

(vi) The physician in *King Lear* plays his part well and sympathetically, although it is a difficult one.

(vii) Cerimon in *Pericles* is both a physician and a nobleman, so that the good social status of the medical man is here accepted and illustrated. Shakespeare had the example of two peers of his own time who practised medicine. One was a Marquis of Dorchester, who at the age of 43 applied himself to the study of medicine, and acquired great proficiency therein. It is recorded that "he esteemed his Fellowship in the College, an honor only second to that of his peerage, and maintained that his colleagues were the most learned society in the world", and that he bequeathed to them his library of the value of £4,000, being the best at that time in any private hand in the nation.* Another English nobleman who practised medicine was "Edmund, Earl of Derby, who dyed in Queen Elizabeth's days, was famous for chirurgerie, bone-setting, and hospitalitie."†

No nobler panegyric of our profession could be written than that put in the mouth of Cerimon—

Cerimon. I held it ever,
 Virtue and cunning were endowments greater
 Than nobleness and riches: careless heirs
 May the two latter darken and expend;
 But immortality attends the former,
 Making a man a god. 'Tis known, I ever
 Have studied physic, through which secret art,
 By turning o'er authorities, I have
 (Together with my practice) made familiar
 To me and to my aid, the blest infusions
 That dwell in vegetives, in metals, stones;
 And can speak of the disturbances that Nature
 Works, and of her cures; which doth give me
 A more content in course of true delight
 Than to be thirsty after tottering honour,
 Or tie my pleasure up in silken bags,
 To please the fool and death.

Pericles, iii, 2.

Not only does Shakespeare express his high ideal of the physician's calling, but he repeatedly indicates his belief in the efficacy of our art.

But I consider,
 By medicine life may be prolong'd, yet death
 Will seize the doctor too.

Cymbeline, v, 5.

O, mickle is the powerful grace that lies
 In herbs, plants, stones, and their true qualities:
 For naught so vile that on the earth doth live,
 But to the earth some special good doth give;
 Nor aught so good, but, strain'd from that fair use,
 Revolts from true birth, stumbling on abuse.

Romeo and Juliet, ii, 3.

* Bucknill, 'Shakespeare's Medical Knowledge,' London, 1860, p. 30.

† Ward's Commonplace Book, p. 161.