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poems
by
doctors

Asylum – no more

Reg Parton

Empty crumbling wards echo the sighs
Of the countless souls possessed;
Their solemn footfalls no longer measure
The length of their tormented lives
In endless, aimless peregrination
Along the overgrown pavements.

No more the thousand-fold,
The regimented herding;
No more the human industry,
The impersonal caring care;
No more the sanctuary austere,
No more . . . no more . . .

And so the silent screams
Bear out the tragedy
Of hopes now dashed, abandoned;
The future offering but little
To ease the burden of pain and fear,
The alienation and the sorrow.
[1993]

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