

Book Reviews

its properties, it was not until Treviranus that the study of the structure of plants and its significance for physiological functioning were investigated with a knowledge of chemistry and by experimental methods. But, as Dr. Hoppe shows, the fact that students of biology and botany were seeking to explain continuous processes meant that a static chemical and physical analysis was not always adequate and that biology, or biochemistry, was gradually forced to develop its own methodology and its own scientific norms and procedures.

This summary of the argument cannot do justice to the many careful insights contained in this book, which has all the virtues and few of the vices of a thesis. Dr. Hoppe's investigations will, it is hoped, provide a model for a study of the development of methods of enquiry into another living organism, man, for many of the authors she draws upon were perhaps even more concerned with the human body. Certainly few medical writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries were unaware of the prime importance of the correct method of diagnosis and treatment, and it was not for nothing that John Caius regarded as his greatest medical achievement his reworking of Paduan orthodoxy, his own *Methodus medendi*. It may also be true that, as with botany, it was not until the alliance of chemistry, physiology, and medicine in the nineteenth century that significant progress was made in the understanding of the body and of disease. Such observations are prompted by the reading of this valuable and constructive book, whose complex argument well repays study.

ROBERT JOLY, *Hippocrate. Tome XIII. Des lieux dans l'homme; Du système des glandes; Des fistules; Des hémorroïdes; De la vision; Des chairs; De la dentition*, Paris, Les Belles Lettres, 1978, 8vo, pp. 234, 120 F.

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Professor Joly has once more put us in his debt by presenting further writings of "Hippocrates" in a new edition, with a lucid translation, accurate indexes, and generous discussion of many details, both medical and non-medical. His chosen texts, the important *Places in Man, Glands, Fistulae-Haemorrhoids, Vision, Fleshes* (if that is the correct wording), and *Dentition*, have all been neglected because they were thought to contain Cnidian rather than "Hippocratic" doctrine, a distinction which hampered the understanding of classical Greek medicine. Only *Dentition* finds a place in Jones's Loeb edition (and Joly rightly rebuts the idea that it formed part of an otherwise lost medical dictionary or encyclopaedia), and since Littré a century ago, only *Fleshes*, in 1935, has received a comprehensive modern edition.

As always, Joly shows himself sensitive to nuances of language and argument, and fair to those who favour different interpretations or who have anticipated his conjectures. A rare omission is a reference at p. 51, 20f. to the sixteenth-century Paduan professor, Mercurialis, who, in his *Variae Lectiones* II 8, Venice, 1570, uses a reading in a (lost?) manuscript to clarify the corrupt vulgate text.

This Budé Hippocrates bears ample testimony to the continuing vigour of French Hippocratic scholarship: the planned revival of the Loeb Hippocrates will do well to attain the high standards that Professor Joly has set.