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**Neuroanatomy**

Miles Burrows

The mind, gentlemen, is a small midlands town, like Kettering
Where they made corsets for years
And the giant factory dominates the scene
As you pass by on the train
You especially notice the word CORSETS
In the fine confident lettering of the period
And although corsets are not required any more
It still goes on producing them
Because that is what it does, that is what it is.

The soul is quite a different town
Whose name escapes me, further North,
Where they made curtain-like material in large sheets
That were hung out to dry in strips
Long as the hair of a princess
Long as cricket pitches
From specially constructed high balconies
Till the damp strips, like seaweed, congealed into linoleum
Ready to hang over the moon
In long rolls with beige stripes
And Greek key patterns.

This poem is from The Hippocrates Prize 2011, published by The Hippocrates Prize in association with Top Edge Press. ©Miles Burrows. Another poem by Dr Burrows, "Why Did You Become a Doctor?" was published in the Journal in May 2012.

Chosen by Femi Oyebode.
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