SICKNESS

Disease, Excess, Madness, Medicine and Physicians

1. ESSENCE

4249 Everything in excess is opposed to nature.  
Hippocrates (B.C. 460-370)

4250 A physician is nothing but a consoler of the mind.  
Petronius (died 66 A.D.)

4251 The art of medicine consists of amusing the patient while nature cures the disease.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)

4252 Madness is to think of too many things in succession too fast, or of one thing too exclusively.  
Voltaire (1694-1778)

4253 Disease is the retribution of outraged Nature.  
Hosea Ballou (1771-1852)

4254 Disease is an experience of so-called mortal mind. It is fear made manifest on the body.  
Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910)

2. OPPOSITES

4255 Physicians are many in title but very few in reality.  
Hippocrates (B.C. 460-370)

4256 Excess generally causes reaction and produces a change in the opposite direction, whether it be in the seasons, or in individuals, or in government.  
Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)

4257 Men worry over the great number of diseases, while doctors worry over the scarcity of effective remedies.  
Pien Ch'iao (fl. B.C. 255)

4258 Some remedies are worse than the disease.  
Publilius Syrus (fl. B.C. 42)

4259 By medicine life may be prolonged, yet death Will seize the doctor too.  
Shakespeare (1564-1616)

4260 The madman who knows that he is mad is close to sanity.  
Ruiz de Alarcon (1581-1639)
4261  He who cures a disease may be the skillfullest,  
but he that prevents it is the safest physician.  

Thomas Fuller (1608-1661)

4262  Great wits are sure to madness near allied  
And thin partitions do their bounds divide.  

Dryden (1631-1700)

4263  Medicine is a science of uncertainty  
and an art of probability.  

William Osler (1849-1919)

4264  Before thirty, men seek disease;  
after thirty, disease seeks men.  

Chinese Proverb

3. INSIGHT

4265  Misdirected life force is the activity in disease process.  
Disease has no energy save what it borrows from the life  
of the organism. It is by adjusting the life force that  
healing must be brought about, and it is the sun as  
transformer and distributor of primal spiritual energy  
that must be utilized in this process, for life and the  
sun are so intimately connected.  

Kabbalah (B.C. 1200?-700? A.D.)

4266  To know that you do not know is the best.  
To pretend to know when you do not know is a disease.  
Only when one recognizes this disease as a disease  
Can one be free from the disease.  
The sage is free from the disease.  
Because he recognized this disease to be disease,  
He is free from it.  

Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

4267  Medicine is an art, and attends to the nature and  
constitution of the patient, and has principles of action  
and reason in each case.  

Plato (B.C. 427?-347?)

4268  Most men are within a finger's breadth of being mad.  

Diogenes (B.C. 412-323)

4269  Sickness seizes the body from bad ventilation.  

Ovid (B.C. 43-18 A.D.)

4270  Medicine is not only a science; it is also an art. It does  
not consist of compounding pills and plasters; it deals  
with the very processes of life, which must be understood  
before they may be guided.  

Paracelsus (1493-1541)
The poets did well to conjoin music and medicine, because the office of medicine is but to tune the curious harp of man's body.

Bacon (1561-1626)

In sickness the soul begins to dress herself for immortality. And first she unties the strings of vanity that make her upper garments cleave to the world and sit uneasy.

Jeremy Taylor (1613-1667)

As long as men are liable to die and are desirous to live, a physician will be made fun of, but he will be well paid.

La Bruyere (1645-1696)

The canker which the trunk conceals is revealed by the leaves, the fruit, or the flower.

Metastasio (1698-1782)

He's the best physician that knows the worthlessness of the most medicines.

Franklin (1706-1790)

It is with disease of the mind, as with those of the body; we are half dead before we understand our disorder, and half cured when we do.

Colton (1780-1832)

There can be no excess to love, none to knowledge, none to beauty, when these attributes are considered in the purest sense.

Emerson (1803-1882)

A bodily disease which we look upon as whole and entire within itself, may, after all, be but a symptom of some ailment in the spiritual part.

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)

To array a man's will against his sickness is the supreme art of medicine.

Beecher (1813-1878)

Variability is the law of life, and as no two faces are the same, so no two bodies are alike, and no two individuals react alike and behave alike under the abnormal conditions which we know as disease.

William Osler (1849-1919)
The superior doctor prevents sickness;  
The mediocre doctor attends to impending sickness;  
The inferior doctor treats actual sickness.

Chinese Proverb

4. POSITIVE

One gets into situations in life from which it is necessary to be a little mad to extricate oneself successfully.

La Rochefoucauld (1613-1680)

The feeling of health is acquired only through sickness.

Georg Lichtenberg (1742-1799)

I have learned much from disease which life could have never taught me anywhere else.

Goethe (1749-1832)

It is in sickness that we most feel the need of that sympathy which shows how much we are dependent upon one another for our comfort, and even necessities. Thus disease, opening our eyes to the realities of life, is an indirect blessing.

Hosea Ballou (1771-1852)

A little madness in the Spring is wholesome even for the King.

Emily Dickinson (1830-1886)

I reckon being ill as one of the great pleasures of life, provided one is not too ill and is not obliged to work till one is better.

Samuel Butler (1835-1902)

5. NEGATIVE

We cannot employ the mind to advantage when we are filled with excessive food and drink.

