

Pain Rounds

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ELEVEN is the score, more often than not,
That patients give their pain from one to ten.
They look at me with pity, fool that I am,
Each time I ask—*A little or a lot?*—
As if they do not know where to begin,
Wondering if I even give a damn,

Another white coat filling out a chart
To file away or lose. Some laugh, some cry,
And some do both, unable to explain;
What number can we give the human heart,
Writhing in anguish, that can quantify
The sinister predicament of pain?

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