How the Poor Die

Tone
Throughout the essay, we get an intimate look on not only Hospital X, but also the damaging effects it has left on Orwell as a person. There are many examples in the piece that depict traumatic experiences that occurred in the establishment leaving him hurt, frightened, angered, and full of bitter resentment. We experience the frustration and anger in very vivid and explicit images that Orwell has expertly distinguished in the essay. The wording he used to describe the mistreating and cold hearted staff of the hospital depicts them as very stupid and negative individuals who do not and could not care about the patients at all. Orwell compares the nurses at this hospital to a hospital he has visited in England.

Target Audience
This essay was most likely written for the English population from mid 30’s to middle-aged and was meant for people from the working and lower-middle class and/or people who have most likely had experiences in state or lower grade hospitals in England.

Structure
Paragraph length largely varies. This suggests that this is a personal, informal piece of writing. As this is intended for a magazine, this style of writing is suitable for selling issues of magazines. However, this also works to discredit the claim that this work is metaphorical as it suggests personal knowledge and experience. Essay is longer than most of Orwell's other works, which suggests that he is passionate about this issue. There are a number of reasons for his passion, such as personal involvement, importance of addressing, or metaphorical value. Sequence of events is chronological, but this does not indicate whether this essay is metaphorical or literal. It does suggest that this is a personal issue for Orwell.

Thesis
"The dread of hospitals probably still survives among the very poor, and in all of us it has only recently disappeared. It is a dark patch not far beneath the surface of our minds."
- Shows Orwell's thoughts towards hospital and medical care at the time
- These thoughts were shared amongst many people in the time period

Diction
First Person narrative: Great use of "I" and "we" throughout the essay. This adds a great deal of personal meaning to the subject for Orwell as well as allowing the reader to connect almost directly with Orwell and his experiences.
Negative Diction: The entire experience is described in an extremely negative way by Orwell for himself and the patients there; this negativity continues for the content of previous literary works surrounding hospitals that he refers to.
Simple/Easy to Understand Diction: Orwell uses mostly simple and easy to understand language in this essay, especially in his descriptive areas.
Neutral/Clinical Diction: the actual medical practices and doctor experiences are described in a very neutral and clinical fashion, almost to avoid opinion and bias on the entire experience.

Literary Devices
Analogy: Hospital X as a prison demonstrates how the prisoners were held captive by their poverty ex. a hospital was an "old-fashioned, dungeon-like prison...a place of filth and torture and death"
The patients as animals demonstrates how the patients were denied humanity and equality to be moved quickly through the system ex. the hospital was about the “business of people dying like animals”
Allusion: The nurses have “a tinge of Mrs. Gamp about them,” meaning the nurses are dimwitted and incompetent, just like Mrs. Gamp from Charles Dickens’ Martin Chuzzlewit; Orwell draws on Dickins’ description of neglectful nurses to help the reader understand the situation
Irony: While the patients provide each other with care, they also enjoy the pain of those around them, indicating that people can at once be wonderful and horrible ex. the mustard poultice is “funny enough if you don’t happen to be the person inside”

Content
Orwell shows his anti-nationalist perspective here, especially when referring to English hospitals.
Orwell exposes the role of authority - To empower those with it and drive those without it to get it.
The Caste system - where everyone is assigned a life role and to fulfill that role will grant the worker a better future life - is exposed and potentially parodied here. The duality of authority is shown in this point.
Orwell uses many techniques to achieve a metaphorical theme in his essay. ex. The use of the Mustard Poultsice as a symbol to represent the experience of receiving treatment at Hospital X
The implications of the essay, such as the poor treatment of those under the doctors and the great disparity between these different classes, are never stated or even given as an opinion from Orwell. Orwell manages to implant these ideas of social structure and poor treatment through the use of description and narrative; placing the reader in his position.