**“Sun at the Hospital”** (*„Saulīte slimnīcā”*) by Rainis (1927)

“Sun at the Hospital” is the last collection of children poetry that was arranged by Rainis himself. In the 1920’s Rainis often received treatment and spend some time at a children’s hospital visiting his friend Dr. Andrejs Priedkalns, who was the director of the hospital. There the poet got to know the life of children and their psychology. An idea of a poetry collection for children “Sun at the Hospital” emerged. Rainis called its composition a “children Decameron”, that is evident in the subtitle — How five children were spending their time while being sick of ten days. In those days each of the children would recite a poem. The collection is divided in ten chapters that depict the ten days. The poems were composed from 1925 to 1926. A part of the poetry already had a pre-publication in the picture books (1908-1911) published by the publishing house of Ernests Plātess. Remembering the time spent at the hospital, Rainis wrote: “All were trying to convince me, that they clearly remember that the hospital always had good weather and the sun was shining at the time. But I, on the other hand, remember that the time back then used to be always cloudy and foggy and I wonder if it wasn’t the sun of happiness that was reflected in the memories of the children, because of the good communication and feelings at the hospital? So I will call this little book “Sun at the Hospital”, and maybe now the five of my little patients — Mirdza, Viktiņš, Maiga, Mudīte and Valdītis — will be able to bring some rays of sun to other children, sick or healthy?”.

The poem collection “Sun at the Hospital” was published by the publishing house “Andreja Jesena apgāds” (in the series “Books for School and Home” no. 66 (*sērija „Grāmatas skolai un mājai” 66. nr.*)) in 1927.