHER They're just killing to anybody with chest trouble.

EDWARD These fogs were killers. Old people used to just pack up under it, used to die left, right and centre.

MOTHER This time I'm going to take you to the doctor before it gets any worse.

EDWARD To the doctors? But, Mum...half a crown...

MOTHER No. Mrs. Pitt's told me about a doctor what's set up just by the Woolwich Ferry. Only charges sixpence and that's including medicine. That's no worse than going to the chemist for a sixpenny bottle.

EDWARD Woolwich Ferry's a long way.

MOTHER We'll come back on the bus. Come on. I'll tie a hankie over your face.

EDWARD You used to wear a handkerchief over your face and when you got home it was black. You could scrape the soot off

MOTHER She says it's down by the ferry, down the bottom of Hare Street somewhere, opposite where Bellwater Lane runs out - a little wooden hut or something.

EDWARD It was nothing like the big posh houses doctors usually had.

MOTHER It doesn't look very.... I hope it'll be all right.

EDWARD We went into this very dusty sort of waiting room...

MOTHER Nothing on the floor and just a little gas fire!

EDWARD ...and sat and waited our turn.

SUMMERSKILL My father was a doctor and when I was a girl, I often visited patients with him. These visits were undoubtedly the strongest single influence in my life. They made me wish to take up medicine, to give immediate help to the sick. And they made me wish to help in the long-term - removing by political action some of the causes of malnutrition and consequent ill-health. In other words, they made me a socialist as well as a doctor.

I was rather looked down on by the other local doctors because I created a threat. I was undercharging and therefore, as they saw it, taking their patients away from them. I wasn't. I was treating patients who couldn't afford to go to the other doctors.

SHE BECKONS EDWARD OVER AND LISTENS TO HIS CHEST, TAPPING IT WITH TWO FINGERS.

EDWARD I had been to doctors before when my chest got very bad, but none of them seemed to be able to do a great deal. They prescribed cough mixture and steam kettles, but mainly they just sort of sat back, more or less waiting to see whether it would develop into TB, which is what they expected and what usually happened.

SUMMERSKILL With a child like this, you really ought not to live in London.

MOTHER *There's* His father works in the docks.

SUMMERSKILL Then the child ought not to stay in London, not through another winter. I'll see what I can arrange.

DR. SUMMERSKILL LEAVES. MOTHER TIDIES EDWARD AND GETS HIM READY FOR HIS JOURNEY.

*starts*  
EDWARD They sent me to Brighton, to a nursing home there. It was a home for poor children. We were all poor.

EDWARD (con) We went by train - taken down and looked after by the guard in the train. None of us had ever been on a train before. We didn't know where we were going to, didn't know whether to be scared or excited. There were two little girls sitting in the corner crying. They sat and held hands and cried all the way there. The boys didn't cry. We weren't scared. We swung on the luggage racks.

THE NURSE COMES ACROSS

EDWARD We were met at the station by the nurses and taken to the Home in taxis.

NURSE Some of the children were very badly clothed. Their parents had no idea what to dress them in.

EDWARD Some of the nurses were a bit scathing about what the children were wearing.

NURSE Some boys had no coats and we used to wrap them up before they went out in anything we could lay our hands on...

SHE WRAPS SOMETHING ROUND HIM

EDWARD They had great big chests full of garments, scarves, blankets. They'd wrap them round and then pin them on us.

NURSE They looked a motley crew.

EDWARD <sup>5</sup> People think because you're a child and you're poor, you haven't got any feelings. They talked about us as if we weren't there.

NURSE <sup>5</sup> Walks twice a day whatever the weather is like.

EDWARD It was a dreadful winter. Sometimes it was so windy and we were all thin little things. We were blown over cos we couldn't stand up. We went on short walks to start with and then longer. A lot of them were covered in chilblains.

EDWARD STARTS TO WHIMPER

NURSE Parents ~~are not~~ <sup>were not</sup> allowed to visit. (PAUSE) I'm not standing any nonsense. Nobody has their parents to visit. They probably couldn't afford it anyway.

