

Personal health information in verse

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WHAT MUST IT SAY ABOUT ME?

What must it say about me
That my poetry is published in
Neurology?
I suppose it is better than if my
Science
Were published in
The Yale Review.

What must it say about me
That even those of my patients with
Signs of their symptoms
Have complaints unaccompanied by
Reason
Or relevant signs
Of disease?

What must it say about me
That mistakes of importance to patients long gone
Inform
And live on in survival of others they never will
Know?

HIPAA

So many of the things that move us
Are a secret these days.
A secret from the estranged wife,
From the loving husband,
From the divorced parent who has been thrown out
of the house.
A secret the patient keeps from himself when he looks
in the mirror in the morning.
(It is no wonder we doctors resort to poetry.)

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