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978-0-521-86588-3 - Galen: On Diseases and Symptoms

Ian Johnston

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GALEN: ON DISEASES AND SYMPTOMS

Galen's treatises on the classification and causation of diseases and symptoms are an important component of his prodigious *oeuvre*, forming a bridge between his theoretical works and his practical, clinical writings. As such, they remained an integral component of the medical teaching curriculum well into the second millennium. In these four treatises (only one of which has been previously translated into English), Galen not only provides a framework for the exhaustive classification of diseases and their symptoms as a prelude to his analysis of their causation, but he also attempts to establish precise definitions of all the key terms involved. Unlike others of his works, these treatises are notably moderate in tone, taking into account different views on structure and causation in a relatively even-handed way. Nonetheless, they are a clear statement of the Dogmatic position on the theoretical foundations of medicine in his time.

IAN JOHNSTON was born at Collaroy, New South Wales, in 1939. An eminent neurosurgeon, he was appointed a member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2000 for services to medicine. Throughout his medical career he has also pursued a lifelong passion for ancient languages, completing degrees in Greek and Latin, and in classical Chinese at the Universities of New England and Sydney. His translations of Chinese poetry have been performed at arts festivals and exhibitions and he has made several radio and television appearances to discuss aspects of translation.

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Abbreviations

CMG	Corpus Medicorum Graecorum.
D-K	<i>Die Fragmente der Vorsokratiker</i> , H. Diels, W. Kranz, Weidmann, Zurich, 1992 reprint.
DNP	<i>Der Neue Pauly: Enzyklopädie der Antike</i> , H. Cancik, H. Schneider, eds., Verlag J. B. Metzler, Stuttgart, 1996–.
H	Helmreich’s edition of Galen’s <i>De usu partium</i> (H following volume and page numbers).
K	Kühn’s edition of Galen’s <i>Opera Omnia</i> (K following volume and page numbers).
LSJ	<i>A Greek–English Lexicon</i> , H. G. Liddell, R. Scott, H. S. Jones, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1990 reprint.
OCD	<i>The Oxford Classical Dictionary</i> , 3rd edn., ed. S. Hornblower, A. Spawforth, Oxford University Press, Oxford, 1996.
SVF	<i>Stoicorum Veterum Fragmenta</i> , Joannes ab Arnim, Teubner, Stuttgart, 1968 reprint.
TLG	<i>Thesaurus Linguae Graecae</i> .