



7-1-1981

War Veteran at a Clinic

Clinton F. Larson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq>

 Part of the [Mormon Studies Commons](#), and the [Religious Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Larson, Clinton F. (1981) "War Veteran at a Clinic," *BYU Studies Quarterly*. Vol. 21 : Iss. 3 , Article 11.
Available at: <https://scholarsarchive.byu.edu/byusq/vol21/iss3/11>

This Poetry is brought to you for free and open access by the Journals at BYU ScholarsArchive. It has been accepted for inclusion in *BYU Studies Quarterly* by an authorized editor of BYU ScholarsArchive. For more information, please contact scholarsarchive@byu.edu, ellen_amatangelo@byu.edu.

War Veteran at a Clinic

Clinton F. Larson

Like sponge against flaps where legs once were,
 Steeping the augury or lure of notoriety,
 Cordite pluming your very mind with a dream
 Of mortal injury, you show the literal seam
 Of groin ripped and gaping. Will your eyes
 Away, to other scenes, to niceties of flies
 Swatted and decked amid conveniences of home,
 Where eyes do not blur as they see the comb
 Of order align the news of losses in the field:
 Hence, statistics; hence, a gathering to shield
 Integrity. Soldier, writhe within your stain
 That you mistakenly aspired to enter fury's lists.
 Our decorum should have kept you an anchorite
 Defensively at home, not for show, as a contrite
 Civic-minded being, like anyone. Go home, rump
 Of what you were, and trundle there, or stump
 For a better cause than war, our privy peace,
 Unseemly and unpopular as you are. Then lease
 An electric chair to wheel among the caring
 Folk that house such residue as you, who stare
 Into voids of inattention, saluting and comparing
 Ways admissible to higher echelons where wills
 Are made and noted for excision. Pale mills
 Of minds turn from vanes that, like limbs blown
 In winds of dusk, shudder and creak, somewhat known,
 As if signalling dementedly for a lesser fame.

Clinton F. Larson, a professor in the English Department, is poet in residence at Brigham Young University.