Cold, pale, alabaster
belie warm mucinous tissue
wrapped around bone, tendon, and cartilage.
Cells divide . . .
all types, fueling upon each other as
rowdies in a crowd, heralding
synergistic screaming release
of demons that invade and
erode and destroy.

Weakness, swelling and subluxation
make labored movement miserable.
What good a prehensile thumb,
if deformed beyond belief?
and yet, with pride, resolve,
I-did-this-once before . . .
determination to again thread a needle!

Jules S. Shapiro, M.D., and Edward D. Harris, Jr., M.D.

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