Most Wholesome Physic: Medicine in the Age of Shakespeare 1564-1616

An exhibition at the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine to mark the 450th anniversary of the birth of William Shakespeare.

Tuesday 6 May 2014 until Saturday 26th July 2014

Monday – Thursday: 9.00 – 21.00
Friday: 9.00 – 17.30
Saturday: 10.00 – 16.30
Admission free. Open to all.

The Library, Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London, W1G 0AE
Tube: Oxford Circus or Bond Street
William Shakespeare was born at Stratford-upon-Avon on 23 April 1564.

This exhibition of books from the Library of the Royal Society of Medicine is intended to mark the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth.

Almost all of the books on display were published in Shakespeare's lifetime, and show many of the medical preoccupations of the age, liberally juxtaposed with quotations from the plays and poems.

This was a great period for books published in the vernacular and therefore more accessible to a lay public, so much emphasis is given in this exhibition to works written in English, or translated into English.
To help visitors to match up the quotations scattered throughout the exhibition with the plays & poems from which they derive, a list of the works quoted can be found on the back page of this booklet.

The photograph of Shakespeare Road, Brixton, London SE24 included in this exhibition was taken on Saturday 26 April 2014 by Andrea Merciar.
The greate herball, which geueth parfyte knowledge & understandinge of al maner of herbes, and theyr gracious vertues ... practysed by many experte and wyse maysters ... / Newlye corrected and diligently ouersene.

London : Jhon Kynge, 1561. LR 43

First printed in 1526.

1561 imprint identified as 4th ed. in Rohde, The old English herbals.

“The grete herbal is thoroughly mediaeval in character, despite its date of publication, and the number of prescriptions against melancholy found in its pages is probably an indication of the miserable conditions of life in the middle ages.” Agnes Arber. Herbals. 1986.

William Turner (1515 – 1568)
A booke of the natures and properties as well of the bathes in England as of other bathes in Germany and Italy : very necessary for all seik persones that can not be healed without the helpe of natural bathes / gathered by William Turner, doctor of physik.

Collen : Imprinted by A. Birckman, 1562.
L.8.c.22

Philip Moore (fl. 1564 – 1573)
The hope of health : wherein is conteined a goodlie regiment of life, as medicine, good diet, and the goodly vertues of sondrie herbes

London : Jhon Kyngston, 1564.
L.5.a.16

Gabriello Falloppio (1523 – 1562)
De Morbo Gallico / à P.A. Agatho editus.
Patavii, 1564.
Tr.D.124(1)

John Securis (fl. 1550 – 1580)
A detection and querimonie of the daily enormities and abuses co[m]mitted in physick : concernyng the thre parts therof: that is, the physitions part, the part of the surgeons, and the arte of poticaries. Dedicated vnto the two most famous vniuersities Oxford and Cambridge. Nowe lately set foorth by Iohn Securis physition.

[Londini : In ædibus Thomæ Marshi], 1566.
L.5.a.12
William Turner (1515 – 1568)
The first and seconde partes of the Herbal, lately oversene, corrected and enlarged with the thirde parte, lately gathered and nowe set oute with the herbes in Greke, Latin, English, Duche, Frenche, etc.: Here unto is joyned also a booke of the bath of Baeth in England, and of the vertues of the same with diverse other bathes, both in Almanye and England. / [With A most excellent and perfecte homish apothecarye or homely physick booke for all the grefes and diseases of the bodye; translated out the almaine speche into English by Jhon Hollybush.].
Collen : by Arnold Birckman., 1568.
Librarian's Room 26

John Vandernote (fl. 1542-1553)
The governance and preservation of them that feare the plage / newly set forth at the request of William Barnard of London, draper.
London, 1569.