EDWARD They were firm but they were kind. They put on a marvellous fireworks display.

NURSE You must write home every week.

EDWARD (WRITING) We aren't having any treatment. Just fresh air. We have a lot of fresh air. And we have a lot of milk, hot milk and cocoa. And we have a lot of hot dinners.

NURSE Let me check what you've written.

EDWARD And she'd check it and then write on the bottom how much we weighed and what we'd gained, so that they would know.

THE NURSE GIVES THE LETTER TO MOTHER

MOTHER He's gained another pound this week. We shan't know him when he comes home.

EDWARD I stayed there for six months and came home in the following March.

MOTHER Is it our Eddie?

EDWARD My family were astonished at the difference in me. The next winter I wasn't quite so bad and shortly after that we moved up the hill out of the worst of the smoke. We were given a council house at Charlton.

SONG 1305  
4513  
I feel like a fighting man  
I'm fit and fat and fine  
Since I've lived in a little Garden Subbub "up the line".  
Tho' to call it a sooburb is the fashionable way  
I call it a subbub cause it's easier to say.  
If Town life's too fast for you and country life's too slow  
Don't make a bungle of your life but buy a bungalow.

1307  
In our little garden subbub  
Far away from the noise and hubbub  
When you're tired of the pubbub, tired of the clubbub  
Take a little house in the garden subbub.  
There you can grow stewed rhubbub  
Bath in an old rain tubbub  
So leave all the hubbub and the pubbub and the clubbub  
And grow your own grubbub in the subbub.

5 EDWARD Course then, after a bit, I was old enough to start work and I decided I'd get an open-air job. I went as a delivery boy for Tommy Liptons!

ANNIE And then a year later, I started work as well. I worked in a shirt factory down in Woolwich. So then we could both give Mum a bit of money every week and things got a bit easier all round.

EDWARD Or they would have done if it hadn't been 1926 by then.

FATHER See, I did my bit for the old Country, did my time in France in the trenches, but I was wounded. Nothing much, not serious, but it seemed to leave me with no muscle.

MOTHER Therefore he was a bit handicapped when it came to getting a job.

FATHER I did get some work at first when I first came home - nice little job with a little family firm - but as times got worse they had to close down. Then I couldn't get another job.

MOTHER He tried, my god, he tried. He used to walk miles. Six in the morning he used to get up and set out.

FATHER I used to queue up outside the gates of the docks and they'd open the gates and say "Ten men" and the rest had to go away again.

MOTHER During the winter he once swept snow cos he hadn't worked. He'd do anything.

FATHER But I couldn't get a permanent job. It was the depression, you see.

MOTHER He never complained. He wasn't that sort of a man. But it got him down.

ANNIE My mum went out to work, cleaning. He didn't like her having to do that.

MOTHER But it brought in a few shillings.

ANNIE Dad used to see to the little ones, see they went to school all right.

EDWARD Then he was in and out of hospital...

ANNIE One thing after another...

MOTHER He didn't live to much of an age.

THEY STAND TOGETHER, HEADS BOWED. STRAIN OF THERE IS A HAPPY LAND.

MOTHER He was a good man but he didn't have much of a life really

ANNIE The day he was buried, that was the first time I met my husband. I was due to see him that evening and I had to cancel it.

MOTHER                    Anyway he asked her out again.    And then she brought him home to tea...

JIM ENTERS AND IS INTRODUCED TO MOTHER AND EDWARD.

MOTHER                    He was a nice lad.    We all took to him.    And after a bit they got married...

WEDDING MUSIC

MOTHER                    ...just in time for the Second World War.

EDWARD AND JIM PUT ON ARMY HATS.    EDWARD KISSES MOTHER, JIM KISSES ANNIE AND THEY LEAVE.

ANNIE                     I had my first baby during the blitz, in the blackout.

