

Book Reviews

Hippocrates, vols. 5, 6, with an English translation by Paul Potter, The Loeb Classical Library 472, 473, Cambridge, Ma., Harvard University Press, London, William Heinemann, 1988, 12mo, (vol. 5) pp. xiv, 333, £9.95, (vol. 6), pp. xv, 361, £9.95.

The Loeb Hippocrates resumes again after half a century with Professor Potter's translation of six works on internal diseases, *Affections, Diseases I, II, and III, Internal affections*, and the *Appendix to Regimen in acute diseases*. Since only the last has ever before been turned into English, those who know no Greek (or who have difficulty with the dark sentences of the Hippocratic Corpus) will have at last the opportunity to read some of the most medically interesting texts of the Corpus. A considerable sampling of the English suggests that this is an extremely accurate rendering which will not mislead the unwary. Since most of these texts have been recently reedited in German theses, Professor Potter has been able to dispense with long codicological surveys, and a substantial amount of emendation. Where he has felt the need to alter the text, his changes are usually sound.

In its first purpose, then, of making accessible in English translation more of the Hippocratic texts, the new Loeb has succeeded admirably. Comparison with the rival French Budé series, however, reveals the weaknesses of the Loeb format. The useful brief indexes of diseases, symptoms, and drugs, at the end of volume 6, are no substitute for a discussion in footnotes or an appendix, and at times the non-medical reader will be as much at sea with the terminology as if he was faced with the original Greek. Even when the translation is accurate, an explanatory note would have set out why a word or phrase should be translated in this way or that. The difficulties that lurk in the opening paragraph of *Diseases I* should have been explicated further, for the text is obviously corrupt and also suggests that some passages have been lost from the book as it has come down to us. It is not at all easy to understand "what is all [in medicine] and what is one" (pp. 100–1) in this context.

This austerity is also confined to the introductions, where the reader might have expected a little more on the general organization of these works (VI,3 suggests that, at one point, the two texts in question were adjacent in a manuscript, and were wrongly divided), and on their place in Greek medicine (V, p. 94, Bacchius is dated at least a generation too late). While one can appreciate the editor's wish to break away from the traditional topic of the Hippocratic question (which in part explains Jones's decision to end his work on the Loeb Hippocrates), an opportunity has been missed to bring modern debates to the attention of a wider public. But this is perhaps to carp unduly, for there can be no doubt that in fulfilling the first task of a Loeb editor, of making accessible to the Greekless the writings of the Greeks in a fluent and accurate translation, Professor Potter deserves considerable thanks. Not least, because his two volumes make it even harder for students of Greek medicine to concentrate on only a handful of supposedly genuine Hippocratic texts.

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HEINRICH VON STADEN, *Herophilus: the art of medicine in early Alexandria*, Cambridge University Press, 1989, 8vo, pp. xliii, 666, £75.00, \$140.00.

This large and long-awaited volume is worth every penny of its expensive price. It is not only that its 293 texts, all translated, mark a vast advance on Dobson's 78 of 1925, and an *apparatus criticus* to each extract shows exactly the basis for each fragment in Greek or Latin: this philological precision is matched by a great range of exegetical skills. Whether by commentary, footnote, or introductory discussion, the reader is led to a whole panorama of Greek medicine and medical problems. The achievements of every known Herophilean are fully considered (although here the testimonia are merely listed, not given in full), and there are appendices on some late medieval spuria. At the other chronological end, there is a succinct account of