

The honeyed words upon the 'phone:
"So sorry to hear you've flu.
A few words please?
On education ...
with reservations, if you wish."

"O God! Not another task!
Not me!
with flu,
or overwork,
or overage ...
It's all been said before ...
probably."

Come, virus, speak, et alii:
"For in much wisdom is much vexation,
and he who increases knowledge increases sorrow ...
And I said to myself that this also is vanity ...
I have seen the business that God has given
to the sons of men to be busy with:
He has made everything beautiful in its time;
also he has put eternity into man's mind,
yet so that he cannot find out
what God has done from the beginning to the end ...
Of making many books there is no end,
and much study is a weariness of the flesh."

But then I hear that voice again:
"a time to be born, and a time to die;
a time to plant, and a time to pluck up what is planted;
a time to kill, and a time to heal;
a time to break down, and a time to build up;
a time to weep, and a time to laugh;
a time to mourn, and a time to dance ..."

And with Koheleth I too turned and laughed;
I danced with words, and words with me.
And I said to myself that this also is
education ...

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Prize: the satisfaction of finding your own solution ...

ACROSS

1. (with 1 down)
At Dotheboys Hall he "learnt
that bottiney means a know-
plants." (8,8)
7. Milligan, among others, could
either do it (2,2) or be it (4)
11. State by units (7)
13. A commanding number? (3)
14. Iron symbol (2)
15. It can float a ship, or be one
in a desert (5)
16. Sapphic or Spenserian (6)
19. For colds and tears (7)
22. Sound a Scots binger might
make? (4)
23. I'll net this stone over the
door (6)
24. A certain estate? (6)
25. Medium substance upsets Tom's
place (9)
28. Curved car (3)
29. Italian child (5)

DOWN

1. See 1 across
2. Emphasized - in print ledge of
(10)
3. Tough socializers?
(6,6)
4. Could be paint or
field (3)
5. Briefly, at the age
of (3)
6. They could be general
or united (6)
7. Almond-topped fruit
cake (5)
8. Water is, if running
(2)
9. See 32 down.
10. Neon sign? (2)
12. Face to face with
hounds? (4)
16. Could be hard or soft
(4)
17. Defending Dreyfus, he
said, "J'accuse!"(4)

30. I cry to all and get poetic (7)
33. Soviet car (3)
34. Yorkshire child? (4)
36. A brief moment of champagne? (3)
37. This kitten can also appeal (3)
38. Healing agent gets mention with this shirt (8)
39. Animals' studies? (4)
- 40,42 Sounds like Cockney approval! (3,3)
41. As a horn or a pot it's still inferior (3)
42. See 40 across
44. Thomas Da Quincey considered it one of the "fine arts", but Hamlet's uncle thought it "most foul" (6)
45. Falsely arrest his dapper men? (12)

18. Laundered (3,7)
20. Most pine for relatively-favoured jobs(8)
21. Rontgen found it (1, 3)
26. Almost square (6)
27. No tricks! (6)
30. Could be soldiers or suspects (4,2)
31. Reamed reconstituted! (6)
- 32,9 Magnetic person!.
(6,2,10)
35. A short knight? (2)
37. Check family branch?
(4)
40. It's human to do it
3)
43. Type of South American sloth (2)