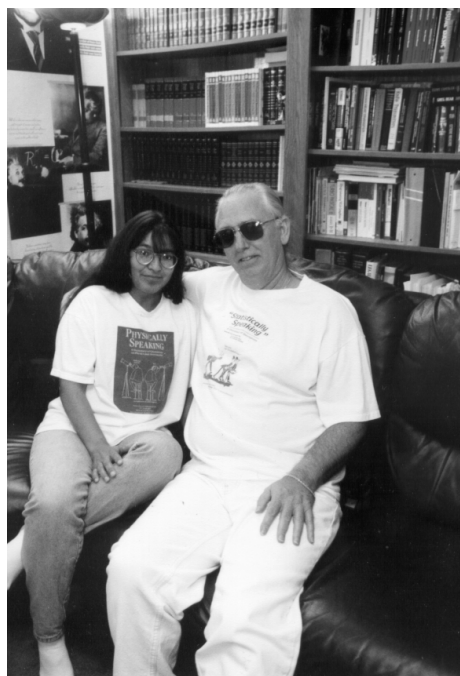


# Medically Speaking

A Dictionary of Quotations  
on Dentistry, Medicine and Nursing



## About the Compilers

Carl C Gaither was born on 3 June 1944 in San Antonio, Texas. He has conducted research work for the Texas Department of Corrections, the Louisiana Department of Corrections, and taught mathematics, probability, and statistics at McNeese State University and Troy State University at Dothan. Additionally he worked for ten years as an Operations Research Analyst. He received his undergraduate degree (Psychology) from the University of Hawaii and has graduate degrees from McNeese State University (Psychology), North East Louisiana University (Criminal Justice), and the University of Southwestern Louisiana (Mathematical Statistics).

Alma E Cavazos-Gaither was born on 6 January 1955 in San Juan, Texas. San Juan has the name of a big city but in Texas it's just a small border town. She has previously worked in quality control, material control, and as a bilingual data collector. In addition to compiling the quotations for this science quotation book series she is also an SK1 in the United States Navy Reserve. She received her associate degree (Telecommunications) from Central Texas College and presently is working toward a BA degree with a major in Spanish and a minor in Business Management.

Together they selected and arranged quotations for the books *Statistically Speaking: A Dictionary of Quotations* (Institute of Physics Publishing, 1996), *Physically Speaking: A Dictionary of Quotations on Physics and Astronomy* (Institute of Physics Publishing, 1997), *Mathematically Speaking: A Dictionary of Quotations* (Institute of Physics Publishing, 1998) and *Practically Speaking: A Dictionary of Quotations on Engineering, Technology and Architecture* (Institute of Physics Publishing, 1999).

## About the Illustrator

Andrew Slocombe was born in Bristol in 1955. He spent four years of his life at Art College where he attained his Honours Degree (Graphic Design). Since then he has tried to see the funny side to everything and considers that seeing the funny side to medicine, nursing and dentistry has tested him to the full! He would like to thank Carl and Alma for the challenge!

**Medically Speaking**  
**A Dictionary of Quotations**  
**on Dentistry, Medicine**  
**and Nursing**

Selected and Arranged by

**Carl C Gaither**  
and  
**Alma E Cavazos-Gaither**

Illustrated by Andrew Slocombe

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This book is dedicated to my mother  
Pearl Gaither, R.N.  
and to my son  
Russell J. Gaither, EMT  
*Carl C. Gaither*

This book is dedicated to my sister  
Rosie Cervantes, LPN (1952–1997)

Also I dedicate this book to my mother,  
Magdelana Cavazos, who had to use every home remedy  
known to mankind to keep all eleven of her  
children in good health

I also dedicate this book to my grandson  
Malcolm Xavier Childs  
*Alma E. Cavazos-Gaither*

In memorium  
In loving memory of Ethel Bernal  
(9 November 1940–20 April 1999)  
Wife, mother, sister and aunt

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# PREFACE

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Each year a large number of students enter the schools of dentistry, medicine, and nursing throughout the world. They enter what is to them a new world of thought and ideas. Even though advisors do suggest they read the classical works, the students usually don't have the time to delve deeply into these works. For the student *Medically Speaking* will provide a convenient way to quickly locate some of the great and not-so-great thoughts which have been written.

