Revision Exercise: Diction (Word Choice) 2

Rewrite the following passage to provide an effective mix of long and short, learned and commonplace, connotative and neutral words.

Lewis Thomas characterizes cumbersome medical technology such as the now little-used iron lung, clanking artificial hearts, and various disgusting and invasive treatments we have devised for cancer as "halfway technology."  A key feature of this abominable technology is that it is based on medicine's abject failure to understand underlying disease mechanisms and administer directly to the root cause of the problem.  When root causes are ultimately comprehended treatment becomes blessedly economical and efficient.  Arduous nursing and surgical intervention to mitigate the symptoms of typhoid fever used to extend for long, weary months as the disease ran its course.  Now the sinister illness may be vanquished in a day or two using the comparatively inexpensive nostrum chloramphenicol.