Greek and Latin words used in the testimonia, and a general index to the translation, all in vol. I. A general index to the introduction and commentary and one of passages cited conclude vol. II. The various indices of Greek and Latin terminology are particularly useful to anyone interested in ancient medical vocabulary, philologists as well as medical historians. It is difficult, in a review, to do justice to the scholarly thoroughness and sheer hard work that were doubtless needed to produce these excellent volumes. (It should be pointed out, for example, that all of the translations are v.d.E.'s; all too often, authors merely re-use other scholars' translations.) Despite the author's modest disclaimer, this will be the definitive edition, at least for a long time.

Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge C. F. SALAZAR

A NEGLECTED WORK OF GALEN

C. OTTE: *Galen:* De plenitudine. (Serta Graeca 9.) Pp. x + 131, pls. Wiesbaden: Dr Ludwig Reichert Verlag, 2001. Cased, €48. ISBN: 3-89500-160-0.

The introduction explains that this volume of the series Serta Graeca is based on O.'s Ph.D. thesis; it is an edition, with translation and notes, of a hitherto largely neglected work by Galen, *De plenitudine.* The treatise's authenticity is beyond doubt, since eleven (or twelve, if *Ars med.* is not spurious) other, doubtless authentic, works mention it. Combined with mentions of some of Galen's other works in *De plenitudine*, these references help with its dating to approximately the 170s. O. considers it one of Galen's pathological writings.

The complete text of *De plenitudine* can be found in five MSS, none of which is older than the fourteenth century. As for printed editions, O.'s is the first separate edition of the work, but it is contained in the four complete editions of Galen's work, i.e. the Aldine of 1525, and the Basle, Chartier, and Kuhn editions, the first being the basis of all subsequent editions. In addition to these, O. also consulted the marginalia by Scaliger and Cornarius. This is the first translation into a modern language; only post-1528 Latin translations are extant, the medieval Latin as well as Arabic and Syriac ones not having survived.

The *plenitudo* in the Latin title translates the Greek πλῆθος, a concept which, Galen characteristically claims, is not well understood by other doctors. The core of Galen's theory is that there are two types of πλῆθος: one that occurs in relation to *dunamis*, with 'heaviness' (βάρος) as its symptom. The other is related to space and manifests itself in tension (τάσις). Galen states explicitly that the work is not meant for beginners, and that some preliminary knowledge of *plêthos* is required.

In Chapter 1, Galen establishes *plêthos* as the topic of the treatise, showing in which ways other doctors' views are erroneous, and distinguishing between the two kinds of *plêthos*. The discussion of others' errors continues in Chapter 2, with arguments against those of the Dogmatists who only recognize *plêthos* in relation to *dunamis*. Here, Galen spells out that this first type is obvious through heaviness, while the other's symptom is tension. In the next chapter, after a brief swipe at those who expect basic information about *plêthos* here, Galen refers to other writings, where this can be found, and ends the chapter in polemical statements against the Stoics and Herophileans.

Chapter 4 consists of a slightly convoluted explanation of 'heaviness' as an affliction of the faculty of perception (δύναμις αἰσθητική), the latter varying in strength

© The Classical Association, 2003

https://doi.org/10.1093/cr/53.2.337 Published online by Cambridge University Press

according to the organ or body part involved. (It is strongest in the stomach and the bladder, and apparently absent in fat, some bones and glands.) The concept of βάρος is further discussed in the subsequent chapter: it is ambiguous, because it need not be caused by *plêthos*; it can also be the result of, for example, paralysis. As in other works, Galen stresses the importance of the doctor's knowledge of anatomy and physiology.

In Chapters 6–8, the other type of *plêthos*, related to space or room (χώρα), is discussed. Tension, too, is an ambiguous symptom: although it is typical of *plêthos*, it can also be caused by fatigue after exercise. Soreness, on the other hand, is caused by biting humours. In the following two chapters, Galen deals with mistakes made by Empiricists and Dogmatists regarding *plêthos* (this is a sustainedly aggressive work, even for Galen's standards), and in the final chapter, Chapter 11, discusses further problems of diagnosis, e.g. the distinction between redness caused by a *plêthos* of blood and that caused by inflammation. The treatise ends rather abruptly with an example of diagnosis.

O.'s scholarly translation, facing the Greek text, may have sacrificed some elegance for accuracy, but those with insufficient Greek will find it very helpful. With its paraphrase (intentionally brief), notes, and indices, this is a very welcome addition to new editions of Galenic works.

Department of History and Philosophy of Science, Cambridge C. F. SALAZAR

SORANOS' GYNAECOLOGY

P. Burguière, D. Gourevitch, Y. Malinas: *Soranos d'Ephèse:* Maladies des femmes. *Tome IV, livre 4*. Pp. xxviii + 197. Paris: Les Belles Lettres, 2000. ISBN: 2-251-00480-7.

This volume, dedicated to the memory of Yves Malinas, completes the Budé Soranos. Book 4 covers the causes of difficult childbirth, the rôle of surgical intervention, and the treatments of uterine prolapse. It preserves the arguments of otherwise lost authors, such as Diocles of Carystos, Cleophantos, and Demetrios the pupil of Herophilos, and gives occasional glimpses into the interaction between midwives and physicians; while Soranos' midwife, idealized in an earlier description, is entrusted with normal childbirth, the physician intervenes when the situation has become so critical that instruments need to be used. Although it is not clear whether midwives and physicians had an equal right to perform manual interventions, turning a baby in the womb to ensure a more straightforward podalic or cephalic delivery, embryotomy is here the province of the male physician.

Burguière's short Introduction returns to the far-from-straightforward relationship between the pinax to the fifteenth-century MS P (Parisinus graecus 2153) and its contents: for example, the copyist's omission of most of the section on preparations for childbirth, and the correct position and authorship of the section on diseases of the breasts. In Book 4, more than in any other part of the text, it is necessary to use other sources to reconstruct the likely contents of those chapters listed in the pinax but not found in P. The Introduction also questions the 'philological acrobatics' which have been used to interpret various medical papyri as extracts from Soranos.

The first part of this volume gives the Greek of P, and translates it with critical

© The Classical Association, 2003

https://doi.org/10.1093/cr/53.2.337 Published online by Cambridge University Press