

what's wrong with

YOU?

By Ian Couper

A trial of treatment here –
Maybe this one's got TB –
We'll give him time at home
Then we'll have to see.

Masterful inactivity
Has become my favourite dictum
Yet they must be found a label –
Don't ask me where I picked 'em.

Antibiotic guesswork
(We have no culture lab)
The range of med is limited
On a governmental tab.

When did I last diagnose
A good old-fashioned syndrome,
One of those wonderful diseases
From an internal medicine tome.

Living with uncertainty
That's what it's all about –
Why did my school not teach me
About how to deal with doubt?

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Note: This poem was written by Dr Ian Couper who has been working at Manguzi Hospital/Maputaland since 1991.