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poems  
by  
doctors

## Scored

Peter Wells

Eyes, as old as autumn leaves  
on the death mask of a child,  
marble cold.

Boot black hair  
carefully unkempt.

A stalk,  
scarred with needle tracks  
cupped beneath her witch face  
still avid for spells.

But I'm no sorcerer  
and heroin is not within my gift.

'Piss off then!' she cried  
with a cripple's touchy pride,  
her trouser pocket poked out  
like a tongue,  
the valedictory gesture of the damned.

Peter retired in 1993. He opened a young people's unit in 1970 for the treatment of disturbed adolescents in the North region. He began writing poetry while serving in the Royal Navy in 1943.

Another of Dr Wells's poems was published in the November 2010 issue of the *Journal*.

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