

Patient

ANN TWEEDY

it is with interest but at some remove
that i watch the battle
between my doctors and death
it's not like a sports game between the local team
and its rival a scene that evokes
great passion and clamoring
people lined up close in front of the tv
instead i am both wary and weary—two words
that confused me as a child in their similarity
i watch intent yet quieted
by the terrible knowledge
that i am the field—
necessary but
not a true participant