who could take advantage of it. (Really, for any human being who could afford the doubtless very high dollar price.)

The first thing to do is give up a sample of tissue from your own body. It does not need to be very much; the amount your doctor takes for a biopsy would be ample, and perhaps it could be no more than the few cells you scrape off your skin when you scratch an itch. (Every cell of the body contains the complete genetic code for the whole body, fingers, toes, brain and all.) Probably the sample would be implanted in the nucleus of a human ovum. (There are plenty of those around; every female human produces and discards four or five hundred in her life.) It might be fertilized parthenogenetically (chemically or physically), or by artificial insemination using your own donated sperm. (If you are a woman, the easy second choice won't work, but the first remains a good possibility.) The embryo comes to term, either in a borrowed human uterus or in a test tube. It is "born" as an exact copy of what you were at birth, an identical twin. You allow it to grow up to roughly adult size—say, at least the age of puberty. And there it is, a living storehouse of spare parts for you. Your body would not reject the parts, because there is no difference between its parts and your own.

Of course, there is one problem. If you need a liver, say, and take it from your clone, then the clone doesn't have one. It would die. It might even refuse to give its liver to you. It might refuse... if it had the power to make decisions. But suppose at the very beginning you inhibited the development of its brain. Suppose you kept it as a mindless, consciousnessless organism, perhaps supported on a heart-lung machine, all through its existence. You needn't be "cruel" to it. If you thought it might be suffering pain, or even discomfort, in spite of its mindless state, you could give it a nerve block, either surgically or by electrical stimulation, or by trickle-feeding it some sort of super-novocaine. You could keep that fresh meat in storage perhaps all your life. And if the cloned spare-parts supply showed signs of wearing out, you could always donate another scrap of tissue and start another clone.

Does this seem outlandish? It has been suggested, and not just by science fiction writers. Even more. Suppose you are a woman and you want a child, but don't particularly care for the trouble of childbearing. Your clone can have the child for you: conceive it through artificial insemination, bring it to term and deliver it. When it is born you can pick the baby up and take it home. In every biological sense it is your own child. No fuss, muss or bother... for you.

What it would be for the clone is, of course, something else again.