

Book Notice

Jacme d'Agramont, *Regiment de preservació de pestilència (Lleida, 1348)*, ed. Joan Veny, includes facsimile of 1348 edition, Barcelona, Enciclopèdia Catalana, S.A., 1998, pp. 139, illus. (84-412-0015-7).

Jacme d'Agramont (d. c. 1348), a professor at the University of Lleida, Catalonia, wrote in Catalan in 1348 what was possibly the first book in the vernacular to give advice on protection against the Black Death, the *Regiment de preservació de pestilència*. The Fundació Enciclopèdia Catalana has produced a handsome volume which contains much of interest from several viewpoints: medical-historical, philological, and sociological. It consists of a revised edition of the *Regiment* edited by Joan Veny, bringing up-to-date his 1971 study of the text, as well as useful introductory essays. The one which will most interest readers of this journal is 'El Regiment de Jacme d'Agramont y el Estudi de medicina de Lleida' (pp. 13–31) by Luis García Ballester and Jon Arrizabalaga on the historical-medical aspects of the work.

Focusing on contemporary events that gave rise to such a book, they look at how new translations of Greco-Arabic texts undertaken from the eleventh to the thirteenth centuries opened up new ways of understanding medicine and of looking at the world of nature, health, disease and its natural causes. They also discuss new regulations for the practice of medicine, and the relationship between academic medicine and the medicine of practitioners who had no access to academic training. This is followed by an account of the founding of the University of Lleida in 1297 by Jacme II, whose ambition to improve the level of scientific knowledge in the kingdom of Aragon drew to it such well-known figures as Arnald of Vilanova, Gillem de Béziers and Jacme d'Agramont. The authors portray the University as an institution born to answer many social needs in the new free market of European cities.

The volume ends with a glossary of medieval medical Catalan terms; an extensive bibliography, and an extremely well produced facsimile of the original *Regiment*.

BOOKS ALSO RECEIVED

(The inclusion of a title does not preclude the possibility of subsequent review. Items received, other than those assigned for review, are ultimately incorporated into the collection of the Wellcome Library.)

Barbara Alder, Claudia Pantellini (eds), *Leibundleben.bl.ch. Vom Umgang mit dem menschlichen Körper*, Begleitpublikation zur kulturhistorischen Dauerausstellung im Kantonsmuseum Baselland, Basel, Schwabe, 2000, pp. 150, illus., SFr 38.00, DM 45.00 (paperback 3-7965-1699-8).

Roland Andréani, Henri Michel, Elie Pélaquier (eds), *Hellénisme et hippocratismes dans l'Europe méditerranéenne: autour de D. Coray*, Montpellier, Université Paul-Valéry, 2000, pp. 304, FFr 150.00 (paperback 2-84269-383-3).

Vincent Barras, Micheline Louis-Courvoisier (eds), *La Médecine des lumières: tout autour de Tissot*, Bibliothèque d'Histoire des Sciences, Geneva, Georg, 2001, pp. x, 358, SFr 50.00 (paperback 2-8257-0704-X).