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are necessary. The study covers affected organs (*a capite ad calcem*), general anatomical and/or pathological categories, the humoral system, general designations of health problems and therapeutics, prophylaxis, side effects, magic, and veterinary medicine. Both volumes open with a brief introduction, mainly methodological, and volume one ends with a bibliography.

The scope of the work is far wider than the "description of diseases" announced by the title. It furnishes the material for a study of the medical tradition of the West in the late Middle Ages. The material can be compared with its classical equivalent by tracing the persistence or transformation of terms and concepts. Moreover, the data allow a reconstruction both of the therapeutic system underlying the text, and of the pathological one—list 2 in volume two contributes much to this.

One could argue, however, that the introduction to volume one is too brief, and that the data in volume two, list 1, have been increased to no advantage by the use of both Latin terms and German translations. Moreover, it is difficult to read; the brief quotations and references in short lines in columns, separated by large blank spaces create confusion between the lines. Finally, the presentation is not consistent; for example, in volume one (p. 194): *latere, dolet in/sitten, we in der*; (p. 289) *sitten, we in der/latere, dolet in*; (p. 367) *we in der sitten/dolet in latere*; the materia medica (*Persico, gummi de*) is presented in two ways: (p. 367) the preposition *de* is printed just under *Persico, gummi*, in column 3, while on pages 194 and 289 it appears in column 1, just under the indication; consequently, at pages 194 and 289 the text of column 1 (*latere, dolet in/de*) is incomprehensible, and that of column 3 (*Persico, gummi*) is incomplete and may give rise to errors.

Nevertheless, the work constitutes an indispensable tool for further research in the field of medieval therapeutics and pathology, though it should be used with care. It will be especially useful to historians concerned with terminology, provided that they have an

excellent knowledge of Latin, and possibly also of medieval German, and are accustomed to working with such lexical lists.

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Anna Manfron (ed.), *La biblioteca di un medico del quattrocento. I codici di Giovanni di Marco da Rimini nella Biblioteca Malatestiana*, Turin, Umberto Allemandi, 1998, pp. 257, illus. (88-422-0814-0).

The north Italian town of Cesena is famous for two things, its restaurants and the Biblioteca Malatestiana. This beautiful library, still with its chained books in its original renaissance building, deserves to be much better known, not least because a substantial number of its manuscripts belonged to a doctor, Giovanni di Marco of nearby Rimini (d. 1474). The importance of this collection to historians of medicine was first made clear by Gerhard Baader in 1977, who showed how Giovanni's interests were typical of the transitional period between the High Middle Ages and the full-blown medical humanism of the sixteenth century. The quality, as well as the quantity, of his codices is impressive: several are illuminated, and one of the Galenic manuscripts, S.V.4, is a prime witness for many texts of the Latin Galen.

In 1988 an exhibition at the Biblioteca offered the opportunity for a major reassessment of Giovanni and his circle at Rimini and Cesena. This catalogue, lavishly produced with large, clear pages, is also a fine work of scholarship. It contains essays on the culture of the Malestata lands in the fifteenth century, on the various miniatures in the codices, and two on Giovanni himself. One, based on new archival research, shows that he was far from a provincial backwoodsman, but had a reputation well beyond the Rubicon. The other discusses the formation of his library, and his use of it, for Giovanni left several annotations in its margins and there are also

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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.

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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 *artocella* 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,