

*Pick Me.*

Pours it on thick as theriac the bush-  
whacking physicians' treacly heal-all.  
The calls to arm thyself then the *Hail!*  
*Hail!* pronouncements, the decrees.

The tinctures of vitriol, of Jesuit's bark.  
The rough cathartics, the hell-  
storming mercury. The bougies,  
the fumigations, the fomentations.

Then equal parts bake-house and bagnio.  
The poison-fed. The fever-starved. The  
come-one-come-all the peccant-sweated.