

Distortions on Tudor Physicians

CHARLES BARDES

distortions on Hall

1.

Mr Drayton, an excellent poet, laboring
of a fever, was thus cured: an emetic
infusion mixed with syrup of violets,
a spoonful, which wrought very well
both upwards and downwards

troubled with pain of the head,
great distillation, continual spitting
and coldness, constraining him
to wear three caps

oppressed with melancholy
and fever of extraordinary heat, very sleepy,
with no sense of his sickness

unquiet nights
salt sharp humors did
much perplex his spirits

vexed with a desperate squincy
a burning fever, an excoriated tongue,
cured by oxymel of squills
so highly praised, as if wrought by enchantment

2.

The Lady Jenkinson (fair, pious, chaste)
 suffered vertigo, mouth sores, fainting
 and loose gums her pulse was weak,
 unequal, and vermicular

The Lord of Northampton could scarce
 draw his breath, from his mouth flowed
 abundant viscid humidities

My Lady Rainsford (gallantly
 structured of body) did
 vomit a worm of melancholy matter
 till the flux of blood was stayed
 thus remitting her fits

a direful stink

3.

and when his shaking ague was done
 delivered of those bitter torments
 in the morning he was anointed again
 and bade farewell to Physick
 and so was cured, and lived many years

distortions on Bright

1.

Of internal sense, I take phantasy
 the greatest waste of spirit,
 and most
 apt to thicken the blood

when the substance of the brain
 hath plentifully drunk
 of that splenetic fog

arising not of absence of light
 only
 but by a presence of a substantial obscurity
 possessed of an actual power

so that the uncheerful darkness of melancholy
 obscures the sun and moon, and all
 the comfortable planets of our natures,
 which appear all swart, or more than half eclipsed
 of this mist of blackness,
 rising from that hideous lake

even as one condemned to death
 with undoubted expectation of the axe,
 fearing every knock at the prison door,
 hath horror
 though the messenger of pardon
 bid him open

2.

cheerful sounds alleve disordered rage
and intemperate mirth

except the melancholic
 be skilled in music
and require a deeper harmony

distortions on Boorde 3

There be many mirths and consolations,
some being good and some vituperable.
Laudable mirth is, one man or neighbor
to be merry with an other, with honesty and virtue,
without swearing, slandering, or speaking
ribaldry. Mirth is in musical instruments
and ghostly and godly singing