Guglielmo Gratarolo (1516? – 1568?)
Thomas Newton (1542? – 1607)
A direction for the health of magistrates and studentes, namely suche as bee in their consistent age, or neere thereunto: drawn as well out of sundry good and commendable authours, as also upon reason and faithfull experience otherwise certaynely grounded / Written in Latin by Guilielmus Gratarolus and Englished by T.N.
L.5.a.10

Andrew Boorde (1490 – 1549)
The breviary of healthe, wherein doth follow remedies for all manner of sickness and diseases......
London : Thomas East 1575.
53.c.12

Konrad Gesner (1516 – 1565)
George Baker (1540 – 1600)
The newe jewell of health : wherein is contayned the most excellent secretes of phisicke and philosophie, devided into fower bookes : in the which are the best approved remedies for the diseases as well inwarde as outwarde, of all the partes of mans bodie : treating very amplye of all distillations of waters, of oyles, balmes, quintessences ... / gathered out of the best and most approved authors, by that excellent Doctor Gesnerus ... faithfully corr. and pub. in Englishe, by George Baker.
London : Henrie Denham, 1576.
L.6.b.4
John Bannister (1540 – 1610)
The historie of man, sucked from the sappe of the most approved anathomistes, in this present age, compiled in most compendius fourme, and now published in English, for the utilitie of all godly chirurgians, within this realme.

London, John Daye, dwellyng over Aldersgate, 1578
L.4.a.3

D. Rembert Dodoens (1517 – 1585)
A nievve herball : or, Historie of plantes: wherein is contained the vwhole discourse and perfect description of all sortes of herbes and plantes: their divers and sundry kindes ... and that not onely of those which are here growyng in this our countrie of Englande but of all others also of forrayne realmes commonly used in physicke / first set foorth in the Doutche or Almaigne tongue, by that learned D. Rembert Dodoens ... and now first translated out of French into English, by Henry Lyte.

London, G. Dewes, 1578
Librarian's Room 27

William Langham
The garden of health, conteyning the sundry rare and hidden vertues and properties of all kindes of simples and plants, together with the maner how they are to be used and applyed in medicine, &c., gathered by the long experience and industrie of William Langham, practicioner in phisicke.

London, 1579
MB; L.7.b.24

William Bullein (c.1515–1576)
Bulleins bulwarke of defence against all sicknesse, soarenesse, and woundes that doe dayly assaulte mankinde: which bulwarke is kept with Hilarius the gardener, & Health the phisicion, with the chirurgian, to helpe the wounded souldiours ...

London : Thomas Marsche, 1579.
Librarians Room 42

Alessio Piemontese, pseud?
Richard Androse
William Ward (1534 – 1609)
The secretes of the reverend Maister Alexis of Piemont [pseud.? i. e. Girolamo Ruscelli?] : containyng excellente remedies against diverse diseases, woundes, and other accidentes, with the manner to make distillations, parfumes, confitures, diynges, colours, fusions, and meltynges. A woorke well approved, verie profitable and necessarie for every man. Newlie corrected and amended, and also somewhat enlarged in certaine places, whiche wanted in the firste edition. / Translated out of Frenche into Englishe, by Willyam Warde.

London : Imprinted by Jhon Kyngston, for Jhon Wight, 1578-1580 [v. 1, 1580]
L.7.C.19
Johann Jacob Wecker (1528 – 1586)
John Bannister (1540 – 1610)
A compendious chyrurgerie: gathered, & translated (especially) out of Wecker, at the request of certaine, but encreased and enlightened with certaine annotations, resolutions & supplyes / ... Published ... by Jhon Banester ...
London : Imprinted by John Windet, for John Harrison the elder, 1585.
53.e.26

Pope John XXI (d.1277)
Humphrey Llwyd (1527 – 1568)
Jacques Desparts (1380 – 1458)
Diocles of Carystus
The treasury of health : containing many profitable medicines, gathered out of Hipocrates, Galen, and Auicen, by one Petrus Hyspanius & translated into English by Humfrie Lloyd, who hath added therevnto the causes and signes of euerie disease, with the aphorismes of Hypocrates, and Iacobus de Partibus, redacted to a certaine order according to the members of mans bodie, and a compendious table, containing the purging and confortatiue medicines, with the exposition of certaine names and weightes in this booke contained, with an Epistle of Diocles vnto King Antigonus.
At London : Printed by Thomas East, 1585.
L.6.a.25

