

# Genetic Engineering (or Sole to Soul)

by Francis Clark-Lowes

Will genetic engineering ...  
Repair my cracking sole,  
Outgrow my ingrown toenails,  
Remove my athletes' foot,  
Unswell my swelling veins?

Will genetic engineering ...  
Increase my ardour,  
Accelerate recharge?  
Will it kill that vicious virus  
Which ever-watchful waits?

Will genetic engineering ...  
Strengthen bladder muscles,  
Keep my spinal-cord in shape,  
Make tum and gut more tolerant  
To varied foods and drink

Will genetic engineering ...  
Let me move my little finger  
Which I damaged in my youth?  
Will it stop my skin from peeling,  
Banish warts and spots as well?

Will genetic engineering ...  
Assure my ease of hearing,  
Restore me to full sight,  
Rebuild my Ementaler teeth,  
Make my gums sweet-smelling?

Will genetic engineering mean  
I never have another cold?  
Will it change my silly nose,  
Or save my shaggy mane?  
Will it cure my itchy neck?

Will genetic engineering ...  
Make me fear no more?  
Aye, there's the rub!  
Will angst no longer plague my life,  
Depression, boredom go for aye?

Will genetic engineering ...  
Make me live forever?  
Will pleasure never-ending  
Extinguish every pain?  
Will loss be engineered away?

Well, will it? And *if* it will,  
Will this 'I' remain a human?  
Will it still possess a soul?  
And if your answer's firmly 'no'  
Tell me, please, *who* will profit?