

Eavesdropping on

ORGANS

By Chris Ellis

General practice,
a life of listening in
on organs
that breathe or gurgle.
Or splash and swish along.
Eavesdropping on the aorta.

Listening to the noises of the interior.

To the arpeggios of the colonic orchestra.

The tumbrels, the triangle and the big bass drum.

The subterranean mutterings of intestinal flora.

Conspiracies of bacteria plotting
an insurrection of the bowels.

Note: This poem is reprinted from Ruminations from Rural Practice, by Chris Ellis, with illustrations by Louis Hiemstra. Published by Academy Publications, 1994. For your copy please post a cheque for R50.00 made out to SA Family Practice, to: P O Box 3172, Cramerview, 2060