

cases of infanticide and child murder, illegitimacy and infanticide, and other outcomes of unwanted pregnancies, contraception, venereal disease, and, overarchingly, the moral, political, religious and social climate that sanctioned and shaped such practices and transgressions.

The editors acknowledge the historiographic significance of Elizabeth Malcolm and Greta Jones's edited volume, *Medicine, Charity and the State in Ireland, 1650–1940* (Cork: Cork University Press, 1998), which, on its publication in 1998, broke new ground in the social history of medicine in Ireland. The current collection addresses some of the lacunae identified in that volume, subscribes to its broad agenda, maintains its general standards, retains some of the original contributors and, like its predecessor, points to neglected areas of study that require research and analysis.

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David Langslow and Brigitte Mair (eds), *Body, Disease and Treatment in a Changing World: Latin Texts and Contexts in Ancient and Medieval Medicine*, Bibliothèque d'Histoire de la Médecine et de la Santé (Lausanne: Éditions BHMS, 2010), pp. xviii + 404, Fr.68.00/€ 55.00, paperback, ISBN: 978-2-9700-6400-8

This volume contains revised and extended versions of twenty-six papers presented at the 9th International Colloquium on Ancient Latin Medical Texts, 'Language and Context in Latin Medical Texts of the Pre-Salernitan Period', held at the University of Manchester in 2007. While originally the speakers presented their papers in alphabetical order, a thematic arrangement was deemed more appropriate for the purposes of publication, and this comprises three sections: Graeco-Roman Medicine, Medical Language and Sociolinguistics; Texts, Transmission and Reception; and Words, Meanings and Lexical Fields. There is, perhaps inevitably, a significant amount of overlap with regard to the contents of these three sections, and among the individual papers themselves. This is not necessarily a flaw, however, as these papers generally serve to complement rather than contradict each other, several of them having grown out of collaborative research projects between scholars and institutions.

The first section, Graeco-Roman Medicine, Medical Language and Sociolinguistics, contains seven papers that approach aspects of both medical and non-medical works: H. von Staden examines the presentation of parts of the body and the body as a whole in Celsus' *De medicina*; F. Le Blay the presentation of the pores in the writings of Lucretius and Seneca; B. Maire the interactions of medical, social and cultural discourse in Mustio's *Gynaecia*; M. Baldin the medical terminology used by Plautus, Sallust and Juvenal; and D. Crismani the treatment of lovesickness in Apuleius' *Metamorphoses*. More generally, G. Marasco argues that, far from being ignorant and intent on reproducing works of the past, physicians were undertaking research and formulating new theories that would later prove crucial during the Middle Ages.

The second section, Texts, Transmission and Reception, contains eleven papers, and it is here that a number of significant new discoveries are presented for the first time: S. Sconocchia publishes four excerpts from the *antidotus hiera Pacchi Antiochi*; M. Cronier offers some new fragments of one of the three surviving ancient translations of Dioscorides' *De materia medica*; A. F. Rodriguez puts forward a fragment of *De uirtute uini* and a chapter on *herba peonia* from Thessalus of Tralles' *De plantiis*; and

A. G. González presents the *Agriocanna* glossary as an addition to the *Hermeneumata medicobotanica uetustiora*.

The third section, Words, Meanings and Lexical Fields, contains eight papers that focus on certain aspects of the medical and non-medical terminology utilised in medical texts, from the names of specific diseases and conditions (digestion, *haemorrhoids*) to the concepts of love (*amo* and *amor*) and childhood (*puer/puella* and *infans*), to the physical processes by which medicinal remedies were prepared (pounding, pulping and grinding). M. Pardon-Labonnelie incorporates both Latin medical texts and the words inscribed upon collyrium stamps in her discussion of the names of eye diseases, while P. Gaillard-Seux examines the possible contextual reasons for Pliny the Elder's apparent preoccupation with bites and poisonous substances.

Befitting an international colloquium, contributions are written in English, French, Italian, German and Spanish. There are some inconsistencies in the way that they are presented. Some papers include detailed abstracts, others single sentences; some provide abstracts in both English and another language; in the majority of cases the abstracts are in a different language to the paper itself, and the choice of the language of the abstract in relation to the language of the paper is not standardised. Several variations on the Harvard System are utilised for referencing, and quotations from ancient sources are offered in Latin, Greek, English and other languages, or not at all, depending on the paper in question. There is only one illustration (a colour reproduction of MS. Bodley 130, an image that is also reproduced on the cover of the volume), but there are tables throughout. The volume does offer extensive indices (of ancient sources, and Greek and Latin words, forms and phrases) and an exhaustive general bibliography, collated from the bibliographies included in all twenty-six papers and divided into sections: catalogues of manuscripts; editions of ancient and medieval texts (since AD 1700 and before AD 1700); dictionaries, grammars and concordances; and studies for ease of use.

Ultimately, *Body, Disease and Treatment in a Changing World* is a valuable resource for scholars of ancient and medieval medicine.

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Alison Nuttall and **Rosemary Mander**, *James Young Simpson: Lad o Pairs* (Renfrewshire: Scottish History Press, 2011), pp. 224, £19.95, paperback, ISBN: 978-0-9564-4771-5.

'Lad o Pairs' is the traditional Scottish term used to describe a clever young Scotsman who rises from humble beginnings to be an accomplished all-rounder. It represents a heroic ideal that was encouraged in part by the Scottish educational system of the nineteenth century, which allowed youths of more lowly origins to achieve free public education and attend a Scottish university. The application of this term to James Young Simpson (1811–1870) is certainly appropriate and a well-chosen title for this new multi-authored biography. He was the son of a baker from Bathgate near Edinburgh and at the young age of twenty-eight became professor of midwifery at the University of Edinburgh, a post that he held for over thirty years.

It is now over one hundred and sixty years since the Scottish obstetrician James Young Simpson administered the first general anaesthetic to a woman in childbirth. The initial use of ether has long been ascribed to William Morton following his public demonstration