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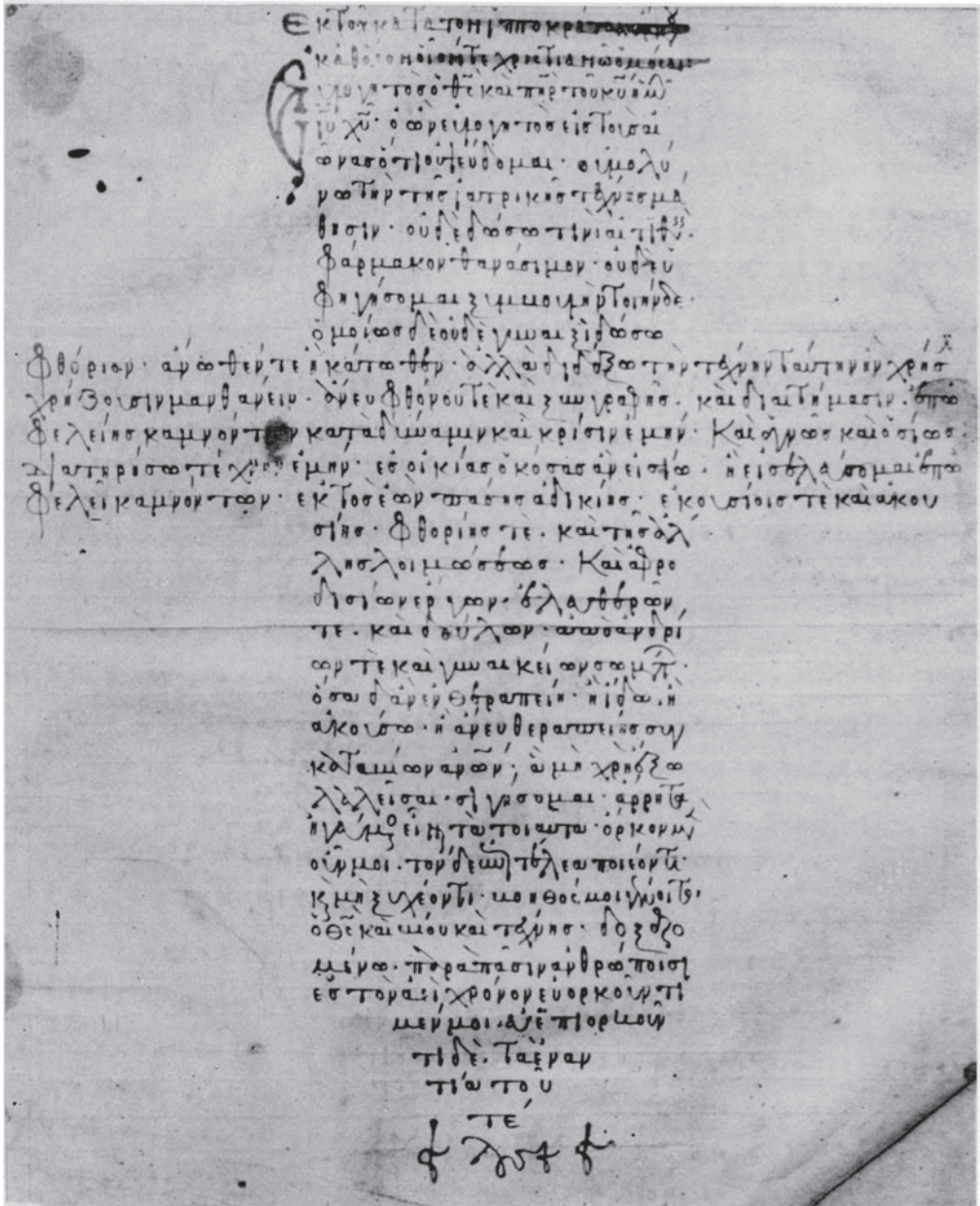
978-1-107-62730-7 - The Doctor's Oath: An Essay in the History of Medicine

W. H. S. Jones

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THE DOCTOR'S OATH



THE CHRISTIAN OATH IN URIBINAS 64, fol. 116

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THE DOCTOR'S OATH

AN ESSAY IN THE
HISTORY OF MEDICINE

By

W. H. S. JONES, M.A.

BURSAR OF S. CATHARINE'S COLLEGE,
CAMBRIDGE, CORRESPONDING MEMBER
OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF
MEDICINE



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HIPPOCRATES *Epid.* 1. v

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PREFACE

I HAVE written this little book for physicians and surgeons, that they may have the earliest forms of that famous oath upon which the ethical rules of their profession have been based. Perhaps, too, the documents that I have collected will be of some interest to scholars and to historians of medicine. I have at least shown that an enormous amount of “spade work” remains to be done for the Hippocratic Collection.

I believe that Marcianus Venetus 269 is the only important manuscript of *Oath* cited in critical editions. The others usually cited are all unimportant Paris manuscripts. The Christian oath has never been published before.

The task of collating over thirty manuscripts has not been easy, and I wish to thank many officials in the great libraries of Europe, in particular the Librarian of the Ambrosian Library at Milan and Professor Rostagno of Florence, for their kindness and courtesy. Many Cambridge friends have helped me in my efforts to throw light upon dark places, and I am under a special obligation to Dr E. T. Withington of Oxford, who for fourteen years has been generous to a degree in helping me in my study of Greek medicine.

The design on the cover is from a mediaeval portrait of Hippocrates in the Bologna manuscript Bononiensis 3632.

W. H. S. J.

May 1924