Cortisone and the burning cross: The story of Percy Julian

schools that bear his name. We also remember that this agile chemist made it possible to make cortisone from beans instead of bile so we could give it to our patients for a pittance.

References


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Lament for a son

I thought I had discarded grief—
My father’s grateful querying eye
Had compassed me alone, its brief
Trajectory without the cry
Of yearning for the cease of pain.
No, on the deathbed in my home
His opiated dreams’ refrain
Unhooked me: I became a son.
My own child stood outside his room
Divining how one man should meet
Another in the arms of doom
No matter if the embrace were sweet.

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