

THE SPECIALIST

Confident in step and hand,
cachet of well-trained youth,
a coat of nineties gloss--

But his eyes are ancient.
He listens with them,
connecting deep behind
the asking eyes he faces.
His patients--the ones beyond
sophistication's pose,
will tell you
he has hearing of the heart.

Yesterday I needed
more than bottled nostrums
and prescribed smoothespeak,
more than surgical steel wizardry.

Consulting this practitioner
of modern internal medicine,
I recalled that blue comes from
the cool part of the spectrum.

But his warm irises incised
confusion and fear
and applied non-synthetic caring.
My hidden sore was lanced,
more balm applied
than words alone can deliver
and I slept in the healing ward.

--Glenna Holloway