**"Look Closer Nurse"**

***What do you see nurse, what do you see***
***Are you thinking when you're looking at me***
***A crabbbit old woman, not very wise***
***Uncertain of habit, with faraway eyes***
***Who dribbles her food and makes no reply***
***When you say in a loud voice, "I do wish you'd try"***
***Who seems not to notice the things that you do***
***And forever is losing a stocking or shoe***
***Who, resisting or not, lets you do as you will***
***With bathing and feeding, the long day to fill***
***Is that what you're thinking, is that what you see***
***Then open your eyes nurse, for you're looking at me***

***I'll tell you who I am as I sit here so still***
***As I use at you biddings, as I eat at your will***
***I am a small child of ten with a father and mother***
***Brothers and sisters who love one another***
***A young girl of sixteen, with wings on her feet***
***Dreaming of soon her lover she'll meet***
***A  bride soon at twenty my heart gives a leap***
***Remembering the vows that I promised to keep***
***At twenty five now I have young of my own***
***A woman of thirty, my young growing fast***
***Bound to each other with ties that will last***
***At forty my young sons will now grow and be gone***
***Af fifty, once more babies play around my knee***
***Again we know children my loved one and me***

***Dark days are upon me, my husband is dead***
***I look to the future, I shudder with dread***
***For my young are all busy, rearing young of their own***
***And I think of the years, and the love I have known***
***I'm now an old woman and nature is cruel***
***Tis her jest to make old age look like a fool***
***The body, it crumbles, grace and vigour depart***
***There is now a stone where I once had a heart***
***But inside this old carcass a young girl still dwells***
***And now and again my battered heart swells***
***I remember the joys, I remember the pain***
***And I'm loving and living life all over again***
***I think of the years all too few - gone, so fast***
***And accept the stark fact that nothing can last***
***So, open your eyes nurse, open and see***
***Not a crabbit old woman, look closer, see ME***