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ABOUT THE COVER:

Ephesus (Turkey) was a great Roman city, home to 200 000 people and now the site of some of the world's best preserved ancient ruins. Just off the main avenue is the hospital (cover photo). Here, surgeons drained abscesses and hematomas and removed the heads of arrows and spears, while physicians dealt with a broad range of medical conditions, fevers, worms and flukes, venereal diseases and skin rashes, applying plasters (mixtures of ingredients like sesame oil) as indicated and prescribing medicinal and herbal remedies made in the hospital by ancient 'pharmacists.' We can speculate that the archway shown is the entrance to the emergency department, where the finest of all the physicians performed the most important work.

Photo by: Grant Innes, MD