

***Robin Helweg-Larsen***

**Advances in Personal Care**

1700 BCE

A length of fibre to extract a tooth —  
a flint to decorate yourself with scars —  
a large, strong thorn to make holes for tattoos —  
an oyster shell to scrape off excess hair . . .  
so health's improved and beauty is accented.

1700 CE

High heels and wig show stature, vigour, youth;  
a monocle improves both look and looking.  
How we've advanced, compared to ancient times!  
Some say there'll be advances still to come,  
but how, when all's already been invented?