

Author Manchester Critically Ill

Middletown, Conn.

Author William Manchester, author of "The Death of a President," was hospitalized in critical condition today. A source said he was suffering from "high fever, possibly pneumonia."

Manchester was taken to Middlesex Memorial Hospital in Middletown shortly before 1 a.m., according to Frank Conkin a spokesman for the hospital.

"He is in critical condition," Conkin said.

Asked whether the author had a high fever, he replied: "I cannot confirm that." He would not disclose the nature of the illness but said Manchester "is undergoing observation."

The writer soared into national prominence recently as the "authorized" historian of the assassination of President Kennedy.

United Press