These books can be a patient's favorite roommate

A book makes a good gift for a friend in the hospital, but here's a tip; hospital patients are off their feet in more ways than one, and their usual tastes may

not apply.

I found this out the hard way, by being in the hospital myself.

Books that would have been fine, under normal conditions, hit the floor and stayed there. I wasn't in the mood for a

stayed there. I wasn't in the mood for a novel about concentration camp vitims like "Sophie's Choice" (too depressing) or a spy thriller like "Sophie's Choice" (too depressing) or a spy thriller like "Service to the spin of the latest short stories of V.S. Pritchett (too subtle). Even a best seller like "Scruples," the literary equivelant of Hostess Twinkies, was too much for a quessy stomach. Erma Bombeck's latest was too hearty, and what can you say about an attempt at hospital humor like "Hysterectomies Can Be Hilarious" except. . . well. . . expletive deleted? Still, if you're a reader, you need books desperately during a hospital stay. Friends want to help but too

many flowers make the room look like a funeral, and too much TV will drive you bananas. THERE WAS A GENTLE SOUL in

you bananas.

THERE WAS A GENTLE SOUL in the hospital room next to mine who found all that inane chucking on the Robert Young Sanka commercials:

("But Sanka brand is real coffee, hahahahaha") so unbearable that she threw cubes of Jell-O at the TV screen.

You're better off with books. The best bets are books that are casy, entertaining and episodic. You need to something that can be read in bits and pieces because your attention span, like your memory, isn't all that great.

A few random suggestions that smeet these requirements are: "Metropolitan Life" by Fran Leibowitz, "Huppy All the Time" by Lauric Colwin, a charming little novel that stips down as smoothly as a chocolate milksake, "Scribble, Scribble" by Nora Ephron and "How To Est Like a Child and Other Lessons In Not. Being a Crowny" by Use Lessons In Not. Being a forowny "by Use Lessons In Who Bappent to the Travel books make good hospital reading for an obvious reason — they

take you away from all that. But you can have a relapse later as you lie in your bed, feeling lousy, and think of those lucky enough to be sunbathing on a tropic beach, touring the Loire Valley in France, cruising the Greek isles or what ever

a tropic beach, touring the Lotre Valley in France, cruising the Greek isles or what ever.

That's why I preferred two unusual travel books now currently available in local bookstores — "Travels With Myself' and Another" by Martha Gellhorn and "The Old Patagonian Express" by Paul Theroux.

Not only are they easy to read, and very entertaining, they describe exotic travels that are so miserably uncomfortable and exhausting that you feel, you contrast, cory, content and generally in clover. This is worth a lot.

Of the two, "The Old Patagonian Express" is longer, more informative and more somber in tone. The picture it paints of most of Central and South America is so hopeless that the only solution seems to be to saw off the wholes with continents out of sight.

Canal and let it sink out of sight.

AND YET this isn't a depressing nress" by Paul Theroux.

Not only are they easy to read, and very entertaining, they describe exotic travels that are so miserably uncomfortable and exhausting that you feed, by contrast, coxy, content and generally in clover. This is worth a lot. Of the two, "The Old Patagonian Express" is longer, more informative and more somber in tone. The picture it paints of most of Central and South America is so hopeless that the only solution seems to be to saw off the whole sub-continent south of the Panama Canal and let it sink out of sight.

AND YET his isn't a depressing book. The author is detached, like most

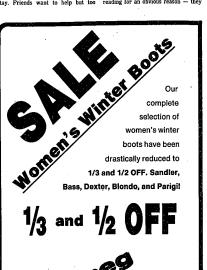
travelers, and he describes what he sees so vividly that your're with him all the way — chugging along on old trains across mountain gorges and through steamy jungle growth and past mud hut villages and crubling Spanish colonial towns and across the Argentine pampas until you reach the end of the line in Patagonia. "I knew I was nowhere but the most surprising thing of all was that I was still in the world after all this time, on a dot at the lower end of the map..."

wartime China in 1941 with an unnamed companion (Ernest Heminighway, who was then her husband) and an addled Chinese interpreter whose favorite English word was "watchumacallit."