Rachel Carson wrote: '*I have, I confess, rather strong and definite prejudice against altering an author's words when excerpts from his writings are reprinted. A quotation, in my probably old-fashioned view, should be a quotation*' (from Paul Brooks *The House of Life: Rachel Carson at Work, The Writer and His Subject*, p. 3).

The aim of *Medically Speaking*, which contains over 1500 quotations, has been to provide all classes of medical people, as well as the non-practitioner who has an interest in medicine, with a volume of unaltered quotations. Another aim has been to provide a book that is attractive in appearance and of convenient size so that it may be kept on a desk for constant reference.

While there are other books of medical quotations, *Medically Speaking* has several important points of originality. Firstly, it has been freshly written 'from scratch' to give the widest possible range of quotations from the works of professionals (in and out of the field of medicine), poets, philosophers, writers, and anyone else we found who had said something worth repeating. As such, it is a work that has not appeared in print before. Secondly, it has illustrations. These illustrations have been included to bring a smile by showing to the eye a humorous visual interpretation of some of the quotations. Thirdly, it is worth pointing out that never before has so comprehensive a book of medical quotations been generally available to the public at so low a price as is *Medically Speaking*.

Quite a few of the quotations have been used frequently and will be recognized while others have probably not been used before. The authority for each quotation has been given with the fullest possible

information that we could find so as to help you pinpoint the quotation in its appropriate context or discover more quotations in the original source. When the original source could not be located we indicated where we found the quote. Sometimes, however, we only had the quote and not the source. When this happened we listed the source as unknown and included the quotation anyway so that it would not become lost in time.

In summary, *Medically Speaking* is a book that has many uses. You can:

- Identify the author of a quotation.
- Identify the source of the quotation.
- Check the precise wording of a quotation.
- Discover what an individual has said on a subject.
- Find sayings by other individuals on the same subject.

### **How to Use This Book**

1. A quotation for a given subject may be found by looking for that subject in the alphabetical arrangement of the book itself. To illustrate, if a quotation on “brain” is wanted, you will find seven quotations listed under the heading BRAIN. The arrangement of quotations in this book under each subject heading constitutes a collective composition that incorporates the sayings of a range of people.
2. To find all the quotations pertaining to a subject and the individuals quoted use the SUBJECT BY AUTHOR INDEX. This index will help guide you to the specific statement that is sought. A brief extract of each quotation is included in this index.
3. If you recall the name appearing in the attribution or if you wish to read all of an individual author’s contributions that are included in this book then you will want to use the AUTHOR BY SUBJECT INDEX. Here the authors are listed alphabetically along with their quotations. The birth and death dates are provided for the authors whenever we could determine them.

### **Thanks**

It is never superfluous to say thanks where thanks are due. Firstly, we want to thank Jim Revill and Al Troyano, of Institute of Physics Publishing, who have assisted us so very much with our books. Next, we thank the following libraries for allowing us to use their resources: The Jesse H. Jones Library and the Moody Memorial Library, Baylor University; the main library of the University of Mary-Hardin Baylor; the main library of the Central Texas College; the Undergraduate Library, the Engineering Library, the Law Library, the Physics-Math-Astronomy Library, and the Humanities Research Center, all of the University of Texas at Austin. Again, we wish to thank Joe Gonzalez, Chris Braun, Ken McFarland, Kathryn Kenefick, Gabriel Alvarado, Janice Duff, Rennison Lalgee, Deidra Allen, Brian Camp, Robert Clontz, Michelle Gonzales,

Katie MacInnis, Mike Harris, Brigid Spackman, Alex Marshall, Sammie Morris, and Ethan Perry of the Perry-Castañeda Library for putting up with us when we were checking out the hundreds of books. Finally, we wish to thank our children Maritza, Maurice, and Marilyn for their assistance in finding the books we needed when we were at the libraries.

A great amount of work goes into the preparation of any book. When the book is finished there is then time for the editors and authors to enjoy what they have written. It is hoped that this book will stimulate your imagination and interests in matters about dentistry, medicine and nursing. This objective has been expressed by Helen Hill (quoted in Llewellyn Nathaniel Edwards *A Record of History and Evolution of Early American Bridges*, p. xii):

If what we have within our book  
Can to the reader pleasure lend,  
We have accomplished what we wished,  
Our means have gained our end.

**Carl Gaither**  
**Alma Cavazos-Gaither**  
August 1999

# ABDOMEN

---

**Unknown**

The part of the body responsible for converting processed food into processed tissue.

