

I Am the Very Model of a Modern Surgeon General

Just about as written in 1998. You might guess that from who's mentioned here. (Including John Engler may clue some folks in to the fact that I lived, and live, in Michigan.) You might also be able to guess the age of the piece from what *isn't* mentioned as modern technology. Whether you guessed or not, enjoy!

I am the very model of a modern Surgeon General –
I've information on each vital vitamin and mineral;
 I know the terms of science and I cite procedures medical
 (I have to list abortion first in order alphabetical);
I'm very well acquainted, too, with matters vet'rinarian;
Belong to 4-H, FFA, and yet I'm a Rotarian;
 About the problems of our youth I'm teeming with a lot of news . . .
 With many tearful figures on the rate of teen-age condom use.
 (Chorus: "With many," etc. x3)

I'm very good at fighting off bacteria and viruses,
And speaking to the CDC by faxes, phones, or wirelesses:
 In short, to eyes of Senators conservative and liberal,
 I am the very model of a modern Surgeon General.
 (Chorus: "In short," etc.)

I know my medic's folklore (from my days at the Academy),
And things about the body that are *not* in Gray's Anatomy;
 I quote from Nurembergia the crimes of Dr. Mengele;
 I know who tends to overweight, like Clinton and John Engeler!
I can tell colonic X-ray shots from CAT scans of a lot o' rope;
I know the themes from *ER*, *M*A*S*H*, *St. Elsewhere*, and *Chicago Hope!*
 And I can touch on touchy fields that give the world a pack o' grief . . .
 Like all the fields still growing that unhappy crop, tobacco leaf!
 (Chorus: "Like all," etc. x3)

Then I can write prescriptions so your druggist couldn't read a line,
And tell you how to pick a calf to start a better breeder line:
 In short, to eyes of Senators conservative and liberal,
 I am the very model of a modern Surgeon General.
 (Chorus: "In short," etc.)

In fact, when I know why beer makes one quite as tight as bubbly can;
When I can tell at sight a Democrat from a Republican;
 When I can lay all questions of where social ills begin to rest,
 And when I know exactly what is meant by "special interest";
When I have learnt what uninsured gay mates who want to marry do;
When I know more of health care plans than both Louise and Harry do,
 You'll say, as Surgeon General this nominee's a winnah, for . . .
 I always look so *fetching* in my *new HMO pinafore!*
 (Chorus: "He/she always looks," etc. x3)

Now, my politicking, lobbying, and Beltway educa-a-tion
Is only up-to-date as of the Ford administra-a-tion,
 But still, to eyes of Senators conservative and liberal,
 I am the very model of a modern Surgeon General.
 (Chorus: "But still," etc.)