

## BOOK REVIEW

*The Cambridge Companion to Hippocrates*. Edited by PETER E. PORMANN. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 2018. Pp. xix + 441. Paperback, \$37.99. ISBN: 978-1-107-69584-9.

This volume is a welcome installment in the burgeoning world of companions today. Despite the complexity surrounding Hippocrates' historicity and the texts bearing his name, he deserves a place in the modern state-of-the-field collections, as rightfully argued by Pormann (1–2), even if only for Hippocrates' reputation as "the father of medicine." As such, the edited collection complements the *Cambridge Companion to Galen* (2008), and together, they nicely bookend the field of ancient medicine today. Within its subfield, the *Companion* joins Jouanna's *Hippocrate* (1992), Nutton's *Ancient Medicine* (2004), Craik's *The 'Hippocratic' Corpus* (2015) and Flashar's *Hippokrates* (2016). Building on Nutton and Craik, this volume offers a thematic survey of the medical literature, knowledge, profession and education, preserved under the name of the legendary founder of medicine and accessible in English "as the lingua franca of modern science and scholarship" (4). In this respect, the collection fulfills its primary aim, namely, "to provide the uninitiated reader with a first overview of the rich topic that is Hippocrates and the *Hippocratic Corpus*, and to provide easy and multiple ways into it" (3). As editor, Pormann envisions this readership as "a new generation of readers and students" of ancient medicine (23), and the *Companion* as "a contribution to current debates, and a stimulus and springboard for future research" (24). Although ambitious, these aims have been successfully met by the organization of the volume as a whole and by clarity of the individual chapters.

The collection is compatible in size and scope to the standards for its genre. It consists of 16 chapters, counting the introduction, gathering a constellation of the brightest international stars in the field of ancient medicine, a half of whom are women. The gender balance is only one of the distinguishing inclusive features of the volume. Others are the diversity of interpretative views, reflecting the heterogeneous nature of the Hippocratic literature, and the variety of scholarly approaches to it. Pormann judiciously advocates for his inclusive policy towards

both, analytically and philologically inclined, methods of examination ( 4). Examples, such as the chapters by Hankinson and Perilli, happily cohabit next to each other proving that the two methods can be in a productive dialogue, contrary to their traditional separation.

Excluding the Introduction, the chapters fall in 5 thematic clusters. The first theme deals with the historical aspects of Hippocrates and the Hippocratic Corpus. It comprises Craik's nuanced contextualization (ch. 2) of the "Hippocratic question" in the biographical tradition and the itinerant nature of the medical professionals in antiquity. Her discussion of the *Hippocratic Corpus* is followed by Jouanna's overview (ch. 3) of the textual history of its works from antiquity to the Renaissance. The second theme turns to the conceptual foundation of medical knowledge with Holmes' chapter (ch. 4) on the (gendered) concept of the body, Hankinson's examination (ch. 5) of the causes of health and disease, and Perilli's overview (ch. 6) of Hippocratic epistemology. The third theme concerns ethics, featuring the cameo treatment of the subject by Leven (ch. 7) and spilling over to motifs in Dean-Jones' presentation (ch. 11) of Hippocratic gynecology and Thumiger's discussion (ch. 12) of the doctor-patient relation. The fourth theme moves to nosology and therapeutics with Roselli's classification (ch. 8) of diseases, followed by Totelin's survey (ch. 9) of non-invasive methods of healing, by regimen and drugs, balanced by Witt's introduction (ch. 10) of Hippocratic surgical methods. The fifth thematic cluster ends the volume with a cohesive four-part presentation of the afterlife of Hippocrates and Hippocratic medicine in Galen by Boudon-Millot (ch. 13), in Late Antiquity by Manetti (ch. 14), in the Arabic tradition by Pormann (ch. 15) and in the West by Cantor (ch. 16). The thematic unity of the last four chapters stands out with the inclusion of medical education and the medical curriculum as inseparable parts in the study of ancient medicine.

The individual chapters also contain numerous hidden gems, such as Jouanna's discussion of Ionian as "the preferred dialect for scientific enquiries" (61), Perilli's mapping of the physician's qualities onto the Olympian pantheon and the Homeric heroes (149–151), or Roselli's excursion into Mesopotamian medical literature (198–199). The appendix, compiled by Markauskas, offers a useful reference guide to the works in the Hippocratic Corpus, by English and Latin titles, abbreviations, placement in Craik, Jouanna, Littré and Loeb translations. The absence of an *index locorum*, however, is regrettable. In the spirit of full disclosure, Pormann notes the lack of treatment of the pre-history of Hippocratic medicine and of the relation between philosophy and medicine.

The volume has a minimal number of typographical mishaps which do not detract from its intellectual achievement. It deserves its place in the series of *Cambridge Companions* and among the authoritative works on Hippocratic medicine mentioned in the beginning of this review.

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