Words not said

“You’d not swap him for the world”, she purred,

Lame, knocked for comfort.
Comfort? My God. Head and limbs cockeyed:
Not swap?

Well then: boys your age don’t read Noddy.
Don’t do cut out dolls
Nor wag a length of string for pleasure.
So what?

Chaps your age think they’re great,
Somebody;
Cut a dash with the girls,
Shave, talk racy, cockily measure For size

You struggle for learning, stubborn, yet
Forgetting difference,
Speak with assurance of fabulous Promise

Lads in step with manhood Know a Thing,
Sit exams, stand tall,
Loll in scarred grasses with Lovely Ones
And Kiss

You butt your body’s weight, let fly at
Sheepish muscles and,
Pond’rous, frail, manhandle feckless legs
Like freight …

… while the go-all blades beef balls about
And shout. They heave their
Shoulders in the scrum, all here-welcome
For fight

Sure, I’d scotch the tumbled chromosomes,
Scupper the Bad Guy
Who baulks your days. I’d crank the engine’s Turbo.

Diana Davenport
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Announcement

Third International Congress on Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome
26–29 June 2005, Robinson College, Cambridge, UK

Papers are invited on the following topics:
Oral and poster presentations, discussion, roundtables
1. What have we learned about SDS? Clinical features; genetic diagnosis
2. Where are we now? Epidemiology; molecular biology; management of clinical problem: gastrointestinal; nutritional; blood & bone marrow; growth & skeletal; oral & dental; developmental & psychological
3. Where are we going? International collaboration; registries & databases; prospects for new treatments: genetic; immunogenetic; pharmacological

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