

Book Reviews

interesting comments by earlier owners and readers. There are two appendices, one of documents, the other an up-to-date catalogue of Giovanni's manuscripts that supersedes those by Zazzeri and by Baader. Detailed attention is given to matters codicological, although information on Giovanni's scribes is not always easy to locate in the dense entries. Splendid photographs, of the library, of Giovanni's house, and of the manuscripts, make this a beautiful as well as informative catalogue of a striking exhibition.

Vivian Nutton,

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Peter Murray Jones, *Medieval medicine in illuminated manuscripts*, London, The British Library by arrangement with the Centro Tibaldi, Milan, 1998 (original edition first published in 1984 under the title *Medieval medical manuscripts*), pp. 111, illus., £20.00 (0-7123-0657-9).

Although published under a different title, the text of Peter Jones's *Medieval medicine in illuminated manuscripts* differs only slightly from his earlier *Medieval medical manuscripts*. The only noteworthy change concerns the provision of medical education in England's medieval universities: whereas we were told that medicine had not become established as an academic discipline in Oxford or Cambridge, now we understand that while it was so established, few physicians were trained at either. The select bibliography is brought up-to-date, and, regrettably, the general index of the first book has been abandoned.

However, this is a book for the general reader and as such it fulfils its purpose admirably. More profusely illustrated than its predecessor, the present volume has many more plates in colour. They range in date from the earliest extant illustrated herbal in the West of c. AD 400 to a depiction of an operation for scrotal hernia of about 1550. Most come from medical books, where the need for pictures seems self-evident today, yet in the Middle Ages there were no

professional medical illustrators and manuscripts of the *articella* were frequently not illustrated at all. Thus the author has sought medical pictures in other kinds of books as well, including one of a tooth extraction from an encyclopaedia said to have been compiled by a certain Jacobus, recently shown to have been James le Palmer, Treasurer's scribe in the Exchequer of Edward III. While some of the pictures, such as the historiated initials provided by James or the miniature of battlefield surgery from an illustrated chronicle belonging to Duke Philip the Bold of Burgundy, are works of art, others are simple outline drawings or diagrams made by a scribe responding to a passage in a text he was copying.

The attractive selection of plates is combined with a readable account which places these illustrations both in their material and historical contexts. An introductory chapter discusses the tradition of medical miniatures, the relationship of text and image in medical manuscripts, the scribes and artists of such books, and the state of medical knowledge in the Middle Ages. The following chapters and accompanying illustrations are organized around the subjects of anatomy, diagnosis and prognosis, materia medica, cautery and surgery, and diet, regimen and medication. The material will be familiar to the medical historian but both the interested layperson and the doctor for whom it would make an acceptable gift from "a grateful patient" will find in it much to enjoy.

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Dominic Montserrat (ed.), *Changing bodies, changing meanings: studies on the human body in antiquity*, London and New York, Routledge, 1997, pp. xvi, 234, illus., £45.00 (0-415-13584-2).

This book derives from a conference held in the Classics Department at Warwick University in 1994, taking its inspiration from a 1654 work by the physician John Bulwer entitled,