

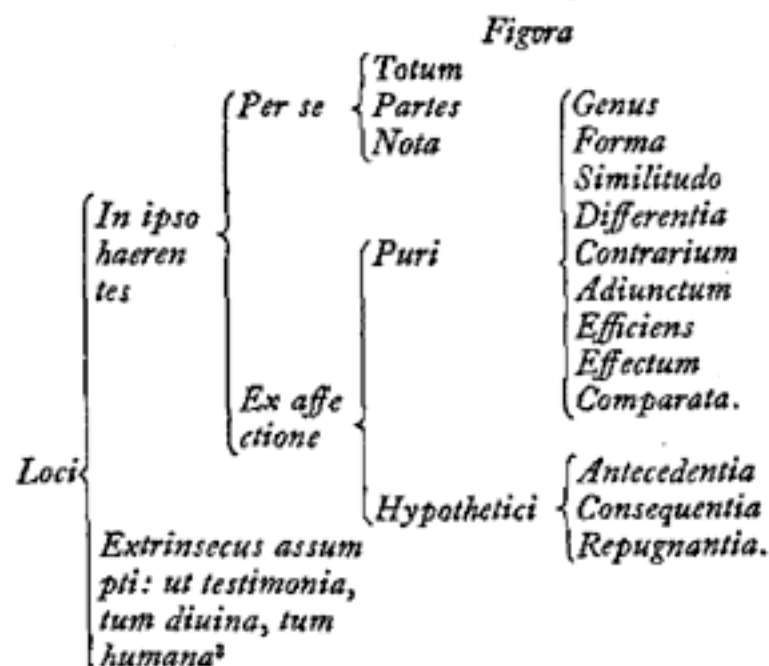
CHAPTER XXXIV

THE RHETORICAL TRAINING OF SHAKSPERE:  
CICERO, *TOPICA*

IT WOULD SEEM CLEAR FROM OUR DISCUSSION in the previous chapter that from some source Shakspeare had at least a schoolboy knowledge of *Ad Herennium*. It can be made equally clear that Shakspeare also had from some source the usual supplementary knowledge of the topics from Cicero's *Topica*. As we have seen, it was regular practice to use both these works as texts in Elizabethan grammar schools. After the introductory preliminaries, Cicero points out that the *loci*, or places, or seats of arguments are some extrinsic, others intrinsic. The intrinsic are seated in the whole, the parts, the *nota* ("*Id est, etymologia*"),<sup>1</sup> and in the *affectae*, of which

*alia coniugata appellamus, alia ex genere, alia ex formula, alia ex similitudine, alia ex differentia, alia ex contrario, alia ex adiunctis, alia ex antecedentibus, alia ex consequentibus, alia ex repugnantibus, alia ex causis, alia ex effectis, alia ex comparatione maiorum, aut parium, aut minorum.*<sup>2</sup>

Perhaps a scheme of these main points as presented by Latomus will make clearer the structure of *Topica*.



<sup>1</sup> Bretschneider, *Corpus Reformatorum*, Vol. XVI, p. 812.

<sup>2</sup> *Topica* (Lambinus, *Ciceronis Opera Omnia* (1573), Vol. I, p. 656).

<sup>3</sup> *In Omnes De Arte Rhetorica M. Tullii Ciceronis Libros* (Venice, 1546, personal; 1551, personal), Part II, p. 259; (Basle, 1541, personal), Part II, p. 365.