When Doctoring

CE McMurren

what’s the difference between a shaman and a physician?
medicine-man, witch-doctor
paper moons

when in the fluorescently-lit, sterile-seeming ward-way
a son—the eldest—states that knowing what ails her will kill her
a mother—the patient—protectedly out of earshot worries
about what to say to her son

when the memory of the New York Times article about
nocebos comes to mind before reciting a list of potential
problems with a new pill —
— looking for — prescribing — trouble —
could the side effect be caused by the drug itself or emerge
from a googled search for what might go wrong?

this healing art —
each “intervention” a rite unaware
is all doctoring (a) performance, a sibylline pursuit?

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