Occultism and Medicine

墨憨子曰：孔墨之後，儒分為八，墨離為三，白再喻而成黑，雖小道，必有可笑者焉。集方術部。

The Inky Simpleton Master says that after the passing of Confucius and Mozi, the Confucians split into eight factions and the Mohists, three. White turns into black after several attempts at Sophist exposition. Even in minor walks of life there are laughable things to observe. So I compile the section “Occultism and Medicine.”

醫人

有送醫士出門者，犬適欄門而吠，主人喝之即去。醫贊其解人意，主人曰：「此畜生頗頗依（醫）人。」

(117) Giving People Medical Treatment (4:1a)
A man sees off a physician who has come to make a house call. The family’s dog barks at the physician at the gate. When the homeowner shouts at it, the dog immediately retreats. The physician praises the dog for its ability to understand human intent. The owner says, “This beast rather obeys people’s commands (yí, homophone of ‘giving medical care’).”

幼科

富家延二醫，一大方，一幼科。適客至，問二位何人，主人答曰：「皆名醫。」又問那一科，主人指曰：「這是大方，這是小兒。」

舊話，呂洞賓戲白牡丹。白問其陽何物？答曰：「仙人種也。」呂亦問其陰，答曰：「小兒窠。」

A rich man employs two family doctors. One is a general practitioner and the other, a paediatrician. When a guest requests to make their acquaintance the host introduces them as “famous physicians.” The guest then inquires about their specialties. The host points to one doctor and says his specialty is general medicine (pun on: generosity); he then points to the other and says that his specialty is paediatrics (pun on: stinginess)."

There is an old joke about the immortal Lü Dongbin playing tricks on the druggist’s daughter White Peony. White Peony asks Lü Dongbin to describe his sexual organ; Lü says, “Seeds of immortals.” Lü also asks White Peony to describe her sexual organ; White Peony says, “Nest of little kids (pun on: paediatrician).”

夜啼
小兒苦夜啼，迎醫治之。醫用藥訖，因留宿。夜半，使童子潛探兒啼止否，還報曰：「兒不啼，兒母啼矣。」
一說，還報云：「小兒不啼，大人啼矣。」醫曰：「問大人也要藥吃否？」

Crying at Night (4:1b-2a)
A baby cries uncontrollably at night, so a doctor is called in. After giving the baby some medicine, the doctor is asked to stay for the night. In the middle of the night, the doctor sends his pageboy to take a peep and see if the baby has stopped crying. The boy returns with the report that the baby has stopped crying but the baby’s mother is crying.

In a variant version, the boy reports, “The little child is not crying but the adults are crying.” The doctor says, “Go ask the adults if they also want to take the medicine.”

身熱
小兒患身熱，服藥而死。其父詣醫家咎之，醫不信，自往驗視，撫兒屍，謂其父曰：「你太欺心，身子幸已涼矣。」

2 White Peony is the future He Xian’gu 何仙姑 (Immortal Maiden He). In order to recruit her to be the eighth member of the Eight Immortals 八仙, Lü Dongbin seduced White Peony. The two of them had a “battle of the sexes” according to the Taoist cultivation method utilizing sex orgies. The woman won the battle and allowed the man to recruit her. Kristofer Schipper, The Taoist Body, trans., Karen C. Duval (Berkeley: University of California Press, 1993), p. 163.