

## **County Medical Examiners, The "Autopsy Suite"**

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My beloved autopsy ward, the product of hospital  
architects  
Inspected and approved by the College of American  
Pathologists  
Adjacent to the morgue and behind the administrative  
receptionist  
Kept under lock and key, available only to us morbid  
scientists...  
Two stationary MedRaxR dissection slabs and a  
moveable  
body hoist  
Their stainless steel plating scrubbed, sanitized, and  
still moist  
The tables are set at regulation height to avoid  
unnecessary strain  
Disinfected water pumps and aspirators wash debris  
down the drain...  
White tiled walls...epoxy sealed floor  
Adequate overhead lighting...to grossly explore  
Tools of the trade...filed away in drawers  
10,000 square feet...of legally sanctioned gore  
Morgue design, of the most practical kind  
Dictates the efficient dissection of your fellow  
mankind  
The layout of the autopsy ward should be nefariously  
refined  
And elevate necropsy to an art, for those so inclined...  
Air conditioning design and primary system ventilation  
Enable complete aeration of formaldehyde fixative in  
dissection stations  
The ventilation hoods and exhaust design steal the  
odor of putrefaction  
And are in accordance with the Occupational Safety  
and  
Health Administration...  
Cabinet space...for microbiological supplies  
Medical twine...for the closure stitches I tie  
Bone saw whine...a postmortem lullaby  
Dictation equipment...court records to testify  
For my StrykerR saw, disassembled and cleaned  
I pen this requiem, in honor of the remains it's seen

For my StubenhauerR scalpel, sharpened and honed  
I compose this sonata, for the autopsies it's  
performed...  
The whiteboard conveniently located next to the  
hanging organ scale  
Lists charts lucubratelty completed with organ weights  
and interesting details  
Close by, the x-ray facility and the many knobs and  
dials it entails  
Will ensure, with accurate forensics, that diagnostic  
truth shall prevail...  
The adjoining dressing room houses lockers and  
showers  
So that medical personnel will be routinely scrubbed  
and scoured  
Hands are cleansed with Iodophor soap; germs are  
devoured  
Surfaces are soaked with phenol-based detergents at  
any given hour...  
Pressured Autoclaves...cook instrument debris  
Disposal bins...full of pieces disembodied  
Spare flash bulbs...for body photography  
Specimen bags...hold paraffin-set tissue trophies  
The science of death...a morbid philosophy  
Death certificate pad...the coroner's eulogy  
My beloved morgue...home of forensic pathology  
The autopsy suite...for life's final catastrophes

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