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Authors	Dart O'Flynn, Sinead
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University College Cork, Ireland
 Coláiste na hOllscoile Corcaigh

Bed Numbers

SINEAD DART O'FLYNN

On my first ever medical attachment
Mercy University Hospital
I scurry along the cold corridors
Seeking out approval
Alone for a tutorial
With a consultant doctor
Where are my friends
Why didn't they show up
Were they wiser than I

Consultant doctor:
"Take a history from XYZ
in bed number A on ward BC"
Eager beaver
Wanting to impress
I hurry off in my purple scrubs
I hit the lift on floor two
Shit
What bed number did he say
Panic ensues
What f*cking bed number did he say

He'll think me incompetent
He'll think me a fool
I'll be shame walked
in front of the school of medicine
Branded a tool

Student nurse guide me
And we figure it out together
All though I'm not sure
What bed number did he say
I say a prayer
anyone up there who'll listen
I don't even believe

Relief as consultant walks in
I have the right patient
Thank god