

Spleens

Written on the occasion of a friend's spleen removal*

*I think that I have never seen
An organ lovely as a spleen.*

*A spleen that filters out the crud
That tends to build up in our blood.*

*A spleen whose humor is melancholy
From too much dietetic folly.*

*A spleen with corpuscles Malpighian,
Next to the liver, in darkness Stygian.*

*A spleen that always will connect to me,
Unless I undergo a splenectomy.*

*Manmade wonders we have seen,
But only God can make a spleen.*

** I have to confess that, before the surgery of my friend Nettie Potts, I hadn't thought much about the spleen. It seems to be one of the most underappreciated organs in the human body. So, I did a little research, and hope to raise everyone's level of "spleen consciousness" with this little ode (inspired by Joyce Kilmer).*

Gall Bladder Adieu

*Written on the occasion of a friend's gall bladder removal**

"Cholesystectomy"

Doesn't mean heck to me.

What are you trying to say?

If you'd say "gall bladder"

Then I would be gladder

To pay what I'm having to pay.

** Poor Nettie Potts finally had to have her pesky gall bladder removed. She is convinced they gave the operation a fancy name so they could charge more!*