

Treatment by "baths", "tub-fast", and "the diet" are all mentioned by Timon when he apostrophises the two courtesans—

Tim. Be a whore still! they love thee not that use thee;
Give them diseases, leaving with thee their lust.
Make use of thy salt hours; season the slaves
For tubs and baths; bring down rose-cheek'd youth
To the tub-fast and the diet.

Clown. Why, very well: I telling you then, if you be remembered, that such a one, and such a one, were past curse of the thing you wot of, unless they kept very good diet, as I told you.

Timon of Athens, iv, 3.

Measure for Measure, ii, 1.

And the cure by sweating is thus referred to:

Till then I'll sweat, and seek about for eases,
And, at that time, bequeath you my diseases.

Troilus and Cressida, v, 11.

In spite of the frankness with which Shakespeare has pictured this terrible disease—one of the three principal and removable curses of humanity (alcoholism and tuberculosis being the other two)—and in spite of the horror with which he depicts its power of "more destruction than the sword", we have had to wait 300 years for a Royal Commission to drag it again into the light of day, where, it is to be hoped, it will now be attacked and exterminated.

Cancer is not mentioned anywhere in Shakespeare. I have only met with the word once, and then it is as one of the signs of the Zodiac (*Troilus and Cressida*, ii, 3). The disease is nowhere quoted. This is strange, but time does not permit of my attempting to explain what the omission may portend.

Obstetrics.—The following matters, pertaining to the specialty of obstetrics, are given by Moyes as mentioned in the plays of Shakespeare:

"Premature births, quickening, altered appetite of pregnancy, deformity of the fœtus, eruption of the teeth before birth, death of fœtus and its retention in utero, retarded labour from deformity of child, foot presentation, Cæsarean section, twin births, suckling, weaning."

The mere mention of these various occurrences has, in the majority of cases, nothing extraordinary to attract our attention, and I will only stop to consider a few points which are noteworthy.

The first cry of the new-born child is thus described—

Thou must be patient; we came crying hither;
Thou know'st, the first time that we smell the air,
We wawl and cry. I will preach to thee; mark me,
When we are born, we cry that we are come
To this great stage of fools.

King Lear, iv, 6.

In the prayer of *Pericles* it is noteworthy that Shakespeare had noted that the majority of labours terminate in the night, in "the wee sma' hours ayint the twelve"—