

# My Medical Bag has GONE for A CHECKUP

By Chris Ellis

My bag is going in for repairs.  
Over the years, the corners have become frayed  
on car doors and bedroom walls.  
The leather is coming off the bottom since  
it got wet one day on a house call.

It has a familiarity for me, yet I neglect it.  
It runs out of needles or spatulas  
and I have to ask for a teaspoon  
to use for examining the throat.

There's an auroscope in the bottom drawer but it's fallen into pieces.  
I have to reassemble it each time.  
I keep the batteries out as I had one in which they leaked  
and I couldn't get them out.  
They were fused into the handle in a solid mass.  
The funny metal thing inside has come adrift  
but I know the groove it goes into.

The light goes on by twisting it a full circle and pressing from the side.  
To see in the ear I have to press on the top to make the connection  
as well as hold it in a certain way.  
It's become user unfriendly so it's going in for repairs too.

The bag stethoscope. I've had it for over twenty years.  
There's a crack in the tubing and I can hear my own breathing  
unless I hang it under my chin. I'm going to tape it up again.

On clearing it out I'm amazed how out of date some of the ampoules are.  
I worry that I will need something on a call-out to a farm  
and when I look, it will be out of date or it won't be there.

One day everything will work and I shall have everything in it that I need.

One day.

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