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Depression

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Depression

I: Ugo Cerletti and Lucio Bini

Strolled the cobble streets,
past villas and market stink
dreaming in electric eels
and wet sponges.
Naked temples.

Leather straps.
For them it was a kinetic injustice, blue light
streaking through the epidermis
past the skull-bone,
into the imagination where cells alight, crazy
jump and tumble.
Sometimes the marrow broke
sometimes singed hair
filled nostrils. Sometimes
they fancied
the soft gray matter as nothing
more than a wish
charging the dark deep
forcing the retreat
to lost memory.

II: Threshold

Years later, after the simple fasting, after the barbiturates
And the switch, the 60 second flash and chest heave,
After the fist clench and body let loose of itself, after

The toes uncurled and blood returned to fingers,
She touched his head

Delicately,
A simple song, a brushing of skin
On taught skin, her hand hovering there, as if afraid
Of an aftershock, a body's regurgitation of power.
She whispered hush in his ear.
She hoped that new neurons would rise
From ashes, wrench control of emotions
Return the man back to the man.