

Alteration

Dan Champion

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Learning from one another in medical encounters

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Alteration

Dan Champion

Iowa, USA

jecdrc@earthlink.net

From lack of sleep we've ceased to be ourselves:
One way that illness cushions sufferers.
Exploring unread books that grace our shelves
we're taken where the fanciful occurs.
At least until our concentration wanes
we're elsewhere, other, favored with fresh cares,
which, being not our own, relieve our pains.
We venture where no healthy person dares,
believing in impossibilities.
It's possible we've never been more real,
our true selves stand revealed by our disease.
But no. That thought's dismissed without appeal.
We've crossed and recrossed all the lines and bars
of worlds enough. This wakeful one is ours. ■