MOTHER                    ~~Well,~~ the guns were going, the bombs were dropping, but she'd started into labour and I thought, well I've just got to go and fetch the midwife.    So what I did, I put a saucepan on my head.    I didn't know whether the midwife would turn out but she said "If you've come round for me during this, I can come back with you." She had a tin hat.

ANNIE                     She was wonderful wasn't she?    She had a lamp, like a pitman's lamp, that she fastened on her forehead, cos all the ordinary lights we-re off.

MOTHER                    When you think what we've been through in our lifetime!

WAR MUSIC OR PATHE PICTORIAL NEWS MUSIC

3                    PICTURE POST EDITOR    At the end of the last war we got no new Britain.    This time we can be better prepared.    Our plan for a new Britain is not something outside the war...it is our most positive war aim.    The new Britain is the country we are fighting for.    We believe that after this war, certain things will be common ground among all political parties.    It will be common ground that every Briton - man, woman or child - shall be assured of enough food of the right kind to maintain him in full bodily health and fitness.    It will be common ground that our state medical service must be reorganised and developed so as to foster health, not merely battle with disease.

BARBARA CASTLE    The National Health Service was a living piece of socialism because what it said was never mind whether you are poor, penniless, OAP or the richest in the land, you shall have an equal right to fight pain and death and you won't pay at the point of use...nobody's going to stand over you and ask for your cheque book before they'll operate.

DR. GORMAN'S SURGERY, 1948. DR. GORMAN IN BRIGHT  
WHITE DOCTOR'S COAT. MOTHER IS NOW AROUND 63.

DR. GORMAN The fifth of July, 1948, the start of the National  
Health Service. Everybody had to register with a  
doctor and they had a big buff thing which they had  
to fill in in duplicate... form

ANNIE'S MOTHER COMES IN.

GORMAN Hello, Mrs. Taylor. Here we are. Fill this in first.

MOTHER HAS DIFFICULTY SEEING IT. SHE HOLDS IT AT  
ARM'S LENGTH.

GORMAN Most people in those days couldn't fill in a form, so  
the doctor was sitting there scribbling away...  
Let me do it for you.

GORMAN TAKES FORM BACK AND FILLS IT IN WHILE TALKING.

GORMAN And what have you come about, besides registering?

MOTHER My headaches. I'm getting terrible headaches. All  
round here.

GORMAN Do you get them all the time?

MOTHER They come on when I do things like darning, or reading  
the paper. The news can get depressing.

GORMAN Do you wear glasses for close work?

MOTHER SHAKES HEAD

GORMAN Do you possess any glasses?

MOTHER No...I've never...glasses.

GORMAN I think it might be sensible to have an eye-test at  
your age. I'll give you a prescription for something  
to ease the pain for now and I'll write you a note to  
take to the optician.

MOTHER I couldn't afford an eye-test just now, but thank you  
anyway. Where do I pay?

GORMAN You don't pay. Not any more. It's free. I've put  
the shoe-box away. Take this to the chemist.

MOTHER I have to pay the chemist instead, do I, for the  
prescription?

GORMAN No, the prescription is free too. And when you go

GORMAN (con) for your eye test, that'll be free. And the glasses he'll provide for you, they'll be free.

MOTHER Free? You don't have to pay for anything?

GORMAN Yes, free. Everything's free now. And, incidentally, while you're at it, I should go to the dentist and get yourself some free dentures. They were heady days!

MOTHER And I went for those spectacles and dentures. And I got them. And they were free! Oh, it was nice to be able to go to the chemist with your prescription and get the thing for nothing. And to think you could have a doctor at any time, and you didn't have to worry whether you could afford it. You didn't have to borrow from the neighbours. It was a marvellous thing!

GORMAN I thought it was super. I thought no more <sup>hungry</sup> starving children coming for treatment - no more people at their last gasp. I thought I shall just be seeing people simply because they're ill. Because not only did the new Health Service mean free medical care - it meant the dole, it meant supplementary pensions, it meant that no one need starve. It felt like a millenium, like Utopia.

