

cedence of that by auto-suggestion, which is only now being carefully studied, although 300 years ago Shakespeare proposed it when he makes the doctor say, "Therein the patient must minister to himself". Macbeth, unlike the thoughtful Cassius, did not realise that—

The fault, dear Brutus, is not in our stars,  
But in ourselves.

*Julius Caesar*, i, 2.

Being an unthinking man of action, little given to reflection, he calls for his armour and his staff, having said he will "throw physic to the dogs" since his doctor can do nothing better than propose to rouse his wife's own self-control, although he had already advised to "Remove from her the means of all annoyance, and still keep eyes upon her". Doubtless, like so many of our patients now-a-days, Macbeth thought that his doctor would touch the spot and the patient be made whole from that hour, and had himself proposed (just as our patients still do!) "Some sweet oblivious antidote". No wonder that the worthy physician exclaimed—

Were I from Dunsinane away and clear,  
Profit again should hardly draw me here.

*Macbeth*, v, 3.

(iv) In the 5th Act of *Henry VIII* the Dr. Butts represented is no doubt the Dr. William Butte, Fellow of Gonville Hall, Cambridge, and Fellow of the College of Physicians, who lies buried in Fulham Church. He is in such good standing at Court that Cranmer exclaims when he passes—

'Tis Butts,  
The king's physician: as he past along,  
How earnestly he cast his eyes upon me!  
Pray heaven, he sound not my disgrace!

Act v, Sc. 2.

The friendly and intimate relations of the doctor with his sovereign are shown in the following quotation—

*Butts*. I'll show your grace the strangest sight,—  
*King Henry*. What's that, Butts?  
*Butts*. I think your highness saw this many a day.  
*King Henry*. Body o' me, where is it?  
*Butts*. There, my lord;  
The high promotion of his grace of Canterbury;  
Who holds his state at door, 'mongst pursuivants,  
Pages and footboys.

*Henry VIII*, v, 2.

(v) Cornelius in *Cymbeline* plays with honour and astuteness a difficult part when the Queen asks him for poison. He suspected her, though she said she was only going to practise on the lower animals. For this he reproved her with dignity, and, as he could not refuse a royal command, he only gave her a comparatively innocent drug.