If your ever had youthful dreams of being a foreign correspondant, as I did, you will thank your lucky stars you never made it after reading this chapter — terrifying plane rides, an outbreak of cholera, all day hitse through mud and rain, plank beds in filthy rooms full of bedbugs and, for refreshment, snake wine.

There are other chapters on hunting for submarines in the Caribbean in 1942 (hen never quite figured out what she'd do if she spotted one); Africa in 1952 (in Nairobi, she rented a Land Rover and set off into the bush with a diview who, it turned out, couldn't callectuals in Moow, with dissident in a continual control of the Red Saa in Internal in 1971. This last chapter is the least satisfactory in the book, and the shortest. least satisfactory in the book, and the shortest.

I still can't decide whether my favorite chapter is the one on China, or "One Look at Mother Russia." Here's a brief climpse of the author, trying to get out of her assigned Moscow hotel, "a sarione tin with rooms" miles out of town, on the road to Minsk.
"Two other" apoplictic travelers appeared, a big fat Texan and a small Asian, of indeterminate nationality. The Texan was splendid. Red in the goddamndest lousiest place he ever saw, who wanted to be stuck off here, what kind of stinking country was this. The Asian, though less articulate, was no less displeased. He waved his camera at the her boby. . . he waved his camera at the country of t









With the Observer & Eccentric Newspapers special section 1980 Outlook January 21, 1980







FAVE 507 on carpet remnants of luxury grade designer colors 12'x 7' to 12'x 20' — will fit most rooms

JAVE 25% to 50%

SAVE 20% to 30% from every roll SAVE 20% on all padding

SAVE 10% on all labor



we cover interiors

34769 Grand River, Farmington – 3/4 mile west of Farmington Road – Tel. 478-6020 open Mon, Thurs, Fri 10-9/Tues, Wed, Sat 10-6 bank cards accepted

DR. KEN GOLDSMITH, M.D.

NEW CAMP FARBAND

ed hills, surround-

ed by thousands of

acres of state land

and dozens of clear

beautiful lakes.

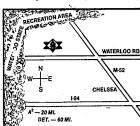
This is the NEW CAMP FARBAND - a Jewish camp for the 80's; scenically located in the beautiful Waterloo Recreation area.

120 acres of rolling, wood-

A wide variety of course offerings allows your A whole valiety of course orientings allows your child to choose his individual project, and under expert guidance to complete the task; gaining a skill and a sense of achievement and self reliance. Learning will be fun at New Camp

RECREATION

Our facilities rival any camp...riding, soiling, sports, new waterfront, woodlore, camping, canoe trips, and wilderness experience. There is no such thing as a bored camp



Hebrew school is not the only place to learn about neotew schools are the state of the state of

SUPERVISION

A careful screening of applicants assures that only the most trustworthy and experienced people are hired as staff. Your child will be in good hands

ATMOSPHERE

The food is Kosher and delicious. The lake is deep. clear, and full of fish. At Farband we live in har-

> AGES 6-16 TWO 4 WEEK SESSIONS June 22 - July 20

July 20 - August 17 For more info call COLLECT 313-663-4417

Ken Goldsmith, M.D. Resident Director New Camp Farband 19420 Waterloo Rd. Chelsea, MI 48118

SUPER JANUARY CLEARANCE SALE

Up to 33% Savings on New & Used Office Equipment During January Clearance Sale

Printing Calculators from *58°° Victor, Adler, TCA, Olivetti & Others Built for the office Priced for the home

VICTOR Reg. \$139,95 Model 100 \$ 11995

IBM - Adler - Royal Seiko Silver Reed - Reminaton & Mor **Typewriters** from ^{\$3900} New Portable Electric Typewrit from *159°° Syser warranty
Adler Office Typewriters
If you like IBM you'll love Adler *495°° & Up

We won't be undersold! We'll match or beat any legitimate deal

NEW & USED COPIERS



• 3M • ROMEO VICKER • ADLER • ESKOFOT Dry Copiers start at

\$69500



Clean & Repair Typewriters & Adding Machines
 Giving liberal Trade-Ins
 Sell Fresh Ribbons for most Typewriters including IBM
 Have fully trained Service Department

NARAGON BUSINESS MACHINES 26541 Plymouth Rd., Redford 48239 SALES - SERVICE - RENTALS 937-8811