(2)

MOTHER I thought what a wonderful thing it was to narrow the gap between rich and poor. I'd had experience of managing as a poor person and thinking how much better off other peoples' children would be where there was money in the family. I can't tell you what a wonderful thing it was.

SONG  
Here's good health to each one  
Every daughter and son  
Now the National Health it is free  
No hospital bed costs an arm or a leg  
No physician will ask for a fee  
It's a tonic to know  
When you're ill you can go  
And get treatment you don't have to buy  
We put up a fight  
And demanded our right  
Now the future looks bright, we can cry:

We can afford the Doctor  
The D-entist, the midwife, the nurse.  
We're all fair and square  
Now medical care  
Won't depend on the state of your purse  
Let's hope the old times are behind us  
And the bad good old days come no more  
When only the rich could afford to be sick  
And cheap were the lives of the poor.

End of Short Version

End of Short Version.



ANNIE After the war, when Jim came out of the forces, I hadn't seen him for four years and, well, it wasn't long before I fell for my second baby.

MOTHER And she was given all this ante-natal care: the weighing, the regular checkups, milk orange juice and vitamin tablets.

JIM It was a strange thing to us then, as young as we were and as modern as we thought we were. This care was something that she was told to go and get and to have.

JIM PUTS HIS ARM ROUND HER PROUDLY.

ANNIE To have Linda I went in the British Hospital for Mother and Babies, in Woolwich, not far from where we lived then.

MOTHER It's my dream come true.

JIM TAKES HER SUITCASE AND LEADS HER TO THE HOSPITAL.

ANNIE It was a wonderful hospital. You looked out from the balconies on to lovely gardens...

JIM All the babies were out there.

ANNIE I used to think you just came here and picked one, whichever you liked best. I know better now.

HUG OR HAND SQUEEZE.

NURSE Come on, young man, time to go.

JIM Make it a girl this time, for me.

JIM GOES.

ANNIE I remember this hospital opening when I was a little girl

NURSE Yes, three friends started it, three nurses. They wanted to do something about the terrible loss of

life they saw in childbirth in those days. That was before there was any proper training for midwives. They started with a house a few streets away and then campaigned for this hospital. The Government finally accepted their standards for the whole country.

A BELL IS RUNG

ANNIE You can hear that bell for such a long way. People say, "Oh, there's another baby!"

NURSE It's to call the trainee midwives to watch the birth. Women from all over the world come here to train. Now, I think you're ready. I'll take you through.

ANNIE GOES UPSTAGE

NURSE We do our level best to keep it personal. Sister Gregory, one of the founders, used to say she wanted women to feel they were among their own family. We have a lot of families working here too, mothers and daughters, and even grand-daughters.

JIM RETURNS WITH THE SUITCASE. ANNIE BRINGS ON THE BABY.

JIM What have we got?

NURSE It's a little girl.

ANNIE You got your wish. When I had Linda, it was like a dream, it really was. I mean it was wonderful, for me it was wonderful. You were tended and waited on. Clean sheets all the time and I didn't have to make my own suet puddings either!

NURSE She's all yours now. But you'll have a Health Visitor come to see you and she'll deal with any problems you might have. And then you'll want to be up after six weeks. And then you'll want to be taking her to the clinic.

JIM This carried on for a long time after she was born. Milk, and orange juice and having her weighed.

In my lifetime I've been able to see a huge difference between the babies when I was growing up and the babies now.

JIM little, skinny tiny things, and then suddenly they were big and healthy.

ANNIE You could actually see the improvement.

NURSE Then, in a few months, you'll be wanting to take her for her injections.

ANNIE What's that for?

NURSE Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. Preventive medicine. These days we don't wait till they're ill and try to cure them. We stop them catching all these things in the first place.

JIM Makes sense, doesn't it!

ANNIE TAKES THE BABY TO HER MOTHER

MOTHER Oh, isn't she sweet! Just look at her little fingers. Look at her little feet.