In Richard Iannelli  
*The Devil's New Dictionary*



# ABORTION

---

## **Given, William P.**

After it became legal, I tried performing them for a while. But when I'd get home I'd feel rotten. And yet I absolutely feel it's a woman's right. So now if a patient wants one I refer her to someone else, someone I know is skilled and reasonably priced. Does that make me a hypocrite?

In Louise Kapp Howe  
*Moments on Maple Street*  
Chapter Three (p. 21)

## **Hachamovitch, Moshe**

By and large, legal or not, the procedure is still a pariah of our specialty.

In Louise Kapp Howe  
*Moments on Maple Street*  
Chapter Three (p. 21)

## **Kennedy, Flo**

If men could get pregnant, abortion would be a sacrament.

In Roz Warren  
*Glibquips* (p. 2)

## **Nolan, James Joseph**

Physicians roasted on the spit;  
Is learning the name of it?  
For complications, spare no precaution;  
To save a life think abortion.

*The New England Journal of Medicine*  
On Renewed Maternal Mortality Reports (p. 952)  
Volume 286, Number 17, April 27, 1972

## **Pope Pius XI**

However we may pity the mother whose health and even life is imperiled by the performance of her natural duty, there yet remains no sufficient reason for condoning the direct murder of the innocent.

*Casti Connubii*  
December 31, 1930

**Tertullian**

It's a committing murder before hand, to destroy that which is to be born . . .

*Apologeticus*  
IX, 197

**Unknown**

Why not outlaw heterosexuality instead of abortion? Strike at the source!

Source unknown

# ACUPUNCTURE

---

## Unknown

A medical practice, employing needles, which offers relief from pain but no backing out. Once the patient agrees to the treatment, he's stuck with it.

In Richard Iannelli  
*The Devil's New Dictionary*



# ADHESIVE

---

**Armour, Richard**

Removing adhesive is hazardous work:  
Little by little? Or one sudden jerk?  
Whichever it is, you may doubt you will win—  
Removing adhesive, but leaving the skin.

*The Medical Muse*  
Stuck with It

# ALLERGY

---

## **Mather, Increase**

Some men also have strange antipathies in their natures against that sort of food which others love and live upon. I have read of one that could not endure to eat either bread or flesh; of another that fell into a swooning fit at the smell of a rose . . .

*Remarkable Providences*  
Chapter IV (p. 71)

## **Unknown**

When a doctor doesn't know, he calls it a virus; when he does know but can't cure it, he calls it an allergy.

In Evan Esar  
*20,000 Quips and Quotes*

## **Welsh, Joan I.**

Medical science has gone far;  
On that we'll all agree—  
What used to be called an itch  
Today's an allergy.

*Quote, The Weekly Digest*  
July 21, 1968 (p. 56)

# AMNESIA

---

**Unknown**

An affliction, usually caused by a deep shock, trauma or a bump on the head, which renders a person unable to remember who he is. Most people don't know who they are in the first place, and are therefore immune.

In Richard Iannelli  
*The Devil's New Dictionary*

# AMPUTATION

---

**Middleton, Thomas**

I'll imitate the pities of old Surgeons  
To this lost limb, who, ere they show their art,  
Cast one asleep, then cut the diseas'd part.

*Women Beware Women*  
Act IV, Scene I (p. 91)

**Webster, John**

I had a limb corrupted to an ulcer,  
But I have cut it off; and now I'll go  
Weeping to heaven on crutches.

*The White Devil*  
Act IV, Scene II, L. 117-119

# ANATOMISTS

---

## **Richardson, Samuel**

And I believe that anatomists allow *that women have more watery heads than men.*

*The Works of Samuel Richardson*  
Volume VII  
*The History of Clarissa Harlowe*  
Volume IV  
Letter XXVII (p. 130)

## **Twain, Mark**

Surgeons and anatomists see no beautiful women in all their lives, but only a ghastly sack of bones with Latin names to them, and a network of nerves and muscles and tissues inflamed by disease.

Letter to the *Alta Californian*  
San Francisco, May 28, 1867



# ANATOMY

---

## **Bacon, Francis**

In the inquiry which is made by anatomy, I find much deficiency: for they inquire of the parts, and their substances, figures, and collocations; but they inquire not of the diversities of the parts, the secrecies of the passages, and the seats or nestling of the humours, nor much of footsteps and impressions of diseases.

