

themselves by secretly applying a plaister to the king's wrists without the consent of the physicians. This was done injudiciously at the wrong time. It was put on before the paroxysm began. It should have been done just as it was declining, and then by the *post hoc* argument they might have claimed the honors. Unfortunately, the king got worse, and just at the time they had made up their minds to remove the noxious thing, the fit began to decline, so that the doctors were quick enough to claim that the improvement was due to its removal. The sons of Æsculapius then refused to continue the treatment. Promises of good conduct having been made, they saw his Majesty through his fifth, sixth and seventh fits. Again dissatisfied with the progress of the case, the Buckinghamians applied their plaisters, but the patient grew worse, and it is a matter of history that the Royal Chirurgeon had to get out of his bed to remove it. Dr. Craig was particularly incensed at these proceedings, and, according to Dr. Fuller (Church History), "he uttered some plaine speeches, for which he was commanded out of court." The Duke of Buckingham secretly administered a julep, after which the king was said to have grown rapidly worse. This interference with the medical men cost Buckingham much trouble. Dr. Geo. Eglissham, one of the King's Scotch physicians, publicly charged him with having poisoned his master. In the impeachment of Buckingham, his accusers did not forget this affair. The 13th count of the impeachment (Howell's State Trials, Vol. II, page 1318) is entitled "His transcendant presumption in giving physic to the king," and it is therein set forth that "he did unduly cause and procure certain plaisters, and a certain drink or potion to be provided for the use of his said Majesty, without the direction or privity of his said Majesty's physicians, not prepared by any of his sworn apothecaries or surgeons . . . did produce such ill effects that some of the sworn physicians did altogether disallow thereof, and utterly refused to meddle with his said Majesty until these plaisters were removed."

Little has been written of the medical history of Charles I. It is probable that he was a man who enjoyed good health all his life. Mayerne was still chief physician, while amongst the