SONG The voter of tomorrow is the toddler of today  
The toddler will be cared for if the voter gets his way.  
I asked a politician if he'd kindly state his views  
And say what pleased him most of all about the latest news  
He thought a little while  
then answered with a smile;

There's never been so many bonny babies  
There's never been so many honney lambs  
they look so sweet  
Toddling down the street  
Or waving their little feet  
While they're wriggling in their prams.

There's never been so many bonny babies  
Their mothers look as proud as they can be  
There's never been a better bunch of babies  
On Britannia's Family Tree.

*Short review starts*

ANNIE The last twenty years of my mother's life were wonderful. She got her glasses, she got her false teeth, and she started to put on a bit of weight. We even took her to the hairdressers

MOTHER I'd never had anything done to my hair before!

EDWARD And of course, we'd all grown up, even Harry - we were all earning - all got homes of our own. So she only had herself to look after on her old age

pension.

MOTHER

I never had so much money in my whole life.  
Sixteen shillings a week!

ANNIE

And none of us ever went out on a Saturday night  
without we found out if one of the others was  
taking her out. I was always determined she wasn't  
going to end up in the Workhouse, penniless, like  
my Gran did, and she didn't.

EDWARD

I bought an old jallopy - and when I say old...!  
But I managed to make it go and I used to take her  
out for rides in the country or the seaside. We'd  
go off to Margate, Brighton, places like that.

ANNIE

Her last twenty years were marvellous.

EDWARD TAKES MOTHER OFF ON HIS ARM

SONG

Cheery faces, happy smiles - look at 'em  
everywhere,  
If the sun shines, if it rains, well what do we  
really care  
See the boys and girls come out to play  
Go to breezy Margate for a real good day.

It isn't the sea that makes your holiday gay  
It isn't the sun that drives your worries away  
I isn't the stars at night or the pale moonlight.  
It's the jolly good company beside the sea.

It isn't the band that plays those twiddly bits  
Makes you feel as happy as can be  
It's the whoops-a-daisy, pleased to meet you, here  
we go again,  
Jolly good company beside the sea.

*End of short version.*

ANNIE

Amazing how fast the middle years of your life go.  
When you look back, you wonder what you've done  
with all that time. I suppose you're so busy  
working hard bringing up the kids, making ends  
meet, you don't have time to think. It's only  
seeing the kids grow up makes you realise that  
time's passing at all.

JIM

To me it only seems like yesterday that our Linda  
was born, and here she is married! And expecting a  
baby of her own.

ANNIE

Come and sit down, love, and put your feet up.

LINDA

Oh mum, I'm all right.

ANNIE

I've been thinking - where you should go to have

50

the baby is the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies. That's the best hospital there could be for having a baby in. That's where I had you.

LINDA No, mum. I can't go there. It's closed. They've closed it down.

ANNIE They can't have. It was world famous was that hospital.

JIM I remember collecting for that hospital. They only built it in my lifetime. It wasn't old.

LINDA Well, anyway, they've closed it.

ANNIE That's a disgrace! Why? It was a lovely hospital. I wouldn't want to go anywhere else if I had to choose.

LINDA You have to go somewhere else now. I went for a check-up today - in Greenwich. It was that crowded, mum. It was just like a cattle market. I mean they're doing their best, they're doing everything they can. But they can't cope, they're that over-crowded. You're just a number. They said there that the British Hospital should never have been shut.

JIM Who makes these decisions? One thing for sure - they never asked us. Glad enough to take our money when they wal collecting, but I dont see them giving it back to us now.

ANNIE I can't get over the Mothers and Babies. It was so special having a place just for women, a place that understood women.

SONG The British Hospital is taken  
The Mothers and Babies forsaken  
The South London Hospital for women  
Women and children first.

Belgrave and Cheshunt finished  
Norwood and Enfield vanished  
Stepney Green, West Hendon, closed down, all gone,  
Shrouded now in dust.

