



His Gift to Me

For William Bronson, MD

Richard Bronson, MD

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I unlock the door, enter
his empty office,
the ghost of his nurse greeting me,
leading me in memory
to the place
where my father once checked
my height and weight,

took from a tall closet
stocked with packs of pills,
shelves rising above my head,
vitamins in a bright red bottle,
his gift to me that day.

I walk through rooms
diminished by his death:
an X-ray machine hulking in darkness,
a desk littered with journals, files,
a padded table patiently waiting
behind a wooden partition,

open the closet door, gaze at piles
of antibiotics, analgesics, diuretics
now scattered on the floor,
reach down and touch them,

think what remains,
this memory of his care,
belies the maxim
not to treat our families.

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