

THE SPOON RIVER Poetry Review

Yi Yon-ju
Trans. Don Mee Choi

For Kanamycin*

Don't know how many times the flat nose-bone has been replaced.
Silicon made in Japan, paraffin made in the USA
accentuated the bridge of the nose.

Oh, the joy of imported self-pride
except for the occasional pain that feels like a wire's jab
and the side effect of swelling all the way to the eyes.

Kanamycin,
you promote advanced consciousness among the citizens!

Somewhere inside the two nostrils
that divide left and right
you ignore the ferocious matter
that eats away the entire bone bit by bit.
With the powerful remedy of a policeman
pulling out a gun,
gain false solace,
false relief.

You can die if the infection is serious.

* *Kanamycin is an antibiotic.*