Where's the Teddington Memorial  
The Wood Green and Southgate Hospital  
Empty and rotting is the Eltham and Mottingham  
They've thrown away the key.

The Prince of Wales, Queen mary,  
The Victoria and Jubilee  
The Richmond Royal is one of their spoils

A health to their Majesties?

No casualty at Royal Northern,  
The Lugano and the German  
The Metropolitan, the Mildmay Mission,  
They're quiet as the grave.

Wher's St. Leonards and St. Olave's?  
St. Benedict's and St. George's?  
What have they done wit St. Giles and St. John  
When there are lives to save.

But they are ours, our property  
We bought them with our hard-earned pay.  
Are we just going to let them slip away?

LINDA

You see they're closing the local hospitals and  
building these big new ones - which are wonderful -  
but hard to get to. The people who need hospitals  
most are pensioners and mothers with young  
children. We don't usually have our own transport.

NURSE

People of my age group have worked hard, even  
fought, to get what we've got now, and this is the  
time of life when we need the health service more.

EDWARD

And we've paid for it. I've been paying into the  
Health Service one way and another ever since I  
started work in 1924. That's over sixty years  
ago. I've paid my share towards what I should  
getting back now.

ANNIE

We are dreadfully afraid of losing a lot of the  
services that we've got now. I can't understand  
people today letting these things happen. But they  
can't remember what it used to be like and we can.

EDWARD

The good old days? I had them and I don't want  
them again.

SONG

In these troubled days  
The Government says  
We have to protect to survive  
Should the pounds and the pence  
Be spent for defence  
Or to keep the Health Service alive?  
We get sick, we get cold,  
If we're spared, we get old  
So our hospitals we must defend.  
Will we kill, will we cure?  
Is the nation secure  
Will the poor have to cry once again:

Can we afford the Doctor,  
The Dentist, the Midwife, the Nurse?

ANNIE                   After the war, when Jim came out of the Forces, I hadn't seen him for four years and, well, it wasn't long before I fell for my second baby.

NURSE                   Let's have you on the scales.

JIM                     And she was given all this ante-natal care.

NURSE                   Milk, orange juice, vitamin tablets.  
*weighing, regular check-ups.*

JIM                     It was a strange thing to us then, as young as we were and as modern as we thought we were. This care was something that she was told to go and get and to have.

JIM PUTS HIS ARM ROUND HER PROUDLY.

ANNIE                   To have Linda I went in the British Hospital for Mother and Babies, in Woolwich, not far from where we lived then.

MOTHER                 It's my dream come true.

JIM TAKES HER SUITCASE AND LEADS HER TO THE HOSPITAL.

ANNIE                   It was a wonderful hospital. You looked out of the windows on to lovely gardens...

JIM                     Hey, look ~~at~~ <sup>at</sup> all the babies <sup>born</sup> out there, under the trees.

ANNIE                   I used to think you just came here and picked one, whichever you liked best. I know better now.

HUG OR HAND-SQUEEZE.

NURSE                   Come on, young man, time to go.

JIM                     Make it a girl this time, for me.

JIM GOES.             T-HE NURSE EXAMINES ANNIE.

ANNIE                   I remember this hospital opening when I was a little girl.

NURSE                   Yes, three friends started it, three nurses. They wanted to do something about the terrible loss of life they saw in childbirth in those days. ~~That~~ <sup>That</sup> was before there was any proper training for midwives. They started with a house a few streets away and then campaigned for this hospital. The Government finally accepted their standards for the whole country. Right, I think we're ready.

THE NURSE RINGS A BELL.

ANNIE                   You can hear that bell for such a long way. People

ANNIE (con) say, "Oh, there's another baby!"

NURSE It's to call the trainee midwives to watch the birth. Women from all over the world come here to train. Now, deep breaths...

ANNIE IN LABOUR. THE NURSE MOPS HER BROW, ETC.