*Advancement of Learning*  
Second Book, X, 5

## **Burton, Robert**

[Diseases] crucify the soul of man, attenuate our bodies, dry them, wither them, shrivel them up like old apples, make them as so many anatomies.

*The Anatomy of Melancholy*  
Part I, Section 2, Memb. 3, Subsection 10

## **Dagi, Teodoro Forcht**

Ask any doctor off the street  
To speak of his most prizèd feat:  
No doubt he'd answer honestly,  
And say "to pass anatomy".

*The New England Journal of Medicine*  
Anatomy of the Brain and Spinal Medulla: A Manual for Students (p. 1010)  
Volume 286, Number 18, May 4, 1972

## **Dickinson, Emily**

A science—so the Savants say,  
"Comparative Anatomy"—  
By which a single bone—  
Is made a secret to unfold  
Of some rare tenant of the mold,  
Else perished in the stone—

*The Complete Poems of Emily Dickinson*  
#3

**Fernel, Jean**

Anatomy is to physiology as geography is to history; it describes the theater of events.

*De Naturali Parte Medicinæ Libri Septem*  
Chapter I

**Halle, John**

But chieflye the anatomye  
Ye oughte to understande:  
If ye will cure well anye thinge,  
That ye doe take in hande.

In Mary Lou McDonough  
*Poet Physician*  
Anatomy (p. 11)

**Holmes, Oliver Wendell**

What geology has done for our knowledge of the earth, has been done for our knowledge of the body by that method of study to which is given the name of *General Anatomy*.

*Medical Essays*  
Border Lines in Medical Science (p. 222)

**Muller, Herbert J.**

To say . . . that a man is made up of certain chemical elements is a satisfactory description only for those who intend to use him as a fertilizer.

*Science and Criticism*  
Chapter V (p. 107)

**Nye, Bill**

The word anatomy is derived from two Greek spatters and three polywogs, which, when translated, signify "up through" and "to cut", so that anatomy actually, when translated from the original wappy-jawed Greek, means to cut up through. That is no doubt the reason why the medical student proceeds to cut up through the entire course.

*Remarks*  
Anatomy (p. 27)

Human anatomy is either general, specific, topographical or surgical. These terms do not imply the dissection and anatomy of generals, specialists, topographers and surgeons, as they might seem to imply, but really mean something else. I would explain here what they actually do mean if I had more room and knew enough to do it.

*Remarks*  
Anatomy (p. 28)

**Osler, Sir William**

Anatomy may be likened to a harvest-field. First come the reapers, who, entering upon untrodden ground, cut down a great store of corn from all sides of them. These are the early anatomists of modern Europe, such as Vesalius, Fallopius, Malpighi, and Harvey. Then come the gleaners, who gather up ears enough from the bare ridges to make a few loaves of bread. Such were the anatomists of the last century—Valsalva, Cotunnius, Haller, Winslow, Vicq d'Azyr, Camper, Hunter, and the two Monroes. Last of all come the geese, who still contrive to pick up a few grains scattered here and there among the stubble, and waddle home in the evening, poor things, cackling with joy because of their success. Gentlemen, we are the geese.

*Aequanimitas*  
The Leaven of Science  
II (pp. 84–5)

**Reid, Thomas**

If a thousand of the greatest wits that ever the world produced were, without any previous knowledge in anatomy, to sit down and contrive how, and by what internal organs, the various functions of the human body are carried on, how the blood is made to circulate and the limbs to move, they would not, in a thousand years, hit upon anything like the truth.

*The Works of Thomas Reid*  
Essays on the Intellectual Powers of Man  
Essay I, Chapter III (p. 235)

**Shapp, Paul**

The human body comes in only two shapes and three colors. I don't expect there will be any changes, so what we learn about it now will serve us for a long time to come.

*Time*  
The Fastest Man on Earth (p. 88)  
Volume LXVI, Number 11, September 12, 1955

# ANESTHESIA

---

## **Armour, Richard**

Behold the patient uncomplaining,  
Not asking whether losing, gaining,  
Not offering unsought advice,  
But really being very nice.

. . .

Behold the patient quite relaxed,  
With nerves, this once, not overtaxed,  
Serene, almost unrecognized,  
Not fighting back—anesthetized.

