

Hierarchy of medicine

PHYSICIANS were trained in all the intellectual refinements and only the rich could afford their services. They studied astronomy, astrology, geometry, mathematics, music and philosophy. They provided a holistic approach, treating a patient's mental, moral and physical needs. They believed that a sickness or cancer's root cause might be in the mind, the organs or the human spirit. Fate, fortune and goodwill might cure when a physik failed. The Tudors believed strongly in a divine plan in the face of providence. That life was "God given" and could also be "God taken". From

APOTHECARIES were like modern day chemist shops and prepared medicine and only those with some money could afford their service. Henry VIII favoured the apothecaries and used Richard Babham, Cuthbert Blackenden, Thomas Alsop, Thomas Ashe, John De Soda & Thomas Pierson - These were kept busy preparing physiks for Henry to relieve his constipation and gout.

BARBER-SURGEONS could undertake surgery (Thomas Vicary was a well-known barber surgeon) - Specialization of professions is a relatively new invention. Back then, barbers were also dentists and surgeons, versatile performers of tooth extraction and enemas, bloodletting and wound surgery. Vickary was called a sergeant-surgeon to the court in recognition of his skill with battle wounds. The most common way to stay healthy in Tudor times was to employ a barber-surgeon to bleed all your family members every spring equinox.

THE WISE WOMAN used herbs and remedies handed down from their grandmothers. Most poor people relied on their community wise woman when they were sick or during childbirth. These women held great expertise in the healing properties of different herbs.

Match the activity to the healer

Childbirth

Check the colour of urine

Pull teeth

Check your urine and prescribe a tonic based on your star sign

A charm or herbal remedy

Take a prescribe to be filled, which would consist of herbal

Blood-letting

Cut hair

Surgery

Apothecary

Cunning Man or Wise-woman

Barber-surgeon

Physician