

“I’ve used this brand for many years,”
a frank, confiding smile;
white coat fresh from Wardrobe,
and distinguished air suggesting
Harley Street —an N.H.S.
consultant at the very least,
“and though I’ve tried the competition,
this is what I’d always recommend.”

“We pride ourselves on quality;
for generations we have made
the best that you can buy.
We wouldn’t want it any other way.”
The actor (singer, stand-up comic)
reads the script with frankness and
sincerity, while thinking of his fee.

At Oxford station, echoing along
the crowded platform, a disjointed
female voice – its phrases cut and pasted
by computer – begs forgiveness:
“The 17.16 to Hereford
has been delayed by *twenty*
minutes due to problems with
trackside equipment.
I am sorry for the
delay to your journey,
and for ANY INCONVENIENCE
THAT THIS MIGHT CAUSE.”