

The Limbs Go Brittle

The limbs go brittle, the joints stiffen.
The ratted hair drops out leaving
splotches of skin. The teeth soften
to stumps of exposed nerve-endings,
the eyes are easy prey to bees
and flies. Ticks infest the ears
and other openings. The nose
goes blank or fumbles everything.
He paddles through the world
deaf blind toothless alone.
The smell of it batters his brain.