



The physical - an era bygone

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Auenbrugger tapped his father's half-empty wine cellars,
And, thus, discovered percussion;
Laennec devised the stealthy stethoscope,
Enabling the accurate probing of murmurs and holes;
A new era was ushered in,
The physical
became a ritual
Between the doctor and his patient.

Now geeks with flashy tests and scans
At their disposal, skip the physical;
Thereby diluting the ritual
Between the doctor and his patient.
The physical has ebbed
In stature and in spirit;
Skipping it
Often leads to a diagnosis that is amiss.

In COVID times,
The PPE kit and the mask
Are a barrier too brutal,
For the physical tends to be more ephemeral.
The doctor, a Martian man,
Treating without his touch and his scope;
It hardly bodes well for the physical,
which may soon belong to an era bygone.

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