Horatius Morus (fl. 1569)
E. Caldwall
Richard Caldwell (c.1505 – 1584)
Tables of surgerie : brieflie comprehending the whole art and practise thereof in a maruelous good method, collected and gathered out of the best physicians by Horatius Morus a Florentine physician: and faithfullie translated out of Latine into our English toong, by Richard Caldwell doctor of physicke.
At London : Imprinted by Henrie Denham dwelling in Aldersgate streete, at the signe of the starre, 1585.
Bound with Bullein [or Bulleyn] (William) Bulwarke of defense. 1562.
L.3.a.11
**Giovanni da Vigo (1450 – 1525)**  
**Bartholomew Traheron (1510 – 1558)**  
**George Baker (1540 – 1600)**  
**Robert Norton (16th Century)**  
**Thomas Gale (1507 – 1587)**

The whole worke of that famous chirurgion Maister John Vigo. Newly corrected / by men skilfull in that arte, whereunto are annexed certain works compiled and published by Thomas Gale ...  
1586  
Librarian's Room 85; 53.e.34

**Timothie Bright (1550 – 1615)**  
A treatise of melancholy.: Contayning the causes thereof, and reasons of the straunge effects it worketh in our minds and bodies: with the phisicke cure, and spirituall consolation for such as have thereto adjoined afflicted conscience. The difference betwixt it, and melancholy, with diverse philosophicall discourses touching actions, and affections of soule, spirit and body ..  
Imprinted at London : John Windet, 1586.

**John Bannister (1540 – 1610)**  
An antidotarie chyrurgicall,: containing great varietie and choice of all sorts of medicines ... partlie taken out of authors, olde and new, printed or written: partlie obtained by free gifte of sundrie worthie men of this profession within this land. / By Iohn Banester.  
At London : Imprinted ... by Thomas Orwin for Thomas Man., 1589.  
Marcus Beck Library
William Clowes (c.1540 – 1604)
A prooved practise for all young chirurgians, concerning burnings with gunpowder, and woundes made with gunshot, sword, halbard, pike, launce, or such other: Wherein is delivered with all faithfulness, not only the true receipts of such medicines as shall make them bolde, but also sundry familiar examples, such as may lead them as it were by the hand, to the doing of the like. Hereto is adjoined a treatise of the French or Spanish pocks, written by Iohn Almenar, a Spanish phisition. Also a commodious collection of aphorismes both English and Latine, taken out of an old written copy. Published for the benefite of his country, by William Clowes, maister in chirurgery. Newly corrected and augmented. Seen, and allowed, according to the order appointed.


Orders thought meete by her majestie, and her privie counsell to be executed in townes, villages, and other places infected with the plague, and an advise set downe by the best learned in physicke within this realme, conteyning sundry good rules and easie medicines.

London, 1592.

Nicolas Monardes (1493 – 10 October 1588)
Joyfull newes out of the new-found worlds : wherein are declared, the rare & singular vertues of divers herbs, trees, plantes, oyles & stones, with their applications ... / englished by John Frampton ; newly corrected ... whereunto are added 3 other bookes treating of the Bezaar stone, the herb Escuerconera the properties of iron & steele in medicine.

London, 1596.

A hundred and foureteene experiments and cures of ... Theophrastus Paracelsus : translated out of the Germane tongue into the Latin / whereunto is added certaine excellent and profitable workes by B.G. a Portu Aquitano [i.e. B.G. Penot] ; also certaine secrets of Isacke Hollandus concerning the vegetall and animall worke ; also the Spagericke antidotarie for gunne-shot of Josephus Quirsitanus [i.e. Duchesne] ; collected by John Hester.

London : Vallentine Sims, 1596.

