

Book Reviews

authors and texts together with a general index. A comprehensive bibliography is included (where Potter's translation of *Loc.* is given as Loeb vol. 7, but in the Abbreviations is correctly cited as vol. 8).

Craik argues, correctly, that *Loc.*, "was initially composed as a single unified work by . . . one author" (p. 24), perhaps "an older contemporary of Hippocrates" (p. 29). There were later textual additions and emendations by other hands. The interplay of pre-Socratic (among other) influences allowed for a number of possible interpretations, creating a template upon which later medical theories and practices could be deduced or inferred.

Anatomy is a chief feature of this text. The number of sutures of the skull is said to vary; more sutures mean a healthier head (6.1). Craik's explanation of this anomaly does not entirely convince (p. 121). Three membranes protect the eye (2.2). Craik states that these "seem to be accurately described" (p. 105). It depends, of course, on exactly *what* is being described; here the lack of a *developed* anatomical vocabulary enjoins caution. The brain's meningeal covering is of two layers (2.3). Craik states that the terminology of thick and thin to describe these is "somewhat simplistic" (p. 105). However, such a description of the inner meningeal layer as λεπτός is accurate and was not bettered by Galen. In this instance, anatomical terminology aptly met the demand of anatomical investigation. And it should be noted that the *nature* of the other layer is not *explicitly* stated unless it can be inferred from the description immediately preceding of the thick (παχύς) membrane of the eye.

Loc. well illustrates the development in the Hippocratic Corpus of medical theory and practice, of informed speculation interspersed with nuggets of fact. This edition is an invaluable guide and merits a prominent τόπος on the bookshelf.

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Guigonis de Caulhiaco (Guy de Chauliac),
Inventarium sive chirurgia magna, volume one: Text, ed. Michael R McVaugh, *Studies in Ancient Medicine*, vol. 14, I, Leiden, E J Brill, 1997, pp. 486, \$216.00 (90-04-10706-1).

Guigonis de Caulhiaco (Guy de Chauliac),
Inventarium sive chirurgia magna, volume two: Commentary, prepared by Michael R McVaugh and Margaret S Ogden, *Studies in Ancient Medicine*, vol. 14, II, Leiden, Brill, 1997, pp. 438, \$178.00 (90-04-10784-3) (set 90-04-10785-1).

"Like an inventory of goods for his heirs". Thus Guy de Chauliac described his book on surgery (completed 1363), which marks the culmination of a medieval tradition of writings on surgery, being the most complete and most scholarly work in the genre. This book arose out of a need to complete the work of Margaret Ogden (d. 1988), who had planned to publish a commentary to the English version of the same text (*The cyrurgie of Guy de Chauliac*, Early English Text Society (EETS), 1971). Her notes on points of translation will be published by the EETS at a later date. To McVaugh alone, however, is due the edition of the bulky original Latin version (465 full pages of text), and he contributes most of the notes.

McVaugh places Guy in the context of medical writers (and in particular surgeons) and Western European medical education. Guy quotes (helpfully giving chapter and verse) from a vast array of authorities; the list of them (vol. 2, pp. 3–15) can in itself serve as a useful bibliography for medieval medicine. Guy was able to exploit both the resources of the medical school of Salerno and the library of the popes in Avignon, to which Nicholas of Reggio had sent the latest translations of the works of Galen; some of the texts quoted are no longer extant, such as the translation from Greek of Galen's *Methodus medendi*, books I–VI. Guy showed great discernment in his choice of authorities, preferring, in the case of

Book Reviews

Hippocrates and Galen, the translations made from Greek to those from Arabic, and using the more recent translations in preference to older ones: for example, the translation of the *Royal book* of 'Ali ibn al-'Abbas made by Stephen of Antioch (*Liber regalis*) rather than the older version of Constantine the African (*Pantegni*). But, beyond this, he adds his personal stamp. He provides what is probably the most detailed and critical history of writings on surgery up to his time, and frequently refers to his own experience and the examples of his teachers. He transforms the language of his authorities into a fluent and clear Latin, and adds tags from literature and philosophy (including the well-known saying of Bernard of Chartres that the moderns are like dwarfs sitting on the shoulders of giants, and the statement that he is a greater friend to truth than to Socrates or Plato: on this subject one may add the study of L Tarán, 'Amicus Plato sed magis amica veritas, from Plato and Aristotle to Cervantes', *Antike und Abendland*, 1984, 30: 93–124). One can only regret that his interest in illustration was not as refined as that of his Arabic predecessor, Abu'l-Qasis al-Zahrawi.

With Guy, surgery had achieved the status of a scholastic science which depended as much on works of theoretical medicine and Aristotelian natural science as on actual practice in the operation theatre. All students of medieval medicine will find a vast store of information in these volumes, and be grateful to the meticulousness equally of Guy de Chauliac and of his editor.

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M A D'Aronco and M L Cameron, *The Old English illustrated pharmacopoeia: British Library Cotton Vitellius C III*, Early

English Manuscripts in Facsimile, vol. 27, Copenhagen, Rosenkilde & Bagger, 1998, pp. 119, including 8 colour plates, 87 black and white illustrations, half Morocco ed. Dkr 9,460.00 (87-423-0529-2); paperback ed. Dkr 8,140.00 (87-423-0527-6). Orders to: Rosenkilde & Bagger Ltd, 3 Kron-Prinsens-Gade, DK-1114 Copenhagen K, Denmark.

Medical texts in the vernacular appeared in Anglo-Saxon England earlier than elsewhere in Europe. The *Old English pharmacopoeia*, a corpus of texts including translations of pseudo-Apuleius, *Herbarius*, pseudo-Dioscurides, *Liber medicinae ex herbis feminis*, and the *Medicina de quadrupedibus*, appears in three eleventh-century manuscripts and a later twelfth-century copy. These four, together with the tenth-century *Bald's Leechbook*, are the only extant medical compendia in Old English.

The present facsimile of the single illustrated copy of the pharmacopoeia (London, British Library, MS Cotton Vitellius C. iii) makes a welcome companion to that of *Bald's Leechbook*, published in the same series in 1955. In an introductory preface, Professor D'Aronco gives a detailed account of the manuscript and its illustrations. Her discussion of the latter focuses on the artist's indebtedness to classical models, and is generously illustrated with plates from Latin herbals. Together with Professor Cameron, she suggests new identifications of the plants in the herbal, while he re-evaluates their medicinal value. Cameron argues that many of them could well have proved efficacious, because they are prescribed for similar ailments in modern herbals.

The introduction concludes that the herbal was copied for practical purposes. This view is attractive, but it is difficult to see the present handsome manuscript as one intended for daily use. Its large format and cycle of more than 200 illustrations make a striking contrast with two other copies, British Library, Harley MSS 585 and 6258B, small undecorated volumes that