SHAKESPEARE ON SYPHILIS.

By Colonel F. Smith, D.S.O.
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The Bard had such an astounding knowledge of almost everything under the sun that it is not surprising to find him possessing a clear idea of the clinical picture of tertiary syphilis. But there are many people who never read Shakespeare, and to them this extract from one of the plays may be of interest. The satire is lovely.

Timon (to Aleibiades):—

"Then what should war be? This fell whore of thine
Hath in her more destruction than thy sword,
For all her cherubin look."

Timon (to Phrynia and Timandra, mistresses to Aleibiades):—

"Consumptions sow
In hollow bones of man; strike their sharp shins,
And mar men's spurring. Crack the lawyer's voice,
That he may never more false title plead,
Nor sound his quillets shrilly; hoar the flamen,
That scolds against the quality of flesh,
And not believes himself: down with the nose,
Down with it flat; take the bridge quite away
Of him, that, his particular to foresee,
Smells from the general weal; make curl'd-pate ruffian(bald;
And let the unscar'd braggarts of the war
Derive some pain from you: plague all;
That your activity may defeat and quell
The source of all erection. -There's more gold;­
Do you damn others, and let this damn you,
And ditches grave you all!"

("Timon of Athens," act iv, scene 3.)

MODIFICATION OF A METHOD OF FIXING EXTEMPORIZED SPRINGS TO A FARM WAGON WITH SPLAY SIDES FOR THE CARRIAGE OF WOUNDED.1

By Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. R. James, C.B.
(Retired Pay.)

In wagons with splay sides, such as are found in the Salisbury Plain district and elsewhere throughout the country, it is not possible to obtain a satisfactory bearing for the lashing of the poles, forming the springs, to the sides of the wagon, so as to keep the two sets parallel and vertical. In this case it is necessary to construct an independent frame, which will fit inside the body of the vehicle and which can be kept from

1 Cf. para. 340, "Royal Army Medical Corps Training."
moving by means of stays. The system is shown in the accompanying sketch.

The pairs of springs, consisting each of two crossed poles such as are used in the Scotch hay-cart adaptation, are first lashed together and placed vertically in the wagon, with the lower ends of the two pairs of poles forming the springs pressed into the four corners of the wagon. Another cross, consisting of shorter spars lashed together near their centres, is placed transversely in the centre of the wagon in such a way that the lower ends of the poles press against the angle formed by the sides and floor of the wagon, and their upper limbs engage with the under side of the crossing of the pairs of poles forming the springs. They are securely lashed in this position, and ropes are tied from this point and passed over the sides of the wagon, pulled tight, and secured to the wagon frame. The other adjustments are the same as in the hay-cart improvisation. Square lashings are used, except in the case of the transverse cross, where a diagonal lashing is required.

A METHOD OF PREPARING A COVERED GOODS RAILWAY VAN FOR THE CARRIAGE OF WOUNDED ON STRETCHERS BY EXTEMPORIZED MEANS.

By Lieutenant-Colonel H. E. R. James, C.B.

The materials required for fitting one set for six stretchers are:

- 8 notched blocks of wood 18 in. by 9 in. by 2½ in. to 3 in.;
- 4 wedges 9 in. by 2 in. by 2½ in. tapering to nothing;
- 4 poles of light scaffolding, diameter 3½ in. to 2½ in., of a length to fit inside the vehicle transversely;
- 12 lengths of ¼-in. diameter rope of 20 ft. each;
- 14 pieces of tarred rope yarn 3 ft. in length;
- 24 pieces of lanyard 2 ft. in length;
- 6 pieces of small copyright.