*The Medical Muse*  
Behold the Patient

## **Du Bartas, Guillaume de Saluste**

Even as a Surgeon, minding off-to-cut  
Some cure-less Limb; before in ure he put  
His violent Engines on the vicious member,  
Bringeth his Patient in a sense-less slumber,  
And grief-less then (guided by Life and Art),  
To save the whole; saws off th' infested part; . . .

*Du Bartas His Divine Weekes and Works*  
First Week, Sixth Day (p. 57)

## **Genesis 2:21**

And the Lord God caused a deep sleep to fall upon Adam, and he slept:  
and he took one of his ribs, and closed up the flesh instead thereof.

*The Bible*

## **Helmuth, William Tod**

For thus we read (although the analgesia  
Of Richardson was then entirely unknown)

Adam profoundly slept with anaesthesia,  
And from *his thorax was removed a bone*.  
*This was the first recorded operation,*  
(No doctor here dare tell me that I fib!)  
And surgery, thus early in creation,  
*Can claim complete excision of a rib!*

*Scratches of a Surgeon*  
Surgery vs. Medicine (p. 66)

**Holmes, Oliver Wendell**

. . . three natural anaesthetics—sleep, fainting, death . . .

*Medical Essays*  
The Medical Profession in Massachusetts (p. 365)

**Kraus, Karl**

Anesthesia: wounds without pain.

*Half-Truths & One-and-a-Half Truths* (p. 112)

**Massinger, Philip**

*I Doct.* We have given her, sir,  
A sleepy potion, that will hold her long,  
That she may be less sensible of the torment  
The searching of the wound will put her to.

*The Plays of Philip Massinger*  
Volume I  
The Duke of Milan  
Act V, Scene II (p. 337)

**Unknown**

NOVOCAIN: An anesthesia that helps to deaden the pain of the music  
in a dentist's office.

In Richard Iannelli  
*The Devil's New Dictionary*

# ANESTHETIST

---

**Cvikota, Raymond J.**

Anesthetist's cone: Ether bonnet.

*Quote, The Weekly Digest*  
October 27, 1968 (p. 337)

**Trotter, Wilfred**

Mr. Anaesthetist, if the patient can keep awake, surely you can.

Attributed  
*The Lancet*  
Very Special Article (p. 1340)  
Volume 2, 1965



Anesthesia: wounds without pain.  
**Karl Kraus** – (See opposite)

# ANTIBIOTIC

---

**Unknown**

[Antibiotic] What to give the man who has everything.

*Esar's Comic Dictionary*

# APOTHECARY

---

## **Bierce, Ambrose**

APOTHECARY, *n.* The physician's accomplice, undertaker's benefactor and grave-worm's provider.

When Jove sent blessings to all men that are,  
And Mercury conveyed them in a jar,  
That friend of tricksters introduced by stealth  
Disease for the apothecary's health,  
Whose gratitude impelled him to proclaim:  
"My deadliest drug shall bear my patron's name!"

*The Enlarged Devil's Dictionary*

## **Colman, George (the Younger)**

A man, in a country town, we know,  
Professes openly with death to wrestle;  
Ent'ring the field against the grimly foe,  
Armed with a mortar and a pestle.  
Yet, some affirm, no enemies they are;  
But meet just like prize-fighters, in a fair,  
Who first shake hands before they box,  
Then give each other plaguy knocks,  
With all the love and kindness of a brother:  
So, many a suff'ring patient saith,  
Though the Apothecary fights with Death,  
Still they're sworn friends to one another.

*An Anthology of Humorous Verse*  
Selected by Helen & Lewis Melville  
The Newcastle Apothecary



**Hazlitt, William Carew**

One said an Apothecaries house must needs be healthful, because the windows, benches, boxes, and almost all the things in the house, tooke physick.

*Shakespeare Jest Books*  
Volume III  
Conceit, Clichés, Flashes and Whimzies  
Number 41

**Pope, Alexander**

So modern *Pothecaries* taught the Art  
By *Doctor's Bills* to play the *Doctor's Part*,  
Bold in the Practice of *mistaken Rules*,  
Prescribe, apply, and call their *Masters Fools*.