NURSE But we do our level best to keep it personal. It's a one-to-one thing is having a baby. Sister Gregory, one of the founders, used to say she wanted women to feel they were among their own family. We have a lot of families working here too, mothers and daughters, husbands and wives.

THE NURSE GOES

ANNIE When I had Linda, it was like a dream, it really was. I mean it was wonderful, for me it was wonderful. You were tended and waited on. Clean sheets all the time and I didn't have to make my own suet puddings either!

JIM RETURNS WITH THE SUITCASE. THE NURSE FINISHES ON THE BABY.

JIM (What did she have?)

NURSE It's a little girl. You got your wish.

ANNIE GETS UP. THE NURSE GIVES HER THE BABY.

NURSE She's all yours now. But you'll have a Health Visitor come to see you and she'll deal with any problems you might have. And we'll give you a check-up after six weeks. And then you'll want to be taking her to the clinic.

JIM This carried on for a long time after she was born. Milk, and orange juice and having her weighed.

ANNIE In my lifetime I've been able to see a huge difference between the babies when I was growing up and the babies now.

JIM Little, skinny tiny things, and then suddenly they were big and healthy.

ANNIE You could actually see the improvement.

JIM Then there was all these injections.

ANNIE What's that for?



NURSE                   Diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus. Preventive medicine. These days we don't wait till they're ill and try to cure them. We stop them catching all these things in the first place.

*Ann*  
ANNIE

Makes sense, doesn't it!

ANNIE TAKES THE BABY TO HER MOTHER.

MOTHER                Oh, isn't she sweet! Just look at her little fingers. Look at her little feet.

MAYBE INTERJECTIONS OF "SHE LOOKS SO SWEET" AND "LOOK AT HER LITTLE FEET" DURING THE SONG.

SONG                   The voter of tomorrow is the toddler of today  
The toddler will be cared for if the voter gets his way.  
I asked a politician if he'd kindly state his views  
And say what pleased him most of all about the latest news  
He thought a little while  
Then answered with a smile:

There's never been so many bonny babies  
There's never been so many honey lambs  
They look so sweet  
Toddling down the street  
Or waving their little feet  
While they're wriggling in their prams.

There's never been so many bonny babies  
Their mothers look as proud as they can be  
There's never been a better bunch of babies  
On Britannia's Family Tree.

ANNIE

The last twenty years of my mother's life were wonderful. She got her glasses, she got her false teeth, and she started to put on a bit of weight. We permed her hair...

MOTHER

I'd never had anything done to my hair before!

EDWARD

And of course, we'd all grown up, even Harry - we were all earning - all got homes of our own. So she only had herself to look after on her old age pension.

MOTHER

I never had so much money in my whole life. Sixteen shillings a week!

ANNIE

And none of us ever went out on a Saturday night without we found out if one of the others was taking her out. I was always determined she wasn't going to end up in the Workhouse, penniless, like my Gran did, and she didn't.

- EDWARD            I bought an old jallopy - and when I say old...!  
But I managed to make it go and I used to take her out  
for rides in the country or the seaside. We'd go off  
to Margate, Brighton, places like that.
- ANNIE            Her last twenty years were marvellous.
- EDWARD TAKES MOTHER OFF ON HIS ARM
- SONG            Cheery faces, happy smiles - look at 'em everywhere,  
If the sun shines, if it rains, well what do we really care  
See the boys and girls all come out to play  
Go to breezy Margate for a real good day.
- It isn't the sea that makes your holiday gay  
It isn't the sun that drives your worries away  
It isn't the stars at night or the pale moonlight.  
It's the jolly good company beside the sea.
- It isn't the band that plays those twiddly bits  
Makes you feel as happy as can be  
It's the whoops-a-daisy, pleased to meet you, here we  
are again,  
Jolly good company beside the sea.
- ANNIE            Amazing how fast the middle years of your life go.  
When you look back, you wonder what you've done with  
all that time. I suppose you're so busy working hard  
bringing up the kids, making ends meet, you don't have  
time to think. It's only seeing the kids grow up  
makes you realise that time's passing at all.
- JIM            To me it only seems like yesterday that our Linda was  
born, and ~~yet~~ here she is - married! And expecting  
a baby of her own.
- ANNIE            Come and sit down, love, and put your feet up.
- LINDA            Oh mum, I'm all right.
- ANNIE            I've been thinking - where you should go to have the  
baby is the British Hospital for Mothers and Babies.  
That's the best hospital there could be for having a  
baby in. That's where I had you.
- LINDA            No, mum. I can't go there. It's closed. They've  
closed it down.
- ANNIE            They can't have. It was world famous was that hospital
- JIM            I remember collecting for that hospital. They only  
built it in my lifetime. It wasn't old.
- LINDA            Well, anyway, they've closed it.

