

1972

1943

Paul Nelson

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Nelson, Paul. "1943." *The Iowa Review* 3.2 (1972): 16-16. Web.
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.1337>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact lib-ir@uiowa.edu.

1943

We learned that men dump stuff
the color of the stains
under the bathroom faucet
into hoppers to purify our water
The stuff made *gas*

We considered that
as we skirted the pumping station
on the way to fish from the iron bridge
throbbing slightly
from the nearby dynamos

It was a strange word
like Grandfather coughing
or the stoveburner turning on

That same year we learned *immunity*
and guessed that's what the men had
who worked behind the high fence
without masks
or wives or children