

an excerpt of

The Serious Business

Scotty was crazy after the stroke,
unstoppably ababble; and so Edith was slowly going
crazy too, “from having to live with this.”
He repeated everything—four, ten, even twenty times,
and “everything” included the most unknottable jumbles
of verbal collusions and surrogate-words. So
“crazy” is what they called it. Yes, but
wasn’t he in the process of rebuilding
his neural connections? reestablishing the patterns
that had burst? What Edith heard,
and John and Linda when they visited, was background noise
to the serious business
of healing . . . of placing the names back
onto the sign-up sheets that make a whole brain.

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