

Book Reviews

this unique work upon the medical public. The author, Professor of the History of Medicine at the University of Madrid, makes a careful description of the problems that the sick man has offered to the physician, and furthermore, the interpretation that the physician has given to the problem through the ages.

The doctrines described in this volume have been spread mostly through Spanish-speaking countries and influenced greatly medical art in many latitudes, because it deals with the basic problem faced everywhere by the general practitioner.

Professor Lain covers many great moments in the medicine of the past and sharpens his analysis of the pathography described in the *Consilia* or that based on the pathology of Bichat or Laennec up to the present day. However, due to the refinement of his analysis there are moments, for instance when describing Temkin's studies on the Hippocratic clinical cases, where it is not easy to distinguish whether it is the essence of the doctrine or mere Greek semantics which are being discussed.

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