- ANNIE                   What-a shame! I wonder why. It was a lovely hospital. I wouldn't want to go anywhere else if I had to choose.
- LINDA                   You have to go somewhere else now. I went for a check-up today - in Greenwich. It was that crowded, mum. It was just like a cattle market. I mean they're doing their best, they're doing everything they can. But they can't cope, they're that overcrowded. You're just a number. They said there that the British Hospital should never have been shut.
- JIM                     Who makes these decisions? One thing for sure - they never asked us. Glad enough to take our money when they was collecting, but I don't see them giving it back to us now.
- ANNIE                   I can't get over the Mothers and Babies. It was so special having a place just for women, a place that understood women.
- SONG                   ~~The Garrett Anderson is taken~~  
 The Mothers and Babies forsaken  
 The South London Hospital for women  
 Women and children first.
- Belgrave and Cheshunt finished  
 Norwood and Enfield vanished  
 Stepney Green, West Hendon, closed down, all gone,  
 Patients no longer nursed.  
~~Stranded now in the dust~~
- Where's the Teddington Memorial  
 The Wood Green and Southgate Hospital  
 Empty and rotting is the Eltham and Mottingham  
 They've thrown away the key.
- The Prince of Wales, Queen Mary,  
 The Victoria and the Jubilee  
 The Richmond Royal is one of their spoils  
 A health to their Majesties?
- Where's the Harts and the Lennard,  
 The Lugano and the German  
 The Metropolitan, the Mildmay Mission,  
 They're quiet as the grave.
- Where's St. Leonards and St. Olave's?  
 St. Benedict's and St. George's?  
 What have they done with St. Giles and St. John  
 When there are lives to save.
- But they are ours, our property  
 We bought them with our hard-earned pay.  
 Are we just going to let them take them away?

- LINDA            You see they're closing the local hospitals and building these big new ones - which are wonderful - but hard to get to. The people who need hospitals most are pensioners and mothers with young children. We don't usually have our own transport.
- NURSE            People of my age group have worked hard, even fought, to get what we've got now, and this is the time of life when we need the health service more.
- JIM                And we've paid for it. I've been paying into the Health Service one way and another ever since I started work in 1924. That's over sixty years ago. I've paid my share towards what I should be getting back now.
- ANNIE            We are dreadfully afraid of losing a lot of the services that we've got now. I can't understand people today letting these things happen. But they can't remember what it used to be like and we can.
- EDWARD           The good old days? I had them and I don't want them again.
- SONG              In these troubled days  
The government says  
We have to protect to survive  
Should the pounds and the pence  
Be spent for defence  
Or to keep the Health Service alive?  
We get sick, we get cold,  
If we're spared, we get old  
So our hospitals we must defend.  
Will we kill, will we cure?  
Is the nation secure  
Will the poor have to cry once again:
- Can we afford the Doctor,  
The Dentist, the Midwife, the Nurse?  
It doesn't seem fair  
That medical care  
Still depends on the state of your purse  
I know it's a hard pill to swallow  
But what can we take for a cure?  
And if only the rich can afford to be sick,  
How cheap are the lives of the poor?