Cicero (B.C. 106-43)

The body oppressed by excesses, bears down the mind, and depresses to the earth any portion of the divine Spirit we had been endowed with.

Horace (B.C. 65-8)

All actions beyond the ordinary limits are subject to a sinister interpretation.

Montaigne (1533-1592)
4291  Too much noise deafens us; too much light blinds us; too
great a distance, or too much of proximity equally prevents
us from being able to see; too long or too short a discourse
obscures our knowledge of a subject; too much of truth
stuns us.

Pascal (1623-1662)

4292  Doctors prescribe medicine of which they know little
to cure diseases of which they know less
in human beings of which they know nothing.

Voltaire (1694-1778)

4293  The mental disease of the present generation is impatience
of study, contempt of the great masters of ancient wisdom,
and a disposition to rely wholly upon unassisted genius and
natural sagacity.

Johnson (1709-1784)

4294  That dire disease, whose ruthless power
Withers the beauty's transient flower.

Goldsmith (1728-1774)

4295  The excesses of our youth are drafts upon our old age,
payable with interest, about thirty years after the date.

Colton (1780-1832)

4296  Gluttony is the source of all our infirmities and the
fountain of all our diseases. As a lamp is choked by a
superabundance of oil, and a fire extinguished by excess
of fuel, so is the natural health of the body destroyed
by intemperate diet.

Emerson (1803-1882)

4297  Excess always carries its own retribution.

Ouida (1839-1908)

4298  In individuals, insanity is rare, but in groups, parties,
nations and epochs it is the rule.

Nietzsche (1844-1900)

4299  The modern sympathy with invalids is morbid. Illness of any
kind is hardly a thing to be encouraged in others.

Oscar Wilde (1854-1900)

4300  For three things there is no remedy:
Poverty associated with laziness,
sickness coupled with old age,
and enmity mixed with envy.

Chinese Proverb
6. ADVICE

4301 This I consider to be a valuable principle in life:
Do no thing in excess.

Terence (B.C. 185-159)

4302 The best medicine is the abandonment of desires.

'Ali (600-661 A. D.)

4303 Prevention is better than cure.

Erasmus (1466-1536)

4304 Once a disease has entered the body, all parts which are healthy must fight it: not one alone, but all. Because a disease might mean their common death. Nature knows this; and Nature attacks the disease with whatever help she can muster.

Paracelsus (1493-1541)

4305 Against diseases here the strongest fence,
Is the defensive virtue, abstinence.

Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

4306 The best of all medicines are rest and fasting.

Franklin (1706-1790)

4307 Sickness is a belief, which must be annihilated by the divine Mind.

Mary Baker Eddy (1821-1910)

4308 Nine-tenths of our sickness can be prevented by right thinking plus right hygiene - nine-tenths of it!

Henry Miller (1891-1980)

4309 To stop drinking...
Study a drunkard while you are sober.

Chinese Proverb

7. POTPOURRI

4310 Among creatures some lead and some follow.
Some blow hot and some blow cold.
Some are strong and some are weak.
Some may break and some may fall.
Therefore the sage discards the extremes, the extravagant, and the excessive.

Lao-Tzu (fl. B.C. 600)

4311 Extreme remedies are very appropriate for extreme diseases.

Hippocrates (B.C. 460-370)
Lately was Diaulus a doctor, now he is an undertaker, 
What the undertaker now does the doctor too did before. 
Martial (43-104 A.D.)

Better to hunt in fields for health unbought, 
Than fee the doctor for a nauseous draught. 
The wise for cure on exercise depend; 
God never made his work for man to mend. 
Dryden (1631-1700)

Tell your doctor, that y'are ill 
And what does he, but write a bill, 
Of which you need not read one letter, 
The worse the scrawl, the dose the better. 
For if you knew but what you take, 
Though you recover, he must break. 
Matthew Prior (1664-1721)

"Is there no hope?" the sick man said, 
The silent doctor shook his head, 
And took his leave with signs of sorrow, 
Despairing of his fee to-morrow. 
Gay (1688-1732)

But nothing is more estimable than a physician who, having 
studied nature from his youth, knows the properties of the 
human body, the diseases which assail it, the remedies which 
will benefit it, exercises his art with caution, and pays 
equal attention to the rich and the poor. 
Voltaire (1694-1778)

I know of nothing more laughable than a doctor who does not 
die of old age. 
Voltaire (1694-1778)

God heals, and the doctor takes the fee. 
Franklin (1706-1790)

The best doctor is the one you run for and can't find. 
Denis Diderot (1713-1784)

But when ill indeed, 
Even dismissing the doctor don't always succeed. 
George Colman (1762-1836)

Physicians mend or end us; 
but though in health we sneer, 
when sick we call them to attend us, 
without the least propensity to jeer. 
Byron (1788-1824)
Some maladies are rich and precious and only to be acquired by the right of inheritance or purchased with gold.

Nathaniel Hawthorne (1804-1864)

The universal medicine for the Soul is the Supreme Reason and Absolute Justice; for the mind, mathematical and practical Truth; for the body, the Quintessence, a combination of light and gold.

Albert Pike (1809-1891)

Today I felt pass over me
A breath of wind from the wings of madness.

Baudelaire (1821-1867)

Physician - One upon whom we set our hopes when ill and our dogs when well.

Ambrose Bierce (1842-1914?)

If the doctor cures, the sun see it; but if he kills, the earth hides it.

Scottish Proverb