Tract C.47(3)
Cornelius Schylander
His chirurgerie, containing a briefe methode for the curing of woundes and ulcers, with an easie maner of drawing oyle out of wound-hearbes, turpentine, guiacum and waxe / translated by S. Hobbes.
London, 1596.
L.7.a.27

William Clowes (c.1540 – 1604)
A profitable and necessarie booke of observations, for all those that are burned with the flame of gun powder, &c.: and also for curing of wounds made with musket and caliuer shot, and other weapons of war commonly vsed at this day both by sea and land, as heerafter shall be declared: vwith an addition of most approoued remedies, gathered for the good and comfort of many, out of divers learned men both old and new writers: last of all is adjoined a short treatise, for the cure of lues venerea, by unctions and other approoved waies of curing, heeretofore by me collected: and now againe newly corrected and augmented in the yeere of our Lorde 1596. By William Clowes one of hir Maiesties chirurgions.
Imprinted at London : By Edm. Bollifant, for Thomas Dawson, 1596.
52.d.25

Peter Lowe (c. 1550 – 1610)
The whole course of chirurgerie, wherein is briefey set downe the cause, signes, prognostications & curations of all sorts of tumors &c. according to the opinion of all our auncient doctours in chirurgerie : whereunto is annexed the Presages of divine Hippocrates.
London, 1597.
L.6.b.6

Adolf Occo (1524 – 1606)
[Augustae Vindelicorum : Valentinus Schoenigius], 1597.
MB Fo.

John Gerard (1545 – 1612)
The herball : or, Generall historie of plantes / gathered by John Gerarde.
Librarian’s Room 20
Andre du Laurens (1558 – 1609)
A Discourse of the preservation of the sight: of melancholike diseases, of rheumes, and of old age / Translated out of the French into English, according to the last edition by Richard Surphlet.
London: R. Iacson, 1599.
L.5.b.11

William Clowes (c.1540 – 1604)
A right frutefull and approoved treatise, for the artificiall cure of that malady called in Latin struma, and in English the evill ...
London: Edward Allde, 1602.
L.8.B.5

Peter Uffenbach (1566 – 1635)
Francofurti: Prodit typis Nicolai Hoffmanni, Impensa Jacobi Fischeri Bibliopolae, 1610.
Marcus Beck Library

Jacques Guillimeau (1550 – 1613)
Child-birth or, the happy deliverie of women. Wherein is set downe the government of women. In the time Of their breeding childe: Of their travaile, both naturall, and contrary to nature: And of their lying in. Together with the diseases, which happen to women in those times, and the meanes to helpe them. To which is added, a treatise of the diseases of infants, and young children: with the cure of them. Written in French by Iames Guillimeau
London: Printed by A. Hatfield., 1612.
Marcus Beck Library

John Cotta of Northampton, (1575–1650)
Short discoverie of the unobserved dangers of several sorts of ignorant and unconsiderate practisers of Physicke in England.
London, 1612.
L.7.a.26
Peter Lowe (c. 1550 – 1610)
A discourse of the whole art of chyrurgerie &c. whereunto is added the rule of making remedies which chirurgions doe commonly use: with the Presages of divine Hyppocrates.
2nd edition
London, 1612
L.6.b.7

Thomas Spackman
Declaration of such grievous accidents as commonly follow the biting of mad dogges, with the cure thereof.
(1613):
L.8.b.10

Helkiah Crooke (1576 – 1635)
Mikrokosmographia, a description of the body of man.: Together with the controversies and figures thereto belonging. Collected and translated out of all the best authors of anatomy, especially out of Gasper Bauhinus and Adreas Laurentius. / By Helkiah Crooke ... Published by the King Maiesties especiall direction and warrant, according to the first integrity, as it was originally written by the author
Marcus Beck Library

Walter Bailey (1529 – 1593)
Two treatises concerning the preservation of eie-sight. / The first written by Doctor Baily ... the other collected out of those two famous phisicions Fernelius and Riolanus.
Oxford [i. e. London] :
Printed by Joseph Barnes, for John Barnes, 1616.
L.6.A.26

John Woodall (1556 – 1643)
The surgions mate, or, A treatise discovering faithfully and plainely the due contents of the surgions chest, the uses of the instruments, the vertues and operations of the medicines, the cures of the most frequent diseases at sea ... : with a briefe explanation of sal, sulphur, and mercury ... published chiefly for the benefit of young sea-surgions imploied in the East-India Companies affaires.
London : E. Griffin for L. Lisle, 1617.
L.7.b.28
"This is some monster of the isle with four legs"

"Four legs and two voices: a most delicate monster"

"With the help of a surgeon he might yet recover."

