

A toast to Richard M. Caplan, MD
by R.C. Swartz
before a meeting of The Younger Stamfords
at Vesta Restaurant in Coralville, Iowa
on November 4, 2019

P.S. to V.S.
In Memoriam
Richard M. Caplan, MD

Here, Muse, help us to mourn that man of note
Who read a doctor's prose with doctor's eye,
Who'd studied all that Watson ever wrote
And could all canon questions certify.

On leprosy he would discourse profound,
Then deftly perform a piano score.
His mere mention of a gigantic hound
Always had listeners eager for . . . moor.

Pick any item in the syllabus,
He'd offer thoughts sagacious and steady--
Except the tale he would never discuss,
One for which the world is not yet ready.

As for England—She's yet a sceptered scene,
Undaunted despite last century's span.
We still rise to toast a long reign-ed Queen,
Who again has troops in Afghanistan.

Here, as long as the canon and comradery survive,
There'll be his Younger Stamfords hailing eighteen ninety-five.