



IN MEMORIAM: DR ALEXANDRE CHAO

22 APRIL 2003, ICU, SGH. – 1900 HOURS

And Then The Line Went Meekly Straight

And then the line went meekly straight,
No more punctuations of peaks and troughs;
The final cut between life and death.
I blinked past the wetness of white and lights,
Some sat down, some slumped against walls,
Choking as all spirit fled us,
Unable to stand and muster a farewell to
This gentle soul into the night.

And then the line went meekly straight,
I looked upon he who laid ashen,
Still as the gripping cold of the room.
Behind him the machines wept and breathed,
Into veins curdled,
Into lungs drowned.
The sickle had reaped
This gentle soul into the night.

And then the line went meekly straight,
As it should have some time ago,
If not for comrades that have kept the semblance
Of a living heart, with tired arms and bent backs.
We have seen more deaths than we care to know.
But, we men and women, now pained to the pith,
Will always remember the passing of
This gentle soul into the night.

***Written by a doctor who was in the ICU
at the time of Dr Chao's passing***

**line - 'line' of ECG trace on patients monitors in ICU*