"Give physic to the sick, ease to the pain’d"

"Eye is the window of the mind"

"He that is stricken blind cannot forget the precious treasure of his eyesight lost."

"sans eyes"

"The miserable have no other medicine, But only hope."

"He hath kept an evil diet long"

"The kingly crowned head, the vigilant eye, the counsellor heart, the arm our soldier, our steed the leg, the tongue our trumpeter."

"There’s rosemary, that’s for remembrance."

"I could wish you were conducted to a gentle bath"

"She is spread of late into a goodly bulk."

"Being as I say with child, and being great-bellied, and longing, as I said, for prunes."

"The venom clamours of a jealous woman poisons more deadly than a mad dog’s tooth."

"Tis called the evil"

"Trust not the physician."

"There with fantastic garlands did she come..."
"I desire your more acquaintance, good Master Mustardseed."

"If you would seek us, we are yours i’ the garden"

Our bodies are our gardens"

"They say you are a melancholy fellow."

"The sad companion, dull-eyed melancholy"

"I have neither the scholar’s melancholy, which is emulation; nor the musician’s, which is fantastical; nor the courtier’s, which is proud; nor the soldier’s, which is ambitious; nor the lawyer’s, which is politic; nor the lady’s, which is nice; nor the lover’s, which is all these, but it is a melancholy of mine own, compounded of many simples, extracted from many objects, and indeed the sundry contemplation of my travels, in which my often rumination wraps me in a most humorous sadness."

"What, are you hurt, Lieutenant? Ay past all surgery."

"Pray to the gods to intermit the plague"

"Comets, importing change of times and states"

"Devouring pestilence hangs in our air"

"O plague right well prevented"

"Balm his foul head in warm distilled waters"

"O true apothecary! Thy drugs are quick."

"What, ho! Apothecary!"

"Now, master doctor, have you brought those drugs?"

"Prescriptions of rare and prov’d effects"

"Sweet practiser, thy physic I will try"

"...my Nell is dead i’ th’ spital of malady of France."
A man can no more separate age and covetousness than a’ can part young limbs and lechery; but the gout galls the one, and the pox pinches the other…"

“Proud, violent, testy magistrates, alias fools”

“O, mickle is the powerful grace that lies in herbs…”

“Here’s flowers for you”

“Fetch me that flower; the herb I shew’d thee once.”

“Have mind upon your health”

“All blest secrets, all you unpublish’d virtues of the earth”

“some sweet oblivious antidote”

“If you see this in the map of my microcosm”

“the most sovereign prescription in Galen is but empiricute”

“Have by some surgeon, Shylock, on your charge, to stop his wounds, lest he do bleed to death”

“I will tread this unbolted villain into mortar, and daub the walls of a jakes with him.”

“Your lion, that holds his poll-axe sitting on a close-stool, will be given to Ajax”

“The surgeon’s box or the patient’s wound”

“Ships are but boards, sailors but men”

“Thou scurvy patch!”

“Others, like merchants, venture trade abroad”

“They shall be my East and West Indies, and I will trade to them both”

“A valiant son-in-law thou shalt enjoy”

“Now in London place him”
The Tempest
A Midsummer Night’s Dream
The Rape of Lucrece
Romeo and Juliet
As You Like It
Measure for Measure
Richard III
Coriolanus
Hamlet
A Winter’s Tale
The Comedy of Errors
Macbeth
Timon of Athens
Othello
Pericles
Julius Caesar

Henry IV Part 1
Henry IV Part 2
Richard II
Much ado About Nothing
The Taming of the Shrew
Cymbeline
All’s Well That Ends Well
Henry V
King Lear
The Merchant of Venice
Love’s Labour’s Lost
Troilus and Cressida
The Merry Wives of Windsor
Titus Andronicus