

1964

Central System

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CENTRAL SYSTEM

EVERYONE please note the frog

Like last week's dog

Is vertebrate

Is whole of spine

Is not yet dead

So naught will interfere

With the experiment

We amputate his brain

By the simple expedient

Of cutting off his head

There

*Now hanging him from wire and
fish-hook*

*We take a bit of acid-dipped white
gauze*

Apply it to his back

Note that

In your notebook

Without a pause

*His hind leg reaches up and tries to
rub away*

*What he has never known since he
was spawned*

Beneath a log

In a green lily pond

Which proves the spine

Of any headless frog

Thus touched with sulphur brine

Though any acid serves

Connects directly to the nerves

—from Duels & Duets

by Edmund Skellings