*An Essay on Criticism*  
Part I, L. 108–111

**Shakespeare, William**

I do remember an apothecary—  
And hereabouts he dwells,—which late I noted  
In tatter'd weeds, with overwhelming brows,  
Culling of simples; meager were his looks,  
Sharp misery had worn him to the bones:  
And in his needy shop a tortoise hung,  
An alligator stuff'd, and other skins  
Of ill-shaped fishes; and about his shelves  
A beggarly account of empty boxes,  
Green earthen pots, bladders and musty seeds,  
Remnants of packthread and old cakes of roses,  
Were thinly scatter'd to make up a show.

*Romeo and Juliet*  
Act V, Scene I, L. 37–48

# APPENDIX

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## **Unknown**

[Appendix] An internal organ of no value to anyone except a surgeon.

*Esar's Comic Dictionary*

[Appendix] Something that gives you information of inflammation.

*Esar's Comic Dictionary*

Appendicitis is caused by information in the appendix.

In Alexander Abingdon  
*Bigger & Better Boners* (p. 72)

# ARTERY

---

**Barnes, Djuna**

But the great doctor, he's a divine idiot and a wise man. He closes one eye, the eye that he studied with, and putting his finger on the arteries of the body says: 'God whose roadway this is, has given me permission to travel on it also,' which, Heaven help the patient, is true . . .

*Nightwood*  
La Somnambule (p. 40)

# BACK

---

**Hubbard, Elbert**

BACK: 2. A smooth surface composed of skin and bones which stretches between Land's End and John O'Groat's.

*The Roycroft Dictionary* (p. 15)

# BILL

---

## **da Costa, J. Chalmers**

A fashionable surgeon, like a pelican, can be recognized by the size of his bill.

*The Trials and Triumphs of the Surgeon*  
Chapter 1 (p. 38)

## **Hazlitt, William Carew**

One asked a man whether he had swallowed a Doctor of Phisickes bill, because hee spoke such hard words.

*Shakespeare Jest Books*  
Volume III  
Conceit, Clichés, Flashes and Whimzies  
Number 9

## **Morris, Robert Tuttle**

One must not count upon all of his patients being willing to steal in order to pay doctor's bills.

*Doctors versus Folks*  
Chapter 3

## **Unknown**

The doctor cures all kinds of ills,  
Except the shock of doctor's bills.

Source unknown

# BIRTH CONTROL

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## **Dickens, Charles**

Accidents will occur in the best-regulated families.

*The Works of Charles Dickens*  
David Copperfield  
Volume II  
Chapter 28 (p. 412)

## **Farris, Jean**

Birth control: Banned parenthood.

*Quote, The Weekly Digest*  
February 18, 1968 (p. 137)

## **Gabor, Dennis**

The technique of birth control can be suppressed only if one abolishes also the technique of death control: medicine and hygiene.

*Inventing the Future*  
Overpopulation (p. 82)

## **Sanger, Margaret**

“Yes, yes—I know, Doctor”, said the patient with trembling voice, “but,” and she hesitated as if it took all of her courage to say it, “*what* can I do to prevent getting that way again?”

“Oh, ho!” laughed the doctor good naturedly. “You want your cake while you eat it too, do you? Well, it can’t be done . . . I’ll tell you the only sure thing to do. Tell Jake to sleep on the roof!”

*My Fight for Birth Control*  
Awaking and Revolt (pp. 52–3)

The menace of another pregnancy hung like a sword over the head of every poor woman . . .

*My Fight for Birth Control*  
Awaking and Revolt (p. 49)

No woman can call herself free who does not own and control her body.  
No woman can call herself free until she can choose consciously whether  
she will or will not be a mother.

*Parade*  
December 1, 1963

**Waugh, Evelyn**

Impotence and sodomy are socially O.K. but birth control is flagrantly  
middle-class.

In Nancy Mitford  
*Noblesse Oblige*  
'An Open Letter' Part III (p. 71)



Removing adhesive is hazardous work:  
Little by little? Or one sudden jerk?...  
**Richard Armour** – (See p. 5)

# BLINDNESS

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## **Keats, John**

There is a budding morrow in midnight;  
There is a triple sight in blindness keen; . . .

*The Poems of John Keats*  
To Homer

## **Sophocles**

Oedipus: As they say of the blind,  
Sounds are the things I see

*Oedipus at Colonus*  
Choral Dialogue (p. 13)

## **Thurber, James**

Last night I dreamed of a small consolation enjoyed only by the blind:  
Nobody knows the trouble I've *not* seen!

*Newsweek*  
June 16, 1958